



BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE NEWSLETTER

February 2020

WEB SITE: www.bmcac.org.au

FACEBOOK: [bmcacsaturdaypotters](https://www.facebook.com/bmcacsaturdaypotters)



Our new Flier,
designed by
Katy Pastoors
(Creative
Promotion &
Products Pty
Ltd)

IMPORTANT DATE

**Our AGM is to be held on Saturday 29th February at 1:30
in the purple building.**

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members,

May you all have lived safely through this summer's terrifying ordeal of smoke and fire.

Already we're into the second month of 2020. The reports that follow tell how much has happened so far this year.

The two Davids made amazing progress in our renovation programme, completing drainage, retaining walls and the concrete path leading to the toilets.

In January, Richard exhibited about two dozen of his paintings in the purple building. It was a surprisingly joyful show considering its pervasive theme of fire. I recorded his commentaries about some of the paintings on video. You can view them on YouTube under "Art by Richard Cutler", parts 1 to 7.

At our first committee meeting on 6th February nominations for committee members were made and signed for. If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else for a position please email it to Bronwyn, accompanied by 2 supporting signatures from other members 7 days before the AGM.

Our AGM will be held on Saturday, 29th February at 1.30pm. All members are welcome to attend.

As a major item on the agenda the new constitution will be voted on. Bronwyn reports that it has finally been completed and posted on our website for members to peruse and comment on.

Also, proposals are invited for the use of the Jade Yurt once it is vacated and renovated.

Finally, may I remind everyone that the yearly fees are due by the end of this month.

Rudi Christen

Get in touch with us !

Alison JAMES	President and Workshop Coordinator	arty_ali@hotmail.com.au
Ingrid RUSSELL	Vice President and Arts Director	bmccac.mail@gmail.com
Bronwyn CAMPBELL	Secretary and Pottery Facilitator	a.b.campbell@optusnet.com.au

Dear Members,

I think it fair to say that for many of us our Christmas break whilst celebrated with family and friends, was also a time of concern and anxiety with the bushfire season in full swing. I hope that all of our members have come through without personal loss, although I know that many of us will know of someone or have someone in our lives that have been impacted in some way. The good thing about art is that we can use these experiences to inspire ideas for our artwork with many different themes to explore.

At the end of last year the committee voted to end the lease on the Jade Yurt. We will be discussing ideas on how the space should be used, over the next few months as we wait for it to be vacated, as to how it would best service the centre and our community. So if you have any ideas that you would like us to consider please put them forward so they can be discussed. (see p.7)

It has been pleasing this year to see our print making class up and running for the first time and I believe that this has been largely due to Katherine Kennedy's commitment to making our first Print Prize last year such a success. This reinforces that the committee's hard work is paying off as we continue to reach out to our community with events that inspire people to learn and create art.

You will notice the concrete path to the toilet with much needed drainage installed is almost complete with just a few decorative touches to be added shortly. I cannot thank the two David's enough, especially working in the heat of this summer to get the work finished.

We have also had a number of discussions with Blue Mountains City Council and have clarified the responsibility of tree removal. This has been in our favour and council will be removing a few of the trees that we had identified as concerning for us. Council has been very helpful on a number of issues that we have consulted with them on of late and I am pleased that we have developed a good relationship with a number of key staff.

Council is also hoping to engage the public with its "LIVE LOCAL" campaign. This campaign is about living and buying in your local communities in an effort to help businesses that are struggling due to recent declines in activity from the bushfire season. Our very own Hare St. Gallery will be taking part in the programme with Councillor Brendan Christie due to drop off campaign signs to the gallery this weekend.

Richard Cutler held his 2020 VISION Exhibition in January and the main room was filled with colour. It was such a pleasure to see Richard's work up on the walls. This month we have Mina Turnbull exhibiting for 2020 VISION on the 15th of February; this will be Mina's first solo exhibition so please come along and support the event.

