In an era that is being defined by adversarial politics and short term thinking, the Blackheath community is demonstrating another approach – and one that’s proving to be extraordinarily effective. By working collaboratively, with the long game in mind, they’re proving that their strategy is clearly worth emulating.

Ten years ago, when a Federal election led to the announcement of a $250 million upgrade of the Great Western Highway between Lithgow and Katoomba, Blackheath faced the threat of a highway-widening project that would have potentially allowed massive 25m/26m B-double trucks to transport freight through the town. Had this occurred, lives would have been endangered, much of the amenity and character of the town would have been destroyed, and diesel and noise pollution would have dramatically increased - not a good look anywhere, but particularly not in a World Heritage-listed area.

Large, heated public meetings of over 500 people, tore apart the proposal and looked at numerous alternatives that would be more socially and environmentally acceptable. As the rest of the world was introducing congestion taxes and starting to move away from grossly polluting and inefficient trucks to more freight on rail, Australia’s trucking lobby, propped up by a large diesel subsidy, was pushing for even larger trucks on the road - despite the fact that all research indicated that, compared to rail, trucks contribute to more fatalities, more congestion, a higher cost of living, a less efficient economy, and up to three times the carbon emissions.

In 2009 public concern galvanized into the formation of the Blackheath Highway Action Group (BAG) and Highway Action Groups in Mt Victoria and Hartley.

(Continued over page)
Welcome to the second edition of The Big Fix. Thanks to our rapidly expanding solutions media service, news of Blackheath’s efforts to reduce the use of plastic straws has attracted attention nationally and internationally, with radio interviews, newspaper articles, massive social media coverage and even inclusion in a new American film! Other businesses in the Blue Mountains and Sydney are now following our lead.

Recently, Blackheath has also started a branch of Boomerang Bags, to reduce plastic bag pollution; launched a Community Farm to grow organic food locally; created more activities for youth with the Youth Cafe, Venturer Scouts and Junior Jam at the Golf and Community Club; and saved trees on the highway from being cut down. Go Blackheath!

In more good news, The Big Fix has received funding from Arts NSW to create a regional edition of the magazine to include Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and Penrith! We will be employing artists and writers to ‘Change the Story’ in our region.

As well as a big win for the town, this has been retaining the trees between Evans Lookout Rd and Sutton Park, near the cemetery, and between Radiance and Sunbeam Avenues. There is still a possibility that the much-loved plane tree at the intersection of the highway and Govetts Leap Rd may also be saved. Arborists have been doing ‘air spading’ to map its roots and determine how close they can push the road toward the tree without hurting it.

To help make the highway safer, you can request that the RMS install a safety camera at the intersection of Govetts Leap Rd and the GWH at https://www.saferroadsnsw.com.au/haveyoursayspeedcameras.aspx

Thank you to IGA Blackheath for only selling paper, not plastic straws!

This magazine is produced on 100% recycled paper ... please keep it as a handy reference with its 3 month calendar, or pass it on, rather than adding it to landfill. Copies welcome at BANC.

Happy reading,
Lis Bastian

Editor
lis@thebigfix.org
www.thebigfix.org
0407 437 553

(From previous page)

By 2010, the strength of the combined communities’ emotions around this issue was so high that 3,500 written submissions (not just signatures) were collected and delivered in a crate to the Member for the Blue Mountains, Phil Koperberg.

According to Michael Paig, convener of BAG:

“The community came together to call for a safer highway, more freight on rail and better public transport.”

Finally, in 2012, the government redirected the $250 million to a Highway Safety Upgrade project instead of highway widening.

“The Highway Action Groups worked together as a team,” said Michael, “and it was their unity, with strong community support, that got us across the line. We’ve been the only group in the State able to redirect project funds to another project!”

Adele Colman, another key member of BAG, emphasises that they also focused on being open to negotiation: “The success of what happens here is dependent on us maintaining a good relationship with the RMS (Roads and Maritime Services). We’ve consulted widely, and negotiated carefully to benefit everyone so that we can have a win/win outcome.”

Recognising the value of collaboration, the Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre worked with the community to form the Blackheath Area Community Alliance in 2012. The Alliance, which now boasts nearly 30 member groups and organisations, seeks to network and share information and resources, as well as collaborating and lobbying for the best interests of the town.

According to George Vergotis, president of the Blackheath Chamber of Commerce, “The value of the Alliance is that it gives all of us an opportunity to hear a broad cross-section of opinions from the wider community, as represented by their groups. This allows each group to make informed decisions when it comes to the community and business interests of Blackheath.”

Local and State Government representatives feel the same. They frequently attend the Alliance meetings so that they, too, can make more informed decisions and better represent the Blackheath area. BAG now consults regularly with the Alliance to guide ongoing negotiations.

“The highway safety upgrades are in their final design phase,” points out George, “and they are being actioned this year. The last draft looks favourable, with a good outcome for Blackheath. Instead of widening the highway and building large road shoulders, as they’ve done in other towns, they’re building narrower shoulders. This creates a funneling effect, which slows down traffic instead of speeding it up. To minimize interruption to trade, we’d now like to negotiate that, when they do the upgrade, roadworks be focused on a section at a time, rather than creating a corridor of safety barriers through the town.”

Other ongoing challenges still being negotiated include getting speed calming measures like safety cameras, and undergrounding the power lines outside The George (formerly St Mounts) so that tree-planting won’t be impacted by wires.

As this magazine (which is available online too), we share international solutions stories in our Daily Solutions Digest. These can be read on our website or via social media. This month we’re also launching our weekly Solutions Digest which you can receive for free via email.

Many thanks to our sponsors, Aardvark Straws and Green Pack, to our generous supporters, to Mary Moody, and to our hardworking volunteer team: Ian Dalkin, Antonia Miller, Carla Billinghurst, Morgan Boehringer and Barbara Armitage.

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Mt Tomah to release first Dwarf Mountain Pines

The Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mt Tomah is celebrating its 30th birthday this year with the release of the first Dwarf Mountain Pines to be made available to the public. They’ll also be making available a limited release of seed-grown Wollemi Pines. Both plants have been propagated at Mt Tomah, a cool climate refuge for species threatened by climate change. As the highest Botanic Garden in the country, at 1000m above sea level, it’s protecting, preserving and propagating cool climate plants from across Australia and the globe.

There are only 760 known examples of the endangered Dwarf Mountain Pine, or Pherosphaera fitzgeraldii, left in the wild. An exquisite, bonsai-like pine, they’re only found on the cliff faces between Wentworth Falls and Katoomba. According to Greg Bourke, Curator Manager of Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, “We have been custodian to a conservation collection for a long time, but we’ve now decided to enlist the community in helping us to safeguard this species against climate change. We’re propagating the plants to enable people to grow them in their own backyards and to put some back into the wild if the opportunity arises.” They only grow to about one metre across, and tiny little plants (like the one in the photo above) could possibly be hundreds of years old.

The Wollemi Pine was discovered just 23 years ago in the nearby Wollemi National Park. With fewer than a hundred trees known to be growing in the wild, this critically endangered ‘living fossil’, was thought to have been extinct for the last 2 million years. Programs like the one being run at Mt Tomah, are essential for its survival.

A few other endemic species, as well as some interesting exotics, like maples, are also being propagated with the help of the Growing Friends of the Garden. They’ll be released later this year too.

Greg’s vision for the Garden is “to be that place that people come to, to learn how to do things better” - a demonstration site for growing plants, and for living sustainably.

They’ve already installed 30.47 kw of solar panels and aim to introduce enough solar to go off-grid. Green waste is recycled on site, and water is being collected off the roof, roads and paths.

The on-site sewage treatment plant is also being upgraded, and Greg’s hoping that, eventually, no water will leave the site, and that they’ll be using treated water for the plants.

Another important education and research focus of the Gardens is how to deal with the spread of pathogens that are increasing with climate change. In November 2005, for example, the virulent water mould, Phytophthora cinnamomi, was found to be infecting wild-growing Wollemi Pines. Phytophthora comes from the Greek and means “plant destroyer” - it’s one of the world’s most invasive species.

Phytophthora’s impact has been quite devastating, particularly in south western Australia where it destroyed large areas of forest, critical to supporting a number of threatened species. According to Greg, “because it’s invisible, its spread can be rapid and undocumented, until things start dropping dead. It’s when the forest is under stress that plants are most susceptible. With this summer’s unprecedented heat spells, for example, plants become stressed and then Phytophthora can take hold. With a little bit of rain, the pathogen can breed up to get into those plants, and then you’re likely to see mass dieback occurrences.”

“Human traffic is a key spreader of this pathogen, so we’re very careful with hygiene, and we encourage people to sterilise tools, feet, and vehicles, so they don’t spread it, particularly while bushwalking.”

To further tackle this threat, the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, with scientists from Sydney’s Royal Botanic Gardens and the Australian Botanic Garden, Mt Annan, will this year be doing germination trials with Wollemi seed in inoculated Phytophthora soil, so they can look for plants that are genetically resistant to this disease. “We’ll then grow these resistant strains,” says Greg.

“This is a huge problem, but plants are quite quickly adapting, so we hope to fast track that through studies here.”

If you’d like to find out how you can help, or where and when you can purchase the limited release Dwarf Mountain Pines and Wollemi Pines, contact Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mt Tomah, via www.bluemountainsbotanicgarden.com.au or by ringing 02 4567 3000.
Sports psychologists and coaches frequently tell players that, when you’re challenged, you have the choice to respond to your situation by believing that your glass is half full, or that it’s half empty.

