



BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE NEWSLETTER

Jan.-Feb. 2024

WEBSITE: www.bmcac.org.au

FACEBOOK: [bmcac](#), [bmcacsaturdaypotters](#) &
Blue Mountains Printmaking Ink

INSTAGRAM: [lifedrawing_glenbrook](#)



'The Gentle Project' at Clifton School of Arts and Wollongong Art Gallery (see p. 12)

**The date for the AGM has been changed
and will now be held on
Thursday night 7th March, at 7pm
in the main room.**

Our 'Hare Street' Centre is located on the traditional homeland of the Dharug and Gundungurra people. We recognize and pay respect to the traditional custodians of country past, present and emerging.

CONTENTS

- 3 Nominations for the 2024 Committee,
- 4 President's Report,
Art Director's Report
- 5 Pottery Facilitator's Report,
- 6 Printmaking Facilitator's Report
- 8 Other Reports & Business
- 9 Katrina Bodey Exhibition
- 11 Bird Drawing Workshop
- 12 'The Gentle Project'
- 13 Poetry Corner
- 14-17 What's On?



BMCAC EVENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
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5 Feb. - 29 March	TERM 1
Thu. 7 th March 7pm	AGM
Fri. 3 May - 5 May	BMCAC Members exhibition
Sat. 5 Oct. & 6 Oct.	BMCAC Art Prize
Fri. 25 Oct. - 27 Oct.	BMCAC Members exhibition
Blue Mountains Print Prize in 2025	

EDITOR'S NOTE

BMCAC had a flying start this year. Some workshops were held already.

Workshop spaces for potters and print-makers were cleaned up and refurbished by working bees, as detailed in the reports.

Life Drawing facilitator Katrina Bodey was sponsored to have an exhibition about her Crocodile project at the new 'Gallery NWC, 188' in Katoomba in January (p. 9 & 10).

Enjoy the report on 'The Gentle Project' (p. 12) and an account and video by Joy Myers Creed about Zorana's bird drawing workshop (p. 11).

For further inspiration you might consider visiting the excellent ceramics exhibitions on show now (P.13 & 15), or entering the 'Mini Art Prize' (p.14).

The big exhibitions at Art Gallery of NSW are still on: Kandinsky until 10 March and Louise Bourgeois until 28 April.

Welcome to another year of creating. Enjoy your art and, please send contributions for 'Creations' to:

rudich7@dodo.com

Rudi Christen

Creations' Editor

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

Alison JAMES	President & Workshop Coordinator	0416 957 688	arty_ali@hotmail.com.au
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

NOMINATIONS for the 2024 COMMITTEE

President: Alison James

Nominated by Bronwyn, seconded by Ingrid

Vice President: Ingrid Russell

Nominated by David, seconded by Cheryle

Secretary: Bronwyn Campbell

Nominated by David Attwood, seconded by Cheryle

Treasurer: David Russell

Nominated by Ingrid, seconded by Alison

Arts Director: Ingrid Russell

Nominated by Bronwyn, seconded by Gus

Workshop Coordinator: Alison James

Nominated by Ingrid, seconded by Cheryle

Grants Officers: Janet Langfield and Jeannie McInnis

Nominated by Alison, seconded by Bronwyn

Head gardener: Liz Bryden

Nominated by Alison, seconded by Jennie McInnes

Creations Editor: Rudi Christen

Nominated by Bronwyn, seconded by Joy

Librarian: Gus Carrozza

Nominated Cheryle, seconded by Rudi

Building Coordinator: David

Nominated by Alison, seconded by Jeannie

Life Drawing - available

BMCAC Committee members

Jeannie Mc Innes

Nominated by Bronwyn, seconded by Cheryle

Joy Myers Creed

Nominated Bronwyn, seconded by Rudi

If you have been a BMCAC member for more than 12 months, you are eligible to be nominated for any of the above positions, if supported by two other members. Send your nomination with supporting signatures to Bronwyn, at least 7 days before the AGM. If there is more than one member nominated for a position, a secret ballot will be held. We have spaces for extra general committee members, if you don't want to be considered for the core positions. Every member is very welcome to attend the AGM.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *Alison James*

Welcome back everyone,

If our first month is anything to go by, with numerous groups booking in to use the Centre in what is traditionally a quiet period for us, I think 2024 is going to be a very fun, creative and productive year at our Centre.

