

AUGUST 2017



The Canberra Potter

The Newsletter of Canberra Potters' Society Inc.

INSIDE: Janet Fieldhouse Friday Supper Club New Courses & Workshops Reports on Staff, kilns, Board activities & more...

The calm before the crowds: *Changes Exhibition* Watson Arts Centre Gallery July 2017

Open Day Market – call for applications

Open Day
5 November
Canberra Potters, Watson Arts Centre

Several expressions of interest for a market on Open Day were received so we are now calling for applications.

Stall holders will be selected from information provided in the application form and photos supplied with that application.

Canberra Potters members will be given selection preference but application is open to members and non-members.

All work to be sold must have clay as its major component.

All work must be made by the applicant; if designed by the applicant but made by someone else this must be clearly stated in the application. (Purchased jewellery findings, chains, necklaces and other minor additions to the applicant's ceramic work are acceptable.)

Only products included in your application and approved by us may be sold.

The fee for a 3m wide x 2m deep space is \$75 (inc GST). There may be a few smaller spaces 2m x 2m spaces available at a cost of \$50.

Market times are still to be confirmed but will likely be:

- Bump-in 9.30am to 11.45am (stall to be ready for trading by 11.45am)
- Open noon to 6pm
- Bump-out 6.15 to 8pm

Deadline for applications is 5pm Friday 8 September.

Further details are available on the [website](#) along with the online application form.

Planning Open Day 2017
Please bring your enthusiasm and ideas
Planning session
Monday 14 August
4.30pm
Watson Arts Centre
All members welcome



From the Director

Welcome to the August issue of *The Canberra Potter*. The days are finally lengthening and our attention turns to the busy months ahead but before we do let's dwell on our achievements over the last month or so. To all those who participated in our workshops - Teapots, Throwing Clinic or yet another wonderful Winter School—thank you. Rob Linigen filled his students' heads with enough glaze information and techniques to last until...well his next visit. In the gallery following the highly entertaining Student Teacher Exhibition we showed what has been a highlight of the year so far in the Changes exhibition. Close to 150 people came to the opening to see first- time exhibitors alongside gallery stalwarts to give us a fresh and engaging exhibition experience. Finally, we introduced what I hope will become a popular school holiday offering — Clay Day. Over an entire day kids moved between various pottery challenges culminating in an exciting raku firing. Great attendance and great feedback ensure this will make a reappearance next school holidays.

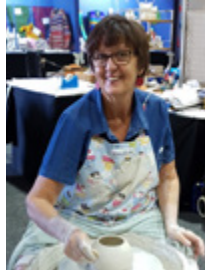
So what's next? A good response to our EOI for the Open Day market proposal means further information and promotional material will be developed. The gallery will host the eclectic and thought-provoking Marsden group before returning to our ceramics focus with the opening of Heat & Light, an exhibition from sisters Jo Townsend and Jane Kelly.

Updating the facilities continues with the introduction of hot water to the newly established Workshop 2. We have recently reinstated our building perimeter lighting making a safer environment for our many after-hours users. Thank you to artsACT for contributing to these welcome improvements. An unfortunate mishap with Kiln 2 is set to have a happy ending with the purchase of a replacement kiln pending.

Richard Thomas

Director

director@canberrapotters.com.au



From the President

There was much deliberation at the Board's June meeting regarding our involvement in the proposed Kingston Arts Precinct (KAP). The outcome is the Board's decision to withdraw our interest. ArtsACT has been formally advised, and sincerely thanked for our inclusion.

As background to this, planning is underway for a large arts hub in Kingston near the Canberra Glassworks and the Old Bus Depot. Several years ago, CPS was invited to consider having space on the site. Since then Richard Thomas our Director, and I have attended numerous meetings with artsACT and the other Key Arts Organisations (KAOs) involved. Our concept plans for teaching space, storage and firing areas, shop and gallery were well received.

The Board based its decision on variables unknown at this time. These were the management model, cost of rental, division of staff and limited resources across two sites, and the likely outcome of direct market competition at the precinct.

While the possible benefits of KAP were certainly considered, the Board strongly agreed that CPS is growing and succeeding. Unlike other KAOs we are not under threat of loss of our real estate. Thus, it is preferred that our energy and resources continue to focus at our current wonderful site. We are so very fortunate to have 1 Aspinall Street, I think it's the only ceramics-only community facility left in Australia.

Let's have a fantastic Open Day 2017 and showcase CPS and our love for ceramics. I invite volunteers for the Open Day Planning Committee meeting at 4.30pm Monday 14th August at Watson. All members welcome.

