



BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE NEWSLETTER July 2025

WEBSITE: www.bmcac.org.au

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

INSTAGRAM: [lifiedrawing_glenbrook](#)

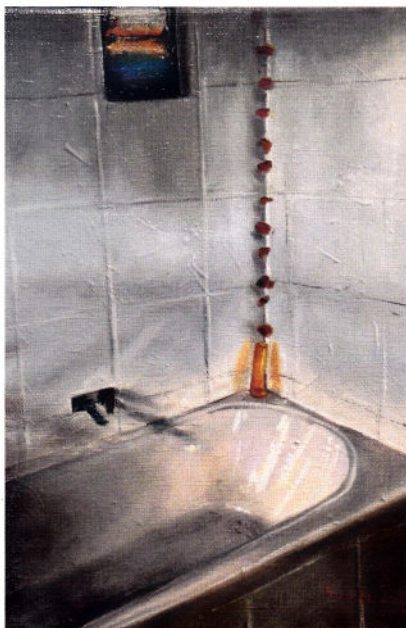


zak de souza

BLUE
MOUNTAINS
ART PRIZE
3.10.2025



lucy mathew



hannah hausmann

PRIZE POOL
OVER \$4000

DETAILS AND INFORMATION
AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE

www.BMCAC.com.au



felicity grover

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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BMCAC EVENT SCHEDULE

DATE **EVENT**

Thu. 8 Aug. 7.30pm Committee meeting

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Members,

Entries are now open for our Blue Mountains Art Prize to be held on the first weekend in October, 3rd-6th. As it falls on a long weekend, the exhibition will continue until Monday.

Max. size for 2D and 3D artworks has been increased to 46 x 46 x 46cm including frame. Two entries per person are admitted. Cost per entry is still \$25. Entries close on 27 September.

Life drawers please note there will be a new Editor's Prize for Life Drawing.

Our publicity officer Audrey Mason proposed to write a series of artist profiles on BMCAC members. The first of these about ceramicist Janet Larsen is featured on p. 6/7.

Last month I made a survey to find out if people are getting their 'Creations' newsletter. Almost exactly 50% of members confirmed receipt. Thank you to all those who responded.

But I have to assume half the members are not getting my emails. The committee is now deliberating whether there is a way of avoiding email messages ending up in your spam folder and how to improve communication with our members.

Keep warm and creating

Rudi Christer

Creations' Editor

rudich7@dodo.com

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
Kathleen ZANARDO	Pottery Facilitator	0415 154 746	kathleen.zanardo@gmail.com

ART DIRECTOR'S REPORT *Ingrid Russell*

Term 3 enrolments opened on July 1. We have two new teachers on the timetable. Victoria Stiff will be offering kids' art classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. It would be great to get those classes going again. Also, Bruce Hunter will be offering *Creative Book Making* on Tuesday morning and Thursday evenings which is something very new for our Centre.

Entries to the Art Prize also opened July 1. Everyone is encouraged to enter work, no matter what stage you are at in your creative journey. All entries will be hung or displayed.

Hare St Gallery Report:

There seems to be an improvement in visitor numbers lately, so our new signs may be working.

POTTERY FACILITATOR'S REPORT *Kathleen Zanardo*

All three drop-in groups are currently full with most participants attending every week. Potters are doing really good work with many potters saying that, a year or two since starting pottery, they're feeling very happy with their results.

I encourage all potters to enter the upcoming Blue Mountains Art Prize. Entries are now open with details on the BMCAC website. Also consider entering the pottery section of the Penrith Show which will be held on August 30th and 31st (entries are open).

The ongoing problems with Father Bear have meant that Mother Bear has been working overtime to get all the work fired from our classes and groups. Special thanks to Alison who has done the bulk of the kiln loading, an amazing effort!

Our kiln electrician Andrew came for a look at the kiln last week and established that it needs some new elements, new fibre blanket on the door and some rewiring at the back. Hopefully all can be sorted by the end of the holidays ready for Term 3.

PUBLICITY REPORT *Beverley Moreman*

- Calendar – needs new backend features and can be linked to classes and events. Discussed with Phil.
- Email – also discussed with Phil. Needs a discussion with David about credit card/invoicing for creating new email addresses and bulk emailing to members.
- QR code on Centre and Hare St signs have had 132 interactions since last meeting.
- Facebook posts have been sent to other Arts organizations for Term 3 classes and the Art Prize.
- Flyer created by Audrey for the Art Prize call out to Artists. Flyers are being distributed to Katoomba, Leura, Hazelbrook, Springwood and Glenbrook
- Interview completed by Audrey with Janet for a series of Featured Artist posts.

