



NEWSLETTER

April 2025

Editorial

Welcome to the first Blue Mountains Pride Newsletter.

This year Blue Mountains Pride runs from Friday 6 to Sunday 8 June. We have art, nature, dance, food, social and more. All amongst the beautiful scenery of the Blue Mountains.

This is a special year for bentART as they are celebrating 20 years. The exhibition is well worth a visit in the main drag of Katoomba. Stop for lunch in a local café.

The many other events on the calendar will keep you busy, but still allow you time to take in the stunning views, go shopping in our beautiful villages, or spend some time in nature.

It is usually cold in June, so this is also an opportunity for you to wear those winter woolies and enjoy snuggling in front of a crackling fire.

If you are nearby on 13 April, join bentART for their Trivia Fundraiser at Katoomba RSL and help raise funds to mount the exhibition.

Stay tuned in May when we will release another newsletter with even more details about the June long weekend.

Events

bentART Exhibition

Rex-Livingstone Gallery, Katoomba
Launch: Friday 6 June (invite only)
Exhibition: 10am to 5pm, 7 to 14 June
10am to 2pm, 15 June

GLBTQ+ Bushwalk

Bush Lemons
10am, Saturday 7 June
Ngula Bulgarabang Regional Park

Blackheath Disco

Three Sisters Social Group
7pm to midnight, Saturday 7 June
Blackheath Community Centre, Blackheath

Clothes Swap

Trans and Gender Diverse Blue Mountains
10:30am to 3pm, Sunday 8 June
Mid Mountains Community Centre, Lawson

Young Frankenstein

Sunday 8 June
Session time to be announced
Mount Vic Flicks, Mt Victoria

Thriller the Soirée

Three Sisters Social Group
5pm to 9pm, Sunday 8 June
Victoria and Albert Guesthouse, Mt Victoria

Blue Mountains Pride takes place on the traditional the lands of the Dharug and Gundungurra people. We pay our respects to their elders past and present.

bentART Trivia

1pm to 4pm Sunday 13 April



Gather your team, plan your themed outfits, and dress your table (up to 10 people) for a chance to win prizes! Hosted by the incredible Sue Collins of Mountain Tales, this trivia showdown will keep you on your toes with brain-bending questions and plenty of surprises.

Rolling in with a crew of 10? Book together, and we'll do our best to keep the whole squad side by side for maximum fun!

No team? No problem! Whether you're flying solo, coming as a couple, or have a small group, we'll match you up with others so everyone gets to join in the fun.

But the excitement doesn't stop there! The event will also feature spectacular raffles with substantial prizes up for grabs—so don't miss your chance to win big while supporting our art community.

Seats are limited, so book your spot now and be part of this unforgettable fundraiser!

Put on your thinking caps and join us for a night of fun, laughter, and brain-busting trivia hosted by the wonderful Sue Collins. The event features incredible raffles with substantial prizes up for grabs—so don't miss your chance to win while supporting the arts!

You can book [your seat at the table here](#).



bentART Exhibition

Launch: Friday 6 June (invite only)

Exhibition: 10am to 5pm 7 to 14 June, 10am to 2pm 15 June



bentART is a national art prize which was established in the Blue Mountains in 2005 to celebrate works in the visual arts of Australian lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, asexual and other sexually or gender diverse (LGBTIQA+) artists.

The annual event occurs in the Blue Mountains, NSW. In 2025 the exhibition will be held at Rex-Livingston Art+Objects gallery in Katoomba. It commences on the June long weekend (Saturday, June 7), and is open every day from 10 am – 5 pm until the following Sunday, June 15, at 2 pm.

Our 20th Anniversary exhibition offers a bigger prize pool than previous years.

- Overall bentART Winner - \$2500
- Runner Up - \$1500
- Highly Commended- \$500
- Curator's Award - \$1000
- Young Adults Award, entrants 18 years or under as of 6th June 2025 - \$500
- People's Choice - \$500
- Pets & Wildlife - \$250

We will run a series of artists talks, painting, drawing, clay, woodworking and printmaking workshops over the period of the exhibition. All are welcome to attend. Details of the workshops will be available soon.

If you are an artist there is still time to [submit](#) your entry.



GLBTQ+ Bushwalk

10am Saturday 7 June



Join us for this bushwalk as part of the Kings Birthday weekend festivities!

Hosted by Bush Lemons. All welcome (including dogs on leads)!

