

# Community Newsletter



October 2019

Blue Mountains City Council

## We are enhancing the experience at Echo Point

Council will be delivering significant upgrades at Echo Point from mid-October 2019. These important works, which are expected to be completed by August 2020, will provide an impressive and immersive experience for all those who visit the site.

The upgrades include:

- A new gathering place (amphitheatre)
- A new Prince of Wales Lookout
- An accessible, night-lit boardwalk connecting the lookouts, amphitheatre and Council's accredited Visitor Information Centre (VIC), and
- Security bollards and CCTV.

The new gathering place (amphitheatre) will provide a space, on the eastern side of the Echo Point platform, for about 70 people. Echo Point is one of the most visited sites of Aboriginal cultural significance, in Australia. We want the special value of this place to be appreciated by everyone, so that they take away a deeper appreciation of the complexity and beauty of Aboriginal culture. We also want it to be easily accessible, and safe for everyone who comes to visit.

**There will be partial closures of Echo Point during the construction period. We apologise for any inconvenience.**

**Our VIC will remain open seven days a week, 9am to 5pm, except for Christmas Day.**

*Pictured right is an aerial view of upgrades at Echo Point.*



Go to [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/echo-point](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/echo-point) for more information, including a fact sheet.

If you would like to sign up for updates or have any questions or comments, please email: [echopointupgrade@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:echopointupgrade@bmcc.nsw.gov.au)

*Council received matched funding from the Federal Government's National Stronger Regions grant program, for this project.*

## 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 our Have Your Say website [yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au](http://yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au).**





## New LED streetlights reduce carbon emissions

Council and Endeavour Energy are replacing 2,781 old streetlights across the Blue Mountains with energy efficient LEDs, resulting in an immediate 79% energy reduction for each light. The new streetlights will provide a total cost saving of over \$3.5 million and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by a staggering 13,000 tonnes over their lifespan – the equivalent emissions produced by 2000 homes in one year. The old light fittings will be collected and recycled.

Did you know, you can also upgrade to energy efficient LED bulbs at home? LEDs significantly reduce household carbon emissions and electricity bills and can often be used in existing fittings. The NSW Government has some handy tips for successfully making the switch and is offering a lighting upgrade offer for eligible households – see [energysaver.nsw.gov.au](http://energysaver.nsw.gov.au)

The streetlight replacement project is one of six projects Council is working on in 2019-20 under our Carbon Abatement Investment Plan, as part of our goal to significantly reduce our carbon footprint and save money.

For more information about Council's action on climate change see [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/action-on-climate-change](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/action-on-climate-change)

## Council supports youth program

**Blue Mountains City Council is supporting the roll out of the internationally-recognised Planet Youth program that advocates for community-led wellness of our young people, across a broad range of issues.**

Developed in Iceland, the model takes an evidence-based approach to particularly reduce the uptake of alcohol and other drugs amongst young people.

Mayor Mark Greenhill said the pilot is being led in the Blue Mountains by the Local Drug Action Team (LDAT), with the support from the Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) and Council.

"In June this year the Blue Mountains was named as one of ten pilot sites in Australia to roll out the highly regarded Planet Youth model," Cr Greenhill said. "The Blue Mountains was chosen as a pilot site due to the LDAT's strong local partnerships between schools and youth services, and commitment to preventative action.

"What makes this model particularly exciting is its emphasis on community; seeking to strengthen all protective factors in the young person's life such as peer group, family, well-being, and engagement in sport and recreation.

"Council is committed to supporting such an important initiative."

The first phase of the model relies on the collection of data to provide baseline information about young people's protective and risk factors. This is compiled using an anonymous online survey distributed to Year 10 students in the local government area; the results are then collated and reported back to the local community by the Icelandic Centre for Social Research and Analysis.

The survey is set to be distributed in November this year, with overall results delivered back to the community in March.

To date more than 24 countries have implemented the Planet Youth model.