I hope you are all enjoying this time of year when the clay dries more slowly and joining it is much more forgiving than in warmer weather. Happy potting!

Velda Hunter

President & Chair

velda@tpg.com.au

Board & administration

Board

Velda Hunter **President & Chair**

Russell Eade **Treasurer**

Jennifer Collier

David Leake

Jane Jervis

Phuong Dang

Administration

Director Richard Thomas

Program Manager Sara Hogwood

Education Program Manager

Jo Townsend (acting)

Education Office Assistant

Bhavana Moylan

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Contributions are welcome.

Please email copy and images with captions to the editor:

editor@canberrapotters.com.au

Next Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday 29 August 2017

Graphic Design: Nina Davis

Contact us

Canberra Potters' Society Inc

Watson Arts Centre

Aspinall St, Watson ACT

02 6241 1670 general enquiries

02 6241 7800 classes

PO Box 7021

Watson ACT 2602

Gallery/Shop hours

Thursday—Sunday

10—4 pm

ABN 65 491 135 689

Friday Supper Club

August 25
6 for 6.15 pm
Entry by donation

This month we are in for a treat! Our current visiting artist, Janet Fieldhouse, will speak at the August Supper Club. Janet completed studies at the ANU School of Art in 2011 and has returned to Canberra for a 12-week residency with us. She's been working on a new body of work and we are keen to see the results!

Janet is a highly regarded artist of merit who has won accolades and awards including the prestigious Indigenous Ceramic Art Award in 2011 and 2014. She is well known for a series of works made from woven strips of Keraflex porcelain, some of which can be viewed at the National Gallery of Australia.

Drawing from her own story and background; cultural heritage and identity, her work explores traditional themes and ideas, but with a contemporary view. More recently she has been investigating ritual and body adornment. "My work is an expression of my Torres Strait islander heritage: the material culture, rituals of social and religious life, and the artefacts which are created to fulfil the functional and spiritual needs of the peoples of the Torres Strait."

Of her art-process she says "I usually just play and it comes from within, the form, without it being a thought process. I never thought of the actual why: I do it because I love it, it draws me on; and if I can share the knowledge or the feeling that I have in any way, then that's a bonus, it's like it's a part of me I'm showing."

Read more about Janet's career in [this article from the Australian](#).

Come along on August 25 to gain more insights into the practice of this amazing artist!



Connecting with Indigenous Artists

Last month we commenced the program developed in conjunction with our Artist-in-Residence Janet Fieldhouse. The program sees a collaboration between Canberra Potters and the CIT Yurauna Centre.

Yurauna is a Wiradjuri word meaning 'to grow'. The CIT Yurauna Centre is CIT's dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support centre and is highly regarded as a place for those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage to study Indigenous cultural arts. The Centre has existing partnerships with the Canberra Glassworks through their Indigenous Textiles and Glassworks group. Now through this program we hope that a similar creative link may be established with Canberra Potters.

The group will be busy with their project focussing on the Bogong Moth in Workshop 2 each Tuesday for the next few weeks. They will be working toward what we expect to be a spectacular community exhibition to be held at Watson Arts Centre during September.

Kiln Advisory Group Report Accepted

At the last Board meeting the report from the Kiln Advisory Group was presented for consideration. All the recommendations put forward were approved and an action plan has been developed. Although some of the items are 'big ticket' and may take some time to implement we hope the majority of items will be completed over the coming months.

The Committee members, selected by the Director, were representative of our core kiln user groups including staff/class users, studio holders, professional artists and special interest firers. They have a sound knowledge of general kiln practice and are regular users of the Society's kilns and allied areas. They were: Richard Thomas, Chris Harford, David Leake, Maryke Henderson, Roger Ellyard and Fran Romano. The aims of the committee were to:

- Audit the existing kilns and assess their condition and suitability to our needs
- Decide the fate of the large gas kiln
- Discuss kiln shed configuration regarding safety and accessibility

Some of the approved recommendations include:

- Convert Kiln 2 to automatic operation
- Retire Kiln 4 and replace with a new brick kiln
- Offer the big gas kiln for sale
- Reposition remaining gas kilns to create a safer working environment
- Move to phase out fibre kilns and replace with brick
- Develop a soda kiln course to award limited soda kiln licences
- Continue discussion with artsACT to progress shed remediation projects including more efficient fluing and extraction
- Allocation of additional hours for cleaning of the kiln shed.

A full copy of the report and recommendations will be available soon on the website.

