



BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE NEWSLETTER March. 2024

WEBSITE: www.bmcac.org.au

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

INSTAGRAM: [lifedrawing_glenbrook](#)



Catherine McCorkill, *'Ivor Houston: On Foot Across Australia'*, Oil on Linen, 2022, 36 x 48 inches

Main prize winner- People's Choice, 2023 Blue Mountains Portrait Award, Katoomba,
Blue Mountains Cultural Centre.

Catherine is a BMCAC member and is attending the Life Drawing sessions at our Centre on Fridays .
For her inspiring background story to this portrait please skip to page 11.

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.

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DATE	EVENT
Mon. 1 April	Enrolments for Term 2 start
Thu. 4 April	Committee meeting
TERM 2	Mon. 6 May - Mon. 1 July
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

Already we have passed the autumnal equinox, and the nights are getting longer than the days. Could this provide more reading time?

Besides all the AGM and other reports this issue features several fine contributions by BMCAC members.

Catherine McCorkill tells the background story that inspired her portrait on our frontispiece.

Bronwyn Campbell is up-to-date with the latest, playing the AI game with cartoon images.

And Sally Thompson introduces us to her joyful art of painting flowers.

This month's poem puts some perspective on our time scales and concerns, putting emphasis on what might really matter.

I'd love to hear from you about your art practice or news. Please send contributions for 'Creations' to:

rudich7@dodo.com

Rudi Christen
Creations' Editor



Get in touch with us !

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	Pottery Facilitator	0411 041 054	a.b.campbell@optusnet.com.au
Janet LANGFIELD	Secretary	0408 228 059	janetxlangfield@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S AGM REPORT *Alison James*

Dear Members,

We have had an absolutely huge year for our 50th, having held our two annual members exhibitions, biennial print prize, annual art prize, Mike Wall's exhibition, over 35 workshops throughout the year and held our big birthday celebrations.

The Centre has gone from strength to strength since its humble beginnings of one main building in 1973, and now holds six buildings that look like a collection of colourful gems on our corner block in 2024.

We have worked hard over the last few years to provide beautiful gardens that are flourishing and are a great backdrop to a number of garden sculptures, a fantastic flagstone pathway that connects the front buildings to the main building, grassed areas with seating options around the centre, air conditioning in the Yellow and Jade coloured yurts and an adults and children's street library.

Our classes are well attended and the Centre is financially supporting itself with room in the budget to continue our maintenance and provide continued improvements.

One of the biggest challenges at the centre remains with the local wildlife. The ever present family of possums that seem to like our buildings more than the trees or possum box that we have provided and the local termites that are determined to find every piece of original timber within the buildings, requiring us to remain vigilant with termite treatment and replacement of affected areas with new termite treated timber.

A huge thank you must go out to our amazing volunteers who dedicate their time to the running of the Centre and we continue to welcome anyone who thinks they might like to come on board and help our centre to grow and serve its community.

Your president

Alison James.

WORKSHOP DIRECTOR'S AGM REPORT *Alison James*

There were 35 workshops throughout 2023 with a few regular facilitators booking in. There's plenty of room for improvement with booking in more workshops if I had more time to dedicate to approaching suitable facilitators. This could also be improved with further advertising of the space on a regular basis on our socials.

There are already a large number of workshop bookings for 2024, including 12 x bird drawing sessions, 3 x Saturday printmaking sessions, and 3 x booked by Andrea Ketterling.

ART DIRECTOR'S AGM REPORT *Ingrid Russell*

Enrolments were steady throughout 2023. We welcomed Cheryle Yin-Lo as Printmaking coordinator and teacher and saw an increased interest in print making classes. Cheryle also started a new acrylic painting class which was maintained for the next two terms. We also welcomed Chloe Coard as our new children's art teacher. The children's art classes have maintained their numbers on Friday afternoons.

The children's pottery classes were very popular with three classes running over the week. The adult pottery classes were also popular with three classes running each term. Many of the students became pottery group members and started going to drop in sessions.

Mosaics held good numbers throughout the year. The Wednesday morning class was so popular we added another session afterwards.

Pen and wash was well attended all year, however the watercolour class was inconsistent and didn't get the numbers to run each term.

Victor Peralta finished up with us at the end of the year. We thank him for his time with us and wish him well in his next endeavour.

Hare St Gallery

Gallery membership fluctuated but we managed to fill the roster each quarter. Sales remained sporadic with good and slow days. Jan Organ, and Zorana McDavitt joined the co-op and Joy Myers Creed finished up. Membership at close of year was at seven.

