

Chairman's report on 2025 for AGM Apr 2026

Good morning to all our attendees. My name is Carolyn Wheeler and I am Chairman of the Board. I appreciate you coming today to play a part in ensuring BICAS moves forward productively into the new year.

I have been your chairman now for 6 years and always begin with acknowledging the numerous members allowing BICAS to continue running at an optimal level.

To start, I thank the volunteers most sincerely for their generous time, given freely, so all may enjoy the opportunities available. The staff are to be applauded for their support in offering more than required to assist in the underlying running of the Centre. And let me not forget the board who meet monthly to discuss the current and future governance for our wonderful community. Thank you to all for your support and hard work this last year.

Our year in review has had various displays in Matthew Flinders Gallery, our artist of the month, Matthew Flinders Art Prize and Nextgen to name but a few. The displays in the reception area, the craft makers' goods in the back room and Café 191, all contribute to the diversity showcasing our art Centre community. Working Together Groups meet regularly and provide their members with enthusiastic projects or assistance with individual projects.

In preparing this report I came across a word from Greek Mythology – Hecatoncheires. It means the 100 handed one and has 50 heads and 100 arms.

To me, this word epitomizes BICAS. It could be our new image if anyone can spell or pronounce it. When I think of our Centre, this word covers everything BICAS proports to be. Our 50 heads belong to the staff, Board members, and coordinators. The 100 arms are reflected by our volunteers.

Our board is the official directive and we assist our Venue Manager Julie Thomson. Café 191 and our chef Corey Abel come under her authority, as does the advertising and management of BICAS. Office staff also come under her umbrella. The Board is charged with cementing projects for the good of our members and guests. Our Treasurer report details more on our achievements this year.

But back to Hecatoncheires. We have coordinators required for MFAG, the front desk, artist of the month, our reception displays, the craft displays, and the pottery displays. No changes happen without the input and directive of a coordinator, often wearing more than one hat at the same time. There is so much going on here at any one time it makes your head spin thinking about it.

Plans are prepared and reviewed and adjusted well in advance, sometimes months or years. Regular meetings and subgroups come together to enable these plans to come to fruition.

Matthew Flinders Art Gallery is such a prestigious area with the art works changing every 2-3 weeks or so. Now, it's not like a Night at the Museum where these paintings come to life at night and re-arrange themselves throughout the whole area. No, our manager, Stephanie White, organises these changes using the services of the volunteers to take them all down, and re-hang the new display. As I said, this happens on a 2-3-week cycle. Then when our major Matthew Flinders Art Prize is on, all the art must again be taken down to make room for the entrants to have their projects displayed for the judges, and the members and visitors at large. When the Art Prize completion date arrives, they are all collected by the entrants, with new art placed up again, only to be taken down again when Nextgen entrants have their turn. It never stops.

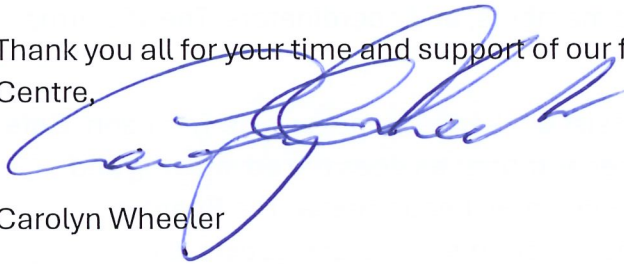
Visitors to the Centre are numerous each day and the bus groups come enmasse. The displays must be kept up to date and regularly changes. Corey needs to know in advance if he is to expect an onslaught at any time other than usual. This allows him the ability to plan the variety and volume of shopping required for the menus on offer.

Turning to our volunteers, the backbone of our Centre. Coordinators can prepare and plan as much as possible, but without support, all that hard work amounts to Nil.

We are all busy in life but one of the special benefits is offering your time to others. Volunteering is selfless but so important to our lives in giving freely, our support to any worthwhile recipient. For us it is BICAS.

In closing, aligning BICAS to a Hecatoncheires is as close to describing BICAS as possible. The Centre needs those 50 or so heads and most definitely the 100 arms.

Thank you all for your time and support of our fabulous Bribie Island Community Art Centre.



Carolyn Wheeler

Chairman