blue mountains BMUC inc unions council

Politics in the Pub

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2014

The precise date the Blue Mountains Unions Council first met is lost way back in the mountain mists of time, but there's strong evidence that this is our 21st year, so it's fair to say we've (at last) come of age.

Politics in the Pub remains one of our main activities and this year events have covered some of the main issues of our times - the housing crisis, increasing casualisation of work, social media and journalism and the steeply rising cost of tertiary education.

Stop the Sell Off: A campaign through letterboxing, surveys and a rally to raise awareness in the Blue Mountains of State Government plans to sell the poles and wires to private industry with over 50 people to date volunteering to participate in the campaign.

The Rod Brooks Scholarship: We are working with the Katoomba High School Principal to take the scholarship in a new direction, extending its scope to include more students.

Winter Magic: Blue Mountains Unions Council, with local union activists, ran a stall at Winter Magic and engaged with hundreds of festival goers through a photo/signage project giving the public a chance to send a personal message to the Federal Government about the unfair Budget.

Other activities: BMUC members attended the annual May Day Parade in Sydney; a large March in March event in Katoomba and events in support of Medicare and TAFE.

Our Face Book and Twitter following continues to grow with 359 followers on Twitter @bmucinc and 200 people liking our Facebook page. We also have a presence on YouTube and SoundCloud.

BMUC News and Blog is attracting a rising readership. I must place on record our appreciation of the great work Mark Gregory has done on running this site for many years. Since its inception in 2005 Mark has done over 3645 posts and the blog has attracted 181,908 page hits.

Mark, a founding member of BMUC, has now moved to Sydney and handed over the blog to Warren Ross.

New Members: It's been a good year for new members with 20 joining up.

Social: Thanks to Dave Butler for throwing opening his home for last year's Christmas Party and Susan and Peter Lammiman for doing the same for this year.

Next Year: With the NSW election coming up 2015 promises to be equally busy with our first Politics In the Pub of the year planned to be a Meet the Candidates session where members of the public will get a chance to quiz candidates on their policies.

Finally, thank you to all of the people and organisations who support our efforts, including those from within BMUC and those from the greater Blue Mountains community. We couldn't do it without your collective support.

Kerry Cooke, President 5th November, 2014