



BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE NEWSLETTER

May 2019

NEW WEB SITE: www.bmcac.org.au

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

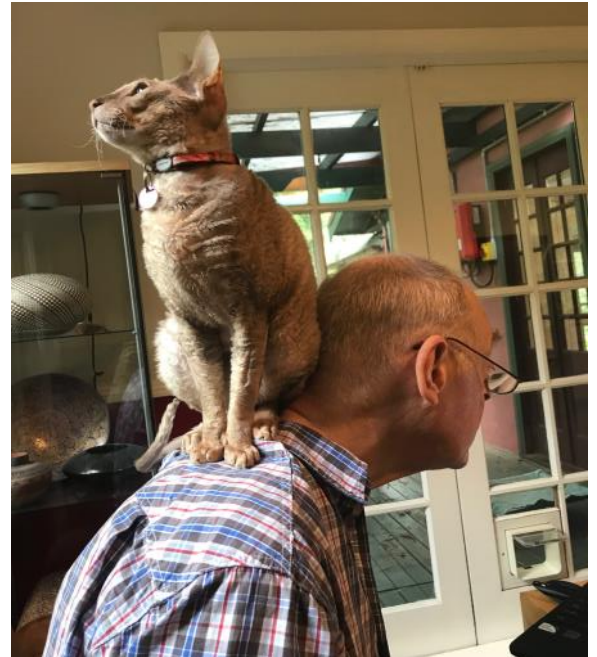
FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members,

It is a pleasure taking over the editorial duties from hard-working Bronwyn. Many thanks to Marian Shapiro and Didi helping me to understand the ins and outs of 'Publisher', so it can be fun and interesting. I hope to master the intricacies of the software more and more, so you may derive creative stimulation and pleasure from reading 'Creations'. Issues should be forthcoming at least bimonthly, probably more often whenever there is enough relevant material. Please get in touch with me by email at rudich7@dodo.com when you have photos or news of interest to our arts community so they may be included next time.

Glad to be on the team. I look forward to your feed-back and contributions, signing off until next time.

Rudi Christen



Didi and Dodo learning to edit.



Marian Shapiro's winning entry at the Royal Easter Show

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *Alison James*

Dear Members,

I know it probably sounds like I always harp on about it but it's because I am so proud to work with such amazing people, a volunteer committee that works hard and works well even when not all hands can be on deck which has been proven again this month with the continued work by some of our committee on our art storage room, selling and ordering of new tables, organising of the gallery and continued hard work landscaping the gardens while a few of us were unavailable for different reasons.

We are starting to move into our busy period at The Centre now. Our Blue Mountains Art Prize is now OPEN and entries can be made online at our new website www.bmcac.org.au

There will be an artist call out on our Facebook page and fliers will be available shortly for you to pick up at the centre. This is a really easy way to spread the word and it would be greatly appreciated if you could share our page amongst your own friends/groups on Facebook or drop a flier in to your favourite places. Last year was extremely successful and it would be great to build on that.

Our annual members' exhibition is also coming up in July so I hope you are all creating beautiful works to exhibit.

We are going to be using the yellow yurt as a co-op gallery. Hare St. Gallery will be opening in mid May and all interested people need to register their interest and make the first payments as soon as possible.

I look forward to all the activity.

Your president

ART DIRECTORS REPORT

Ingrid Russell

Enrolments are steadily trickling in. There were a few hick ups with the new system but nothing we couldn't handle. Students this term will be surprised with our new tables which will provide more flexibility in class arrangements. There will be table covers added soon. Until then some extra care may be needed to keep them in pristine condition. If you move them around, please remember to replace them when done ready for the next lesson.

We have 53 enrolments to date and 11 new members.

Congratulations to Christine Reynolds, one of our pottery members, who, not only won first prize for Raku her dog in the low fired section, but also sold it at the Royal Easter Show.



Christine Reynolds at the Royal Easter Show.

I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate Marian Shapiro who not only won mosaic prizes, but had one of her amazing pieces selected to go into the Standard of Excellence cabinet (see front page).