We have had two printmaking classes in Term 2 on Monday morning and Thursday night with great work produced and a number of new students though classes were small.

There will be no Thursday night Printmaking class in Term 3.

A successful Visual Arts Program for Homeschoolers was completed in Term 2.

In **Term 3** *Victoria Stiff* will be a new teacher offering

Exploring Art Making for Home Learning Students, Families and Carers on Tuesdays 9:30-11:00am.

<https://bmcac.org.au/classes/#children-classes>

Bruce Hunter will be offering an **Introduction to Book Art on Thursday nights 6.30pm-9pm.**

www.bmcac.org.au/classes

We welcome new enrolments for the Term 3 **Exploring Printmaking** class for the 8 week course to learn various techniques **on Mondays 9.30am-12.30pm**. Term 3 commences 28 July 2025

www.bmcac.org.au/classes

Open print access times are available for current BMCAC Printmakers. Please see Term 3 list of classes about available times and details for bookings.

Interested printmakers can follow Facebook Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre and Facebook Blue Mountains Printmaking Ink and be part of the Centre's printmaking community.

PRINTMAKING EXHIBITIONS

Cheryle will be exhibiting her printmaking works with The Sydney Printmakers in two new shows titled 'Short 'N' Sweet' at Tiliqua Tiliqua at 257 Enmore Road in Enmore from 24-27 July 2025 and another show, Unique State, a contemporary approach to printmedia at Gallery Lane Cove at 164 Longueville Road, Lane Cove from 23 July-9 August 2025

Creativity and printmaking are important because they allow individuals to express ideas, emotions, and stories in unique and impactful ways. Printmaking, as an art form, is diverse and combines technique with imagination, enabling artists to create multiple copies of original designs while experimenting with texture, colour, and form. It encourages problem-solving, innovation, and personal expression—essential skills not just in art, but in everyday life. Through creative printmaking, people can communicate visually, preserve culture, and inspire change and share their unique perspectives of the world and their experiences.

Interesting Reading Recommendations:

The Artist Way by *Julia Cameron*

Beginners Guide to Lino: 10 Print Projects - *Susan Yeates*

Making Handmade Books-100 Bindings by *Alisa Golden*

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. **Exhibition banner:** Alison. Need to go through all the signs and determine what is needed
2. **Stick vacuum:** Jeannie. Has been purchased and is in print room.
3. **Security** quote update: David.
4. **Kiln** update: Arrived and installed. Just needs electrician to wire it in.
5. **Art Prize** update:
 - *Judges: Andrea has a mosaics judge.
 - *New prize: Rudi has kindly donated \$350 for a Life Drawing Prize.
 - *Sponsors: Alison. Still to be determined.
 - *Extra day on Monday. Public holiday on 6th October, so we will extend the art prize an extra day.
 - *Website: Ingrid. Entries are now open.
 - *Advertising: Beverley and Audrey. Fliers have been printed with QR codes.
6. **Road Works:** Alison. Council has agreed to do a work order on it.
7. **Kiln use:** Alison. To be discussed.
8. **Council cleanup:** Store room, signs to go.
9. **Step ladder:** Jeannie reported we need a new step ladder. Moved Jeannie buy one valued \$135.
10. **Building Co-ordinator's Report:** The mosaic wall has been repainted. Toilet not flushing properly.
11. **QR Code** on Centre and Hare St signs have had 132 interactions since last meeting.



Spikes, Seed Pods & Sculptural Clay: The Organic Worlds of Janet Larsen

by Audrey Mason

It began, unexpectedly, with a plate. Thirty years ago, Janet joined some work colleagues for a casual “paint a plate” session. But instead of focusing on brushstrokes or patterns, she found herself transfixed by the **materiality of the medium**—the textures of clay, the mystery of glazes, and the transformative fire of the kiln.

“I wasn’t so much interested in the painting aspect,” she recalls, “but the materials, the glazes, the kiln techniques... that’s what hooked me. I realised how much potential there was in ceramics.”

This spark led her to enrol in a Certificate IV in Ceramics at TAFE, where she immersed herself in construction techniques, surface treatments, and firing processes. It was the start of a lifelong creative journey—one that has since evolved into a distinctive sculptural language both **organic and architectural**, elegant and raw.

