

BICAS Newsletter

Hello to all.

Hope 2026 has begun well for you.

It's shaping up to be a wonderful year for BICAS. The Matthew Flinders Gallery is booked with an impressive looking schedule of exhibitions, the studios humming with active and imaginative creative groups, tutors and educators knocking on our door, wanting to grab our spaces for delivering classes and kind, energetic people offering to be volunteers.

With all this positivity around us, it's a boost to spirits and confidence that we'll continue to deliver the activity and stimulation that creatives seek on Bribie.

A big boon to the Centre was the installation of air-conditioning in the studios and Boardroom. Working Together Groups can now meet and paint, stitch, knit, potter, print, draw and so forth in comfort these hot months - and be snug in winter. Steph White saw this project through many twists and turns, and as Treasurer, found and cast the dollars for it. Big thanks, Steph.

We've also taken a significant technology step up with online membership instal, thanks to the skill and patience of our Accounts Manager, Stacey Bennett, guiding front desk volunteers through the steps for new and renewing members. (That's first day desk processing glee below)

Our **February changeover** promises to be packed to the rafters with new and different works by our members, going by the stock sheets coming in. **BICAS Showcase** opens next week displaying the range of wonderful talent here across the groups and after that, the **Scratch the Surface 2026** exhibition will intrigue and delight - as is always their form.

Cafe 191 has come back with a fresh 2026 menu. I can personally recommend the new additions (see our website) and welcome to the cheery newcomers helping kick it along. And be sure to visit the **Seasoned Gallery** here for some lovely garden art. Curator Shirley Heapy is gathering exhibiting artists for this lovely revamped space now. Will you be one of them? Happy creating

Julie,
BICAS Venue Manager



Exhibitions

"Show offs" galore in 2026 Showcase Jan 27 - Feb 15



The annual Bribie Community Arts Centre showcase is a proud brag of all who create there.

This year's is bigger and bolder than ever and the range of mediums and imaginative talent within the many various groups is astonishing.

Come see the many facets and skills that are nourished and grown here.

Wonderful to see how the works grow and change with each year.

It's not to be missed!!

Opens Tuesday January 27 and runs til February 15.

Some of the BICAS groups on display



Exhibitions more

Scratch the Surface Feb 17 - March 1



Scratching beneath the surface is always a tantalising theme for art exhibitions. The notion of exposing what lies beneath for a meaning that's not readily apparent on first viewing has a provocative charm. It's present again in this year's intriguing Scratch exhibition here. Surfaces can be physically scratched into with a tool and the meaning beyond an idea can be revealed to expose something very different. Artists in the exhibition this year have created a range of amazing works along this theme. You look once, twice and more to see what they're saying....

And in March, these colourful artists will present

Daring to Be Different March 3 - 15

Terry Vidler, Suzie Dennis, Helen Macdonald, Karsten Thomsen and Judy Frost can't wait to show you their colourful, playful and fun collection of art.



These 5 like-minded local artists see life through coloured glasses and find beauty and humour in everyday moments.

Around the Centre

No "down time" for BICAS fun:



1. Bribie Potters enjoying the cool at their pre Christmas studio get together.

2. Next Generation Art Prize artist Joseph Young, the mentoring prize winner in 2025, spoke about his art plans at the Artist of the Month morning tea this month .

3. The lively, CAP group at their Christmas lunch.

4. Textile tutor Suzanne Sinclair with dyed fabric at her Shibori workshop here.

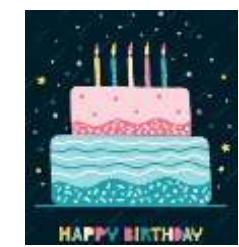
5. Happy lamp maker at Suzanne's class.

6. Tina and Sue pause for a break after the set-up and opening of the great Hot & Cold exhibition.

Arund the Centre (more)



Birthday gals:



Recent birthday celebrations for these lovely BICAS people:

Textile artist **Noelene Machin** (left) turned 90.

Painter **Ann Williamson** (right) was 75.



Painter,
writer and
sculptor
Ann Jones (left)
was 93.



7. U3A
tutor/artist Josh Law showing his teaching methods in the Gallery during the exhibition.

8. Ann Jones was pretty pleased she sold her lovely globe lamp on Day 1 of the U3A Masters & Apprentices exhibition. With her is Cheryl, Ann's tutor, in whose class she made the work.

Quote

Art is what can't fit inside a person

Around the Centre (and more)

A holly jolly afternoon, indeed



The Arts Centre courtyard was ringing with Christmas cheer when the talented **Blue Water Trio** gave their Christmas Carols concert before a packed crowd last month.

Singers young - and not so young- cheeky roadies, shufflers, jivers and hospitality helpers all got into the festive groove as the musicians, Della, MaryAnne and Anita

went through their paces with a variety of instruments.



Festive fun was had by all.



