

Community Newsletter

April 2018

Blue Mountains City Council

Improving safety systems and organisational performance

The Council has faced significant challenges over the past few months arising from serious allegations related to the organisation's management of asbestos, the recruitment of staff and consultants, and to a range of other matters including workplace safety and culture.

We have acted swiftly to address these issues, most notably initiating two independent investigations in November 2017 in relation to the management of asbestos in Council-owned properties, and in relation to the recruitment of staff and consultants.

The independent asbestos investigation made no findings against the elected Council. However, the report identified significant gaps in Council's past approach to asbestos management. These gaps are now being addressed as a priority. The Council has adopted all recommendations made by the independent investigators relating to Council's approach to asbestos management including appropriate systems, policies and procedures to guide operational practices.

The investigation into the recruitment of staff and the appointment of consultants also made no findings against the elected Council and found the allegations to be unsubstantiated. Regardless, Council adopted all the recommendations made by the independent investigators which largely relate to improvements to some organisational policies and procedures, to code of conduct training, and to improving our Human Resources (HR) management.

We are committed to the safety of our workers and the community. We are developing Improvement Plans to strengthen compliance with workplace health and safety for Council staff and for the Blue Mountains community. We are also working on strengthening organisational development over the next 12 months.

The need to identify and manage asbestos containing material is an ongoing challenge faced by Councils across NSW. As matters of potential asbestos containing material arise, Council will continue to respond appropriately in accordance with its Asbestos Management Plan and procedures and take the necessary steps to

address the issue and to minimise risks as a matter of urgency.

In other matters, more than 1,500 people attended the Blue Mountains' first Live and Local event on 7 April. About 180 performers, including large ensembles, provided entertainment from 12 locations in Katoomba CBD over six hours. The micro music festival was a Council-led community collaboration, made possible by a Create NSW grant. It also had the biggest program for any Live and Local event in NSW to date, and was a tribute to our talented creative community. We hope it is the first of many such events.

At the last Council meeting, the Council considered a vast range of matters of interest to the community. Please view the media centre on our new website at www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au or go to Blue Mountains Have Your Say - see below for details.

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Have Your Say

Blue Mountains Have Your Say provides a convenient online forum for the community to find out about Council projects and proposals that are open for public comment and to provide feedback to contribute to Council's decision making.

Go to bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au



Katoomba Community Recycling Centre

Did you know you can safely dispose of problem wastes like paint, batteries, gas bottles, oils and fluoro lights for free at Katoomba Community Recycling Centre?

These items contain potentially hazardous materials so please don't put them in your red garbage bin.

Many items can be fully or partially recycled. For example the lead, acid and plastic in lead acid batteries are recovered and recycled, keeping these materials out of our local landfill.

Our Community Recycling Centre is open 8am to 4.45pm, 7 days a week except Good Friday and Christmas Day and is located at:

Katoomba Resource Recovery and Waste Management Facility, Woodlands Road, Katoomba.

Visit www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/crc for more details.

This project is a NSW EPA Waste Less, Recycle More initiative funded from the waste levy. Visit www.epa.nsw.gov.au.



Update on City projects



A regular column providing an update on Council's special rate variation 10-year program 2015-2025

The **major upgrade of Glenbrook Visitor Information Centre (VIC) is underway**. The project – expected to be completed by the end of August – will deliver a modern facility to meet the needs of our growing tourism sector, a key contributor to the Blue Mountains regional economy.

Also in Glenbrook, the **new junior playground in Glenbrook Park** is open. Features of the new playground include a horse sculpture called 'Henrietta', climbing apparatus inspired by a time when Glenbrook was called 'Water Tank' and sandstone features, sourced from upgrade projects on local roads.

The **upgrade of the Wentworth Falls Lake District Park** continues. The boardwalk is expected to be completed by the end of May. Construction of the new toilet amenities is also expected to be finalised by the end of July.

On the **Scenic Southern Escarpment**, the upgrade of walking tracks and lookouts continues. The completion of stages 1 and 2 of the Reids Plateau Walking Track, popular with residents and visitors, is imminent.

The **Pedestrian and Mobility Plan (PAMP) 2017/18** works program is also currently underway. New footpaths have been completed at Baden Place and Coughlan Rd, Blaxland, at Emu Plains Rd, Mt Riverview and Albion St, Katoomba. Upcoming works in the next three months include new footpath on Hawkesbury Rd connecting to Moore Rd and a new footpath connection on Wentworth St, Blackheath. Works are scheduled to be completed by the end of June.

Celebrating families

To celebrate Families Week (15-21 May) we're celebrating all the different expressions of "family" we have living in our beautiful City.

We're asking Blue Mountains residents to share pictures of what "family" means to them. Photographs and drawings can be shared on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter using #celebratingbluemountainfamilies until 14 May. Pictures can also be dropped to our offices in Katoomba and Springwood.

We'll then feature a selection of these on our social media pages and at www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au.

Help us celebrate all families in our community.

Families Week is based on the United Nation General Assembly resolution (1993) proclaiming that the 15th May be observed as the International Day of Families.