Richard Thomas

Winter School Report

The Winter School this year was five days of glaze development and testing with Rob Linigen ably assisted by Maryke Henderson.

Rob provided the students with a comprehensive technical base for developing their own glazes. He took them through the chemistry and the use of glaze calculation software. Each night Rob and Maryke fired the tests ready to be explored further the next day. At the end of the course people felt confident to continue experimenting with glazes on their own.

Participants enjoyed the mix of theory and practice, the expertise of the teachers and the collaborative environment. Many are keen to learn more in this area, so we will look at scheduling more glaze courses soon.



New course: Surface Design & Development

Tuesdays 12 & 19 September
6.00-9.00pm
Cost \$165

We are offering a new short course at the end of this term on two consecutive Tuesday evenings. This course will look at the elements of design and how to apply these to developing your own individual surface decorations.

Guided by Suzanne Oakman you will look at a range of techniques for design, but the focus will be on developing design ideas that you can take and apply to a body of work.

This course includes some clay and a bisque firing.



Suzanne Oakman

Education News

The big news is the imminent availability of our new, you-beaut online booking system for all classes and workshops. This service will be available to you very soon with the new website which is in its final stages of preparation. All our courses for school holidays, next term and upcoming workshops will be on the website for you to book and pay online. We will no longer be pencilling names onto class lists and chasing up payments. The system is simple to use and payments are secure. Places available are shown and updated in real time. All the classes will be listed. Book in early to avoid disappointment.

Please contact

classes@canberrapotters.com.au

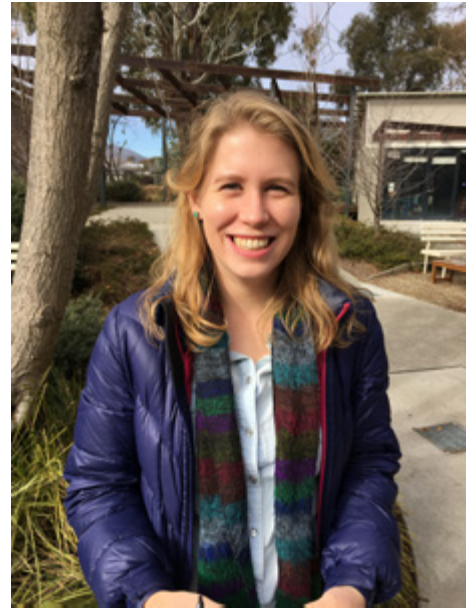
if you are unable to enrol online due to accessibility or other issues.

Welcome Shaun and Katrina

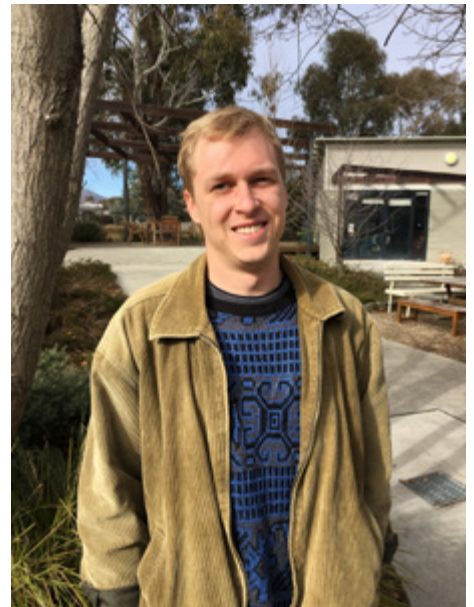
You may have noticed a couple of new faces around Canberra Potters. We are very pleased to welcome Katrina Leskie as our Workshop Manager and Shaun Hayes as our Technical Assistant. Previously these two roles were the responsibility of one person; however, due to the growth of our organisation the necessity has arisen to divide the workload across these two very important areas of our operations.

Katrina is an ANU graduate in ceramics and a practising ceramic artist. No stranger to the pottery workshop she has most recently completed a stint as workshop assistant at Sturt. As Workshop Manager, she will oversee the presentation and operation of our three workshops and associated tools, machinery, fixtures and fittings. Together with the TA she will ensure the workshops are well stocked with all the necessary materials to keep our workshops operating smoothly.

Shaun may be well known to some from his time with Walkers Ceramics and as a practising ceramicist and studio holder at Strathnairn Arts. As our Technical Assistant, he is responsible for the upkeep and safe operation of the facilities key infrastructure. His knowledge of pottery and experience of ceramic arts practice provide him with the skills to maintain our kilns, wheels and associated technical equipment to ensure the delivery of sound operating services to our members, students and resident artists.