Behind the Scenes

The smooth running of the Arts Centre relies on many clever, hard-working and kind volunteers. They're backroom peeps, some not often seen by the public, but their constant eye, ear and heart on BICAS keep the engines here ticking over and they're a huge help for the Centre venue manager, Julie.

Here are some of them:

Di Carr, desk volunteer roster manager, Moreton Bay City liaison, desk supervisor and Cafe 191 volunteer. Opposite her is **Steph White** BICAS



Board member, Treasurer & Gallery curator and Karen Carter runs the art work barcoding and labelling.

Rita Maclean (left) Reconciles the stock sheets and sales reports. She also manages the books stock at the Centre.



Helen Hampson (right) is new to the crew, and proving a great help for 3D Display team member **Surekha Jeyadev**.

Di Thomsen manages the BICAS website and assists in publicity; **Chris Parke** is gold in accounts, **Sue Osborne** oversees the Artist of the Month exhibitions and **Kelly Vass** manages bus group visits.



Workshops Learn a new skill, join friends and make new ones, have fun and discover a hidden talent. Look what's upcoming:



Shibori & Indigo Dye Workshop

Presenter : Suzanne Sinclair

Saturday 31 Jan 2026 2pm – 4:30pm



- Learn to create and care for a plant-based indigo vat
- Use different traditional resist techniques to create unique patterns.
- Take home completed project: choose to dye a scarf, tea towels, or linen bag.

Cost \$90 per person -All materials supplied. More kits and supplies available for purchase on day.



Booking enquiries

email us at hello@imprintcorner.com.au Ph: 0466 373216



Learn to make a Fused Glass Beehive Sun Catcher

with



Shirley Heapy

**Sunday 18th January &
Sunday 25th January**

10am – 2pm

Join Shirley for a fun workshop creating a bee sun catcher.



You'll learn glass cutting, layering and incorporating decorative elements.

No experience required, just bring your enthusiasm!

Price \$153; includes all art supplies & use of tools

Book with Shirley : shbribie@yahoo.com.au

Suitable for adult beginners



GELLI PLATE PRINTING

WORKSHOP

with Robin Jensen

Printmaking is almost a magical process!

Using a gelli plate, textures and paints, we will create beautiful striking prints on paper or fabric.

In this workshop we will explore different gelli plate printing techniques including botanical printing, mark making and stencil printing.

Produce lovely layered prints using transparent and opaque paints, using a wide variety of textures, with this easy to learn, and somewhat addictive process.

All materials are supplied including a 20cm x 25cm gelli plate, brayer, paints, papers, stencils, plants & tools.

You will leave the workshop with a series of finished prints and the knowledge to continue this amazing process at home.

**10-2pm Sunday 22 FEB at
Bribie Island Community Arts Centre**

Cost \$125, pay on the day, cash or card.

Further details, or to book, please contact Robin Jensen

Phone 0421043924 or Email j-robin@aapt.net.au

Demonstration:

Want to know about mosaic art?

Come to this FREE demo with mosaic artist Carrollyn Hennessy to learn the how, what and other aspects of this art form. Carrollyn is self-taught and can show you how to get started. If there is sufficient interest, she will run classes at the Arts Centre.

**Saturday February 7,
9am - 12.**

**Book your place on
3408 9288.**



FREE MOSAIC ART DEMONSTRATION

by Carrollyn Hennessy,
the talent behind the grid-style mosaics,
running hot in the Arts Centre.

Mosaics inquiries come in every week to the Arts Centre.

Where can we learn?
How do we start?
What materials will I need?

Come learn the answers to this and other questions you have about this art form

WHEN: Saturday February 7, 9am - noon

WHERE: Studio 2 Bribie Community Arts Centre

Carrollyn is self-taught and loves dabbling in styles sizes & mediums. Large mosaics are her passion, but walls outside her home are at a premium, so she's downsized her work to more manageable sizes for friends, family and for sale here. She may start classes here if there is sufficient interest.



**Please book for the demo session on
3408 9288.**



Volunteer Spotlight

Karen Carter

Barcode and Labelling

Why do you volunteer at the Arts Centre?

The Bribie Island Community Arts Centre is a vibrant and busy place, showcasing amazing local talent across many artistic fields. Given that it is mostly run by a hard-working group of volunteers it's a pleasure to help out.

What do you do at the Arts Centre?

I am part of a team of four, who barcode and label all the paintings for Changeover, Exhibitions, Artist of the Month and items in the galleries. It's a busy, but interesting job as the exhibitions change every couple of weeks and fabulous items from many talented artisans are constantly coming into the Centre. So all items can be accounted for, we enter each one into the Centre's computer system and barcode them ready for sale. We also generate all the labels you see next to the paintings in the centre. It's certainly a job that keeps me on my toes!

What do you like about volunteering at the Arts Centre? The Arts Centre is an impressive place. It has an engaging and welcoming feel, wonderful exhibitions along with bright and busy studios. The cafe ties everything together as a place to relax and enjoy the ambience of the Centre.

Volunteer Spotlight (cont.)

