



BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE NEWSLETTER November 2024

WEBSITE: www.bmcac.org.au

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

INSTAGRAM: [lifedrawing_glenbrook](#)



Gumtrees
next to
our Centre

Our 'Hare Street' Centre is located on the traditional homeland of the Dharug and Gundungurra people. We recognize and pay respect to the traditional custodians of country past, present and emerging.

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BMCAC EVENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
Sat. 23 Nov.	Cicada Workshop With Zorana McDavitt
Sat. 30 Nov. 10-3pm	Painting with Alcohol Inks with Christine Hyde
Thu. 5 Dec. 7.30pm	Committee meeting

EDITOR'S NOTE

Christmas preparations are afoot! Come and check out our Hare Street Gallery for original presents of many kinds: pottery, cards, paintings, jewellery, etc. The gallery is open Saturdays and Sundays from 10am to 4pm.

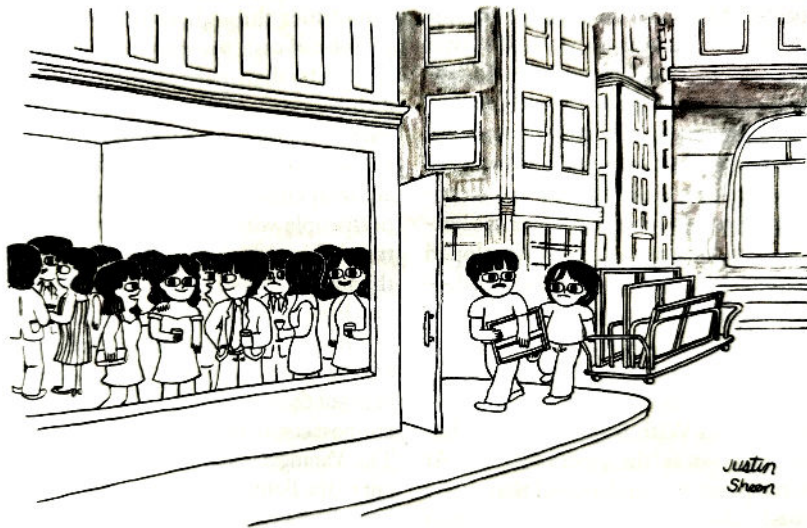
Sadly, this is a farewell and sincere thank you to Bronwyn Campbell for so many years of dedicated service to the BMCAC as secretary and pottery coordinator. I hope she might become our 'foreign correspondent' from the Gold Coast!

Please let me know of any news about art projects and happenings.

Rudi Christen

Creations' Editor

rudich7@dodo.com



"They'll become an angry mob if we don't get these paintings inside fast."

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
Bronwyn CAMPBELL	Pottery Facilitator	0411 041 054	a.b.campbell@optusnet.com.au
Janet LANGFIELD	Secretary	0408 228 059	janetxlangfield@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *Alison James*

When people volunteer, they are making a commitment to share one of their most valuable resources - their time.

Their generosity to share their time and skills to ensure that a community can be provided with a valuable resource is not something that everyone is willing or capable of giving but when they do, they become an integral and most valued member of that organisation.

This month we are saying farewell to one such member of the Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre.

Bronwyn Campbell has dedicated a good ten years or more to our Centre, imparting invaluable knowledge in her field of pottery and wearing a number of hats on the Centre's committee, pottery facilitator, secretary and exhibition coordinator, often at the same time.

To say that she is leaving very big shoes to fill is a huge understatement and Bronwyn will be greatly missed by so many of us.

Thank you, Bronwyn, for everything that you have done for the Centre. Without people like yourself places like BMCAC just don't exist. Forever grateful for your time, knowledge and most of all your friendship.

We wish Bronwyn all the best as she takes on her next adventure to be closer to her family interstate.

Your President

Alison James

OTHER REPORTS & BUSINESS

Art Director's Report (Ingrid Russell) We have approved a new pottery teacher for term 1, 2025 and welcome Cristina Lafigliola, who will be offering classes for adults and children on Fridays.

