

July/August 2019



# Volunteer Newsletter



*Hello...*

**Martin Gardiner** joined Blue Mountains Food Services only a few weeks ago, taking over from Fran O'Leary who left late last year. The Board spent considerable time searching for the right person to take over the role of General Manager. Martin comes to the organisation with significant experience in both commercial & not for profit organisations. His last role was Chief Operating Officer for ParaQuad NSW & BrightSky Australia.

Martin brings considerable experience in improving organisations' finances & business operations. His experience is far reaching, with exposure to strategy development, operating systems, finance, human resources, IT & commercial operations, to name a few.

Reflecting on his appointment Martin said, 'I am honoured & excited to be selected by the Board to lead this wonderful organisation. I have been made thoroughly welcome in the short time I have been here & can feel the enthusiasm the team have for the clients we serve. I look forward to meeting more of the wonderful volunteers & clients who we support'.

Martin has been a Mountain's resident for over 30 years & is married with two grown up children.

*...and  
Goodbye*

After 3 years of working with Blue Mountains Food Services, our much loved Volunteer Coordinator, Celia Lotus has moved on to pursue her life's passion at FACS. In her time at BMFS, Celia has developed many new initiatives including focus groups for volunteers and the introduction of special events. Celia made it her business to know every single one of the volunteers. The esteem in which she was held was evident at the volunteer Thank You function. She will be sorely missed.



You can't miss us anymore with the new signage on our delivery van.

Thank you to Bendigo Bank for making this happen. And our new work vehicles collected last week from Sinclair Hyundai, Penrith. If you see us out & about, make sure you wave!



*New Wheels*



**National Volunteers Week** - Over 70 volunteers, staff and guests attended this year's Volunteer Thank You event. The Function was held at The Mid Mountains Neighbourhood Centre the week before the National Volunteers' Week. The function was catered for by Blue Mountains food services provided by our Cook and Connect Participants . Aboriginal Elder Aunty Carol, Local Member of Parliament Trish Doyle and Deputy Mayor Cr Vanderkley were some of the invited guests presenting awards. This event is our chance to give back to all our volunteers who give so much, day after day, week after week. On behalf of everyone at Blue Mountains Food Services, thank you for everything you do. Local support for our event was at a record high this year with over 60 community sponsors generously donating goods and gift vouchers.

Blue Mountains Food Services would like to Thank the following businesses  
FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

20 Mile Hollow Cafe	2 Blondes Cafe	Alexandra Hotel
Avalon Restaurant	Bendigo Bank Katoomba	Ben Roberts Cafe
Blackheath Automotive	Blackheath General Store	Blackheath Mitre 10
Blue Mtns Theatre Hub	Bygone Beauty's	Botanical Art
Basil Nut Cafe	Pet Hub	Springwood Theatre
Butternut Cafe	Bunnings Valley Heights	Cassiopeia
Cinnabar Kitchen	Conservation Hut	Hydro Majestic
Cr Brent Hoare	Cr Chris Vanderkley	Trish Doyle MP
Ella Bache Glenbrook	Escarpment Group	Fairmont Resort Blue Mtns
Family Hotel	Finn + Co	Flawless Skin & Beauty
Gershgoods	Glee Books Blackheath	Glenbrook Village Nursery
Harmony at Home	Honey Gem Nursery	Hudson's Home Hardware
IKOU	Jenolan Caves	Joan Sutherland Arts Centre
Josophan's Chocolates	Lawson Cellars	Leura Garage
Leura Whisk	Lindsay's Cafe	Longview Nursery
Megalong Books	Moontree Candle Shop	Mountain High Pies
Mount Vic Flicks	Panthers' Glenbrook	Lillianfels
Piedmont Inn	Restaurant Como	Scenic World
Sen Doug Cameron MP	Silks Leura	Starflower Apothecary
Susan Templeman MP	Sunshine Hair Studios	Teddy Sinclair
The Hattery	The Parade Cafe	The Paragon Cafe
United Cinemas Katoomba	Weber's Nursery	Wentworth Falls Pots







