



## BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE Newsletter April 2026

WEBSITE: [www.bmcac.org.au](http://www.bmcac.org.au)

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

INSTAGRAM: [lifedrawing\\_glenbrook](#)

**BLUE MOUNTAINS  
CREATIVE  
ARTS CENTRE**

# Members' Exhibition and Sale

**Sat 2nd May 9am-5pm  
Sun 3rd May 9am-4pm  
Glenbrook Theatre Hall**

Find a unique, handmade gift

**POTTERY  
JEWELLERY  
ART  
MOSAICS**

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

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Wed. 8 April	Term 2 Enrolment day
Mon. 27 April	Term 2 starts
Sat./Sun. 2-3 May	Members Exhibition
Thu. 7 May, 7.30pm	Committee Meeting

For details on classes and courses please go to:

<https://bmcac.org.au/courses/>

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Members,

Please note Beverley's Report about the Members Exhibition coming up in the first weekend of May. The catalogue for registering entries of your work and labels are on the following two pages.

As promised the AGM Reports about BMCAC activities throughout 2025 and the new list of elected committee members can be found on pages 10-15.

Our committee member Jeannie McInnes' exhibition at Braemar's Gallery in Springwood has just finished (see p. 9) but at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre in Katoomba you may still see the portrait entry of this editor by our life drawing facilitator Rick Hawkins until 19 April.

Keep me posted with pics of your art work and thoughts about your creations and encounters with art.

*Rudi Christen*

Creations' Editor

[rudich7@dodo.com](mailto:rudich7@dodo.com)



### Get in touch with us !

Bruce Hunter	President	<a href="mailto:bj.hunter@live.com">bj.hunter@live.com</a>
Ingrid Russell	Secretary & Arts Director	<a href="mailto:bmcac.mail@gmail.com">bmcac.mail@gmail.com</a>
Alison James	Vice President, Pottery & Workshop Coordinator	<a href="mailto:arty_ali@hotmail.com.au">arty_ali@hotmail.com.au</a>

## Incoming PRESIDENT'S REPORT *Bruce Hunter*

Firstly, let me thank Alison for all her dedication and work for the Centre. It's energy and success is a credit to her.

We are heading into a new and challenging era for the creative arts domain, and particularly for community arts. The global economy and unstable political environment, our cost-of-living issues, the ever present risk of unexpected crises, or expenses arising all point to a need for organizations such as ours to ensure that we have an ability to move with, and ride-out, such situations - as much as possible.

Unfortunately this means that course fees and teaching costs must move with the times, and this may well impact our class attendance; time will tell. In the currently evolving environment some thought could be given to potential new creative areas to explore, and perhaps the viability of some of our offerings. This is not a priority but is worth some unhurried consideration for the evolving development of the Centre.

In terms of the physical infrastructure, it may be prudent now to institute a six-monthly cyclical maintenance program (paths, gutters, drains), particularly given the increasing vagaries of our weather. I am also exploring connecting water to the Jade Yurt and establishing a wash-out area on the western external wall of the storeroom.

I would welcome any suggestions from members about possible improvements to our infrastructure. I would also like to thank members for their work on the refurbishments to the Gallery area. There have been a number of favourable comments on how this now looks.

In closing, I hope to be able to provide strong support to our current and future activities and growth, our wonderful and dynamic community, and to build on the Centre's strong reputation.

## PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT *Beverley Moreman*

Our Member's Exhibition is happening on 2nd and 3rd May at the Glenbrook Community Hall. Every Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre member is eligible to enter their own work in whatever medium. Details will be sent soon including forms, labels and who to contact if you intend to participate and to let us know how many wall art works you will have or how many tables you will need.

You can also find the catalogue and labels used to register and identify your entries for the Members Exhibition on the next two pages (4&5).

So start thinking about what you could exhibit and also how you can help out - on Friday afternoon 1st May for set up or over the weekend itself.

Please let your family and friends know about the exhibition. It's a great place to get gifts – and just before Mother's Day on the 10th May!"