HEAD GARDENER'S AGM REPORT *Liz Bryden*

The rain has made a big difference to the garden, with no need to water over the break. This has helped save time and the plants are all flourishing.

The downside is that we need to do more trimming of plants, weeding and mowing to keep the grounds looking good. The area that needs to be mowed regularly is the front lawn, footpath, sides and also the pottery yurt end where the grass can become a problem. Also, the back "mound" along the boundary needs to be whipper snipped regularly to keep the thick grass under control.

Recently Jeannie purchased a whipper snipper and two more batteries and these will be kept in the store room. This means that we have three batteries, at least one charger and a mower.

If anyone uses a battery, please assist by recharging it for next time.

Importantly, please make sure you disconnect the charger from the power point before leaving as lithium batteries have been known to ignite if left connected. If in doubt, leave the battery uncharged and let Jeannie or Liz know with a text or call.

Ideally I would like regular rain throughout 2024 but with growth slowing down in autumn and winter – that would be wonderful.

Attendances to drop-in groups varied with the seasons last year with an average of 4 up to 5 or 6 on busier nights and dropping to 2 during winter on occasions. 6 is a good number for our tiny room.

After our failed raku firing in 2022 we adjusted our raku kiln design with the help of Rob Still, husband of one of our members, and finally had a successful raku firing during winter.

We bought two Shimpo wheels and adjustable stools giving us a total of 8 working wheels for our group. The advantage of the Shimpo wheels is that they can be converted to a left hand drive at the flick of a switch. A batt mate was also bought for the pottery room for general use. Our 8th wheel is stored in the storeroom. One of our Venco wheels blew a motor and would have cost almost \$600 to repair, so it was sold for \$100.

We had a wonderful working bee at the beginning of this year with 12 members helping out and all the kiln shelves were ground and batt washed and the rooms thoroughly cleaned.

We continue to get very good donations of books, ingredients and equipment which we really appreciate. I am aware that our area in the storeroom needs a good tidy up and that is on our agenda in the next little while.

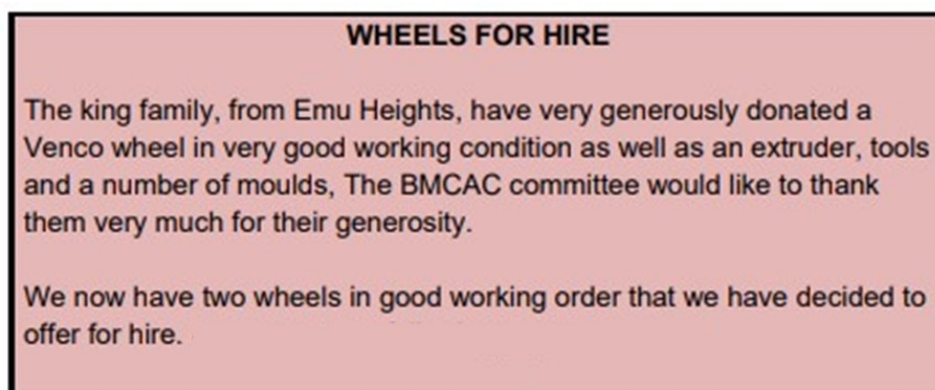
NEW KILN FEE PROTOCOL

It has been decided to introduce a new protocol to help us keeping track of kiln firing payments more accurately. If you are not attending a class, you must pay for your pots to be fired in the Centre's kilns.

Please see the new firing fees listed on page 6. They are also listed on the notice board.

IF YOU HAVE ENOUGH POTS TO TAKE UP A ½ SHELF OR MORE USE THE WALL CHART TO WORK OUT THE COST BEFORE YOU PUT YOUR POTS IN THE KILN ROOM:

- Consult with your facilitator about the cost of firing the pots you intend to take out to the kiln.
- Write the date and the details in the kiln fee book **and pay the fee.**
- When your pots have been fired sign the book to say you have collected your pots.



Please contact Bronwyn for 'Wheels for Hire' on **0411 041 054**

THE SECRETARY'S POSITION

Sadly, after nine years or so, due to family circumstances I have had to resign from the position of secretary. I am very grateful to Janet Langfield for agreeing to take over the position and to Rudi who will now take over the responsibility of notifying you all when "Creations" has been added to our website. I am sure that they will do a wonderful job. I will continue as BMCAC Pottery Facilitator. I am still very happy to help out in any way I can with any problems or questions that you may have.

