

Martin St, Katoomba, 2780 | Ph: (02) 4782-2622

katoomba-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

2024 Term 4 Week 4

Coming Up

Fri 8 Nov - HSC exams end

Tue 15 Oct - HSC Exams commence (ending Fri Nov 8)

Tue 12 Nov - Year 12 Formal

Mon 9 Dec - Year 10 Dinner

Tue 10 Dec - End of Year Presentation Evening

Welcome to our first school newsletter for Term 4. We hope you enjoy reading about some of things that have been happening and are coming up at school.

Promoting Peace together with Rotary

Our new School Leadership Team began their official duties this term by joining KHS staff and local members of Rotary for our annual 'Peace Pole' ceremony to mark the UN's International Day of Peace.

To start the day, Prefect Lyla Dobbs shared a message with all students over the



loudspeakers and during the ceremony our Student Leaders spoke about the story and significance of the Peace Pole...

In 2021, Rotary donated 100 Peace Poles donated to 100 schools across the country to mark the centenary of Rotary in Australia. Katoomba High was one of those schools. Our Peace Pole is planted in the garden along the walkway to the entrance of the main building. The Peace Pole initiative began in 1955 after the Second World War. Now, more than 250,000 Peace Poles stand in over 200 countries around the globe, symbolising the common wish for a world at peace.

Our Peace Pole is marked with the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in four languages: English, Dharug, Gundungurra and Samoan. Each year we gather with Rotary to reaffirm our commitment to Peace.

Fiona Hanlon from the Front Office shared the story of how the planting of the pole came about, and Past District Governor of Rotary, Mina Howard, shared this message:

You can all be peace ambassadors in your school community. We come from different backgrounds, different home lives, different circumstances. We ALL need compassion, caring and respect if we are to lead peaceful lives.

Peace begins at home, but school plays a huge part in your daily lives so strive to make each and every day a peaceful and happy one for everyone here. This Peace Pole serves as a daily reminder that living a peaceful life is the ultimate goal and that you must be a part of the journey towards that goal. So, be kind, be caring, and look after each other.

Congratulations to our 2025 Student Leaders

Following the Peace Pole ceremony, we took a moment congratulate Jude Bennett and Robbie Corlett on their recent appointment to the positions of School Captain and Vice-Captain respectively and presented them with their badges. We look forward to seeing what this exemplary group of young people achieve together over the coming year.







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After the Peace Pole ceremony, students, staff and Rotary guests enjoyed a lovely morning tea with plenty of conversation together.

Thank you, Rotary, for all you do to support our young people, our school, our community and communities around the world.

Thank you to our Student Leadership Team and Mrs Jeffrey for organising the ceremony. Thank you also to the TAS team for catering for us with a delicious morning tea.















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Around the Grounds

Deputy Secretary Visit

It was wonderful to host the Deputy Secretary of the NSW Department of Education, Deb Summerhayes, and the Director of Educational Leadership Blue Mountains Network, Kate Ford, at Katoomba High recently. They met with the Senior Executive team, Student Leaders Jude Bennett and Lauren Martin, had a tour of the school, visited Birriban, and observed a couple of classroom lessons. It was great to be able to share all the wonderful things happening at our school with them. They were very impressed with our school, staff and students!

School Captain Jude Bennett spoke with Ms Summerhayes about sustainability at KHS and was subsequently invited to join a Dept Education Executive Team meeting with Ms Devine and Ms Summerhayes share his to knowledge and information about sustainability projects the school. Well done, Jude! You certainly made positive impression!









Well done to our Year 12 HSC Students

Our Year 12 students have been doing so well throughout their exams and everything has been running smoothly. The HSC final exam will be held on Friday 8 November. Congratulations to every one of our students.



Class of 2025 Senior Jackets are in!

Our senior students are looking great in their new Class of 2025 custom jackets! The jackets feature a beautiful waratah emblem on the back and a graduate badge of the sleeve designed by prefect Mahlia Khoo. The jackets are personalised with the student's name on the back and every student in the year group is also printed on the inside lining - a very special memento.









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Year 10 Dartboard Craftmanship

Year 10 Students have been making dartboard cabinets during this year. Pictured here is Finn Kleij with his cabinet featuring laser etched doors and an inlayed drawer front. Well done Finn and Year 10 on some fine cabinets.