Head Gardener's Report (Liz Bryden) There was a discussion about surfacing the area outside the pottery yurt. No resolution was made.

Thank you to Ben Tankard for his contribution of rocks which has enabled us to build a retaining wall near the pottery yurt. It is a big improvement with the addition of some new native plants and soil. Otherwise, lots of trimming, racking and leaf control.

Building Co-ordinator's Report (David Attwood) Work on the west wall has been completed and it is now ready for painting.

General Business

- 1) Bronwyn nominated Kathleen Zanardo to take over as **pottery facilitator**.
- 2) It was decided to call for volunteers regarding January **school holiday workshops**. So, if you would like to offer a workshop during January please contact Alison James or send an email to bmccac.mail@gmail.com. These workshops will be free to the community, but the teacher will still be paid for their time and materials.
- 3) Jeannie McInnes tabled an Incident and **Accident Report Form** which she will further modify. She has also volunteered to look after the first aid kits.

FAREWELL FROM BRONWYN

I'm not exactly sure when I joined BMCAC or when I began as secretary. However, I found letters signed by me as secretary dated 2012, so it has been a while. To say goodbye to you all is more than difficult. In all these years a few have come and gone but the core of our committee has remained the same. A more cohesive hard working group would be hard to find and it has been a privilege to know you all. I don't think our members realise the amount of work that the committee does behind the scenes to allow our Centre to grow and bloom into the beautiful busy Centre it now is. Lately, I have had a few adults mention that they came to the Centre's children's classes when they were small. What a wonderful thing to know that we have instilled a lifelong love of artistic endeavours.

I would like to address some issues that arose during our last exhibition. I sense a lot of our members have no idea about the organisation that goes on behind the scenes: jobs that the same few dedicated committee members always do.

I would like to thank Ingrid Russell for going out of her way to borrow her son's 4WD which enabled us to transport equipment: table cloths, bricks, flags, secretarial equipment, kitchen equipment, hangers, ladder etc, from The Centre to the hall in David Attwood's absence. All of this had to be returned and unpacked late on Sunday after the exhibition.

Once at the Centre the same few people set up the tables, organised the room and pinned the table clothes. Alison and Ingrid were on hand to collect and hang the art work. We choose to only have two curators for the art work because we have found from past experience that works well and there is less confusion, argument and discussion. We can only hang the pieces that are offered by members. So a comment that there was not enough artwork seems strange. It is our members' exhibition and those members were fully informed about the exhibition in the last two editions of "*Creations*".

Thank you Ingrid for volunteering to be at the hall at 8:30 am on Saturday morning to allow late comers to set up their pottery before the exhibition opened. I was unable to be there as I had an open day for the sale of my house.

I would like to thank Alison very much for doing the roadside signs in David's absence. She was the only one who volunteered to do this. She collected what she could lift on her own and fit into her car, IN THE ABSENCE OF David's ute. She then proceeded to put them where she thought was essential. So a comment that there were not enough signs was very unappreciative of her efforts.

A comment was made about lack of publicity. "Why didn't you do letter box drops?"

In the last 12 months we have had two publicity officers that have had to leave for various reasons. At the moment we do not have a publicity officer. Newspaper ads are prohibitively expen-

sive. We publicised the exhibition through every suitable website on social media, including our own "*Creations*" magazine. The October edition had a flier that members were asked to print off and distribute to friends and any businesses they thought relevant. One might ask: "How many members did that? How many people offered to help with publicising? How many of our over 250 members attended the exhibition with their family and friends?"

Finally, we come to the packing up and cleaning up. Who stayed behind to pack up and clean up? The same committee members, some potters and their families. I would like to give a special thank you to Marianne Pollpeter's Grandson, Flynn, who did a lot of the heavy lifting.