### Members' Exhibition

Artist: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Medium: \_\_\_\_\_

Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Price: \_\_\_\_\_



### Members' Exhibition

Artist: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Medium: \_\_\_\_\_

Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Price: \_\_\_\_\_



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Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Price: \_\_\_\_\_

## ART DIRECTOR'S REPORT *Ingrid Russell*

The new website is just about completed. Our deadline was April 8 when enrolments for term 2 opened. This has been a massive task and adding all the copy to it has taken some time. Many thanks to Phil from Simple Media for all his hard work setting it up for us at little cost. Call it a labour of love. Thanks also to Beverley Moreman for liaising with Phil.

There are a few changes to the timetable for Term 2. As Cheryle is going on her Artist in Residency in Peru she has arranged two substitute teachers for the Printmaking classes; a great chance for present and past students to learn from new perspectives. We welcome Danielle Lister and Marnie Tomczyk as our casual Printmaking teachers.

Fees have had to go up to cover the cost of superannuation, insurances and increased running costs. Our fees have remained low for a while now but this has become unsustainable.

There will unfortunately be no Mosaics classes on offer as we have lost Selena. It's been decided to keep the same time-slots and offer the times for a Mosaics drop in group. Tuesday nights will be facilitated by Kim Walker. We need a facilitator for Wednesday mornings. These will start April 28.

Term 2 starts Tuesday April 28 because of the ANZAC day holiday. Therefore the term finishes on Monday June 23.

Our Annual Members' Exhibition is on May 2&3 with set up on Friday May 1. Art works to be delivered at 1:00pm and pottery etc. set up from 2:00pm, to be finished by 4:00pm.

I encourage all our members to be involved, in exhibiting and/or setting up. Exhibiting members will need to volunteer a couple of hours to sit the exhibition and take sales.

Please let Alison know how many tables you need.

### **Hare St Gallery Report**

First quarter sales were average. We are now into second quarter and hopefully sales will continue to grow.

## HEAD GARDENER'S REPORT *Liz Bryden*

It's taken a while for the weather to cool down but Autumn has started and gardening should now be easier.

The grass had grown over the last couple of months to the point that it took two runs a couple of weeks ago using our Ryobi 18 volt mower. It's a great machine but the thickness and length of the grass made it a challenge. So a lesson learnt; mow more often before it becomes a problem.

The garden itself is overdue for some attention and hopefully there will be time. The mowing and blowing has been the first priority plus the ongoing need to remove leaves between and behind the buildings. Our site is surrounded by large gum trees and leaf drop is a problem year round.

Also next on the list is the hedging plus culling some of the bromeliads, especially the "vicious" ones. Beautiful flowers but you need protection from the sharp leaves which were badly damaged by the long hot summer. Weeds are another issue to work on. Hopefully 2026 will see less growth but with enough rain to keep everything green.

## POTTERY COORDINATOR'S REPORT *Alison James*

Our large kiln was repaired on the 12th of March. It completed a midfire firing and a bisque fire firing with success.

It was then packed for another midfire firing on the 26th of March and failed. We are once again waiting for the kiln technician to come and look at the kiln.

This will be the third time it has required repair since October last year. Each time this happens it causes a huge backlog of work to be fired as it always seems to happen in the middle of a term.

This leads to the next issue, our teachers and facilitators need to be more responsible for the firings of their class and group work.

Yes we have had major issues this term with all three kilns being out of action but the responsibility of getting student and group work fired has always been the teachers' and group facilitators'.

In the last few terms this seems to have dropped off and when I was teaching it seemed that I was completing a majority of the work until I suggested it become a paid role for any member with experience and then Caleb stepped in.

As far as I'm concerned though, there shouldn't be a need for pottery members to be doing the work, it should be the teachers and facilitators. They know the work the students are doing, what glazes they are using and how to guide them to reduce glaze issues in the kiln such as glaze runs etc.

We will need to ensure that this is rostered for next term.

## LIFE DRAWING FACILITATOR'S REPORT *Rick Hawkins*

After some increased publicity – more flyers in different locations: Penrith, Glenbrook, Springwood, Katoomba – 2026 has begun on a positive note.

Term One went really well, with plenty of members paying for the whole term and a few “walk-ins” giving us a cash-flow boost.

There were no problems with the booking of models and all the models turned up on time.

We get a lot of feedback from the models about how much they enjoy coming to BMCAC, and how welcoming and relaxed the atmosphere is.