For the enthusiastic new management team at the Blackheath Golf & Community Club, the glass is most definitely half full. According to Board member Rodney Tubbs, “It’s no secret that golf, as a sport, is facing challenges worldwide. The average age of club golfers has been increasing by one year every year.”

“The Mountains has already lost the Lawson and Katoomba courses, but we’re fortunate that our membership numbers are now increasing.”

Part of the reason for this turnaround was the decision last year to revise the Club as a Community Club as well as a Golf Club. With its new mission and name, the Blackheath Golf & Community Club has now expanded membership to include 690 social members, in addition to its many dedicated playing members.

By offering social membership for only $15 per year, the Club is keen for the whole community to access its venue, which looks out onto one of the most picturesque golf courses in NSW, set against a spectacular World Heritage National Park backdrop.

The new President, Ian Foulsham, who’s been coming here to play for the last 36 years, describes it as “close to heaven!”

As a social venue, it is one of Blackheath’s finest family-friendly community assets - offering affordable meals and employing local musicians to perform free concerts every Wednesday night. There are trivia and raffle nights on Sundays and the last Friday of the month, and charity events throughout the year.

Rooms are available free of charge for community use. They’ve been used by reading, bridge, bingo, and dance groups; by the Rotary Club for its regular Thursday night dinner meeting; and by other community groups for comedy nights, film screenings, classes and more. The possibilities are endless.

There are plans to expand the outdoor entertainment deck and the Board is keen to hear from anyone interested in helping to organise a Courtesy Bus to pick up guests. This would be a boon for many older residents in particular, who aren’t able to drive, or for those who’d like a night out without worrying about whether they’ve had a drink or two.

As membership increases, so does business sponsorship … and, as a result, the number of places where members can now get discounts if they show their membership card will also increase. The Club’s entertaining newsletter reaches all members and provides an invaluable local networking tool. The Club has also started a Foundation, and benefactors, keen for the Club to thrive in Blackheath, have emerged to offer their generous support.

For anyone interested in trying golf for the first time, Ian Foulsham can’t praise it highly enough as a sport. “It’s a discipline in which you play against yourself. No one else really knows how you go. It’s selfish, satisfying and addictive!”

To help newcomers get started, the Club has a new and very congenial resident Pro-golfer, Darrin Walden, who’ll be providing coaching and clinics for young and old … and reminding everyone, I’m sure, that when the going gets tough, the glass is half full, not half empty!

For more information visit http://www.blackheathgolf.com.au
The tiny village of Bell, on the junction of the Bells Line of Road, Chifley Road and the Darling Causeway, at the most north-western tip of the City of the Blue Mountains, has become a new destination for pilgrims. Carrying rocks all the way from Emu Plains to Bell, on the 7-day Epiphany Pilgrimage, or the Way of the Magi, the pilgrims are commemorating the Christian journey of the Three Wise Men - and like the Wise Men, the rocks are the gifts they are bringing.

In its second year, the pilgrimage takes place from 2-8 January. This year it included 37 pilgrims ranging in age from 17 to 70. On their journey, the pilgrims spend each night in church halls, with meals provided by local parishioners. They end their journey at the Chapel of the Magi in Bell, where they place their rocks into the gabion cages that will make up the chapel's walls. Some rocks have also been placed into the altar, which was created by Blue Mountains sculptor Terrance Plowright.

Fascinatingly, as the number of westerners identifying as religious appears to be on the decline, the number of people making pilgrimages has been rising.

In the UK, the new British Pilgrimage Trust’s slogan is “Bring Your Own Beliefs.” The Trust promises that you will rediscover your relationship with self and nature and that, by engaging with the world “in the way your body was designed to do,” you will find “a sure path to feeling grateful for being alive.”

One of the world’s most famous Christian pilgrimages is along the Way of St James to the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral, in Spain. It’s otherwise known as the Camino de Santiago and was made even more famous by Martin Sheen in the 2010 film, “The Way.”

While many walk the Camino as a spiritual journey, for others it’s a popular hiking or cycling trail, and for some it’s mainly a cultural experience - a way to explore Spanish art and architecture. UNESCO has declared it a World Heritage Site and the Council of Europe has declared it as a European Cultural Route. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people set out on the Camino, and each year there’s a growing Blue Mountains contingent.

In 2013, keen cyclists Margaret and Rowan Bouttell, who were living in Sydney at the time, decided they needed a sea change. They rented out their house and headed to Spain to cycle the Camino. When they arrived, however, they abandoned their bikes and started walking.

According to Rowan, “When you’re a pilgrim, you all travel along the same pathway. It’s very communal, everyone’s on the same page. It’s non-judgemental and everyone is supportive and co-operative. For us, it was not religious, but it was a walking meditation. It was a journey of discovery that led us to change the direction of our lives, and that’s how we ended up in Blackheath, running Glenella.”

For Margaret, the walk was an opportunity to unbundle from life’s burdens and stresses: “It’s just yourself and your 7kg bag. You have no idea what’s going on in the rest of the world, you have no decisions or concerns. There’s a real sense of freedom.”

Another Blackheath couple, Tony and Cecilia Jacques, first walked the Camino in 2014, and have walked it again every year since, For Tony, a former bomb disposal expert in the army, the pilgrimage taught him to let go of control and trust that the Camino would provide. He found it a very levelling experience.

In 2014, Tony, Margaret and Rowan met at Glenella and shared their Camino experiences. Their joint passion for the pilgrimage led them to coordinate a Pilgrim’s Dinner, with guest speakers and a Spanish meal. They’re now holding around eight dinners a year, and running Camino training walks on the same weekend. Their last dinner attracted 75 participants.

Interest has been so high, that they launched the first AusCamino Festival in Blackheath - a four day festival bringing together the Australian community of passionate Camino de Santiago pilgrims and prospective pilgrims. From 23 - 26 February, the festival program included a Spanish dinner, Spanish cooking and Hospitalero training classes, stalls and presentations (see www.auscamino.com.au).

Tony, Margaret and Rowan are also passionate about the development of the Great Blue Mountains Trail - “a regional trail from east to west across the Blue Mountains ridge line, accessible from all towns, villages and train stations along the way.” They hope that this will eventually be part of a bigger Manly to Mudgee cycling and walking trail. For them, the long term goal is for it to be accessible to hikers, cyclists AND pilgrims.

To find out more about the Epiphany Pilgrimage visit www.epiphany pilgrimage.org

Jungian psychology suggests that pilgrimages are instinctual, an unconscious need to perform a physical journey in order to travel inward in our quest for meaning and wholeness.
It's a bustling Thursday morning at the Blackheath Community Op-shop (BCOS). Volunteers are happily accepting donations of furniture, clothes and boxes of books, and satisfied customers are loading up the same. Passing by the racks of clothes to a large sorting table in the rear, I find David O'Brien, a serene agent in a storm of activity. We repair to a quiet courtyard behind “the other shop” just around the corner to have a chat, David’s mobile phone keeping him constantly connected to the activities around him.

From difficult beginnings as an orphan in Adelaide, followed by 17 years in Catholic institutions, to the glitz, glamour and excess of modelling in New York and London, David has experienced the highs and lows of the human condition, and has shared it in his published poetry. A move to Blackheath from Bondi twenty years ago fuelled a desire to see community spirit fostered and valued.

“People are being diverted away from being community minded, they just need to be reminded of it. The kids too, need to see things happening – acts of kindness.”

With this in mind, David decided to start a Community Op-shop, and worked hard to pull together other like-minded locals to help him set up a not-for-profit organisation. It’s one with a very clear community vision, grounded in such acts of kindness and generosity. According to vice-president Murray Reid:

“Our mission is to recycle from the community for the benefit of the community. People have so much stuff, and they have no idea how to recycle it. We want to keep prices low, and share as much as we can with those who need it. We also want to keep as much as possible out of landfill.”

The Blackheath Community Op-shop started in 2016, and now boasts two shopfronts - the original shop in the trade centre off Station St and the newer store on Station St proper, which Murray describes as “Posh Op”.

All the staff are volunteers, and the Op-shop is currently in the process of being accredited to employ people via Work for the Dole. A committee decides where to divest whatever profits remain after paying for the running costs. The aim is that eventually, every quarter, the committee will fund creative start-up initiatives in the Blackheath community. In this way profits will remain in, and support, the local community.

David cites numerous Blackheath community concerns that have already been assisted by BCOS. They have, for example, supplied much appreciated materials, like books, garden material and stationery, to the Blackheath Public School, and even The Big Fix has been the grateful recipient of old prams and trolleys that help our volunteers deliver magazines to each household.

As more and more stuff accumulates, a warehouse located in the old TAFE building in Lithgow is being used as a distribution centre to supply and help people establish “remote op-shops.” David has already helped open, and supplies, an Indigenous-run op-shop in the centre of Brewarrina, and is establishing another in the Apollo Estate in Dubbo. The Mt Druitt Men’s Shed will soon be added to their distribution system.

“I want to grow the community op-shop culture, but not under the banner of charities - let the community take responsibility and own it,” says David. “And, don’t forget, all the kid’s stuff is free!” he reminds me as I steer my son away from the pile of toys ...

Call BCOS on 4787 5727 if you would like to donate or volunteer.

Morgan Boehringer
It’s hard not to be biased about what a great place Blackheath is, and to not boast that it’s possible to go for months without even leaving the place!

