

Community Newsletter



January 2018

Blue Mountains City Council

Council makes progress to improve asbestos management

Blue Mountains City Council has accepted a Performance Improvement Order issued by the Minister for Local Government, Gabrielle Upton MP, in relation to concerns about asbestos management. The notice to issue a Performance Improvement Order comes after the Minister's earlier announcement on Friday 22 December 2017 to NOT suspend the elected Councillors after consideration of the Council's submission.

A Performance Improvement Order requires the Council to take certain actions in relation to the management of asbestos and compliance with statutory obligations. The Minister's decision to issue a Performance Improvement Order recognises that Councils are responsible for driving their improvement and are generally best placed to do so.

This approach is considered to be a more targeted and effective response to the Minister's concerns, recognising the seriousness of asbestos management and reflects the Council's intention to place the safety of its staff and community

at the centre of its operations and organisational culture.

Council recognised that it had weaknesses in dealing with asbestos and needed to improve. We have taken every opportunity to improve the standard of our procedures and practices over the last nine months. The requirements of the Performance Improvement Order will assist the Council to further strengthen its asbestos management.

Independent investigations into asbestos management practices are currently underway. The community will be kept informed of the outcomes of these investigations.

We acknowledge that recent media reports about this matter have raised significant community concerns. The community can be assured of Council's commitment to managing asbestos as an absolute priority. The safety, health and wellbeing of our community and our employees are of paramount importance to Council and we take asbestos management seriously.

Council will continue to respond to asbestos-related matters appropriately in accordance with its Asbestos Management Plan and procedures and take the necessary steps to address issues as they arise and to minimise risks as a matter of urgency. Our ongoing focus on managing asbestos may, at times, cause some degree of disruption to facilities or services, however, it is important that we take a precautionary approach to community and workplace health and safety.

The need to identify and manage asbestos containing material is an ongoing challenge faced by Councils across NSW.

Inside this issue

- 2 Special Rate Variation Update
- 2 Easy Read Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- 2 Blue Mountains Theatre Events
- 3 Youth Councillors Wanted
- 3 Tips to reduce food waste
- 3 Bushcare Volunteers
- 4 What's On



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



Waterways Health Snapshot



Renewal of Echo Point VIC

Special Rate Variation

Program update



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

Council continues to progressively implement the **Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan 2025 (PAMP)** with a focus on the existing footpath network between Faulconbridge and Lapstone. Commencing in late January, the installation of new kerb ramps, updated signage and refreshed pavement markings is expected to be completed by the end of June 2018.

Construction of the **new junior playground in Glenbrook Park** started in November 2017 and is due for completion in February 2018.

Also in Glenbrook, the popular **Visitor Information Centre is set for a major upgrade** with work expected to commence in early March 2018 and completion scheduled for the end of June 2018.

The **upgrade of the Wentworth Falls Lake District Park** is underway. Construction of the boardwalk commenced in November 2017. Construction of the new toilet amenities is set to commence at the end of January 2018.

On the **Scenic Southern Escarpment**, the upgrade of walking tracks and lookouts continues. The DA for the Katoomba Falls Kiosk upgrade is currently awaiting approval and community comment is invited on the new Echo Point Visitor Information Centre design (see front page for web link).

Development of a **master plan for the future use of the former Lawson Golf Course** is underway. Community consultation is planned for early March 2018. Opportunities for community involvement will be widely promoted in the coming weeks.

Easy Read Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Council has produced an Easy Read version of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021 to enable people of all abilities to know how Council will work towards providing a more inclusive community for people with a disability over the next four years. A copy of the plan can be downloaded from www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/yourcouncil/accessandequity.



Blue Mountains Theatre Highlights for February/April:

PASSION AND SPIRIT Turn up the heat with **Baby et Lulu**, fiery gypsy-jazz ensemble **Faith I Branko**, and the eclectic world fusion group **ZenRasa**.

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL Enjoy intimate, acoustic performances from **James Reyne**, **Damien Leith** & **Geraldine Turner**.

JUST EXTRAORDINARY Be mesmerised by internationally acclaimed cult band **The Necks**, & the exhilarating power of the **Ten Sopranos**.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS Rock out with Jeff Duff's **Bowie Unzipped**, soul master **Doug Parkinson** honouring Joe Cocker and The Eagles/Creedence Clearwater tribute **Kings of Country Rock**.

MAGIC AND MISCHIEF 'The Unusualist' **Raymond Crowe** - master of illusion, will delight and amaze the entire family.

Visit www.bluemountainstheatre.com for full details of these and other upcoming shows.