Looking forward to Term Two. We have a modest surplus of funds at the end of Term One.

- Term 1 for 2026 Exploring Printmaking commenced on Monday mornings and Thursday nights. There was a mixture of new students and returning students.
- Interested printmakers can follow regular post and printmaking news on [Facebook Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre](#). To follow students work go to [Blue Mountains Printmaking Ink](#)
- Cheryle Yin Lo , Printmaking Facilitator and Print Studio Coordinator will be overseas during Term 2. In Term 2 Exploring Printmaking classes will be facilitated by experienced printmakers, Marnie Tomczyk on Monday morning 9.30am -12.30pm class and Danielle Lister on Thursday nights 6pm-8.30pm. I welcome them both in this new role at BMCAC; however they are not new to BMCAC. Both have had a long association and been members with our arts centre for a number of years, and have been part of the printmaking classes and community at BMCAC, producing a range of beautiful work in the different print mediums so you may have seen their friendly faces before!
- If you are a current member you can arrange print open access times. See 2026 BMCAC class timetable for the days and times available. 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 in June this year with Arquetopia Foundation [www.arquetopia.org](http://www.arquetopia.org)

Cheryle was also in a group exhibition -**Uncertain Sanctuary** at Royal Botanic Gardens with the Sydney Printmakers 4-15 March 2026 . Sydney Printmakers [www.sydneyprintmakers.com.au](http://www.sydneyprintmakers.com.au)

**BMCAC** will be hosting the **2027 Blue Mountains Print Prize** from 9-11 April 2027. So we will be seeking interested members keen to assist on this project team, printmakers to start working on submissions and call out to local sponsors who would like to be part of this print prize at BMCAC which is now well established and attracting entries both locally and nationally. For more information contact Cheryle on Mobile 0407409445.

Follow **The Printmaking Sisters** for workshops and resources [www.annieday.com.au](http://www.annieday.com.au)

Follow **Sydney Printmakers** [www.sydneyprintmakers.com.au](http://www.sydneyprintmakers.com.au) , facebook and instagram

## Exhibition News

Congratulations to all our BMCAC members who have been recognised for their talent and have been successful in exhibiting at Braemar Gallery this year. I know there are some who have been working hard and planning their work for this opportunity for quite a few months.

## Current Exhibition at Braemar Gallery.

**Jeannie Mc Innes** from our BMCAC committee and printmaker had her group show opening on 21 March with her beautiful and delicate prints inspired by **Birdwood Gully** (see illustration next page) and **Louise Fox** , a BMCAC printmaker in her show '**Intangible Legacies**'. Both are exhibiting with a number of local artists **until 12 April 2026**

<https://bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au/braemar-gallery/>

To keep in touch with upcoming exhibitions: Facebook Braemar Gallery

<https://www.facebook.com/Braemargallery/>

*cont. next page*

**NWC Gallery in Katoomba** at 188 Katoomba Street.

Gallery Director **Katherine Kennedy** presented her latest exhibition with the winner of 2025 Blue Mountains Print Prize , **Cleo Wilkinson** 19 March -5 April with her delicate and stunning collection of mezzotint prints. This exhibition is one of the examples of the opportunities of The Blue Mountains Print Prize which was jointly hosted last year by BMCAC and NWC. The prize sponsored by NWC is for a printmaker to receive a complimentary professional exhibition and support.

#### USEFUL LINKS

For developing your creative or art business [www.creativeplusbusiness.com](http://www.creativeplusbusiness.com)

For arts news and competitions Arts Hub [www.artshub.com.au](http://www.artshub.com.au)

For artists from any artform interested in art residencies in Australia and overseas [www.resartis.org](http://www.resartis.org)

For Creative Mentoring services [www.creativetraveller.com.au](http://www.creativetraveller.com.au) or email: [creativetraveller.com.au](mailto:creativetraveller.com.au) for free PDF on 10 Tips for Creativity in Everyday Life or How To Find Your Artistic Voice.