I have written this to remind people that our events only happen because very, very few people put in a lot of hard work behind the scenes. It is easy to get cross and make a complaint but before leaping to criticism it might be worth taking the time to look into the reason why something has occurred the way it has. I want to remind you all that your committee is made up of volunteers and have their own lives full of the same problems and stresses as everyone else. We can only achieve what we do by everyone stepping up and supporting each other with kindness when things don't go to plan.

Please cherish your committee. You have no idea how special they are. It is with extreme sadness that I say goodbye to them and the Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre.

Bronwyn

OTHER POTTERY NEWS

Kathleen Zanardo has kindly agreed to take on the mantle of BMCAC Pottery Facilitator. I am sure she will be a wonderful addition to the committee. She will also facilitate the Monday night pottery drop-in group. If you have any enquiries about pottery you can contact her on: 0415154746 Email Kathleen.zanardo@gmail.com

Vanessa Linas will stand in for Kathleen in her absence and will support her in her new roles. You can contact Vanessa on 0413 970 892 robertlinas@bigpond.com

Janet Langfield is our Tuesday night facilitator and **Jan Organ** has volunteered to stand in for her when her work requires her to travel.

Janet Langfield can be contacted on: 0408228059 janetxlangfield@gmail.com

Jan Organ can be contacted on: 0404218106 janrobyn@hotmail.com

Michael Dausmann continues to facilitate Saturday mornings.

He can be contacted on: mdausmann@hotmail.com Website: BMCAC Saturday potters.

Please contact the appropriate facilitators if you wish to join any of these groups. We do have a limit on numbers due to the size of our pottery room.

Poetry Corner

The Path

Sam Soo Bae *

*The path is both the residue of living
and the essence of life.
With each footstep we have made countless hidden marks.
Even today I seek these traces,
to unearth old paths buried deep in time,
allowing my diary notes to seep into the canvas.
The earth, like a mother's heart, is soft and warm, its depth unknown.
And thus, the images felt upon the canvas,
keep breathing infinitely.*

*One day I observed a snail laboriously crawling through the leaves,
avoiding the scorching sun.
Aware that a parched body could lead to death,
it moved slowly, yet persistently
following the droplets of dew, making its own path.*

*I have held this brush for 45 years,
and though so much time has passed,
am I not like that solitary snail,
enduring the slowness of life?*



Sam Soo Bae, *The Path*, watercolour on canvas

* Sam Soo Bae is an artist from South Korea whose paintings were on show recently at Stella's Gallery in Penrith.

WHAT'S ON ?

Workshops, Galleries, Exhibitions, Prize Entries, Coming Events

Painting With Alcohol Inks

A One Day Workshop with Christine Hyde

Saturday 30 November 2024



This Workshop is designed to introduce you to the vibrant medium of alcohol inks.

Even if you have never painted before, this Workshop will give you the confidence to create your own stunning "masterpiece" and will show you how to add the medium of alcohol inks to your art for vibrancy and effect.

You will experiment with different concepts and surfaces, learn how to blend, mix and apply the inks, how to seal, your art and work safely with the products.

Note - Wear old clothes, disposable gloves. Apron is also advisable. Inks will not wash out!

Each student will complete at least one painting of their own suitable to take home to frame.

Numbers in this Workshop are limited

Enrolment deadline - Friday 22 November

When:	Saturday 30 November
Where:	BMCAC Main Room Purple Building
Time:	10:00am - 3:00pm
Cost:	\$105 - BMCAC members \$120 - non-members

Workshop Fee includes:

- All paints, materials, special art papers, tiles
- Bonus reference notes
- Refreshments

BYO lunch

To enrol and for enquiries please email
Christine Hyde at:

christine.hyde.artworks@gmail.com

BLUE MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTRE

30 Parke Street, Katoomba 2780

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

[New Acquisitions 2024 - Blue Mountains Cultural Centre](#)

19 October – 24 November

[SIXTY: The Journal of Australian Ceramics 60th Anniversary 1962–2022 - Blue Mountains Cultural Centre](#)