If you are interested in holding your own exhibition for 2020 VISION please contact us with your proposal.

We look forward to another great year at the centre and hope that everyone is enjoying their classes and that you participate in the exhibitions whether it's your first time or you are an old hand, we welcome you all.

We have our AGM coming up on the 29th of February. If you are interested in joining the committee or having your vote please come along and join us.

A quick reminder to our Students: Firstly, please ensure you clean up after your classes properly (there are cleaning products available for removing paint, glue etc just ask your teacher if you can't find it) and secondly please ensure that you finish your classes on time.

Our timetable has some tight turn around times this year due to the high demand for classes and we need to ensure that everyone remembers to be respectful of the incoming class once your own finishes.

Let's get creative!!

ART DIRECTOR'S REPORT *Ingrid Russell*

Enrolments went fairly smoothly this term with most classes running with good numbers. Creative Kids vouchers are being used by most children. The website is working well and most people are managing their enrolments.

We finally have a print class running with 6 participants. We also have a few print group members.

Observational Drawing has taken off with 6, and Painting with Watercolour, which moved from Friday to Thursday night has a healthy 6 participants.

Painting on Monday morning is full with 10. So altogether we have 110 students across 19 classes, which is a great start to the year!

Hare St Gallery Report

The first quarter of 2020 started 1st February with 9 members of the cooperative. We finished the 3rd quarter with \$936 in sales. January was very slow in comparison to November and December, so hopefully things will pick up again, especially since we have the new Hare St Gallery fliers in the Tourist Information Centre now.

The shiny paper version will be left in a box next to the desk. Co-op members please take what you want to distribute in any locations you think would be willing to take them. Just post on the chat room where you are putting them, so we don't double up. Bronwyn will approach the Bowling Club next week to leave some there.

LIFE DRAWING REPORT *Joy Myers Creed*

Last Friday we had our first life drawing session for 2020, thirteen drawers (one had come a few times in the past) attended and two said our holiday was too long; I thought it was just right.

We didn't have a session with two models last year, as we have done in the past years. I believe that challenge is a good exercise and so I'm planning to organise that in a few months time.

Over the holidays I have had many enquiries about our group so there are potentially new members who will change our group dynamic.

We have been looking forward to this new beginning with some of us planning to go in a new direction. Having new models is also a source of new ideas and challenges.

If you have any ideas or questions please give me a phone call 0247392413 .

Joy Myers Creed

True art makes the divine silence in the soul break into applause.

Hafiz

A very warm welcome back everyone. I do hope you and your families and friends have been able to come through the terrible tragedies of our catastrophic summer unscathed.

Over the break I tidied up the library cupboard in the pottery room and have gone through all our pottery books and taken out multiple copies. We intend to offer these books to any potters who have lost books in the fires by advertising on the Australian Pottery Forum – I will ask potters to email me what books they would like and I will post them out. Postal charges will be a donation from me.

Over the long hot days I have had time to update all our folders in the kiln room as they were in a dilapidated state. I checked all the computer programs and reprogrammed (when necessary) both Father Bear and Mother Bear kilns. Some of the Mother Bear Programs had been changed over time and didn't reflect what was in the old folder. I have slowed down the bisque program a little due to some complaints of cracking in larger pieces and I have added a lustre firing program. There is still space for one more program to be added in Mother Bear's computer. I have entered 4 basic programs to Father Bear so its computer has space for some more programs. Let me know what you would like added.

We now have the following folders:

Father Bear folder – contains firing fees, programs and manual

Mother Bear folder – contains firing fees, programs and manual

Mother Bear Father Bear kiln booking folder - (Remember they cannot be fired at the same time.)

Baby Bear folder – contains firing fees, instructions for firing schedules, booking sheets and its manual. Baby Bear can be fired when one of the other two kilns is on.

If you do not attend a regular group, put your firing fees in an envelope provided with name and firing details and put in the kiln fee pouch.

