



## BVAC CHATTER

You can always rely on Anna-Margo to see the funny side of a situation. As a result of Tropical Cyclone Alfred battering the Moreton Bay Islands and threatening to wreak havoc on Brisbane and surrounds, we were forced to change the date of BVAC's AGM to the 27<sup>th</sup> of March when surely we would be dry again. Anna-Margot was not fazed in the slightest.

I wonder how many more of your events were affected? I know Ceramic Arts Queensland's biennial ceramic exhibition, Siliceous, was to open on the night Alfred was expected to join the party. Instead we stayed at home, and hunkered down. Unfazed, the organisers simply moved the set up and opening to the following week. The gallery, in Windsor, has flooded before and it was a nervous wait. Thankfully, the judging and opening all took place quite safely one week late.

This week, we held our belated AGM at BVAC, and I forgot to turn up. I was not there to see Marilyn Ford from the Watercolour Society of Queensland elected to lead the Brisbane Visual Arts Community into 2026. A big plus in her election is that we know that the committee will support her every step of the way. Marilyn is taking the lead at what could be a critical time in BVAC's existence.

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MERLA!

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Change is Positive



The change did mean that some of our committee could not attend. This email from Merla of the Pastel Society of Queensland shows what BVAC means to some members while highlighting a common problem shared by groups.

*Dear Anna- Margot,  
Thank you for the rescheduled AGM reminder, and for sharing the good news about the Hub's resilience—those tall trees must truly support each other! Despite losing power for four days, we fared well compared to some others. Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend the AGM on 27 March due to an unchangeable appointment. Please record my apology for the meeting.*

*The Pastel Society of Australia (PSA) has yet to find a volunteer to replace me on the BVAC Committee. Our rescheduled PSA Committee meeting on 18 March will address this, and if you don't hear otherwise, I'll continue as the PSA representative.*

*As I am fully committed as PSA Secretary (and managing two other roles we can't fill), I'm unavailable to offer my service in any of the vacant roles on the BVAC Executive or Committee. However, I'll wholeheartedly support whoever steps into these positions.*

*Being part of BVAC has been a rewarding experience. It's provided invaluable professional development, new ideas, and connections with members of other creative arts societies. In particular, PSA's collaboration with Thea Parry and her work on our new website and digital marketing initiatives, has significantly boosted our memberships, workshop participation, and exhibition attendance. PSA's growth, and that of BVAC and other member societies who have benefitted in these areas, wouldn't have been possible without BVAC 's support for members having access to modern digital marketing expertise to boost their profiles and engagement with their members and the wider community.*

*I want to thank Susan for her exceptional leadership over the past two+ years and her strategic outlook helping to orient BVAC to a clear mission. Thanks are also due to the dedicated Committee volunteers driving progress in various capacities. A special thanks to you, Anna-Margot, for your ever-ready answers to our queries and your practical advice—it's invaluable to BVAC.*

Sincerely  
Merla

## Notes from BVAC AGM, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2025

President Susan Hoy welcomed everyone and thanked us all for being such an active and hardworking group.

**Attendees:** Anna-Margot Collins (QEG), Susan Hoy (ATASDA), Kirstin Farr (CAQ), Marilyn Ford (WSQ), Sandra Evans (APAT), Malissa Johnson (ATASDA), Helen Medland (SB), Pauline Stevens (SB), Sarah Davies (QBG), Wendy Goode (SA), Joanna Faber (PAQ), Joanna Fear (QBG), Tricia Smout (ATASDA), Perrin Millard (LLG), Lyn McGlade (WSC).

**Apologies:** Angela Burdett (AWCG), Merla Hynes (PSA), Judy Hamilton (WSC), Betty Bull (ATASDA).

**President's report:** It's hard to believe another year has passed. What a year!!!

The success of BVAC is the willingness of member groups to get involved in activities and support one another during this process. The group representatives who attend the monthly BVAC meetings are much valued and the role they play at those meetings ensures our activities and goals continue to be achieved.