Mayor Mark Greenhill with BMCC Youth Services Development Officers Ryn Vlachou and Kristy Lenon and Youth Council representatives Ian Tjoelker, Lotte Weber, Gabe Frechtling, Lucy Bell and Jules Blair.

## BLUE MOUNTAINS LIBRARY

Did you know our Library can help you to fix your car? Our online subscription to *Haynes Manuals AllAccess* puts the entire portfolio of the world's best repair manuals at your fingertips, wherever

you need them. Detailed information on common repair and service tasks is included for all the most popular cars and motorcycles. For many models you can also access *Haynes OnDemand* video tutorials, the ultimate aid to getting your vehicle back on the road.

You can even study up on the design of the world's most famous liner, RMS

Queen Elizabeth II, and get to grips with the hardware of NASA's Apollo 11 mission (including the Saturn rocket, space suits, and communications).

Access *Haynes Manuals* online anytime at [library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au](http://library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au) (Reference and Research, eResources). You can also borrow the physical versions for a wide range of vehicles from your local branch.

# Commitment to environment

## Council adopts carbon neutral target

Council has adopted a target of becoming carbon neutral by the end of 2025, as measured through the National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) certification process. This voluntary standard ensures organisations are applying best practice in managing their carbon emissions and provides a rigorous, independently verified assessment before achieving carbon neutral certification. It seems clear that the single most important thing we can do to stop climate change is reduce emissions, and as the third council in NSW to declare a climate emergency, it's an issue we take very seriously. Read more at [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/action-on-climate-change](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/action-on-climate-change).

## Council wins national climate award

Council's Carbon Revolving Reserve project won the national Cities Power Partnership's Project Financing Innovation award in August. The Carbon Revolving Reserve provides a long-term self-sustaining funding source that enables Council to make long term plans for energy efficiency and renewable energy, and show real leadership to our community. The reserve has helped commit \$1.7 million dollars to energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and will deliver combined annual savings of \$300,000. See [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/cities-power-partnership](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/cities-power-partnership).



## Council adopts strategic plans to manage water and weeds

Council adopted two strategic plans to help secure the health and longevity of our local environment into the future. The Weed Management Strategic Plan 2019 takes into account significant policy and legislative changes, as well as community consultation, in relation to weed control. In addition, the Water Sensitive Blue Mountains Strategic Plan outlines the best-practice approaches and design principles to manage our city's waterways and water resources. Go to [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/environment](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/environment).

## Council supports Bushcare volunteers

Are you interested in joining our community of more than 400 Bushcare volunteers to help look after our local bushland? We provide training – no previous experience is needed. It's a great way to meet people in your local area, to learn about plants and animals and to develop bush regeneration skills you can use in your own backyard. With 60 bushcare groups across the Blue Mountains, there are a wide range of meeting days to choose from. See [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/bushcare](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/bushcare) for more information.

**Join us at a Community Forum on the proposed raising of the Warragamba Dam wall. The event, to be hosted by the Mayors of Blue Mountains City Council and Wollondilly Shire Council, will be held at the Blue Mountains Theatre & Community Hub, Springwood, on 10 November. Go to [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/warragamba-dam](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/warragamba-dam) for more information.**



## Stay cool at your local pool

Glenbrook, Lawson and Katoomba outdoor pools are now open for the summer season, and Blackheath Pool will open on Saturday 2 November. Katoomba and Springwood Aquatic and Fitness Centre continues to offer a range of great indoor facilities and classes for all ages throughout the year.



## How fireproof is your plan?

**The Blue Mountains Bush Fire Danger Period began on 1 September this year (a month earlier than usual), due to the ongoing warm and dry conditions.**

While emergency services do everything they can to prepare and protect our communities, it is important for all residents to do what we can to prepare for the fire season.

This means doing simple things like cleaning gutters, clearing flammable material from your yard, and making sure your hoses are in good condition and reach your whole property. One of the biggest threats to homes is embers that can be blown a great distance ahead of a bush fire.

