

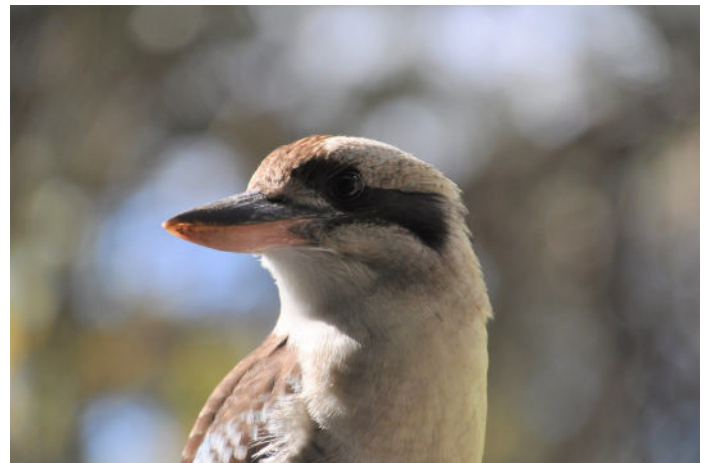


BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE Newsletter June 2026

WEBSITE: www.bmcac.org.au

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

INSTAGRAM: [lifedrawing_glenbrook](#)



BLUE MOUNTAINS BIRDS



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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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Members,

Winter's here and the time is right to switch on your throw blanket and leisurely scroll through our magazine.

If it throws up any thoughts or ideas, please let me know.

Time is on the wing; take note of term 3 timetable on p. 14.

Keep warm and creative,

Rudi Christen

Creations' Editor

rudich7@dodo.com

EVENT SCHEDULE 2026

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
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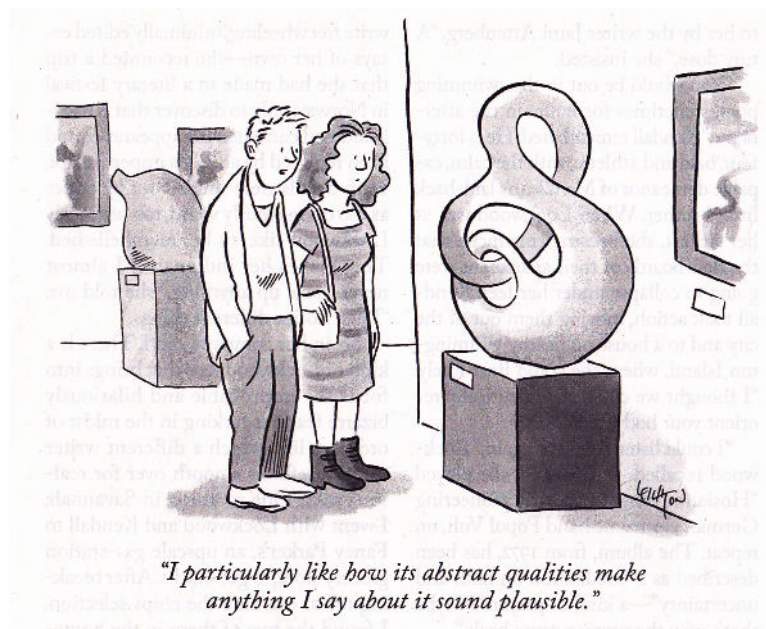
Thu. 2 July, 4.00pm	Committee Meeting
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Fri-Sun 2-4 October	Art Prize
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Sat/Sun 17 & 18 Oct.	Members' Exhibition
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For details on classes and courses please go to:

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



Get in touch with us !

Bruce Hunter

President

bj.hunter@live.com

Ingrid Russell

Secretary & Arts Director

bmcac.mail@gmail.com

Alison James

Vice President, Pottery & Workshop Coordinator

arty_ali@hotmail.com.au

GENERAL BUSINESS

Kiln Room Updates: Bruce shared updates about improvements in the kiln room, including compliance with workplace health and safety standards.

Financial Reports: The group discussed the overdue Charities self-review returns for 2024, 2025, and 2026 and planned to finalize these with David.

Space Audit Proposal: There was a suggestion to conduct a space audit in the gallery due to overcrowding, which impacts the quality of displayed materials.

Signage for Exhibitions: The need for better signage to promote exhibitions was discussed, including creating an "Exhibition" sign and an A-frame core flute sign.