I'd like to say hello and welcome to our new members, please keep an eye out for the newsletters and we encourage you to participate in all the extra activities that we have on offer each year. Be courageous, jump in and give things a try, no matter what you think your skill level is in comparison to others. We won't bite, I promise, we are a pretty encouraging group.

To all of our regular members, thank you once again for supporting the Centre and I look forward to seeing your creations and progress.

The committee hopes that you will all feel welcome, inspired and comfortable to share your thoughts and ideas with us and look at bringing some of them to life at the Centre.

Your president,

Alison James

ART DIRECTOR'S REPORT *Ingrid Russell*

Welcome students and teachers to 2024. We've had 77 enrolments across 16 classes. There have been some gains and some losses.

Monday Printmaking has lost most of its students to Thursday night. Tuesday painting didn't get any enrolments unfortunately. Monday night drawing is going ahead, as is Wednesday night watercolours, and Thursday afternoon pen and wash. Both mosaics classes are going ahead. All three adult pottery classes have the numbers to go ahead as well as three kids pottery classes. Monday kids art didn't get the numbers but Friday Mixed bag is ok.

Hare St Gallery

The gallery has reopened on Saturday February 03. Anyone thinking of joining, please contact me, 0423124473 or email bmccac.mail@gmail.com

POTTERY FACILITATOR'S REPORT *Bronwyn Campbell*

We have had 22 pottery enrolments so far for 2024, so hopefully we will have a very productive year.

On Saturday the 3rd of February we held a Pottery Working Bee. I can't tell you how surprised and grateful I was that we had so many turn up. Everyone was so helpful and obliging and we were able to accomplish a lot.

All the kiln shelves were ground (where necessary) and painted with 2 coats of batt wash. The floor was washed. We still have a bit of sprucing up to do in the kiln room, including washing down the shelves.

If any member has or knows someone with a diamond toothed saw, we would be very grateful to have some kiln shelves and props cut to size to fit our kilns. We have a number of donated shelves that are just not quite the correct size and we have a number of cracked shelves that would be more useful if we could cut them down. We would be willing to pay as I know the diamond saws are very expensive.

The pottery room was thoroughly cleaned from top to bottom. All the class glazes and underglazes were checked and consolidated and catalogued. Thank you particularly to Annie Wilcox because that was a very big job.

I would ask all members to please make time each session to thoroughly clean their own work space, including washing down the floor particularly around /behind the wheels.

We have decided to reintroduce tea/coffee facilities that were on a pause during Covid, Janet Langfield has kindly offered to sort that out. Remember you can have access to the fridge/microwave in the main room, if needed, as I am aware sometimes members come straight from work and need to eat.

The committee has been asked to look into getting a second electricity circuit put in so that we can fire more than one kiln at a time and also to look into purchasing a new kiln to replace the aging Mother Bear.

Once again I would like to thank the following people who worked so hard on the day of our working bee:

Janet Langfield, Annie Wilcox, Fiona Leslie, Michael Dausmann, Louise McDonnell, Annette Macrae, Hailey Wardman, Andrea Wardman, Susan Kerr. It was such a joy to see everyone working so hard together to rejuvenate our work space.

Looking forward to seeing all your wonderful new creations.

BMCAC Pottery Facilitator - Bronwyn

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**Ceramic tile and hanger fresh out of the kiln by Cathy Campbell.
Underglaze and carved decoration, stoneware clay, fired to 1280.**



PRINTMAKING FACILITATOR'S REPORT *Cheryle Yin-Lo*

A second printing press has been installed in the BMCAC Print Studio. Thank you to David Attwood for transportation of the press and Jeannie and John McInnes for their assistance installing the press.