In a community that has almost everything, we even have the good fortune to have our own Credit Union. I’m particularly thrilled about the Credit Union structure as a way to keep money circulating ethically, and equitably, in a community. Our credit union, Family First, was started by factory workers in Lithgow in 1967, as a way to support workers by providing them with low interest loans, or credit. The great thing about Credit Unions is that, as soon as you make a deposit, you become a voting member of a co-operative that exists for its members only ... not to make profits for shareholders. That’s a big plus for a small community, because the mission of credit unions is to be “community-oriented” and “serve people, not profit” ... and that’s exactly what our Credit Union does.

Last Christmas, Family First recognised the hard work and dedication of Roxanne Wilshire, the director of the not-for-profit Kinship at Christmas Foundation, by presenting her with a cheque for $1,115.

The Kinship at Christmas Foundation provides a Christmas luncheon to people who have no family, to those who are alone on Christmas Day, and to those who’d just like to socialise and/or volunteer on the day. Not only does Roxanne co-ordinate and cater for between 150 to 300 people at this event, but she also makes hundreds of Christmas presents for the elderly residing in Blue Mountains nursing homes. Outside of that, she is a School Learning Support Officer at Megalong Public School who assists special needs children with development issues such as Autism.

Other Family First initiatives that return money to the community are the Community Grants Program, which is open to charities every year during April; and the Bonus Saver Account, which pays a “Social Dividend” (a percentage of the savings in that account that goes to the community). This dividend goes directly to a local charitable organisation every quarter.

Staff of the Credit Union actively participate in community activities, like the local Rhododendron Festival. To raise funds they join forces with the Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre to provide a sausage sizzle. Branch Supervisor Michelle Willis, Family First’s Chairman, CEO and Senior management, all volunteer their time on the day. Profits are given to charity and this year the Credit Union raised nearly $900 to donate to the Kinship at Christmas Foundation!

Food and beverages that were left over from the day were donated to the Neighbourhood Centre’s food drive – a great example of what can be achieved when community-minded organisations work together. Ongoing support for the Neighbourhood Centre continues and The Big Fix would also like to acknowledge our gratitude to the Credit Union for providing support to print this magazine for our community.
On a hot windy day in Blackheath (perfect fire weather we both agree), I meet Mina Howard for a cup of tea in the Govett Café. In 2009 Mina established something called HUFF and I am there to find out how it works.

HUFF, or Heads Up For Fire (and other emergencies), was born in the aftermath of the 2009 Victorian bushfires which killed 173 people. Like all great ideas, it’s very simple: “Knock on your neighbour’s door and ask if they’re OK!”

Public meetings were held in the Blue Mountains, with residents asking for practical advice on what to do in the event of catastrophic fire conditions. Mina had been the Rural Fire Services (RFS) Community Engagement Officer in Blackheath since 2006 and realised at that moment that all it would take to make a significant difference was to have one person in every street who could help neighbours connect. She called for volunteers and presided over the “bunfight in the shed” when they all tried to work out what to do and how to do it.

From 2009, Mina ran the HUFF project as a volunteer, partnering with the RFS and the Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre (BANC). She delivered a leaflet to every single letterbox in Blackheath and Mt Victoria. If anyone claimed not to know about HUFF, Mina could truthfully respond: “But I know you got the leaflet!”

In 2015, BANC successfully applied for a grant from the Community Resilience Innovation Program, and Mina and Emily Black were employed as co-ordinators. One of the conditions of the grant was to set up HUFF so that it could be passed on to other communities. Twenty five street meetings were held, 75 HUFF facilitators were trained, the HUFF Facilitators manual was written, and another grant meant the local Blackheath-Mt Vic RFS could build a HUFF website.

You can contact Mina for a copy of “10 steps to HUFFing” and she also sends out a monthly HUFF newsletter.

The HUFF facilitators’ manual states: “A connected community is resilient in the face of adversity”. HUFF facilitators all have their own way of doing the job. Some hold street parties, some go door to door, some do letter drops and some make initial contact and then rely on email. However they work, they identify people who may be vulnerable and need help. They connect them with their neighbours or such services as AIDER (Assist Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents), who send a team to clean up their yard; or the RFS, who do a free property assessment to advise about fire dangers and planning for their particular property. They pass on information to the street and are the point of contact in emergency situations.

The impact of HUFF is undeniable. In the 2013 Blue Mountains bushfires, the community was facing catastrophic fires driven by 80kph winds. The loss of life and property was much less than it could have been. The community was better prepared and many people had an action plan which they managed to implement in the 18 minutes it took for the fire to travel from its source near Lithgow to the first houses it destroyed in Mt Victoria. There wasn’t even time to send out an emergency alert.

Assisting others to become confident in their ability to cope in extreme situations is key to the fabric of a resilient community. This was recognised in 2013 when HUFF received a Resilient Australia Award. Unfortunately, Mina couldn’t attend the ceremony as it was held the day after one of those catastrophic 2013 fires destroyed her car, her caravan, and almost her home!

Mina is now running HUFF on a volunteer basis on Wednesdays from BANC. A new grant from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal means she’ll be holding street meetings again and doing her best to encourage more people to participate. The key message, especially this year, is to stay focussed and not to become complacent.

If you’re prepared and have an action plan, you’re less likely to become stressed as an emergency approaches and less likely to panic when it arrives.

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Local author, Carla Billinghurst, catches up with Mina Howard (pictured) to find out about HUFF!

How to HUFF

- Volunteer or get the “10 steps to HUFFing” by emailing Mina at minahoward@BANC.org
- Sign up for the newsletter and find your local HUFF facilitator on the clickable map at http://huff.org.au/

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Individual/Community Group

Mina Howard - giving us a Heads Up For Fire!
Enjoying the richness of lives well lived

At 87 and virtually blind, Yvonne McCready does not regard herself as socially isolated or in need of “someone to chat to.” Why would she? Monday to Friday she walks more than 1.3 km from her Blackheath cottage into “town” where she either stops for the community lunch or catches a train to Katoomba for a hot meal.

“I meet another interesting person every day,” she says of these regular luncheon gatherings. “I hate cooking, but I love food. So I’m quite prepared to get myself out for lunch during the week.”

There are Community Restaurants dotted around the mountains, providing nourishing food and fellowship to a range of people from the elderly and isolated to those with disabilities. Many lunch-goers are picked up and delivered to the restaurants by community transport, but Yvonne enjoys her daily walks back and forth from the station, and will continue to do so as long as her progressive macular degeneration allows.

The restaurants are co-ordinated by Blue Mountains Food Services, who also manage the extensive Meals on Wheels service, and have created a social support network of volunteers who make it viable for many aged people to continue living at home. These volunteers offer wide-ranging assistance, from helping with shopping, cooking and gardening to simply providing companionship and outings. Being so fiercely determined and independent Yvonne may never have been a candidate for this kind of assistance, until the death of her son Gerard, who often came up from Lawson to help maintain her charming garden of natives and exotics. She was already on the books to receive Meals on Wheels at weekends and it was obvious to the co-ordinator that she might benefit from some additional practical assistance.

“They just phoned me and asked if I would like someone to come once a fortnight to help with the garden.” “Would I ever!” was her response.

By chance, at the same time, garden-lover Helen Proudfoot made contact with Meals on Wheels to see if they had any elderly people on their books who were struggling to maintain their gardens.

“Back when I lived and worked in Sydney I was inspired by a scheme that supported older people to keep living in their homes by helping them with their gardens,” she said.

So, when I retired up here in Blackheath, I phoned the Council so see if they had such a scheme. They didn’t. I felt I’d hit a brick wall and was seriously thinking about setting up my own volunteer group. Then when I spoke to the people at Meals on Wheels they put me together with Yvonne and I have been visiting her regularly ever since.

Yvonne does not sit in the shade sipping iced tea and giving directions while Helen does the hard yakka. Oh no. They are both down on their hands and knees, weeding and chatting, laughing and sharing stories as they work their way around the well-mulched pathways.

They share their life stories and memories; so what began as a simple “helping role” has developed into a warm friendship.

“Helen is amazing,” says Yvonne. “I can’t see well enough to read or write any more. She has spent hours typing up one of my journals – a collection of quotes from books and poems and memories. It’s important for me to share family history with my children and grandchildren.” Helen and Yvonne are now discussing working together to write a proper memoir.

Both women have had amazing lives; the anecdotes just tumble out.

Yvonne, who married and had ten children, spent many happy times in Blackheath during her own childhood, visiting her uncle and cousin who had apple orchards at Shipley (Logan Brae and Cliff View). Then thirty years ago she moved up to Blackheath permanently. Before her marriage she was one of the first pre-school teachers in Australia trained to work in slum areas. She eventually set up the first kindergarten run by trained pre-school teachers (not nurses) to support the early “working mothers” in Matraville. After marriage, her husband helped her build a long day care centre at the back of the family home, caring for pre-schoolers from 7 am until 5pm. Ground-breaking work in the early 1950s!

Helen grew up and worked in Dee Why, married and had two daughters, with a career in local government, before taking a sabbatical to the UK where she and a friend spent five years running village pubs in Devon. On her return to Sydney she wanted to live “where I can feel the change of season” and came to the Mountains where she worked for 10 years as a legal secretary. After retirement she knew she wanted to spend part of her time as a volunteer, helping people. I get a lot from Yvonne – she’s such a great and knowledgeable woman and she’s taught me a lot about gardening and life. As a volunteer you get back just as much as you put in.”

