

BLACKHEATH AREA LOCAL NEWS

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Medlow Bath - Blackheath - Megalong - Shipley - Mt Victoria - Mt Tomah

November 2023

Monthly Newsletter



Photo: A creative Shipley RFS float in the parade a few years ago as we were gearing up for the fire season

The Absolutely FABULOUS Rhodo Festival and Parade!

Once upon a time, over 70 years ago, the residents of Blackheath rallied together and created a festival to celebrate the uniqueness of their rhododendron-growing town. Their festival raised the funds the community needed to build a hall. Each year after that they focused on what else was needed in the village they loved. In what became their annual celebration, they threw one event after another and raised the funds to make their dreams come true.

As a result, for almost 70 years, children who grew up in Blackheath also grew up with the Rhodo Festival and Parade – an annual burst of colour, movement, excitement and camaraderie that was a testament to, and celebration of, their fabulous community.

It's quite fitting then, that on its 70th Anniversary the theme of the Festival this year is all about being FABULOUS!!!! And, with the first full parade since Covid hit in 2019, everyone is being asked to dress up, throw on some bling and step out with the rest of the town to look fabulous too!

Imogen Evans, one of the young women who grew up in Blackheath, and first joined the parade as a young child in the Kookaburra Kindy float, will be this year's Festival Princess! She vividly remembers the excitement of every festival and will now be the focal point of the parade herself in an open top car that leads the parade. Read the full story:

blackheathnews.com/the-absolutely-fabulous-rhodo-festival/

Blackheath Rhododendron Festival Weekend Highlights 2023

Full program at www.rhodofestival.org

Saturday 4 November - Church Hall 125 Wentworth Street

- 8.30am Poets' Breakfast

Gardens at Blackheath Community Centre

- 9.15am Crowning of Festival Princess
- 9.30am Blackheath Public School Choir
- 10am Children's Art & Craft Show in Bates Hall
- 10.05am NA Dance Company
- 10.25am Vocal Edge Choir
- 10.45am Jean Marshall
- 11.30am Festival Parade
- 12noon Lithgow Pipe Band
- 12.25pm Blue Mountains City Band
- 1.10pm The Rhythm Stix
- 1.50pm Blackheath Ukelele Group
- 2.35pm Overland Telegraph

Elsewhere in Blackheath

- All day shopfront displays
- 9am-6pm Rotary Gnome Convention. Rhodo Gardens Bacchante Street
- 9.30am Blackheath Pool season opening
- 10am Roof Bolting and Coal Shovelling Gardners Inn carpark
- 10.30 Combined Churches Festival of Flowers Anglican Church Hat Hill Rd
- 2pm-5pm Jazz at the Pub New Ivanhoe Hotel
- 7.30pm-late "Bonnie Doon" New Ivanhoe Hotel
- 8pm Funky Floral Freakout Zoes 35 Govetts Leap Rd

Sunday 5th November

- 10.30 Combined Churches Festival of Flowers Anglican Church Hat Hill Rd
- 12noon Woodchopping Gardners Inn
- 11am-12pm Historic Tour of Blackheath Cemetery 322 Great Western Highway

WED

1...

Artplay with Lindena

10am-12noon every Wednesday morning. Have fun exploring your creativity with these weekly workshops. No artistic skill required. 125 Wentworth Street \$35 All art materials supplied. Enquiries Lindena 0410310205

FRI

3

Toby's Takeover

10am-12noon The Toby's Estate Coffee Crew are taking over Sanguinary for the day! Experience some seriously great coffee - chat about everything Toby's, try something new or just soak up the atmosphere. 2/36 Govetts Leap Road.

SAT

4

Farm Gate Market

9am-3pm Amazing seasonal produce and vegetables, organic sourdoughbread baked at the restaurant available (25% spelt 75% whole wheat). Local honey, jam and seedlings. Megalong Valley Tea Rooms.

SAT

4

Funky Floral Freakout

6pm-late An "Outside the Tent" Rhododendron Festival fundraising Event Dress up Theme: Floral/Jungle. A psychedelic Funk event like no other. events.humanitix.com/the-funky-floralfreakout ZOES, 35 Govetts Leap Rd \$20

District Events in November

SAT

4

Bah-Hah Circus Performances

10.30am and 12.45pm Youth Aerial Circus and Acrobatics; 3pm Adult Aerial Circus and Acrobatics. Free entry, donations accepted. Presbyterian Church 125 Wentworth Street.

SAT

4

The Man in Black Author Talk

10am

Michael Duffy Author Talk at Gleebooks, introducing his third Blue Mountains crime novel. Gleebooks, Colliers Arcade in the middle of town.