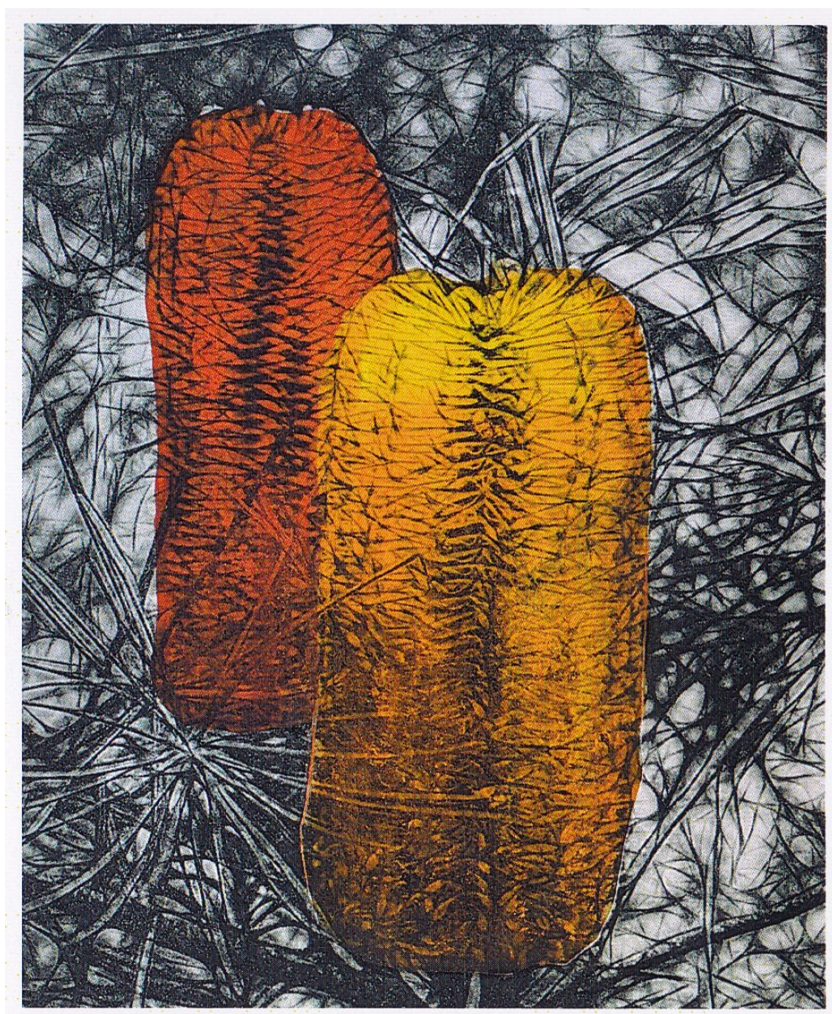
#### RECOMMENDED READING

*Alternative Lithography* by Scarlett Rebecca

*Gelli Arts Printing Guide* -Printing out without a press on paper and fabric by Suzanne McNeill

*Australian Collagraph Printmaker* , Kim Herringe is also featured in this book

[www.kimherringe.com.au](http://www.kimherringe.com.au)



Jeannie McInnes, *Bush Beacons* (detail) 2025, intaglio print with Chine Colle, 21x30cm

(Braemar Gallery exhibition 19 March -12 April)

# AGM 2026 REPORTS

## Presidents Report

The Centre held its two annual exhibitions and Art Prize in 2025. We had a busy year for workshop bookings, and classes were well attended.

Having improved the Centre in the last few years and therefore increasing funding flowing into the Centre, our finances were healthy enough to allow us to make a major purchase of a much needed new kiln, which we took delivery of in July.

We had another huge clean-up effort of the storage room, clearing out a lot of older things that were being kept for a 'rainy day' but never likely to be used again with new and improved options available.

The gardens and minor Centre repairs continue to be maintained and looked after by our volunteer committee members, with a few of the larger jobs or those requiring industry experience such as gutter cleaning and kiln maintenance, being outsourced to the professionals.

2025 has also been a great reminder that our Centre relies on volunteers, volunteers who dedicate themselves tirelessly to keeping the Centre running and who often go above and beyond what their volunteer position is.

When we lose volunteers we don't always realise just what big shoes they were wearing, so when they need to leave those shoes or just take a break from them it's important that there are others that are willing and capable.