The Community Restaurants are at Blaxland, Springwood, Lawson, Katoomba and Blackheath. To find out more, contact Leesa on 47592811 or email leesa@bmfs.biz. To become a volunteer (in the Community Restaurants, delivering meals or the Social Support program), contact Celia on 47592811 or email volcoord@bmfs.biz.

The website is www.bmfs.org.au

Mary Moody
There is a thriving music scene in Blackheath which includes classical, folk and jazz. I am involved in the jazz world. There is regular live jazz at the New Ivanhoe Hotel and the Blackheath Golf Club. The "Mountain Jazz Trio with Pam Allen" has been playing every second Saturday afternoon for over 10 years at the New Ivanhoe Hotel. We also have a jam session there every Sunday from 5 to 7pm, which attracts keen musicians of all ages; and an annual jazz festival which is part of the Rhododendron Festival month. Musicians come from all over Australia - not for material gain, just for the love of playing, and especially at such a friendly and hospitable venue. We have a regular and very supportive audience.

Why the appeal of music in the community? In a stressful, materialistic and uncertain world, live music at our Blackheath venues offers a safe haven where people can meet, relax, communicate with others, and enjoy the creativity and the emotions of the music. They can also express themselves through singing and dancing, and feel part of a community of like-minded individuals.

In fact, our music has become the central focus in the week for many Blackheath people. It is wonderful therapy for loneliness and stress, and of course has proven benefit for medical conditions such as depression and dementia. It is a time when the worries of the world dissolve, and material possessions and pursuit of the "mighty dollar" are forgotten, to be replaced by experiencing and sharing the joy and the emotions of music.
# March

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<th>Monday</th>
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<tr>
<td>8.30am Blackheath Walkers, meet Jubilee Park</td>
<td>9-12 noon Tennis</td>
<td>9-11am Mt Vic Playgroup</td>
<td>9.30-3pm Men's Shed</td>
<td>9-12 noon Tennis</td>
<td>7-9pm Unique Chaos, Youth Group, Anglican Church</td>
<td>Archery, Browntown Oval</td>
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<td>9-10.30am Pregnancy Yoga</td>
<td>9.30 Line Dancing, Golf Club</td>
<td>10.30-12.30 Wednesday Writers' Group</td>
<td>10-12 noon Blackheath Writers' Group</td>
<td>9.30-2pm Occasional Care, Baptist Church</td>
<td>9-12 noon Tennis</td>
<td>9-12 noon Tennis</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-12.30 U3A Photography, BANC</td>
<td>9-12.30 Playgroup (Anglican)</td>
<td>10.30-12 Playgroup (Baptist)</td>
<td>10-12 noon Blackheath Writers' Group</td>
<td>3.30-5.30pm Welcome Table, New Ivanhoe Hotel</td>
<td>4pm Trivia at Golf &amp; Community Club</td>
<td>4pm Trivia at Golf &amp; Community Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-4pm U3A Shakespeare Playreading, BANC</td>
<td>10.00-11.30am Storytime</td>
<td>11.30 Village Restaurant</td>
<td>11.00am Bingo, Golf Club</td>
<td>7-9pm Heathens Choir</td>
<td>5pm Tapas and Spanish Guitar at Govetts Cafe &amp; Wine Bar</td>
<td>5-7pm Jazz at the Ivanhoe</td>
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<td>6-8pm African Drumming, BANC</td>
<td>2-4pm Knitwits, Ivanhoe</td>
<td>6-8pm Fibre Art</td>
<td>12.30-3.30pm U3A French</td>
<td>7.15-9.15pm Scouts</td>
<td>7.30pm Venturer Scouts</td>
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<td>Tickets on sale for the Golf &amp; Community Club Monster Raffle - $5,000 worth of prizes from Harvey Norman, Lithgow. Raffle drawn on 29 July at the Christmas in July Dinner.</td>
<td>9-12 noon Men's Shed</td>
<td>7-9pm Steak Night &amp; Live Music at Golf &amp; Community Club</td>
<td>9-12 noon Men's Shed</td>
<td>6-8pm African Drumming, BANC</td>
<td>3-9pm Quota Club</td>
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<td>7.30pm Quota Club</td>
<td>9.30-2pm Occasional Care, Baptist Church</td>
<td>10am CWA Craft</td>
<td>2-5pm Blackheath Theatre Company auditions. Bates Hall. Bring a piece.</td>
<td>2-5pm Jazz, Ivanhoe Hotel</td>
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<td>10am CWA Craft</td>
<td>10am CWA Craft</td>
<td>10-11.30am Audio Discussion Group</td>
<td>6pm Permaculture Design Course commences</td>
<td>8.30am-4pm NPWS Great Grose Weed Walk: Govetts Creek Book: 47873112</td>
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<td>10am CWA Craft</td>
<td>6.30pm Friends of Blackheath Pool</td>
<td>6.30-8.30pm Ecopella Choir</td>
<td>6.30pm Bat Fest &amp; sausage sizzle, NPWS</td>
<td>9am-1pm Blackheath Growers Market</td>
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<td>2pm Australian Red Cross, Rhodo Lodge</td>
<td>7.30 Folk Club, Ivanhoe Hotel</td>
<td>7-9pm Ukelele Jam, Ivanhoe Hotel</td>
<td>7-9pm Blackheath Theatre Company AGM, BANC</td>
<td>6.30-8.30pm Ecopella Choir</td>
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<td>9am-3pm NPWS Great Grose Weed Walk: Headwaters of Grose River, Mt Victoria Book: 47873112</td>
<td>2-5pm Jazz, Ivanhoe Hotel</td>
<td>7-9pm Blackheath Theatre Company AGM, BANC</td>
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<td>1pm CWA meeting</td>
<td>3pm The Song Company presents Sticks and Stones, Uniting Church Ph. 8272 9500</td>
<td>10-11.30am Audio Discussion Group</td>
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<td>6.30-8.30pm El Dorado Band, Ivanhoe Hotel</td>
<td>Golf Club Championship Awards Night and Dinner</td>
<td>1pm CWA meeting</td>
<td>3pm The Song Company presents Sticks and Stones, Uniting Church Ph. 8272 9500</td>
<td>9am-1pm Blackheath Growers Market</td>
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<td>Seniors Festival: Morning Tea with Jacques Tati Film, BANC</td>
<td>10am Probus</td>
<td>10am CWA Craft</td>
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<td>2-5pm Jazz, Ivanhoe Hotel</td>
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<td>7-9.30pm Trivia at the Ivanhoe Hotel</td>
<td>10am CWA Craft</td>
<td>6.30-8.30pm Ecopella Choir</td>
<td>6.30-8.30pm Ecopella Choir</td>
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<td>Golf Club Championship Awards Night and Dinner</td>
<td>4pm Author Catherine McKinnon in conversation with Naomi Parry, Glenella. Bookings to Gleebooks</td>
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Since it launched in mid-August 2016, the The Big Fix Youth Cafe has held regular Wednesday night gatherings for 14-18 year olds in Blackheath.

Guests have included Emma Magenta, who introduced them to Capoeira; Pei Hong, who taught them how to make authentic Chinese dumplings; Anna Ingham, who showed them how to make "no-sew" carry bags out of old t-shirts; Kurt Hartmann, who is setting up a Venturers Group in Blackheath on Friday nights; Gigi Ray, who has started a local branch of the Wilderness Society, called Wilderness West; and Sam Parker-Davies, who was the youngest candidate at the recent local government election.

Other nights have included Music and Mocktails, Bagels and Bubbly (non-alcoholic), Pizza and Planning, Talk and Tapas and games nights focused on co-operative board games, ping pong and more! They’ve also built a frog pond, raised $200 for the Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group, attended the Blue Shorts Film Festival and screened the inspiring new film “Tomorrow”... which shows that a different world IS possible.

The Cafe is held at 101 Wentworth St from 6-9pm. RSVP to Lis on 0407 437 553.
### April

