



BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE NEWSLETTER Sept.-Oct. 2021

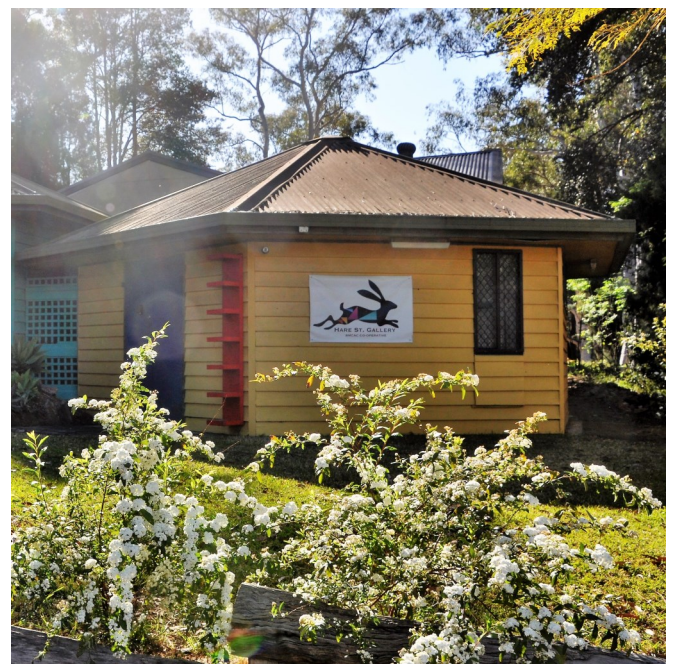
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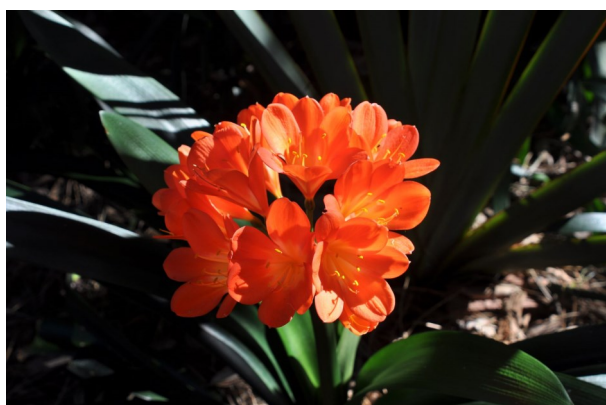
To discover the intrigue about this chicken, turn to page 10.



Meanwhile, our Centre is awaiting activities to resume.

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(Road Map out of the Lockdown)
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Yet another lock-down edition of 'Creations'! Once again, there are only a few contributions since no activities are to be reported.

But our president Alison James has diligently gleaned some sense and practical guidance from the NSW Government rulings about Covid for our future activities.

David Russell has dived into his extensive sketch-book to provide reviews of two recently completed building projects at our Centre.

Katrina Jago has set an example by engaging with the 'Free Your Creative Spirit' campaign promoted by the Penrith City Council.

Our sister organisation "Blue Mountains Creative Art Network" (BMCAN) requested to share their newsletter's response to Covid.

And please, enjoy some spring flowers from my garden!

Post us your thoughts about your own art practices to rudich7@dodo.com. We would love to read your contribution in 'Creations'.

In this flowering spring season, let's hope you are creatively blossoming.

Rudi Christen



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

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BMCAC Return to Teaching 2021 Policy: Road map out of the June 26th Lockdown

The NSW Government has released its road map out of lockdown and have set clear guidelines that must be followed by businesses in order to be able to re-open their doors.

Following these guidelines BMCAC will be returning to teaching classes from the 25th of October 2021 (unless we are able to open earlier).

There will be a number of requirements for this to be able to occur. The following will inform BMCAC policy and will be expected to be adhered to by all teaching staff and students attending the Centre.

Vaccinations

- From October 11 fully vaccinated teaching staff and group/workshop facilitators will be able to enter BMCAC premises. This is in line with the policy of NSW Health and Department of Education. Proof of vaccination will be required.
- Fully vaccinated adult students and members will be able to enter the premises and will need to provide proof of vaccination to the coordinator.
- Children will not be expected to be vaccinated unless it has been or becomes a NSW Public Health order requirement or a NSW Department of Education requirement.
- Any teacher or student that has a medical exemption must show proof of exemption.

Masks

Masks will need to be worn indoors by all teachers and students from 12yrs of age onwards. This will be required until the NSW Public Health order no longer requires them to be worn indoors.