As the exiting President, I must admit to having a huge dose of imposter syndrome, as it is really the executive team of secretary and treasurer who have carried the weight this year. Anna-Margot and Joanna have been invaluable, and I cannot thank them enough for their dedication and perseverance. Special thanks must also go to Perrin for doing a sterling job as our property manager, considering she also had many hurdles to cross throughout the year. Member groups should be rightly proud of their representatives on committee who attend meetings regularly, provide valued input into discussions and keep us all focusing on the prize of a more receptive art environment.

The calendar of events in 2024-2025 has been superb and allowed groups to engage with a wide audience and hopefully sell their beautiful artisan goods. The revamp of the Open Day was particularly effective and drew a wide group of participants. It was a joy to see so many engaged in learning and teaching their chosen craft. Thank you to all who helped in the preparation, running and clean-up after the events. These things don't happen magically, and the more hands involved the lighter the load.

In 2024-2025 we focused on helping members to upskill in the area of social media by offering free workshops, and this is the biggest success story for the year. Understanding of the social media platforms, using those platforms, and how to drive our message into the market has been implemented with much enthusiasm. The message that BVAC is a vibrant community of artisans from many different spheres is getting out to the wider public.

In closing I would like to thank BVAC for the honour of being your President for the last two years and look forward to following your adventures and achievements moving forward. I really feel that the current committee has made huge strides in making BVAC a welcoming and innovative space. Thank you.

## Notes from BVAC AGM, 27th March 2025 (continued)

### BVAC TREASURER'S REPORT

A savings account was set up in May 2024 to increase our interest windfall. We also have a working account and a separate Pop Up Shop Account. Additionally, we set up a Bendigo Bank 12-month term deposit (4.75%PA) with interest payable on review (29 March 2025). A substantial increase in interest paid is anticipated.

**Income:** Income was stable during 2024 with a small increase compared to 2023. No grant money was received in 2024.

**Expenses:** BVAC recorded a loss in 2024.

Operating expenses increased 63% from 2023 to 2024. Reasons for this were expenditure on repairs to the BVAC building and repairs to the lift with a necessary upgrade to the lift telephone. There was a significant increase in the cost of cleaning for the BVAC building. BVAC also made a strategic investment during 2024 on advertising and marketing, with the engagement of a professional marketing expert for 6 months who worked with the BVAC committee members and BVAC member groups.

**Proposal to increase fees:** The fee structure for BVAC has not changed since 2012. The cost of maintaining the BVAC building is increasing significantly. Also, investing in professional marketing, has had many benefits. To maintain our agenda, we must consider increasing fees.

Given the varied nature and interests of the groups that make up BVAC, it would be fairest to spread the cost by making small increases to all types of fees and to phase the increases in starting in July this year.

**Membership:** From 2026, membership will increase from \$100/year to \$120/year per group.

**Storage:** From 2026, increase from \$5 per sq metre x 12 months (charged annually) to \$7 per sq metre x 12 months (charged annually).

**Pop up Shop:** From 2025 increase table/space hire from \$60 to \$70/table. No increase in shelf hire.

**BVAC Hall rental:** From July 2025 increase all fees by \$10. Three groups accounted for 82% of hall rental income in 2024: Lilly Lee (56%), QBG (13%) and WSQ (13%). Only 2 non-BVAC members hired the hall in 2024.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** There haven't been a lot of changes in the last 12 months as we finalized many projects. Two Pop Up Shops were held. Both were successful in raising awareness of BVAC and our member groups. We held our Open Weekend where we introduced a central booking system for the workshops using Eventbrite. This helped to increase the number of classes and the number of bookings for the event.

Two Professional Development sessions were held this year. Both were for using Facebook and Instagram to promote your group, and advertise group and BVAC events. Both were run by Thea Parry. Thea also did the publicity for the Pop-Ups and Open Weekend. Audiences for both events increased. We have a new and exciting BVAC website.

We have started looking at plans for expanding the Hub premises. This will be good for all groups in the future. In closing, the President and Treasurer have been both awesome and very efficient when I needed them, In fact the whole committee has been a dream to work with.

### BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE REPORT:

The lift has had a few problems this year. It has been working well since the phone SIM was replaced. There is regular lift maintenance (and 1-2 weekly jamb cleaning) providing consistent functionality.

Doors: Door jamb replaced on downstairs single Fire Exit Door jamb. Upstairs East double doors repaired. QBG door handles X 2 repaired.

**BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE REPORT (cont'd):**

Roof has been cleaned. A gutter clean is done 6-9mthly.

Emergency Access - Meetings in 2024 & 2025 with BCC and Emergency access teams to assess and improve emergency access.

Fire Compliance: Extinguisher checks up to date. New Fire forms for Hirer's have been prepared, Smoke alarms installed.

Electrical: Up to date. Yearly tag and testing and quarterly safety checks completed, BCC electrical compliance. Outdoor PowerPoints installed.

Trees: We are surrounded by gum trees. An application for tree lopping has been filed.

Pest Control: Annual pest Inspection and treatment completed. No concerns to the building noted.

Airconditioning: Repairs and maintenance – all functioning.

Miscellaneous: New Hand towel dispensers installed lower floor. Door hooks on lower floor doors.

Maintenance still in process. Sign to deter school parking.

**BVAC WEBSITE REPORT 2024:** 2024 was a full year for restructuring of the BVAC website. With the engagement of Thea Parry assisting BVAC with our digital marketing we also embarked on upgrading our website from Word Press to a more hands on Wix platform. Thea was instrumental in migrating all the information across and has done a terrific job.

The BVAC website is now very easy to navigate around with a clear understanding of who we are and what we provide and welcoming new members; and how to apply for membership.

The home page clearly states we offer workshops/art spaces and markets with the tag CREATE CONNECT LEARN which sums up our organisation well. The MEMBERSHIP drop down bar has BECOME A MEMBER / OUR MEMBER GROUPS and a secure link to our monthly newsletter. We now have a form for potential new member groups to enquire and submit their questions and wishes to join us at BVAC.

The next drop down is to our NEWS which includes the latest weekend highlights and Popup shops. This will be updated as required. The WHATS ON drop down has the all important calendar for BVAC members, and any MEMBER EVENTS which offer an extra form of publicity for our members.

Our new website has set us up to be a stronger and more inclusive art group, engaging with the public and inviting new members to be included.

**Exhibition Officer Report:** Three events were run this year. The two Pop-Up Shops were both quite successful. Customers enjoyed the find an “object” sideline and had a lot of fun as they searched out the different items at each event. Thanks to Pauline for the idea and Joanna Faber for running with it.

The Open Weekend ran in a new format, and was also a huge success. Bookings are now being made through Eventbrite. The focus of the weekend was brought back to learning about what our groups offer through demonstrations rather than focusing on selling. Being able to learn about so many crafts in one place is a plus, and produced a much busier event. Many thanks to Perrin and Lilly Lee students and teachers for all the wonderful food at the weekend and all the tutors and set-up and cleaning crew for making everything run so smoothly.

**Election of Office Bearers:**

## Election of BVAC Office Bearers

### EXECUTIVE

**President:** Marilyn Ford, *Watercolour Society Qld*

**Vice President:** Judy Hamilton, *Western Suburbs Clayworkers*

**Treasurer:** Joanna Fear, *Qld Bookbinders Guild*

**Secretary:** Anna-Margot Collins *Qld Enamellers Guild*

All elected unopposed.