## 2019 BMFS Volunteer Award Recipients



**Roslyn Reibelt -  
15 years of volunteering**



**Peter Berry -  
10 years of volunteering**



**Anna Olszeski -  
15 years of volunteering**



**Imelda Yannatos  
10 years of volunteering**

Other Award recipients who were not present:

**Bruce Powell (10 years) John Eva (10 years), Trish Brown (Silver), John Eva (Gold) & Wendy Bugeja (Silver) Ruth Henderson (Silver), Stafford Lowe (Silver)**

All prizes awarded were generously donated by businesses in & around the Blue Mountains.



**Maureen -  
Gold Award**

*Congratulations*



**Paul Munce -  
Gold Award**



**Jacquie Hughes -  
Silver Award**



**Jayne Beverley -  
Silver Award**



**Michael Lehman -  
Silver Award**



**Trina Olman -  
Silver Award**

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## Hello To Our New Volunteer Coordinator

Lesley Connor has joined Blue Mountains Food Services as the new Volunteer Coordinator, replacing our lovely Celia Lotus. Lesley was born in England but spent her early childhood traveling the globe as an army kid. She emigrated to Australia when she was twenty, immediately falling in love with this great country. Lesley's background is in Computer Security and Disaster Recovery planning. More recently she worked as an Outreach teacher at Blue Mountains TAFE, lugging 16 laptops, printer, projector and modem to neighbourhood centres from Blackheath to St Mary's teaching basic computing. Some of you may even have attended her classes.

Lesley absolutely loves working at BMFS. She says it's the best job she has ever had. She enjoys working with the volunteers and meeting all the people in the restaurants, in their homes and the participants in the Cook & Connect classes.

Lesley has four grown up children and is a self-confessed sports tragic.

## Volunteer Opportunities - Can you help?

If you are interested in taking up any of these volunteer opportunities please call 47592811



### KATOOMBA

Prepare and serve meals in our community restaurant

#### Community Restaurant

9:30am- 2pm Monday and willingness to cover other days (Friday or Wednesday) if needed.

*Ideally you will love good food and conversation, be comfortable working in a team and happy to help in front of house and kitchen as needed.*



### BLUE MTNS ALL AREAS

Provide companionship and customised support to older people to remain living independently in their homes.

#### Social Support

*Must be caring, patient and willing to walk alongside someone without doing for them. This role may involve transporting people in your own car, for shopping or other outings.*

### SOCIAL SUPPORT FORUM

Unfortunately we have had to cancel the July Social Support forum due to too many folk being away. In The October forum we will be covering the topic of demystifying smart technology and phone/internet plans for you and your clients

Please contact Lesley if you have any issues with your rosters or any issues in relation to social support. **or Email: [volcoord@bmfs.org.au](mailto:volcoord@bmfs.org.au)**

**OCTOBER FORUM: WEDNESDAY 9TH OF OCTOBER, 10:00AM-12:30PM, LAWSON COMMUNITY CENTRE DINING ROOM, NEW STREET, LAWSON**

#### ALL VOLUNTEERS - PLEASE REMEMBER:

If you are unable to cover your shift please contact Lesley directly on 47592811 or via email: [volcoord@bmfs.biz](mailto:volcoord@bmfs.biz). *\*If you volunteer in any of the restaurants, even if you inform the cook, please still let Lesley know directly.*

**If a client is not home when delivering frozen meals please call Lauren immediately on 4759 2811 and follow her instructions.**

Our service has a duty of care to ensure the client's support person knows asap if a client is not there to receive booked meals.

*All volunteers who claim fuel reimbursement, please complete your fuel reimbursement form monthly and return for processing as follows*

**July 2019 fuel reimbursements due - 10 August 2019**

**August 2019 fuel reimbursements due - 10 Sep 2019**

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