It's such a hub of creativity and volunteering helps me feel a part of that. I also find that since retiring it gives me a focus and keeps my brain stimulated.

Why would you recommend others to volunteer at the Arts Centre?

You meet some wonderful people! There are so many ways you can volunteer; from the cafe, to the front desk, to the galleries and behind the scenes. It's a very friendly environment where everyone is keen to help each other. If you have a skill to share or time to spare, the Arts Centre will welcome you with open arms.

Do you practise any art yourself?

I dabble in lots of things and love to try new skills. I like creating in polymer clay. I seem to make endless earrings simply because I love the patterns the clay makes! I also like to try my hand at painting abstract pieces and am a sucker for all things bold, bright and colourful. I belong to the Contemporary Art Practices Group, which I really enjoy. I have no formal training or real skill with art, and can't draw to save myself. In this group I am surrounded by like-minded people who are willing to share ideas, offer encouragement and have a great time in the process!

Cafe 191

After a tough finish to 2025, when the mini cyclone in November cut power to the Centre for several days, forcing Corey to jettison the contents of his fridges, he has replenished the stock to charge into 2026 with gusto.



We've farewelled some Cafe crew, sadly, and welcome a few new volunteers. Please make yourself known to them.

Corey, Ange, Tamika and Monica and the crew are excited about the new menu items on offer... We listened to your suggestions and have included light snacks as well as full lunch menu. Check our website

<https://www.bribieartscentre.com.au/cafe-191-menu>

Our coffee remains gold standard and we've also introduced some iced teas which go down a treat in the hot weather.



Local musicians bring a regular mid-week ambience and our visiting groups bring the chat and laughter we also love to hear.

Do please book a table if you plan to bring a group of eight or more. We hate to disappoint if your party arrives on spec and we're full.

We loved having the Woodford Purple Hatters in red visit. They certainly added colour to the courtyard.

(The red-hatted members in purple were celebrating birthdays.)



Artist of the Month February

Get ready for big, bright and beautiful when Helen and Suzie hang their works on the Artist of the Month wall.

Both work magic with colour and light and their double act is sure to catch your eye and your heart.

Meet Helen and Suzie over FREE morning tea at the Arts Centre on Friday, February 13 at 10.30am. Book, please, as spaces are limited, on 3408 9288

DOUBLE VISION Helen Macdonald & Suzie Dennis Artists of the Month - February 2026



For **Helen** art is where everyday moments transform into something quietly magical. She's inspired by what she sees around her, unexpected colour combinations, lingering visual moments like light falling across a room.



5 Things I Love About Bribie

Julie Wight

Front desk volunteer

1. The Community is very caring.

The people who live on Bribie Island are, in general, very caring. Our Community Facebook Page always carries lots of feedback and help offered when needed. There are many groups to get us involved in things we love to do.



2. The natural beauty of the Island.

The wildlife, flora and fauna all contribute to the natural beauty, keeping Bribie a magical place to live.

3. Every day has a special start.

Morning walks here on Bribie Island are an amazing way to begin each day.

4. A laidback atmosphere.

Peace and serenity are prolific with many locations where Mother Nature can absolutely change your day.

5. Bribie Island remains perfect.

National Parks dominate and this will not change. Bribie Island won't be over developed!

Queensland Govt to arrest falling volunteering numbers

The State Government has formally tabled its response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Volunteering in Queensland last month, setting out a 10-year plan to arrest declining volunteer numbers and reduce the red tape and rising costs blamed for putting community organisations under strain.

The Government's response was tabled in Parliament on December 18, three months after the Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee handed down its 'Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland report'.

The report found volunteering in Queensland contributed more than \$117 billion annually in social and economic value, but warned participation had fallen sharply, with around 200,000 fewer volunteers between 2020 and 2023.



Gosh, Josh! Cafe clown revamp is sparkling...

Josh Law has glitzed up the cafe 191 clown with painstaking application of glitter and glass.



Volunteer Di Wallach is pretty impressed.

Dates to Remember

JANUARY 25 10am: Glass fusion workshop with Shirley Heapy

JANUARY 27: BICAS Showcase exhibition opens

JANUARY 31 2pm: Shibori and Indigo dye workshop with Suzanne Sinclair

FEBRUARY 5 - 8: Watercolour, acrylic and oil workshops with Herman Pekel

FEBRUARY 13 10.30am: Morning tea for Artists of the Month Helen Macdonald and Suzie Dennis

FEBRUARY 15: BICAS Volunteers Thank You afternoon

FEBRUARY 17: Scratch exhibition opens

FEBRUARY 20 10am: Gelli plate workshop with Robin Jensen

Plant your garden works in our **Seasoned** Gallery... It's blooming!

Kathrin Dierich's fabulous water fountains, gently trinkling in Seasoned, are a real drawcard to this lovely inviting space.



Your works could do well here, too.

Curator **Shirley Heapy** is seeking artists who work in any materials that suit outdoors to display and sell here; eg statues, sculptures, hanging features

Contact her on shbribie@yahoo.com.au