SAT

4..5

Unframed - Works on Paper

10am-5pm The annual Blackheath Art Society studio sale. Original, high-quality artworks by Blackheath Art Society members. Paintings, drawings, prints, photography, fine art greeting cards and more! 139a Station St.

SAT

11

Remembrance Day

10am Mt Victoria War Memorial, 2-14 Station St Mt Victoria.

10am Blackheath War Memorial Arch cnr Hat Hill Rd and GWH. with Blackheath and Mt Victoria RSL Sub-Branch

SAT

11

History Forum: Stories of Love from the Archives of Law

4pm Award-winning author Alecia Simmonds uncovers a hidden history of love and heartbreak in the archives of law. Blackheath Public School Hall, Leichhardt St. Entry: \$10 waged \$5 unwaged

SAT

11

Next Steps for Community Resilience with Dr. Jean Renouf

9.30am-4pm Map and understand our strengths and shore up the vulnerabilities of our community, how to engage and retain volunteers, particularly young people, and how to source funding. Bates Hall. Free. More info Jade 0420818978

WED

15

Kookaburra Kindy 70th birthday

2-5pm. Past and present students and staff are invited to attend this 70th birthday celebration. Bring any photos or memorabilia you would like to share. RSVP by 13 November 47878977 or contact@kookaburrakindy.nsw.edu.au

FRI

17

Twilight Market

5pm. A fantastic family friendly evening! BONNIEDOON BAND will be playing, along with performances from NA Dance, Dance Dymension, and the fabulous school band and choir. Blackheath Public School, Leichardt St.

SAT

18

Medlow Bath Residents AGM

2.30pm Medlow Bath Residents Assoc holding its Annual General Meeting at Salon De The, Hydro Majestic Hotel. Afternoon tea generously provided by the Hydro Majestic. More info <https://www.facebook.com/MedlowBathResidents>

WED

22

Australian Brandenburg Orchestra www.brandenburg.com.au

7pm Mozart Flute Quartet: Haydn Excerpts from String Quartet No. 59 Mozart Excerpts from String Quartet No. 17: Boccherini Flute Quintet: Devienne Flute Quartet in A minor. Blackheath Community Hall \$23 \$40

FRI

23-26

Lyrebird Festival in the Megalong Valley

Celebrating the spectacular Megalong Valley with music, art, food & wine, talks & nature walks. Founded and directed by the Bowerbird Collective. Book for concerts & events [@www.lyrebirdfestival.com](http://www.lyrebirdfestival.com)

All details are correct at time of printing.

Please contact event organisers to confirm details.

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

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

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ZOE's

- 2nd Open Mic 6-8pm
- 3rd Rob Spark 7-9pm
- 4th Funky Floral Freakout 8-12pm
- 10th Luke Webb 8-10pm
- 11th Ship of Fools 8-10pm
- 17th Kate Giurgis 8-10pm
- 18th Zane Thompson 8-10pm
- 24th Kal and Sy 8-10pm
- 25th Tala Willow 8-10pm

35 Govetts Leap Rd, Blackheath
Enquiries 0448 321 233

Hotel Etico 6-8pm

- 3rd The Frox
- 17th The Tinkers
- 24th Three Penny Moon
- 25th Jesse Higgins

11 Montgomery St. Mt Victoria
Enquiries 0438 511 352



LYREBIRD FESTIVAL
Megalong Valley, NSW

Music, Art, Food, Wine, Nature Walks, Talks

NOVEMBER 23-26, 2023
WWW.LYREBIRDFESTIVAL.COM



SAT
25

Camino Fair

Want to learn more about The Camino, an ancient pilgrimage in Spain and Portugal? Book in to Glenella's Camino Fair and weekend of workshops, storytelling and Spanish food! <https://bluemountaincamino.au>

SUN
26

Cliff View Community Farm Workshop

10.30am Make great compost and create and maintain a worm farm. 2pm Tour and presentation on the Cliff View heritage fruit tree rejuvenation projects. Bookings BANC 47877770

SUN
26

Spring in Song

An afternoon of duets and Lieder with Elizabeth Cooper, Rowen Fox and Julie Adam. Uniting Church Hall 43 Govetts Leap Rd. www.trybooking.com/CMLWT



BLACKHEATH RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 70 YEARS

SATURDAY
4TH NOVEMBER, 2023

RHODO FEST

Parade

DRESS UP AND BE FABULOUS

REGISTER YOUR GROUP ON THE WEBSITE AT RHODOFESTIVAL.ORG/PARADE/ OR EMAIL YOUR DETAILS TO BLACKHEATHRHODOFESTIVAL@GMAIL.COM

PARADE STARTS AT 11.30AM (ASSEMBLE 10.30AM)

ROUTE: FROM B/HEATH PUBLIC SCHOOL, THEN ALONG WENTWORTH STREET TO HAT HILL ROAD