We now have Cody's wooden tables in the pottery room. It is lovely to wedge on the special wedging area and not have paint come off onto our clay. The wheels have been

removed, saved and can be reattached if required in the future. Those using the room over the next few weeks might like to comment on whether we need to adjust the leg height with stable rubber pieces or something similar.

I have noticed that cracked shelves are getting mixed up with the undamaged shelves. Could you please check for cracks and put the cracked shelves back under the packing table after unpacking the kiln. If we know which ones to take extra care of by putting in extra props we can avoid a firing disaster. Also, if possible please take all fired pots into the pottery room when you have unpacked the kiln. It is very hard for a potter who arrives with 5 or 6 boxes full of pots to get them sorted into sizes for packing the kiln if the table is full of previously fired pots.

For ease of distinguishing our 3 kilns when booking firings, I thought we would call them A (Cody's kiln), B (Middle sized one), C (small kiln). I wanted to call them Father Bear, Mother Bear and Baby Bear but for the sake of brevity opted for A,B and C.

Unfortunately, kiln B has a burnt out element at the moment and is awaiting repair. We are very fortunate now to be able to use the others while we wait.

Don't forget ARTWEST coming up at the end of the month. I have emailed everyone entry forms. Entries close on the 10th May.

Happy Potting

Pottery at the Royal Easter Show

Creative Kids



Winner



Winner

Creative Adults



Pottery Prize



Pottery Prize



Pottery Prize

PRINTMAKING REPORT *Katherine Kennedy*

Having joined BMCAC faculty more than 3 years ago in the hopes of teaching a printmaking class, I was most excited to see one storeroom in the main (purple) building undergo radical changes last year allowing the room to function as a printmaking space, among other options. I volunteered to run the space, however, found this only meant re-stocking and keeping it tidy. An easier task for one scheduled to teach classes in this space. However, term after term we have been unable to populate printmaking classes which is disappointing. The printmaking talent finding that I did, was passed on to others who explained their roles as workshop and/or class scheduling committee roles.

As I am not actually performing as the Printmaking Coordinator, I will be stepping down from this role to leave it open for another interested party, however, I will still have some involvement in this area where allowed.

In order to build local community awareness of the printmaking space, we have some great ideas to build upon. Part of the problem with community awareness with this discipline is people often find it mysterious and it is largely misunderstood.

PRINT PRIZE PORTION OF - BLUE MOUNTAINS ART PRIZE

BMCAC to have a dedicated printmaking prize as part of the Blue Mountains Art Prize 2019. I would like to curate this portion of the exhibition if possible.

WINE AND CHEESE PRINT NIGHTS

One idea for building a fun environment for printmaking is to have some print party nights with wine and cheese.

DULY PRICED DRINK

I have a long-term social project which features printmaking called "Duly Priced Drink- a Performance" which requires DPD students to become performers and make coffee prints in real time for cafe audiences—a print for the price of a coffee. Each print is unique, made by a team of people who were recently students etc... "DPD - a Performance" will be performed at Gallery ONE88 Fine Arts, Saturday 29th June 2019 during my Solo Show 'Social Drought', provided I can find people to populate my performance and willing to learn from me.

PRINTMAKING SPACE USAGE AT BMCAC

If printmaking is not a desirable option for the masses of potential students out there, in what other ways can we find a viable business strand for the benefit of the centre using this space? I open this up to all members to think about and get back to me.

Please contact me on 0402 470 231 should you wish to discuss anything I have raised here.

Kind regards,
Katherine Kennedy

The committee decided not to accept Katherine's resignation and she agreed to work towards holding some print making focused social nights. "Print Making and Pinot" was one suggested title.

THE GARDENING REPORT

The garden is gradually expanding and most plants have survived and flourished despite the recent hot summer. This is thanks to a number of volunteers who have helped with watering. Richard Cutler is especially helpful with watering and emptying of the green bin. An additional tap made watering a lot easier too.

Importantly, the new plants have been chosen according to their hardiness but also with variety and colour in mind. The hope is that BMCAC's creative ethos will be reflected in the garden's appearance. So far we have planted grasses, grevilleas, gazanias, succulents and irises and more recently some salvias which were kindly donated. Many more plants to come. The aim is to have most plants in the ground by Spring and the garden more established before the next bout of heat. However, as all gardeners know, garden maintenance is ongoing and will likely mean adjustments as some plants flourish or fail.

