



**BE HEARD • BE CONNECTED • BE SUPPORTED • BELONG**

# **BELONG BLUE MOUNTAINS INC.**

# **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021**





*Aunty Carol Cooper at  
Belong Blue Mountains 2020 AGM*

## How you can contact us

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(Head Office)

6-10 Station Street, Katoomba NSW 2780

Tel: 02 4782 1117

Email: [kncadmin@belongbm.org.au](mailto:kncadmin@belongbm.org.au)

### Mid Mountains Neighbourhood Centre

Mid Mountains Community Centre

9 New Street, Lawson NSW 2783

Tel: 02 4759 2592

Email: [mmncadmin@belongbm.org.au](mailto:mmncadmin@belongbm.org.au)

### Lower Mountains Neighbourhood Centre

Blaxland Community Centre

33 Hope Street, Blaxland NSW 2774

Tel: 02 4739 1164

Email: [lmncadmin@belongbm.org.au](mailto:lmncadmin@belongbm.org.au)



*Belong Blue Mountains acknowledges and respects the Darug and Gundungurra nations as the traditional owners and custodians of the land in which we work and live. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future.*

*We will promote mutual respect and understanding, paying respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their cultures and their heritage.*

*We recognise the impacts of past and present injustice and the role we can all play in working together towards a better future. Belong Blue Mountains supports the Uluru Statement from the Heart.*

*We acknowledge that this land is, was and always will be Aboriginal land.*



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# Introduction

This year, we are presenting our Annual Report amid the significant Belong Blue Mountains Organisational structural review, and amidst the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic that continues to impact and challenge our community.

While all Belong Blue Mountains services were required to modify operations in various ways, we managed to provide valuable support and service to our community across the year. Our pivot to using technology and remote means for service provision and individual contact has proved to be gratifyingly effective for our clients and community. Maintaining connection and inclusion during the many lock down periods, alleviating loneliness and isolation, providing support with emergency food hampers and just plain friendship has been a tangible benefit to those who have struggled in this stressful environment.

The ongoing commitment to the Organisation and the work we do, in a time of great change and challenge, and the positive outcomes we were still able to achieve are a credit to the skill, experience and commitment of our staff and volunteers and partners. We are grateful for their efforts and proud of their achievements.

May 2022





# Section 1: An overview of Belong Blue Mountains

## Who we are, what we do, and why we do it

### Who we are

Founded in November 2018, Belong Blue Mountains (Belong BM) is the identity of our new local and place-based community organisation with centres in Katoomba, the Mid Mountains (Lawson) and Lower Mountains (Blaxland).

Our three Neighbourhood Centres have more than 100 years of community service between them. Run by a team of dedicated workers and passionate volunteers, our Centres are safe, welcoming places in which we work to build the strength, wellbeing, resilience and cohesion of our growing Blue Mountains community.

### What we do

We provide services and activities for people of all ages with many different needs. We aim to be inclusive and build connectedness and belonging to improve wellbeing, quality of life and social cohesion within the Blue Mountains community.

We create shared aspirations with our community. We link children, young people and adults with the support they need. We provide volunteering opportunities for those who want to give back.

### Why we do it

Our work is grounded in the principles of social justice - connection, inclusion and access, safety and conditions for wellbeing.

We focus our resources on the disadvantaged and least powerful groups in the community. We believe the development of networks, mutual support and collective action can improve the quality of life for our entire community.

*Belong BM CEO Kath Harrison and Doug Baker at Belong's 2020 AGM*



## Purpose, Way, Impact

### ■ Purpose

To collaboratively build a community across the Blue Mountains in which people feel enabled, connected and supported to live the best lives they can.

### ■ Way

- by providing accessible and responsive local services
- by offering opportunity for the community voice to be heard
- by listening and responding authentically to community aspirations and need
- by providing places and platforms for connection and high-quality person-centred support
- by working with our local communities to remove or reduce barriers to those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged
- by building an economically-sustainable organisation
- by staying true to the social justice principles of access, equity, participation and human rights.

### ■ Impact

A stronger, safer, connected, more inclusive and resilient community where people are able to influence their own potential, health and wellbeing.

*BMCC Mayor Mark Greenhill at Belong's 2020 AGM*



## Our People

### ■ Board members

Belong Blue Mountains is governed by a voluntary Board.

**Board members for 2020-2021 were:**

**Chair:** Ruth Bennett

**Deputy Chair:** Wendy Holland

**Secretary:** Mahalya Middlemist

**Treasurer:** David Caton

**Members:** John Crichton, Warwick Fuller, Maria Katrivesis, Elizabeth (Gay) Thornton

**Public Officer:** Len Kasper, Chief Financial Officer

### Chief Executive Officer

■ Kath Harrison

**Executive Officer to the CEO:** Neil Smith

### Executive Management Team

■ **Chief Executive Officer:** Kath Harrison

**Director, Communities:** Mick Barrett

**Director, Care & Support:** Barbara Cuthbert

**Director, Corporate & Quality:** Peta Williams

**Director, Finance (Chief Financial Officer):** Len Kasper

**Locum Manager:** Jo Ridley (from 1.2.21)

## Directorates

### Care & Support Directorate

(Chronic, Vulnerable, Aged & Disability Services)

**Director:** Barbara Cuthbert

### ASSIST Building & Home Maintenance

**ASSIST Building Services Manager:** Steven Hart

**Administrator:** Patricia Kerry

**Building & Maintenance Staff:** Adam Hughes, Chris McKenzie-McHarg, Thomas Redmond, Amos Tito, Lex Burney (from 11.1.21), Howard McIntosh (from 13.1.21), Greg Wolthers (from 21.1.21)

**Gardener:** Leigh Kuipers

**Occupational Therapists:** Vania Dickens, Gillian Menear and Emma Pereira

### Aged Care

**Blue Mountains Community Support Coordinator:** Claire Grover

**Administrative Support:** Maureen (Eddie) Bosnich,

**Community Visitors Scheme Coordinator:** Jo Newton, Renee Williamson (from 16.11.20)

**Volunteer Home Visitors Coordinators:** Marlene Churn, Narelle Mackander and Eva Regitz

**Community Café Facilitator:** Jennifer O'Brien-Neal

**Katoomba Film Club Coordinator:** Korey Gunnis



## HEAL (Healthy Elders Active Living) Program

**Manager and Social Worker:** Christine Baird

**Allied Health staff:** Adam Wilkes, Physiotherapist; Vania Dickens and Gillian Menear, Occupational Therapists; Melissa Williams, Social worker (from 11.1.21); Emma Pereira, Occupational Therapist (from 26.11.20); Catherine Waterworth, Physio Assistant.

**Administration Officer:** Maureen (Eddie) Bosnich

## Intake

**Intake Officer:** Korey Gunnis

## Disability

**Disability Services Coordinator:** Anna Tardent

**NDIS Support Coordinators:** Vickie Hastedt, Tracey Johnson, Katya Quigley (from 4.1.21)

**Senior Administration Officer:** Sarah Fielding (from 6.10.20)

**NDIS Plan Management Administration:** Kasey Arnold

**NDIS Project Officer:** Marianne Chaffe (from 1.2.21)

## Palliative Support

**Palliative Support Coordinator:** Katrina Simmons

## Communities Directorate

(Children, Youth, Families & Neighbourhoods)

**Director:** Mick Barrett

## Hubs and Neighbourhood Centres

**Community Engagement Manager:** Danielle Wilding-Forbes

**Community Development Coordinators:** Nikki Boys, Kerin Pollock and Christopher Smith

**Administration Support Officers:** Nguyet (Jenni) Howard, Bren Sherring, Amanda Stephens, Jessica Ardouin (from 3.12.20), Sharise Watson (from 2.2.21) and Pauline Stafrace

**NILS Support Officer:** Pauline Stafrace

## KOOSH (Katoomba Out of School Hours service)

**Coordinator KOOSH:** Cate Thompson

**Educational Leader KOOSH:** Cathy Anderson

**Childcare Workers KOOSH:** Louise (Cid) Bender, Hunter de Groot, Miranda Garofalow, Mia Gyaneshwar, Aida Del Pilar Arce, Sarah Mc Loughlin, Tianara Isaac Sherring-Tito, Stella Gitsidis, Arianwen Roberts.

**Administrator KOOSH:** Katherine Johns

## Corporate & Quality Directorate

**Director:** Peta Williams

**Project Officer:** Shelley Oliver (from 15.2.21)

**Information & Communications Technology (ICT) Manager:** Dale Reardon

**ICT Assistant Technicians & Administration:** Jordan Fiddling, Emma Wheeler (from 8.12.20)

## Finance Directorate

**Director & Chief Financial Officer:** Len Kasper

**Finance Coordinator:** Leigh Gordon **Assistant Accountants:** Carole Williams and Neil Smith

**Accounts Officers:** Justin Reardon, Dorothy Allen (from 10.8.20)



## Volunteers 2020/21

### Community Visitors Scheme Volunteers

Agnes Van der Hoff, Alison Korbula, Antoni Cornardo-Cornet, Arlene Morison, Arone-Ru Gumas Lopez, Bronte McLean, Carol Price, Chantelle Wallis, Chris Hughes, David Rees, Fiona McKay, James Henderson, Janet Noble, Jenny Hughes, Jill Hogwood, Jim Holdaway, Jules Booth, Keith Davies, Louise Hughes, Lynne White, Mark Lock, Nerine Hide, Neville Rowe, Patricia Woodley, Perta Huber, Robin Green, Sabrina Haberlah, Siska Koolen, Verna Van Ryswk, Vicki Glew, Wendy Jones, Wendy Phillips

### Palliative Care Volunteers

Andrew Strong, Anne Davies, Bill Harvey, Ellen Della Bosca, Gail Stephenson, Kathy Ryan, Kerry Rice, Kim Berthon, Louise Smith, Margaret Gudgeon, Maureen Doherty, Robyn Artup, Ruth Grace, Terry Ryan, Theresa Berrell, Veronica Cunningham, Vicki Glew

