

BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE NEWSLETTER Nov/Dec 2025

WEBSITE: www.bmcac.org.au

FACEBOOK: bmcac, bmcacsaturdaypotters &

Blue Mountains Printmaking Ink

INSTAGRAM: lifedrawing_glenbrook



For hand-crafted Christmas gifts please visit the Hare Street Gallery Shop.

Open Saturdays and Sundays 10am to 4pm.



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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EVENT SCHEDULE 2026

DATF **FVFNT** Mon. 12 Jan Enrolment opening day Nominations deadline Wed. 28 Jan. for office bearers Thu. 5 Feb. 7.30pm Committee meeting Mon. 9 Feb Term 1 starts Sat. 28 Feb. 2pm **AGM** Thu. 2 April Term 1 ends, followed by Easter weekend Wed. 1 April Term 2 Enrolment day Mon. 27 April Term 2 starts **Members Exhibition** Sat./Sun. 2-3 May

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Members,

Welcome to the last issue of 'Creations' for the year. Enjoy the review of our Members Exhibition in November and a special feature by Rick Hawkins who has written about the painter Sidney Nolan.

Much fine art is on show in local galleries during the holiday season. And, there is an invitation to enter for the St Columba's Art Prize. Links to relevant websites and posters appear in our 'What's On' section.

Thanks to everyone for your contributions to 'Creations' throughout the year.

Please note into your diary our important event dates for early 2026.

On February 28 our annual general meeting will be held at 2pm in the main room (Purple Building). Every BMCAC member is invited. This is the day when our office bearers are elected. If you feel like becoming part of the committee please put in a nomination form (see p.5) by January 28, 2026.

The timetable for Term 1 classes will be available on the website soon.

Keep cool this summer; best wishes to you for Christmas and a happy New Year.

Rudi Christen

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Alison James

Dear Members,

It's been another fantastic year for the Centre, where a lot of creativity has been enjoyed. We held two Members Exhibitions, the Blue Mountains Print Prize and the Blue Mountains Art Prize. We also had numerous workshops throughout the year and a number of our members utilised the Centre for drop in groups and access outside of classes.

We purchased a brand new kiln which arrived in July and was put to work straight away with our thriving pottery section. It works like a dream!!

A huge effort was made to clean out the storeroom and removing a tremendous amount of items that have been unused for a great deal of time. Historic documents have been sorted and boxed appropriately. We now have a better idea of what we need to update in regard to signage and making things easier and accessible when members help set up events.

Our AGM will be coming up shortly in February so please think about whether you might like to become part of the committee, nominations can be sent to our email and feel free to contact us if you'd like more information on what might be involved.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas, happy holidays and New Year, and safe travels to anyone heading away to enjoy a well deserved break or visiting family and friends.

Your President,

Alison James

POTTERY FACILITATOR'S REPORT Kathleen Zanardo

The three kilns at the Centre have been working overtime this term to get through all the firing. Our kiln technician recently did some maintenance on Father Bear (our largest kiln) and changed the thermocouple and some of the door insulation.

Once a kiln is unpacked the room can get quite congested so please collect all your fired pieces from the kiln room as soon as possible. Pieces that seem to be abandoned will be put outside on the table.

Our drop-in groups have been fluctuating in attendees lately, so next year we will address this issue and look to expanding numbers.

Pottery members will be able to access the pottery room over the holiday period but you will need to discuss this with your facilitator. Make sure you pay the required \$5 for each 3hr visit. Write your name and date in the casual attendance book and place your money in the purple money box.

ART DIRECTOR'S REPORT Ingrid Russell

It's time to start thinking about first term next year. It looks like most classes will be offered again.

Dates to look out for in 2026 include:

12 January, Enrolment opening day

9 February, Term 1 starts

28 February AGM

2 April, Term 1 finishes. This is followed by the Easter weekend.

1 April, Term 2 Enrolment day

27 April, Term 2 will start

This is followed by the members exhibition. Bump-in will be Friday, 1 May and the exhibition will run from the 2nd to 3rd May.

