



BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE NEWSLETTER Jan. / Feb. 2021

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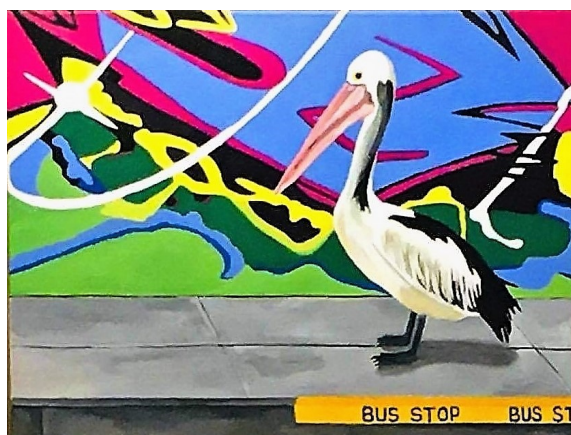
FACEBOOK: bmcac

bmcacsaturdaypotters

Paintings from our exhibition "Escaping Isolation"



Alison James



Ethan Haldane



PLEASE NOTE

**OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD
ON SATURDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2021
AT 2 PM**

**DUE TO A WORKSHOP IN THE PURPLE BUILDING,
IT WILL BE HELD IN THE JADE STUDIO .**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR A GRANTS WRITER AND A PUBLICITY OFFICER.
ALL BMCAC MEMBERS ARE WELCOME**

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FROM THE EDITOR

This year the Chinese lunar new year is being celebrated in the sign of the Ox. To have the strength of an ox would definitely be an asset during the ongoing tribulations of Covid-19, and beyond.

Starting the year, be it lunar or solar is an opportunity to clear our house of any bad luck and fraught assumptions from last year and welcome in good fortune and renewed creativity.

Perhaps it's worth remembering here what Degas said about the muses: "Alone and in a state of collectedness – that is how the antique represents them. If by any chance they get together, it is not to talk; talking degenerates into argument. It is to dance that they gather. They don't mix otherwise..."

Please send contributions for "Creations" to rudich7@dodo.com

Rudi Christen

Get in touch with us ! We like to hear from you.

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Ingrid RUSSELL	Vice President & Arts Director	0423 124 473	bmcac.mail@gmail.com
Bronwyn CAMPBELL	Secretary & Pottery Facilitator	0411 041 054	a.b.campbell@optusnet.com.au
Liz BRYDEN	Publicity, Gardening, Grants & Life Drawing	0447 474 462	ebryden@bigpond.com

Welcome back everyone,

The committee are looking forward to another year of organising classes, workshops and exhibitions, hopefully with less restrictions than 2020, but we will be up for any challenges that get thrown our way.

There are a number of things that I'd like to mention in regard to COVID-19.

Firstly, we thank you all for continuing to follow any of the Covid-19 requirements that the centre must follow, including signing in with the QR code. If for any reason you are unable to sign in with the code please let your teacher know so that we can mark it down on the roll or sign in manually on the sheet at the door.

Secondly, while masks are no longer necessary for us at this point, we know that this can change at any time and the centre must follow any public health order that is made. We will keep our students up to date with any changes and will expect our staff and students to adhere to the rules unless they have an exemption. We appreciate your support in these matters.

Currently there is still some work being done around the centre, on the main building, and you will notice some of the trees will be getting removed over the next week or so as we have now got the funds to do so and their removal has been necessary for a number of reasons including dying trees, roots causing damage and for safety. This work will be carried out as quickly as we can have it done with a mix of volunteers and professionals completing the various jobs.

There was an exhibition, Escaping Isolation, held at the end of January in our main room. This exhibition was the result of the Jade Yurt being leased by three artists and the exhibition being part of that lease. It was a successful weekend with 20% commission on sales going to the Centre and increased sales and foot traffic in our Hare St Gallery. If you are interested in renting the yurt let us know, we are willing to look at any proposal you may have.

Our Annual Members exhibition is in April so start planning what you would like to exhibit. We are also currently planning our Print Prize for this year and looking for sponsorship for prizes so if you are interested in being a sponsor or know someone who might be please email us.

Our AGM is on the 27th of February and committee positions will once again be decided. Let's make this a fantastic year!!

Your president,
Alison James

ART DIRECTOR'S REPORT *Ingrid Russell*

Enrolments for term 1, 2021 went mostly smoothly. We enrolled 101 students over 18 classes. All pottery classes are full and other classes are also either close to full or at least viable. We did lose the Wednesday evening silver jewellery class so we will need to find a teacher to offer a class for that evening and time. I think an oil and/or acrylic painting class would be good but am open to other ideas and offers. Email bmccac.mail@gmail.com with offers, ideas or request applications.

