

CREATIONS

MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER OF BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE INC - GLENBROOK



**Linda Swinfield 2018
Portrait by Ben Tankard**

Linda is operating the printing press at the Blue Mountains Creative Art Centre.
Ben participated in one of Linda's printing classes in 2018.

From the Editor,

What an exciting year we have ahead of us. Renovations and changes continue—all to improve the facilities for our members and the community—details following.

We are grateful that Rudi Christen has offered to take over producing Creations, but I will continue as editor this month and next month until Rudi has got his head around how it is put together and has learnt how to use publisher. Luckily, Marian Shapiro lives very close to Rudi and has offered to teach him the mysteries of using publisher. Thank you so Marian for your help.

Marian is going to be conducting a workshop soon for the deaf community and The Centre will waive the hall fees for this event. An application will be made in the future for grant money to further assist classes for this community.

The committee would like to thank Liz for her continued wonderful work on the garden. She tells us she has almost finished the garden behind the orange yurt. The two Davids have been cementing, bricking and building and are about to launch into the renovation of the art storage room. Talk about overworked—they need more hands.

Don't forget to send in photos and articles: a.b.campbell@optusnet.com

Cheers Bronwyn

PRESIDENT'S REPORT — Alison James

Dear Members,

As you know from my report in the AGM the committee felt it necessary to end the lease on the yellow yurt so that The Centre was able to reclaim the space due to expanding classes in pottery and hand built ceramics.

With this came an opportunity that we hadn't expected, as Cody decided to sell off some of his pottery equipment. After much discussion, research and a great deal of deliberation, the committee decided to purchase a number of items that we felt were not only a great opportunity but essential to the ongoing needs of our pottery groups and classes. The items purchased included a kiln, pottery wheels, display cabinets, shelving, bats work tables and numerous miscellaneous items. These capital purchases have cost the centre \$7,500, but it was felt that the opportunity was far too great to pass up as our current kiln is being pushed to its limits.

In the coming weeks we will be moving and shuffling around the contents of the orange and yellow yurts. Bronwyn will send out a memo of the days we intend to do this and if you are available to help, it would be greatly appreciated.

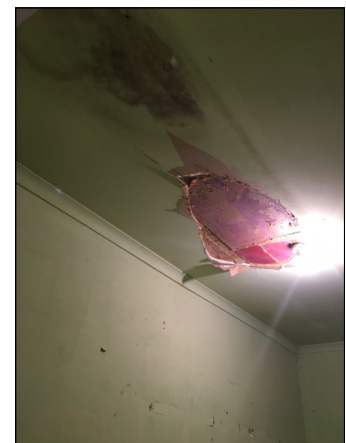
At the centre you will have noticed that there are a number of projects under way and we do hope to get them completed as quickly as we can. Please remember that these projects are being completed by just a small number of hard working, dedicated volunteers who are fitting the work in around their own free time.

There are a number of upcoming creative grants for the centre to consider applying for which will go towards providing programs and activities at the centre. It's important that we continue to strive for such grants to help us continue our reach in the community. The committee is also considering the option of running a co-op gallery. This idea has been floated by a number of people who are eager to have the centre open on the week-ends and have a place to sell original artwork in the local area. We are keen to find out whether this would be viable and would like to ask our members if you are interested to please let us know by email to bmccac.mail@gmail.com or directly to me at arty_ali@hotmail.com.au

I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank the committee for re-electing me as President for 2019, I look forward to continuing to improve the centre and look for new opportunities that the committee and I can deliver to our members.



The art storage area has been cleared and is now ready for a much needed face lift.



POTTERY FACILITATOR'S REPORT - Bronwyn Campbell

Exciting news for the potters. The yellow yurt, soon to be vacated by the Cody, is to be converted into a throwing room to be used by the adult pottery classes. This will give the throwers more room and free up shelving space in the orange yurt for the numerous children's classes that we are currently running. It is proposed to install lighting and a path along the back of the yurts to allow easy access to the toilets and the kiln room. All the wheels except one will be transferred to the yellow yurt. There is also a plan to create a co-op that will operate out of the yellow yurt on weekends—see proposal on P.7. This change will also give The Centre another space to conduct classes other than pottery if needed.

When the move is complete we will ask the Monday class using the purple yurt to please park in the parking lot in the front of the orange yurt. This will give the potters on Monday night, that often have heavy boxes and clay to carry, the opportunity to park along Moore St, safer than parking on busy Hare St. It is proposed to create a path across the corner of Hare and Moore St, so the potters have a safe path to walk from their cars to the yellow yurt.