Hygiene

Teachers and students will be expected to adhere to Covid-19 hygiene standards as far as hand sanitiser/hand washing and not coming to a class if they are sick.

Teachers and students will be expected to provide a negative Covid test/or doctors certificate upon returning to class if they were absent due to illness.

Social Distancing

All teachers and students will need to maintain a 1.5m distance between each other.

The Centre capacity will be 1 person per 4sqm until otherwise changed under the NSW Public Health order.

LGA Areas of Concern

Teachers or students who live in an LGA 'area of concern' will NOT be permitted to attend the Centre.

This policy will be subject to change as guidelines from the NSW government and NSW Department of Education update their own policies in keeping with the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The BMCAC Committee thanks you for your understanding as we continue to do our best in providing a Covid-19 safe environment for all of teaching staff and students.

Groups and Workshops

All participants in 'drop in groups' and 'drop in access' as well as workshops will also be expected to follow the above guidelines.

At last there is a tiny flicker of light at the end of the Covid tunnel.

The speculated NSW government date for opening up is the **Monday 25th October**. If this plan stays on track, I plan not to have a regular drop in session that night but will provide an opportunity for potters to come and pick up their long yearned for pots from 6:30pm. If you wish to come that night, could you please text or email me and let me know what time you think you might come so I'm not waiting into the night on the off chance of a late comer. I may have to ask you to wait outside if we have too many at one time. Please wear a mask. The following Saturday morning will also be an opportunity for people to pick up pots.

The following week, **Monday the 1st November**, we will begin the Monday drop in group for six, double vaccinated, mask wearing, intrepid explorers of the post lockdown world. Please text or email me indicating your intention to become part of the Monday group along with proof of your double vaccination status. It will depend on demand whether we need to open a Tuesday night group.

KILNS

At the time of writing, Baby Bear is still waiting to be repaired

As the kiln room will be difficult to keep sanitized, I am proposing that only Alison, Ingrid or I will fire pots for the remainder of the year. This is to avoid many hands handling pots and accessing the kiln room. The immediate priority for firing will be given to those members who have pots they want fired for entry into the Art Prize (2 pots per person). If you could leave your pots in the pottery room in a box with your name on it, type of clay, bisque or glaze firing and indicating they are for the Art Prize, they will be transferred to the kiln room and fired ASAP.

POTTERY TIP: *Spraying your unfired glazed pot with a good layer of hairspray will help protect it during transportation.*

SOMETHING TO WATCH: Greg Daly Talks about his pots for the "Light & Reflection" Exhibition in this video: <https://www.skepsigallery.com.au/curren-1>

I found this very interesting as he talks in depth about the inspiration for glaze effects that he gains from the beautiful country area he lives in. This site also leads into another very interesting video about Koji Hoaski who has an exhibition at the Skepsi Gallery.

Of course, if you have any questions please Ring me on: **0411 041 054**

or email: a.b.campbell@optusnet.com.au

Recent work by
Bronwyn Campbell

Unfired bird bath,
white raku, under-
glaze decoration.



Greg Daly

Greg bisques his earthenware pots to 1160 to give the body strength.

Glaze fires from 1060 - 1080 and finally does a lustre from 700 - 800.

Alert - Life Drawers

Sad to say, due to covid restrictions and the ongoing uncertainty around covid generally, the decision has been made to cancel life drawing sessions for the remainder of 2021.

I am sure everyone would have liked to return for the twice a month sessions however the sessions would have been constrained under the regulations which would have meant the likelihood that some life drawers would not be able to attend. Given this situation, we would therefore not have been able to cover the cost of the models etc. which would have been a problem for BMCAC.