Year 7 Art in Nature

Year 7 Visual Arts students have been exploring the work of Andy Goldsworthy, creating sculptures, cubby houses, and woven pieces in the landscape.

By treading lightly and listening deeply, students are fostering a beautiful connection to the land, showing deep respect for Country.

















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Birriban Landcare: The search for English Broom (Cytisus Scoparius)

It is Broom weeding time. Its bright yellow flowers make it easy to identify. Students removed Broom and stripped the seed pods from the branches. Seed pods went into the green bin and green material went onto the weed heap to dry out.





Sharing the Knowledge: Richmond High students share Dharug Language learning with us.

Late last term, Year 7 students from Richmond High School embarked on an inspiring journey to Katoomba High School to share their growing knowledge and understanding of Dharug language. This cultural exchange was a celebration of language, learning, and community.

Students were warmly welcomed by Uncle David King, a deeply respected Gundungurra Elder. Uncle David's Welcome set the tone for the day, emphasizing the importance of cultural connection, shared knowledge and care for discussed Country. He the similarities and differences between Dharug and Gundungurra words, enriching student understanding of these significant Indigenous languages. This interactive session enabled students from both schools to introduce themselves in language, fostering a sense of connectedness and enthusiasm for learning.

The cultural immersion continued as the students shared lunch around the Birriban communal fireplace. This gathering provided an informal setting for students to connect and learn from one another.

In the afternoon, the focus shifted, under the guidance of Manu, an expert in natural dyeing techniques, students delved into the world of natural dyeing methods. Using materials such as bracken and gum leaves, they experimented with techniques to create stunning results. This hands-on activity highlighted responsible collection natural materials in landscape, giving students the opportunity to express their creativity while learning about sustainable and natural art making practices.

The day concluded with a deeper appreciation for the Dharug and Gundungurra languages and cultures. The collaboration between Richmond High and Katoomba High students

exemplified the power of sharing knowledge.

By bringing the Dharug language to Katoomba High, the Year 7 students from Richmond High School have set a powerful example of how sharing knowledge can empower minds. This cultural exchange will be remembered as a day of cultural learning, connection, mutual care and respect.









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KHS Out and About

Birriban Bushcare Award

We were very proud to receive a BMCC Bushcare Award last term for our work with Birriban.



The Council Bushcare

program supports community volunteer groups conducting regular bush regeneration activities on significant bushland sites within the Blue Mountains LGA.

We have a wonderful team of students, teachers and community members who spend hours every week looking after this special place. Our sincere thanks and gratitude to Uncle David King, Ms Paulley and everyone else involved in caring for Birriban.

KHS + Mountain of Youth Music Video Festival Premiere

Congratulations to all of our creative KHS students who were involved in this year's KHS Mountain of Youth collaborative film-making project.

This year's project was to create a music video for the internationally acclaimed Blue Mountains duo 'Hermitude'.

The music video made its first public debut at the 'Clipped' Music Video Festival in Randwick on Sunday 27th October and received an amazing response.

Ms Devine, Mr McLeod and Ms Grahovac attended with some of our students who also spoke at the event together with Kalani and Helena from Mountain of Youth.

Congratulations to students Zoe, Melody, Heidi, Sophie-Kate, Lucy, Mav, Quin, Ember, Lila, Harper, Sidney and the whole team from Mountain of Youth!

We will hold our premiere screening at school very soon so stay tuned!















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Primary School Celebrity!

Our students do so many wonderful things out in the community that make us proud. A little while ago, Year 11 student Jude Bennett visited Cootamundra Public School to help them with their kitchen garden program. The Kindy classes had been learning about kitchen gardens and farming and had watched all the episodes of Gardening Australia featuring Jude as a guest host. He was a real-life celebrity to the kindy students who greeted him with excitement and lots of hugs! Well done Jude. ©











We had some extra lunch time fun at school this week thanks to our friends from The Street Uni. Street Uni on Katoomba Street run a range of different workshops in Urban Dance, Street Art, DJing, Beat-Making and more. And this week they came to give us a taste of what they do with street art, dance, DJ and beat-making activities for students outside at lunch times. It was super fun!

Thanks Street Uni!

www.streetuni.com.au











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The Sports Page

NSW All School Championships Success

NSW The All Schools Championships were held during the school holidays at Sydney Olympic Park. The competition is the State Track Championships for Secondary School students, incorporating students from all sectors of the education system, including Government, Catholic Independent. Katoomba High School had 7 athletes compete over the 4 days competing 16 times in 9 different events...