Sales Performance: It was noted that the gallery made good sales during the last exhibition, with specific details provided regarding sales figures and artist performance.

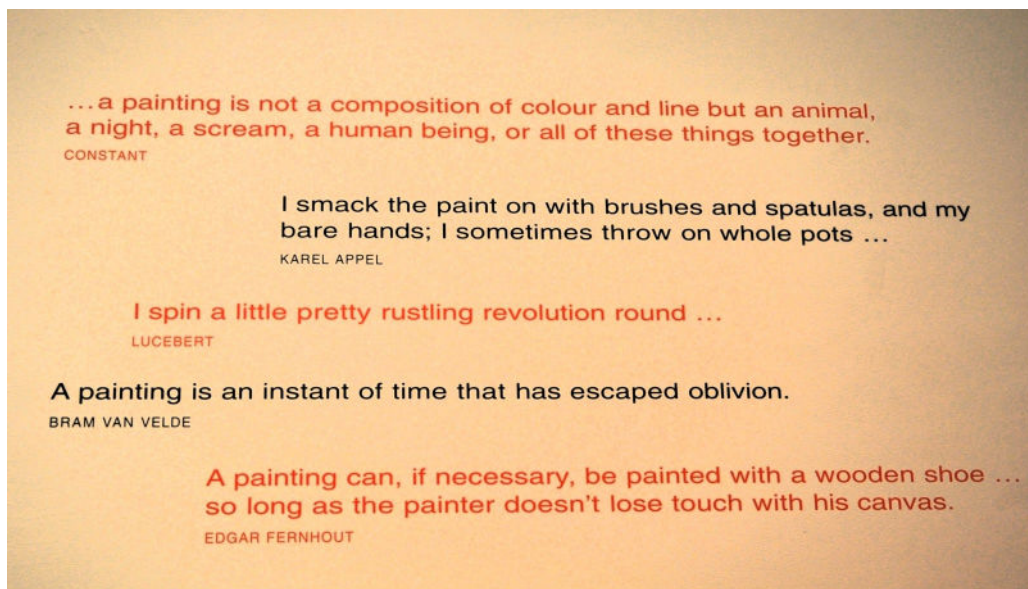
Housekeeping Matters: Several housekeeping issues were raised, including the need to fix a sink, address safety concerns with slippery areas, and replace old equipment like the microwave.

Proposals for New Equipment: A proposal was made to purchase a new microwave, coffee pod machine for the gallery, and a new zip heater for the kitchen to improve comfort for those on duty.

Website Invoice: The committee reviewed an invoice for website design and maintenance, where a member declared a conflict of interest but acknowledged the need for payment.

Art Director's Report: Provided updates on term schedules and new memberships, indicating space allocation concerns.

Overall, the meeting focused on operational improvements, financial decisions, and logistical needs within the gallery and associated activities.



Exhibition Review: Paintings by Mandy Galbraith

THE PATCHWORK LANDSCAPE COLLECTION

Abstracted landscapes inspired by the painter's time in Derbyshire, England.



Patchwork Downs, acrylic & Mixed media



Patchwork Outcrop, acrylic & mixed media



Mandy Galbraith (2nd from left) and friends at the opening on Sunday, 30 May.



Travels with Clarice: An Exhibition Celebrating Friendship, Creativity and Artistic Discovery

Gallery NWC: 188 Katoomba Street, Katoomba NSW 2780

12 June 2026

Artists Julie and Mellissa invite audiences to join them on a journey of artistic exploration, friendship, and adventure in their latest exhibition, *Travels with Clarice*. Inspired by their travels together through Australia's diverse landscapes, the exhibition presents a compelling collection of paintings, prints, watercolours, and ceramics that capture the essence of place and the joy of creative collaboration.

At the heart of *Travels with Clarice* is the unique friendship shared by Julie and Mellissa. Frequent travel companions, the pair have cultivated a creative partnership that continues to inspire and energise their artistic practices. Julie affectionately describes Mellissa as her "travel buddy and muse," acknowledging the important role their adventures play in renewing her creative spirit.

Their journeys in "Clarice," the beloved travel van, became a source of inspiration and connection in the years following the COVID-19 pandemic. Travelling together through regional and remote landscapes, the artists embraced the practice of painting en plein air, immersing themselves in nature while sharing simple pleasures, laughter, and meaningful conversation.