12 Oct – 24 Nov

<https://bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au/exhibition/venessa-possum-gulumun/>

<https://bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au/exhibition/cunningrevived/>

30 Nov 2024 – 9 Feb 2025

PENRITH REGIONAL GALLERY

86 River Road, Emu Plains

The Gallery is open daily from 10am – 3.45pm

<https://www.penrithregionalgallery.com.au/events/redivining/>

9 Nov 2024- 27 Apr 2025

<https://www.penrithregionalgallery.com.au/events/magic-malfunction/>

9 Nov 2024- 16 Feb 2025

BRAEMAR HOUSE & GALLERY

104 Macquarie Road, Springwood 2777

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

Contact: Email braemargallery@gmail.com

[Join the mailing list](#) to receive invitations to exhibition openings and all the latest news,

or phone the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre on 02 4780 5410.

From the Mountains to the Sea

Exhibition Duration:

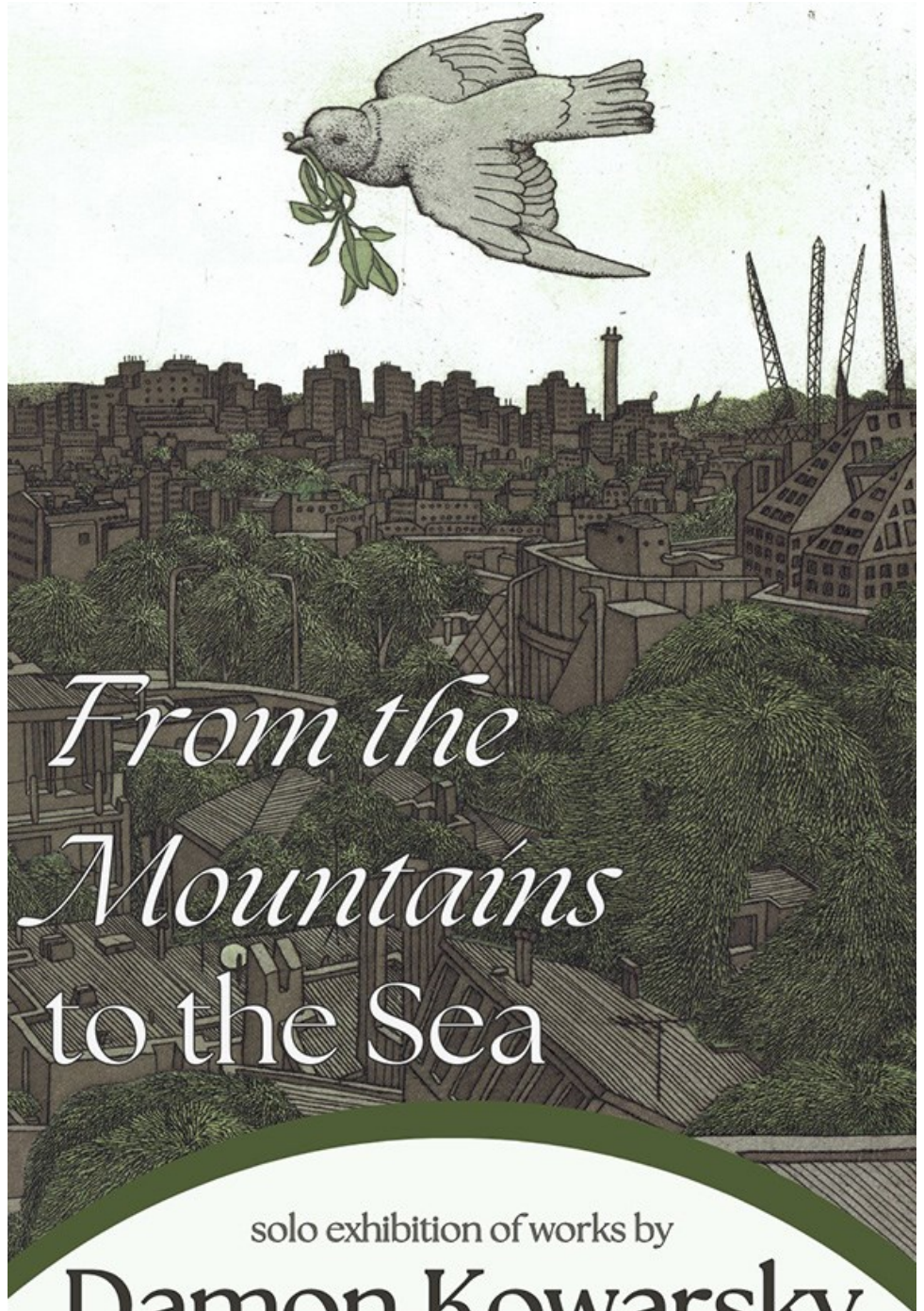
14-25 November 2024

Exhibition Celebration:

16 November 2024. 5-7pm

Damon Kowarsky studied printmaking at Victorian College of the Arts and Glasgow School of Art. Since graduating he has travelled extensively. Architecture and the colours of earth and sky inspire much of his work.

In November 2022 Kowarsky returned from a six-week residency in Jeddah supported by the Saudi Ministry of Culture. Across 2023 and 2024 he undertook residencies and projects in China, Guernsey, Serbia, Tunisia and Slovakia. He is currently working on etchings and drawings exploring interactions between the natural and man-made worlds.



From the Mountains to the Sea

solo exhibition of works by

Damon Kowarsky

14 - 25 November, 2024

opening event Saturday 16 November, 5pm-7pm



2024 Blue Mountains Print Prize, 1st Prize Winner,
granting this scholarship exhibition sponsored by
Nationwide Curating