### Other volunteers

Kay Burton - **BUGS**  
Julie Gray - **Clak&Yak**  
Jan Portus - **Over 60's**  
Shirley Williams - **Art for seniors**  
Yudit Kayatsky - **Dance**  
Kristy Mounsey, Anne O'Grady - **Bipolar support**  
Steve Mann, Bill Abel - **Chess**  
Nancy Shying - **Over 60s Social Group**  
Gavin Latz - **Gaming Unplugged**  
Sophie Williams - **Lawson Literary Lot**  
Janet Rannard - **Community Garden**  
Aunty Sue Tate - **Deadlee Gap**  
Therese Corbett, Claudia Heath - **CFS/Fibromyalgia**  
Helen Morgan - **A Creative Outlet**  
Ondine Evans - **Bushwalks**  
Jennifer Patterson - **Community Cafe**

### Reception Volunteers

Maureen Fuller - LMNC Reception  
Denise Nixon - LMNC Reception  
Angela Ferrara - LMNC Reception  
Patricia Caton - MMNC Reception  
Sarah Griffiths - MMNC Reception  
Sue Bond - MMNC Reception  
Carol Lubbers - MMNC Reception  
Dave Croll - KNC Reception  
Dianne Donnellan - KNC Reception  
Meiying Chu - LMNC Reception  
Suzanne Forwood - LMNC Reception  
Anna Bednarz - LMNC Reception

### Social Support Volunteers

Antoni Cornardo-Cornet, Diana Dodds, Gino Baudo, Margaret Haine, Bev Bearman, Margaret Lasaitus, Yuping Xia, Tony Hiam, Wendy Jones, Verna Van Ryswk, Alex Mitcheson, Anne Lydamore, Bernadette Power, Beth Madden, Beth Strahan, Chris Kelly, David Burnett, Diane Greenaway, Dianne Stebbings, Elizabeth Rose

### Volunteers who left BBM

Glenis Cole, Greg Birtles, Greg Rich, Jackie Rickard, Jan Oliver, Jan Wilkinson, Jan Winerburn, Janet Noble, Jenni Dooley, Jennifer Patterson, Joy Pierce, Lesley Willis, Liz Rayner, Marek Bowman, Margaret Haine, Marn Harrex, Mary Smith, Maureen Aspinall, Narelle Wilson, Neville Rowe, Nyla Thomas, Pam Cooley, Patricia McCullough, Patrick Kelly, Philippa Kells, Sandra Metcalf, Sara Fawcett, Sara Nyssen, Steve Callaghan, Susan Wedd, Suzanne Douglass, Suzanne Morrow, Tony Hiam

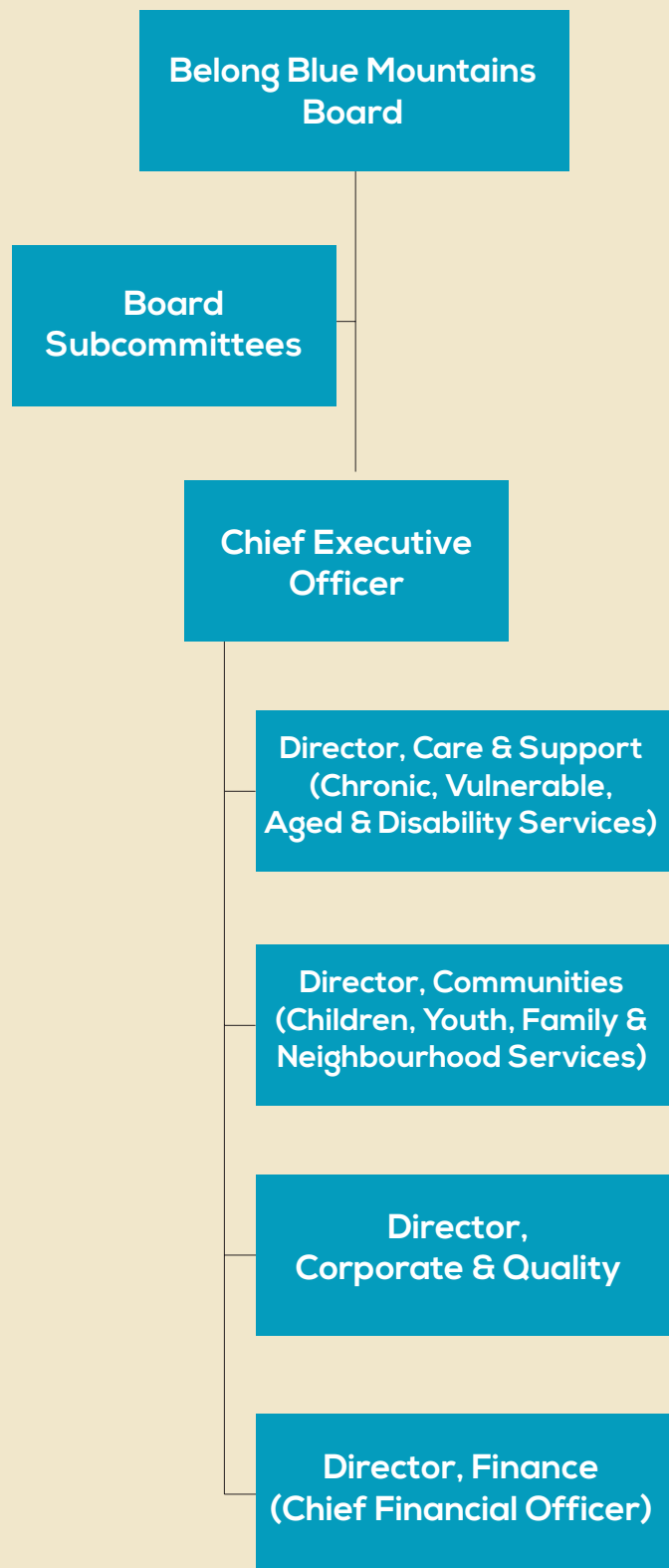
## Section 2: Governance

### Structure and Management

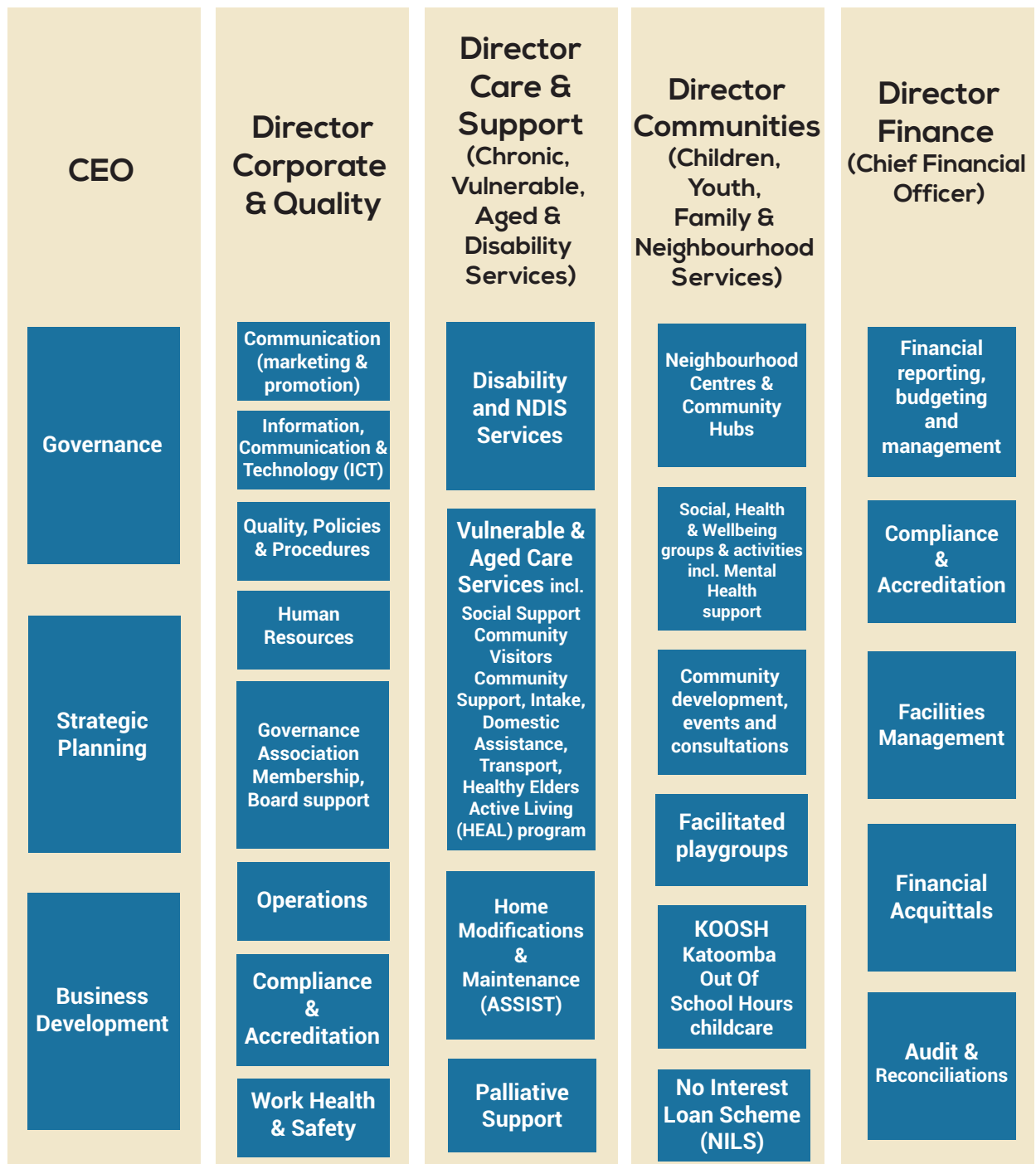
Belong Blue Mountains is designed on a directorate model, with the four directors reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, who reports to the Board.

The three neighbourhood centres in Blaxland, Lawson and Katoomba are part of the community hubs within the Communities Directorate, with programs and services from the Communities and Care & Support directorates being delivered through these community hubs.

The Finance and Corporate & Quality directorates work across the organisation. ■



## Directorate Chart:



## Chairperson's Report

Ruth Bennett

Belong Blue Mountains is proud to acknowledge that we are privileged to meet on the traditional lands of the Darug and Gundungurra nations. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging, and thank them for their wisdom and for their support for this organisation.