We will walk the old fire trails and tracks at **Ngula Bulgarabang Regional Park**, just outside Katoomba, and end up at the Megalong Head Lookout for morning tea, with its beautiful views over the Megalong Valley. The fire trails make this easy walking and there is a short but fairly easy walk down a single file track to the lookout. All up the walk will be about 6km.

This area was bought from private ownership by the State Government in 2019 and the regional park was created to keep it safe for the animals and plants, walkers, rock climbers and explorers. It is the last remaining undeveloped peninsula-plateau in the upper Blue Mountains. It has a huge variety of flora and fauna, tall eucalypt forests, significant Aboriginal heritage, as well as the beautiful views.

Meet: 10am on Saturday, 7 June, at the locked gate at the end of Pulpit Hill Road (turn off the highway at the Explorers Tree).

Bring: Some drinking water, a snack for morning tea, appropriate footwear. And please, wear your rainbow finery! Scarves, feather boas, shimmery shorts etc!!



Book: It's a good idea to book in for the walk in case it gets cancelled or changed due to the weather: **Jocelyn - bushscout@bigpond or 0414 572991**

This will be a nice leisurely walk so you will still have enough energy to visit the Bent Art Exhibition in Katoomba afterwards, and also to boogie the night away at the Three Sisters Blackheath Disco on Saturday night!

For more information see our [website](#).



Blackheath Disco

7pm to midnight, Saturday 8 June



The Blackheath Disco is Back in Blackheath this year. Not only will there be more space on the dance floor and more tables, but we have also added a cloakroom and a chill out space. Otherwise, it will be the same friendly and inclusive event with great music.

Dj shOrty will again be getting you dancing and keeping you on the floor with tunes from the disco greats through to the current hits. Dj shOrty has been spinning the discs for us at The Disco for many years. He has also played at many other events including during Mardi Gras and World Pride.

Denise Hanlon is an award-winning singer, a professional comedienne and an experienced emcee. The great thing is – she can do all 3 at once! A talented singer, it just wouldn't be Denise if her singing wasn't interspersed with her colourful costume, quick one-liners and often involuntary audience participation. Denise will be bringing us two great shows.

Tickets are \$35+bf [online](https://www.trybooking.com/CYGKA) and \$45 at the door. It sold out last year, so buy your tickets early.



The event is BYO: bring your own drink, bring your own banquet, bring your own dancing shoes. The snack bar will have water, soft drinks and snacks available. Trans and Gender Diverse Community will be running a cloakroom for a gold coin donation.

The event is an LGBTQIA+ safe space. It is inclusive. Everyone is welcome. Younger people should be accompanied by an adult.

See our [website](https://www.threesisterssocial.asn.au/disco) for details.



Clothes Swap

10:30am to 3pm, Sunday 8 June

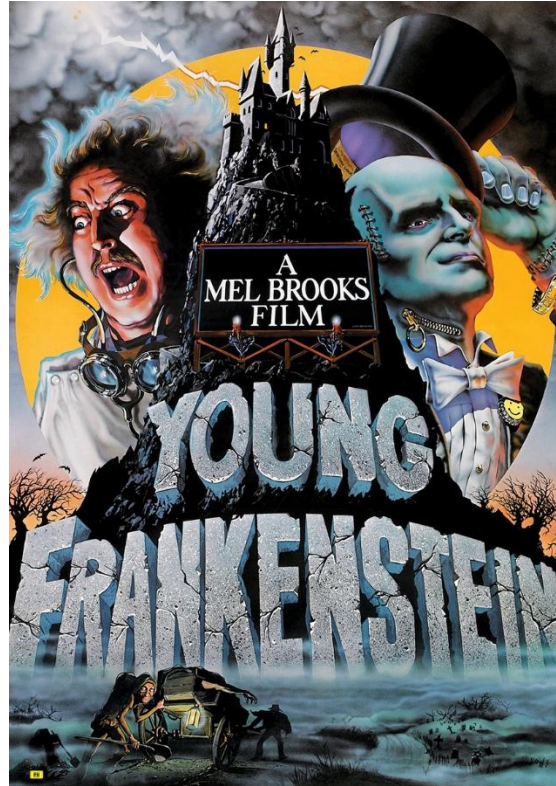


Stay tuned for more details.

Young Frankenstein

Sunday 9 June, session time to be announced

Make Sunday a Science Fiction Double Feature, starting with Young Frankenstein and then joining the Three Sister Social Group around the corner at Thriller the Soirée.