Katrina Leskie



Shaun Hayes

Mind your business!

This September make room in your Filofax (just kidding), your Blueberry (ah remember them?)—OK your Smart phone—for a straight talking, heads up, pay attention, cut to the chase business workshop: *Promotion, publishing and photography—working towards a sustainable practice as an artist.*

Vicki Grima will be coming to town and hopefully going to town on the business of making art. A well-known figure around the Australian ceramics scene Vicki is an artist, Executive Officer of The Australian Ceramics Association and Managing Editor of the Journal of Australian Ceramics.

Vicki will lead a wide-ranging discussion about working towards a sustainable practice as an artist—websites, artist statements, social media (Facebook and Instagram), photography, being published, finding your market, approaching galleries/retail outlets, pricing your work, wholesale v. consignment ... as much as we can squeeze in. There will be a short writing exercise, time to test out some photo ideas, and lots of opportunities for questions.

Vicki's aim is to increase your awareness of the issues involved in promoting your art so you can feel more confident in making decisions about the direction you wish your art practice to follow.

Participants should bring a small piece of their own ceramic work (10–12cm high), a pen/pencil, a notebook/paper and a smart phone (iPhone or Android) if possible (No Palm Pilots please). You are welcome to bring a list of questions you would like covered.

When: Thursday 28 September 2017, 10am–4pm

Where: Canberra Potters Society members meeting room

Cost: \$85

Morning and afternoon tea provided; please bring your own lunch.

Workshop details will be available on our website soon. In the meantime, [check out Vicki's website](#).



School Holiday Fun



2017 Members' Exhibition

October still seems some way off but we all know how quickly time can fly. Our 2017 Members' Exhibition opens 5 October with delivery of exhibits scheduled for 28 September to 1 October. If not already in your schedule, add these dates now.

The entry form will be made available as soon as possible but if you're thinking about what to make, there'll be the usual hand-built, wheel-thrown and tertiary categories along with the major prize, the Doug Alexander Award.

We'll keep you posted as details are finalised.



Liz Crowe, *Untitled*, Southern Ice porcelain, Walkers No.10 clay, Obvara raku firing, wax, sterling silver collars and stems (not made by artist). 2016 Doug Alexander Award winner. Image CPS.



**AUSTRALIAN
CERAMICS**
.....
open studios
19 & 20 AUGUST 2017

For more information and contact details visit the website below and type ACT or NSW in 'location' field. A listing will appear for each State.

**Studios are open from
10am to 4pm.**

www.australianceramicscommunity.com

*Unearth a local potter
in Canberra.*

*More than
8 studios will be open for
visitors to meet ceramic artists who work with clay.
There is also a chance to purchase
original handmade ceramic works.
So pop in and say hello!*

Northside - Watson

FRATTEMPO, Girl Nomad Ceramics
(Studios located in Canberra Potters
Society building)
1 Aspinall St
Jacqueline Lewis, 6 Foster Pl,
AMPM Ceramics, 27 Wade St

Belconnen - Weetangera

Josephine Townsend Ceramics,
40 Davis St

Inner South - Narrabundah

Sophi Suttor
16 Buchanan Street,

Woden Valley - Mawson

Monika Leone - Mawson
Gallery, 63 Wilkins St

NSW - Gundaroo

Old Saint Luke's Studio,
1045 Shingle Hill Way

NSW - Murrumbateman

Susan Hill, Hillgrove Pottery
Grevillea Close

Diary dates

August

Open Day Planning

Monday 14 August 4.30pm

Watson Arts Centre

All members welcome

Australian Ceramics Open Studios

19-20 August

Friday Night Supper Club

25 August 6.00pm for 6.15pm

Janet Fieldhouse

September

Surface Design & Development

Course with Suzanne Oakman

12 & 19 September 6.00-9.00pm

Promotion publishing and

photography Workshop

with Vicki Grima

Thursday 28 September 10am-4pm

September/October

**Canberra Potters' Members'
Exhibition**

**Opening 5 October; delivery from
28 September**

November

**CPS Open Day and Night Markets
5 November**

Watson Arts Centre is a Key Arts Organisation supported by the ACT government and run by Canberra Potters' Society.

We offer:

Classes for children and adults across all levels of ceramic practice. Workshops, Summer Schools and Kids' Holiday classes are available too.

Studios where tenancy applications are always welcome from emerging and established ceramic artists.

Artist-in-Residence program including studio and residence facilities to national and international visiting artists.

Gallery hosting a ceramic focused exhibition program.