Belong has faced ongoing challenges in these pandemic times within a context of ongoing community sector reform. 2020-2021 is the third year of operation for Belong Blue Mountains. Through our centres in Katoomba, Blaxland and Lawson we have worked diligently to serve our community with our leadership team, staff and volunteers adapting the way we work to meet the public health orders we all face during this Covid-19 pandemic. This has ensured that our services to the most vulnerable in our community have been maintained.

In these endeavours we thank all our board members, our hardworking and dedicated volunteers and our CEO,

executive management team and staff of Belong. The strength and resilience and empathy and commitment of our Belong workforce has been superlative with efforts above and beyond. This has strengthened the foundation of our work and enabled us to further branch out into service provision to our community. Belong succeeded in delivering services and activities to decrease social isolation, provide emergency services, consult with the community, and provide vital information and referral services.

The board continued work on the Belong Blue Mountains Strategic Plan. This received valuable input from the Belong Blue Mountains Executive Management Team.

I would like to warmly thank the members of the Belong Blue Mountains Board who steadfastly focused on good governance throughout the challenges of 2019-2020. My grateful thanks to the Deputy Chair, Wendy Holland, Treasurer David Caton, Secretary Mahalya Middlemist, and Board members Warwick Fuller, Maria Katrivesis and Gay Thornton for their ongoing support to me and the organisation, and their willingness to grapple with the difficult issues we dealt with during 2020-2021. It is a pleasure to work with you.

I thank the State and Federal governments for their support, and ongoing financial funding that enables wide-ranging programs to be run in our community. I appreciate their understanding that we would not achieve the targeted outputs set for some of these programs, due to the lockdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. I thank our local government, the Blue



*Ruth Bennett, Chairperson, Belong BM,  
at the Belong BM AGM in 2020*



Mountains City Council, for their support, our premises, their donations, and their understanding of the challenges we currently face. I thank the local business community who have been steadfast in their support. As a board and speaking for the entire organisation we acknowledge that we draw strength from this confidence and trust in us from government and our community and funding bodies. In these challenging and unique times, this is what sustains us and keeps us to the task of moving forward to ensure that service levels to our community are maintained. ■

**Ruth Bennett, Chairperson**

*Kath Harrison, CEO, Belong BM,  
at the Belong BM AGM in 2020*



## Chief Executive Officer's Report

Kath Harrison

I wish to begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which Belong Blue Mountains operates, the Darug and Gundungurra peoples, and pay my respect to their elders past, present and emerging. This always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

This year continued to bring challenges for our Communities, for the Organisation and our people. We saw yet more challenges and uncertainty caused by the continuing impact of COVID 19 on our communities. Again, there were no precedents to guide our actions or responses, the roadmaps didn't easily apply to our complexities and demanded months of adaption in policy development, risk assessment and adaptation in service design, delivery and focus.

Again, the Belong Blue Mountains leadership team and our absolutely committed staff and volunteers rose to the challenge together to introduce innovative virtual service options, reintroduce face to face services impacted by long lockdowns, only to have to pivot again to lockdown conditions in June 2021. I acknowledge and thank the Executive Management team responsible for providing leadership and solid management throughout this period. To Len Kasper, Peta Williams, Mick Barrett, Barbara Cuthbert, and our service managers Chris Baird, Danielle Wilding Forbes, Dale Reardon, Anna Tardent, Steve Hart, Cate Thompson, and our locum executive manager Jo Ridley; I thank you. Your commitment and dedication to the work that we do, despite the many challenges faced this year and the impacts on you personally and professionally, enabled Belong Blue Mountains to continue to provide critical services across our communities and to our most vulnerable within them.

This year continued to significantly impact our dedicated pool of service volunteers. Like many community sector services, Belong Blue Mountains cannot operate effectively without the support of volunteers at all levels of the Organisation. COVID 19 again resulted in the restriction of volunteer services across areas of our operation, particularly those services providing face to face and group support for the vulnerable frail aged, our neighbourhood centres and childcare service. I wish to acknowledge each and every one of you who have given so generously of yourselves and your time. Not all were able to continue volunteering due to the necessary

changes in service provision within some programs and due to personal circumstances within the context of a pandemic. Again to all of you my heartfelt thanks.

It has been my great privilege to again lead an extraordinary workforce. I am humbled each day by the care, commitment and humanity shown by the staff of Belong Blue Mountains in meeting the challenges of working with our diverse and unique communities. I acknowledge you all for your ongoing commitment to the work of Belong Blue Mountains through yet another year of significant challenge and change. Your capacity and your capabilities to continue to care and support the most vulnerable in our communities, though the impacts of an ongoing pandemic is humbling. Belong Blue Mountains is made up of remarkable people. The Organisation is only as strong and resilient as it is proving to be because of your professionalism, integrity, expertise, innovation and agility. I honour and thank you.

The challenges faced by Belong Blue Mountains this year also exist outside the impact of a natural emergency. Continued changes in government direction, policy and funding priorities have resulted in the need for Belong Blue Mountains to critically review our position going forward as a unique place based Organisation. This is necessary to ensure both financial and operational sustainability and to consolidate our ability to continue to provide local services to our communities.

In response to significant funding changes due to be implemented in the future, and policy shifts in service priorities at both State and Commonwealth levels, Belong Blue

Mountains has embarked on identifying opportunities for change, growth and the development of an Organisational structure and culture that will support the needs of our communities well into the future. The Board passed a motion to undertake a structural review and engaged the services of Raymond Bennett from Com Management to undertake a full review of Belong Blue Mountains. This work has been ongoing across the second half of this reporting period and involved in depth review of all operating aspects of Belong Blue Mountains. Including benchmarking, forensic financial analysis, robust consultation, interviews and surveys with the Board, Management team, Coordinators and staff generally. This process is will complete in July 2021.

Review of the Organisation at this phase of its development was felt absolutely necessary to ensure its longevity as an important local place based provider, able to adapt to the impacts of far reaching funding reforms being introduced by governments at all levels, and continue to meet the needs of our communities and to find future opportunities and partnerships. It is in this current climate that the Board of Belong Blue Mountains has continued to operate and provide extraordinary leadership and conviction to our purpose and impact within the communities we serve. The Belong Blue Mountains Board continues to exhibit great vision, strength, boldness and absolute commitment to the important work that we do now and into the future. Your work and governance continue to keep the Organisation vital, agile and current. I wish to thank the Chair, Ruth Bennett, the Board Executive David Caton, Warwick Fuller and Mahalya Middlemist, and Board members Gay Thornton, Wendy Holland and Maria Katreveis for your wisdom, expertise, patience and clarity in bringing about positive change.

At the centre, the reason we do what we do is the people of our community. I would like to acknowledge and thank all the people of our communities and our service partners who contribute to our work in some way – through food donations, monetary donations, equipment donations, volunteering, voices of support and advocacy, and in a myriad of other ways. We are stronger together, connected, supported, heard and belonging. ■

Kath Harrison,  
Chief Executive Officer

## Section 3: 2020 - 2021 in review

### Project Reports

#### Care & Support Directorate

**ASSIST Building & Home Maintenance**  
Home Modifications and Home and Garden Maintenance

##### Aged Care

Including Healthy Elders Active Living (HEAL) Program, Social Support, Domestic Assistance, Social Groups and Social Transport.

##### Palliative Support

##### Disability Services

Including NDIS Support Coordination and Plan Management

##### Community Visitors Scheme

##### Intake

#### ASSIST Building & Home Maintenance

##### Funding Body

Assist Building & Maintenance is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health's Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP).

Belong Blue Mountains/Assist is also a registered service provider with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to provide home modifications and maintenance for people with an NDIS plan. Assist also does private full-fee home modification & maintenance work.

	No. CHSP clients	Service Target	Actual
Home Maintenance (including garden, minor & major maintenance)	145	3143	4978
Home Modifications	130	\$422,878.00	\$430,327.00



Above: Before and after ASSIST works

##### Service Aims

Our service provides home modifications and maintenance to the infirm, elderly and people with a disability, so they can remain safely in their own homes. This is made possible by installing things such as ramps, grab/hand rails and creating wheelchair accessible bathrooms. We also assist with minor maintenance if it affects safety, and garden maintenance including gutter cleaning. We cover the whole of the Blue Mountains from Lapstone to Mt Victoria. ■

Below and Left: outputs for 2020 - 21 reporting period

Home maintenance total	Actual
Garden Maintenance	3235.00
Minor Maintenance	639.00
Major Maintenance	1104.00
Total	4978.00





## Aged Care Services

### HEAL (Health Elders Active Living) Program

The Healthy Elders Active Living (HEAL) Team was established in 2020 and was designed to focus on building individual capacity and resilience: supporting wellness, reablement and restorative care, utilising a multidisciplinary approach where appropriate, to optimise positive outcomes.

The HEAL Team funded through the Commonwealth Home Support Program provides short- term multidisciplinary allied health services through individualised interventions for people 65 years and over, aimed at supporting and developing individual strength and capacity, physical and emotional wellbeing and personal and home safety.

Working both as independent disciplines and as a multidisciplinary team, clients receive a holistic service that aims at keeping people at home in an environment that is safe and manageable for as long as possible.

The Heal Team is staffed with highly experienced Allied Health and support staff.

We welcome three Occupational Therapists: Gillian Menear, Vania Dickens and Emma Periera, Physiotherapist: Adam Wilkes, Social Worker: Melissa Williams and Administration Officer:

Eddie Bosnich.

During 2020 and 2021 the HEAL Team has created a professional service that has complimented other Belong Blue Mountains programs and services.

### Find Your Feet

Belong Blue Mountains through its Healthy Elders Active Living (HEAL) Program developed a resource called 'Find Your Feet' launched by the state member, Trish Doyle in a ceremony at the Mid Mountains Neighbourhood Centre.

This resource, available as a DVD, USB or on our Youtube channel was developed in response to the COVID 19 restrictions on conducting face to face workshops. The information provided in this 20-minute resource has been the result of professional input from allied health clinicians.