Joel Bryant - Boys 15 Yrs 100m and 200m

Charlie Mitchell - Girls 13 Yrs 100m, 200m and Triple Jump

Chloe Flugge – Girls 16 Yrs 100m, 200m and High Jump

Tim Clines - Boys 12 Yrs 200m

Finn Kleij - Boys 16 Yrs High Jump and 800m

Owen Roberts - Boys 12 Yrs Discus and Shot Put

Issac Roberts - Boys 16 Yrs Shot Put

Owen Roberts came away with two medals – a Gold Medal in the Shot Put with a throw of 13.82m, and a Bronze Medal in the Discus with a throw of 35.79m.

V Finn Kleij won Bronze in the High Jump with a jump of 1.80m

And there were plenty of other fantastic performances including Chloe Flugge's 6th place in High Jump and 12th in the 100m, Charlie Mitchell's 6th place in triple Jump and 12th in the 200m, and Isaac Roberts' 9th place in Shot Put.

Congratulations to everyone who competed in this high-level comp. Thank you for representing our school so well!









Mr Wilson represents Australia at World Titles

It is often said that Mr Wilson is probably the best GA in the world! We now have proof that he actually IS one of the best in the world!

In September, Brett Wilson, KHS General Assistant, represented Australia in the World Benchrest Shooting Federation World Titles in Valencia, Spain. Australia sent 10 shooters consisting of three teams of 3 people and a reserve shooter.

Brett was the number one shooter in the Australian team and the lead off shooter for the Australia A team. The team finished 6th in the world and was the best of the Australian teams. Brett's individual score placed him 13th overall with four near perfect targets! What an amazing result!

After the competition, Brett enjoyed a quick holiday in Barcelona visiting the sights including Antoni Gaudí's Bascilica de Sagrada Família and watched the lead up races to the America's Cup yacht race. Well done Mr Wilson!







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Careers Corner

Congratulations Chloe!

Congratulations to Chloe Cayzer of Year 12 who has just graduated with a Certificate III in Health Services Assistant.

Chloe studied the course over the past two years as part of her HSC through Nepean Health and attended Blue Mountains Anzac Memorial Hospital once a week to complete the course.

Chloe will enrol in a Bachelor of Nursing next year at Western Sydney University. Whilst she is training, she will use her Certificate III to work as an Assistant in Nursing at Nepean Hospital.

Well done, Chloe!



TAFE Apprenticeships Information Session

TAFE NSW Wentworth Falls are holding an information session on apprenticeships and school-based apprenticeships.

This information session will provide practical advice, as well as answer your questions and help you develop a clear and actionable plan to ensure you make an informed decision.

Venue: TAFE NSW Wentworth Falls

Date: 13th November Time: 5.00pm – 6.00pm

Arrive at 4.30 for a 5.00pm start

Come and hear about:

- Apprenticeships
- School-Based apprenticeships
- How to navigate
- What's involved
- Where to from here

You will also hear from teaching staff and what they have to offer.

Please RSVP by sending an email To:

dyonne.barberie3@tafensw.edu.au or asimina.karpouzas@tafensw.edu.au

Save the Date Careers Market 2025

The Careers Market excursion for Years 10 and 12 will be held on Friday 30 May 2025 to Randwick.

Job Jump Careers Bulletin

I'd like to encourage senior students, parents and carers to

take a look at the Job Jump Careers News Bulletin I share via email. This is a fantastic resource for



information about open days, seminars, webinars, workshops and many other things relating to tertiary study, early entry schemes

and many other post-school opportunities.

Remember, I'm always here to help.

Mrs Tully. Careers Advisor







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What's On at School

Reminder: Year 12 Sign Out Day!

Reminder: All Year 12 students need to sign out of school at 8am on Tuesday 12 November and return their books. This is the same day as the Year 12 Formal.



Year 12 Society & Culture Information Session for Parents & Carers

Parents and Carers of students sitting their Higher School Certificate Society and Culture Examination in 2025 are invited to participate in a short, online information session about the Personal Interest Projects.

The session will be held over Zoom on Thursday 14th November at 6:00pm and will involve a brief 10-minute presentation about the Personal Interest Project, which is a major work that is worth 40% of students' HSC Exam mark.

