

GUIDE TO LIVING AND WORKING IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS REGION



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Welcome to the Blue Mountains Region. This guide is designed to help you smoothly transition into your new life as a lawyer here. Inside, you'll find handy tips and tricks to make settling in easier and more enjoyable.

As the President of the Blue Mountains Law Society, I am delighted to introduce this guide designed to help you discover what life is like in our beautiful region. Having lived and worked here as a lawyer for 12 years, I can personally attest to the lifestyle, stunning environment, and diverse legal opportunities available.

Whether you are relocating or considering a move, this guide provides useful tips and insights to help you explore everything the Blue Mountains has to offer. Our region allows you to practise law in a variety of fields, all within just one to two hours of Sydney, while enjoying the incredible local scenery and lifestyle.

We are ready to welcome new lawyers to join our community and take full advantage of all the benefits our region has to offer.



Craig McGilvray

President, Blue Mountains Law Society

02 4782 2199



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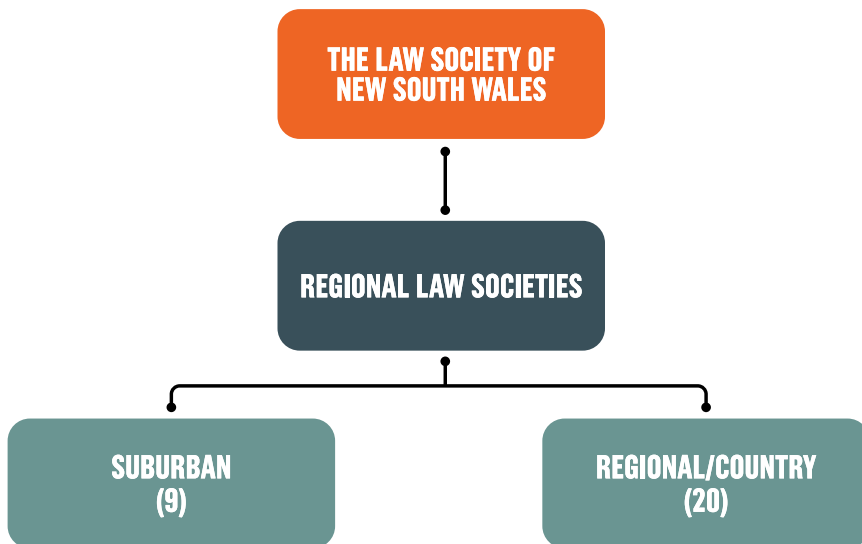
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REGIONAL LAW SOCIETIES

REGIONAL LAW SOCIETIES INFORMATION

The Regional Law Societies (RLS) are professional associations located in each of the 29 regions of New South Wales consisting of both regional and suburban areas. Each RLS focuses on the unique legal needs and challenges faced by its members, facilitating networking events, providing professional development opportunities, and advocating for local legal issues. While each RLS operates as its own independent entity, catering to the specific interest of their respective region, they are connected to the Law Society of New South Wales, which serves as the overarching professional body for all solicitors in the state. The Law Society establishes statewide standards, regulatory frameworks, and resources that the RLS can utilise, while also providing a platform for regional concerns to be communicated at a broader level. This relationship fosters collaboration, ensuring that the interests of local communities and the legal profession are effectively represented.



Check out page 18 to see the list of the Suburban and Regional Law Societies.

WORKING IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS REGION

BLUE MOUNTAINS LAW SOCIETY INFORMATION

The Blue Mountains Law Society represents the area bounded by Glenbrook at the bottom of the Blue Mountains and Lithgow in the west. We play an active role in providing support to local groups such as the local Mountain Youth Services Team (MYST), and to local schools with scholarships and prizes.

As a legal practitioner in this region, you are eligible to join the Blue Mountains Law Society. As a member, you will have access to numerous events where you can earn Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points. The Blue Mountains RLS also hosts various networking and social events throughout the year, providing members with discounts and opportunities to connect, learn, and contribute to the local legal community.

Prospective members can look forward to events, such as CPD workshops, guest speaker presentations, networking, and social gatherings.

Events hosted by the Blue Mountains Law Society over the past year:

- **Annual General Meeting (AGM):**
A key event to review the achievements of the past year, discuss the future direction of the RLS, hear updates on activities, and vote for new office bearers.

- **CPD Seminars:**
Educational sessions led by experienced legal professionals covering topics such as Ethics, Costs, Complaints, Alternative Dispute Resolution, and Practice Management/Succession Planning.
- **Networking and Social Events:**
These events offer members the opportunity to build professional relationships and connect with others in the legal community.