Shop with a range of pottery and ceramics to suit all tastes and budgets.

The gallery and shop are open Thursday to Sunday 10am-4pm and most public holidays.

For further information on all programs, events and available facilities please visit

canberrapotters.com.au

Exhibitions

Evolve: Marsden Arts Group
Watson Arts Centre Gallery
3–13 August

Opening 6.00pm Thursday 3 August
Meet-the-artists afternoon tea

1.00pm–3.00pm Sunday 13 August
 Marsden Art Group this year visits the theme 'Evolve', which reflects a process of change whether in relation to humans, animals, the planet, weather, plants, thought or process. In their explorations of Evolve, MAG's emerging and established artists use a diversity of mediums and interpretations. The theme has provided opportunities for the artists to develop thoughts and processes, unfold stories, advance ideas and unravel histories.

This year's exhibiting artists are: Ian Baird, Julie Delves, Liz Dovey, Val Gee, Margaret Gordon, Susan Hey, Penina Huho, Marilyn Hutchinson, Sally Jones, Margaret Kalms, Manuel Pfeiffer, Saggu Sukhvinder, Barbara Van Der Linden and Delene White.

Light and Heat

Watson Arts Centre Gallery
17 August – 10 September

Opening 6.00pm Thursday 17 August
 This exhibition is a collaboration between two sisters—Jane Kelly, a Sydney-based professional photographer, and Josephine Townsend, a Canberra-based ceramicist. The sisters chose a botanical theme with images of flowers, trees and ferns as the start point for developing the exhibition. Jane's images are presented in high quality prints and are reinterpreted on Josephine's pots.

Strong composition, styling and subtle lighting are the hallmark of Jane's images, whilst Josephine's forms are essentially tactile, with surfaces, colours and curves that invite the touch.

The works in the exhibition successfully marry two-dimensional images with three-dimensional curved continuous surfaces. There is a conversation between the photographs and the forms that gives

new meaning to both the ceramics and the images. Where flower images leap off the wall in bold colour out of a deep black background, on the soft curves of the ceramic works they are reinterpreted as monochrome images on coloured backgrounds. On some ceramic works the images are crisp and bold and on others they float quietly under a tranquil glaze.

One of the major challenges of collating the exhibition was the tyranny of distance, having to make decisions based on phone camera images and text messages.



Jane Kelly, *Chinese Elm*; Jo Townsend, *Fern Beakers*

Janet Fieldhouse
Watson Arts Centre Gallery
17 August – 10 September

Opening 6.00pm Thursday 17 August
 Janet Fieldhouse is our current artist-in-residence. Born in Cairns, QLD, where she now lives and works, Janet is already known to many Canberra ceramicists from her time in Canberra at the ANU and her involvement then with Canberra Potters. Janet is an award-winning artist. Her work is an expression of her Torres Strait Islander heritage: the material culture, rituals of social and religious life, and artefacts created to fulfil the functional and spiritual needs of the peoples of the Torres Strait.



Janet Fieldhouse, *Keralex 1*

A Curious Cabinet

Hotel Hotel

28 July – 11 August

Unlike most curious cabinets (otherwise known as Wunderkammern) this exhibition draws on the other definition of 'curious'—those who are 'eager to know or learn something'. Jo Victoria and Zoe Slee are part of this CraftACT-curated exhibition.

Opportunities

UnderCurrent Design Market

is happening again this Spring. Held in the award winning National Portrait Gallery, and organised by The Curatoreum, this annual event brings together passionate designers and makers of all persuasions from clothing to ceramics, showcasing the best in contemporary design from Canberra and interstate. Just ahead of the Christmas rush, the market is always popular—it attracted over an incredible 14,500 visitors last year.

Friday evening 24 Nov through Sunday 26 Nov. For full details [visit the website](#). Submissions close 15 September.

Object Subject—inaugural national design writing conference
7–26 November

Exploring the way design speaks to us, and the way we speak about design, the inaugural national design writing conference will be held at the Shine Dome as a signature DESIGN Canberra event. For the first time, designers, writers, critics, bloggers, researchers, collectors, makers, curators and design lovers will come together to explore the creative and important ways that writing has become essential to the future of design.

Registration now open: early bird prices end 31 August. For more info [visit the website](#).

Call for original craft and design works inspired by the Shine Dome
 for a signature DESIGN Canberra exhibition in 2017.

Entries close 5pm Friday 1 September. For more info [visit the website](#).

In 2016 the Members' Exhibition was supported by



The family of the late Jane Crick