This will be followed up with the opportunity for parents and carers to ask questions about the project requirements and timeline and the different ways they can support their child in the subject over the next nine months. The session will be recorded, making it available for parents and carers who are unable to attend at the time.

If you would like to participate in the information session, please send an email indicating your interest to samuel.hewett@det.nsw.edu.au to receive a link to the session.

Newspapers Wanted

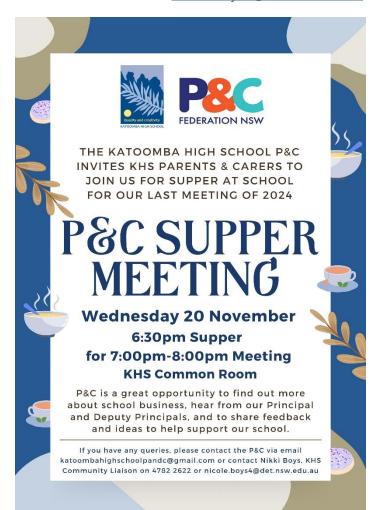
If you have a pile of newspapers laying around that you would like to put to good use, our Science faculty and Peer Support program can use them. Please feel free to donate your old newspapers to the front office.

P&C Supper Invitation

The Katoomba High School P&C would like to invite KHS Parents & Carers to join us for Supper at school for our last meeting of 2024 on Wednesday 20 November, 6:30pm Supper for 7:00pm-8:00pm Meeting in the KHS Common Room.

P&C is a great opportunity to find out more about school business, hear from our Principal and Deputy Principals, and to share feedback and ideas to help support our school.

If you have any queries, please contact the P&C via email katoombahighschoolpandc@gmail.com or contact Nikki Boys, KHS Community Liaison at the school on 4782 2622 or nicole.boys4@det.nsw.edu.au





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Youth Shoebox Project

Our KHS Student Leaders will be managing the collection and delivery of donations for the wonderful Shoebox Project again this year. Thank you to everyone who has contributed in the past.



This important community-led project has distributed almost 3,000 shoeboxes of Christmas gifts to children seeking refuge and asylum, here in the Blue Mountains and Greater Sydney. The project also offers the opportunity to work collaboratively to spread kindness, connection and compassion for others.

Donations of shoeboxes and other items can be made to the front office from now until Wednesday 27th November. Thank you for your support.

Ethics Classes for Year 7

We are pleased to be able to offer ethics education for young people at KHS. Ethics classes can be selected instead of Scripture in Year 7.

For more information about Ethics Classes and opportunities to volunteer as an Ethics teacher, you can contact our local coordinator Tatar Holmes via



email tatar.holmes@primaryethics.com.au

'HOW TO' INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1 Start with a shoebox
- 2 Label your shoebox and decide who your gift is for
- 3 Cut out the template, complete it and stick it to the top of your box
- 4 Pack your shoebox so it can be opened and checked
- 5 Find your nearest drop off point

DROP OFF

Drop off you Shoebox or items to the Katoomba High School front office by Wednesday 27 November.

Youth Shoe Box Project

WHAT TO PUT IN YOUR SHOEBOX:

- ✓ SOMETHING TO LOVE teddy bear, soft toy
- SOMETHING TO PLAY WITH
 tennis ball, bouncy ball, toy car, skipping rope,
 wind up torch, finger puppers
- ✓ SOMETHING TO WEAR t-shirt, beanie, cap, thongs, socks, scarf, football socks
- ✓ SOMETHING FOR PERSONAL HYGIENE Soap, face washer, toothbrush, hairbrush, shampoo, hand cream, nail varnish
- ✓ SOMETHING FOR SCHOOL

 Exercise book, pencil case, pencils, colour pencils, textas, sharpener and eraser, book to read
- ✓ SOMETHING SPECIAL

 Carry bag, sunglasses, bracelets, jewelry,
 craft kit, Christmas decoration, stickers,
 hair accessories
- ✓ AND FINALLY.... A PERSONAL NOTE
 Christmas card or post card from your
 hometown or area, the note can be as
 simple as "liappy Christmas from a
 friend in Australia"



PLEASE DON'T PUT IN:

- X Your contact details
- X Things that are perishable or could melt
- ★ Things that can spill easily, make sure the lids are tightly on or put in a plastic ziplock
- Used or damaged items including worn clothes or used toys

 Breakable items like glass, porcelain or mirrors
- Items that can scare a child like war or pirate related items, toy guns, knives or skull and crossbones
- X Religious, racial or political items
- Medicines or vitamins
- × Money

Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group visit children, single men and families in the community in Western Sydney. No matter how they arrive, we provide a welcome and caring face to those who have faced the trauma of le

Able2 is a not for profit organisation that supports people living with a disability and their families. We provide support coordination, behaviour support work, Bush Adventure Therapy and early intervention services.