The Blue Mountains RLS offers a variety of events throughout the year, ensuring there is always something exciting and valuable for members to look forward to!

CURRENT REGIONAL LAW SOCIETY COMMITTEE:

President	Craig McGilvray
Vice President	Antony Benetatos
Secretary	Shani Lee
Treasurer	Robert Tinsey
Committee Member	Anthony Steele
Committee Member	Darryl Browne
Committee Member	Lida Szabunia
Committee Member	Brian Oliver
Committee Member	Raj Srikanthan

If you're interested in joining the Blue Mountains Law Society Committee, please contact the Regional President, Craig McGilvray.
T: 02 4782 2888; E: craig@halgingesandco.com.au

NSW YOUNG LAWYERS

NSW Young Lawyers is a Committee of the Law Society of NSW that represents the Law Society and its members on issues and opportunities arising in relation to young lawyers i.e., those within their first five years of practice, or up to 36 years of age.

NSW Young Lawyers supports practitioners in their professional and career development by giving them the opportunity to expand their knowledge, advance their career and contribute to the profession and community.

To be eligible to receive NSW Young Lawyers communications, you must be:

- a member of the Law Society; and
- under 36 years of age; or
- within the first five years of your admission to practice in NSW.

YOUNG LAWYERS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

NSW Young Lawyers is led by the Executive Council. The Executive Council comprises of the Leadership Team and Executive Council.

View the current members of the NSW Young Lawyers Executive Council here:

lawsociety.com.au/YLExecutiveCouncil

Contact NSW Young Lawyers
young.lawyers@lawsociety.com.au

Each year, the NSW Young Lawyers Committee elects a Patron and Charity to support throughout the following year. In 2025, the NSW Young Lawyers Charity and Patron are:

2025 Patron	Lida Kaban, General Counsel, NSW Department of Communities and Justice
2025 Charity	Project Youth

bit.ly/3DULXbE

NSW Young Lawyers has a number of sub-committees each dedicated to a substantive area of law.

Subscribing to a sub-committee is a great way to get involved and meet other early career lawyers.

The sub-committees' activities range from discussing legal developments, preparing submissions to government, producing practice guides, social gatherings, public forums and pro bono activities.

Most sub-committees meet regularly and offer video-conferencing facilities to allow individuals outside Sydney to attend.

Check out the list of the current sub-committees here.

lawsociety.com.au/YLSC

You can also view upcoming NSW Young Lawyers events on our events page.

lawsociety.com.au/YLEvents





MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Practising law can be stressful. The Law Society of NSW has a range of resources to help you take care of your mental health and wellbeing.

STAYING WELL IN THE LAW

The Law Society of NSW runs a Staying Well in the Law (SWITL) program. SWITL covers a range of topics and features a variety of industry experts to highlight and address issues relevant to wellbeing and mental health including:

- Workplace inclusion
- Importance of sleep
- Vicarious trauma
- Building resilience

lawsociety.com.au/SWITL

SOLICITOR OUTREACH SERVICE

The Solicitor Outreach Service is a confidential counselling service for NSW solicitors. This service is funded by the Law Society of New South Wales but is operated entirely by an independent third-party provider, and solicitor usage is not identified by or reported to the Law Society, to solicitors' employers, or to any other party. The Solicitor Outreach Service provides solicitors with access to:

- Up to three free individual counselling sessions per financial year with a registered psychologist; and
- Unlimited 24/7 telephone crisis counselling with a registered psychologist.

NSW solicitors can access this service through the [link](#) found on the Law Society of New South Wales website or call the Solicitor Outreach Service directly on 1800 592 296.



THE LAW SOCIETY OF NSW MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING WEBSITE

The Law Society of NSW's mental health and wellbeing website has a wide range of information on mental health and wellbeing.

lawsociety.com.au/MentalHealth

FURTHER GUIDANCE

The Law Society of NSW offers several avenues for advice and support.

Ethics Committee:

The Law Society of NSW Ethics Committee can provide guidance to solicitors on Ethical issues. Members of the Committee are practising solicitors from a variety of practice types and geographic areas.

Ethics Assistance Line:

The Law Society of NSW ethics assistance line provides solicitors with practical and confidential guidance to resolve ethical dilemmas and to help avoid complaints from clients or colleagues. This free service is open to all solicitors and operates from 9 AM to 5 PM Monday to Friday. You can reach them at (02) 9926 0114.

To find out more about ethics support, visit the Law Society of NSW website.

lawsociety.com.au/LEthics

Supervised Legal Practice:

The Law Society website offers a wealth of knowledge on successfully completing your Supervised Legal Practice (SLP), including details on remote supervision arrangements.

lawsociety.com.au/SLP

ENTERTAINMENT

WHATS ON IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS REGION?

