

## News Watch

*naughty weekends, films, gardens, free drinks, books, road works (again)*

- **Rhodo Revue** - Blackheath's Rhodo Revue builds on its established theme of local sketches this year to create a three act musical play, 'Hot Times In Bleakheath'. Under the direction of David Hobbs and the musical direction of Jane E, rehearsals are underway with for four mid November RhodoFest performances. The theme centres around what has euphemistically come to be known as the 'romantic escape' weekend featured over several generations, with some fine costumes from the 20s and 50s. The idea is a Jane E original, developed by herself and David with major musical contributions from Blackheath's jazz emblems, Steve Jewell and Jim Mills. The excellent local cast includes newcomer, Sigrid Langford-Scherf, who brings her West End experience to the Mountains. Jane E has some cabaret runs on the board herself, too, and will perform her own composition "Take Me Away". She says visitors will enjoy, and be amazed, at the standard. "But book early as the locals will snap up seats quickly", she advises – tickets \$25.00, Chateau La Belle, Blackheath, 4787 5700.
- **Film Festival** - With a new look, new name, new sponsors and new venue, the Blue Mountains Film Festival has taken a major leap forward in 2011, Director Tom Taylor told Wonderland. "The festival runs over three days – October 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> – at Scenic World Cinema, with tickets priced at \$15.00 and \$35.00. And we're now asking producers to submit longer films in one of four main categories: animation, drama, documentary and open" – info and ticketing at [bluemountainsfilmfestival.com](http://bluemountainsfilmfestival.com).
- **Irish Pub** - The Carrington Hotel continues its innovation drive with the opening of a new Irish Bar, The Harp and Fiddle in Main St, Katoomba, offering European beers including Guinness and Kilkenny on tap.
- **Everglades** - The National Trust's 'Everglades' has opened a new Visitor Centre in Everglades Ave, Leura, and has fully re-modeled its walks, gardens and signage, Manager Scott Pollock told Wonderland. "There are eight acres of gardens and walks and the best way to see them in Spring is at our family Vintage & Retro Weekend in November" (what's on, p12-15).
- **Greystanes** - Leura's Disability Enterprises has changed its name to Greystanes Disability Services. The Greystanes Foundation was launched at a Lilianfels Gala Dinner, raising \$16,500. Sarah Burnicle, whose sister, Erin, attends the 'Leura Day Options' program, outlined the LDO facilities including hydrotherapy, computer games, massage and excursions. The Foundation's annual Art Exhibition, 'True Colours', with associated events, runs December 7-10 at Lost Bear Gallery – info, donations 4784 1118.
- **Books** - Erin Corscadden, owner of Blackheath's The Hairloom, has opened a free Book Exchange as a non-profit community service. "It operates like a library, only more simply", she told Wonderland. "Bring one in, take one away". The service has proved so popular that Erin needs another large bookcase and is open to negotiating complimentary hairdressing in return for a donation – 4787 8658.
- **Free Car** – And not just any car. Until April, visitors spending \$50.00 or more at a Blue Mountains Lithgow & Oberon Tourism participating business can enter the

- draw for an exotic Australian-made Bufori MK111 La Joya, blending technology with classic 1930s design – [visitbluemountains.com.au/winabufori.php](http://visitbluemountains.com.au/winabufori.php).
- **Free Drinks** – Lt Cdr Peter Churchill (RV, Rtd) celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in Blackheath recently with friends and a letter from his old friend and naval colleague the Duke of Edinburgh. In 1943, Peter joined HMS Renown which had already played a role in the pursuit and sinking of The Bismarck. He brought another Churchill home across the Atlantic after the British PM's strategic discussions with President Roosevelt. "There are a lot of us about, apparently", said the PM on being introduced. Peter recalls changing his name to Lt Cdr Smith for the duration of the voyage, thereby drinking for nothing in the Wardroom at the PM's expense.
  - **Trolley Tours** – A major refurbishment has transformed a former Chinese restaurant into a welcoming visitor service centre featuring an information and ticket counter for Trolley Tours' all day Katoomba/Leura bus services. The centre, with merchandise, pamphlets and maps, was opened by Tourism Minister, George Souris – (+612) 4782 7999.
  - **Roadworks** – ABC Radio's James Valentine recently asked listeners to nominate new world heritage listings ... "things that might interest people in 100 years' time". Sydney fish markets and the Cahill Expressway's corkscrew section featured prominently, with Blue Mountains listeners phoning in ideas for the black panther, Katoomba's rollercoaster ... and the GWH roadworks. "Yep, they've certainly been there long enough to qualify", mused Valentine.

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