



## BVAC CHATTER

Well done to Anna-Margot, once again, for a well organised event showcasing the facilities of our Tarragindi Hub, and the many skills our artists have garnered over the years. The theme of "Hands On Art" was a resounding success at our Open Weekend.

Visitors to the Hub were welcomed with the smell of smoke. It was OK though – Ceramic Arts Queensland were well in control of their Raku Experience. Members throw, fire, and donate bisque fired pots for this event. Visitors then get "hands on" when they buy a "blank" pot and weave their own personal magic by painting the pots with the glaze mixture. They take particular delight in layering the glazes they apply. Kirstin Farr and Di Peach were in charge of the firing process. Turn up the heat and wait for the magic to happen. It is fascinating to see the red hot pots being lifted from the kiln and cooled in water or combustibles. A final scrub, and the visitor can then walk away with their masterpiece. This year was a sellout – all pots gone to new homes.

The downstairs hall at the Hub was full of activity.

The Half Dozen Group had set up a sketching booth just inside our fabulous new doors – complete with the beautiful mural created by

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### THE LAST WORD



the staff and students of Lilley-Lee Gallery and Art School. Trevor Downes is as old as the HDG itself, and he was set to sketch anyone who felt the need for immortality. Sitters were welcome to take their portraits with them. Well done and thank you Trevor, Cindi, and Derek.

Papermakers and Artists of Queensland were in a bit of a mess, but that was all under control as well. Joanna and Kris dipped small screens into their gluggy stew of pulverised paper. The screens came out clogged with this gunk, but Joanna and Kris were not dismayed. They were excited – or if they weren't – the gunk was returned to where it came from, and another slosh and dip occurred. Papermaking, and the products this group creates are eternally interesting and variable.

Julie Shepherd is a member of Ceramic Arts Queensland but is also renowned Australia wide for her sought after delicate pierced porcelain pieces. She was demonstrating and explaining her technique at the Brisbane Visual Arts Community Open Weekend – for free. You just had to sit, watch, and listen – and yes, she answered questions.

Anna-Margot is the doyenne of Enamelling in Queensland. A trained silversmith, Anna-Margot leads the Queensland Enamellers Guild and throughout the day was demonstrating enamelling techniques and answering questions.

Just outside the backdoor, Western Suburbs Clayworkers invited visitors to take a seat and Play with Clay. The take up was impressive. The group provided examples and the individual interpretations of these were very creative. David kept an eye on anyone wanting to have a “go” at real pottery – i.e. on the wheel. Even the very well dressed were prepared to don an apron and try. There were many WSC volunteers on hand over the weekend to demonstrate techniques and then lead the beginners on their journey. WSC supplied a pottery wheel and clay for the activity.

Upstairs, The Watercolour Society of Queensland provided an interesting, hands-on activity that allowed visitors to experience the joy of playing with paints without putting too much pressure on their visitor's creativity. The group had prepared simple outline

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Cover image:  
*Workshop activity at BVAC's Open Weekend.*



drawings for the activity and demonstrated basic techniques before letting the visitors loose. Those who took up the challenge learned that Watercolour was not all about hard caked blocks of colour activated with water. Very impressive.

The Bookbinders' Guild ran one of the most intriguing workshops – "secret Belgian book binding". Just shows how inquisitive human beings are – this was one of the first paid workshops to sell out. Just put secret in there and we want to know what the secret is. The result was a colourful, yet unobtrusive little notebook that had the fabulous property of opening flat – no matter what the page. How is that possible? Unfortunately, we'll now just have to wait until next year or watch for Bookbinder's workshops.

Sunshine Beaders, Scattered Arts, and ATASDA presented very professional stands featuring fabulous examples of the work produced by their groups.

Australian Porcelain Art Teachers are always at a bit of a disadvantage when it comes to hands on activities simply because the process of painting on porcelain is very dependent on multiple firings, slow cooling, and building up of painted surfaces. APAT had helpful volunteers on hand for continuous demonstrations of the painting technique.