And don't forget February 28 is our annual general meeting to which everyone is invited. This is the day when our office bearers are elected. If you feel like becoming part of the committee please put in a nomination form by January 28, 2026 (see next page).

It looks like it will be a very busy year with the art prize happening on the 25th 26th and 27th of September followed by our second annual general members exhibition on November 20, 21 and 22.

Hare St Gallery

Hare St Gallery has shown significant sales in the last few weeks. People are remembering to come and do their Christmas shopping in the Gallery. Good to see and thankfully our considered effort to advertise seems to be paying off. If you feel like joining Hare St Gallery next year, please see either Alison or myself, or send us an email. At most you'll be doing one day a month in the Gallery.

MOSAICS NEWS

Mosaics teacher Andrea Ketterling is exhibiting work in "Grounded" – an exhibition by Blue Mountains Mosaic Collective at Braemar Gallery Springwood 27th-21st December (see poster in the 'What's On' section).



Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre AGM Committee Nomination Form

If you are a paid member of BMCAC you are eligible to nominate for BMCAC Committee office bearers for our Arts Centre. We would like to invite you (*nominator*) to take the opportunity to nominate /renominate for the following positions. You may nominate yourself.

Positions Available:

President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Public Officer, Arts Director, Workshop Coordinator, Pottery Coordinator, Publicity Officer, Grants Officer, Printmaking Coordinator, Librarian, Gardening Coordinator, Maintenance Officer, General Committee Member

Nominee Name:		
Position Nominated For:		
Nominator Name:		
Noninator Name.		
Nominator Signature:		Date:
Seconder Name:		
Seconder Signature:		Date:
Nominee Acceptance:		
I accept the above nomination.		
Nominee Signature:	Date:	

PRINTMAKING FACILITATOR'S REPORT Cheryle Yin-Lo

- Term 4 for Exploring Printmaking commenced on Thursday nights. There was a mixture of new students and returning students.
- Term 1 for 2026 will commence on Monday, February 9.
- Interested printmakers can follow regular posts and printmaking news on <u>Facebook Blue</u> <u>Mountains Creative Arts Centre</u>. To follow students work go to <u>Blue Mountains Printmaking Ink</u>
- Call out for expressions of interest from printmakers for teachings at BMCAC for masterclasses or term classes in 2026.

Contact : Cheryle email: creativetraveller@icloud.com

- The 2027 Blue Mountains Print Prize has been confirmed to be scheduled for 9-11 April 2027. It will now be managed by BMCAC and led by Cheryle Yin Lo and a small group of interested printmakers to support us. Jeanne McInnes has offered to assist. Cheryle has arranged a meeting for handover from Katherine Kennedy at NWC Gallery in January.
- If you are a current member you can arrange print open access times. See 2025 BMCAC timetable for the days and times. Please contact Cheryle, Printmaking Facilitator Mobile 0407409445 if you would like to book a time or to arrange and organise an induction if you have not used the Print Studio before.

PRINTMAKING NEWS

Cheryle Yin Lo, BMCAC's Printmaking Tutor and Print Studio Coordinator has been successfully selected for an international artist residency in Peru next year with Arquetopia Foundation www.arquetopia.org

Useful links

Sydney Printmakers <u>www.sydneyprintmakers.com.au</u>
For developing your creative or art business <u>www.creativeplusbusiness.com</u>
For arts news and competitions Arts Hub <u>www.artshub.com.au</u>
For artists from any artform interested in art residencies in Australia and overseas <u>www.resartis.org</u>

RECOMMENDED READING

Can also be borrowed from Blue Mountains Library

Cressida Campbell- National Gallery of Australia on woodblock printing The Artist Way - Julia Cameron A World of Artist Journal Pages -Dawn Devries Sokol

HEAD GARDENER'S REPORT Liz Bryden

The garden in October 2025 lost one tree due to strong winds and rain. The hole was tidied up by our volunteers with little damage but lots of energy expended. Hopefully other leaning trees will stay upright but it's likely to happen again. There has been some debate with Council regarding our boundaries and who is responsible for tidying up fallen trees but a detailed survey map was located recently and provided to Council.