This will be one of the biggest challenges the Centre will face in the future, and it will be important to get the balance right between willing hands, professionalism, skills and knowledge.

Lastly this will be my last President's report as I resign from my position after serving for nine years as President. I have nominated in other roles for this year and will hand over the reigns to the incoming nominee.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to the committee members who I've worked with since 2016. Together I feel proud to say that we have created a warm and vibrant Centre, with some very beautiful upgrades including but not limited to the kitchen, garden path, print room, art storage room, gallery hanging system, main room storage and library cupboards, coloured yurts, main room roof, Hare St Gallery, Blue Mountains Art Prize, Blue Mountains Print Prize, new roller door, pottery room cupboards, mosaic wall, kiln, gardens and garden walls.

It was a busy nine years and I've loved every bit.

Your President

Alison James

## **Art Director's Report – Ingrid Russell**

2025 has been another busy year for BMCAC. We had four solid terms of enrolments in pottery, mosaics, pen and wash, and print making. Pottery for children had a consistent 4 classes per week. Our new pottery teacher, Christina Iafigliona, ran two adult and two children's classes on a Friday, which were very popular. Children's art classes were an area of concern, as numbers have been dropping. Victoria Stiff came on board as children's art teacher, but numbers remained low. We had two homeschool classes, one in pottery and one in art.

The Biannual Print Prize went ahead and was well attended. It was Nation Wide Curating's last show and it was handed back to BMCAC. Cheryle Yin Lo has agreed to coordinate the 2027 prize.

The Annual Art Prize had around 100 entries. We covered the main prize and some other smaller prizes. We had a massive donation of art materials from Derwent thanks to Chris McGreal. Opening night was once again very well attended, and a few sales were made. As the dates coincided with a long weekend, the exhibition was open for three days. Another successful event.

We had two members exhibitions. The Mother's Day one was very successful, however the October one was lacking in customers possibly due to lack of signage, which will hopefully be rectified in 2026.

Hare St Gallery takings were slow through 2025 until 4th quarter, which was fantastic, possibly due to some extra publicity by our publicity team Beverley Moreman and Audrey Mason. Member numbers fluctuated but we managed to stay open.

Finally, I would like to thank all our teachers and students for another successful year for BMCAC, and I encourage all members to participate in whatever way they can in 2026.

## **Life Drawing Annual Report – Rick Hawkins**

2025 was a relatively lean year for Life Drawing at BMCAC with fairly good numbers of people enrolling for a full term but less people coming in "off the street" and paying cash on the day. Cash flow issues result with that scenario but we just managed to get through.

There were no problems with booking a model for each session, with many models available and eager for work. I have noticed an increase in male models asking for work but it's difficult to please everyone and the balance of female to male models is about 70/30% so I've had at least one disgruntled male model accusing me and the Life Drawing group of being "a cheap girly show in the guise of art."! (I have blocked that particular model.)

Everything has gone smoothly with models turning up on time and only one model cancelling at the last minute (we had to improvise by drawing some mannequins that Gus Carrozza kindly supplied).

Many of the models have commented that they enjoy modelling at BMCAC because of the welcoming, friendly atmosphere. The work by our regulars continues to improve and inspire.

I have maintained an active Glenbrook Life Drawing Instagram presence, posting images of the group's work every week. We get a lot of feedback and "likes" on Instagram and I aim to increase social media presence via other platforms like BMCAC Website, Facebook, WhatsApp, etc.

After some increased publicity – more flyers in different locations: Penrith, Glenbrook, Springwood, Ka-toomba – 2026 has begun on a more positive note.

## Pottery Coordinator's Report - Kathleen Zanardo

Pottery had four pottery drop-in groups active throughout 2025, with the long-established Monday evening, Tuesday evening, and Saturday morning groups. Our newest group meet on Tuesday mornings and is facilitated by Suzy Ward. It has grown in numbers to be a large group with up to eight people attending. Attendances across all groups do fluctuate and on some occasions the groups can number as few as three or four people. We've had many enquiries throughout the year from people wishing to join our groups. Often, they are people that began at the Centre as class members so it's really nice to see them wanting to come back. The pottery facilitators are endeavouring to find new ways of ensuring their groups are full each session via WhatsApp group chats and Facebook Events.