Monday night continues to be popular and after the move it will be possible to accept new hand building members by opening up both yurts.

The Saturday group continues to grow, so we are developing quite a vibrant community of potters.

The props for the kiln shelves will be moved to the metal shelves closest to the kiln for easier access when packing the kiln. This will free up more space for pots waiting to be fired. Please make sure you put the props away after emptying the kiln.

Hope to see you on the 24th March even if only for a short while. *Cheers Bronwyn*



POTTERY WORKING BEE 24TH MARCH

- To clean and batt wash kiln shelves
- To make kiln setters
- To create tiles for our mosaic wall sign

These quirky sculptures are the work of our Monday night hand builders.

Cowboy and kookaburra by Nick Savva

The rose by Megan Sherwood

ARTS DIRECTOR'S REPORT — Ingrid Russell

Just a short report this month as my last was quite lengthy. We have had to say farewell to teacher Tess Rapa who took over Peter's classes. She has been offered a job in Canberra and had to leave at short notice. We wish Tess the best of luck with her new job. Luckily Peter was able and willing to cover the adult classes 'til end of term before he heads off to the Philippines. I have stepped in to teach the Young Masters children's art class for the rest of term, and am happy to see some familiar faces in the class. We have had an application from a very well qualified teacher who has indicated she may be available to start next term, so hopefully that will come to fruition.

Thank you to all who have been prepared to help keep the centre clean after class, it's been looking great whenever I've been there.

LIFE DRAWING AGM REPORT — Joy Myers Creed

Joy was unable to table her report at the AGM so I have included it in this Creations.

Our main event during the year was the annual "*Body and Soul Exhibition*" in September. From comments and feedback and some sales it seemed to me that it was our best yet.

Apart from that exhibition the only time we got together as a group outside of drawing on Fridays was our pre-Christmas breakup party. This was well attended and was indeed a celebration.

We're all enjoying our updated facilities and storage areas. The never ending availability of new and amazing models is a source of delight which fuels and fulfils our expectation each week. We have long regarded this as a privilege.

We met to draw 40 times last year and paid the Centre \$2120 for attendance fees, which is \$5 a time. The petty cash at present is \$238. Some weeks we don't get enough to cover the model fees and other times we break even or make a profit. All in all we have always been able to afford to make our annual exhibition free to those exhibiting drawers and pay our model their fee each week, which is currently \$100.

We are a cohesive group and 2018 was a year of consistent attendances with members practising their skills. Some wonderful works have been the result of the ideas generated at life drawing.



These two handsome lads:
Michael Dausmann and David Attwood,
suffered the terrible heat on Australia Day
to help promote our Centre.

JOY REFLECTS ON LIFE DRAWING

At Life Drawing yesterday our new model Romus, who we hadn't met before, came early and seemed to want to chat. I asked him did he draw. He said, "Yes, and that's when I knew I wanted to become a model: I was drawing at a well known art school and looked in another room at life drawing happening there. Everything about it seemed exciting and interesting and I thought - that's what I want to do, become a model."

He was fantastic. There were 13 drawers yesterday (including me) and I think maybe 7 of them commented on how good he was and what great poses he managed to do.

During our coffee break Romus asked me a few questions and I found myself talking about how recently another art society, who knew I'd been a facilitator for some time, asked me to give them some guide lines on paper as they wanted to begin a group. I said "yes" and thought long and hard about it. After my deliberations, I knew that guidelines become rules and rules are very limiting and that successful "life drawing" is always and continually "a work in progress", a changing, dynamic, in the moment, series of experiences.

It's why we turn up each week, to enjoy this opportunity and privilege of being in community, but individually fully functioning in a creative sense: having some understanding of the phrase, "The Agony and the Ecstasy".

We are a welcoming group so please know, if you turn up one Friday to draw with us unexpectedly, we will help make you feel comfortable so you can enjoy the experience and, if you decide to continue to draw with us, there is no pressure to be consistent in your attendances.