Bronwyn Campbell

KILN FEES FOR 2024

The following prices are the costs of firing each kiln by a single or group of members that are making a special booking or have a number of pieces and are using a particular kiln.

BABY BEAR

	<u>Full load</u>	<u>half</u>	<u>quarter</u>
EW 1080° - 1100°	\$28	\$14	\$7
SW 1220° - 1220°	\$33	\$19	\$12

MOTHER BEAR

	<u>Full load</u>	<u>half</u>	<u>quarter</u>
EW 1080° - 1100°	\$72	\$36	\$18
SW 1220° - 1280°	\$77	\$41	\$23

FATHER BEAR

	<u>Full load</u>	<u>half</u>	<u>quarter</u>
EW 1080° - 1100°	\$144	\$72	\$36
1220° - 1280°	\$149	\$77	\$41

The following costs are if you are leaving your pieces to be fired with other member's /class work.

ADD \$1.00 FOR GLAZED MID FIRE AND STONEWARE PIECES

Per shelf *less than 7cm high \$4.50*

Per shelf *7 cm - 15cm approx. 500g mug size \$9*

Per shelf *15cm -30 cm \$18*

One piece *Less than 7cm \$1*

One piece *7cm - 15cm \$1:50*

One piece *15cm - 30 cm \$3*

Bowls less than 7cm high – 500g small bowl size per shelf \$2:40

Tiny pieces: \$1.00 per 500gms for bisque \$2.00 for a glaze

BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE Inc.
POTTERY WHEEL HIRE

YOU MUST BE A PAID-UP POTTERY MEMBER \$15 +\$50 MEMBERSHIP

Please contact Bronwyn Campbell, Pottery Facilitator, to check availability of a wheel and to make arrangements for the transport of the wheel.

a.b.campbell@optusnet.com.au Mobile 0411041054

The hire of a BMCAC pottery wheel will be made under the following conditions:

1. A fully refundable holding deposit of \$100 must be made before hire.
2. A weekly fee of \$25 will be charged with each monthly payment of \$100 to be paid in advance.

If the wheel is recalled earlier than the end of the month, a refund for the balance will be paid.

3. Payments are to be made directly into the BMCAC account.

Name: Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre Inc.

Acc: 172121

BSB: 032370

Bank: Westpac

OR

Email bmcac.mail@gmail.com and ask Ingrid to send you a payment link

After the payment is made, email a copy of the receipt to Bronwyn and then arrangements for wheel pick up can be made with her.

4. A recall by the BMCAC committee of the wheel may be made at any time. The wheel must be returned within one week of the requested date for its return.
5. The wheel will be returned in the same condition as at the time of removal from the Centre. If the wheel is damaged, repairs must be paid for by the hirer.
6. In the case of permanent damage or loss, the hirer must provide a replacement wheel of comparable value.

Date:

I (PRINT).....

agree to hire a Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre pottery wheel under the conditions listed above.

Signature:

Address:

Phone:

Pottery Facilitator

Bronwyn Campbell

PLEASE SEE DESCRIPTION OF THE WHEEL AND PHOTO ATTACHED

The Printmaking classes are going on successfully and the group is connecting very well socially and producing some great work. Weekly photos of our classes and their work is posted on the facebook.

Building maintenance: as reported a couple of weeks ago there is leaking from the roof in the print studio above the white cupboard. A plastic dish is there temporarily to collect any water.

This needs urgent attention.

Thank you to David for reattaching the exhaust fan lid back on to the ceiling.

Cheryle Yin-Lo will be doing three masterclasses in Printmaking on Saturdays in April and May independently at BMCAC. Information will be posted on BMCAC's website.

Interested printmakers and lovers of printmaking can join and follow more printmaking work and other print competitions, workshops, resources and useful links on:

Facebook BMCAC

Facebook Blue Mountains Printmaking Ink and join us for classes in Term 2 Printmaking at BMCAC.

I will be away overseas from 28 June-31 July 2024.

Cheryle Yin-Lo

BMCAC Print Studio Facilitator

OTHER AGM REPORTS

Life Drawing Facilitator's Report

Katrina Bodey has resigned as facilitator and Rick Hawkins was nominated.

Publicity Officer's Report

Andrea Ketterling has resigned the position and no report has been tabled. Annie Wilcox was successfully nominated as Publicity Officer.

Grants Officer's Report

There are no current/active grants and nothing to report.