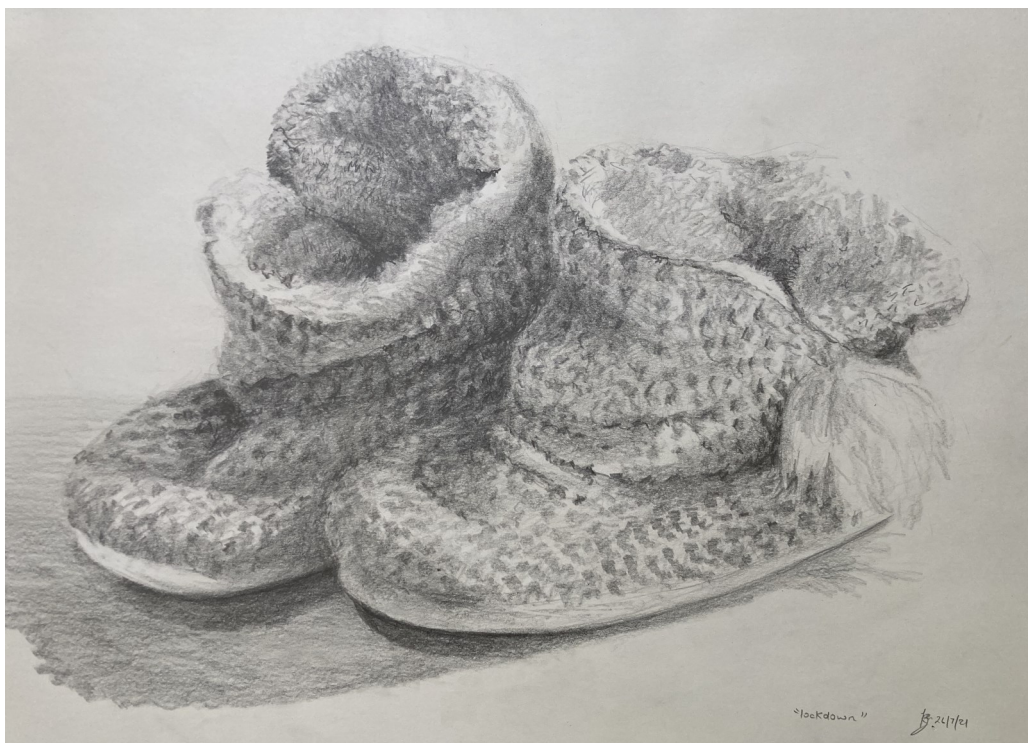
Still, 2021 has been an interesting year and mostly positive. We have all had the chance to experience a variety of models and meet like minded artists while practising our drawing skills. This in the face of all the obstacles which shows how dedicated life drawers are.

I hope while we are not meeting, that you are all coping with the restrictions and are at least able to pursue your creative interests at home and share the experience with your families. Maybe zoom friends too with your efforts!

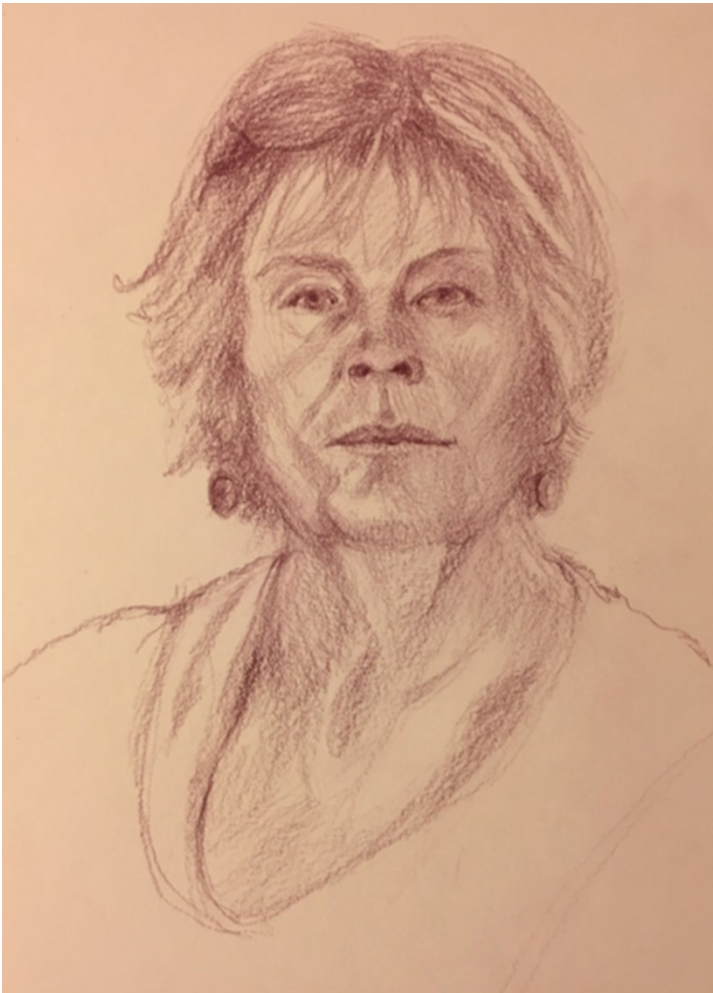
I will let you know our plans for 2022 and wish you all the best for the remainder of 2021 and beyond. Please contact me if you have any concerns via email: ebryden@bigpond.com

Regards,
Elizabeth Bryden
Coordinator, Life Drawing, BMCAC

Meanwhile, members of the Life Drawing group have been drawing at home.