Please put the kilns shelves back where you got them from when you unpack. Not all shelves are the same size, so are kept in separate sections.

Cont. next page



POTTERY FACILITATOR'S REPORT continued:

NEW MEMBERS

As a general rule our kilns are for the exclusive use of active members.

Active members: must have paid our yearly membership - \$65 /yr

must be willing to participate in our two yearly exhibitions.

Due to increases in costs we have had to increase our firing fees for 2020:

	1080/1100	1220/1280
Baby Bear	\$24	\$28
Mother Bear	\$38	\$44
Father Bear	\$76	\$88

These fees are half what you would pay to have pots fired at Blackwattle in slightly smaller kilns. The sharpest jump in fees is for Baby Bear because the fees in 2019 were under-priced to begin with.

The Renovation Team: David Russell and David Attwood



The committee is very grateful for all the hard work they accomplished in 2019 and over summer this year:

The art room renovation, the pottery room renovation, the new garden walls, the gutter guards and most recently the path to the green yurt. Especially, installing the gutter guard was a huge job and the improvement will prove very important in future fire seasons. Thank you David Attwood!

Special thanks also to Liz Bryden who planted an amazing range of succulents in the newly created garden spaces.

Let's heed her request to water the garden when the dry sets in again.

Richard's Musings

As Chagall wrote in "My Life": "Art seems to me to be above all a state of the soul. The souls of everyone, of all bipeds at all points of the earth are holy."

And in 1958, in a speech at the University of Chicago he said: "Life is clearly a miracle. We are parts of this life and we pass, with age, from one form of life to another... a man can never technically or mechanically learn all the secrets of life. But through his soul he is connected with the world, in harmony with it, perhaps even unconsciously."



Marc Chagall, (1887— 1985)

These statements are from the Byzantine tradition of icons, so popular in Russia where Chagall came from and I believe, have relevance in my art today. Chagall also admired Gauguin for his colour which was pure, original, radiant, bearing energy and magic, not just of the South Seas but of Egypt too - "flat women on flat walls!"

Art being connected to the soul and being personal cannot be taught. But an artist can help another to save a lot of time by being a friend and helping another to be more personal, pointing out problems along their personal way and expression. Art is really learnt as in other crafts by con-naturalty, that is "living with" as children do. And, one can learn by copying the masters and minor masters, in short "Art is learnt from Art"; it is only a parallel to nature. Also, a good teacher has to be experienced in many forms of Art. Otherwise he can only teach arbitrary techniques which may be useful commercially but might tend to destroy "Art" in the individual.

"The heart has its reasons which reason does not know" (Pascal).

WHAT'S ON ?

Galleries, Exhibitions, Workshops, Prize Entries, Coming Events

The following WORKSHOPS have been scheduled for 2020

Jane Tardist – Jewellery

22nd Feb, 14th March, 25th April, 23rd May, 13th June, 18th July, 22nd August

Christine Hyde – Alcohol and Ink

4th April.

Please check the BMCAC website for up-to-date details.

IMPORTANT DATES

Fri. 14th Feb. 6 to 8pm: Celebrate **Mardi Gras with Artists** (see poster below)

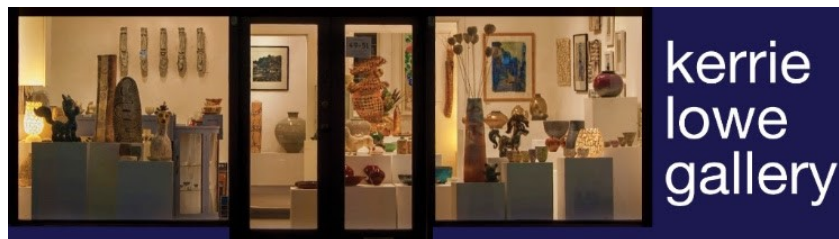
15th and 16th Feb. **Mina Alice** will hold her exhibition in the Purple Building at Hare St.
(see poster next page).