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<tr>
<td>8.30am Blackheath Walkers, meet Jubilee Park 9-10.30am Pregnancy Yoga 9.00-11am Playgroup, Blackheath School Hall 9.30am Bridge, Golf &amp; Community Club 10-12.30 U3A Photography, BANC 2-4pm U3A Shakespeare Playreading, BANC 6-8pm African Drumming, BANC</td>
<td>9-12 noon Tennis 9.30-3pm Men’s Shed 9.30 Line Dancing, Golf Club 10-12 Playgroup (Anglican) 10.00-11.30am Storytime 2-4pm Knitwits, Ivanhoe 2-4pm U3A Playreading 3.20-5.30pm BM Drama 4.50pm Karate classes 6-7.30pm Cubs Meeting 7-9.30pm Phoenix Choir 7-8pm Scottish Dancing</td>
<td>9-11am Mt Vic Playgroup 10.30-12.30 Wednesday Writers’ Group 10.30-12 Playgroup (Baptist) 11.30 Village Restaurant 2-4pm Heathens Choir 6-8pm Fibre Art 6-8pm The Big Fix Youth Cafe 7-9pm Vocal Edge Chorus 6.30pm Steak Night &amp; Live Music at Golf &amp; Community Club</td>
<td>9.30-3pm Men’s Shed 10-12 noon Blackheath Writers’ Group 11.00am Bingo, Golf Club 12-4.30pm U3A French 5-8pm Junior Jam, Golf Club Ph. 47878406 7-9pm Heathens Choir 7.15-9.15pm Scouts</td>
<td>9-12 noon Tennis 9.30-2pm Occasional Care, Baptist Church 10.00-11.30am Storytime 2-4pm Knitwits, Ivanhoe 2-4pm U3A Playreading</td>
<td>7-9pm Unique Chaos, Youth Group, Anglican Church 10am-1.30pm Community Farm Working Bee</td>
<td>Archery, Browntown Oval 9-12 noon Tennis 4pm Trivia at Golf &amp; Community Club 5-7pm Jazz at the Ivanhoe Hotel</td>
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<td>3 7-9.30pm Trivia at the Ivanhoe Hotel</td>
<td>4 7.30pm Quota Club, Lakeview Hotel</td>
<td>5 9am-3pm NPWS Great Grose Weed Walk: Valley View Swamp, Blackheath Book: 47805623 10-12 noon Horticultural Society, Rhodo Lodge 10am CWA Craft</td>
<td>6 7.30pm Folk Club, Ivanhoe Hotel</td>
<td>7 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 8am-11am Autumn Bird Walk BM Botanic Garden, Mt Tomah 2-5pm Jazz, Ivanhoe Hotel 3.30-6.30pm Blackheath Philosophy Forum 5-8pm Blue Mountain Bats BM Botanic Garden 8-10 April Great Grose Weed Walk, Wh, Ph: 47873112</td>
<td>8 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 9-11am Autumn Bird Walk BM Botanic Garden, Mt Tomah 2-5pm Jazz, Ivanhoe Hotel 3.30-6.30pm Blackheath Philosophy Forum 5-8pm Blue Mountain Bats BM Botanic Garden 8-10 April Great Grose Weed Walk, Wh, Ph: 47873112</td>
<td>1 DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS 9am-1pm Blackheath Community Market 10am-1.30pm Community Farm Working Bee</td>
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<td>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 8am-6pm Vacation Care</td>
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<td>12 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 8am-6pm Vacation Care</td>
<td>13 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 8am-6pm Vacation Care</td>
<td>14 GOOD FRIDAY Blackheath Art Society Members’ Exhibition 14-17 April</td>
<td>15 Blackheath Art Society Members’ Exhibition 14-17 April</td>
<td>16 EASTER SUNDAY 9am Breakfast &amp; Easter Egg Hunt at Blackheath Golf &amp; Community Clubhouse grounds 10-1.30pm Easter at the Community Farm Pre Huie Cup Dinner at Golf &amp; Community Club</td>
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<td>17 EASTER MONDAY Blackheath Art Society Members’ Exhibition 14-17 April</td>
<td>18 EASTER MONDAY Blackheath Art Society Members’ Exhibition 14-17 April</td>
<td>19 EASTER MONDAY Blackheath Art Society Members’ Exhibition 14-17 April</td>
<td>20 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 8am-6pm Vacation Care</td>
<td>21 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 8am-6pm Vacation Care</td>
<td>22 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 8am-6pm Vacation Care</td>
<td>23 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 8am-6pm Vacation Care</td>
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<td>24 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 8am-6pm Vacation Care</td>
<td>25 ANZAC DAY Dawn and 10.45am Service, Blackheath War Memorial 8am service at Mt Vic Rotary Anzac Day Golf Classic fundraiser with 5pm Anzac Day Dusk Service at Golf Club</td>
<td>26 10am Probus 10am CWA Craft 6.30-8.30pm Ecopella Choir 7-9pm Ukelele Jam, Ivanhoe Hotel</td>
<td>27 10-11.30am Audio Discussion Group 7.30pm Trivia at Golf Club Camino Dinner at Glenella, followed by walk next day</td>
<td>28 10am-3pm Weaving Workshop with Lanny Mackenzie, Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mt Tomah</td>
<td>29 3.30-7.30pm Blackheath Community Farm Autumn Harvest Picnic with Crop &amp; Swap and Lanterns</td>
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On Saturday 28 January 2017, around 45 people attended the first Meet-Up and Permablitz to launch Blackheath’s Community Farm, on land generously made available to the Community by Mountains Christian College. This is the first stage in plans for a ‘distributed farm’ throughout Blackheath, auspiced by The Big Fix with support from the Blue Mountains Permaculture Institute.

After an initial brainstorm and morning tea, the community threw themselves into tidying the site, removing old treated pine beds, setting up compost bays, mowing the long grass, and building the first sheet-mulched garden bed to grow the donated seedlings.

Since then more garden beds have been created and two bay trees have been planted.

The community has generously donated mulch, plants, seedlings, tools, cash and more to support the project, and many are now on a roster to water newly planted seedlings.

See our calendar for the dates of the fortnightly gatherings. On April 30 the Farm will also be holding an Autumn Harvest Picnic with Crop & Swap and lanterns. Bring along home-grown produce to share. All welcome!

Location: 60 Thirroul Ave, Blackheath. Last entrance (dirt road)

Contact Narelle Johnson via rellijohnson@yahoo.com.au or Lis Bastian via lis@thebigfix.org Ph. 0407 437 553 for more information or to go on the mailing list.

Facebook page at www.facebook.com/connectiontoplacet/
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<td>1</td>
<td>7-9.30pm Trivia at the Ivanhoe Hotel</td>
<td>7.30pm Quota Club, Lakeview Hotel</td>
<td>10-12 noon Horticultural Society, Rhodo Lodge</td>
<td>10-12 noon Tennis</td>
<td>3-30-6.30pm Blackheath Philosophy Forum</td>
<td>9am-1pm Blackheath Community Market</td>
<td>5-10pm Refugee and Amnesty Film Night</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>2pm Australian Red Cross, Rhodo Lodge</td>
<td>10am CWA Craft</td>
<td>6.30pm Friends of Blackheath Pool</td>
<td>10-11.30am Audio Discussion Group</td>
<td>BLACKHEATH DAY</td>
<td>MOTHERS’ DAY</td>
<td>9am-1pm Blackheath Growers Market</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>7-9.30pm Trivia at the Ivanhoe Hotel</td>
<td>7.30pm Quota Club, Lakeview Hotel</td>
<td>1pm CWA meeting</td>
<td>3.30-6.30pm Blackheath Philosophy Forum</td>
<td>7.30pm Blackheath Theatre Company performance: Tales of the Elements</td>
<td>3.30-6.30pm Blackheath Philosophy Forum</td>
<td>10am-1.30pm Community Farm Working Bee</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Watch State of the Origin on the Big Screen at Blackheath Golf &amp; Community Club</td>
<td>10am Probus</td>
<td>10am CWA Craft</td>
<td>10-11.30am Audio Discussion Group</td>
<td>3.30-6.30pm Blackheath Philosophy Forum</td>
<td>10am-1.30pm Community Farm Working Bee</td>
<td>10am - 2pm Blackheath Mountains Craft Markets</td>
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It's not hard to see why Blue Mountains City Council's Family Day Care service was named the NSW Family Day Care Service of the Year in 2016. When I walked into Kathryn Tang's exquisite cottage in Blackheath, it was like entering childhood heaven. Berry muffins were baking and filling the air with a most delicious aroma, every bit of décor looked as though it had been created to delight a little person, and two young children were so engrossed in play that they barely noticed my arrival.

In the short time I was there, they were rolling around on large balls, dressing up, setting a table and creating centrepieces to decorate it, eating a morning tea they’d also helped make, and curling up on the couch to have Kathryn read to them. Through all of this they chatted happily and affectionately to Kathryn and to Vicki Roy, the Childcare Services Officer who regularly pops in to provide support. Tellingly, Vicki would much rather be called a “Play Worker” than an Officer!

Had I not known better, I’d have sworn Kathryn was the mother of these two young girls … and a mother whose skills I’d have envied when I was trying to manage my own twin toddlers. The children were at ease, everyone looked relaxed, and the activities merged seamlessly from one thing to another as the children chose what to do next. Kathryn is a former kindergarten teacher, who still works part time in a pre-school, but she describes these as her “happy days.”

Perhaps the biggest difference from any other childcare setting I’ve ever encountered was how incredibly quiet and peaceful it all was!

Council’s Family Day Care service has been running for around 37 years and the relationships that develop as young children receive personalised education and care in someone’s home, often last a lifetime. There are stories of educators attending the weddings of young people they looked after 20 years earlier; and then caring for their children a generation later. It truly does become a family affair, and supporting parents and families in their roles is another main function of Family Day Care. According to Vicki, “So many parents don’t have family connections or support networks, so educators can become that support network.” Educators keep diaries of the day to share with parents, and pick-up time is a great opportunity for parents to connect, as they might with another trusted friend or relative.

Over those 37 years, Family Day Care has become increasingly professionalised, subject to all the same regulations and laws facing every other childcare service. It’s monitored, supervised and educators go through a stringent interview process. They need to have, as a minimum, a Certificate 3 qualification in Children’s Services or be actively studying to achieve this.

What strikes me most in speaking to Kathryn and Vicki is that they are absolutely passionate about what they do. “It’s also important that people applying to be educators match our philosophy,” said Vicki. “We want to turn out beautiful, well rounded human beings.”

“Our philosophy is to celebrate childhood with play, time, space, freedom and a close bond with the adult that spends time with children each day.”

Each educator is able to receive free training in the internationally recognised Marte Meo method, which helps
children develop their social and emotional skills.

Marte Meo is Latin for “on one’s own strength”, and this method is very much a strengths-based approach. From the educator’s perspective, for example, this means reading the developmental message behind a child’s behaviour. When children are aggressive, this may mean that they haven’t had enough respect models or haven’t learnt to empathise. No one is seen as being wrong, it’s just that a child hasn’t yet had an opportunity to develop the skill or strength they need. As a result, educators focus on helping to develop those areas. They help children play cooperatively, deal with their emotions, develop empathy for others, learn to cope with anxiety issues and increase their self-confidence.

