

It's Time: To Restore Planetary Health We Are Nature ... We are #GenerationRestoration



Native bee ecologist Amelie Vanderstock showing Ember Henninger how to participate in the **Wild Pollinator Count from 14-21 November**. Our hardworking insects, on whom we are so dependent, were badly impacted by the Fires. Join in: bmcc.nsw.gov.au/pollinator-count

In June this year the **United Nations declared the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**. Medical professionals around the world are sounding the alert that they can no longer safeguard human health if we don't act to save the natural systems on which we all rely ... and if we don't act in a fair and just way with one another to reduce rising inequality. Around the globe, doctors have led the formation of the **Planetary Health Alliance** and Blue Mountains City Council is recognising the need to restore Planetary Health for current and future generations as its highest priority - socially, environmentally and economically.

Earlier this year, **Blue Mountains City Council also became the first Council in Australia to adopt the Rights of Nature**. It's part of a broader **Planetary Health Initiative** which this month is focusing on inspiring everyone to fall in love with the insects we share the Blue Mountains with. The fires damaged the habitat they rely on to survive and as we work together to focus our energies on restoring Planetary Health we can all assist with insect conservation by learning more and taking part in **Australian Pollinator Week from 13-21 November**. We can also learn what we can do to protect these tiny, but very hard working communities on whom we are so very reliant.



The Blackheath Creative

Supports local talent by only stocking works by Blue Mountains artists. In Store you'll find the perfect gift from beauty products to jewellery, art or yummy treats.

OPEN Thurs to Sunday 10am - 3pm

1/124 Station St Blackheath

Follow on Instagram @theblackheathcreative





Liz Hunter supporting Blue Mountains artisans with The Blackheath Creative

Head over the railway line in Blackheath and you'll be surprised by a welcoming artists' space with a big pink sign. It's called The Blackheath Creative and is run by artist Liz Hunter. The space showcases the work of over 50 talented Blue Mountains creatives - from paintings and ceramics, to children's toys made out of recycled fabrics, to bird board games, candles, macrame and crochet, jewellery, woodwork and even marshmallows 'in every flavour under the sun!'

There really is something for everyone and Liz urges locals to start thinking about how they can support our artisans this Christmas. It's an important way to keep money circulating in our communities rather than having it leave the Mountains.

It's been a difficult few years for artists to survive in the Mountains, with many markets closing or on hold, and spaces like hers facing one challenge after another.

"I opened in November 2019, just before the bushfires, and was forced to close when we had to leave town. Then in February we had the floods, the railway line closed and the shop flooded. Then last year COVID shut us down again. We've just opened again after being closed for the whole of the last four months."

Liz's own floral acrylic canvases have been converted into a range of giftware and, having been a crafter and artist since her mother taught her to sew and cross-stitch when she was a little girl, she really appreciates the passion and hard work that's gone into every piece on display.

She has been able to keep going thanks to Instagram, email sales and a Business Grant, but she's missed the artists and community who dropped in regularly to enjoy the relaxed and creative atmosphere.

"I really wanted this space to be a space where people could bring their work and not feel overwhelmed and a space that could give people an opportunity to show off what they can do." See more at [@theblackheathcreative](https://www.instagram.com/theblackheathcreative)



Blackheath Rotary President provides a glimpse of the future!

“Alexa, play ‘Golden Brown’ by The Stranglers.”

I’m visiting John Campbell, the President of the Rotary Club of Blackheath, and it’s my first time experiencing what’s described as a ‘smart home’. From the music John asks Alexa to play on demand, to the changing coloured lights in the lounge room, to the online security systems, to the demo of a Tesla on autopilot out the front ... this home in Mount Victoria is fun, it’s fascinating, and it’s an example of a life lived without burning fossil fuels.

You can view a video of John’s Tesla driving on Autopilot and an overview of all the different electric car chargers currently in our region at

www.thebigfixblackheath.org

The new service station opening soon in Blackheath will have two car chargers.

John tells me how he joined Rotary 24 years ago to get to know people in the community that make a difference. People he could learn from.

John, whose background is in electronic engineering, goes on to talk about how he’s

always constantly wanted to learn things and, even though it’s been disappointing that his term as President in Blackheath has mostly been spent in Lockdown, he’s taken the opportunity of the last few months to learn even more. Over time he’s taught himself to cook, to put up shelves, to paint.

He’s also overseen an inspiring Rotary Zoom program that’s kept everyone informed and entertained over these difficult four months.

But now, at last, Rotary is back meeting in person at 7pm every Thursday night at the Blackheath Golf and Community Club. John is keen for more locals to come along and experience why he’s been a Rotarian for over two decades. Ring 0419 276 987 if you’d like to come along to a dinner meeting.