You can contact Joy for more details about the Life Drawing Group on: 0247392413

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

BMCAC EXHIBITIONS

- July 20-21 Annual members Exhibition
- August 2-4 Blue Mountains Art Prize
- September 14-15 Drawing Exhibition
- October 19-20 Blue Mountains Potters' *Clay Creations exhibition*
- November 1-3 Blue Mountains inaugural print Exhibition

OTHER EXHIBITIONS

Artwest

- 31st May Friday night opening -1st June
- Art prize of \$100
- Donated by Yellow brick Road
- Pottery prize \$50
- donated by Nepean Pottery Soc.
- Pottery prize \$50
- donated by Blackwattle
- People choice \$50
- donated by SMAC
- Lucky door prize
- donated by Peter Gonzalez

WHERE IS KATHERINE KENNEDY?

Some of you may have noticed that Katherine has not been around of late. She has been participating in an exciting event in Waiheke, New Zealand. She is working on a social project called 'Water Systems' by project leader, New Zealand ceramic artist, Margaret Feeney. Below is a publicity release about the project.

A public engagement project called 'Water Systems' is taking place with workshops across four weekends from 2nd to 23rd March 2019. 'Water Systems' invites public participation to make, glaze and construct clay water holding vessels incorporating found objects with fired clay forms. Each Saturday and Sunday, members of the public can join in between 10am and 1pm. Workshops will take place in the 'artworks courtyard' near the library.

Margaret Feeney explains the project; *'The core kaupapa is inclusion and invention as people are brought together to make a system of small, connected sculptures to provide water, habitats and food for the birds and insects of the island. Through this mahi people are brought closer to each other, to the environment and its creatures.'*

'Water Systems' community workshops and the final installation of finished pieces becomes a tangential part of Margaret's long-term project as it allows her to develop and test water system prototypes. There are plans to extend this initiative and share with other communities later in the year beginning with the Blue Mountains region in Australia as invited by project collaborator Katherine Kennedy.

This project is lead by Margaret Feeney with the support of Sylvia Nelson, Jamie Ward, Matt Harte, Bridgit Day and the Diploma of Ceramics students and alumni.

This project is sponsored & /or supported by Waiheke Community Art Gallery, Blue Mountains Creative Arts Center (Australia) and Duly Priced Drink (#dulypriceddrink & facebook)

Project Contact:

Director of Duly Priced Drink: Katherine Kennedy
email: duly.priced.drink@outlook.com
Ph 64 9 372 9907



OPENING FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2019, 6PM

Showing until Sunday 7 April 2019



LEVIN BURNER, ROOSE WOODY MOOTS

MAIN GALLERY

SMALL SCULPTURE SHOWCASE
Maquettes by Sculpture on the Gulf artists and small works by well-known New Zealand Sculptors. Also featured is "Tu Waka" by Waiheke Sculptor **Chris Bailey**, a Sculpture on the Gulf Limited Edition.



CHRIS BAILEY, TU WAKA



LEVIN BURNER, ROOSE WOODY MOOTS

ANNEX

SCULPTURE ON THE GULF RE-VISIT
A look back at previous Sculpture on the Gulf events, including maquettes from the Gallery's permanent collection.

THE ARTWORKS COURTYARD

will feature large scale works by Kazu Nakagawa, Paul Dibble and Hannah Kidd. Enjoy a "hands on" experience and create small ceramic water containers for Waiheke's birds and insects—once fired these will form an interconnected sculpture. At the conclusion of the exhibition components will be available "to go". Refreshments will be available in the Courtyard.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING A CO-OP ?

The following logo, designed by Alison, and idea is only a proposal at this stage.
We would like to ascertain interest and then make some firm decisions.



To make more use of the facilities at The Centre and advertise our presence, we would like to open the yellow yurt on the weekends with pottery for sale.

- **The Saturday Potters would still meet at their regular time.**
- Each participant would pay a proposed \$5 a week for approx. 1 sqm shelving space. They would pay no commission to The Centre.
- Members could share their space with one or 2 other members—cutting the weekly cost.
- The person on duty could utilise the extra display space on the tables Sat. afternoon and Sunday.
- Each member's display space could rotate at regular intervals.
- Co-op members would be expected to man the gallery on a rostered system.
- Co-op members may be asked to contribute to advertising costs
- We could accommodate 8-10 members.

Jewellery, cards and mosaic pieces could be included, but the space is not suitable for hanging artwork.

Please see Alison's President's Report for contact details.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: 9th May, Purple building, 7:30pm

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President:	Alison Shore	04016957688
Vice President	Ingrid Russell	0423124473
Secretary	Bronwyn Campbell	0411041054
Treasurer	David Attwood	0477028 996