Otherwise the garden has fared well due to some mulching early in the year (more needed) and regular rain. However more recently we have been experiencing dry hot and windy conditions and despite previous rainfall levels the garden has dried out to a worrying degree. But we live in hope that rain will come again soon.

Importantly, if anyone can help with watering it would be appreciated. We have three long hoses and sprinkler connections and it can be done at the same time you are attending the Centre for your creative pursuits. It will help, especially during January when the Centre is less busy.









OTHER REPORTS & BUSINESS

Building Co-ordinator's Report:

Fire alarm battery was changed.

Gutters have been cleaned.

New keys have been cut but may still require a jiggle to get working.

History files update:

A plan of the Centre was discovered. It shows that the questionable trees are actually on Council land.

Land Council update.

A letter from Land Council was received that they will send us an invoice for rent.

Ratification of Committee for Charities Act.

A discussion was held to update and ratify a Public Officer and two back-up members to allow access to the Charities Act website. The following members were ratified:

David Atwood as Public Officer and Treasurer, Alison James as President, and Ingrid Russell as Vice President.

Superannuation.

Superannuation payments for teachers, including a backlog to 2022, were being discussed and ratified by the committee.

Ingrid suggested we need to have new teacher agreements drawn up for the start of 2026 to include nominated superannuation accounts and agreement for monthly payments.

AGM 2026

Our AGM is on 28 February 2026. We need to receive nominations for committee members by 28 January. Cheryle will provide a nomination form that we can use.

Loading and Unloading of Kilns.

It was discussed that loading and unloading the kilns was becoming problematic as there was confusion as to who was responsible. It was never meant to be one person's responsibility, and remains a shared responsibility between teachers and facilitators, with payment being gratuitous. After discussion re the different times it takes to load and unload the different sized kilns, it was decided that a new payment scale for loading and unloading the kilns be implemented.

It was also decided to have a combined facilitator and teacher meeting late January before classes start, date to be confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Good afternoon -

I hope you are well.

To introduce myself my name is Jess, I am part of the marketing team at Belvoir St Theatre.

I would like to extend an offer to receive 10% off full priced tickets to <u>The History of the Life and Death of King Lear and his Three Daughters</u> at Belvoir, to members of the Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre.

Promocode: POORTOM

The History of the Life and Death of King Lear and his Three Daughters

Shakespeare's greatest play, in an energised, classic Belvoir production, featuring the grit and power of Colin Friels.

It's time to retire. Lear has a plan – he'll divide the kingdom between his three daughters, they'll work in harmony with each other, he'll live with them, there will be a seamless transition of power, and all will be well.

The universe doesn't work that way.

If you have any questions, please let me know and I will be happy to assist. Thank you

Jess

Jessica Shoppee Belvoir St Theatre e: Jessica.S@belvoir.com.au

Gadigal Country | 18 Belvoir St | Surry Hills NSW 2010 | Australia www.belvoir.com.au

MEMBERS' EXHIBITION, Nov. 2025

A Selection of Ceramics and Paintings



Janet Larsen



Marianne Pollpeter



Kathleen Zanardo





Ingrid Russell



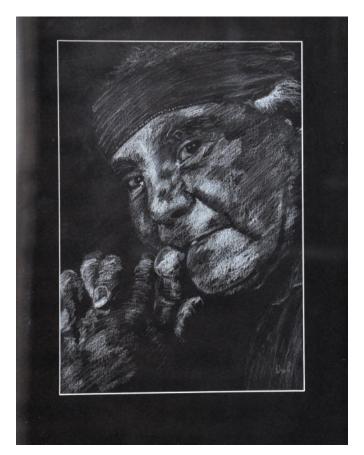




Mignon Collins







David Payne



Gus Carrozza



Richard Hawkins

Sidney Nolan - Australia's greatest painter?