Monday Printmaking class has changed to open printmaking session: Drop-in and Print from 9.30am to 12.30pm

Print Studio has had major clean up ready for Term 1 in 2024 with new Thursday night class commencing on 8 February which is now booked out.

We had many enquiries and requests for the community to go on waiting lists and printmaking courses on the weekend. This will be explored and offered in March 2024 .

There were no enrolments for the Exploring Painting in acrylics and oils on Tuesday mornings 10am-1pm.

Congratulations to Katrina Bodey for outstanding solo exhibition at the new NWC Gallery in Katoomba which was a result of her winning the 2023 Emerging Print Prize at BMCAC.

I look forward to reconnecting with returning students and new students to the Printmaking program and look forward to the interesting work that will be produced in Term 1.

Paid members to BMCAC can join the Printmaking community at BMCAC for \$15 and book in for Drop-In and Print sessions.

Follow Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre bmcac.org.au

Follow Facebook Blue Mountains Printmakers Ink

Instagram #bluemountainsprintmakersink

This is the BMCAC printmaking group where we can share your work, techniques and printmaking news.

Cheryle Yin Lo

BMCAC Printmaking Tutor & Printmaking Studio Facilitator



Space clear and plenty of room for two printing presses.

OTHER REPORTS & BUSINESS

Building Co-ordinator's Report:

David has fixed the loose floorboard in the main room. The one near the door is yet to be repaired.

Publicity Officer's Report:

Andrea has done posters to advertise classes for social media.

Librarian's Report:

Gus reported he was checking the Street Library each time he is on gallery duty.

Wheelchair Ramps: Further discussion was held on the ramps to aid wheelchair access. We are looking into having a metal one built.

Security door codes: Since a few difficulties have arisen with our door codes, it was decided that the security codes be changed every 6 months. Alison will be in charge of overseeing the code changes.

Power Chisel: It was decided that we buy a power chisel at a cost of \$399 to make Alison's tree carving much easier.

Social media use: Alison requested that all social media site posts by teachers and facilitators should include the main Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre Facebook site.

Electrician: Ken, our electrician, was given a \$50 meal voucher to thank him for all his work around the Centre.

Victor Peralta: The committee would like to thank Victor Prelata very much for his time as art teacher at our Centre. His classes were extremely popular. The class produced some exceptional work during his time with us. We would like to wish him well for his future endeavours.

WIFI: Cheryl suggested we get WIFI

Bar Code: Janet to create a bar code for members to use at art and craft supply shops (Eckersley's, Col-our Art) as proof of membership.

WORKSHOP COORDINATOR'S REPORT

A number of workshops were conducted during the break in January:

The paint group met on Tuesdays.

Cheryle's drop-in and print group happens on Mondays from 9.30 to 12.30.

Mosaic group met.

Nature Craft reunion was held by Andrea.

Janet ran a pottery workshop on Sunday, 4 Feb.

On Sunday, 18 Feb. Natasha Bagge is running a card-making workshop.

On Sunday, 10 March Chalk Painting is happeningt with Sue Jeffries .

She can be contacted on 0407918593 Or email sue@secondtimeround.com.au

Katrina Bodey Exhibition

by Rudi Christen

Congratulations to Katrina Bodey for an outstanding first solo exhibition in her new artistic career.

Katrina was the winner of the Blue Mountains Print Prize 2023 "Emerging Artist Award".

'Skin & Bone: Northern Territory Crocodile' was her sponsored exhibition courtesy of Gallery NWC, 188 Katoomba Street, Katoomba NSW 2780.

The exhibition was on show from 18 January to 29 January 2024, with the opening celebration being held on Saturday 20 January.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

"SKIN & BONE Northern Territory Crocodile", by Katrina Bodey, is an exploration of the amazing, ancient creature, *Crocodylus porosus* and its environment. These works are a response to two weeks Katrina spent in Larrakia country in the NT with a local licensed crocodile catcher, where she was immersed in the world of the saltwater crocodile".