Over the year our three kilns worked steadily to get through all the firings for classes and the drop-groups.

The new Rohde kiln was installed in July and nicknamed Mother Bear like the previous middle-sized kiln. Thanks to Michael Dausmann for connecting the kiln controller and entering our firing programs into it, as well as doing the first burn-in program. Also purchased were ten new lightweight kiln shelves which were batt washed before use. The new Rohde kiln is a bit smaller than the old Mother Bear it is replacing. We were advised by the technician to not open the new kiln at any temperature above 100°C as it is better for the kiln's longevity.

Throughout the year there were various problems with the kilns that required our electrician Andrew Thomas to attend the Centre. In March, Father Bear (FB) was triggering the safety switch so the electrician replaced the circuit board. In August, FB received some replacement elements plus we got a new controller bracket and vent for the Rohde kiln. In October, some wiring on the back of FB had burnt out so it was replaced. In November, Andrew's new technician Nina replaced the thermocouple in FB and put a new seal around the door.

A working bee was done on the pottery room in July by Janet, Kathleen and Cristina. Also, the layout of the kiln room was rearranged after the arrival of the new kiln.

We held two BMCAC Members' Exhibitions in 2025, one in May and the other in October. We had moderate sales of pottery, although less than previous exhibitions. Everyone's work looked great and there was lots of variety, just not the foot traffic despite signage and promotion.

The annual BMCAC Art Prize was held in October. Of the many ceramic entries, there were two prizes awarded (Katrina Bodey for her work 'A Place Called Home' awarded the Roy Brooks Prize for Ceramics/Sculpture, and Henry Tankard for 'Indian Myna' gaining Commended Ceramics).

## Workshop Coordinator Report - Alison James

The main room was booked for workshops or events 37 times in 2025 with only a handful of those not going ahead for various reason.

Most of the workshops booked were from people looking to hire the space.

# Publicity officer's report: Publicity and committee activities 2025/6

Beverley Moreman

## *Facebook*

Information prepared for each event (Member's exhibition, Art prize, Print prize), new terms classes, Hare St gift ideas, printmaking flyer, life drawing flyers.  
Sent to over 20 different Facebook pages or groups – neighbourhood groups, other galleries and arts or artists groups in the mountains, Penrith, Emu Plains, Western Sydney.  
Kept a spreadsheet of where information is shared and dates.

*Cross promotion with sponsors* – The Artists Store, ArtSup

## *Flyers and signs*

Preparation and printing of flyers for events  
Distribution of flyers to The Artists Store, ArtSup, ColourArt, community noticeboards in Springwood, Glenbrook, East Blaxland, Blaxland, cafes and other shops in Springwood, Glenbrook, East Blaxland, Blaxland, Woodford, Lawson, Katoomba  
New signs for Centre utilising QR codes for stats

*Emails* to BMCC events calendar, Blue Mountains tourism pages and BM Gazette

## *Hare St*

New single sided flyer distributed to Community noticeboard, Cinema and Tourist Centre  
Facebook posts re new art, new artists, gift cards  
Facebook post shared to other galleries, art centres, etc

## *Other activities*

Updates to website – removed out of date information, added news items, art prize winners, new info for Pottery Group etc  
Set up google analytics for QR code stats  
Set up new email addresses for the Centre using Google Workspace and set up use of Mailchimp for bulk emailing. Provides better security and has shown to be better accessed by members.  
Set up access to full version Canva  
Sponsorship policy updated  
Assisting with work for the new website including new images and text.

## Building co-ordinator's report - David Attwood

Works completed in 2025 included gutters, drains, locks and general maintenance.

## Printmaking Facilitator's Report - 2025 Overview

The BMCAC Printmaking Group experienced a dynamic and productive year in 2025, marked by strong growth, creative exploration, and community engagement. The Blue Mountains printmaking community continues to expand each year, welcoming both enthusiastic beginners and professional practitioners into a supportive and collaborative environment.

In 2025, we successfully ran two regular classes—Monday mornings and Thursday evenings—providing accessible opportunities for participants with varying schedules and experience levels. It is rewarding to see BMCAC building a strong reputation for professional support in nurturing and developing creative practice. Open access times have been popular amongst BMCAC members.