Hare St Gallery report

Third quarter gallery sales continued to increase, December was particularly good. We lost a number of members but have also gained one. First quarter started 30th January and the exhibition on that weekend drove many visitors to the gallery resulting in sales, as did having enrolments in the gallery.

Ingrid

LIFE DRAWING REPORT *Liz Bryden*

The Life Drawing Group is an established art group within BMCAC and has been operating with volunteer support since the 1970s.

This is a tutor-less group but you will have the opportunity to hone your life drawing skills while sharing the cost of a live model. You will also be able to learn by sharing the experience with other life drawers who will be using different techniques and mediums.

The sessions are suitable for beginners through to experienced artists.

New members are welcome! The Coordinator is Liz Bryden. If you have any enquiries please contact me via email: ebryden@bigpond.com or 0447474462

Schedule: The Life Drawing Group meets twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Fridays. You do not have to book, just come along.

Time: 10am to 1pm (3 hours) with a break for coffee/tea which is provided.

Venue: Blue Mountains Creative Art Centre on the corner of Hare & Moore Streets, Glenbrook (purple building)

Cost: \$20 per session to cover the cost of the model and room.

Materials: We provide easels, donkeys or tables so you just need to bring along a backing board and your art materials. Only odourless drawing materials may be used.

Covid requirements:

Please do not attend if you are unwell. We comply with social distancing and hygiene

Life Drawers must also be a BMCAC member for insurance purposes. Annual Membership is \$50, or \$25 after June. For a one session only attendance, an additional amount of \$10 is required for insurance coverage, that is a total of \$30 on the day. Importantly, you can pay membership online or at the first life drawing session. Membership forms are available.

Becoming a BMCAC member entitles you to participate in BMCAC's Annual Members' Art Exhibition and you can receive a discount on your art supplies from some stores. You will also receive BMCAC's bi-monthly "Creations" magazine which is full of art news and events.

The first three hour session this year will be held on the 19th February. We hope to see you then.

POTTERY FACILITATOR'S REPORT *Bronwyn Campbell*

Ingrid and I spent a couple of days last week giving the pottery room a good spruce up. The large blue wheel has been sold to create more space for our existing wheels. To improve the safety of the many power cords running from the wheels, new power boards with individual switches have been purchased and will be attached permanently to the wall when our very busy builders have time. Could the teachers ask throwers to turn off their individual wheels on the power board after use and could the teachers check that the power is turned off at the 3 main switches at the end of each session. We would ask everyone to wash any tools and equipment thoroughly before putting them away. Dirty tools create dust and make our environment a health hazard.

Seven new banding wheels have been purchased. These are ideal to use for hand building, glazing and putting on accurate bands of colour.

I am in the process of consolidating our glaze ingredients. They are in roughly alphabetical order on the very top shelf, from left to right. Just a reminder to old and new pottery members that these ingredients are available for anyone to use for tests – we ask that you share your test results with the other potters. We do have larger amounts of some ingredients stored in the kiln room that you may purchase at half Blackwattle catalogued prices. Just check with me if you wish to purchase. All these ingredients have been kindly donated.

TERM 4 2020 WEDNESDAY BEGINNERS CLASS – FIRST TIME THROWERS



I would like to thank Alan Campbell who created some flexible shelving to give us more storage space. Also, thank you to David Attwood and David Russell who continue to give help and advice to improve our very small facility. David Attwood had the unenviable task of loading up the mess that was outside the kiln room and took it to the dump. We had let that area get totally out of hand. We would like to keep that area as free of rubbish as possible in future as mess encourages critters including snakes.

Contin. next page

Next holiday a long needed Painting Bee is planned. All hands will be welcome.

The Nepean Potters have moved into their refurbished rooms at St Marys, but they are having some delay with the kilns being reinstalled, so some may still be using our kilns for a month or two.

The Nepean Pottery Society have been asked by Lewers Gallery to hold a sale /demonstration day at the gallery on the 23rd August (*Tentative date at this stage.*) Jan, their President , has asked if the BMCAC potters would like to participate. If you are interested please contact me on 0411041054.

I have created one book for booking all 3 kilns this year, as we now know for sure that only one kiln can be fired at a time. Firing fees remain the same.

Over the holidays I read Greg Daly's book "*Glazes and Glazing Techniques*". If you are interested in creating your own glazes this is full of useful information. Including different testing procedures with colour plates/recipes of his results and some step by step instructions of how to reproduce some interesting glaze finishes on your pots using multiple glaze layers. This book is in our library in the main room. Below are some of his useful hints:

Glaze the inside of your pot and outside as soon as possible. Don't do inside one day and outside the next – *can cause cracking*

Spray the bottoms of your pots first.

An inexpensive glaze gun is a reversible vacuum cleaner. It has a large jet giving an acceptable result.