Katrina Jago has drawn her 'booties' that kept her cosy during our enforced winter hibernation. "I've been living in these slippers for so long now, they've become like old friends".



Liz Bryden comments on her self portrait as follows: "Sadly, I haven't had anyone else to draw (apart from the dog) and so have been trying out different mediums including pencil and paint but obviously see myself differently each time. But it's a learning curve. Also looking into a mirror has made me realise how I am looking more like my mother as I get older, a bit of a concern but to be expected".

Rudi Christen drew his lock-in companion Catherine who was unable to return to Victoria after paying a visit.



Term four was scheduled to start October 11 but of course due to COVID lockdown the start date was moved to October 25.

Term 4 will end December 3 to make way for the Art Prize which will bump in December 5, hang the following week and open December 11&12.

This means term four will have six weeks. Teachers will discuss with students possible ways to make up the extra time when classes resume.

Please read the COVID Return Policy in this edition to familiarise yourself re vaccination and mask wearing.

Hare St Gallery Report

The gallery will reopen as soon as restrictions allow.



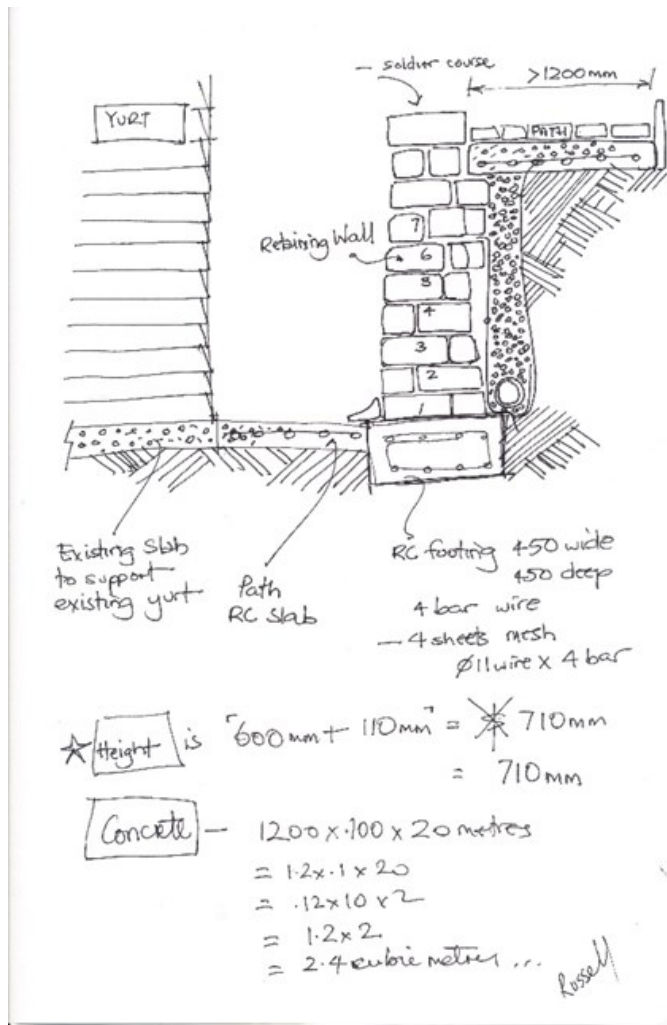
Springtime daffodils (ceramics) made by Ingrid. www.iggirussdesigns.com

“It’s always good to see sketches come to fruition

Main Building Eastern Wall



Jade Yurt Retaining Wall



The next project will be to install a path from the front of the Jade Yurt to the main building. All is structurally sound and the boys (a.k.a. the two Dave's) are ready to go.

Free Your Creative Spirit

Katrina Jago

Penrith City Council has asked some of its students from TAFE Nepean Arts & Design Centre to assist in a community campaign by creating some fun, original works to inspire people to get creative at home during lockdown. I've created a directed drawing of a chicken and put on the pavement outside my house. It finishes just outside my chicken coop where many locals often stop to say hello to 'Philippa' and Rosie', my chickens. Whilst drawing this, many neighbours have said that they love seeing the chalk drawings around Glenbrook. Some children at the end of our street often put inspirational messages on their footpath which always brings a smile. People even leave chalk in their letterbox to encourage them to do more.

The campaign is called, 'Free Your Creative Spirit' #wecreatepenrith.

Running now till Oct 3.