The quality of Blue Mountains Family Day Care has been rated as “Exceeding the National Quality Standard” and, as a result, the service was one of six services across Australia, invited by Family Day Care Australia, to participate in University of NSW research looking at what constitutes high quality service in Family Day Care.

From Council’s perspective, Family Day Care provides important additional services to the Blue Mountains community. It enables local employment creation and supports flexible working hours and arrangements. There are currently 54 educators working in Family Day Care in the Mountains. The more people that use Family Day Care, the more opportunities there are for new educators to receive free business set-up training from the coordination unit staff ... potentially opening up new and meaningful career paths for those keen to work from home.

As an added bonus, Family Day Care is often more affordable than other forms of daycare because it attracts a higher rate of childcare benefit (CCB) due to its flexibility. Long Day Care charges for 11 hours, whether you use it or not, whereas Family Day Care can offer a lower minimum number of hours to parents and carers.

Kathryn welcomes prospective parents to visit and get a feel of whether it’s right for them. “It’s about relationships and being a part of each other’s lives,” she adds.

As I force myself to leave, I only wish I was still school age so I could stay all day and play too!

To contact Family Day Care ring 4780 5280 or email familydaycare@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

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**The Rotary Club of Blackheath in conjunction with Blackheath Golf Club**

**ANZAC Day Golf Classic**

*25 April 2017*

**Blackheath Golf Club**

**Golf, breakfast and lunch $70**

*+$10 includes BBQ breakfast from 7.30am, entry for a 4 Ball Ambrose with unique rules as 3 holes, novelty items and a buffet lunch. $20 pp for non-golfers includes buffet lunch. Strictly limited numbers, so book early!*

Golf / Raffles and Auction / ANZAC Dusk Service

A fabulous day out and a great cause…

All proceeds raised through this ANZAC Day Golf Classic will go towards the return of the Blackheath Rocket and other local and international projects.

**Major Gold Sponsor**

**Blackheath Rotary Club**

**Blackheath Golf Club**

**Blackheath Medical Centre**

**Blackheath Family Medical Centre**

**Blackheath Hospital**
Twenty seven years ago, a young auditor at Ernst & Young in Sydney, one of the “Big 4” accounting firms, came across a newly published report, “Blueprint for a Green Economy.” Prepared for the UK Environment Department, the report claimed that environmental problems had their roots in “economic failures.” This struck such a chord with him that he did a complete about-turn, left his job, travelled overseas to clear his head, and then came back to enrol in a new course - a Civil and Environmental Engineering Degree at the University of Technology in Sydney.

Mark Liebman was determined to be part of the solution, not the problem. Living on the driest inhabited continent, it was not surprising that he gravitated to working on water issues. He was particularly keen to design natural systems that would filter and purify waste water. At that time, Australia was entering the historic and devastating Millennium Drought, the worst drought since European settlement, that lasted from 1995 to 2009 (and didn't officially end until 2012). As one of the first graduates of the course, Mark’s skills were immediately in high demand.

Water scarcity and water quality were high on the agenda and he began working on cutting edge master planning projects for Arup, the international firm of consulting engineers. These projects were focused on water cycling and re-use, and were pivotal in the development of a strategy now referred to as ‘water-sensitive urban design’ (WSUD). From fixing massive polluted lakes in China to building the Sydney Olympic Park ... he cut his teeth on projects that were pushing all the boundaries.

It’s easy to forget how far we’ve come as a nation in respect to water, but back then Sydney Water had such a stranglehold on water and plumbers, who had to be registered with them, that they threatened to revoke their registration if they attempted to put in water tanks. “This continued,” recalls Mark, “until Frank Sartor waded in and mandated that rainwater could be used for whatever purpose anyone wanted.”

Employed as a consultant engineer by Kiama Council, Mark weathered friction with Sydney Water to help build Elambra Estate in Gerringong - the first estate in NSW to mandate the use of rainwater tanks. “The place had a real eco-village feel,” said Mark.

This was the start of what Mark describes as a golden time for water innovation. With funding from the NSW Government’s Stormwater Trust Program and the Environment Protection Authority, he helped to pioneer bio retention and stormwater systems that harvested and filtered water using natural systems.

In 2000, Environmental Planner, Peter Davies, came to the Blue Mountains and oversaw the Blue Mountains Urban Runoff Control Program. This was a multi-million dollar interagency program to improve water quality in the Blue Mountains and was instrumental in helping the Blue Mountains achieve its World Heritage listing.

Each day, when Mark walks into town, he makes a point of picking up plastic, cigarette butts and other pieces of rubbish, so that they won’t get washed into the stormwater drains and make their way down into our creeks. As we stroll near his home, he points out the Humeceptor above Blackheath pool - a concrete trap for removing hydrocarbons and other solids from stormwater runoff. “Most people simply don’t realise the impact they have on the bush via our stormwater system,” he says.
International permaculture teachers trained in Blackheath

Mark Liebman - designing for a water sensitive world

... continued:

In 2006, Mark and his uber-talented wife, Sarah Laborde, moved to England while she took up the exciting role of being an Art Director on Wallace and Gromit. While living in the picturesque Medieval town of Axbridge he stepped back from engineering and focused on permaculture. He and Sarah helped to develop a successful Community Allotment Association and were actively involved in the birth of the Transition Town Movement.

In 2012, keen to return to Australia to re-establish his business so that they could start a family, Mark and Sarah chose Blackheath as their home because they sensed it had a real community, and one which was also exploring permaculture.

With young Harry now a part of the family, Mark is enjoying working on what he describes as “really fulfilling cutting edge sustainability projects.” He’s worked closely with aquatic ecologists and road designers at Crookwell Council to make sure the old timber bridge on the Abercrombie River was replaced, without interfering with the passage of endangered fish on one of our last pristine wild rivers. He’s also particularly proud of creating a water management strategy for a $35 million expansion of Borgs, in Oberon. Borgs is one of Australia’s last few successful manufacturers, planning to produce particle board from recycled timber. He’s set up a water harvesting and reuse strategy that uses natural processes, combined with a reverse osmosis plant, to recycle stormwater. This captures and treats runoff from the entire dirty industrial estate at Oberon, thereby reducing polluted runoff, protecting the creek from too much water and helping to return it to a “rural state”. It also saves the company money because they don’t have to purchase clean town water.

As well as working on permaculture and water systems for domestic clients, Mark’s also developed an innovative water quality offset scheme for Sydney’s largest and fastest growing Council, Blacktown – this project is a finalist in the Greater Sydney Commission’s Excellence in Planning Awards. Developers choose to either build treatment on-site or to pool their funds and pay a contribution to Council. This contribution is then used to build community-based water quality treatment, stormwater harvesting and reuse systems in the most efficient locations. The Brownfield Redevelopment for Blacktown will save 300 million litres of water a year. Cost savings will help to protect the creeks of western Sydney.

In Blackheath, he’d love to see the development of a cosmopolitan streetscape focused on people, not cars. His vision includes public art and rain gardens to capture runoff from the main shopping centre. His other dream is to be part of creating a community solar farm on the old landfill site on Ridgewell Road. “It has a few civil engineering issues,” Mark says, “but I’m sure they can all be overcome. We built the Sydney Olympics Park on an old landfill site and look where it is today.”

If a community solar farm were established, Mark’s very clear: “I’d invest in it!”

You can visit Mark’s website to learn more at www.sustainabilityworkshop.com
Justin Morrissey - Toolo

Justin Morrissey is a Blackheath resident and artist who started Toolo, the Blue Mountains Tool Library, a not for profit, artist run initiative that provides a playground for makers, artists and the wider community to access tools and equipment and an artist studio residency program. The Tool Library has everything from marquees, PA systems and microphones, drills, Sanders, lawn mower, whipper snipper, 3D printer, sewing machines, digital camera equipment, camping cookers and BBQ's. We’re a library of things, your ideal home for everything you have ever needed to buy for the occasional use. www.toolo.com.au

Mountains Christian College

Mountains Christian College Blackheath says NO! to plastic straws and is proud to partner with the community to create Blackheath’s exciting Community Farm. The School also provides a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen for our students and is a Pre-Kindy to HSC school set against the backdrop of the Blue Mountains World Heritage National Park. It is situated at Blackheath on 16 beautiful hectares overlooking the magnificent Kanimbla Valley - an absolute haven for children.

For further information please contact our office on 4787-8645

Phil Hopkins - Blackheath Mitre 10

Phil Hopkins (aka Santa) at Mitre 10 Blackheath is renowned for his ability to fix any problem related to locks! He’s now taking on the challenge of being the store’s Stihl Products repair man, and if you catch him any time from Sunday to Thursday, your day is also likely to be brightened by one of his many jokes (they’re not corny at all!). He’s also been a member of the Blackheath Bush Fire Brigade for just over 20 years and, after 17 years, is the store’s longest serving employee ... other than members of the Hume family. A proudly family-owned and operated hardware store, owners Shirley and Bill Hume, though retired, can still be seen behind the counter on Saturdays. Rob Hume now runs the store, supported by great staff, like Phil. Rohan runs Blackheath Timber next door. The store has a long history of generously supporting the local community.

Helen Day

Paper Conservation

27-29 Govetts Leap Rd,
info@dayfineart.com
m 0424 842 294

Meet the Fixers
Would you like to participate in BLACKHEATH DAY in 2017?

