



It's Rhodo Festival Time!

Blackheath's stunning Campbell Rhododendron Gardens are bouncing back after the fires and visitors have been streaming in - helping raise funds to restore the gardens by making donations and buying calendars, tea towels and other souvenirs. While COVID has forced the closure of The Lodge, volunteers (left) have been manning a kiosk to welcome visitors over the last few weeks. They'll be there for the Rhodo Festival weekend.

Undaunted by COVID, the rest of the Festival this year has adapted by programming the Rhodowood Film Festival, a guided tour of Soldiers Memorial Park, a Community Open Day at the RFS Hall with free BBQ, and the Chalk Art Festival to celebrate the re-opening of Blackheath Pool. Details over the page.

Blackheath & District Chamber of Commerce Elects New Committee

The Blackheath & District Chamber of Commerce is going from strength to strength with over 60 members and the election of a new committee to explore the development and marketing of the 'Top of the Mountains': George Vergotis (Blackheath Automotive), Lara Hall (Blackheath Boutique and Twig), Margaret Bouttell (Glenella Guesthouse), Denise Wilson (Mount Victoria Manor), Kim Draguns (Megalong Creek Estate) and Lachlan McAuley (Blackheath Lawyers). It's now easy to join the Chamber via an online booking form at

www.blackheathchamber.org.au



Thank you to Yuliya Mann for sponsorship of this month's Local News.

Yuliya is the owner of Elegant Bookkeeping. She is a proud resident and active member of the community in beautiful Blackheath and the Upper Blue Mountains.

District Events in November

SAT

6, 7, 8

Blackheath Rhodo Festival Rhodowood Film Festival

Films will be screened from Fri-Sun. Dress up and join in the fun at Blackheath Community Hall. BYO food a la Rhodo Revue. COVID protocols. Session times and bookings at rhodofestival.com

SAT...

7&8

Campbell Rhododendron Gardens - Gardens and Information Kiosk

10am-3.30pm Saturday and Sunday. Meet & Greet @ Information Kiosk. Say "G'DAY" and check out souvenirs and beautiful 2021 calendar while also exploring the beautiful gardens during an amazing wild orchid season.

SAT

7

Guided tour of Soldiers Memorial Park for Rhodo Festival

2.30pm Jennifer Ross and Eva Johnstone will showcase the Park's outstanding beauty and the intriguing history of its establishment by the Blackheath local community. Meet at the King George V gates.

SAT

7

RFS Community Open Day with free BBQ provided by BANC

10am-2pm Blackheath RFS Brigade Station
Assistance with preparing Bush Fire Survival Plans. Access to support, advocacy & information from BANC, Step-by-Step Bushfire Recovery & Catholic Care

SAT

7

Launch of Landcare Group at Blackheath Community Farm

1.30pm-4.30pm The community is welcome to join the new Landcare group which will help regenerate bushland in West Blackheath with the support of BMCC's Bushcare officer. Contact Lis for more info on 0407 437 553

SAT

7

Blackheath Pool opens with BANC Chalk Art Festival

9.30am-11.30am Free entry
The pool will then open Monday to Sunday from 10.30am - 5.15pm
Gardiners Cres, Blackheath.

SUN

8

Launch of Bonsai Group at Blackheath Community Farm

10am-1pm For beginners and experienced Bonsai lovers. The group will meet on the second Sunday of every month at Blackheath Community Farm, 60 Thirroul Ave Blackheath. Contact Cathie on catnao1320@gmail.com

SUN

8

Blackheath Growers Market

8am-12 noon
Blackheath Community Centre - rain, hail or shine!
Corner GWH and Gardiner Cres

WED

11

Blackheath/Mt Vic RSL sub-branch Remembrance Day Service

10.45am @ Blackheath-Mt Victoria RSL sub-branch hall on the corner of Station St and Bundarra St Blackheath. Refreshments will be served after the service. You can lay a wreath or a book (to be donated to local schools) during the service.