Most people have a plan for what they will do during a bush fire. Unfortunately, not every plan will withstand the test of a bush fire. It is important to make sure you have an up-to-date Bush Fire Survival Plan so you and your family know what to do in the event of a fire.

For a copy of a handy Bush Fire Survival Plan template and more information to help you get Bush Fire Ready, visit [rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://rfs.nsw.gov.au), [myfireplan.com.au](http://myfireplan.com.au) or download the My Fire Plan app to your smart phone.

Glenbrook Swim Centre reopened in early September, a week earlier than scheduled, following remediation works to the outdoor pool shell.

Pool opening hours will be extended during any heatwaves this summer – keep an eye on our Facebook page or website for updates or visit [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/LeisureCentres](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/LeisureCentres).

# Councillors

## Ward 1

### Bell to Leura, Megalong Valley & The Mounts

#### Cr Don McGregor

0434 306 143

dmcgregor@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

#### Cr Kerry Brown

0414 195 980

kbrown@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

#### Cr Kevin Schreiber

0431 501 981

kschreiber@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

## Ward 2

### Wentworth Falls to Faulconbridge/Springwood

#### Cr Chris Van der Kley (Deputy Mayor)

0427 805 810

cvanderkley@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

#### Cr Romola Hollywood

0414 195 983

rhollywood@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

#### Cr Brent Hoare

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bhoare@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

## Ward 3

### Faulconbridge/ Springwood to Valley Heights

#### Cr Daniel Myles

0414 418 161

dmyles@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

#### Cr Shae Foender

0414 195 986

sfoender@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

#### Cr Mick Fell

0414 195 991

mfell@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

## Ward 4

### Warrimoo to Lapstone

#### Cr Mark Greenhill (Mayor)

0414 195 990

mgreenhill@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

#### Cr Brendan Christie

0423 565 988

bchristie@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

#### Cr Darryl Bowling

0414 195 989

# WHAT'S ON BLUE MOUNTAINS



## Blue Mountains Cultural Centre

Cinema under the Stars will be running from Nov - Jan. The Christmas Wollemi Artisan Market will also be held on Sat 14 Dec, 10am - 3pm with live music, delicious food and a range of stalls - the perfect opportunity to find unique Christmas gifts. For more info [bluemountainculturalcentre.com](http://bluemountainculturalcentre.com).



## Nominate someone for an Australia Day Award

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognised for their outstanding achievements and contribution to the Blue Mountains? Nominate them for the 2020 Local Citizen of the Year Award - visit [bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au/citizenawards](http://bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au/citizenawards)



## Saturday 23 November 2019

A FREE Child Restraint Checking Day will be held at the Hazelwood Childcare Carpark, Hazelbrook, from 9am to 1pm. These checking days are very popular and book out very quickly, Call 4780 5000 to book. More information at [childcarseats.com.au](http://childcarseats.com.au).



## Volunteer Home Visitors needed

Belong Blue Mountains & Springwood Neighbourhood Centre Home Library Service are looking for more volunteers. If you'd like to find out more please contact the Neighbourhood Centres on Springwood 4751 3033, Lawson 4759 2592 Blaxland 4739 1164 or Katoomba 4782 1117.



## Looking for a venue in the Blue Mountains?

Did you know Council has 14 public halls available for use by residents and the broader community. There are large halls and smaller meeting rooms available to meet your requirements. For more information visit [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/community/halls-for-hire](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/community/halls-for-hire)



## Blue Mountains Theatre

Listen to the contemporary and classical musical traditions of both East & West with **Eishan Ensemble**, 8 November. Sing along with **Morning Melodies**, 13 November and **celebrate 50 years of Jethro Tull with Martin Barre**, 22 November. Tickets online at [bluemountainstheatre.com.au](http://bluemountainstheatre.com.au)

Blue Mountains City Council  
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Katoomba NSW 2780

### Telephone

West from Woodford **4780 5000**  
East from Linden **4723 5000**



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