This year Blackheath Day will occur on 13th May.

Looking forward to hearing from you all shortly!

BANC is currently planning for the next financial year and beyond. In order to better understand what you would like from us, we will be undertaking a series of consultative processes over the next few months. So keep an eye on our website and Facebook page in the near future for information about a short survey that we encourage you to complete.

Also, we are collaborating with other Neighbourhood Centres across the mountains in an ongoing exercise to gather your thoughts on what you value about your community and what you hope for it in the future. So look out for us around town with our clipboards and if you have a group who would like to participate in a 1-2 hour facilitated conversation, please let us know. Your assistance in this activity will be greatly appreciated.

Another way you can help BANC is to volunteer your time, energy or expertise. While we have some wonderful long term volunteers, we would always welcome additional assistance with one-off or ongoing projects. Please give us a call if you would like to discuss how you could help. And don’t forget, you are always welcome to drop in for a cuppa and a chat … Jo Ridley

CELEBRITIES ATTEND MT VIC FICKS BANC FUNDRAISER

A big thank you from us all at the Welcome Table to everyone who attended our eighties-style evening featuring a screening of ‘The Big Chill’ in November especially those who dressed for the occasion. You were terrific and you helped us raise over a thousand dollars to help BANC meet its costs. It was a great fun night and we were honoured to have at least two gorgeous Madonnas, a captivating Blondie and a magnificent cross-dressing Blues Brother amongst our very fetchingly-dressed audience.

Warmest thanks to Adam and Kirsten at Mt Vic Flicks for so generously hosting the event with all the work that that entails. Thank you too to all the individuals and businesses who kindly supported us, particularly Bob Reid who gave us his time and assistance amongst the huge demands of the Rhodo Festival, Dave and Octavia at the Community Op Shop who were our great problem solvers, Michael at Friendly Grocer Supermarket for the soft drinks, Matt at The Gardners Inn Hotel and Kerry at The Ivanhoe for some very good wine. Elaine Valton

Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre (BANC) is a not-for-profit community-based organisation that is based in Blackheath and serves local communities in the Upper Blue Mountains of NSW. BANC is open from 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday Gardiner Crescent, Blackheath 2785

Tel: 4787 7770  Fax: 4787 7777  community@banc.org.au  www.banc.org.au

FIND US ON FACEBOOK OR SUBSCRIBE TO OUR BLOG WWW.BANC.ORG.AU

connecting people with communities; creating opportunities for inclusion; contributing to resilience of people & place.
**THE BLACKHEATH HOUR**
Each Thursday from 10 am to 11 am you can tune into the “BLACKHEATH HOUR” with our hosts Ken Bromilow and Murray Reid. The Blackheath Hour is a program of music, interviews and local news. If you are a songwriter, poet, storyteller, or have community news from Blackheath and the surrounding districts we would love to hear from you and join us on the program. Call 4787 7770

We encourage you to support your local community radio station, so tune in to 89.1 Radio Blue Mountains and streaming live on www.rbm.org.au

**RRR - RE-CYCLE, RE-DESIGN, RE-CREATE**
Our new course has started - Friday’s from 10th February to 7th April at the RSL Hall from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.
Contact Jo Davies for information regarding available places or the next course.

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL - CALL BANC on 4787 7770
This is a free course and is a collaboration between BANC and TAFE Western Sydney Institute.

**NILS - NO INTEREST LOAN SCHEME**
NILS provides no interest loans to people on a low income living between Leura and the Mounts. Loans may be used to purchase essential household items including:
- White goods such as fridges, washing machines
- Essential electrical goods
- Furniture
- Medical equipment
- Other worthwhile purposes

Repayments are tailored to suit individual circumstances. The term of the loan is usually 12-18 months.
Contact Deborah Allen on 4787 7770 or nils@banc.org.au

**THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME**
Your NDIS supports delivered your way
The NDIS is a national scheme for people with disabilities aged 0 - 65.
BANC is a registered provider of NDIS supports which means we provide support workers to assist people with their goals in their NDIS plan.
- Supports in home and in the community.
- Supports to children, teenagers and adults on an individual basis and in small groups.
- Supports daytime, evening and weekends.

We maintain a small fleet of vehicles including a wheelchair accessible bus.

To make contact about your NDIS supports please email cas@banc.org.au or call us on 4787 5684.

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/communityacessservice/

**THE WELCOME TABLE**
New in Town? Come along to... THE WELCOME TABLE on Friday afternoon, to meet other locals.
This is a not a club - no need to join. Just a time and place to have a coffee and meet other locals. Come and go as you please!
Fridays 3:30pm to 5pm at the New Ivanhoe Hotel
Host of the table is Lindena Robb 0410 310 205

**THE HEALTHENS**
A community choir for Blackheath.
Anyone who loves singing can expect a warm welcome.
All ages, no previous experience necessary.
We meet Wednesday afternoons 2pm to 4.30pm at Bates Hall, cnr Gardiner Cres & GWH, Blackheath
Enquiries Chris Wheeler 4787 5725 More info at http://heathenschoir.org

**BLACKHEATH POOL**
HOME OF SUMMER SWIMMING SINCE 1931
weekdays 7:00am - 6:30pm, weekends 9:30am - 6:30pm
& late on hot summer weekends 4787 8018
Info provided by Friends of Blackheath Memorial Park & Pool custodians of this gem of the Mountains FoBP&MP meets 6:30 PM on second Thursday each month, new members always welcome!

CONTACTS: friendsofblackheathpool@gmail.com
Tweeting at @Blackheath_Pool
Facebook Group “Friends of Blackheath Memorial Park & Pool”

**BOOSH (BLACKHEATH OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS SERVICE)**
BOOSH is a thirty place not for profit community based centre offering three different programs to the Upper Blue Mountains community and its environs.
These three programs consist of Before School, running from 7 am to 9 am, where breakfast is served and stimulating activities are chosen by the children to do. Our After School program from 3 pm to 6 pm starts with school collection from Blackheath Public School and the meeting of buses from Mt. Victoria and the Christian College. A substantial afternoon tea is served before children begin their own initiated programs of activities following both indoor and outdoor pursuits. Finally, our third program is Vacation Care, opening at 8 am and closing at 6 pm. This program offers interesting and varying Incursions, whereby presenters are invited to demonstrate skills and experiences with our children and Excursions which involve exciting activities either in the local community or further afield.
As our service is federally funded, we are able to offer Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Rebate through Centrelink to eligible families enabling our fees to be most affordable for everyone.

Boosh@banc.org.au.

**HEADS UP FOR FIRE (HUFF) & OTHER EMERGENCIES**
The HUFF project aims to ensure the wellbeing of people within the communities of the Blue Mountains in the event of bushfires and other emergencies. HUFF Facilitators are people who volunteer their time to get to know their neighbours and share information with them about preparing for an emergency.

If you would like to become part of the HUFF team or for more information, go to www.huff.org.au or email info@huff.org.au

**PLAYGOUPS - ALL WELCOME!**
Just turn up and meet other children/parents/carers in a friendly and informal setting.
The playgroups are facilitated by a trained worker from Thrive Services (formally BM Family Support) as well as volunteers.
Blackheath Playgroup: Monday in the School Hall from 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Mt Victoria Playgroup: Wednesday in the School Library from 9:00-11:00 am
Contact: Kylie on 4782 1555 for further information about both playgroups.
Cost: Gold coin donation & a piece of fruit to share at morning tea.

A partnership activity of Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre, Thrive Services, Blackheath Public School & Mt Victoria Public School

**SCHOOL FOR SENIORS**
Varied interesting outings for active older people on Mondays fortnightly starting at approximately 8 am $15 per outing
For further information contact Octavia on 4787 7770

**BLACKHEATH WALKERS**
Blackheath Walkers are into nine years of walking as a local community group. Many friendships have been formed. We walk in a variety of amazing locations from Mt. Victoria and the Christian College. A substantial afternoon tea is served before children begin their own initiated programs of activities following both indoor and outdoor pursuits. Finally, our third program is Vacation Care, opening at 8 am and closing at 6 pm. This program offers interesting and varying Incursions, whereby presenters are invited to demonstrate skills and experiences with our children and Excursions which involve exciting activities either in the local community or further afield.

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Boosh@banc.org.au.

**AUDIO DISCUSSION GROUP**
Do you enjoy listening to audiobooks or podcasts?
Come to our Audio Discussion Group
We meet at BANC every second and fourth Friday from 10am to 11:30am
Contact: Toni on 0457 598 956
U3A - BETTER PHOTOGRAPHY*

Want to improve your photographic skills? Mondays 10 am to 12 noon

This course is intended for average photographers who want to improve their skills, obtain more professional results and have fun along the way. Participation is free of charge although you will need to join or become a member of U3A Nepean.

Camera Skills
- Term 1 2017 - Feb 6, 13, 20 and Mar 6, 13
  To participate or seek additional information please call
  David Hobbs 4787 8235 or 0414 392 744
  Participants will require their own digital camera (any model),
  the owner’s manual for that camera, and a laptop computer.

U3A - PLAYREADING SHAKESPEARE*

Come and enjoy the fun of reading Shakespeare aloud.

Mondays 2pm - 4pm Judith Finney jafing@bigpond.com 4787 7877 or
Tuesdays 2pm - 4pm Marilyn Bull 4787 9073 or Liz de Koster 0477 827 752

U3A - FRENCH*

Beginners and advanced classes
Thursdays from 12pm to 4:30pm Call Heather 0405 393 281

STUDIO FRANCOPHONE

Come and enjoy classic French films with subtitles.
6 pm (film starts at 6:30 pm) $10 each
A delicious supper is served. Mingle with interesting people and
discuss the film! Bookings are essential. Contact Heather 0405 393 281

DO YOU LIKE GARDENING?