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NATIONWIDE CURATING NATIONWIDECURATING.COM

188 Katoomba street, Katoomba, NSW, 2780

PH: 0402 470 231 | info@nationwidecurating.com

online exhibition here





Geoff Crispin, *Bottle*, 2024, Porcelain, ash and celadon glazes, 31.5 x 14 x 14cm

Geoff Crispin

A Potter's Journey through Six Woodfire Kilns

15 November — 21 December 2024

TO BE OPENED BY JANET DEBOOS,
PROMINENT AUSTRALIAN CERAMIST, LECTURER AND AUTHOR

FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2024

6-8 PM

Nationally renowned ceramicist, Geoff Crispin showcases the end of his 55-year woodfiring journey. This exhibition traces decades of practice across all six of his kilns, offering an intricate look into the evolution of his craft. Each piece serves as a testament to the labour-intensive nature of woodfired ceramics, reflecting Crispin's commitment and dedication to his art. By locally sourcing wild clay and glazes from the North Coast of NSW, his distinctive approach has earned him a prominent place in the landscape of Australian ceramics. As he transitions to smaller kilns and explores new techniques, this exhibition pays tribute to Crispin's mastery of woodfired ceramics and his legacy of innovation and craftsmanship.

gallery
lowe
& lee

49 - 51 King St, Newtown NSW 2042
02 95504433
info@gallerynl.com.au
Gallery Hours
Monday - Saturday, 10am - 5:30pm



Jan Downes, *Materiality Series*,
2024, *Dimensions variable*,

Christmas Collection

15 November — 21 December 2024

ARTISTS

Ashahi So	Louise Martiensen
Bruce McWhinney	Madeleine Meyer
Chris James	Mary-Lou Pittard
Christine Wallace	Michelle Carr
Denise McDonald	Narelle Derwent
Fiona Blake	Natalie Velthuyzen
Helen Earl	Sam Pettigrew
Jan Downes	Shinhee Ma
Jim O'Brien	Simon Suckling
Jules Irving	Susie McMeekin
Julianne Smallwood	Szilvia Gyorgy
Kara Pryor	Terry Wright
Kalyanii Holden	Warren Hogden