Richard Hawkins

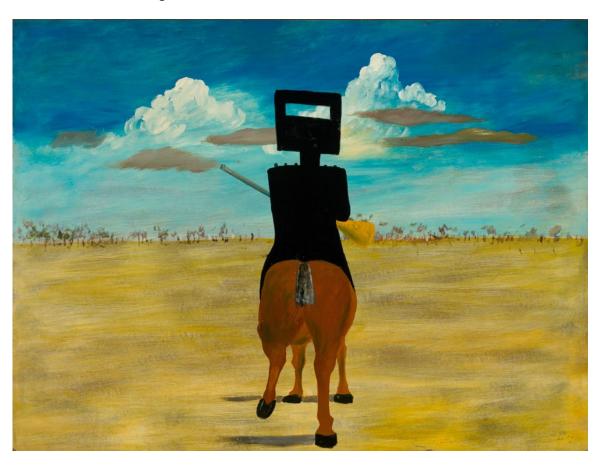
Sidney Nolan is the most significant Australian painter, within the Western tradition, of the last hundred years. He is *sui generis* both in the Australian and International context for his technique, his themes and his prolificacy, producing an enormous number of paintings and drawings, perhaps numbering over 10,000. Only Picasso had such a voluminous output.

I believe that his influence and resilience as a painter of great talent will outlast contemporaries like Boyd and later prodigies like Whiteley. No other painter painted like Nolan and perhaps the mark of a truly great, and lasting painter, is encapsulated in that phrase as it can be applied to other great artists ("no other painter painted like Freud, or Picasso, or Matisse ...")

Nolan was an autodidact in most areas of knowledge and, compared to the majority of artists both then and now, was more or less self-taught. Coming from a working-class Melbourne background - his father was a tram driver and his grandfather was a policeman in 19th century Victoria who was involved in hunting down the Kelly gang (perhaps this was where Nolan's obsession with Kelly took root) - Nolan left school at 14 and at 16 worked with spray paints and dyes in a hat factory. This experience may explain his facility with different, and unconventional, media like high-gloss enamel house paint and spray paint.

The Kelly series

The Kelly series, painted in 1946-47, was arguably Nolan's apotheosis. The series is a tour de force - 27 stunning paintings telling the story, and myth, of the Kelly gang and their destruction at Glenrowan, a very Australian theme, one of inglorious failure.



Nolan used the stark graphical device of Kelly's armour, in pure black in contrast with the "luminous" landscapes. In this picture Nolan has dispensed with Kelly's eyes so that the landscape shows through the rectangle within the jet-black square of the iconic helmet. The landscape is evoked with great dexterity and simplicity, the yellow-ochre/green enamel dragged across the gessoed hardboard becomes the stark plain with sparse bushland made real with a few strokes of the brush.

Ripolin

The medium that Nolan used for much of his great works was Ripolin, a European high-gloss enamel house paint. He had become aware of it through reading Alice B. Toklas's autobiography (Picasso probably became aware of it in the same way; and Pollock was an avid Ripolin-dripper in the 50s) and started using it in the early 1940s.

What was it about this unorthodox medium that so enthralled Nolan?

"It was very luminous and you're able to ... get the image if you use it very thinly like watercolour or enamel (and) you get a terrific luminosity. That's how I was able to achieve these high-intensity levels of light."