Register for Year 7 ethics class at Katoomba High School in 2025



Why choose ethics for your student?

We promote **critical thinking**, **ethical reasoning and respectful discussion**, and also develop life skills that help students navigate the transition to high school and life beyond. These include:

- Interpersonal skills listening to others, following discussion guidelines and disagreeing respectfully.
- Decision-making skills using evidence and reasoning to form an opinion rather than through habit or peer pressure.
- Increased empathy encouraging students to consider other students' reasons and be open to changing their opinion.
- Increased confidence disagree respectfully and provide counter arguments, as well as practising how to form a well-considered opinion.



Register at your school office.

To find out more, contact Tatar on tatar holmes@primarvethics.com.au



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Education Insights

While the method and style of written expression has changed over time, the importance of being able to document, record and communicate the human experience has never changed. Writing is a skill that must be taught and developed. A skill that is at the forefront of teaching and learning at Katoomba High School.

The History of Writing

The history of writing reflects humanity's evolving needs to communicate, record information, and preserve knowledge, culture and experience. The invention of writing marks a significant turning point in human history; the transition from oral traditions to written records. From ancient clay tablets to modern digital texts, writing has been crucial in shaping civilisations and connecting people across time and space.

Cuneiform in Mesopotamia (c. 3500 - 3000 BCE)

The first true writing system emerged in Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq) with the development of cuneiform by the Sumerians. Cuneiform started as pictographs representing objects and concepts, used for record-keeping and trade. By 3000 BCE, these symbols became more abstract and complex, evolving into a system that could represent sounds (phonetic elements) and grammatical structures. Cuneiform was written on clay tablets using a reed, creating wedge-shaped impressions.

Hieroglyphs in Ancient Egypt (c. 3200 BCE)

Hieroglyphic writing developed independently in Egypt around the same time as cuneiform. This system included pictorial symbols that represented words, sounds, or ideas. Hieroglyphs were primarily used for religious texts, monumental inscriptions, and royal records on temple walls, tombs, and papyrus scrolls.

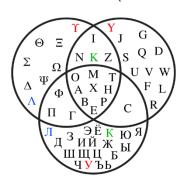


Early writing tablet recording the allocation of beer, 3100–3000 B.C.E, Late Prehistoric period, clay, probably from southern Iraq.

The Alphabetic Revolution (c. 1800 - 1500 BCE)

The next major development in writing came with the development of alphabetic writing in the Sinai Peninsula by Semitic people (c. 1800 BCE). The Phoenicians (c. 1200 -

1000 BCE) adapted this script, creating a 22-letter alphabet that spread across the Mediterranean through trade. The Greek alphabet (c. 800 BCE) evolved from the Phoenician system, introducing vowels and laying the foundation for modern Western alphabets.



Venn diagram showing Greek, Latin and Cyrillic letters

Chinese Writing System (c. 1200 BCE)

Chinese characters originated around 1200 BCE during the Shang Dynasty. This system involved pictographs and ideographs that represented words or ideas rather than sounds. Over time, Chinese writing evolved into more standardised forms like seal script and later clerical script, eventually becoming the logographic system used today.

Writing in the Classical and Medieval Worlds (c. 700 BCE)

The Latin Alphabet we recognise as the basis for most Western European languages today was adapted from the Greek alphabet, becoming the script of the Roman Empire and spreading throughout Europe. During the Medieval period, manuscripts were copied by hand, often by monks in scriptoria, preserving classical texts and religious literature.

The Printing Revolution (c. 1440 CE)

The invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg in the 15th century transformed the world of writing. Movable type allowed for the mass production of books, making written works more accessible to the general public. This revolution was a key factor in the Renaissance and the spread of literacy and scientific knowledge in Europe.