Find Your Feet provides information on ways to stay healthy, active and safe around your home and in the community with specific focus on the importance of; strength and balance exercises as we age; safety measures to think about that could prevent falls and make everyday activities easier; how to get up safely if you have a fall and how to regain your confidence after a fall; health checks and maintaining good health, overall wellbeing and maintaining social connections.

An important message that is highlighted in the video is that 'Ageing is not a disease', it is a process that can be managed.

The Find Your Feet resource is posted on the Belong BM website; [www.belongbm.org.au](http://www.belongbm.org.au). The Youtube link is: <https://youtube/bhWCpvAL9Oo>

This resource has been distributed to individual clients throughout the Blue Mountains and Residential Aged Care Facilities.







### Standing Strong

Standing Strong exercise classes were established to meet the strength, balance and mobility needs of Blue Mountains residents 65 years and older. Demand for classes has exceeded expectations with approximately 180-200 participants each week.

Standing Strong is a group exercise program designed by our Physiotherapist. It provides participants with different levels of ability the option of affordable long-term group exercise to help improve and maintain balance, strength, and mobility. Our class levels, named after trees, range from:

**Huon** - involves low intensity exercises, with part of the class performed in sitting for our frail cohort.

**Banksia** - our general strength, balance, and mobility classes that caters to those who are independent but may not have exercised regularly. Suitable for those limited with osteoarthritic pain.

**Angophora** - our higher intensity class involving more advanced strength and conditioning exercises as well as floor work.

Classes are supplemented with a web-based home exercise program that participants can follow along with. The classes are based upon a behaviour

change framework to assist participants to become lifelong exercisers. ■

- Allied Health (HEAL) reporting for 6 months of the year provided **2724.25 hours reaching 128% of target.**
- Goods, equipment and assistive technology **provided 50 items reaching 100% of target.**
- Group-based Therapeutic sessions on strength, balance and mobility-Standing Strong **grew from 90 participants to 180**, attending one-hours sessions each week.
- During the Covid 19 restrictions in 2020 a home-based program was **sent to 105 participants.**
- Online classes were attended regularly during Covid lockdown by **40 - 50 participants per week.**



*Standing Strong classes.*

## Social Support

### Community Visitors Scheme

**The Community Visitors Scheme (CVS) is an Australian Government initiative funded by the Department of Health (DoH).**

#### Service Description

The CVS aims to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life for isolated residents living in Residential Aged Care (RAC) as well as for residents who are living at home and are being supported by a Home Care Package (HCP), by matching them with volunteer visitors. Volunteers make a commitment to visit at least once per fortnight to enhance the resident's social contact with the larger community.

<b>Volunteers</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Clients</b>	<b>30</b>

#### New Technology

15 tablets were purchased to be loaned to clients and promote digital linkage with family and friends. This was an important part of remaining connected during Covid.

The closure of residential aged care facilities to visitors severely restricted the ability to provide in-reach support services.

#### Morven Gardens Book Circle

In 2007 I was invited to run a Book Circle at Morven Gardens in Leura and I have been doing so ever since.

Over the years it has remained a popular event. It has also evolved from a traditional Book Club connected

with the local library to now where it is more of a social gathering where members can share what they have been reading, share past experiences, reflect on current and local events and enjoy music and video clips.

Between 2007 and the present changes have reflected the changing acuity levels of residents in Aged Care.

Covid 19 has restricted our activities but with the help of my good friend and Morven Gardens volunteer Peter Swindell we have been able to continue sessions online.

Over the years there have been many highlights. A number of members have been published authors and read excerpts from their books. One who lived to be 105 asked me a few years before if I could teach her to speed read! Not so strange as it seems, I guess. Others have had aspects of their life and work archived in the Mitchell Library, in print and online. Prior to Covid monthly visits to the Katoomba Library were eagerly undertaken.

In all this time I have been privileged to share the Book Circle with a great many residents representing a wealth of interesting experiences covering a large part of the last century. I hope it can continue.

#### CVS Home Visitor Story

One of our wonderful CVS volunteers is only 21 years of age. Bronte visits 86-year-old Dorothy who lives in her own home in the Lower Mountains. What is even more impressive is that Bronte works full time and gives up most Saturdays to volunteer for CVS.

Bronte and Dorothy have formed a very special friendship. They go out for coffee at local cafés and enjoy short walks – something Dorothy did not previously feel confident enough to do on her own. Bronte also recently made a family photo album to show Dorothy as a way of getting to know each other better.

The friendship between Bronte and Dorothy, despite their age difference, shows how special intergenerational connections can be. We wish Bronte and Dorothy many happy visits in the future! ■

*Keith and Peter- volunteers from Morven Gardens Book Circle*



### CHSP Social Support

**Funding is from the Australian Government through the Department of Health under the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP).**

#### Service Description

We provide a social support service with trained volunteers who give their time to visit clients in their own homes and in group settings. This service assists people to remain living in their homes for as long as possible,



and to maintain their independence. It provides a vital link between residents who are at risk of becoming socially isolated and their local community. Social support can include things like friendly home visits, accompanying you on local outings and local shopping.

### **Year in Review**

Many of our Social Support outings had been interrupted due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. Opportunities to provide social support either individually or in groups to our residents helps to foster crucial connections linking people who live locally, often, from very different backgrounds. Having company, sharing a laugh and building relationships in a relaxed atmosphere can reduce loneliness and help to feel part of the local community.

It has been through Covid 19 restrictions that we have had to try other ways of linking together. Managing new technology for many of our older residents has not been easy but has for some become a life line. The recent restrictions implemented during the pandemic have certainly highlighted the importance of having people to connect with over coffee, lunch or in a social group and the impact of being disconnected has on our wellbeing.

Following are some of the outings we were able to plan and attend prior to the onset of Covid 19 restrictions.

### **Social Support outings**

#### **Sydney Zoo**

A visit to the new Sydney Zoo in the heart of Western Sydney was attended by many of our Lower Mountains residents where exotic and native animal species were able to be seen up close. The zoo has exhibits tailored to interest everyone with different precincts that included the Aquarium, Africa, Australia, Primate Boulevard and Asia.

Walking around the zoo is fairly flat with wide paths for easy access, however

as the zoo was newly established shade areas were scarce. This is certainly a place to visit once it has time to develop and become more established. Fun was had by all, many participants travelling together, sharing experiences and having a laugh.

#### **Royal Richmond Hotel Outing**

A visit to the new Royal Richmond Hotel at the centre of the Hawkesbury food bowl, surrounded by some of the country's best producers, growers, craft distillers, winemakers and brewers was a wonderful day out to enjoy the company of friends participating in social support programs with Belong Blue Mountains. All participants enjoyed a classic pub lunch made using the incredible produce from the local Hawkesbury region.

#### **Social Coffee**

We had the pleasure of enjoying the company of some wonderful women over morning tea. Without the help of our lovely volunteers, Lynn, Diane and Joy, three of our clients would not have had the chance to meet each other and engage in good, much needed conversation over coffee.

As we know, social connection is so important for everyone, and especially those living on their own, so opportunities like this are invaluable and can make all the difference. Having a volunteer with a friendly face go to someone's home, pick them up and transport them to a small event or gathering is priceless.

So thank you to Lynn, Diane, Joy and all of our volunteers. Thank you for everything you do.

This was a great example of what a difference a volunteer can make by giving up some of their time, allowing three strangers to meet, form a lovely connection and together look forward to seeing each other again.

The crucial role volunteers play in supporting our community's most vulnerable humbles us each day. Our Volunteers continue to give of their time and selves supporting the work of Belong Blue Mountains and touching the lives of many members of our community.



## Social Support outputs

Social Support individual	
<b>7668.42 hours reaching</b>	42% of target
<b>Accompanied activities</b>	5,562.5 hrs
<b>Phone/web contact</b>	1170.67 hrs
<b>Visiting</b>	435.75 hrs
<b>Social Support Groups</b>	1,054.5 hours reaching 126% of target

## Domestic Assistance

### Funding Body

Blue Mountains Community Support Program (BMCSP), including our Domestic Assistance service is a CHSP-funded program. The Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) is an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Health aimed to help older people stay independent and in their homes, and communities for as long as possible.

### Service Description

The Domestic Assistance Service provides assistance tailored to help maintain independence in the home through help with housework, cleaning and shopping, and domestic tasks.

Domestic Assistance provided services of **3364.25 hrs attaining 89% of target**

Social transport **609 trips** reaching 15% of target. Social transport is provided primarily by volunteers transporting clients to events and appointments that they would otherwise not be able to get to.



## Palliative Support

### Service Operation and Funding

The Blue Mountains Palliative Support Service (BMPSS) covers the Blue Mountains Local Government Area and Lithgow. The service is funded by NSW Health, through Nepean/Blue Mountains Local Health District (NBMLHD). Referrals are made through the Nepean/Blue Mountains Palliative Care Team. The service reports to NSW Health on its service activity KPI's bi-annually.

### Service Description

BMPSS is a community-based volunteer service providing care and support to:

- People living with life limiting illnesses who wish to remain at home
- People wishing to die at home or in the environment of their choice
- The carers and families of those with life limiting illnesses.

Volunteers provide up to four hours support per week depending upon the needs of the client and their family. This includes offering companionship, respite care, help with simple household duties, short outings, transport to appointments and bereavement support.



*Volunteers Kathy Ryan, Ivy Lorenz and Terry Ryan receiving their Seniors Week Awards*

We recognised three of our wonderful Belong Blue Mountains Palliative Support volunteers who were recently honoured at the 2021 Senior's Festival Recognition Awards.

Kathy Ryan, Ivy Lorenz and Terry Ryan are dedicated volunteers with our Palliative Support Service. In their own special ways they make such a meaningful and positive difference in the lives of people who are terminally ill, and in the lives of their families and carers. ■



## NDIS & Disability Services

### Service Description

#### Support Coordination:

Some NDIS participants have a budget allocated within their plan for Support Coordination. This enables them to access help to build the best system of supports from their NDIS plan. It is a "capacity building support to implement all supports in a participant's plan including informal, mainstream, community and NDIS funded supports. Support Coordinators work creatively and resourcefully with participants in how they utilise their support budgets to achieve their goals." (NDIA March 2017 | Support Coordination: Information for providers).