For Mellissa, who initially focused on studio painting and printmaking, painting outdoors presented a rewarding new challenge encouraged by Julie. Together, they developed a routine of travelling, setting up camp, and spending time observing their surroundings before putting brush to canvas.

Julie's artistic approach centres on intuition and presence. Rather than searching for the perfect vista, she allows the landscape to reveal itself naturally, responding to changes in light, atmosphere, and mood. Sketches created during these travels form the foundation of her larger studio works, serving as memory triggers that capture the essence of a place more authentically than photographs.

Mellissa's work similarly draws inspiration from the natural world. Through both painting and printmaking, she interprets the colours, textures, and emotional qualities of the landscape. Her prints often weave personal narratives and reflections into the environment, creating works that are both intimate and evocative.

The exhibition also marks an exciting evolution in Julie's practice, showcasing her recent return to ceramics. Alongside her distinctive watercolours from the *Travels with Clarice* series—renowned for their light, depth, and transparency—the ceramic works further demonstrate her ongoing creative exploration.

In addition to her studio practice, Mellissa is a passionate educator who shares her expertise through workshops across Australia and internationally. Her paintings often emerge quickly from initial sketches and impressions, while her printmaking process involves careful planning balanced with intuitive mark-making and the physical demands of producing high-quality editions.

While each artist maintains a distinct visual language, their works sit in harmonious conversation throughout the exhibition. Together, they offer audiences a glimpse into a friendship built on curiosity, creativity, and a shared appreciation for the natural world.

Travels with Clarice is more than an exhibition of landscapes—it is a celebration of artistic discovery, companionship, and the transformative power of travel. Through their individual and collaborative journeys, Julie and Mellissa continue to enrich both their lives and their artistic practices, inviting viewers to share in the wonder of the landscapes they have encountered along the way.

Exhibition Details

Exhibition: Travels with Clarice

Artists: Julie Simmons and Mellissa Read-Devine

Venue: Gallery NWC

Dates: Closing 21 June

Upcoming Event: Winter Magic Festival - 20 June 2026

Media Contact

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Gallery NWC & Nationwide Curating



Julie Simmons



Mellissa Read-Devine

Neil Laredo, 'Identity - A Self Portrait'

at Braemer Gallery, 21 MAY - 21 JUN 2026

This exhibition by Neil Laredo featured drawings based on family photographs and sculpture pieces, highlighting the evolving nature of identity across generations. Neil is a sponsor of BMCAC.



Bell

A Personal Experience

Identity is shaped over time by the circumstances we encounter. Although it changes as we move through life, it also carries something enduring and recognisably our own.

Recognising this matters because, at some point in life, most of us experience emotional hardship. In Australian vernacular, resilience is often captured in the phrase "she'll be right, mate," reflecting a quiet strength in the face of difficulty. Yet alongside that resilience, it is equally important to remember empathy for those who may be fighting battles we cannot see.

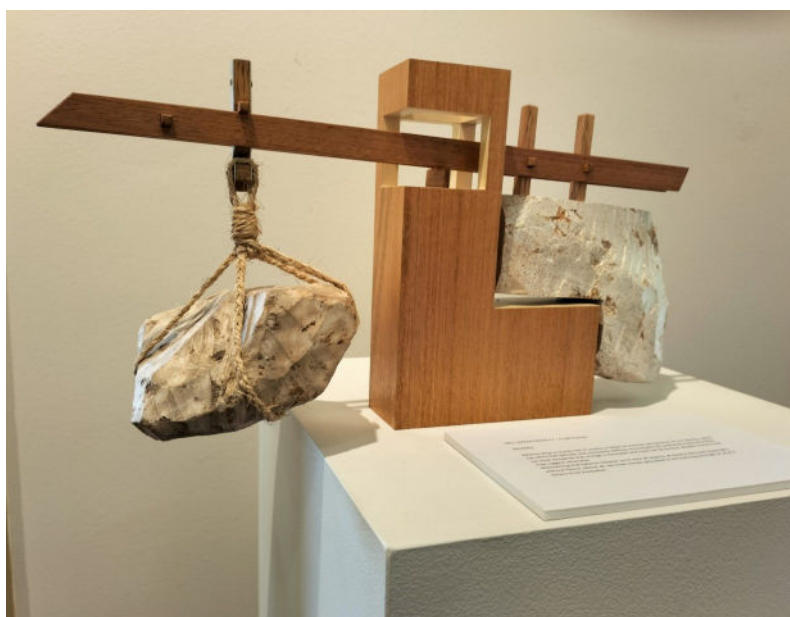
In my own experience of growing up in the post-World War II period, identity was still closely associated with the hardship and perseverance of earlier generations. This outlook was reflected in Australian nationalist painting of the Impressionist period, where endurance and endeavour were often presented with a sense of romance, though such interpretations are now viewed through a wider range of perspectives, they were nationalistic paintings put forward to create unity and wellbeing.