Katrina



Full House for Katrina's exhibition at Gallery NWC ,Katoomba

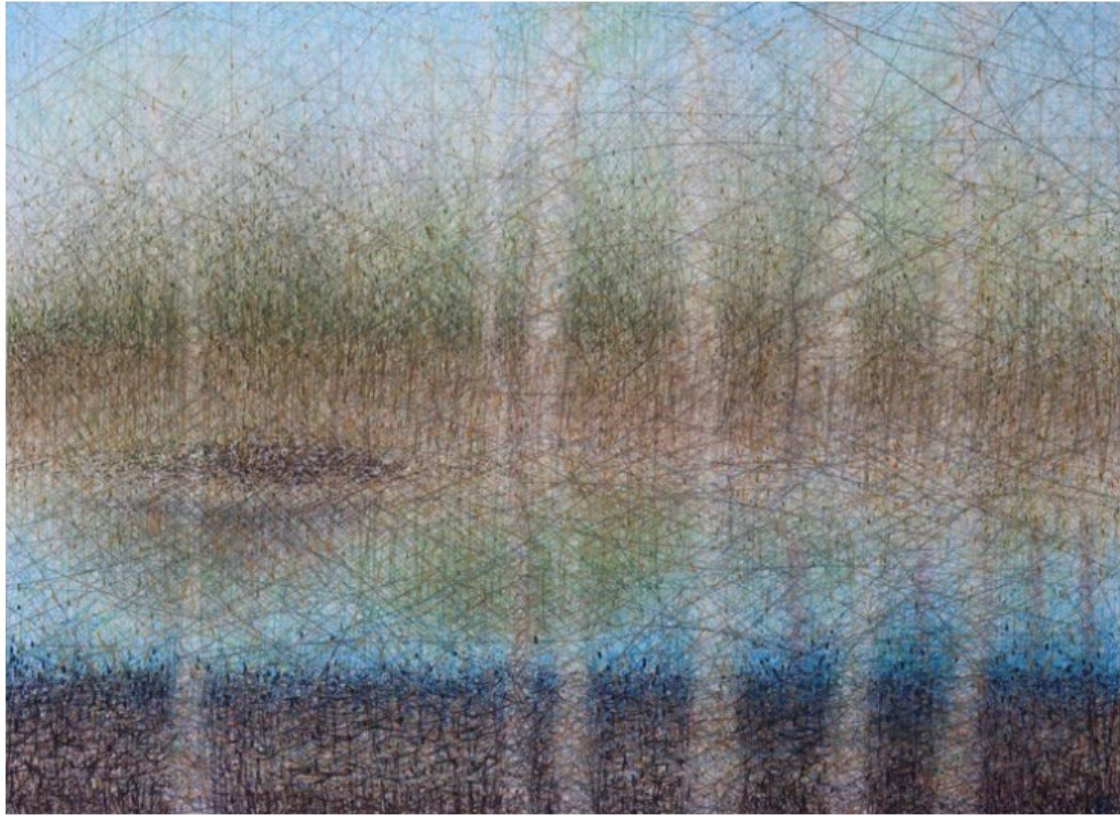


Wendy, Sheila and friend enjoying the party



Admiring the Diptych

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Larrakia Country, "Drummed" pigment Drawing, 55cm x 75cm



Omnipotence, Charcoal diptych, 163.8cm x 109.4cm

Power, Charcoal diptych, 163.8cm x 109.4cm

Bird Drawing Workshop 16/12/23

by Joy Myers Creed

I was excited to join this workshop especially the 'after lunch' promised treat of an opportunity to see and handle native black cockatoos. This was a unique and amazing experience facilitated superbly well by the tutor Zorana as well as Sarah, the other expert bird handler.

The morning session was conducted by Zorana in an extremely helpful and practical way with thoughtful ideas of the best way to draw birds. She gave us photocopies she had prepared for us to keep. Her talk and demonstration of feathers was an eye opening revelation to me. She told us how we could know where a feather came from, why it was shaped and grew the way it did. By examining it we could know what its purpose was and this also showed us the distinct differences between them.