The public are being encouraged to create things at home, from what is immediately available to them. They can display them in their front yards, on driveways and footpaths and then post their photos on social media using #wecreatepenrith. Anyone can post their creations to the hashtag, to help inspire others. People living in the Penrith LGA have a chance to win a \$100 voucher for their creative efforts.

I think it's a great program to help increase people's sense of social connection, despite being physically distanced.

Penrith City Council encourages residents to free their creative spirit during lockdown - Penrith City Council

Penrith City Council encourages residents to free their creative spirit during lockdown.

Details Written by Teela Griffin Penrith City Council (02) 4732 7777 (02) 4732 7958

<https://www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au>

601 High St Penrith NSW 2750 Australia

Published: 10 September 2021

<https://www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/news/penrith-city-council-encourages-residents-to-free-their-creative-spirit-during-lockdown>





ARTBytes Newsflash - MAX21 Online at last

The extended COVID-19 lockdown in Greater Sydney has forced us to cancel the in-person MAX21 Artisans Fair and related events. However, we have been busy considering alternatives for this years' MAX21. And, like you, we really would like to celebrate our brilliant local arts and crafts. We have developed an ongoing MAX21 website (<https://max21.com.au/>) to celebrate and promote our artisans and artists who agree to be part of this project. The website is now live with work continuing to add more creatives.

We are presenting the MAX21 website as a promotional platform for artisans and artists to exhibit their works, to promote their various touchpoints on the internet, and to draw them into the growing Blue Mountains Creative Arts Network where we can still continue to promote them this coming October with special initiatives which we can then continue throughout the year and into 2022.

We also hope we can encourage more artists to be listed on the site to make it an attraction, so their work becomes more visible to the general public. This will create wide interest in new work and the opportunity to connect with new buyers.

We offer links from artists' pages on the MAX21 site to their online shops or to our MAX21 website shop which will launch soon. There will be regular promotion on MAX21 Facebook and Instagram pages, BMCAN Facebook and Instagram pages, inclusion on other affiliate websites, and our marketing partners' webpages.

If you are a Blue Mountains artist or artisan and this is of interest to you, contact us at info@max21.com.au.

If you are a BMCAN member and wish to be involved we do have special rates so contact us now.



Poetry Corner

Roberto Matta (1911 - 2002)

Testimonial for Phillip Martin

«Where do you live?
— in THINGS that alienate you more everyday
from a real consciousness of yourself?
Because, you know, there are ways to eliminate THINGS
and choose human values, the human issue in every situation —
Phillip Martin is a man
Phillip Martin creates these calendars
these lists
these foundations for you
The foundations of a house of values,
human, symbolic and menacing values
Keep your head.
You may still survive from the surrounding art of
today where the most are bragging about their infermities,
their ignorance, their unconsciousness (look ma! no minds)
You may survive with Ph. Martin
if you follow him
if your heart follows his heart.»

MATTA



Phillip Martin (1927 - 2014) *Affiche 127, Formentera, 1958*

A Blast From The Past

44 The Blue Mountains Gazette, Wednesday, October 24, 1990

BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATIVE ART CENTRE

Glenbrook Garden Centre

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your convenience

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Blue Mountains
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20 Ross St., Glenbrook
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BLAXLAND

Cnr Layton Ave and
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Di Jones and staff
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Building project



Discussions commenced some 2½ years ago and a design providing separate gallery and pottery with additional teaching (workshop) area and improved amenities storeroom was finally settled upon for the Blue Mountains Community Arts Centre.

The distinctive hexagonal buildings were chosen for their interlocking qualities (implied and actual), display potential and their ability to become a discussion focal point. Following the building's acceptance, layout was approved which allowed for expansion and creative design of a total arts centre complex.

Financing of the project was by grants from the Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme (NSW Government), Blue Mountains City

Council and the Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre Incorporated whilst labour (except for essential services) was voluntarily provided by BMCAC members.

Physical work was commenced after council approval with surveying in November 1988 and pouring of floor slabs in January 1989.

Valuable assistance, by way of providing generous discounts, has been without exception, forthcoming from all suppliers of materials.

Following completion of this project, the BMCACI plans to embark upon a follow-up project — to replace the original building (ex RAAF) with a hexagonal building of about 2-2½ times the floor area of those in the first project, and to provide a small version, as a pottery kiln room.

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Group has grown

The Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre was commenced in 1973 by a handful of interested locals.

It is a community group whose main aim is to create and promote an interest in all forms of art and craft.

of the buildings was transferred to the BMCAC about eight years ago. The ensuing problems of ownership sowed the seeds of expansion amongst the membership.

The Raymond Street Gallery closed 2½ years ago, following a change in ownership of

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