Life in the Blue Mountains is more than just work. With year-round events and activities, there's always something to enjoy. From local markets and festivals to outdoor adventures and cultural experiences, the region offers something for everyone.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS HELD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR INCLUDE:

Blue Mountains Cultural Centre

Located in central Katoomba, the Cultural Centre includes the Blue Mountains City Art Gallery, Katoomba Library, and Into the Blue, an interactive exhibition exploring the region's natural and cultural history – A great option for rainy days or art and history lovers.

loom.ly/otl0fGY

Blue Mountains Elvis Festival

A must for Elvis fans! Held annually in August over four days, the festival showcases Australia's best Elvis tribute artists, along with themed events, dancing, and live entertainment.

loom.ly/1XQ6V6U

Blue Mountains Markets

Discover fresh local produce, handmade goods, and unique artisan creations at these monthly markets:

- Springwood Growers Market – Fourth Sunday of the month
- Magpie Markets – Third Sunday of the month
- Blackheath Growers Market – Second Sunday of the month

Perfect for a relaxed weekend wander, and a great way to support local makers and growers.

loom.ly/_dG0i4Q

Blue Mountains Music Festival

A vibrant three-day celebration of folk, roots, and blues held in March across multiple venues in Katoomba, featuring local and international musicians.

bmff.org.au

Blue Mountains Stargazing

Join a 90-minute guided night-sky tour led by an astrophysicist. Use telescopes to view constellations, planets, and deep-space objects under some of NSW's clearest skies. A captivating experience that everyone can enjoy.

loom.ly/IsQjeDI



Blue Mountains Writers Festival

Hosted in Katoomba, this unique literary event brings together acclaimed authors, emerging writers, and readers for a weekend of talks, workshops, and special events. Celebrate storytelling and creative connection in the heart of the mountains.

loom.ly/vUrrhMM

Winter Solstice Ball

Held at the iconic Carrington Hotel, this annual June event features a spectacular fireworks display, a three-course dinner, drinks, live DJ, and prizes for the best dressed. A magical way to celebrate the longest night of the year.

loom.ly/Mau_dM8

Horseback Riding

Explore rugged valleys and scenic trails on horseback with guided rides through Kanimbla Valley, Megalong Valley, and Oberon.

loom.ly/dR9JWBM

Rock Climbing, Abseiling, and Canyoning

Experience the thrill of climbing, abseiling, and canyoning in the Blue Mountains. Expert guides lead safe adventures for all skill levels amid stunning mountain scenery. Whether scaling cliffs, descending rock faces, or exploring canyons, get ready for an experience you won't forget.

loom.ly/vUrrhMM

MUST SEE ATTRACTIONS

The Blue Mountains and surrounding areas boast a rich blend of natural wonders, cultural gems, and unforgettable experiences to discover.

Artisan Bakeries

Sample the best breads and pastries at beloved spots like Black Cockatoo Bakery (Lawson and Katoomba), Hominy Bakery (Katoomba), Wentworth Bakery, and Patisserie Schwartz (Wentworth Falls).

Blue Mountains Bushwalks

Choose from hundreds of trails ranging from gentle valley walks to challenging cliff-top hikes. Popular routes include the Grand Canyon Loop, Wentworth Falls Track, and Prince Henry Cliff Walk.

Camping & Glamping

Enjoy traditional bush camping at Old Ford Reserve, Euroka Campground, or the remote Acacia Flat, all within NSW National Parks. For a more luxurious experience, try glamping options like bubble tents in the stunning Capertee Valley or pet-friendly log cabins and cottages at Turon Gates, offering a perfect escape into nature.

Glow Worm Cave

Experience the enchanting glow of thousands of glow worms lighting up the walls of this magical underground cave, creating a mesmerising natural light display.

Jenolan Caves

Discover one of the world's oldest cave systems with guided tours through magnificent limestone chambers, underground rivers, and fascinating rock formations.

Megalong Valley Wineries

Nestled in a picturesque valley, these boutique wineries offer tastings of handcrafted wines from local grapes, the perfect spot to relax and savour the region's flavours.

Mount Tomah Botanical Gardens

Explore this cool-climate garden, home to a diverse collection of native and exotic plants, with seasonal blooms and panoramic views over the Blue Mountains.

Scenic World

Located in Katoomba, Scenic World offers breathtaking panoramic views of the Jamison Valley via the world's steepest passenger railway, the Scenic Railway, as well as the Skyway and Cableway rides.

