

LOCAL NEWS

Hot meals for Hunter families in need



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By Editor



f **One hundred hot meals will be cooked and served free of charge to Hunter Valley families and individuals in need this month, thanks to Malabar Resources and Blackroo Industries.**

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p *'Malabar's food, friends and conversations'* event will take place on Sunday 27 June at the Muswellbrook Senior Citizens Hall. The event is fully funded by Malabar with Blackroo helping to coordinate and encourage families to attend.

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"It's really an opportunity for people to come together in a warm place over a meal, to speak with one another and form connections," Blackroo's De-anne Douglas said.

"The threat of hunger and not knowing where your next meal will come from is a real issue facing too many Australians, made worse by the economic shocks of the coronavirus, bushfires and floods.

"Hot meals are so important, but of greater long-term value is the opportunity to establish personal bonds with others in the community. These relationships help ensure no one is left behind when life isn't going to plan."

De-anne is the Work Placement Coordinator at Blackrock Industries, a 100% Indigenous owned service company, and Mentor for its Second Chance for Change program.

She also spearheads Blackroo – a Community Hope Program to support locals in need through direct assistance.

“I was so grateful when Donna from Malabar approached me to partner with them on this event,” she said.

“I’m looking forward to seeing it all come together and to hear from our community about their needs going forward and the gaps we can help fill.”

Malabar’s manager of Health, Safety, Environment and Community, Donna McLaughlin, said the event is a fantastic opportunity to engage with the community and provide support for those doing it tough this winter.

“We’re hoping that something so simple as a hot meal can help those who might be struggling financially and also bring the community closer together.

“Kicking off at 6.00pm, we’ll be serving roast beef, lamb and vegetables, chicken nuggets for the kids, and cake for dessert.

“We’ve also organised for a hairdresser to come and provide free hair-cuts for the kids.”

The winner of the lucky door prize will go home with a food hamper.

(Story supplied)

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