There will always be competing agendas and viewpoints that can create doubt or cynicism. Even so, there was a time then when many families were quietly carrying unseen or ignored struggles at home. Loved ones tried to make sense of those hardships, and children often grew up believing such conditions were simply normal. Yet, for many, love and understanding ultimately prevailed from security of family and the strength of identity.

Identity remains central to this reflection, serving as a reminder of how deeply our experiences, relationships, and shared histories shape who we are.



Marking Time



Balance

Poetry Corner

Rabindranath Tagore

SINGLE-MINDED, HE

Single-minded, he
Moulds the image
In a secluded corner;
Lumps of clay
Lie scattered about, staring,
Unfinished, dumb, unhoping,
At the feet of the proud image,
Heads bowed,
Not even knowing, why they are there.

More pitiful those
Who had form once
But lost meaning
As time passed.
Why are you here? Who invited you?
They have no answer.
Why are they here
At the door of mankind,
With a load of dust, to build what dream?
What Urvashi
From what forgotten heaven
Painted in what canvas of the heart?

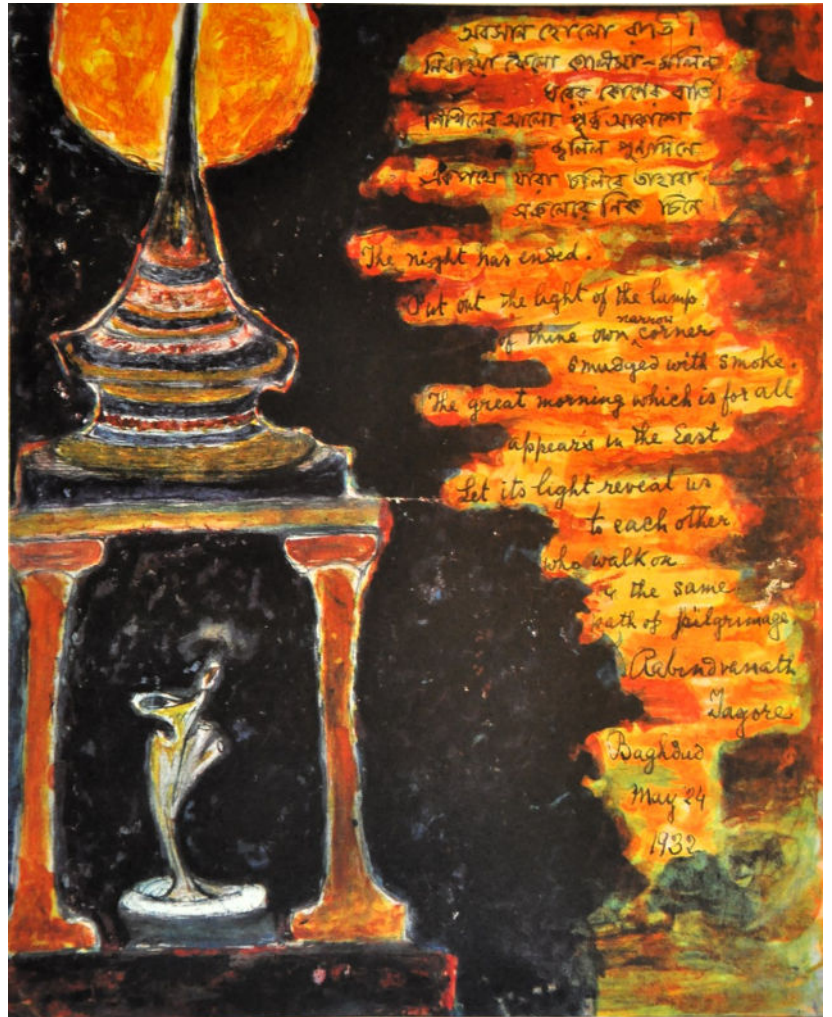
Called once,
Then stored in an art-gallery,
Then forgotten.