### Other Committee Positions

**Website:** Kirstin Farr, *Ceramic Arts Qld*,

**Facebook:** Malissa Johnson, *ATASDA*,

**Building Manager:** Perrin Milard, *Lilly Lee Studio*

**Booking Manager:** Sandra Evans, *APAT* email [wellershillartshub.bookings@gmail.com](mailto:wellershillartshub.bookings@gmail.com)

**Exhibitions and Pop-Up Shops:** Anna-Margot Collins, *Qld Enamellers Guild*

**Post Office Collections:** Wendy Goode, *Scattered Arts*

**BVAConnex:** Judy Hamilton, *Western Suburbs Clayworkers*

### General Committee Members

Joanna Faber, *Papermakers & Artists Qld*

Helen Medland, *Sunshine Beaders*

Sarah Davies, *Qld Bookbinders Guild*

Tricia Smout, *ATASDA*

Betty Bull, *ATASDA*

Lyn McGlade, *Western Suburbs Clayworkers*

**Date of next AGM, March 12, 2026**

Meeting Closed 10:30

## Notes on BVAC Meeting 27 March, 2025

**Attendees:** Anna-Margot Collins (QEG), Kirstin Farr (CAQ), Marilyn Ford (WSQ), Sandra Evans (APAT), Helen Medland (SB), Pauline Stevens (SB), Sarah Davies (QBG), Wendy Goode (SA), Joanna Faber (PAQ), Joanna Fear (QBG), Tricia Smout (ATASDA), Perrin Millard (LLG), Lyn McGlade (WSC).

**Apologies:** Angela Burdett, AWCG, Merla Hynes, PSA, Judy Hamilton, WSC, Betty Bull (ATASDA), Malissa Johnson (ATASDA).

**Presidents Report:** As today was Marilyn's first day as president, she thanked us for electing her and is looking forward to learning all about her new role.

**Treasurers Report:** All invoices are paid, and we have money in the bank.

**Building and Maintenance:** The bins were pinched sometime last Friday. We've had no luck finding them. New ones have been ordered from BCC and should be here early next week. We will label these ones. New evacuation paperwork from BCC is coming. The ones we have on the wall are proposed procedures. The new ones will be official. The gutters need to be cleaned 9 monthly. The gutter guard needs to be replaced. Perrin to look at the possibility of getting A/C timers for the units. Please remember to check them when you leave.

**Website and social media:** Everything is up to date and running smoothly, if you have anything you want put on either Facebook or the website send an email to [bvac2015@gmail.com](mailto:bvac2015@gmail.com) and it will be submitted to Kirstin and Malissa.

**Pop-Up Shop and Open Weekend:** Bookings are coming in for the Pop-Up Shop. We still have space available. Remember it is 3 days in June. Flyers are also available. We will have some at the April meeting again.

Workshop submissions are coming in for the Open Weekend. We would like the rest in by the April meeting so we can start advertising them and get them on Eventbrite. We'd like to have plenty of full workshops, please. We will be running a raffle at the Open Weekend and would like items from every group - whether your group is participating in the weekend or not. Could we have the items by the May meeting so we can start selling tickets early.

### General Business:

- Krista Adams as Patron of BVAC. Judy was unable to update us on this as she wasn't in attendance today.
- Update on building project. Things are moving along slowly. Some groups have put forward their dream requests to inclusions they would like at BVAC. If any groups have thoughts, please send them in.
- An invitation was extended by Scattered Arts to come visit their new premises in Wynnum. Flyer in BVAConnex.
- ATASDA has invited everyone to their exhibition at Richard Randall Gallery 15-17 April.

Meeting closed at 11:15 am

Next general meeting will be April 10th, 9:30 am



# POP-UP SHOP

**13 - 15 June**

Friday 10-3pm

Saturday 10-4pm

Sunday 10-3pm

LOCAL ARTISTS

MEET THE MAKERS

BRING YOUR FRIENDS

POTTERY

JEWELLERY

ARTS AND CRAFTS

PAINTINGS

TEXTILES

GIFTS

+ MUCH MORE!!