Most of the above activities were free of charge, but the Open Weekend also allowed members the opportunity to conduct specialised workshops for a fee. CAQ offered their Raku Experience, which is always popular because of the drama involved, but other workshops offered included Gill Scott's "Polymer Clay Buttons"; making a Tallie Kumihimo necklace with Helen Medland; and Anna-Margot and Allie Collins were teaching how to make an Enamel Pendant or Enamel Earrings. Julie-Ann Barker was teaching how to create engaging Backgrounds using Acrylic paint, while Susan Hoy taught Slow Stitching (Rabbit or bird). Sarah Davies and Kerrie White had fun with Paste Paper for Bookbinding, and Joanna Fear and Allie Collins gave away the secret of Secret Belgian Book Binding.





**Gallery : Open Weekend at The Hub July 27-28**





# Brisbane Visual Arts Community Hub Mural

by Perrin Millard (Director Lilly-Lee Art School)



Over the past two months, the Lilly-Lee staff and students have had the pleasure of working on the Brisbane Visual Arts Community (BVAC) door mural. It has been a lovely experience for our younger students to be involved in, providing a sense of community and purpose that is often lacking for this younger generation.

As a part of the process, we incorporated important lessons with the students about the differences between graffiti and murals, the importance that public art comes with permission and the benefits that public art can bring to the community. We talked about site specificity, embodying the essence of the space where the public art would inhabit.

The site-specific design by Tanya Ashworth hosts a Blue Wren that sits on gum tree

branches adorned with gum nuts and flowers, singing the BVAC name. Supporting this natural scene is a backdrop of the vertical Brisbane skyline, contrasted against the large Queensland sun, filled with sunset colours that are a familiar sight within our landscape. This stylised 3D imagery combines the nature of the forest reserve that surrounds our community space, and the city in which it resides. This integration reflects the sanctuary of the creative space that BVAC provides for its members and to the broader suburban community. The acronym of BVAC is distinctive with its full title, for greater brand recognition. The artwork is bright, lively, and familiar, offering a more creative and inviting presence to the building.

Throughout the process, it has been exciting to see the joy and enthusiasm expressed by the Lilly-Lee community and other BVAC members as they have watched the artwork slowly emerging. We hope the finished outcome brings enjoyment to all.

Gratitude extended to the BVAC committee, BVAC community, and the Lilly-Lee staff and students. Special thanks to Susan Hoy (BVAC President), Anna-Margot (BVAC Secretary), Tanya Ashworth (Lilly-Lee teacher), Starr Farley (Lilly-Lee teaching assistant), and Lilly-Lee students.



# Brisbane Open House Weekend - “The Shed”

by *Judy Hamilton*

Brisbane Open House (BOH) is a free annual event providing residents and visitors with a rare opportunity to discover the hidden wealth of architecture, engineering and history in buildings and places around Brisbane city.

Selected buildings are open to the public with guided and self-guided tours and activities encouraging visitors to explore, re-examine and engage with Brisbane’s built environment. The experience opens people’s eyes and minds to good design and curious spaces.

The inaugural Brisbane Open House was launched in 2010 with great success, attracting more than 12,500 visits. Each year, the event has continued to grow and in 2019, our tenth anniversary, BOH attracted 80,000 visits from over 35 participants across 119 sites.

The building that once housed the Queensland Art Gallery and Museum in Gregory Terrace participates in this annual event and was open to the public on July 13, 2024. Known these days simply as the Old Museum Building, the crowds flocked to visit.

The main building is now the home of the Queensland Youth Orchestra, but Sculptors Queensland (SQ) occupies the heritage listed “Shed” within its grounds. The opportunity to showcase the group and talk to people about sculpture was not lost on members who turned up to show visitors their home space.