You will see from the short video contained here that we each had the fantastic pleasure and delight of a very close and personal contact with the birds. We were encouraged to ask questions by the handler and so we received intimate knowledge of each individual bird. I think every one who attended used their phones or a camera to record a plethora of images to use later and so remember and possibly use to draw from.

If Zorana gives another workshop at our Centre I recommend you enrol even if you're not a serious drawer as most of us are entranced by birds and so will find the time well spent, enjoyable as well as



→ Click to watch video



IMG_0295.mov

'The Gentle Project'

by Rudi Christen

On the second weekend of the new year some of us life drawers made our way to the South Coast. The occasion was the opening of a retrospective exhibition of sculptures by Ian Gentle at the Clifton School of Arts which at one time had also been this artist's studio. Later we continued to Wollongong Art Gallery where many more of his works were on show.

Ian Gentle once remarked: "Good ideas are hard to come by". His singular vision and unique execution were indeed good ideas. And true to his name his works seem to reflect his gentle interactions with the local natural world.

BMCAC member Sheona White was the Curatorial Producer of 'The Gentle Project', and curator of *Gentle at Clifton* exhibition. She also wrote a chapter and co-edited the commemorative catalogue.

Our visit was altogether an inspiring adventure. This lovingly curated exhibition continues to 3rd March Wollongong Art Gallery. Gentle at Clifton finishes at 5 pm on Sunday 25 February.



Mossie, Eucalyptus wood, date unknown



Bush Rat, ca.1992, Eucalyptus wood, 83 x 50 x 39 cm



Low Tide Low Life, 2008, Eucalyptus wood, 180 x 40 cm, Collection of Felicity McGregor

Bonfire Opera

Danusha Laméris

*In those days, there was a woman in our circle
who was known, not only for her beauty,
but for taking off all her clothes and singing opera.
And sure enough, as the night wore on and the stars
emerged to stare at their reflections on the sea,
and everyone had drunk a little wine,
she began to disrobe, loose her great bosom,
and the tender belly, pale in the moonlight,
the Viking hips, and to let her torn raiment
fall to the sand as we looked up from the flames.
And then a voice lifted into the dark, high and clear
as a flock of blackbirds. And everything was very still,
the way the congregation quiets when the priest
prays over the incense, and the smoke wafts
up into the rafters. I wanted to be that free
inside the body, the doors of pleasure
opening, one after the next, an arpeggio
climbing the ladder of sky. And all the while
she was singing and wading into the water
until it rose up to her waist and then lapped
at the underside of her breasts, and the aria
drifted over us, her soprano spare and sharp
in the night air. And even though I was young,
somehow, in that moment, I heard it,
the song inside the song, and I knew then
that this was not the hymn of promise
but the body's bright wailing against its limits.
A bird caught in a cathedral—the way it tries
to escape by throwing itself, again and again,
against the stained glass.*

American Poetry Review VOL. 46/No.3, *Bonfire Opera*

WHAT'S ON ?

Workshops, Galleries, Exhibitions, Prize Entries, Coming Events

SABBIA'S 2024 PROGRAM WILL BE LAUNCHED WITH OUR FIRST TWO EXHIBITIONS OF THE YEAR

The exhibitions are open to the public until 24 February

THE GAFFERS + JANICE VITKOVSKY

Sabbia Gallery director Anna Grigson has held an annual curated exhibition promoting the wonderful world of glass art in Australia since 1996, each year focused on a different group of artists and curatorial premise. In 2024 the attention turns to the hot shop, blown glass and the artists that are integral through their high skills, support and friendship to many of our foremost and recognised makers.

To launch our 2024 exhibition program Sabbia will be presenting one of our most anticipated exhibitions, 'The Gaffers', concentrating on the brilliance of these selected artists in their own right. The exhibition will be a wonderful display of new work by these innovative and talented creatives.