Call for Youth Councillors

Supporting young people in the Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains Youth Council is a voice for the needs of young people and supports their participation and involvement in decision making on community issues.

The Youth Council is made up of 20 local young people who meet monthly to identify and discuss issues important to them, plan and run events, and advise the Council on issues relevant to youth.

Young people are invited to apply if they live in the Blue Mountains and are between 12 and 19 years old (*turning 20 in 2018*). The Youth Council has young people from all kinds of backgrounds, nationalities and ages. Applicants don't necessarily need any experience, just an interest in what's happening around them.

Nominations are open until Monday 19 February 2018.

To find out more and to apply, visit bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au/youthcouncil; facebook.com/bluemountainyouthcouncil/; or contact Council's Youth Services Development Officer on akazis@bmcc.nsw.gov.au or **4780 5680/0431 501 545**.



Wanted: tips to reduce food waste

Council would love to hear from residents about their tips to reduce household food waste. We're happy to hear from anyone and everyone, but particularly from older members of our community. We would also like to video some residents sharing their food waste tips. Please let us know if you'd be happy to do this.

On average about a quarter of our garbage bin waste is food scraps. This contributes to the staggering 800,000 tonnes of food waste each year in NSW and costs the average household nearly \$4,000 annually.

While we have many keen composters and worm farmers in the Blue Mountains, food waste going to landfill is still a big problem and we'd love your tips to help reduce it.



Ten contributors will be selected at random to receive either a 'Love your leftovers' cookbook, a set of 5 reusable produce bags or two beeswax wraps.

Please email wasteofficer@bmcc.nsw.gov.au or write to the Waste Officer BMCC, Locked Bag 1005, Katoomba NSW 2780. *Be sure to include your contact details so we can get in contact.*

The gentle art of Bushcare

"Take little steps and make a little difference and then the bush starts to come back" - Jenny, Bushcare Volunteer.

Blue Mountains City Council has over 60 Bushcare sites across the Blue Mountains with a variety of volunteers involved at each site.

There are many benefits of being involved in Bushcare - it is a great way to meet people in your local area as well as learning about plants and animals.

How does Bushcare work? Under the guidance of a Bushcare Officer, groups remove weeds in a way that helps give native plants the space and opportunity to thrive. This is called Bush Regeneration.

More volunteers are needed!

- No experience necessary
- Come monthly or a couple of times a year
- 3 hours including morning tea
- Relaxed, informal and fun
- Free training from our Bushcare Officers
- Meet your local wildlife
- All materials provided

To **register your interest**, please visit www.bushcarebluemountains.org.au or email bushcare@bmcc.nsw.gov.au.



Respect everyone on our roads.
It makes a difference.

bmcc.nsw.gov.au/roadrespect



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
0427 805 810
cvanderkley@bmcc.nsw.gov.au
Cr Romola Hollywood
0414 195 983
rhollywood@bmcc.nsw.gov.au
Cr Brent Hoare
0431 501 984
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 Foenander
0414 195 986
sfoenander@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
dbowling@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

WHAT'S ON BLUE MOUNTAINS



Saturday 10 March, 9am – 1pm.

Leura Falls Catchment Bushcare Activity.

Get together with Bushcare volunteers to help improve the water quality and habitat of Leura Falls Creek. Morning tea provide, no experience necessary and families are welcome! For more info contact mnugent@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Photo Credit: Jane Anderson



Blue Mountains Theatre: For your diary

Catch gypsy-jazz ensemble **Faith I Branko** on 23 February. View the charming chanteuses **Baby et Lulu** or with cabaret royalty **Geraldine Turner** on 24 February. Be mesmerised by **The Necks** on 2 March and **ZenRasa** on 15 April.

www.bluemountainstheatre.com



21 April 2018

Author Talk with local military historian, retired infantry lieutenant colonel and battlefield guide, Peter Sweeney, on **The Battle of Hamel** (4 July 1918). FREE event. Bookings are essential as places are limited.

library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au



28 April 2018

Sydney Writers' Festival in the Blue

Mountains - Blue Mountains Library and Cultural Centre, in partnership with Varuna and the Sydney Writers' Festival, will host a fabulous, day-long program of literary events for kids and adults. library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au



20 January – 11 March 2018

MOVING HISTORIES // FUTURE PROJECTIONS

exhibition at the Cultural Centre brings together some of Australia's leading female contemporary artists. It explores invisible pasts, forgotten narratives & repressed memories, reminding us how history is fractured by race, class & gender.



24 & 25 May 2018

Two **Child Restraint Checking Days** 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. childcarseats.com.au

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East from Linden **4723 5000**



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 youtube.com/BlueMtnsCityCouncil