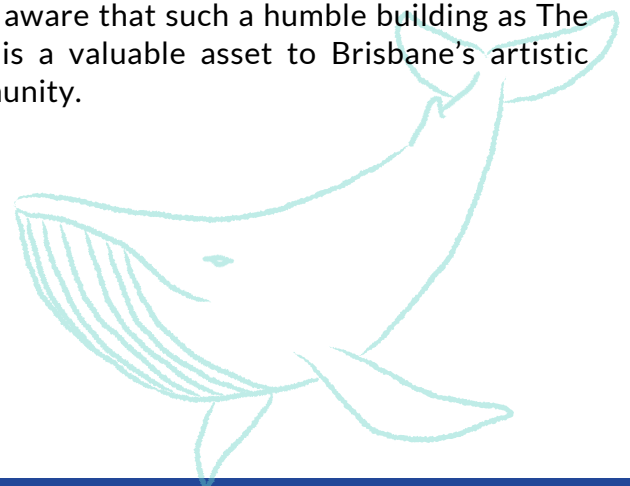
To make sure that people didn’t miss “The Shed” experience on the rather chilly day, President of SQ, Graham Marshall, set up a live “life” sculpture demonstration with Helena Mendes (WSC & SQ) as his chilled model just outside the main Old Museum building. Graham directed visitors to the Shed where they were treated to a sausage sizzle (fund raiser), more sculpture demonstrations, and a small display of member’s work.



*Open Home at “The Shed”*

“The Shed” is SQ’s studio and meeting place, and has been a place of art activity for a long time. In the 1950s it was the animal specimen preparation area for displays. Artists like the late Val Waring (HDG) and Rhyll Hinwood (SQ Patron) worked there preparing displays. It became “home” to Sculptors Queensland in the 2000s. The whales of the “Whale Mall” outside the current Queensland Museum are the work of current SQ member, Jan Williams. They were created in an adjacent building.

On the Open Day visitors were able to see the process of creating a sculpture from life as well as from reference pictures. They were able to talk to sculptors about the work on show as well. The number of visitors to the Shed on the day, and the time they spent talking to the sculptors, would suggest that meaningful connections were made and more people were made aware that such a humble building as The Shed is a valuable asset to Brisbane’s artistic community.



## Notes from BVAC Meeting, 8 August, 2024

**Present:** Joanna Faber (PAQ), Helen Medland (SB), Kirstin Farr (CAQ), Malissa Johnson (ATASDA), Joanna Fear (QBG), Susan Hoy (ATASDA), Sandra Evans (APAT), Anna-Margot Collins (QEG), Helen Medland (SB), Tricia Smout (ATASDA), Paquita Fadden (WSQ), Marilyn Ford (WSQ), .

**Apologies.** Merla Hynes (PSA), Judy Hamilton & Lyn McGlade (WSC), Kristen Farr (CAQ), Wendy Goode (SA).

**President's Report:** The Open Weekend has come and gone and I'm sure everyone is taking a well-deserved rest. From Friday set up, until Sunday pull down. it was a huge effort. I would like to acknowledge the tremendous effort it takes to put on this event and for the first time I actually felt like we were all pulling in the same direction.

The lead up to the event was beautifully orchestrated through the group working with Thea. The publicity across Facebook and Instagram was professional and was a true credit to those involved. I'm sure Thea's influence was evident in the framed QR code signs which appeared on every groups table and the clear signage regarding tent numbers and associated workshops. I believe Thea has provided us with a blueprint to follow going forward regarding marketing and use of social media.

Of course, this would be to no avail had Anna Margot, ably assisted by Allie, not done the required work around signage. I think we have got it right regarding workshops and demonstrations for the Open Weekend and my observation, and I can't qualify this, was we had fewer people browsing and more focused involvement in workshops and demonstrations. It's hard to make generalised conclusions but as a member participant who ran a workshop, I felt very satisfied with being able to teach and promote my association at the same time.

Demonstrations were well received, and people stopped to have a go and have a chat. All in all, I think we achieved our goal. I would really encourage groups to run workshops in 2025. People want to get their hands dirty and give things a go.

Thank you to Lilly lee for organising the food and drink and particularly to their member who did the bunting flags that were tied up all around the area. Well done everyone.

**Treasurers Report:** All going well. All payments to tutors at the Open Weekend completed.

**Building and Maintenance:** Three items were put forward as needing replacement or procured.

- Handtowel dispensers to be bought for downstairs bathroom, and above the sink downstairs..
- Gutter cleaning quote for \$330 approved. Work starting in September.
- Microwave upstairs to be replaced.