#### Plan Management:

When a participant receives an NDIS plan, there are 3 ways the budgets in the plan can be managed. 'Agency Managed' – the participant can engage only registered providers of supports, and the provider requests payment directly from the NDIA. 'Self-Managed' – the participant is responsible for requesting payments from NDIA and paying their providers. This gives the

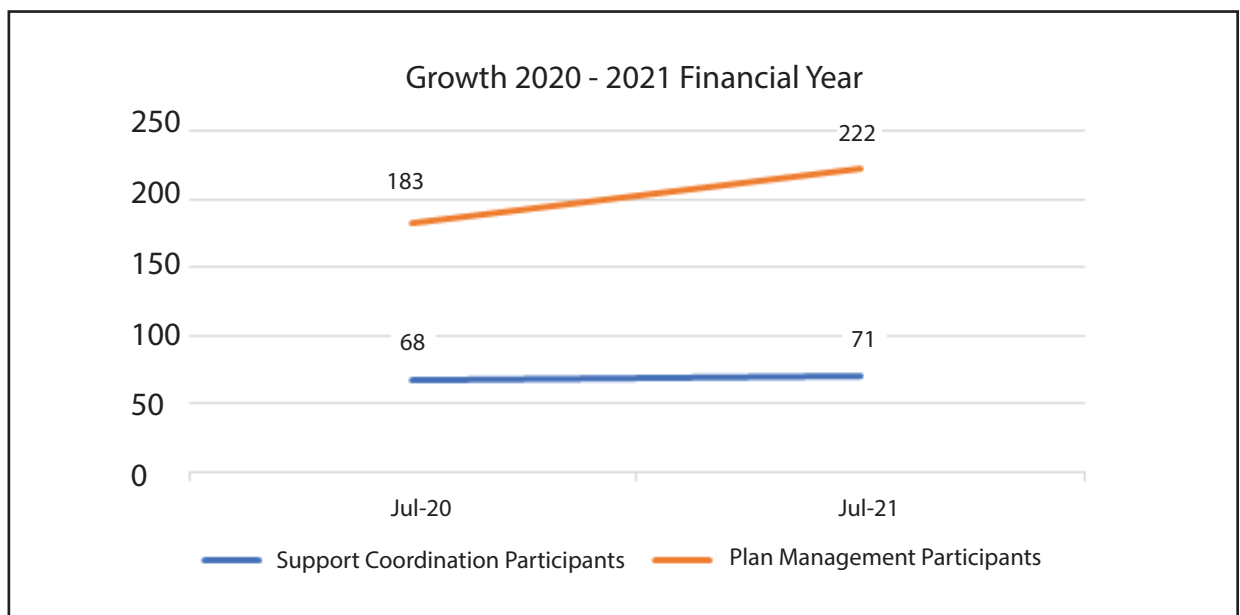
participant an opportunity to purchase supports from suppliers that have not chosen to be registered with the NDIA. The participant is responsible for keeping appropriate records and receipts, and reporting to the NDIA on funds spent from their NDIS plan. 'Plan Managed' – the participant still has the benefit of being able to choose providers not registered with NDIA as well as registered providers, however an intermediary is responsible for organising the financial and administrative aspects of the plan such as paying invoices on time, requesting payment from the NDIA, preparing reports on how funds are being used, and helping a participant to connect with providers and organising service agreements.

### Challenges

In 2020-2021, as well as continuing to adjust service delivery for participants and working arrangements for staff due to Covid-19, the Disability Services faced other challenges.

Our growth in plan management (+49% 2019-2020) continued, and in October 2020 we welcomed Jo Fielding to our team to help with the workload on a temporary contract of 10.5 hours/week.

Late in 2020 one of our Support Coordination staff received the challenging news that she would have to take significant time away from work to deal with a major health issue, and in January we welcomed Katya Quigley on a temporary contract to ensure our clients continuity of care was not impacted.





By the end of the financial year, we again recorded significant growth in Plan Management as well as a slight increase in Coordination of Support. This service has never advertised, and our growth continues to be due to referrals from existing clients as well NDIA planners and local disability services.

### Highlights

Ivanka was a young person living in an aged care facility, due to an acquired brain injury in 2000. At the time of her injury there were no alternative or appropriate accommodation that could meet her needs.

With the rollout of the NDIS and support from Belong, this gave Ivanka the chance to move out of the aged care setting and into a SIL environment. In June 2021 after 3 years of navigating the new scheme, Ivanka found her new home. The move has allowed her to start a new relationship with her sister Penka who is now within walking distance. Previously Penka, who does not drive, needed to navigate public transport to visit Ivanka from the Western Suburbs.

This photo was taken by Marlene, who had the pleasure of accompanying Ivanka to her new home and, as you can see, she is extremely happy. Ivanka is now participating with people of similar age and is enjoying her best life. ■

### Good News Story

#### Quilts Donated

Caring Hearts Quilters have donated 30 lovingly made quilts to the Palliative Care wards at Blue Mountains District hospital, Springwood hospital and the Blue Mountains Palliative Care volunteer service. The quilts are given to patients in the wards and in the home setting to place on their beds. They brighten up patients and staff, families then are welcome to keep the quilts in memory of their loved one.

After 12 years the Caring Hearts Quilters held their final 'Airing of the Quilts' on Saturday April 10th at the Arms of Australia Inn Museum, Great Western Highway, Emu Plains. There were more than 200 quilts exhibited, stalls, Devonshire teas and a sausage sizzles. The group will continue to create quilts for donations in future years. ■



*Blue Mountains Palliative support volunteers Terry Ryan, Kathy Smith, Robyn Artup, Boudi Maassen, Ivy Lorenz with Caring Hearts quilter Linda Shreeve front centre and Katrina Simmons BMPSS Coordinator*

# Communities Directorate

(Children, Youth, Families & Neighbourhoods)

Government support: NSW Department of Fair Trading,  
NSW Department of Communities & Justice, NSW Department of Education

## Services Include:

### Neighbourhood Centres

located in Blaxland Lawson and Katoomba

### Community Supports

Information and Referral, emergency relief food hampers, tech support and upskilling, provision of community space for groups and drop-in.

### Community Support Groups

### Social Support Groups

### Families and Children's Services

Family fun days, transition to school support, School holiday activities, social support groups

### Supported Playgroups

### Disaster, Resilience Preparedness Support

### Community Advocacy

### Mental Health Support

Blue Fringe Arts and Literature Festival, Targeted Support groups

The Belong Blue Mountains (BBM)

Communities team work to deliver inclusive and flexible supports to Families, Children, Youth and Community. Working with local communities to increase belonging, resilience and self-determination.

2020-2021 was a year of responding, assessing and adapting for us all. Working with community during a pandemic called for the team to employ their adaptive skills and innovation in a whole new way. Employing online tools and flexible work practices to meet need, we successfully managed to respond within public health orders

to maintain service delivery and even increase reach in some cases.

With innovation comes new learning. Online groups via zoom called for new protocols to be developed as well as additional supports to be extended to community to enable them to engage with online service delivery. Belong Blue Mountains found capacity to deploy staff to instruct individuals in their home on how to use Zoom, delivered children's craft and literacy resources and emergency relief hampers to the home and supplied technology to community who previously did not have means to attain. All of which helped to support connection and reduce feelings of isolation. Our efforts were affirmed as community engaged with new access points and programs.

## Neighbourhood Centres

BBM Neighbourhood centres (NC) located in Blaxland, Lawson and Katoomba remained committed to linking people with supports and services. Our Hub Admin workers reported an increased need to support community to navigate service delivery during these very strange times. They remained solution focused and ensured community needs were met by staying across public health orders and impacts for clients and linking with partners to meet need. This team are also to be congratulated on the flexibility and willingness to adapt to what ever came our way. They remained our front line workers throughout for which we are very grateful.

## Community Development Team

Restricted room limits, periodic suspension of face-to-face service, access impeded to work onsite with partners none of this stopped our CD team from pivoting to meet need in new ways. Evident in the highlights detailed below this team are to be congratulated on all their work this year and the fabulous outcomes achieved.



## Volunteers

Volunteers are a big part of our neighbourhood centres and will always be integral members of our team. Sadly Covid-19 impacts meant that many of our volunteer involvements had to be suspended during this past year. Our Hub Admin support workers maintained contact and engagement via newsletters that included recipe sharing and the exchange of anecdotal life stories and humour. We would like to extend a huge thank you to our volunteers for their patience during this time. They were always willing to jump in when it was permissible and were understanding when public health orders ramped up and meant we had to take a break.

*Clockwise from top: Kindy Transition and MMCG; Family Bushwalks; Chess Club; Deadlee Gap sessions with Elders and BMOCCs children.*



### Highlights of 2020-2021 from the Communities team.

**Chess Club** started at MMNC - Wednesday afternoons in the Joy Anderson room, has been filled with chess players of all ages from 5-year-old novices to lifelong lovers of the game.

#### Working with Elders

Deadlee Gap has regularly brought life and laughter to the courtyard on Wednesdays. As well as being a place where all people are welcome to come and connect and share culture, it's been an absolute delight to watch relationships between Elders and the BMOCCs children beginning to develop.

**Transition to school** adapts to Covid offsite delivery Working with Lawson Public School to support their transition to school program with a series of summer activities has been a great way to build relationships with local families.

**Family Bushwalks** have been a lovely way for community to connect with each other. The bushwalk have been a chance for young and old to share knowledge and wonder.

#### Community Garden

With the support of funding from the PHN the Mid Mountains Community Garden was able to host a series of workshops and events including worm farming,







therapeutic horticulture, mental health first aid and bush tucker. The garden also hosted an open day that invited the community to come and meet a range of other community organisations that also invite people to feel the benefits of connecting with nature by working on and caring for the lands on which we live. It has been wonderful to see so many new faces at the garden.

### **ME/CFS and Fibro Support Group**

has also run continuously, as well as supporting regular attendees, the ability to run in Zoom initially made the meetings available to half a dozen people who had been previously unable to attend. The capacity to run meetings in Zoom and in person has made them accessible to more people. As well as supporting the existing group members the group has actually grown during lockdown with four new people making contact and attending the group for the first time.

### **School Holiday Activities**

With COVID impacting on our chances to meet and come together and our children's chances to spend time at school and with their friends the few school holiday workshops we have been able to run have been a little special and getting this kind of feedback shows how much they were valued.