Community gardeners are needed to assist with the vegetable garden at Blackheath Public School. If you have one spare hour a week and are willing to help out, please call Jo Davies at BANC on 4787 7770 or via email com.development@banc.org.au.

The School will provide an information and training session.
All community gardeners will be required to undertake a free Working with Children Check.

ECOPELLA CHOIR

A multi-city choir whose powerful, sophisticated a cappella music is concerned with environmental themes
Thursday fortnightly from 6:30pm
Contact Miguel 9850 4601 or email miguel@ecopella.org

AROUND TOWN

BLACKHEATH PHOENIX CHOIR

Phoenix is an SATB community choir singing a range of music. We perform several concerts each year and also hold occasional social and fund-raising events. New members are always welcome.
Next concert: Handel’s Messiah Sunday 9th April at The Hub Springwood
Tickets $28 / $25 concession
Bookings 4723 5050
Rehearsals: 7pm to 9.30pm on Tuesdays during school terms at Blackheath Uniting Church Hall, Govetts Leap Rd
Enquiries: 0419 223 009 or phoenixchoir.org.au

BLACKHEATH TENNIS CLUB

SOCIAL TENNIS
- Everybody Welcome
on Tuesdays, Fridays & Sundays, 9 am - 12 noon
COURTS FOR HIRE
For Enquiries call Kay Benger on 4787 7779 or Sue Gracey on 4787 7887

BLACKHEATH THEATRE COMPANY

For information on upcoming activities and membership of the Theatre Company, please contact:
Sabine at 4787 8784/0414 185 332 or sabine@bigpond.net.au

PIANO STUDIO FOR HIRE

BANC’s Community Access unit in Wentworth Street has a piano studio available for hire. Ideal for teaching beginner to intermediate students.
Available Monday to Friday from 3 pm, and also on weekends.

Hire from $10 per hour. WiFi available. Contact 4787 5684

HANDS-ON COURSE ON JAPANESE CULTURE

Tuesdays at 5 pm
For details: 0407 681 277

Traditional Japanese culture is simple yet elegant. It captures many people’s hearts around the world. If you are artists, you can incorporate Japanese flavour into your artworks. If you are looking for something healthy, beautiful and delicious food, you can add new recipes to your culinary repertoire.

Items to be covered are as follows: Japanese cooking (tutor’s house), Calligraphy, Flower arrangement, Japanese paper craft, Card making and others.

JAPANESE LANGUAGE COURSE

Wednesdays at 4 pm
For details: 0417 681 277

It covers topics such as greetings, travelling Japanese and self-introduction. It will also give some insights into Japanese modern and ancient culture and society.

FIBRE ARTS

Community gathering to share skills and keep all textile skills alive: spinning, weaving, knitting, crochet, lace making, felt-making, patchwork. $3 per class.

Wednesday from 6 pm to 8 pm
All welcome Call Ailsa on 6359 0777

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BLACKHEATH WRITER’S GROUP

Thursdays 10am to 12 noon
Contact: Alicia 0414 272 253 $2 per week

THE WEDNESDAY WRITERS’ GROUP

Wednesdays 10.30 am to 12.30 pm
Contact: Sue 4787 1728

No previous writing experience is required. There is lots of fun and literacy satisfaction available. $2 per week.

A multi-city choir whose powerful, sophisticated a cappella music is concerned with environmental themes
Thursday fortnightly from 6:30pm
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THE CAMPBELL RHODODENDRON GARDENS

Springtime – with the blooms! Flowering exotics in native bushland

The Lodge is Open for “Aussie Teas”
30th September to 6th November
10 am - 3.30 pm
Bacchante Street, Blackheath
Enquiries: 4787 8965 (Volunteers needed during Open Days)
www.rhodogarden.org.au

BLACKHEATH ART SOCIETY

WORKSHOPS • STUDIO GROUPS • EXHIBITIONS.

Easter Members Exhibition at the Studio
10am to 5pm 14th to 17th April 2017
BLACKHEATH & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Our friendly garden club welcomes you, whether you are an avid gardener, or just enjoy the results.
Meetings are on the first Thursday of each month (except January) at The Lodge, Campbell Rhododendron Gardens, Bacchante Street, Blackheath, from 10 am to 12 noon.
Our meetings include a mini flower show, plants for sale, guest speaker and morning tea. We also hold an annual flower show.
Annual fee: $15 Joining Fee: $20.00
Telephone: Jennifer Milani 4787 8772

THE BLACKHEATH KNOTWITS!
Join us on each Tuesday 2-4 pm at the Ivanhoe Hotel.
We knit in winter for Wrapped With Love, and in summer we make warmer things for an orphanage in Mongolia.
EVERYONE WELCOME! For information call Yvonne on 4787 5392

BLUE MOUNTAINS OCCASIONAL CARE
We are open in school term every Friday from 9:30 am to 2 pm at Blackheath.
We offer an early childhood program where children can make friends and learn through play (for children 0 – 6 years). Many of our families use occasional care so they can study or attend appointments. A government subsidy is available to all families also. www.mocs.org.au

THE ROTARY CLUB OF BLACKHEATH
DINNER MEETING - Join us Thursdays 6.30 for 7 pm Blackheath Golf Club for a night of Fellowship and Fun. All new members and guests welcome.
Join Rotary - Volunteer World Wide
Ring Mina Howard 0419 639 407
*Rotary helps make the world a better place* Our motto is “Service Before Self”

MT VICTORIA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Two senior Australian Museum staff members praised the museum at Mount Victoria railway station saying its collection was outstanding for a regional museum. Displays cover the crossing of the Blue Mountains by road and rail, tools and clothes of early settlers, tourism, local businesses and natural history, plus many more. It’s well worth a visit.
The museum, run by volunteers, is open from 12 noon to 3 pm every weekend, school holidays and public holidays (except Christmas Day and Good Friday).
Enter is Adults $5 / Children $1

BLACKHEATH RED CROSS INTERNATIONAL
Meets 2nd Wednesdays monthly
2 pm The Lodge, Rhododendron Gardens, Bacchante Street, Blackheath. You’re welcome to join us.
Enquiries: Gail 4787 6461

BLACKHEATH AREA MEN’S SHED
BAMS, a member of the Australian Men’s Shed Association, is community-based, non-profit, non-commercial and, as with all members of the Association, has the objective of advancing the health and welfare of its male members. BAMS provides a safe and non-threatening environment for men to meet, to chat, and to take part in its activities.
Located at 8 Bundarra St, Blackheath, BAMS welcomes new members.
Come and visit us on Tuesday & Thursday between 9:30am and 3pm, or ring Peter on 4787 6178.

LIVING WITH HAEMOCHROMATOSIS
BLACKHEATH’S DISCUSSION GROUP
Monthly informal meetings for 2017 will be held in the clubhouse of Blackheath Golf Club, Valley View Rd and Brightlands Ave, Blackheath on the THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH.
Friendly, supportive atmosphere, no RSVPs, no entry fees.
Meet at Clubhouse reception desk.
Discussions begin at 11 am in small private meeting room.
Refreshments available from Brightlands Bistro from noon onwards.
Please note that on Friday 17th February 2017 the group will be visited by the new president of Haemochromosis Australia, Ms Diane Prince, who worked in the Pharmaceutical Guild before retiring.
Diane would like to meet as many of us as possible at this meeting.
Enquiries to Barbara 4787 7937 • email barbara@email.com.au
website: haemochromosis.org.au
under Meetings & Information Sessions for other changes.

1ST BLACKHEATH SCOUT GROUP
The 1st Blackheath Scout Group has been part of the community of the Upper Blue Mountains for over 90 years.
We provide boys and girls, young and old with lots of fun, challenging experiences, skills development and motivation to do their best and prepare them for an active and rewarding life.
Each section has its own trained Leaders and Assistant Leaders. Scout Leaders come from all walks of life, from parents of Scouts, to childhood Scouts, to people with no Scouting experience at all!
Interested in joining? Or becoming a Scout Leader?
Contact Russell Brown on 4788 1113

ROTYRCLUBOFTHEUPPERMOUNTAINS
SUNRISE • Join in on Tuesdays 7.15 - 8.30 am
At the Mountain Heritage Coach House, Penault Street, Katoomba
This club covers the villages in the Upper Blue Mountains from Wentworth Falls to Mt Victoria. New members are welcome.
Contact Rod Tout on 4757 1239

VILLAGE RESTAURANT BLACKHEATH
Every Wednesday 11.30 am to 1.00 pm at Bates Hall
Are you over 55 years of age? Would you like to enjoy a delicious low-cost meal with great company? Come along to the Village Restaurant on Wednesdays and enjoy great food, good fun and friendship.
The delicious meal is provided by Blue Mountains Food Services.
Community Transport provides a bus pick-up if needed.
Please ring 4759 2403 to book a place on the bus.
The meal costs $8.50 (plus $3.00 for the bus if needed)

BLACKHEATH ANGLICAN CHURCH
“UNIQUE CHAOS” YOUTH GROUP
Every Saturday night 7 to 9pm for teens in years 7-12
Enjoy fun, friends, games and the bible
Cnr of GWH and Hat Hill Road • GOLD COIN DONATION
Contact: Michelle Seers for more details 0421 313 898