The Three Sisters & Govetts Leap

Visit the famous Three Sisters rock formation at Echo Point and take in breathtaking views of the Grose Valley from Govetts Leap.

World Heritage Area

Explore over 1.03 million hectares of stunning sandstone plateaus, dramatic deep gorges, and iconic eucalyptus forests. This protected region offers breathtaking natural beauty and making it a must-visit destination for nature lovers and adventure seekers.

Zig Zag Railway

Travel back in time on a heritage steam train through the Blue Mountains' scenic bushland. This historic railway uses switchbacks to navigate steep terrain, offering stunning views of cliffs, valleys, and native wildlife.

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Get to know and immerse yourself in the community by joining any of the groups listed below.

Blackheath History Forum

An engaging and well-regarded series held during the cooler months in Blackheath, bringing together leading historians, authors, and community members to explore a wide range of historical topics. The forum offers thought-provoking discussions on Australia's past and its relevance today, providing a meaningful space for lifelong learners, history enthusiasts, and locals to connect.

loom.ly/1dufYFO

Blue Mountains Theatre and Community Hub

A vibrant cultural and community space at the heart of the region, the Hub hosts a diverse program of theatrical productions, live music, comedy, exhibitions, and creative workshops. It also serves as a gathering place for local events and festivals, fostering artistic expression and community connection. Whether you're an artist, performer, or audience member, the Hub offers enriching opportunities to engage with the Blue Mountains' thriving arts scene.

loom.ly/ZCRuFGs

Blue Mountains Tourism Association

The Blue Mountains Tourism Association brings together local tourism operators and businesses to promote the region. Recognised by Destination NSW and Blue Mountains City Council, it supports sustainable tourism and marketing. Members benefit from discounts, exclusive events, media exposure, and strong industry connections.

loom.ly/ZCRuFGs

Katoomba Chamber of Commerce

An active business network dedicated to supporting economic development, promoting local enterprise, and fostering a strong sense of community. The Chamber provides a platform for business owners, professionals, and community leaders in Katoomba to collaborate on initiatives, share resources, and contribute to the town's ongoing growth and vibrancy.

katoombachamber.com/

Local Rotary Groups

Several active Rotary clubs serve the Blue Mountains community, including the Central Blue Mountains Rotary Club, Rotary Club of Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise, Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains, and Rotary Club of Katoomba. These groups focus on community service, leadership development, and supporting local and international charitable projects.

loom.ly/3u3G6iU

TIPS FROM OTHER EARLY CAREER LAWYERS

Q. What is the one thing you wished you had known before moving to the region?

- A.**
- House prices are lower than those in Sydney in an area that is within close proximity to Sydney.
 - People do not realise the socio-economic diversity of the area. It is easy to meet people, and it is a welcoming community.

Q. What is the best kept local secret?

- A.**
- Pickleball at the Sports and Aquatic Centre in Katoomba.
 - The Carrington Bottle Shop and Front Bar.
 - Two Doctors Whiskey Tavern at the Fairmont
 - Bootleggers

Q. What is your advice for early career lawyers who have recently moved?

- A.**
- Stay warm in winter!

Q. What exciting road trips would you recommend in your region?

- A.**
- Road trips to the Central West are a must—explore Orange, Bathurst, and Mudgee. Also, Mount Wilson, Jenolan Caves, and the Mount Tomah Botanic Garden offer stunning natural beauty and peaceful getaways.

Q. Where is a great coffee place?

- A.**
- Black Cockatoo Bakery, Lawson & Katoomba
 - Café Leura
 - Cassiopeia, Katoomba
 - Sparrows, Leura
 - Wentworth Bakehouse, Wentworth Falls

Q. Where is the best place for after work drinks?

- A.**
- Bootleggers Bar, Katoomba
 - Front Bar at the Carrington, Katoomba
 - Mountain Culture Beer Co., Katoomba
 - New Ivanhoe Hotel, Blackheath
 - Station Bar, Katoomba

Q. Where is the best place for a meal?

- A.**
- Ates, Blackheath
 - Blaq, Blackheath
 - Boss Noodles, Katoomba
 - Pho Moi, Katoomba
 - Station Bar, Katoomba
 - Tempus Café, Katoomba
 - Victory Café, Blackheath



DIRECTORY

BLUE MOUNTAINS LOCAL AND DISTRICT COURT HOUSES

All Courts in NSW can be contacted by phoning 1300 679 272.

Court Registries at each Local Court will generally only be open when the Court is operating.