One of the most important things John says he’s learnt in Rotary is how to work with a diverse group of people and get the best out of them. “The Group gets the best out of everybody”, John says.

“Rotary is a great bunch of people with some real talent and passion”.

District Events in November

THU

4...

Rotary Club of Blackheath back at the Golf and Community Club
6.45pm for 7pm Dinner Meeting Every Thursday
Proof of vaccination and use of Service NSW app required to obtain entry into the Club. All welcome but it is essential to RSVP to John Isbister on 0419276987

FRI

5, 12...

Lindena's Last Four Welcome Tables on 5, 12, 19, 26 Nov
3.30pm
Ivanhoe Hotel, Blackheath
If you'd like to facilitate in the future contact BANC on 4787 7770

SAT

6

Landcare Group at Blackheath Community Farm
1.30pm-4.30pm All welcome to join this friendly Landcare group for some Bush Regeneration and afternoon tea. We are #GenerationRestoration!
Vaccination certificate required. Contact Lis for more info on 0407 437 553.

SAT

6

1st Monthly Blackheath Steampunk Picnic
1pm - FB: Steampunk Picnic Blackheath
A small family-friendly dress-up event at the Blackheath Memorial Garden. All are welcome, just dress in steampunk, Victorian or Romantic Gothic. BYO

SUN

7

Evans Lookout Disability Upgrade Project Information Session
From 12pm at NPWS Heritage Centre, Govetts Leap Rd Blackheath
Attendees must be fully vaccinated and wear a mask.
Bookings via https://evans_lookout_upgrade.eventbrite.com.au

TUES

9, 16 ...

Every Tuesday Night Trivia has returned!
6pm for 6.30pm start
Gardners Inn, 255 Great Western Highway, Blackheath
Ph. 4787 8347

THUR

11

Remembrance Day Service
10.45am at the Blackheath - Mt Victoria RSL sub-branch Hall and Grounds.
All those in attendance will be asked to show proof of Double Vaccination and register their attendance.

SAT

13

Catherine Bishop Launch: 'Too much cabbage and Jesus Christ'
4pm
Book Launch at Gardners Inn Function Room. Double vaxxed and masks on.
255 GWH, Blackheath. Ph. 4787 8347 Admission: \$10 includes a glass of wine

SAT

13 ...

Allendale Landcare Group Citizen Science Survey Project
Saturday 13 @ 9am-1pm and Friday 26 @ 9-1pm in Blackheath
Find out more about Landcare and how to monitor vegetation and bird recovery post December 2019 bushfires. Lunch included. Ph. 0432 321 730

SUN

14

LIVE ZOOM Wild Pollinator Count Workshop
Two free workshops: 10.30 or 1pm
Join Native Bee Ecologist Amelie Vanderstock to participate in the Wild Pollinator Count. Bookings: bmcc.nsw.gov.au/pollinator-count

District Events in November - December

SUN

14

Blackheath Growers Market

8am-12noon

Blackheath Community Centre - rain, hail or shine!
Corner GWH and Gardiner Cres Ph. 0422 582 773

SUN

28

Mountains Marketeers - Blackheath Craft Market

9am-3pm at Blackheath-Mt Victoria RSL Sub-Branch, 2 Bundarra St. Bookings and enquiries to Rahim Isa on 0409 339473

www.mountainscraftmarket.weebly.com/blackheath

DEC

3

Gigs on Govetts - Urshula Leung at Blackheath Bar & Bistro

8 -10pm

Free Live Music Duo: Nicholas Mercer on Acoustic Cello/Vocal and Vocals from Urshula Leung: 35-41 Govetts Leap Rd Blackheath. Bookings to 47875787

DEC

5

Mountains Marketeers - Blackheath Craft Market

9am-3pm at Blackheath-Mt Victoria RSL Sub-Branch, 2 Bundarra St. Bookings and enquiries to Rahim Isa on 0409 339473

www.mountainscraftmarket.weebly.com/blackheath

DEC

13/14

Free Youth Mental Health First Aid Workshop for ages 18-24

This highly regarded two-day workshop has been funded by Family First Credit Union and the Nepean Primary Health Network as part of the Pluriversity Program for young people. Bookings to Lis on 0407 437 553

DEC

17

Gigs on Govetts - Dan Challis at Blackheath Bar & Bistro

8 -10pm

Free Live Music organised by Fusion Boutique. Lyrically-driven acoustic folk music: 35-41 Govetts Leap Rd Blackheath. Bookings to 47875787

Monday Morning Music at The Chalet, Medlow Bath

A group who meet up at the Chalet from 10.30am to 12.30pm on a Monday once a month. Each month a member selects music to share with the group (mostly classical) They listen for the first hour then socialise over morning tea, before another 40 minutes of music. The presenter often gives background on the music. Contact dandcgriffith@bigpond.com

Fresh Vegetable Soup Packs from the Heathens Choir



Would you like a fresh vegetable soup pack from the Heathens Choir? Each pack contains the recipe along with all the ingredients to make a variety of delicious soups. Pick up from Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre at 41 Gardiner Crescent. Open Monday - Thursday 9.30am until 4.30pm, and Fridays 9.30am until 12.30pm.

