



Working to promote, encourage and support the practise and appreciation of arts across the community

### **President's Report 2026**

I think of the last year as one of innovations. Several long-term plans came to fruition. The BCAC has a new website. Huge thanks to Sandy Radke for her dedication to the project, liaising with James Dee the designer at Go4 Media and dealing with problems as they arose. John Conway and Denis Brennan also assisted in setting up Stripe the online payment system.

Zeller, a new point of sale record is now in use at the Nexus Gallery complying with the auditors request to update our sales procedures. It has not been without incident, all volunteers have had to master the new system and we are still learning. Fortunately, Kate St Claire a recent BCAC member has undertaken the management of Zeller for which we are extremely grateful.

Julie Hutchinson's persistence paid off as The Stables finally secured a grant to begin a repair and renovation program which was much needed at this popular venue for art, music and cultural activities. There are more improvements to come.

Finally, the restoration of the E.J. Mantova paintings was completed. This project entirely funded by the BCAC with advice and help from Polly Wells. In November Bellinghen Shire Council accepted the 7 works at Bellinghen Library where they are now on permanent display.

The regular BCAC events were ongoing. The Arts Trail Weekend repeated another success coinciding with the Australian Ceramics Open Weekend to which many of our members also belong.

Muse again enjoyed a boutique music celebration shared between Glenifer Hall, Bellingen Memorial Hall and Coffs Harbour Conservatorium.

Wilderness Walks did not take place last year, but bookings are accumulating for later this year.

The Bellingen Theatre Troupe also has plans for future small productions.

Festival Flamenco has been dormant for some time but is now actively working on a new programme for this year.

We continue support to other art events with donations to The Mantova Art Prize a long established exhibition held in conjunction with Bellingen Agriculture Show, Regional Arts NSW on Aus Arts Day, the Arts Trail Weekend and letters of support as requested.

Membership of the BCAC is steady. Denis and Sandy Brennan update and publish the latest list regularly. It is always good to welcome new members, there are 5 exhibiting in the Autumn Members' Show.

There are frequent inquiries about our exhibition space in both the Gallery and Studio efficiently managed by Linda Ravlich and currently booked until 2027

The Nexus Gallery celebrated 20 years at The Old Butter Factory on 19th August 2025. We reminisced, said a fond farewell to Jo Bowes for 20 years of volunteering on the front desk. Mark Willis represented Louise Rawson Harris who guided the Gallery to its present position and founded the BCAC. We walk in her footprints following her death at the end of 2025.

As a volunteer organization there is always a long list of people to thank without whom we could not operate. Our financial duo John Conway and Denis Brennan, Charlotte for secretarial support, the Gallery team, Lynn Tizzard our wonderful Gallery Manager, Linda Ravlich, Ross Thompson, for publicity, Helen Howard for the roster and John Biggart who will retire from the Hanging Team but has persuaded Kate St Claire to replace him. Sandy Radke for the monthly newsletter and the on going management of the BCAC website, lastly to Iona Krefel who recently volunteered to revive our Facebook and Instagram accounts. We are back on social media again

I am greatly appreciative of the support I receive and look forward to another fulfilling year of events under the BCAC umbrella

Jenny Hicks

President BCAC