David Russell and David Attwood, our wonderful volunteer builders have also been busy completing a new brick retaining wall and digging out an area for a small sitting space near the orange yurt and storeroom. The space is progressing well and once completed will improve the look and safety of the area. David Attwood also recently cleaned out the yurt gutters which was a mammoth task well done and the broken down mulch was useful in the garden.

Overall, the aim is to make the outdoor space around the Centre's buildings safer and more inviting for members and visitors and we think we are well on our way to achieving this. Anyone interested in helping in any way, please let us know.



GRANTS REPORT

Liz has two grants in motion at the moment.:

- Foundation for Rural and Regional Program. She is waiting on a supporting letter from Mark Greenhill.
- Clubs Grant for \$2,500 – she has asked for a quote for asbestos removal.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE



Clearing the gutters



David Russell and David Attwood working on the small storeroom in the main building. They recently installed a new window and painted the walls and ceiling. The next step is shelving for craft resources and vinyl flooring. The pressure is on as the work has to be completed by June.

LIFE DRAWING REPORT *Joy Myers Creed*

We continue to find new ways to accommodate more drawers. Richard continues to set up the area the model uses, this makes them feel special. This also gives us an environment in which to place the model; although there are some drawers who are not interested in this aspect. This is a plus for our group because there is no pressure or expectation to conform, we are all able to work independently following our own vision.

Any ideas or questions, please ring Joy 0247392413



An example of Joy's work "Desert Dreaming" is a joy to behold (Ed.)