Katoomba Local & District Court

- 5-7 Civic Place, Katoomba NSW 2780
- PO Box 209, Katoomba NSW 2780
- 1300 679 272
- local-court-katoomba@justice.nsw.gov.au

Lithgow Local Court

- Mort Street & Bridge St, Lithgow NSW 2790
- PO Box 18, Lithgow NSW 279
- 02 6352 7300
- local-court-lithgow@justice.nsw.gov.au



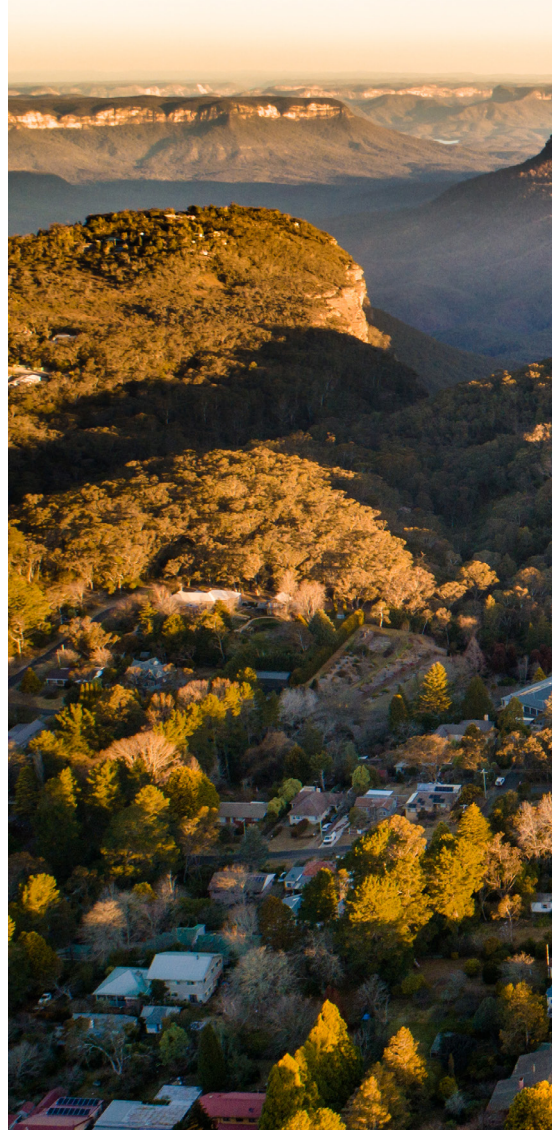
Who sits where?

Katoomba Local & District Court

- His Honour Magistrate S Hughes
- Her Honour Judge J A English

Lithgow Local Court

- His Honour Magistrate S Hughes





LOCAL FIRMS

We have a large number of firms that can be found on the “Find a Lawyer” page of the Law Society of NSW website. This resource allows you to search for legal firms and practitioners by region, providing access to a comprehensive register of lawyers and their current practices.

lawsociety.com.au/localfirms

SUBURBAN AND REGIONAL LAW SOCIETIES

A network of 29 Regional Law Societies ensures the Law Society's work is relevant and accessible to practitioners no matter where you are.

Regional Law Societies (beyond a 32-kilometre radius from the Supreme Court in Sydney):

- Albury & District Law Society
- Blue Mountains Law Society
- Central Coast Law Society
- Central West Law Society
- Clarence River & Coffs Harbour Law Society
- Far North Coast Law Society
- Far South Coast & Monaro Law Society
- Far West Law Society
- Hunter Valley Law Society
- Macarthur Law Society
- Mid-North Coast Law Society
- Nepean Hawkesbury Law Society
- Newcastle Law Society
- North & North West Law Society
- Orana Law Society
- Riverina Law Society
- Shoalhaven & District Law Society
- Southern Tablelands Law Society
- South West Slopes Law Society
- Wollongong & District Law Society

Suburban Law Societies (within a 32-kilometre radius of the Supreme Court in Sydney):

- Bankstown & District Law Society
- City of Sydney Law Society
- Eastern Suburbs Law Society
- Inner West Law Society
- Liverpool & Fairfield Districts Law Society
- Northern Beaches Law Society
- North Metropolitan Law Society
- Parramatta & District Law Society
- St. George-Sutherland Law Society



RESOURCES FOR YOUR REGION'S LEGAL COMMUNITY

The Law Society offers a range of resources to support the diverse legal communities in the regions. For more information, please visit the Regional Law Society page.

lawsociety.com.au/LSResources

AUTHORS

This guide was carefully curated by the passionate and dedicated Blue Mountains lawyers of the Blue Mountains Regional Law Society.

Thank you to the following Lawyers who contributed to this booklet.



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SCAN QR CODE