### **Playgroup Online**

The community development team took playgroup activities online. We were surprised at how engaged the children were throughout the sessions. The elements that worked well were:

- 1 hour timeframe with actual run-time being 40-50 minutes

- A theme for each week that linked all activities and was communicated via email the day before
- Opening with a pre-prepared show and tell from all children
- E-book story books so the kids to see the pages properly
- Facilitators reading the stories
- Scavenger hunt and other physical activities like show us how you swim, stand like a flamingo, make an animal noise etc
- More stories! The kids loved them.
- Special guest appearance by Walkabout Reptiles for our reptile themed week

Families were also supplied with a craft pack to engage children after the online engagement.

### **Feedback from parents included...**

- I liked having it as part of our routine over lockdown.
- We were very isolated during lockdown and it was a much-needed outlet for him and a stress relief from the pressures of home schooling.
- As my son is an only child, during the lockdown he really missed interacting with other children. He looked forward to seeing everyone and was always asking if it was time to zoom yet!
- Really gave a feeling our community caring for us
- We are very grateful to have such service
- This activity was a real challenge for all involved to prepare and deliver. The team are to be congratulated on pushing themselves out of their comfort zones.



## Blue Fringe Arts and Literature Festival

The efforts of the Blue Fringe committee are to be commended this year. Rather than being daunted by the challenge of delivery during covid restrictions they decided to take Blue Fringe online. Delivering lead up community workshops online and ultimately creating a virtual online gallery to display entrant's artwork and invite community in to engage. This was very well received with 1364 visitors going through the gallery. ■



Activity type	Number of groups	Total Instances of Service	Total attendance or distribution
Events		19	1744
Targeted support groups	2	22	133
Health and Wellbeing Groups	8	182	1457
Social support groups	7	91	693
Convening of Community Sector Group	6	29	150
Playgroups	4	48	696
Interagency Participation	10	66	68
Newsletters	4	6	20970
Family holiday activity		8	132
Community consultation		2	300
Information and referral		2800	
Enquiries made through the Neighbourhood Centres		8000	



## KOOSH (Katoomba Out of School Hours)

**Coordinator, Nominated Supervisor**  
Cate Thompson/Hunter DeGroot

### Service Description

KOOSH is a before and after school care service, we also offer a vacation care program to families during school holiday periods. During before school and after school care periods we operate Monday to Friday, 7am - 9am and 3pm - 6pm. Vacation care days are also Monday to Friday running a full day, 11 hour session 7am till 6pm.

At KOOSH we believe children learn and make sense of the world around them through play. Our emergent curriculum ensures staff are implementing a play-based program each day that is always flexible and responsive to children's needs and everchanging interests.

*Our curious KOOSH creatures  
- art by the children*



### Funding

KOOSH is funded by our fees received for childcare services provided, of which a significant portion is paid to us by the Federal Governments Child Care Subsidy Scheme. Department of Education funds part of our vacation care programs throughout the year and we also receive Inclusion support funding through KU Children's services from Department of Education and Training.

### Service Targets/Capacity

KOOSH is maximum 45 place service, for us running at full capacity (within staff ratio requirements, staff employment arrangements and budget parameters) would mean 45 children attend each BSC session, 45 children attend each ASC session and 45 attend each VAC care session daily.

### Highlights for 2020/2021

- We grew to large numbers in ASC, some days being fully booked. Vacation care was also very successful during this year after such a hard hit with decreases due to covid
- We successfully took our vacation care children on several larger scaled excursions - to Sydney zoo and Featherdale wildlife park.
- Our service acquired our own bus to transport children to and from school during the Covid pandemic which has proved popular with families, and due to this our numbers increased and we had to hire a 22 seater for after school care with some days reaching maximum capacity.
- Cathryn Thompson took Maternity leave and welcomed a little girl in April 2021. Hunter DeGroot took over as Coordinator for this time and took the position in his stride



*Wallabies from our excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park*

### Challenges for 2020/2021

COVID-19 impacted our service greatly in all aspects and was our greatest challenge this year. We saw numbers decrease dramatically with some days only having 2 or 3 children attend, and our vacation care periods drop to low numbers also. This affected our funding, staffing, and many other things. Keeping children and parents socially distanced, changing policies and procedures to be Covid safe, and ensuring the safety of all staff and children was challenging at times, but I would like to thank staff for handling it so well, and we maintained a safe and happy environment for all children and families.

### Special Acknowledgments for 2020/2021 financial year go to

Elizabeth - our cleaner for helping keep our centre COVID clean, Jo Ridley and Mick Barrett for their management of the service this year, Bren Sherring for dropping everything to help when we needed it this year, and all Directors, staff members and our CFO and CEO for supporting our service within Belong Blue Mountains. ■

*Above: Our children grew tomatoes and carrots in our own veggie patch*

*Below: Excursion to Sydney Zoo*



No. of children	185
No. of families	172
No. of days open for before and after school care	193
No. of days open for vacation care and pupil free days	47
Total no. of days open	240
Total bookings for before school care	1946
Total bookings for after school care	3798
Total bookings for vacation care	1277
Total bookings	7021



## Corporate & Quality Directorate

The 2020-2021 financial year has seen a continuation of regular policy and process adjustments to accommodate the COVID-19 pandemic and it's associated Public Health Orders. However, arrangements put in place towards the end of the previous financial year gave us a very good foundation to build on and have assisted to carry us through efficiently and successfully.

Key issues and actions for the Corporate & Quality Directorate have included:

- Human Resources: refining our use of Employment Hero, our HR software. We are discovering and using several of that program's facilities to develop reporting processes that enhance our HR management processes.
- Policies & Procedures: COVID-19 necessitated a review of our operating procedures to ensure the safety of clients, our community, our volunteers and staff. Many staff contributed to this process which allowed Belong BM to continue supporting our local community.
- Information & Communications Technology: the volume of tasks in this unit increased to the extent that we were able to welcome Emma Wheeler to the team in December 2020. The skill and professionalism of this team has enabled staff to continue working remotely and has supported several volunteers and clients to remain connected to their community online and supported the Belong Blue Mountains teams to deliver innovative programs to our communities.
- Administration and Operations: we have continued to develop and grow our cloud based structures allowing staff to safe and secure access to files and resources while working remotely and from home during this pandemic. Operational policies were adjusted as required to support staff working in our hybrid remote/on-site office working arrangements, along with a focus on Work Health & Safety and mental health supports across clients, volunteers and staff where needed.
- Communications: during this period of Organisational restructure, the Directorate has worked to ensure that staff, volunteers and community are informed of the stages and progress through all staff bulletins. Belong Blue Mountains has worked to raise our profile through weekly space dedicated to Belong Blue Mountains activities, in the Gazette as an effective means of informing and inviting community participation. ■



*Peta Williams -  
Director Corporate  
& Quality at Belong  
Blue Mountains AGM  
2020*

# Acknowledgements

Belong Blue Mountains wishes to acknowledge and thank the following:

## Government support

**Australian Government** Department of Health under the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP)



## NSW Government

Departments of: Community & Justice, Education, Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District and Fair Trading



## Local Government

Blue Mountains City Council  
Mayor: Mark Greenhill OAM  
General Manager: Rosemary Dillon



## Members of Parliament

State Member of Parliament: Trish Doyle  
MP, Member for Blue Mountains

Federal Member of Parliament: Susan Templeman MP, Member for Macquarie

## Community donations

Thank you to all individuals and organisations who have donated to Belong Blue Mountains over the last year, either

through cash donations, donations of wool or funding to the Wrap With Love project, or those who donated funds through the supply and purchase of books at our second-hand book stall.

## Community partnerships, collaborations and support

Thank you to everyone in all services across the Blue Mountains who are committed to working collaboratively for a community that values justice and equality. Belong Blue Mountains thanks the following businesses, organisations and partners for their contributions in 2020-2021:

Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT)  
Aged & Community Services Australia  
Aids Council of NSW (ACON)  
Anytime Fitness  
Belvoir Theatre  
Bendigo Bank - Katoomba & Upper Blue Mountains  
Community Bank, Katoomba branch and  
Blackheath agency  
Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre  
Blaxland & Districts Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
Blaxland High School  
Blaxland Library  
Blue Mountains Collaborative for Elder Abuse  
Blue Mountains City Council Squalor and Hoarding  
Committee and Prue Hardgrove  
Blue Fringe Committee  
Blue Mountains Community Interagency (BMCI)  
Blue Mountains Food Services  
The Blue Mountains Gazette  
Blue Mountains Leisure Centres  
Blue Mountains & Lithgow Integrated Neighbourhood  
Network (BLINN)  
Blue Mountains TAFE  
Blue Mountains Women's Health & Resource Centre  
Bunnings Katoomba and Valley Heights  
Bygone Beautys Leura  
Aunty Carol Cooper  
The Carrington Hotel, Katoomba  
Coalition Against Violence and Abuse (CAVA)  
Community Care Forum and Prue Hardgrove BMCC  
Elder Abuse Collaborative  
Elders Lunch Planning Group  
Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre  
Fantastic Aussie Tours  
Friends of Melrose Park  
Gateway Family Services  
Glenbrook Panthers

GREAT Community Transport  
 Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service  
 (for NILS)  
 The Hattery  
 Hazelbrook Association  
 House Proud Cleaning  
 HUBitat –  
 Lower Mountains Community Hub  
 Junction 123  
 Katoomba Radio Cabs  
 Katoomba First Fitness  
 Kinship at Christmas Foundation  
 LEEP Understand Technology  
 Lithgow Information & Neighbourhood  
 Centre  
 Local Community Services Association  
 (LCSA)  
 Megalong Books  
 Mental Health Commission of NSW  
 Mental Health & Networking Forum  
 Mid Mountains Cabs  
 Mid Mountains Family Support Network  
 Mountains Community Resource  
 Network (MCRN)  
 Mountains Multicultural Interagency  
 Mountains Oddities  
 Mountains Outreach Community Service  
 (MOCS)  
 Mountains Youth Services Team (MYST)  
 Nepean Belle Paddle Wheels  
 NCOSS – Council of Social Services  
 NSW  
 Neighbourhood Aid Association  
 Nepean Blue Mountains NDIS CEOs  
 Roundtable  
 Nepean Community & Neighbourhood  
 Services (NCNS)  
 Partners in Recovery  
 Palais Royale Katoomba  
 Pink Mountains  
 Positive Life Sydney  
 Radio Blue Mountains 98.1  
 Resilience & Preparedness Working  
 Group  
 Rotary Club of Upper and Lower Blue  
 Mountains  
 Springwood Neighbourhood Centre  
 Cooperative  
 Stronger Families Alliance  
 Thrive Family Support