## AUDITORIUM

Brisbane Botanic Gardens  
Mt Coot-tha

[bvac.org.au](http://bvac.org.au)

BVAConlinehub

brisbanevisualartscommunity

*art, wearables, jewellery, accessories, homewares, gifts  
handmade by local artists*

## exhibition + gallery shop

15 - 17 April

10am to 4pm daily

FREE ENTRY



**Richard Randall Art Studio**  
Brisbane Botanic Gardens  
Mt Coot-tha TOOWONG





# WORKSHOP WEEKEND EVENT 2025



Sunshine  
Beaders

*Long Weekend 3rd - 5th May*

BVAC - Wellers Hill Arts Hub - 140 Weller Rd, Tarragindi

[www.facebook.com/sunshinebeaders](http://www.facebook.com/sunshinebeaders)

[www.sunshinebeaders.com](http://www.sunshinebeaders.com)

*Sponsored by:*



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Paragraph text

# FireWorks

*An explosion of unique pieces*

## **Ceramic Exhibition and Sale**

Richard Randall Art Studio  
The Brisbane Botanic Gardens,  
Mount Coot-tha

*19 to 27 April  
from 9am to 4pm*

*Meet the artists  
19 April from 4pm*

Contact us [fireworks-exhibit@hotmail.com](mailto:fireworks-exhibit@hotmail.com)

Step into a world of creativity at FireWorks, an exhibition featuring both established and emerging local artists, all united by the timeless art of clay.

Explore a collection of one-of-a-kind creations in every shape, size, and colour imaginable. From the intricate to the bold, the whimsical to the refined, FireWorks offers a dazzling display of handmade artistry that is sure to inspire.

Come see the beauty of clay come to life!



# ART EXHIBITION



**Come and visit us every  
Saturday and Sunday  
10am to 4pm**



**FROM 8<sup>th</sup>  
MARCH**



**TO 6<sup>th</sup>  
APRIL**

**REDLAND YURARA ART SOCIETY Inc  
Pinklands Reserve,  
Cleveland-Redland Bay Rd  
(300 m south of Dinwoodie Rd)**

**website: [www.redlandyurara.com.au](http://www.redlandyurara.com.au)**

# The Last Word

## Change is Positive

A change for the better happens when individuals like yourself identify what they do care about, and then take a step forward that fulfills it. It really is that simple. Every year, our community art/craft groups face the dilemma of finding a new management committee to direct the activities that members take for granted, for twelve short months. Who will take that positive step?

For some people, apathy or simply not caring is why they sit on their hands at an AGM (so they won't get a job). Neither do they voluntarily offer their services. Apathy can be defined as not caring. Such an attitude saps you of so much energy that you feel lethargic, and listless without the will to do anything.

- What do you care about?
- What difference do you want to make?
- What matters enough to you to want to give your best, be your best, or do your best?

When I do my ceramics, or work with a group, or help an individual to find their way with clay, I do it because I care about the quality of my own life. I know that at the end of the day, if I have given my best, I'll take that with me. But, that if I do nothing, I'll have nothing to show for it.

### BRISBANE VISUAL ARTS COMMUNITY (BVAC) COMMITTEE CONTACTS

#### President

Marilyn Ford  
mfordster@gmail.com  
ATASDA

#### Secretary

Anna-Margot Collins  
bvac2015@gmail.com  
Queensland Enamellers Guild

#### Treasurer

Joanna Fear  
bvac2015@gmail.com  
Queensland Bookbinders Guild

#### Bookings Co-ordinator

Sandra Evans  
wellershillartshub.bookings@gmail.com  
APAT

#### Vice-President & Newsletter

Judy Hamilton  
jrhyllleh@hotmail.com  
Western Suburbs Clayworkers

### Committee

ATASDA :	Tricia Smout
Ceramic Arts Queensland :	Kirstin Farr: <b>Website</b>
Creative Glass Guild, QLD :	
Lilley Lee :	Perrin Millard: <b>Building &amp; Maintenance</b>
Papermakers Artists, QLD :	Joanna Faber
Scattered Arts :	Wendy Goode: <b>PO Box Monitor</b>
Sunshine Beaders :	Helen Medland
Watercolour Society, QLD :	Marilyn Ford
QLD Bookbinders Guild :	Joanna Fear: <b>Treasurer</b>
Art West Community Gallery :	Steve Norris
WS Clayworkers :	Lyn McGlade
Pastel Society AUST :	Merla Hynes
HDG :	