Now,
Familial dust reclaims you,
Picks you up casually in its soundless chariot,
And takes you who knows where.

Good.
All over the world
Things get broken, crippled, wasted,
Dust sifts into dust,
Time moves on,
Calumny stares at you each step,
Blocking your path.

Kicked, stepped on,
You fall, crumble,
Under repeated insult,
Until the final peace
When you are once more dust.

*Translated from Bengali by
Shyamasree Devi & P. Lal*



Rabindranath Tagore, untitled, 1932



Rabindranath Tagore, untitled, 1934

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

[The Art of Adaptation | Blue Mountains Cultural Centre](#)

20 Jun – 2 Aug

HELP MAKE A BIGGER IMPACT

Support Empty Bowls

*Donate an Auction Item
or Raffle Prize*

We're inviting local businesses, artists, restaurants, hotels and community-minded organisations to support Empty Bowls 2026 by donating **auction items** and/or **raffle prizes**.

Your support
helps fill
empty bowls
in our
community.

*Thank you
for supporting
our community*

 Showcase your business and support a vital cause

 Gain valuable exposure to our local community

 Help provide food and care for people in crisis through Junction 142

**AUCTION ITEMS.
RAFFLE PRIZES.**

*Real impact.
Lasting change.*



EMPTY BOWLS 2026

Saturday 25 July 2026
From 12 noon
Junction 142, Katoomba

All funds raised support
the vital work of
Junction 142



WANT TO DONATE OR FIND OUT MORE?

We'd love to hear from you!
Get in touch to discuss how
you can contribute.

Thank you! 

COMMUNITY • CLAY • COMPASSION

Together, we can make a difference.

JUNCTION
142

PENRITH REGIONAL GALLERY

86 River Road, Emu Plains

The Gallery is open daily from 10am – 3.45pm

<https://www.penrithregionalgallery.com.au/whats-on/penrith-youth-art-prize-2026/>

27 June - 9 September 2026

<https://www.penrithregionalgallery.com.au/whats-on/ngalawan-we-live-we-remain/>

4 July - 1 November 2026



Stella's Gallery is proud to present

SURGE 26

Ilana Lapid, Starphire Jacobs, Byron McIntosh,
Estella Brasier, Divya Lotliker,
Clare Yates, Liza Moscatelli, Isaac Falzdeen,
Gabriella Sassine, Ameliana Božanić,
Amanda Oei Wells, Karina Lulka, Darren Wells,
Paul Avila Tangia

—

Surge brings together 14 young, local artists whose work reflects the depth and diversity of creative talent emerging from Greater Western Sydney. The title evokes the powerful momentum building in the west — a surge of rising artists, a surge in public interest in their work, and a surge in the cultural influence they are claiming in today's uncertain world.

As Western Sydney's arts sector gains long-overdue recognition across NSW and beyond, these artists are staking their place in the broader cultural conversation. Centralised on our beautiful Nepean River, that acts as a connecting force that unites us all, from the mountains all the way to the city.



STELLA'S
GALLERY

354 High Street, Penrith, 2750

[\(02\) 4722 8211](tel:(02)47228211)

BRAEMAR HOUSE & GALLERY

104 Macquarie Road, Springwood 2777

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

Website: [Blue Mountains Theatre - Braemar Gallery](http://BlueMountainsTheatre.com.au/BraemarGallery)

Contact: Email braemargallery@gmail.com

Pip Alevras | In the company of colour

Erin Miller and Jo Chipperfield | Earthformed

Maeve Dunnett | Touching Earth

25 JUN - 26 JUL 2026

... and a new Gallery in Springwood



BEN TANKARD



DARREN WHITE



CHARLIE NANOS

We help you curate your art collection in the way that works for you – no matter whether you're a first time buyer or established collector.

Based in the Blue Mountains, NSW, you can purchase via our online store or by visiting us at select Australian and International fairs.



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SARAHBIRTLES
ART + ADVICE



Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre, Glenbrook

Class Timetable Term 3, 2026 www.bmcac.org.au

Online enrolments open July 6

Week 1 starts July 27, term goes for 8 weeks, finishing September 18, unless otherwise stated on timetable.