Before adding a 2nd or 3rd glaze to the inside of a bowl, wax resist the rim and under the lip so when you pour of excess glaze you are left with a neat finish.

Add gum acacia, arabic tragcanth to give better strokes when painting on oxides.

Sieve your glazes frequently and always stir before dipping as some glazes settle very quickly. *I have one glaze that settles in seconds.*

Below are two pots from my last 2020 firing.



Sprayed shino glaze and ash.



Base glaze, dipped tenmoku, sprayed chun and red glaze with painted rutile/iron wash.

Please send Rudi or me your photos for Creations. We love to show our members' work no matter what the stage you are at.

Wishing you spectacularly successful pots. [Bronwyn Campbell Pottery Facilitator 0411041054](mailto:Bronwyn.Campbell@nepeanpottery.com.au)

OTHER BUSINESS

Banking

In changing times it seems banks will soon no longer accept cheques. Therefore in order to be able to pay teachers, creditors and exhibitors we will be using direct debit for these payments. Members will be notified if they need to supply bank details to receive payments.

Building Co-ordinator's Report: Tabled by David Russell

The eastern wall of the main building will be completed after the eaves have been painted. The internal wall, damaged by the construction on the outside, needs some minor repairs.

Ken, the electrician will soon be installing extra lighting.

The next big job is the construction of the much needed front path running past the Jade Studio to the main building.

Aprons

The committee is looking to sell aprons to raise money for our centre. Please keep an eye out for some posters with details - that will be placed in the main room and pottery room. If you are interested in purchasing an apron, please place your name on the forms provided.

Christmas Fair

It was decided that Christmas time is not suitable for an event due to the pressures on everyone's time. Bronwyn suggested a once a term event might be the way to go.

THE CHAINS OF FREEDOM

"Freedom," says Picasso, "one must be very careful with that. In painting as in everything else. Whatever you do you find yourself once more in chains. Freedom not to do one thing requires that you do another, imperatively. And there you have it, chains. That reminds me of a story of Jarry about the anarchist soldiers at drill. They are told: right face. And immediately, since they are anarchists, they all face left.... Painting is like that. You take freedom and you shut yourself up with your idea, just that particular one and no other. And there you are again, in chains."

Poetry Corner

Rainer Maria Rilke

Sonnets to Orpheus II, 29

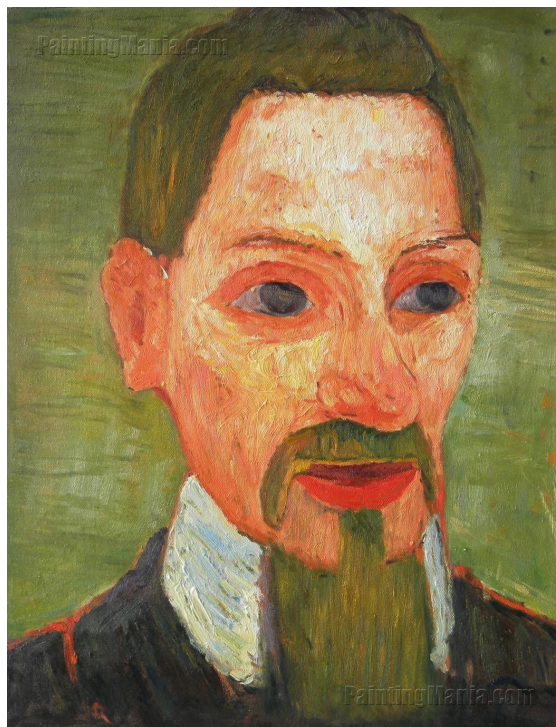
*Quiet friend who has come so far,
feel how your breathing makes more space around you.
Let this darkness be a bell tower
and you the bell. As you ring,*

*what batters you becomes your strength.
Move back and forth into the change.
What is it like, such intensity of pain?
If the drink is bitter, turn yourself to wine.*

*In this uncontainable night,
be the mystery at the crossroads of your senses,
the meaning discovered there.*

*And if the world has ceased to hear you,
say to the silent earth: I flow.
To the rushing water, speak: I am.*

Translated by Joanna Macy and Anita Barrows



Paula Modersohn-Becker,
unfinished Portrait of Rilke,
1906

WHAT'S ON ?

Workshops, Galleries, Exhibitions, Prize Entries, Coming Events

IMPORTANT DATES

Sat. 27 Feb. 2021, 2pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING , due to be held in the **Jade Studio**
all BMCAC members are welcome.

Next Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, 1 April.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Fri. / Sat. 27 / 28 February 2021 – Print Making workshop with Katherine Kennedy.

Watch out for proposed Jewellery Workshop by Jane Tadrist throughout the year.

CHECK OUR WEB PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS.