Form Meets Fungus

With a practice rooted in handbuilding—particularly coiling—Janet has developed a **signature style** defined by spikes, tentacles, torn edges, and an unapologetically textural aesthetic. She often favours stains and oxides over glazes to highlight the raw beauty of the clay, giving her pieces a tactile, almost primordial quality.

“I’m inspired by nature, especially the complex structures in seed pods, fungi, and marine life. I’ve found a deep well of inspiration in Ernst Haeckel’s *Art Forms in Nature*, and I take a lot of reference photos while bushwalking in the Blue Mountains.”

Her forms often speak to transformation—of heat, growth, and survival. A recent body of work exhibited in a local gallery explored endemic seed pods impacted by bushfire and drought. These sculptural forms, shaped by destruction and rebirth, echoed the ceramic process itself: a fragile creation hardened and forever changed by fire.



sea urchin, earthenware paper clay with manganese dioxide stains and crackle glaze



jellyfish, earthenware paper clay with manganese dioxide stains

Pushing Boundaries with Paper Clay

A pivotal innovation in her practice came with the discovery of **paper clay**, a material that opened new possibilities in scale and structure. It allowed her to craft **gravity-defying tendrils** and more ambitious, delicate forms than traditional clay would permit. Equally transformative was her embrace of **oxides**, which provided an organic finish aligned with her themes.

“Paper clay changed everything for me. It lets me push boundaries in sculptural forms and gave me the freedom to create structures that seem to float or curl mid-air.”

She hopes to one day expand her material vocabulary even further—perhaps incorporating welded metal components to contrast and complement the earthy, fragile nature of ceramic forms.

Themes of Resilience and Rebirth

There is a quiet resilience woven throughout Janet's work: not only in its materials and construction, but in the emotional and environmental narratives it tells. Fire is a recurring theme—not just as a process, but as metaphor. From seed pods surviving bushfire to delicate ceramic spikes emerging from coarse forms, her work invites viewers to consider **beauty forged in adversity**.

"I want people to feel they're seeing something authentic—something original that echoes nature but doesn't copy it. If it feels familiar and strange at once, I've done my job."



seed pods, earthenware paper clay with manganese dioxide stains



seed pods, bisque fired

The Joy of Clay, The Power of Community

Beyond the work itself, Janet finds deep fulfilment in the community she's part of at the **Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre (BMCAC)**.

"The camaraderie there is incredible. We inspire, support, and learn from each other. It's such a positive, enriching environment to be a part of."

Her work has previously been stocked at **Gallery NWC in Katoomba**, where it quickly sold out. A new collection is currently in development and will be released later in the year—bringing more of her striking, nature-inspired forms into the world.

Artist Inspirations

While she has carved a style all her own, Janet credits ceramicists like **Jarjour Pottery**, **Eric Landon**, and **Eva Zethraeus** as key influences—artists who similarly explore texture, form, and emotional resonance in clay.

For those who encounter her work—spiked, tentacled, textured and organic—there's a sense of discovery, as though nature has dreamt something new. It is clay reimagined through a lens of **curiosity, strength, and transformation**.



seed pods 2, earthenware paper clay with manganese dioxide stains

Poetry Corner

Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926)

La Dame à la Licorne

(Teppiche im Hôtel de Cluny)

Für Stina Frisell,

*Zum Gedächtnis gemeinsamen Schauens und Erlebens
vor den Teppichen der edlen Dame aus dem Hause Le
Viste im Hôtel de Cluny. 9. June 1906. Paris.*

Frau und Erlauchte: sicher kränken wir
oft Frauen-Schicksal das wir nicht begreifen.
Wir sind für euch die Immer-noch-nicht-Reifen
für euer Leben, das, wenn wir es streifen
ein Einhorn wird, ein scheues, weißes Tier,

das flüchtet...und sein Bangen ist so groß,
dass ihr es selber / wie es schlank entschwindet /
nach vielem Traurigsein erst wiederfindet,
noch immer schreckhaft, warm und atemlos.

Dann bleibt ihr bei ihm, fern von uns, - und mild
gehn durch des Tagwerks Tasten eure Hände;
demütig dienen euch die Gegenstände,
ihr aber wollt nur *diesen* Wunsch gestillt:
dass einst das Einhorn sein beruhigtes Bild
in eurer Seele schwerem Spiegel fände. –

Translated by Damion Searls

The Lady and the Unicorn

(Tapestries in the Hôtel de Cluny)

for Stina Frisell,

*In memory of viewing and experiencing together the
tapestries of the noble lady from the house of Le Viste,
at the Cluny in Paris. 9 June, 1906.*

Lady, Your Ladyship - : how we must wound
that woman-fate we do not understand.
We men are never quite ready for you, quite
ripe for your life; when we brush against it
it turns into a unicorn – shy and white

and running away.... So scared that only
after many sorrows can you find it again,
-oh how it slips away – even then
it is skittish, and warm, and out of breath.