Made with obvious affection for the original, Young Frankenstein is a riotously silly spoof featuring a fantastic performance by Gene Wilder.

Respected medical lecturer Dr. Frederick Frankenstein learns that he has inherited his infamous grandfather's estate in Transylvania. Arriving at the castle, Dr. Frankenstein soon begins to recreate his grandfather's experiments with the help of servants Igor, Inga and the fearsome Frau Blücher. After he creates his own monster, new complications ensue with the arrival of the doctor's fiancée, Elizabeth.

Cast: Gene Wilder, Madeline Kahn, Marty Feldman

Director: Mel Brooks

Details and tickets from [Mount Vic Flicks](#).

Thriller the Soirée

5pm to 9pm, Sunday 9 June



The event to end all events. A little too dramatic? Perhaps, but Thriller the Soirée is the final event of our Kings Birthday Blue Mountains Pride Long Weekend.

Perfect timing for a post Pride wrap-up.

Thriller is the successor to the Mountain Ball hosted by the Three Sisters Social Group and others since 1981.

Thriller will provide the opportunity to celebrate our success in showcasing the LGBTIQ+ communities extensive artistic talents.

Thriller the Soirée provides an opportunity to wrap up the weekend, to celebrate the success of Blue Mountains Pride and bring our beloved members and friends together to swap war stories.

Thriller will be an ode to shlock from, but not limited to, such luminaries as Mary Shelley (Frankenstein 1818), Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (silent movie 1920), the pantheon of 1950s scifi/horror movies, and more recent movie offerings such as Barbarella, Rocky Horror, Young Frankenstein and the Fifth Element. There's a lot of artistic inspiration to get you started.

*Night creatures call
And the dead start to walk in their masquerade
There's no escaping the jaws of the alien this time*

The amazing Victoriana adorned Victoria and Albert Guesthouse in Mt Victoria provides an appropriate backdrop for our final celebration of the Blue Mountains Pride Kings Birthday Long Weekend.

It would be nice if the VandA was haunted; just for that night.

Earlybird tickets are \$99+bf and available until 30 April. Full price \$109+bf. Tickets are available from [TryBooking](https://www.trybooking.com/CZYFD). See our [website](https://www.threesisterssocial.asn.au/soiree/) for further details.





Blue Mountains Pride

Blue Mountains Pride was formed in 2024 to coordinate the activities of the LGBTQIA+ groups in the NSW Blue Mountains over the King's Birthday long weekend. Since this coincides with Pride Month and Pride festivals around the world, we felt it was the perfect name for the group.



The community groups that form Blue Mountains Pride are bentART, Bush Lemons, Blue Mountains IDAHOBIT, PFLAG Blue Mountains, Three Sisters Social Group and Trans and Gender Diverse Blue Mountains. Activities are run by the individual groups.

There has been a long history of LGBTQIA+ groups and activities in the Blue Mountains.

The Mountaineers held their first Black and White Ball in 1981 at Springwood. More than 40 Balls were held over the years organised by The Mountaineers, then GAGS (Garden and Gourmet Society) and Three Sisters Social Group. The Soirée is the successor to Ball and is the place to be on the Sunday night.

bentART celebrates 20 years this year. Starting in 2005 its annual exhibitions was held in the Katoomba Leura Community Centre. It then moved to Wentworth Falls

School of Arts, where the launch on the Friday night became a major event in itself. It has since moved back to the heart of Katoomba at the Rex-Livingstone Art+Objects Gallery. The smaller space limits the numbers who are able to attend the launch. Over the years it has featured hundreds of queer artists from the Blue Mountains and around Australia.

Bush Lemons started their bushwalks in 1996 with a walk most weekends. While the group usually is for women, the bushwalk on the long weekend is a fun and inclusive event where people are invited to dress in rainbow finery. All GLBTQ+ are welcome.

In 1991 the AIDS Memorial Project created a living memorial for many of the 250 people of the Blue Mountains community who succumbed to AIDS. It was created in Medlow Bath. Three Sisters Social Group has become the custodian of the memorial. After many years of neglect the memorial was reimagined and revitalized. It was dedicated in December 2022.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [BlueSky](#) or hashtag [#BlueMountainsPride](#). Email us at bluemountainspride@gmail.com.



AIDS Memorial, Medlow Bath Park