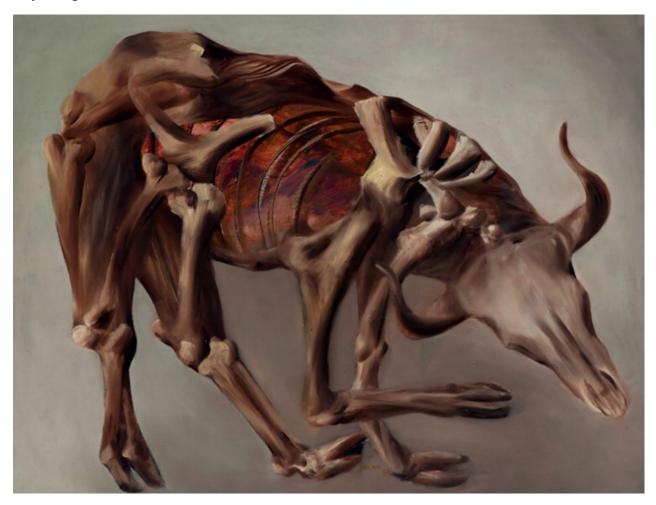


Central Australia is another highlight of Nolan's oeuvre. Coming out of his trip to Central Australia in 1949, this painting, and others in the series, show the monumental scale of the Australian outback. Nolan hitched rides on a mail plane and so was able to get an aerial perspective of the landscape. He was one of the first non-indigenous artists to paint the vast, remote interior of the continent at a time when the majority of the population had never seen the country's centre.

"It is a simple matter to trace in this old waterless and eroded surface of the earth the dreaming nature and philosophy of the Aborigines. In the morning the light on the hills was like gauze... Transparent and

at the same time impenetrable, a fitting paradox for those who would look long at it and attempt to look through it to the coloured rocks and hills themselves. One must accept it, as such only a little of it can be painted. The same as other things, only here the categories of light are clearly defined. Just so much you can do and just so much you cannot. It would be a mistake to erect any theories. Time and space are obviously welded together under those conditions here. Both are old." - Sidney Nolan's diary notes, Alice Springs, 1949.

"The red ochre of the desert in Central Australia provides a striking colour change from much of the Australian landscape painting which had preceded it. The rich reds of the soil and lunar-like craggy outcrops must have been quite a shock to the city-dwelling art lovers accustomed to bucolic pastoral scenes. For me, the most striking thing about this series is comparing Nolan's photographs of the region with the paintings. The forms of the ancient land with its craters and shadows have been brilliantly rendered; there is little abstracted. Nolan has captured the isolated beauty of Central Australia's colours and forms with honesty and great skill." Leanne Santoro, AGNSW.



Nolan's huge output continued up until his death in 1992. It was his facility with the medium of paint rather than any ability as a draughtsman that places him in the higher echelons of Australian art; perhaps Australia's greatest painter.

Poetry Corner

Wallace Stevens (1879 – 1955)

Bouquet of Roses in Sunlight (1947)

Say that it is a crude effect, black reds,
Pink yellows, orange whites, too much as they are
To be anything else in the sunlight of the room,

Too much as they are to be changed by metaphor,
Too actual, things that in being real
Make any imaginings of them lesser things.

And yet this effect is a consequence of the way We feel and, therefore, is not real, except In our sense of it, our sense of the fertilest red,

Of yellow as first color and of white, In which the sense lies still, as a man lies, Enormous, in a completing of his truth.

Our sense of these things changes and they change, Not as in metaphor, but in our sense Of them. So sense exceeds all metaphor.

It exceeds the heavy changes of the light.

It is like a flow of meanings with no speech

And of as many meanings as of men.



Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Bouquet of Roses, 1912



Vincent van Gogh, Pink-Roses, 1890

WHAT'S ON?

Workshops, Galleries, Exhibitions, Prize Entries, Coming Events



VICKI JACKETT, SNOW GUMS, 2025

BRAEMAR GALLERY SPRINGWOOD, NSW

27 NOV- 21 DEC 25

OFFICIAL OPENING 29 NOV 2-4 PM



CAITLIN HEPWORTH

An Exhibition by Blue Mountains Mosaic Collective



PIP ENEVER



ROBYN FITZROY



GILL GREEN



KIM HALLAM



ANDREA KETTERLING JOHN MATHEWS





GALIA MENIN



CHRISTINE STICKLEY



PAT WATSON



LINDA WEISS



XANTHE WELLS



SALLY ZYLBERBERG

Unearthed fragments from ancient sites remind us of stories built with stones of the past. In Grounded, artists continue this tradition, creating works that speak of place, habitat, and home. Using materials drawn from the earth - stone, minerals, porcelain, metal and glass, they reveal mosaic's enduring ability to ground us in memory, material, and meaning.