United Cinemas (The Edge)  
 Wendy's Home Care  
 Western Sydney Community Forum (WSCF)  
 Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre  
 Wentworth Community Housing  
 Wesley Counselling Support Services  
 Youth Mental Health Illness & Substance Abuse Network

### **Bread and Food Donations**

Central Blue Mountains Rotary  
 Earth Recovery Australia  
 Food Bank NSW & ACT  
 Hominy Bakery, Katoomba  
 Woolworths  
 Ananda Marga (Community Lunches)  
 Avalon Restaurant, Katoomba

### **Other**

Bennett's Office Supplies, Katoomba  
 Blue Mountains Food Co-op, Katoomba  
 Café Landseers, Leura  
 Fine Flowers, Katoomba  
 The Hatter's Café, Katoomba  
 Leura Newsagency  
 Leura Pharmacy  
 The Lunch Box, Katoomba  
 Megalong Books, Leura  
 Pears and Apples, Leura

### **Consultants and Contractors**

Cocoon Creative  
 Marty Walker, Still Moving Design  
 Michael & Wendy Farrell-Whelan, Farrell-Whelan &  
 Associates  
 Virginia Field  
 Juan Pereyra, PNYX  
 Wendy's Home Care  
 Jo Ridley  
 Wild Hive Studios  
 Tracey Willow

### **Annual Report Acknowledgements**

This report was written by staff at Belong Blue  
 Mountains.  
 Editors: Shelley Oliver & Jo Ridley  
 Proof-readers: Chris Baird, Danielle Wilding-Forbes & Jo  
 Ridley  
 Photographs: Marty Walker and staff  
 Layout: Felicity Tonks  
 The Belong Blue Mountains Board and staff  
 acknowledge with thanks Bennett's Printing, Katoomba,  
 for the production of this report.

### Treasurer's Report

David Caton  
Treasurer

Overall Belong Blue Mountains Incorporated ("BBM") returned an operating surplus of a little over \$39,000, increasing reserves to just over \$592,000. A summary of the significant financial events impacting the financial affairs of the organisation over the year end June 2021 includes the following:

- One-off Economic Stimulus funding in response to the Covid-19 pandemic of \$485,657.
- We brought forward \$503,730 of Grant funding from last year.
- Decrease in Nepean and Blue Mountains Local Health District (NBMLHD) funding of \$18,000 due to a one-off grant last year.
- Fee income increased in Assist Building Services (\$230,000), NDIS services (\$82,000) and KOOSH services (\$81,000) offset by a drop in miscellaneous fee income (-\$30,000) due to pandemic circumstances.
- Other income increased \$21,000 from donations
- Staff costs grew by \$1,295,000 as a result of Economic stimulus funding, brought forward grant income and fee income increases
- Service/Program/Activities costs increased by \$317,000 as service delivery increased as lockdown restrictions eased.
- Administration increased by \$87,000 as service delivery increased as lockdown restrictions eased.

- Provisions and other costs decreased \$79,000.
- NDIS Plan Management throughput increased by \$1,978,319. While this is neither income nor revenue, it represents significant financial activity of the organization and hence is included in the Income and Expenditure Statement to provide a more comprehensive and accurate view of the financial activity of BBM for the financial year.

The financial position of Belong BM continues to be strong with turnover increasing by \$3,412,000 and Reserves representing 11.3% of income (14.5% last year).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Chief Financial Officer, Len Kasper, and his Finance team of Leigh Gordon, Carole Williams, Dorothy Allen, Justin Reardon and Jenni Howard for their continuing professionalism and incredible effort through a very challenging year. Not only have they successfully integrated the significant financial changes to the organization as highlighted above, but they have also managed significant growth in financial activity. For example, during the year the team processed over 49,500 financial transactions, an increase of 32% over last year. ■





## Finance Report

Leigh Gordon

Team Leader Finance

July 2020-June 21

Like all areas of the organisation, the Finance team experienced a very busy time during 2020-21. While at times the year proved very challenging, particularly during periods of lockdown, it also provided opportunities for growth and development within the team as working from home pushed us into re-thinking how we do things. We have become a mobile workforce, moving between the 3 Belong sites and working from home. We have also moved to a largely 'paperless' system and become

much more comfortable with seeing ourselves on screen via many zoom meetings!

Our team very ably kept everything ticking over despite the significant growth within the organisation. The statistics speak for themselves:

- The number of staff in July 20 was 53; by June 2021 it was 68.
- Turnover increased by \$3.4m.
- Transactions grew by 32% with over 45,000 transactions processed.

The Finance team is made up of 3 full time and 2 part time staff, and I cannot speak more highly of them, whether as individuals or team members. My very sincere thanks to Justin Reardon, Jenni Howard, Carole Williams and Dot Allen for being so efficient, flexible, accommodating, supportive and fun to work with. ■

## Section 4: Financial Reports and Audited Financial Statements

### Belong Blue Mountains Inc.

ABN 59 334 227 797

### Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

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**Belong Blue Mountains Inc.**  
**ABN 59 334 227 797**  
**Committee's Report**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2021**

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Your committee members submit the financial accounts of the Belong Blue Mountains Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

### **Committee Members**

The names of committee members at the date of this report are:

Ruth Bennett - Chairperson  
Mahalya Middlemist - Secretary  
Warwick Fuller - Deputy Chairperson  
David Caton - Treasurer  
Elizabeth Thornton  
Maria Katrivesis  
Wendy Holland

### **Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were: Provision of Community Services.

### **Significant Changes**

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

### **Operating Result**

The profit from ordinary activities amounted to

Year ended 30 June 2021	Year ended 30 June 2020
\$	\$
39,370	235,366

During the 2021 financial year the association experienced changes to the provision of client services and internal operations due to the impact of the coronavirus ("COVID-19") pandemic. The impact of COVID-19 is unprecedented and has a profound impact on charities and Not-for-profit organisations both financially and operationally. The first confirmed case in Australia of COVID-19 was identified in January 2020 and resulted in induced lockdown in NSW in March 2020 due to public health orders.

The lockdowns impacted the ability to provide services including group activities, NDIS service delivery, out of hours care, child care, individual support services, home modifications and maintenance services and the operation of our neighbourhood centres. However, where possible client services continued remotely via an online interface. The lockdown and pandemic negatively impacted attendance at child care centres during this period which resulted in the Australian Government intervening.

On 30 March 2020, the Government announced The JobKeeper Payment subsidy for eligible businesses. This was paid by the Government to BBM for each eligible employee. No BBM employees were made redundant during the 21FY and service delivery/support was maintained. BBM received \$ 485,656 pandemic stimulus payments in the 2021 financial year.

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The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Belong Blue Mountains Inc.**  
**ABN 59 334 227 797**  
**Committee's Report For the year ended 30 June 2021**

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**Operating Result (cont.)**

On 2 April 2020, the Government announced new funding arrangements for the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) sector in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and its impact on child care enrolments and attendance. The new arrangements made child care services fee-free for families. The changes took effect on 6 April 2020 and remained in place until 12 July 2020. Under the new arrangements the Child Care Support (CCS) system was suspended and BBM received a weekly Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package payment.

The association received \$50,000 of Commonwealth Government support by way of a Cash Flow Boost incentive included in operating profit.

The association renewed its agreement for funding of services with the Department of Communities & Justice (previously known as Family & Community Services) for a five year term from 1st July 2020 until 30 June 2025.

In addition, the association secured increased CHSP funding from the Department of Health during the 21FY for additional growth funding and innovation funding (HEAL) (both recurring).

**After Balance Date Events**

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the association the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the association in subsequent financial years.

**Auditor's Independence Declaration**

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012 has been included.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee on this 19th day of October 2021:

  
Ruth Bennett

  
David Caton

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The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Belong Blue Mountains Inc.**  
**ABN 59 334 227 797**

**Auditor's Independence Declaration For the year ended 30 June 2021**

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In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, I am pleased to provide the following declaration of independence to the Directors of Belong Blue Mountains Inc.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a. No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- b. No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Signed on this 11th day of October 2021



William Tomiczek F.I.P.A., Registered Company Auditor 1425

William Tomiczek & Associates  
66 Emu Plains Road, Mount Riverview NSW 2774

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**The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.**



**Belong Blue Mountains Inc.**  
**ABN 59 334 227 797**  
**Income and Expenditure Statement**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2021**

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Grant funding - DCJ	703,807	685,193
Grant Funding - Dept of Health	1,982,439	1,974,126
Grant Funding - Nepean BMLHD	139,390	157,400
Other Grant income	66,882	59,737
COVID19 Economic stimulus income	485,657	452,600
Grant income carried forward	503,730	(496,978)
Fee income	1,305,034	942,581
Plan Management Income	7,029,004	5,050,684
Other Income	65,975	45,053
<b>Total income</b>	<b>12,281,916</b>	<b>8,870,396</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administration costs	370,550	283,222
Other costs	11,039	90,395
Amortisation Expense	9,233	0
Plan management expenses	7,029,004	5,050,684
Program costs	784,506	467,619
Salaries - ordinary	4,037,854	2,743,110
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>12,242,186</b>	<b>8,635,030</b>
<b>Profit from ordinary activities before income tax</b>	<b>39,730</b>	<b>235,366</b>
<b>Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net profit attributable to the association</b>	<b>39,730</b>	<b>235,366</b>
<b>Total changes in equity of the association</b>	<b>39,730</b>	<b>235,366</b>
 <b>Opening retained profits</b>	 <b>552,707</b>	 <b>317,341</b>
<b>Net profit attributable to the association</b>	<b>39,730</b>	<b>235,366</b>
<b>Closing retained profits</b>	<b>592,437</b>	<b>552,707</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