Then you stay with it, far from us – your hands
move softly through the touch of your daily tasks;
objects serve you humbly, with respect;
but you want only *one* longing met:
that one day the unicorn find its image, calm,
in the heavy mirror of your souls. –



The Lady and the Unicorn tapestries,
circa 1500, at the Musée de Cluny, Paris

WHAT'S ON ?

Workshops, Galleries, Exhibitions, Prize Entries, Coming Events



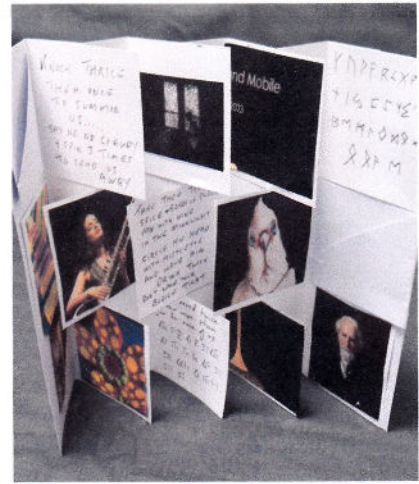
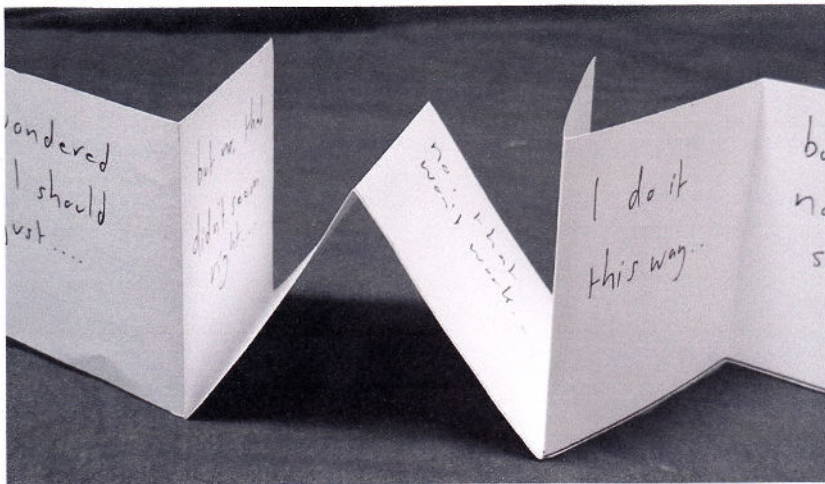
Ted Lewis

Solo Exhibition - 2025 Edition

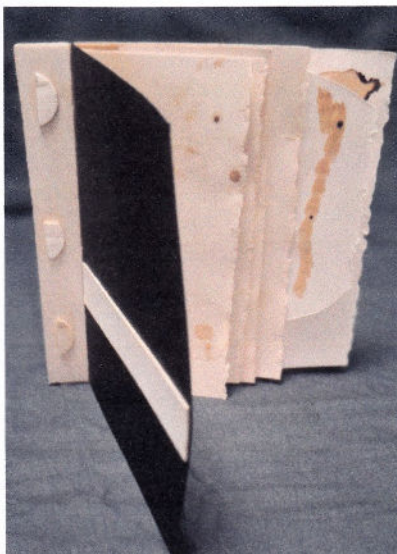
Exhibition Duration: 3 - 27 July 2025

GALLERY NWC - 188 Katoomba Street, Katoomba NSW 2780

Gallery Hours: Thursdays to Mondays 10am - 4pm



Introduction to Book Art



Explore the worlds of alternative book-making and paper art, as you craft your own range of non-traditional, experimental or just amazingly creative book forms.

Suitable for anyone interested in combining book-making, journalling, storing, and pushing the boundaries of what you can do with paper.