**Website Report:** We have been having many issues with our web hosting company and Kirsten and Thea are going to explore alternative and more reliable hosts.

### Events:

- **Pop-up Shop Update:** Pop-up dates for 2024 December 13-15, 2024. Thirty three spaces booked already. Theme for the Christmas pop-up shop is STARS. It has been decided that instead of a raffle we will have each group create an ornament for our gift tree which will be presented by the winning ticket in the spot the star competition, More details will be sent to pop-up attendees soon. Trial of 4 days selling at this Pop-Up. We will review before deciding on the selling dates for next year.
- **Open Weekend:** Feedback has been positive from both attendees and BVAC members. It was a great event, and everyone did a fantastic job. The dates for next year are July 26-27. Now is the time to start thinking about what your group can offer at your stand.

### General Business:

#### Social media subcommittee:

- Initiatives suggested and implemented by Thea have improved our online presence greatly. BVAC to retain the services of Thea for the next 3 months.



## Notes from BVAC Meeting, 8 August, 2024

### Keeping records of events for future planning and analysis.

- As BVAC no longer controls sales at Pop-Up Shops, we ask that each group could supply BVAC with their sales figures for our use when planning upcoming events. If you haven't already done so for the last Pop-Up, could you please send figures to [bvac2015@gmail.com](mailto:bvac2015@gmail.com). Also be ready to supply Christmas figures.

### Review of Fun Day Mondays:

- Funday Mondays will continue to the end of the year. The next one is August 19th. Anna-Margot will be there making a start on the stars for the pop-up shop. Come along and give a hand.

### Grants for Security:

- It was decided not to investigate this at this time as we already have the sensor lights.

### Social Media Professional Development Day:

- September 16th is the next Professional Development Day at the Hub. Please book your places if you are attending. Groups that didn't have any attendees last time get first priority and 2 spaces. Groups that attended last time get 1 space if there are any left.

### Future Events:

- An art competition for all BVAC members in 2025. The idea was put forward by Scattered Arts. This was investigated by a subcommittee and approved in 2019 for 2020 but Covid got in the way. Anna-Margot will look into finding a suitable venue. Any other suggestions, please forward to BVAC email.

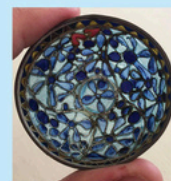
**Hub Bookings:** Bookings for the Hub in 2025 are now being accepted. Please send your dates to [wellershillartshub.bookings@gmail.com](mailto:wellershillartshub.bookings@gmail.com)

Meeting closed at 10:55 am

Next Meeting September 12th, 2024, 9:30 am

# PAINTING WITH FIRE

An exhibition by the Queensland Enamellers Guild



## AUGUST 13TH-18TH 2024

Richard Randall Art Studio

Brisbane Botanical Gardens, Mt Coot-tha,

Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 3 pm

Saturday 9 am - 4 pm Sunday 9 am - 3 pm

email [queenslandenamellersguild@gmail.com](mailto:queenslandenamellersguild@gmail.com)

find us on facebook at- Queensland Enamellers Guild

Member of Brisbane Visual Arts Community







**spirited**  
...Threads in Common

Richard Randall Art Studio,  
Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha

**23 August – 1 September 2024**

**Exhibition and gallery shop featuring local Brisbane artists:**  
Casandra Pyziakos, Joanna Faber, Joanne Jayne, Karoline Cumming,  
Malissa Johnson, Pauline Stevens, Tricia Smout, Wendy Goode

art • wearables • jewellery • accessories • homewares • gifts

10am-4pm daily • FREE entry

## THREADS IN COMMON: “Spirited”

The last week of August 2024 will see this wonderful group of talented women putting on a **SPIRITED** Spring Show at The Richard Randall Art Studio, Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha, Toowong. It is open 10am-4pm daily from 23 August to 1 September. Entry is free.

Rejuvenate your spirits, and be uplifted as you view this stunning exhibition, and marvel at this year’s feature installation of spirited headwear (and vote for your favourite!)

This is definitely the place to admire and purchase unique handmade items for yourself and also as gifts for special people in your life ... artworks, homewares, wearables including jewellery, and much more.