**Belong Blue Mountains Inc.**

**ABN 59 334 227 797**

**Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2021**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<hr/>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
<b>Cash Assets</b>			
Cash At Bank 2(a)		1,225,594	1,326,011
		<u>1,225,594</u>	<u>1,326,011</u>
<b>Receivables</b>			
Receivables 3		138,052	281,892
		<u>138,052</u>	<u>281,892</u>
<b>Inventories</b>			
Inventories 4		100,474	78,510
		<u>100,474</u>	<u>78,510</u>
<b>Other</b>			
Other		20,999	16,383
		<u>20,999</u>	<u>16,383</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u><b>1,485,119</b></u>	<u><b>1,702,796</b></u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
<b>Property, Plant and Equipment</b>			
Motor vehicles 5		299,185	204,493
Less: Accumulated depreciation		<u>(84,040)</u>	<u>(71,480)</u>
		<u>215,145</u>	<u>133,013</u>
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<u><b>215,145</b></u>	<u><b>133,013</b></u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u><b>1,700,264</b></u>	<u><b>1,835,809</b></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Belong Blue Mountains Inc.**  
**ABN 59 334 227 797**  
**Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2021**

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
<b>Payables</b>			
Payables 6		201,368	211,359
Provisions 7		629,374	459,727
Unearned Grant Income		38,950	507,230
		<u>869,694</u>	<u>1,178,316</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u>869,694</u>	<u>1,178,316</u>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
<b>Provisions</b>			
Sundry provisions 7		<u>238,134</u>	<u>104,786</u>
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<u>238,134</u>	<u>104,787</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>1,107,828</u>	<u>1,283,103</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>592,437</u>	<u>552,707</u>
<b>Members' Funds</b>			
<b>Reserves</b>			
Accumulated surplus (deficit)		552,707	317,341
Current Year result		<u>39,730</u>	<u>235,366</u>
<b>Total Members' Funds</b>		<u>592,436</u>	<u>552,707</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.





**Belong Blue Mountains Inc.**  
**ABN 59 334 227 797**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2021**

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Cash Flow From Operating Activities</b>		
Receipts from customers	12,431,370	8,662,030
Payments to Suppliers and employees	(12,437,094)	(8,048,617)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (note 2(b))	<u>(5,724)</u>	<u>613,413</u>
<b>Cash Flow From Investing Activities</b>		
Purchase of motor vehicles	<u>(94,693)</u>	<u>(68,432)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(94,693)</u>	<u>(68,432)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	(100,417)	544,981
Cash at the beginning of the year	<u>1,326,011</u>	<u>781,030</u>
Cash at the end of the year	<u><u>1,225,594</u></u>	<u><u>1,326,011</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



**Belong Blue Mountains Inc.**

**ABN 59 334 227 797**

**Statement of Changes in Equity for year ended 30 June 2021**

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Opening Retained Earnings		552,707	317,341
Net profit attributable to the association		39,730	235,366
Retained Profits		<u>592,437</u>	<u>552,707</u>

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**The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.**



**Belong Blue Mountains Inc.**  
**ABN 59 334 227 797**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2021**

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## **Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

### **Basis of Preparation**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act of New South Wales and the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity as it is unlikely there are users of these financial statements who are not in a position to require the preparation of reports tailored to their information needs. The association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 and the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the Committee have determined are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The special purpose financial statements do not comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards.

The recognition and measurement requirements that have not been complied with are those specified by (i) AASB15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers as in accounting for grant income \$ 38,950 has been deferred until the related expenses are incurred without assessing whether there are enforceable performance obligations to transfer a good or service to a third party, (ii) AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets the association has recognised various provisions for which do not meet the recognition criteria in AASB 137 and (iii) AASB15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers as NDIS Plan Management remittances from the NDIA of \$7,029,004 have been accounted for as revenue of the association without considering the indicators of which entity is the principal versus agent criteria outlined in AASB15.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

#### **(a) Motor vehicles**

Motor vehicles are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all motor vehicles is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

#### **(b) Impairment of Assets**

At the end of each reporting period, the entity reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

#### **(c) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

**Belong Blue Mountains Inc.**  
**ABN 59 334 227 797**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2021**

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**(d) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of twelve months or less.

**(e) Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue comprises of revenue from grant income, child care centre operations, NDIS services (including NDIS Plan Management activities), home modification and maintenance services, donations, bank interest, government COVID-19 JobKeeper payment subsidy and Cash Flow Boost instalment and other income. Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

The association recognises income in profit or loss when or as the association satisfies its obligations under the terms of the grant.

Interest revenue is recognised on an accruals basis.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

**(f) Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

**(g) Trade and Other Payables**

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association remain unpaid at the end of the reporting period. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

**(h) Income tax**

The association is a registered charity and is exempt from income tax in accordance with Section 50-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. The association holds deductible gift recipient status.

**(i) Leases**

BBM do not have any contracted lease expenditure for any of its leased premises.

For leases that have significantly below-market terms and conditions principally to enable the association to further its objectives (commonly known as peppercorn/concessionary leases), the company has adopted the temporary relief under AASB2018-8 and measures the right of use assets at cost on initial recognition.

**(j) Employee Benefits**

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.



**Belong Blue Mountains Inc.**  
**ABN 59 334 227 797**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2021**

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**(k) Key Estimates and judgments**

JobKeeper wage subsidy income – this government scheme is a wage subsidy that entitles eligible entities that have suffered a specified decline in turnover to a payment of \$1,500 per fortnight for wages paid to eligible employees. Employers elect to participate in the scheme. Employees subject to the scheme must be eligible for JobKeeper payments, with the onus on the employer to establish that all eligibility requirements are met before applying for the scheme. Management exercises judgement in applying for this scheme which is based on future estimates and an employees declaration of eligibility.

Motor vehicles - as indicated in Note 1(a), the association reviews the useful life of motor vehicles on annual basis.

Employee entitlements - as indicated at Note 1(j), employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. The association exercises judgment in the classification of employment arrangements in order to assess any obligation for employee entitlements.

Going concern - the COVID-19 pandemic has detrimentally effected the worldwide economy. The association has assessed its ability to continue as a going concern and there is no known material uncertainty as at the date of signing the financial report that would effect the ability of the association to continue as a going concern. Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared as a going concern.

Revenue - as indicated in Note 1(e), the association has treated NDIS Plan Management activities as throughput from NDIS Plan management activities in the Income and Expenditure Statement.

**(l) Economic Dependence**

The Association is dependent on the Department of Communities & Justice (previously known as Family & Community Services) and the Department of Health for the majority of its grant revenue. The Association renewed its agreement for funding services with the Department of Communities & Justice for a five year term commencing 1st July 2020. The Associations agreement for funding with the Department of Health continues until the 2022FY. At the date of this report the Committee has no reason to believe these Departments will not continue to support the Association.

**Belong Blue Mountains Inc.**  
**ABN 59 334 227 797**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2021**

2021

2020

**Note 2(a) Reconciliation Of Cash**

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and in banks and investments in money market instruments, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Cash At Bank	414,975	816,446
Term Deposits	809,379	508,425
Cash On hand	1,240	1,140
	<u>1,225,594</u>	<u>1,326,011</u>

**Note 3: Receivables**

**Current**

Trade debtors	138,052	281,892
	<u>138,052</u>	<u>281,892</u>

**Note 4: Other Assets**

**Current**

Other	20,999	16,383
Inventories	100,474	78,510
	<u>121,473</u>	<u>94,893</u>

**Note 5: Motor vehicles**

**Motor vehicles:**

- At cost	299,185	204,493
- Less: Accumulated depreciation	(84,040)	(71,480)
	<u>215,145</u>	<u>133,013</u>
	<u>215,145</u>	<u>133,013</u>

**Belong Blue Mountains Inc.**  
**ABN 59 334 227 797**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2021**

2021

2020

**Note 6: Payables**

Unsecured:

- Accounts payable	123,900	124,078
- Payroll liabilities	46,509	58,130
- Auspiced funds	30,959	29,151
	201,368	211,359
	201,368	211,359

**Note 7: Provisions**

**Current**

Employee entitlements	629,375	459,727
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**Non Current**

Employee entitlements	57,601	41,104
Sundry provisions	180,533	63,682
	238,134	104,786
	238,134	104,786

**Note 8: Contingent Liabilities**

BBM was subject to a workers compensation claim during the 20FY. This claim was fully covered under BBM's workers compensation policy. However, BBM has provided for \$45,000 in relation to any future claims arising from this matter. As at the date of signing of this report, there is no known claim in relation to this matter therefore the full extent of any further claims is unknown.

**Belong Blue Mountains Inc.**  
**ABN 59 334 227 797**  
**Statement by Members of the Committee**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2021**

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The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Committee the Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Belong Blue Mountains Inc. (Previously trading as Katoomba Neighbourhood Centre Inc.) as at 30 June 2021 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
3. the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013 for and on behalf of the Committee by:

  
Ruth Bennett

President

  
David Caton

Treasurer

19 October 2021

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The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.





## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

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### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Belong Blue Mountains Inc. (the association), which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, the Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2021, a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the association as at 30 June 2021 and [of] its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013.

We do not provide an opinion on the entities eligibility or verify the entitlement in relation to the Commonwealth Government Jobkeeper assistance.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Emphasis of Matter – JobKeeper wage subsidy

We draw attention to Note 1(k) to the financial report, which describes the critical accounting estimates and management judgement exercised in relation to the government JobKeeper wage subsidy. The eligibility for the scheme is based upon management judgement and employees declaration of eligibility. Our audit does not include an opinion in relation to eligibility for this scheme. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

#### Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

The special purpose financial statements do not comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards. We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the material recognition and measurement requirements that have not been complied with. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

#### Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The Committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and for such internal control as the Committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

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In preparing the financial report, the Committee is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Signed on this 11th day of October 2021:



William Tomiczek F.I.P.A., Registered Company Auditor 1425  
William Tomiczek & Associates  
66 Emu Plains Rd Mt Riverview 2774





**We recognise, celebrate and thank everyone  
who contributes to the the work of  
Belong Blue Mountains  
for and with the people  
of the Blue Mountains community.**