Classes Tuesday and Thursday from July 29 at Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre, Glenbrook. Details at BMCAC.org.au/classes/



Printmaking Student's work- drypoint etching



Sydney Printmakers

Short 'n' Sweet

24–27 JULY 2025

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MUSIC EXPO

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ADULT LEARNERS

Hear the instruments played

Meet the teachers Ask them questions



SHOWCASING

- ~ PIANO with *Annie Burbank*
- ~ FLUTE with *Alice Coffey*
- ~ RECORDER with *Liz Strasser's Recorder Connect*
- ~ UKULELE with *Blue Mountains Ukelele Group*
- ~ PIPE BAND with *Blue Mountains Pipe Band*

Date: 6-8pm Thu 24 July

Venue: Good Earth Bookshop
24 Station Street, Wentworth Falls

Tickets: \$20 book instore or online
www.goodearthbookshop.com



BLUE MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTRE

30 Parke Street, Katoomba 2780

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

[& EMERGING - Blue Mountains Cultural Centre](#) 5 July - 3 August

[Primavera: Young Australian Artists - Blue Mountains Cultural Centre](#) 21 Juni - 10 August

[Creative Foundations - Blue Mountains Cultural Centre](#) 16 Aug – 5 Oct

PENRITH REGIONAL GALLERY

86 River Road, Emu Plains

The Gallery is open daily from 10am – 3.45pm

[Shireen Taweel: Edge of the C - Penrith Regional Gallery](#)

[Hibiscus: Angela Tiatia & Philip Juster - Penrith Regional Gallery](#)

2 August - 26 October 2025

[Julie Scifo: Wonderland - Penrith Regional Gallery](#)

2 August - 21 September 2025

BRAEMAR HOUSE & GALLERY

104 Macquarie Road, Springwood 2777

Opening Hours: 10am – 4pm | Thursday – Sunday

Website: [Blue Mountains Theatre - Braemar Gallery](#)

Contact: Email braemargallery@gmail.com

Anna Di Mezza | Favourites

Lesley Kinney The Opal Hearted Country, Aerial Views of Australia's Desert Places

Catherine McCorkill | Echoes of Light

COMING SOON: 24 JUL - 24 AUG

Official opening event at 2pm on Saturday 26 July.



Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre, Glenbrook

Class Timetable Term 3, 2025 www.bmcac.org.au

Online enrolments open July 1.

Week 1 starts July 28, term goes for 8 weeks, finishing September 19, unless otherwise stated on timetable.

Please note: Children must be enrolled **prior** to attending lessons. Late enrolments cannot be accepted unless there is room in the class, please email enquiry to bmcac.mail@gmail.com. Children's classes are for children aged 6 to 12 years.

All adult students must be members of BMCAC. Membership is \$50 per annum. \$25 after June.