Our program has focused not only on technical skill-building across processes such as linocut, mono-type, and cyanotype, but also on fostering a shared excitement—from the joy of a first print to the confidence to explore new techniques and experimentation. Collaboration has been a key strength, with participants learning from one another and deepening their understanding of the diversity within printmaking practices. Many BMCAC printmakers have also exhibited at Braemar Gallery in professional group exhibitions, reflecting the strength and quality of work being produced. Also many students have extended their interest in developing their art by undertaking the local TAFE courses and complementing their week by joining our printmaking classes.

We extend our sincere thanks to Katherine Kennedy from NWC Gallery for establishing and co-hosting the Blue Mountains Print Prize over recent years. Her commitment and dedication have played a significant role in promoting printmaking across the region. As NWC Gallery expands its activities, BMCAC will become the primary host of the biennial Blue Mountains Print Prize, to be held from 9–11 April 2027. This event will be led and managed by Cheryle Yin Lo, with a call-out for project team members and sponsors to support the continued growth of printmaking at a national level.

As Printmaking Facilitator, I would like to thank the Committee for their support and am proud of the inclusive and encouraging culture that continues to grow within the studio, and look forward to the opportunities ahead for BMCAC.

Cheryle Yin Lo

Printmaking Facilitator & Print Studio Coordinator

### Office Bearers for 2026.

President: Bruce Hunter

Vice President: Alison James

Treasurer: David Attwood

Secretary: Ingrid Russell

Arts Director: Ingrid Russell

Pottery coordinator : Alison James

Workshop Facilitator: Alison James

Printmaking Facilitator: Cheryle Yin Lo

Publicity Officer

Grants Officer

Life Drawing Facilitator: Rick Hawkins

Gardening Officer: Liz Bryden

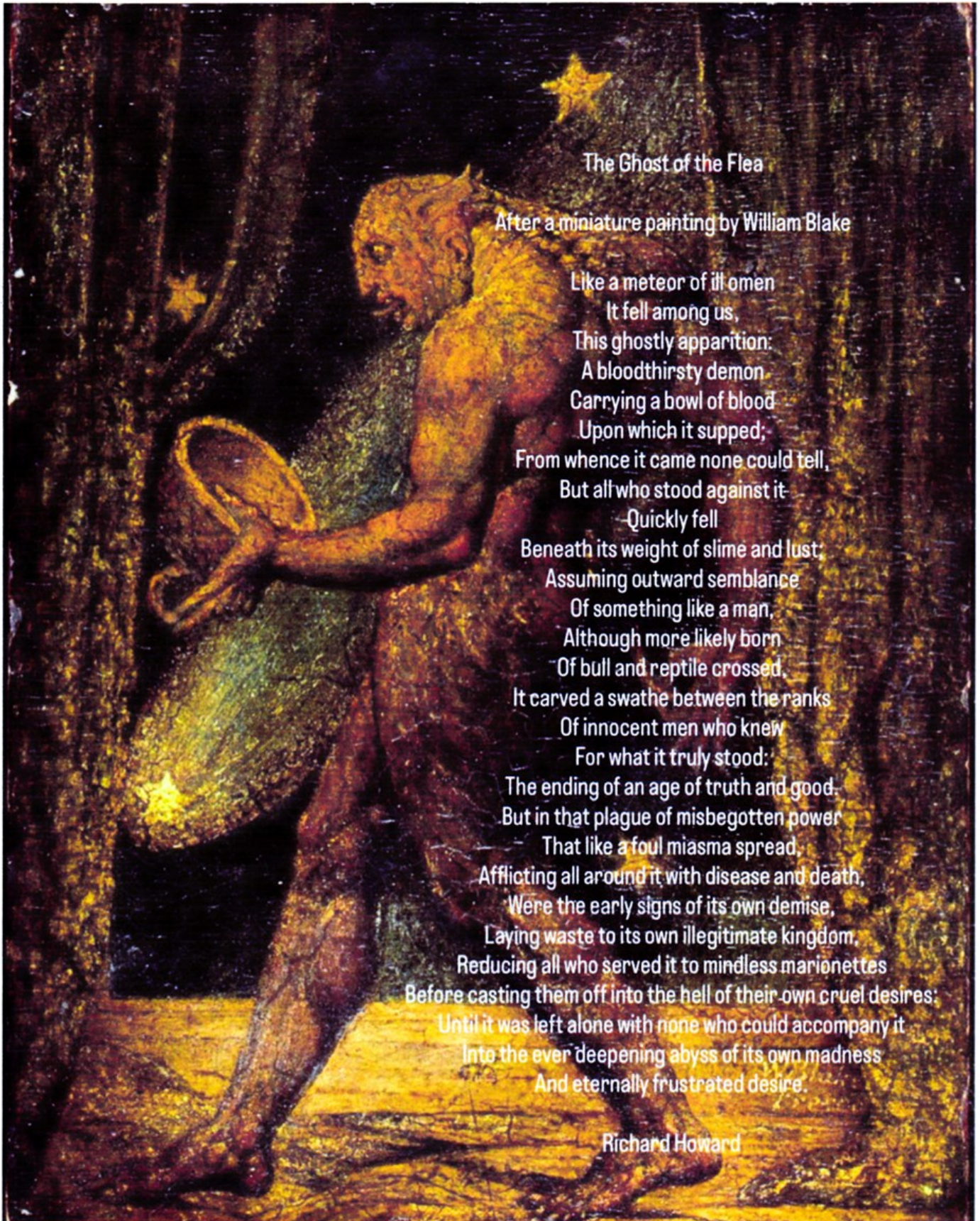
Building Maintenance Officer: David Attwood