SAT

14

Blackheath History Forum - Terry Irving, Radical Historian

4pm From the Rising Tide to Govett's Leap: The Socialist Life of Gordon Childe; streamed live on the Forum's YouTube channel - www.blackheathhistoryforum.org.au

SAT...

14 ...

Mountains Marketeers Blackheath Craft Market - 14 & 15 November

9am - 3pm @Blackheath-Mt Victoria RSL Sub-Branch, 2 Bundarra St Bookings and enquiries to Rahim Isa on 0409 339473
www.mountainscraftmarket.weebly.com/blackheath

District Events in November/December

THUR

26

'Misbehaviour' Rotary Movie Night Fundraiser @ Mount Vic Flicks
8pm (Entry from 7.40pm) Supper treats, wine, coffee & tea included pre the movie. COVID protocols. Tickets only \$25 must be booked online via www.trybooking.com/BMMYX Enquiries to president.blackheath@gmail.com

SAT

28

Bridge to Otherness - a Response to the Great Western Highway
4pm-6pm @Blackheath Community Hall
Voices and sounds of the Blue Mountains by author/composer Jo Truman
See back page of this newsletter for ticketing information.

DEC

5 & 6

Blackheath Art Society Group Show: Blue & Beyond

10am-5pm, Free entry

Ten BAS artists give a many-faceted creative response to the extraordinary environments and times we live in. 139A Station St Blackheath.



The poster features a red and white striped border at the top. On the left is the NSW Rural Fire Service logo, and on the right is the NSW Government logo. The main text is centered on a white background. A blue circular badge with a white checkmark and the text 'WE'RE COVID SAFE' is positioned to the right of the main title. Below the title, the date and time are listed. A green box highlights the key activities: assistance with preparing a bush fire survival plan, information on what to do in the event of fire (leave early or stay & defend), and registration for a property assessment. Below this, it states that a free BBQ is provided by BANC. Further down, it lists additional services: access to support, advocacy & information; step-by-step bushfire recovery; and Catholic care. At the bottom, there are logos for BANC, the Step by Step Recovery Support Service, and CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

NSW

**RFS COMMUNITY
OPEN DAY**

WE'RE COVID SAFE

SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2020

10AM – 2.00PM
BLACKHEATH RFS BRIGADE STATION

Assistance with preparing your
BUSH FIRE SURVIVAL PLAN
What to do in the event of fire
LEAVE EARLY or STAY & DEFEND
Register for a property assessment

FREE BBQ PROVIDED BY BANC

ACCESS TO SUPPORT, ADVOCACY & INFORMATION
STEP-BY-STEP BUSHFIRE RECOVERY
CATHOLIC CARE

BANC

STEP BY STEP
RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICE

CatholicCare
WESTERN SYDNEY
AND THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

**All details are correct at time of printing.
Please contact event organisers to confirm details.
Send events to events@thebigfix.org or phone Lis on 0407 437 553**

A Response to the
Great Western Highway

Bridge to Otherness

Voices and Sounds of the Blue Mountains

Jo Truman

In a response to the bicentenary of the crossing of the Blue Mountains by Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth in 1813, with a commission from West Germany Radio, multimedia artist Jo Truman wrote, composed this work and co-produced it with John Stuart, combining the voices of people and birds of the Blue Mountains with the sounds of nature set against the sounds of 'progress'.



The Program

Program 4 - 6pm

- **Shaun Brown** - Welcome to Country and acknowledgements: Author/composer Jo Truman and the people who participated in the work
- **Part One:** The colonial crossing and its portent of loss for Aboriginal people
- **Q&A** - coming together to care for country and community
- **Part Two:** Progress, Efficiency and Productivity, the illusions of the modern world
- **Q&A** - reconciling with the highway and its role in our lives



Blackheath Community Hall Great Western Highway

Saturday 28 November: 4 – 6pm

Purchase tickets: \$20 adults, \$15 concession, children free
events.humanitix.com/bridge-to-otherness-a-response-to-the-great-western-highway