Modern and Digital Writing (20th - 21st Century)

The typewriter (19th century) and later the personal computer (20th century) revolutionised how text is produced and disseminated. Digital writing and the Internet have transformed writing into a global phenomenon, allowing instant communication and the spread of ideas. The development of generative artificial intelligence (21st century) has both challenged our fundamental understanding of 'writing' that, while it must be carefully navigated, opens a whole new world of possibility.

Mr Drew Finlay

Relieving Deputy Principal and HSIE Teacher

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From the Principal

Dear Parents, Carers, Students & Staff,

On behalf of our students, families and community, I would like to thank all our wonderful teachers for their hard work and dedication! I am so thankful to be here at Katoomba High working with such a fabulous team! I tip my hat to you all! Today, and every day!



And I'd like to offer an extra tip of the hat to KHS English teacher Ms Emma Brazil!...

The first HSC exam paper this year contained a lovely little surprise for KHS! One of the poems featured in the English paper was written by our very own Ms Emma Brazil! This is quite a big deal as exam content like this isn't submitted for consideration in any way – it is selected independently from all the available work

that exists in the world! Congratulations Emma!

Regards,

Tess Devine



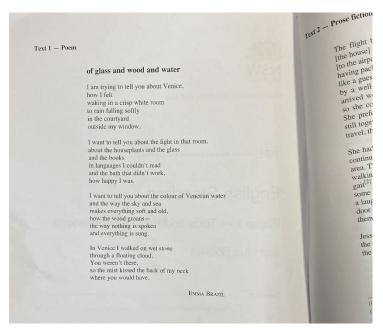
Ms Emma Brazil pictured front with with fellow KHS English teachers.

"It was so exciting to see the work of one of our faculty members featured in the exam. Some of the students noticed it, but it wasn't until we discussed the paper afterwards that they put it together. It is such a

beautiful poem and I'm proud that the whole state got to see Emma's stunning writing.'

Ms Renae Bystrzynski, Head Teacher English.







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Community Noticeboard



Applications for Youth Council 2025 are now open. To apply, download the Youth Council Application Form at the bottom of this page. Email your completed form to Council's Youth Development Officer Kelvin Onaghise via communitydevelopment@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

About Youth Council

We believe young people should be empowered to be involved in positive civic action for change in their communities. Youth Council is made up of young people aged 12 - 18 who live, work or study in the Blue Mountains, and are passionate about advocating for Blue Mountains youth.

Youth Councillors meet once a month and work on initiatives to increase opportunities and improve services for young people.

Youth Council:

- Advocates, provides advice, and makes recommendations to Council on matters affecting young people and the community
- Coordinates, plans, and implements community activities and events

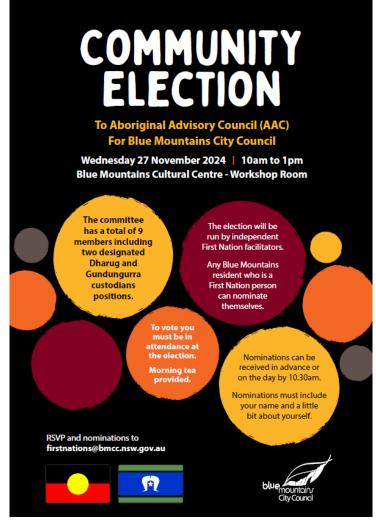
Youth Council also:

- Participates in community consultations
- Promotes awareness on issues impacting young people
- Encourages positive views and opinions of young people.

The Blue Mountains Youth Council is supported by an <u>Advisory Committee</u> that provides assistance in dealing with issues and understanding the role of Council.

The Advisory Committee is comprised of the elected Councillors and the Community Development Officer - Young People.

https://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/YouthCouncil





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Community Noticeboard



Teen Portrait Photography Exhibition

Affirming Identity & Breaking Down Stereotypes

Buran Nalgarra: Kindlehill proudly presents SEEN, a student-run teen portrait photography exhibition.

We want to see young people's art on the walls of local galleries and to share images that speak to who we really are.

This is not a competition.

This is how we want to be SEEN!

These are our stories and who we want to be in the world!

Opening Event: 6:30pm Thursday October 31

Exhibition: October 31 – November 11 Gallery hours: 10-5pm, Thursday - Monday Gallery ONE88, 188 Katoomba St