Please note: Children must be enrolled **prior** to attending lessons. Late enrolments cannot be accepted unless there is 4:00-5:30room 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. \$270	Mamie Tomczyk
	12:30-2:30	Printmaking -Open Studios Access Drop in and print. Book in with Alison \$10 per session	
	1:45-3:15	HSAT9 – Art making for Home Schooled children. Explore a variety of art making skills. \$220, materials included.	Micaela Christie
	3:45-5:15	CAM4 – Young Masters – Art class using the Masters as a focus for exploration of painting, drawing and art making. For ages 8 to 12. \$220, all materials included	Micaela Christie
	4:00 - 5:30	CPM4 – Pottery for Children – Fun with clay ages 6 to 12. Starts August 3, 7 weeks only. \$195	Linda Hernando
	6:30-8:30	AAM6 – Drawing for beginners and Intermediate. Learn the finer skills of drawing. \$230	Gus Carrozza
	6:30 -9:30	Drop in and pot – experienced only – no tuition. Membership of BMCAC and Potters Group required. \$10 per session. Ring to book:	Kathleen Zenardo
Tues	10:00-12:30	AAT10 – Abstract landscapes in Acrylics for beginners. *NEW* Learn the fundamentals of acrylic painting. \$230	Mandy Gailbraith
	4:00 - 5:30	CPT4 – Pottery for Children – Fun with clay for ages 6 to 12. Starts August 4, 7 weeks only. \$195	Linda Hernando
	6:30 - 9:00	Mosaics Drop in. Must be members, session fee of \$10 applies.	
Wed	6:30 - 9:30	Drop in and pot – experienced only – no tuition. Membership of BMCAC and Potters Group required. \$10 per session. Ring to book	Janet Langfield
	4:00-5:30	CPW4 - Pottery for Senior Primary and Junior Secondary students - Extending skills in clay work. (Ages 11 to 15) Starts August 5, 7 weeks only. \$195	Linda Hernando
	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. \$230 (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
Thurs	6:30 - 8:30	AWW6 – Painting with Watercolour – beginners and intermediate. Learn the basics or extend skills in painting with watercolour \$230	Gus Carrozza
	10:00-12:30	Abstract landscapes in collage for beginners *NEW* Unlock your creativity and learn the fundamentals of collage! \$230	Mandy Gailbraith
	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. \$230	Ingrid Russell
	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. - \$230	Gus Carrozza
	6:30 – 9.00	APTH6 – Pottery for Adults – Hand building and wheel throwing for beginners, 4 weeks of hand building and 2 weeks of wheel throwing. \$230 (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. 6 week course, no session on 1 st Thurs of month	Ingrid Russell
	6:00-8:30	APMTH6 – 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. \$270	Cheryle Yin Lo
Fri	7:30 - 9:30	Committee meeting – first Thursday per month. Members welcome.	N/A
	9:45-12:45	LDF10 - Life Drawing. Untutored sessions with model. \$230 for 8 weeks. Enrol online.	Rick Hawkins
	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. \$10 per session with own materials or \$20 using centre materials. Available when no exhibitions or workshops are happening. Book with facilitator	Cheryle Yin Lo
	10:00 – 12:00	APF10 – Throwing on the Wheel. For beginners and intermediate. \$30 cash materials fee. \$50 cash Clay and tools. \$230	Cristina Iafigliola
	2:00 – 3:30	HSPF9 – Pottery for Home schooled children - Students will be introduced to the art of hand building pottery. \$220	Cristina Iafigliola
	4:00 – 5:30	CPF4 – Pottery for children. A playful journey with clay (ages 6-12) \$220	Cristina Iafigliola
Sat	6:30-8:30	APF6 – Wheel throwing. For beginners and intermediates. \$230. \$30 cash materials fee. \$50 cash Clay and tools.	Cristina Iafigliola
	9:00 - 12:00	Drop in and pot – experienced only – no tuition. Membership of BMCAC and Potters Group required. \$10 per session. Book with facilitator	Michael Dausmann.
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. \$10 per session with own materials or \$20 using centre materials. Available when no exhibitions or workshops are happening. Book with facilitator	Alison
	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. \$10 per session with own materials or \$20 using centre materials. Available when no exhibitions or workshops are happening. Book with facilitator	

Thank you to our current Sponsors.