BLUE MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTRE

30 Parke Street, Katoomba 2780

Gallery and Shop: Monday – Friday 10am – 5pm, Saturday + Sunday – 10am – 4pm

Blue Mountains Portraits 2021 23 Jan – 7 Mar

Blue Mountains Portraits is the Cultural Centre's annual celebration of the local community and its diverse members. The exhibiting artists portray the unique people that make up the cultural fabric of the Blue Mountains and tell the stories behind the person. Over forty artworks in a broad range of styles and media such as painting, photography, drawing, collage and mixed media will be exhibited together with a selection of local students' work.

Gary Shinfield: Landscapes of Anxiety 23 Jan – 7 Mar

In the exhibition Landscapes of Anxiety artist Gary Shinfield explores ideas based around three geographical forms that dominate landscapes of the Blue Mountains – plateau, escarpment and valley. These landforms are reinterpreted as formal, subjective and metaphoric images carrying memory of recent and future events; drought, fires, flooding and human presence. The plateau, a place of stability and human habitation; escarpment, referring to a fall and dramatic change in direction; and valley, a place of nurturing and healing. The artist uses relief printing (etched lino and woodcut) on hand-made paper, shown unframed and as installation.

BRAEMER HOUSE & GALLERY

104 Macquarie Road, Springwood 2777

Gallery Hours: Monday – Friday 10am – 5pm, Saturday + Sunday – 10am – 4pm

Suzie Salisbury: The Land of Dreams, 21 January – 14 February 2021

As children we imagine our toys have real personalities and a life of their own that grown-ups are completely unaware of. In the hands of a child, toys become heroes or villains and have the power to transport their owners to another dimension where anything is possible. Dolls, teddies, robots and more live in a land that is surreal yet strangely familiar and allow us to imagine what we may become.

Alison Rose: Dogs of Springwood. 21 January – 14 February 2021

At first glance, Alison Rose's dog portraits capture a likeness or glimpse into the personality of the 'Dogs of Springwood'. The exhibition looks at connection: connection of owners to their pets, connections to each other, and connection to community. Whilst working in the art shop in Springwood, Alison was inspired to create drawings of dogs who either visited the shop with their owners or waited patiently outside.

Sebastien Gueydon: From stone age... 21 January – 14 February 2021

From stone age... is a reflection of the intrinsic power of human beings. Borrowing from primitive sculptures and tools, the carved stones capture the struggle between fragility and roughness. The sculptor uses his strength to turn stone to harmonious art at the risk of irreversible destruction.

FUTURE EXHIBITIONS 18 February – 14 March 2021

Christine Hyde: Nature's Resilience Reimagined

Sarah Frost, Emily Lane and Mary Muss: The People We Are



PENRITH REGIONAL GALLERY

86 River Road, Emu Plains

The Gallery is open daily from 10am – 3.45pm

BONITA ELY: MEMENTO Until 28 February 2021

Mementos are the objects we surround ourselves with, as a reminder of the past – both distant and more recent. In this exhibition Bonita Ely presents work that draws connections between human experience and the physical and psychological environments that we inhabit. *Plastikus Progressus* presents a futuristic museum that traces the history of plastic waste and its impact on the natural environment, including photography, a fictionalised timeline and several 'creatures' that Ely has speculated as genetically modified consumers of plastic rubbish. With *Interior Decoration*, the artist looks inwards to consider the chronic, intergenerational effects of post-traumatic stress disorder as the result of conflict.

MAPBM: FABRIK Until 28 February 2021

The exhibition, *Fabrik*, which will be presented in Lewers House, will explore the idea of the material object, as well as the processes of making and unmaking of textiles, clothing and papers. These objects often exhibit a seductive beauty and are major components of the contemporary cycle of production and consumption. The exhibition also includes the questioning of the environmental and social impacts of production and their retailing. These impacts include the human rights and social justice of instances of the use of child labour, inadequate wages, labour movements and poor and unsafe working conditions. The artists involved in the project are Vivienne Dadour, Anne Graham, Beata Geyer, Ian Milliss and Ebony Secombe and Fiona Davies (curator).

OUR VALUED SPONSORS



2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ENROLMENT DAYS

Term 2 24th April

Term 3 17th July

Term 4 9th October

Mothers Day 8th May 2021

MEMBERS' EXHIBITION: 24th-25th April

Planning a formal opening Friday night 23rd

LIFE DRAWING EXHIBITION:

No Life Drawing Exhibition is planned for 2021 at this stage

PRINT PRIZE: 26th 27th June.

Opening night 25th.

Drop off 20th June - Collection 27th June

ART PRIZE: 18th -19th September

CLAY CREATIONS EXHIBITION: 16th -17th October

Planning a formal opening Friday night 15th.