All details are correct at time of printing.

Please contact event organisers to confirm details.

Send events to events@thebigfix.org or phone Lis on 0407 437 553

Bushcare and Landcare are back!

One of the best ways to learn how to become **#GenerationRestoration**, to meet other community members passionate about restoring Planetary Health, and to get to know, love and protect our beautiful bushland, is to join a local Bushcare or Landcare group. There are over **60 Bushcare sites in the Blue Mountains** and next year Bushcare will be celebrating 30 years of protecting our beautiful World Heritage Area. **Allendale Landcare has two exciting Citizen Science Programs this month** and you can find out about all the other groups here:

bmcc.nsw.gov.au/bushcare

Scotch Broom Alert!



While our pollinators are hard at work pollinating bushtucker, flowers like Waratahs, and our food crops, they're also pollinating the very harmful weeds of our bushland.

Broom, for example, is a Weed of National Significance under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015. It is spreading after the Fires and taking over large areas of bushland, smothering other species.

Pick large bucketfuls of Scotch Broom - fill your house, give some to friends and get everyone involved to stop seed forming

Scotch Broom is one of the most flammable weeds of our bushland. It grows so thickly it can impede the movement of wildlife and firefighters. One plant can produce up to 18,000 seeds per year. These remain viable in the soil for up to 60 years. You can see the pea pods forming on the plants at the moment so they urgently need to be picked. Why not go along to a Bushcare or Landcare group to find out what else you can do to protect the Upper Mountains from this biodiversity and bushfire threat.

Find a group to join at bushcarebluemountains.org.au/groups



This additional insert for Blackheath Local News is made possible thanks to support from Family First Credit Union

Upper Mountains Bushcare and Landcare Groups

Blackheath

Blackheath Community Farm Landcare Group, first Saturdays, 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Centenary Reserve Bushcare Group, second Fridays, 9 am – 12 pm

Popes Glen Bushcare Group, fourth Saturdays, 9 am – 12 pm

Sutton Park Bushcare Group, first Thursdays, 9 am – 12 pm

Valley View Swampcare – Guerillas in the Swamp (G.I.T.S.), second Thursdays, 9 am – 1 pm

Allendale Landcare Group, contact Eva Johnstone on 0432 321 730

Clarence

Clarence Dargan Bell Landcare Group, third Thursdays, 9 am – 12 pm

Medlow Bath

Medlow Bath Bushcare Group, fourth Sundays, 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Mt Victoria

Mt Victoria Bushcare/Landcare Group, fourth Sundays, 9 am – 12 pm

Mt Wilson

Mount Wilson Bushcare Group, second Fridays, 9 am

Woody Weed Wander Bushcare Group, first Fridays, 9 am – 12 pm

Seed Collectors Group, second Tuesdays, 10 am – 3 pm



'Bee Detectives'

Online Library Storytime

As part of Council's Planetary Health Initiative Amelie Vanderstock will be reading 'Bee Detectives' at 10am on Thursday 10 November. Listen to her singing a song about bees, view a real-life native bee hive and learn a lot about native bees! The video will remain on line until end November: [youtube.com/user/Bookcasesinthemist](https://www.youtube.com/user/Bookcasesinthemist)

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BANC to run a Creativity, Wellbeing & Resilience Hub

At the hub in Blackheath and elsewhere BANC will host events and workshops to support community connection, social participation, information sharing and knowledge building. What events and information sessions would you like to see happening?

Fill out a survey under 'events' on the BANC website, or drop your thoughts off to the Neighbourhood Centre.

The Big Fix is a registered charity and umbrella organisation for The Big Fix Media, Blackheath Local News, The Lithgow Sprint, BM Permaculture Institute, BM Pluriversity, and Blackheath Community Farm. You can support us with donations or by advertising in this newsletter.

Locally grown seed and food:

Cliff View Community Farm

Volunteer to grow food on Saturdays 9am-1pm

Blackheath Community Farm

Volunteer to grow food on Sundays 10am-1pm

Top of the Mountains Seed Savers

Phone Lis on 0407 437 553 for local Scarlet Runner Beans now!



Megalong Grown

Order food grown in the Megalong Valley
www.megalonggrown.com.au
orders close Sunday at 7pm for delivery

Food Donations needed by BANC

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre is seeing many more community members experiencing food insecurity. Please donate to BANC's Emergency Food Pantry and Christmas Hamper Food Drive at 41 Gardiner Crescent.