The eight local Brisbane artists are all members of BVAC groups...Casandra Pyziakos, Joanna Faber, Joanne Jayne, Karoline Cumming, Malissa Johnson. Pauline Stevens, Tricia Smout and Wendy Goode.

Their creative spirits are clearly evident in their artistic approaches, employing a diverse range techniques in a wide variety of styles. Each artist brings their energy, enthusiasm and joy to this fabulous exhibition.

Article: [www.weekendnotes.com/threads-in-common-spirited-exhibition-gallery-shop-2024](http://www.weekendnotes.com/threads-in-common-spirited-exhibition-gallery-shop-2024)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ThreadsinCommonBrisbane>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/threadsincommonbrisbane>



**Creative Glass  
Showcase 2024**

**Save  
the  
Date**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>  
November 2024**

Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium

**DISCOVER THE WORLD OF GLASS ART**

Follow us online for more information





R I V E R B E N D E N S E M B L E

ALL-AUSTRALIAN STRING QUARTET WORKS

new works by

THOMAS GREEN AND RACHEL MERTON

**EVENT 1**

**CONCERT + LIVE PAINTING**

**FRIDAY 23 AUGUST, 6PM**

**CORINDA BOWLS CLUB**

**\$5 ONE PRICE / UNDER 18 FREE**

**EVENT 2**

**CONCERT + ART PROJECTIONS**

**SATURDAY 24 AUGUST, 7PM**

**GRACEVILLE CENTRAL UNITING CHURCH**

**ADULTS \$15/CONC. \$10/UNDER 18 FREE**

CRAZY LOW PRICE TICKETS - BOOK ONLINE TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

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*featuring artists*



**KATE MAREK + JANE THOMPSON**

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The Creative Sparks Grant Program is an initiative of Brisbane City Council in partnership with the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.



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Government**



## The Last Word

I hope you all enjoyed the BVAC Open Weekend. This year we were determined to return this event to its roots - the enjoyment that participating in our various arts and crafts brings to us, and sharing that enjoyment with others. I think we did a pretty good job overall.

But, of course, we can do better next year to increase the festival atmosphere if we put our minds to it now. What could be an addition to our activities that would add to our event?

In the past, we have had the suggestion of having live music. How could we do that? Any ideas? It would not be a paid "gig" but it could give a young group a chance to practice in front of a live audience. Maybe a lunchtime event each day might bring in a different audience - their Mums and Dads might enjoy their own chance to be creative. Or, we could offer a creative wall where anyone who wanted to, could make their own little masterpiece. We provide paints and calico stretched over a frame and, as there is almost nothing worse than a blank canvas, we could add a few marks before the event.

Positioning of activities is also important in order to give everyone an equal opportunity to attract an audience. The Raku Experience is exciting and captures peoples attention, but spare a thought for those groups in the upper hall who didn't see a visitor until 10.30 am on Saturday. How do we balance our activities? Put your thinking caps on and contact your group with your ideas. They will bring it to BVAC's attention.

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

#### President

*Susan Hoy*  
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ATASDA

#### Secretary

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#### Treasurer

*Joanna Fear*  
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Queensland Bookbinders Guild

#### Bookings Co-ordinator

*Sandra Evans*  
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APAT

#### Vice-President & Newsletter

*Judy Hamilton*  
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Western Suburbs Clayworkers

### Committee

ATASDA :

*Tricia Smout*

Ceramic Arts Queensland :

*Kirstin Farr: Website*

Creative Glass Guild, QLD :

Lilley Lee :

*Perrin Millard: Building & Maintenance*

Papermakers Artists, QLD :

*Joanna Faber*

Scattered Arts :

*Wendy Goode: PO Box Monitor*

Sunshine Beaders :

*Helen Medland*

Watercolour Society, QLD :

*Theresa Skirving*

QLD Bookbinders Guild :

*Joanna Fear: Treasurer*

Art West Community Gallery :

*Steve Norris*

WS Clayworkers :

*Lyn McGlade*

Pastel Society AUST :

*Merla Hynes*

HDG :