SUPPORTING BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

WORKSHOPS & SALES

INFORMATION,



WWW.HEPWORTHSTUDIOS.COM

Gallery NWC is thrilled to be hosting a Christmas market and festive showcase throughout December and January!

This will be the perfect place to find one-of-a-kind, creative & affordable gifts for friends and family.

This market will feature art, textiles, homewares, cards, wearables and more.

On display, there will be an amazing array of artworks from our most highly esteemed artists throughout both levels of the gallery. We are also highlighting local artists and makers - not only our fabulous stable of consignment artists, but we have also extended this opportunity to others in our network.

We will also be holding a Gallery Party
to celebrate the artists and accomplishments of 2025!

This will take place on Sunday the 7th of December from 12pm-4pm,

Drinks and refreshments provided.

We would love to extend an open invitation to our community.

Come along and enjoy beautiful artwork and craftsmanship while celebrating with our team,

our artists and our supporters.

We hope to see you there!

188 Katoomba Street, Katoomba, NSW, Australia, 2780

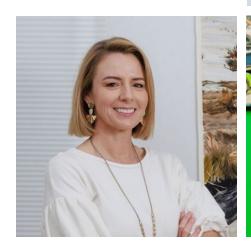
Trading hours: Thursday - Sunday | 10am - 4pm



St Columba's is excited to announce the judges for the 2026 prize, bringing a wealth of knowledge, experience & creativity.

We look forward to once again highlighting diverse creative voices from the Blue Mountains and across Australia.

Meet Our 2026 Judges



Sarah Birtles

Director, Sarah Birtles Art + Advice



Toby ChapmanDirector, Penrith Regional Gallery



Juanita McLauchlan First Nations Gamilaraay Artist

Thanks to our generous sponsors, we're proud to offer a substantial prize pool that supports artists in their creative practice, with categories for local and youth artists alongside the major Open Prize of \$10,000.

\$10,000 Open Prize, \$2,000 Local Prize, and \$2,000 worth of Youth Prizes!

We welcome submissions by artists in mediums including painting, drawing, sculpture, textiles, ceramics & mixed media with the exception of photographic and digital works including digitally printed works, video and ai generated.

Important Dates to Remember









GALLERY NWC

188 Katoomba Street, Katoomba, NSW, Australia, 2780

Trading hours: Thursday - Sunday | 10am - 4pm

Open Mondays by appointment only for a boutique shopping experience

REMAINING WORKS > GALLERY NWC > 'FESTIVE SHOWCASE' > DEC-JAN





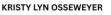




KARIN KLUGMAN

JOHN RICE

DON TALINTYRE





MELLISSA READ-DEVINE



RENEE MITCHELL



WIN - ME!



REEVA ASHTON



SHIRLEY PETERS



TED LEWIS



SUE GASSER

BLUE MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTRE

30 Parke Street, Katoomba 2780

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

https://bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au/exhibition/capsules-memory-gianna-christella-hayes/

Until 1 Feb. 2026

https://bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au/exhibition/play/

Until 15 Feb. 2026

PENRITH REGIONAL GALLERY

86 River Road, Emu Plains

The Gallery is open daily from 10am – 3.45pm

https://www.penrithregionalgallery.com.au/whats-on/a-river-is-a-witness/

https://www.penrithregionalgallery.com.au/whats-on/the-pool-show/

https://www.penrithregionalgallery.com.au/whats-on/megapixel/

All until 15 Feb. 2026

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

Blue Mountains Mosaic Collective | Grounded

27 NOV - 21 DEC

Byron Kinnaird | Poems for Independence

27 NOV - 21 DEC

Braemar Gallery will be closed from 22 Dec 2025 - 7 Jan 2026. It will reopen on 8 Jan 2026.