Selected exhibiting artists:

Annette Blair

Kristel Britcher

Scott Chaseling

Billy Crellin

Ben Edols

Marcel Hoogstad Hay

Laurel Kohut

Madeline Prowd

Tom Rowney



Sabbia Gallery is pleased to present this solo exhibition by Janice Vitkovsky. This is the artist's first solo exhibition for a number of years and the wait has been well worth it with an extraordinary new body of work, her finest to date.

The artworks present ideas which explore perception, variation, and impermanence. Working with pattern, geometry and colour, Janice is interested in 2 and 3 dimensional space, how they interrelate, and communicating a sense of the precarious, exposing a fluid dimension that illustrates our subjective experiences and how we build meaning. Focusing heavily on exploring the applications of the historic Venetian murrine technique. This technique allows intricate patterns to be embedded in the glass which presents the opportunity to play with more patterns that optically shift as the viewer moves around the work, causing subtle shifting and vibrations.

SABBIA GALLERY

www.sabbiagallery.com

Director: Anna Grigson

609 Elizabeth Street

Redfern, Sydney, NSW, 2016, AUSTRALIA

+61 2 9361 6448 gal-

lery@sabbiagallery.com

Tues-Fri 11am to 6pm, Sat 11am to 4pm

[instagram.com/sabbiagallery](https://www.instagram.com/sabbiagallery)

[facebook.com/SabbiaGallery](https://www.facebook.com/SabbiaGallery)

SABBIA GALLERY

Curating Matters #48

BARRY WHITE & DARREN JOL

+

THE ASTUTE ARTIST - MINI ART PRIZE

GALLERY NWC - 188 Katoomba Street, Katoomba NSW 2780

A WALK IN THE PARK

A duo exhibition featuring landscape paintings by Barry White and welded steel sculptures by Darren Jol.

THE ASTUTE ARTIST - MINI ART PRIZE

Emerging artists (within 5 years of graduation) and current students were encouraged to enter the 'Astute Artist - Mini Art Prize'. Winner announced Saturday 3 February 2024 from 5pm.

Gallery NWC Open: Thursdays - Mondays 10am - 4pm

Exhibition runs 1-12 February 2024.

Katherine Kennedy



THE SUMMER SHOW



We invite you to visit the Gallery to enjoy our Summer Show which will continue to 10 February. We have an exciting mix of ceramics by Australian and Korean artists including the beautiful moon jars of Woochang Kim. A contemporary ceramicist living and teaching in Sydney, he describes his work as focusing on a form that provides comfort and harmony; the moon jar that expresses itself only through its shape and simple colours. He wishes to give the viewer peace of mind and appreciation that stems from simplicity and humility: a beauty that exists within the spiritual realm.

Woochang Kim has incorporated the traditional Korean moon jar shape with subtle colours of Australia: the white clouds, the white sands and the white colours of the Australian moon, blending his Korean heritage with what he terms *the Australian Whites*.



Moments of the Sea vessel by Caressa Gonsalves



Vessels by (l to r) Bruce McWhinney, Woochang Kim



Pericarp plinth pieces by Asahi So. Petite works 8 - 11cm high, including ceramic plinth. Stoneware and wire.

49 - 51 King Street, Newtown NSW 2042

+ 61 2 9550 4433 info@gallerylnl.com.au

instagram @galleryloweandlee

Monday - Saturday 10am - 5:30pm

BLUE MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTRE

30 Parke Street, Katoomba 2780

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

[Blue Mountains Portraits 2024 - Blue Mountains Cultural Centre](#)

3 February – 17 March 2024

[Collectors' Edition #10 - Blue Mountains Cultural Centre](#)

10 February – 3 March

PENRITH REGIONAL GALLERY

86 River Road, Emu Plains

The Gallery is open daily from 10am – 3.45pm

[Tephra - Penrith Regional Gallery](#)

[Collection in Focus: Between Urgency and Leisure - Penrith Regional Gallery](#)

[Anchor Points: Twelfefold - Penrith Regional Gallery](#)

All 13 JAN - 28 APR