Building Officer's Report

There were a number of building works carried out in 2023, including painting, general repairs and work on the gallery door.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Richard Cutler took the chair for the election of officers and declared all positions vacant.

Bronwyn Campbell advised that she would be retiring from her position as Secretary and not standing for nomination.

Andrea Ketterling has advised that she would be retiring from her position as Publicity Officer and not standing for nomination.

Katrina Bodey has advised that she would be retiring as Life Drawing Facilitator and not standing for nomination.

President	Alison James
Vice President	Ingrid Russell
Secretary	Janet Langfield
Treasurer	David Atwood
Arts Director	Ingrid Russell
Workshop Coordinator	Alison James
Building Coordinator	David Atwood
Creations Editor	Rudi Christen
Head Gardener	Liz Bryden
Grants Officer	Jeannie McInnes
Librarian	Gus Carrozza
Publicity Officer	Annie Wilcox
Life Drawing Facilitator	Rick Hawkins
Printmaking Facilitator	Cheryle Yin-Lo
Pottery Facilitator	Bronwyn Campbell
Committee Members	Michael Dausmann Joy Myers Creed

Congratulations everyone and thank you, Bronwyn Campbell
for your many years of service as Secretary.

MARCH REPORTS

President's Report: *Tabled by Alison James*

Alison hasn't purchased a power chisel yet: will ask Toolo if they have one available.

Alison had a proposal that she wanted to run by the Committee: her husband is interested in running some regular guitar classes and is this appropriate: if so, what would be the best option?

It was discussed that the main room is available on Friday evenings. Another option would be opening up the Jade Yurt for casual hire as there is no one currently hiring this space.

Pottery Facilitator's Report: *Tabled by Bronwyn Campbell*

Bronwyn advised that a member of the Wednesday night pottery class tripped and fell on the concrete path as she was leaving on the night of Wednesday, 6 March. There have been several similar falls and concerns someone could be seriously injured. The area needs better lighting and access.

Discussion was had around the options, including further concreting or landscaping. We also need to submit a completed incident report in relation to this.

The kiln room door is becoming harder to open and close and needs urgent attention.

There is a large collection of 'Pottery in Australia' magazines that are taking up a lot of space in the white cupboard. Alison suggested she could clean up the other cupboard and make some space for them there.

As promised we have asked an electrician to look into providing us with a quote for installing a second electrical circuit for the kiln room, so we can fire more than one kiln at a time.

Art Director's Report: *Tabled by Ingrid Russell*

Most classes have good numbers. Term 2 enrolments will open on 1 April. Classes start on 6 May. As there is a holiday for King's Birthday on the Monday in Week 7, term 2 will finish on Monday 1 July.

Hare St Gallery

We welcome Beverley Moreman as a new gallery member. The gallery looks great, and the air conditioning works well.

Only art penetrates the seeming realities of this world. There is another reality, the genuine one, which we lose sight of. This other reality is always sending us hints, which without art, we can't receive.

Saul Bellow

Ivor Houston: On Foot Across Australia

by Catherine McCorkill

My portrait of 22-year-old Ivor Houston celebrates Ivor's courage, accomplishment and generosity in completing a solo, unaided walk across this vast continent. From Fremantle to Bondi Beach (4075km). Ivor's trek raised awareness and funds for refugees, through the Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group and Act for Peace. Ivor is the youngest person to have made this monumental journey, which began in May and finished in November 2021.

The final stages of his trip took Ivor through his home village of Warrimoo in the Blue Mountains, then through greater Sydney, arriving at Bondi Beach, where a crowd of refugees, friends, supporters, and onlookers greeted him.

In a moving speech upon his arrival, Ivor reminded us that where we are born is simply a matter of chance. Throughout the journey, he said he rarely felt unsafe, in stark contrast to the experience of many refugees who have made similarly immense journeys, fleeing gunfire, persecution or violence.

I have known Ivor since he was born. My son, Lamar, and Ivor are like brothers. I would often think of Ivor at nightfall, in the vastness, the diminishing light, the aloneness. I wanted to reflect the feeling of peace and calm Ivor felt, despite the unknown infinity surrounding him.

The painting won the People's Choice (i.e. the main prize) in the 2023 Blue Mountains Portrait Award in April last year.

I had finished the painting in 2022 and it had been selected as a finalist in the Kennedy Art Prize in Adelaide 2022, and as a semi-finalist in the Darling Portrait Prize at the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra.