Creations Editor: Rudi Christen

Librarian: Gus Carrozza

Committee Member: Joy Myers Creed

Committee Member: Jeannie McInnes



### The Ghost of the Flea

After a miniature painting by William Blake

Like a meteor of ill omen  
It fell among us,  
This ghostly apparition:  
A bloodthirsty demon  
Carrying a bowl of blood  
Upon which it supped;  
From whence it came none could tell,  
But all who stood against it  
Quickly fell  
Beneath its weight of slime and lust:  
Assuming outward semblance  
Of something like a man,  
Although more likely born  
Of bull and reptile crossed,  
It carved a swathe between the ranks  
Of innocent men who knew  
For what it truly stood:  
The ending of an age of truth and good,  
But in that plague of misbegotten power  
That like a foul miasma spread,  
Afflicting all around it with disease and death,  
Were the early signs of its own demise,  
Laying waste to its own illegitimate kingdom,  
Reducing all who served it to mindless marionettes  
Before casting them off into the hell of their own cruel desires:  
Until it was left alone with none who could accompany it  
Into the ever deepening abyss of its own madness  
And eternally frustrated desire.

Richard Howard

*The Ghost of a Flea*, painting by William Blake, c. 1819–20; 21.4 cm × 16.2 cm

Poem by Richard Howard

## WHAT'S ON ?

Workshops, Galleries, Exhibitions, Prize Entries, Coming Events

### 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/blue-mountains-portraits-2026/>

21 Feb – 19 Apr

<https://bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au/exhibition/wadi-helen-poyser/>

4 Apr – 17 May

<https://bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au/exhibition/on-tour-sensorial/>

### PENRITH REGIONAL GALLERY

86 River Road, Emu Plains

**The Gallery** is open daily from 10am – 3.45pm

<https://www.penrithregionalgallery.com.au/whats-on/biennale-of-sydney-rememory/>

14 March - 14 June 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](mailto:braemargallery@gmail.com)

Rob Gordon | Water Moving Through the Mountains and Highlands

Sheridan Linnell | So You Thought You Could Leave Us Behind

TAFE NSW Kingswood Campus - Visual Arts Diploma Graduates 2025

**Official opening event at 2pm on Saturday 18 April.**

16 APR - 17 MAY 2026

# Ian McGilvray

Solo exhibition at GALLERY NWC

188 Katoomba Street, Katoomba NSW 2780

Gallery Hours: Thursdays to Mondays 10am - 4pm.

**This Gives Life:** Charles & Emma Darwin, A Love Story

**Exhibition dates: 9 - 26 April 2026**

**Opening event: 11 April 2026, 2-4pm**

**Artist talk / Q&A: 18 April 2026, 2-4pm**



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