Operational Plan 2018/19

Have your say on Council's proposed service delivery plans and budgets for 2018-2019

To continue building a successful and sustainable future for the Blue Mountains, in 2018-2019 the Council will be spending over \$100 million on services and facilities for the community and the environment.

Council has prepared its draft update of the Delivery Program 2017-2021 and Operational Plan for 2018-2019 and invites the views of the community. The draft documents are on public exhibition from Thursday 3 May until Wednesday 30 May 2018.

The Draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2018-2019 includes: the four year and annual service delivery actions; Asset Works Program; Budget; Rating statement; and Fees and Charges.

To view the draft documents and to have your say visit bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au. Alternatively you can view a hardcopy at Katoomba and Springwood Offices or in Council Libraries.



Photo: Bas Hensen

Blue Mountains Fauna Project

Pull out your binoculars and spotlights and put on your detective hat! The aim of the Blue Mountains Fauna Project, over the next 12 months, is to better understand what fauna species are found in our bushland reserves and our towns and villages.

The project invites members of the community to share their knowledge of local fauna by reporting the animals they have seen. All recorded sightings add to what we know about what animals live where, which animals have disappeared and which animals are moving into the area.

Community knowledge provides a critical contribution to databases such as the NSW BioNet Atlas, which collects information on fauna, by adding to the records collected from scientists and ecological consultants which typically study a specific species.

To kickstart the community contribution of new records Council's Blue Mountains Bushcare Network is running a series of field trips during Autumn and Spring in seven local bushland reserves. Interested people are invited to be involved in fauna surveys, spotlights tours and walk and talks. Details can be found at www.bushcarebluemountains.org.au/events.

If you would like to contribute your observations, or to find out more, go to www.bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au/faunaproject.

Community Care Guide update



Council has updated the Community Care Guide, which provides a listing of services in the Blue Mountains which aim to help make life easier for people who choose to stay in their own homes, but whose age or disability means they need support. Download a copy of the guide online at www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/community/older-people/services-for-older-people. An audio CD version of the guide will also be available from Council and Neighbourhood Centres.

For more information contact Council's Aged and Disability Services Development Officer on **4780 5546** or email council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au.

Safe disposal of asbestos in the Blue Mountains

Where: Blaxland Resource Recovery and Waste Management Facility, 28-30 Attunga Road, Blaxland.

How: Asbestos is accepted by appointment only, 9am – 2.30pm, Monday to Friday and must be wrapped in builders plastic and secured with strong tape.

To make a booking, and for further advice, please phone the Blaxland facility on 4739 2432 (8am – 4.45pm) at least 24 hours in advance.

Cost: Considering the hazardous nature of asbestos, it only costs an extra \$32 per tonne than the tipping fee for mixed waste – a small amount to pay to ensure everyone's safety. Please refer to the waste management fees and charges on our website for more details.

For further information and conditions on the safe disposal of asbestos please refer to the fact sheet on 'Disposal of Asbestos in the Blue Mountains' available on our website www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au.



Councillors

Ward 1

Bell to Leura, Megalong Valley & The Mounts

Cr Don McGregor
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Cr Kerry Brown
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Cr Kevin Schreiber
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Ward 2

Wentworth Falls to Faulconbridge/Springwood

Cr Chris Van der Kley (Deputy Mayor)
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Cr Romola Hollywood
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Cr Brent Hoare
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Ward 3

Faulconbridge/Springwood to Valley Heights

Cr Daniel Myles
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Ward 4

Warrimoo to Lapstone

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Cr Darryl Bowling
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WHAT'S ON BLUE MOUNTAINS



30 April – 6 May

Yellow Ribbon National Road Safety Week reminds us that we all have a shared responsibility to ensure our roads are safe for all road users. Take the pledge to show your support for road safety online at sarahgroup.org.



Saturday 26 May 2018

A **Child Restraint Checking Day** will be held at the Blue Mountains Theatre & Community Hub carpark, Springwood, from 9am to 1pm. The check is free. Note: Restraints must be less than 10 years old. Bookings essential 4780 5000. For more information childcarseats.com.au.



Saturday 19 May, Wentworth Falls

Join us to plant trees at the new Wilson Park biofiltration system from 9am to 2:30pm. Learn about the cray fish of the Jamison Creek Catchment and local weeds while you enjoy a delicious lunch. All tools and training will be provided. bushcarebluemountains.org.au.



Blue Mountains Libraries

The **Big Booksale** is on again at Springwood Library, 5 May, 10am - 4pm. The **Little Bang Discovery Club**, a preschool science program will be running in May. Join an **HSC Student Workshop** during May/June. For more info and list of events go to library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au.



Blue Mountains Cultural Centre

Sculpture Otherwise, 13 April – 13 May 2018, is an exhibition of small sculpture by artists participating in *Sculpture at Scenic World*. Kids can join the **Monster Park Workshop** with **Rachel Peachey & Paul Mosig** on 26 May. See bluemountainculturalcentre.com.au.



Blue Mountains Theatre

Catch musical satire, **Urinetown**, by Blue Mountains Musical Society 19 May - 3 June. Be captivated by the **Melbourne City Ballet** June 10. Chill out with **Morning Melodies** on June 13 and catch the Australian Girls Choir on 1 July. See bluemountainstheatre.com.au.

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