Day	Time	Code – Class	Teacher/ Facilitator
Mon	9:30 – 12:30	APMM9 – Exploring Printmaking - Come and learn different printmaking techniques. Suitable for beginners and experienced printmakers. Materials list will be sent by email to students once booking is made. \$240	Cheryle Yin Lo 0407 409 445
	12:30-2:30	Printmaking -Open Studios Access Drop in and print. Book in with Cheryle.	Cheryle Yin Lo 0407 409 445
	4:00-5:30	CAM4 – Young Masters – Art class using the Masters as a focus for exploration of painting, drawing and art making. For ages 8 to 12. \$200, all materials included	Victoria Stiff
	4:00 – 5:30	CPM4 – Pottery for Children – Fun with clay ages 6 to 12. \$200	Alison James 0416 957 688
Tues	6:30-8:30	AAM6 – Drawing for beginners and Intermediate. Learn the finer skills of drawing. \$200	Gus Carrozza 0421 041 878
	6:30 – 9:30	Drop in and pot – experienced only – no tuition. Membership of BMCAC and Potters Group required. \$5 per session. Ring to book:	Kathleen Zenardo 0415 154 746
	9:30-11:00	HSAT9 – Art making for Home Schooled children. Explore a variety of art making skills. \$200, materials included.	Victoria Stiff
	1:00 – 3:00	AAT6 – Introduction to Book Art – Explore the worlds of alternative book making and paper art, as you craft your own range of non-traditional, experimental or just plain amazingly creative book forms. 6 x 2.5 hrs. \$200	Bruce Hunter 0458 524 950
	4:00 – 5:30	CPT4 – Pottery for Children – Fun with clay for ages 6 to 12. \$200	Alison James 0416 957 688
	6:30 – 9:30	AMT6 – Mosaics - Come and learn mosaics for the first time or improve your existing skills. Adult class suitable for all levels. \$240 - plus \$45 materials fee in cash (8 x 3 hr sessions) Starts July 22	Andrea Ketterling 0416727030
	6:30 – 9:30	Drop in and pot – experienced only – no tuition. Membership of BMCAC and Potters Group required. \$5 per session. Ring to book.	TBA
Wed	9:00 – 12:00	AMW9 – Mosaics - Come and learn mosaics for the first time or improve your existing skills. Adult class suitable for all levels. \$240 - plus \$45 materials fee in cash (8 x 3 hr sessions) Starts July 23	Andrea Ketterling 0416727030
	4:00-5:30	CPW4 – Pottery for Senior Primary and Junior Secondary students - Extending skills in clay work. (Ages 11 to 14) \$200	Alison James 0416 957 688
	6:30 – 8:30	APW6 – Pottery for Adults – Hand building and wheel throwing for beginners and continuers. beginners class, 4 weeks of hand building and 4 weeks of wheel throwing. \$200. (plus \$40 cash glaze and firing fee due week 3). Optional: A basic tool kit and clay \$50 cash on first session, or just clay \$30.	Ingrid Russell 0423 124 473
	6:30 -8:30	AWW6 – Painting with Watercolour – beginners and intermediate. Learn the basics or extend skills in painting with watercolour \$200	Gus Carrozza 0421 041 878
Thurs	1:30 – 3:30	APTH1 – Pottery for Adults – For continuers – Hand building. Project based course. Participants are free to create their own vision in clay with support. Firing and Materials fee \$40 cash. \$200	Ingrid Russell 0423 124 473
	1:30 – 3:30	AWTH1 – Pen and Wash with Watercolours – beginners and intermediate. Learn the basics or extend skills in pen and wash with watercolours. - \$200	Gus Carrozza 0421 041 878
	4:00-5:30	CATH4 – Drawing for Kids with a Manga focus. Learn drawing skills in a fun Manga focussed class.	Victoria Stiff
	6:30 – 9:00	APTH6 – Pottery for Adults – For continuers – Hand building. Project based course . Participants are free to create their own vision in clay with support. 6 x 2.5 hrs. Firing and materials fee \$40 cash. \$200	Ingrid Russell 0423 124 473
	6:30-9:00	AATH6 – Introduction to Book Art – Explore the worlds of alternative book making and paper art, as you craft your own range of non-traditional, experimental or just plain amazingly creative book forms. 6 x 2.5 hrs. \$200	Bruce Hunter 0458 524 950
	7:30 – 9:30	Committee meeting – first Thursday per month. Members welcome.	N/A
Fri	9:45-12:45	LDF10 – Life Drawing. Untutored sessions with model. \$200 for 8 weeks. Enrol online.	Rick Hawkins 0401 399 655
	1:30-5:00	Drop in and Print – experienced only – No tuition. Come and use our print making facilities. Membership of BMCAC and Print Group required. \$5 per session with own materials or \$15 using centre materials. Available when no exhibitions or workshops are happening. Book with facilitator	Cheryle Yin lo 0407 409 445
	10:00 – 12:00	APF10 – Throwing on the Wheel. For beginners and intermediate. \$200. \$80 cash materials fee, \$60 if you have your own tools.	Cristina lafigliola 0479 003 133
	2:00 – 3:30	HSPF9 – Pottery for Home schooled children - Students will be introduced to the art of hand building pottery \$200	Cristina lafigliola 0479 003 133
	4:00 – 5:30	CPF4 – Pottery for children. A playful journey with clay (ages 6-12) \$200	Cristina lafigliola 0479 003 133
	4:00-5:30	CAF4 – Mixxed Bag. Art and crafty fun for children. – Something new each week. For ages 6-10. \$200, materials included.	Victoria Stiff
	6:30-8:30	APF6 – Wheel throwing. For beginners and intermediates. \$200. \$80 cash materials fee, \$60 if you have your own tools.	Cristina lafigliola 0479 003 133
Sat	9:00 – 12:00	Drop in and pot – experienced only – no tuition. Membership of BMCAC and Potters Group required. \$5 per session. Book with facilitator	Michael Dausmann. 0415 120 139
	9:00 – 5:00	Drop in and Print – experienced only – No tuition. Come and use our print making facilities. Membership of BMCAC and Print Group required. \$5 per session with own materials or \$15 using centre materials. Available when no exhibitions or workshops are happening. Book with facilitator	Cheryle Yin Lo 0407 409 445
Sun	9:00 – 5:00	Drop in and Print – experienced only – No tuition. Come and use our print making facilities. Membership of BMCAC and Print Group required. \$5 per session with own materials or \$15 using centre materials. Available when no exhibitions or workshops are happening. Book with facilitator	

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