Ivor setting off from Fremantle with his jogger stroller, which carried his tent, sleeping bag, food and water, travelling solo and unaided, across the continent. He sometimes organised food drops through Australia Post and IGA to small towns or outposts along the way, and occasionally asked friendly car travellers he met, e.g. at service stations on the Nullarbor, if they would mind dropping a parcel of food and water 50km on, marking it with a small orange flag tied to a bush.

CREATING WITH AI – Bronwyn Campbell

My daughter Katy, a graphic designer, was visiting recently and she was showing me how she uses AI to create images. So, we had a bit of fun creating these. I thought you might enjoy them.



The instructions given for photo :

1.

A happy mouse making pottery on a pottery wheel in a magical forest at night wearing a pink apron.

2.3.4.5.

A happy hare making pottery on a pottery wheel in an Australian forest wearing a rainbow apron.

After each instruction you were given a choice of 4 photos.

"Unbridled Joy"

by Sally Thompson

I have been a member of BMCAC since July 2023. On the first Saturday of each month, I participate, along with 30 other women painters, in an online challenge with Shani Alexander Art. This month I painted my version of the challenge called 'Firecracker', on a repurposed canvas 100cm x 120cm. The inspiration came from a Ficifolia (Flowering Gum) superimposed over a pond. I used Ultramarine blue, Cobalt blue, white and the texture from paintings that I previously had painted on this canvas to create the illusion of water and a burst of smoke under the composition using my hands. To add the pops of colour, I incorporated tints and tones of vermillion, magenta florescent orange, pink, gold, lemon yellow and Colbalt blue.

I have submitted two paintings to the Royal Easter Show (Poppy and Bush Gumnuts). I'm hoping to enter into The Hawkesbury show if I can get my act into gear and create some smaller pieces. If you would like to see more of my work you can do so by using the links in my signature block below.

Sally Thompson
PO Box 318

North Richmond NSW 2754

Mobile: Sally 0414 958 276

Mobile: Paul 0416 250 860

Website: <https://www.saltgallerydesigns.com.au>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SaltGalleryDesigns>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/salt_gallery_designs/



Sally Thompson, Firecracker, 2024, 100 x 120cm

Poetry Corner

THE BIG PICTURE

Ellen Bass

*I try to look at the big picture.
The sun, ardent tongue
licking us like a mother besotted*

*with her new cub, will wear itself out.
Everything is transitory.
Think of the meteor*

*that annihilated the dinosaurs.
And before that, the volcanoes
of the Permian period — all those burnt ferns*

*and reptiles, sharks and bony fish —
that was extinction on a scale
that makes our losses look like a bad day at the slots.*

*And perhaps we're slated to ascend
to some kind of intelligence
that doesn't need bodies, or clean water, or even air.*

*But I can't shake my longing
for the last six hundred
Iberian lynx with their tufted ears,*

*Brazilian guitarfish, the 4
percent of them still cruising
the seafloor, eyes staring straight up.*

*And all the newborn marsupials —
red kangaroos, joeys the size of honeybees —
steelhead trout, river dolphins, all we can save*

*so many species of frogs
breathing through their
damp permeable membranes.*

*Today on the bus, a woman
in a sweater the exact shade of cardinals,
and her cardinal-colored bra strap, exposed*

*on her pale shoulder, makes me ache
for those bright flashes in the snow.
And polar bears, the cream and amber*

*of their fur, the long, hollow
hairs through which sun slips,
swallowed into their dark skin. When I get home,*

*my son has a headache and, though he's
almost grown, asks me to sing him a song.
We lie together on the lumpy couch*

*and I warble out the old show tunes, "Night and Day"...
"They Can't Take That Away from Me"... A cheap
silver chain shimmers across his throat*

*rising and falling with his pulse. There never was
anything else. Only these excruciatingly
insignificant creatures we love.*

WHAT'S ON ?

Workshops, Galleries, Exhibitions, Prize Entries, Coming Events

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](#)

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

All 13 JAN - 28 APR

BLUE MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTRE

30 Parke Street, Katoomba 2780

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

[Bill Hope: Living Room - Blue Mountains Cultural Centre](#)

Until 28 April 2024

[Three Echoes — Western Desert Art - Blue Mountains Cultural Centre](#)

23 Mar – 19 May

BRAEMAR HOUSE & GALLERY

104 Macquarie Road, Springwood 2777

Upcoming Exhibition: 8th June to 2nd July

Braemar House and Braemar Gallery is closed for heritage restoration building works.

The works are anticipated to be completed in May 2024.