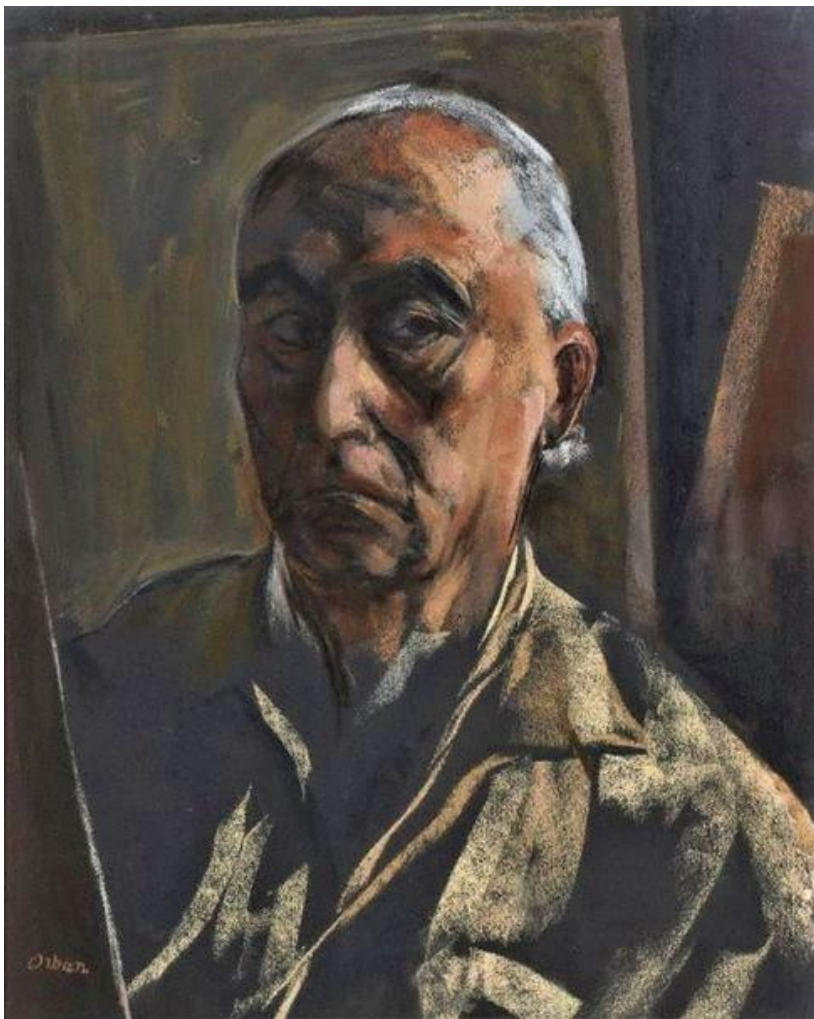
Richard's Musings

It is significant that the Art-world is awash with clever rendering. When I tried to teach at our Centre, I wrote out a story about a son asking his father to tell him about love. The father asked: "Son, do you want to learn all the techniques of sex at a brothel first or do you want to meet a particular woman and find the right way to love her?" In other words, as Orban* used to say, the technique comes after creativeness. The lust for 'technique first' puts the artist in a goal because our natural inclination for security does not want us to creatively change.

We are living through a massive crisis time and it depends how much we long for real originality which will indicate which way we will go globally. New life in Art can become a real means of building a new world, especially emotionally but virulent anti-Art also lurks in the shadows. As is shown by Marcel Duchamp at the Art Gallery NSW. Now! He wished to destroy the Arts of Man because of the carnage the new weapons of Man heaped upon Europe and our soldiers. He went for Art, I think stupidly, to stop the development of new weapons. Those anti-Artists that came after him did not understand this.

P.S. *Desiderius Orban's book 'A Layman's Guide to Creative Art' is a good read.

P.P.S. So I think real Art is being attacked both by renderers and anti-Artists.



Desiderius Orban, Self-Portrait (1956)

Desiderius Orban (1884-1986), artist, educator and author, was born in Hungary in 1884. Self-taught, he started painting when a student at the University of Budapest. While in Paris in 1906, he discovered work by Matisse, Van Gogh and Cézanne, which was to influence his approach to painting. Orban rejected teaching methods that stressed academicism. He disliked formalism; for him, art was about creation. Affirming the creative power in all individuals, he saw his purpose in life as the exploration of new avenues of creative expression.

To escape Nazism Orban left Hungary in 1939 and migrated to Australia. In 1943 he founded the Orban school of Art, in which the role of creative imagination in the practice of art was given first place. A gifted and inspiring teacher, he influenced many painters including Margo Lewers, Judy Cassab and John Olsen, who in 1968 described Orban as being one of the teachers responsible for the variety and freedom by then enjoyed in Australian art. Desiderius Orban died in 1986, nearly 102 years old.

Compiled from Aus. Dictionary. of Biography (Ed.)

WHAT'S ON ?

Galleries, Exhibitions, Workshops, Prize Entries, Coming Events

10 May (Friday) 6 - 8pm Exhibition Opening by Michael Keighery, Academic and Arts Activist
Kerrie Lowe Gallery, 49 - 51 King Street Newtown NSW 2042 (Syd Uni. end of King St)

Sarah Ormonde Solo Show of Ceramics and
A Sense of Place Group Show

Exhibition continues to 28 May 2019

Gallery Opening Hours: Mon - Sat 10am - 5.30pm | Thurs until 7pm

14 May (Tuesday) 5pm, Entries close for financial members of BMCAN for upcoming Exhibition
at **The Palais Royale** at Katoomba, 230 Katoomba St, Katoomba,
open to sculptures, woodwork, ceramics, jewellery and similar.

Enquiries – Deborah Sheehan at 0417 427 598, or 4751 7636, or deborahsheehan246@gmail.com

21 May (Tuesday) 6pm Start of Exhibition .

Exhibition will run until 16 July.

17th May (Friday):
planned Opening Night for our
new **Hare Street Gallery**.



18th May (Saturday) 2 - 4pm, **Exhibition Launch** To be opened by Mayor Mark Greenhill

BRAEMER GALLERY & BLUE MOUNTAINS CREATIVE ARTS NETWORK

Picturesque - The Artists' View of Living in the Blue Mountains

16 May - 9 June 2019 Exhibition continues.

31st May (Friday night) and Saturday, 1st June, 9am - 3pm
ARTWEST

6th June (Thursday), 7.30pm
Next **BMCAC Meeting**

2nd - 4th August (Friday until Sunday)
BLUE MOUNTAINS ART PRIZE, Info at www.facebook.com/BlueMountainsArtPrize/