Until 20th Feb. **John McCann** has a solo exhibition of his paintings
at the Lyttleton Stores Cooperative, 1-2 Badgery Crs. Lawson
(opposite the Bowling Club)

Sat. 29th Feb. at 1.30pm: **AGM** in the purple building.

Thu. 5th March, next committee meeting

Sat. 14th March, 4pm, Opening for **Christine Hyde** at Gallery ONE88 "Nature Reimagined"
(see poster next page)



Celebrate Mardi Gras with our Artists!

Opening by Mother Abyss accompanied on the piano accordion
with hymns in praise of the Artists and Mardi Gras

6 - 8pm Friday 14 February

Riff Raff Radical Marching Band will perform at 6pm

14 - 29 February 2020



2020 rainbow visionaries



Instagram: MinaAliceArt Facebook: ArtByMinaAlice

**Solo Exhibition of Queer
Transgender Artist Mina Alice**

Hare St Gallery
Corner Hare & Moore St
Glenbrook

Saturday 15th February 10am-10pm
Sunday 16th February 10am-4pm
Opening Night: 7pm Saturday 15th

SAVE THE DATE
You Are Invited!


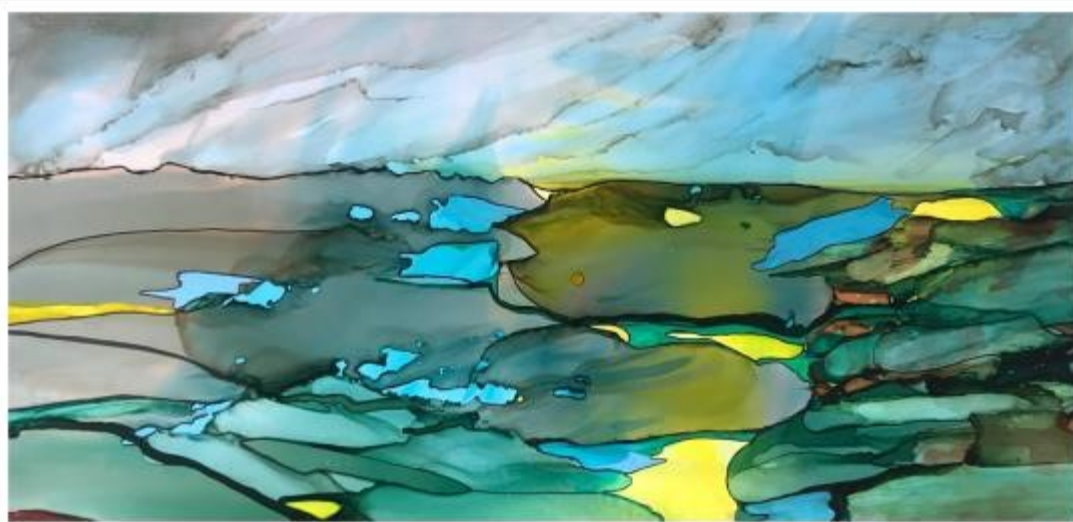
Official Opening
and
Welcome Refreshments

4:00pm Saturday 14 March

Exhibition 10-22 March

**"NATURE
REIMAGINED"**
An Exhibition By
Christine Hyde

Gallery ONE88 Fine Arts
Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 5pm
188 Katoomba Street
Katoomba NSW 2780
phone: +61 2 4782 1900

Other Galleries



Liz Bryden discovered works by Libby Hobbs at the Maritime Museum, Huskisson.

PROPOSAL FOR THE USE OF THE JADE YURT

Long time occupant of the jade yurt, Richard Cutler, will be vacating the yurt on the 31st of March. After a period of renovation the yurt will be ready for a new lease of life. So, we come to its future use.

The committee would like to hear any suggestions the members might have.

Please send your suggestions to me, *Bronwyn Campbell*,
a.b.campbell@optusnet.com.au

Proposal

Reasons why you think your proposal would benefit the society

Signed
