



The Canberra Potter

The Newsletter of Canberra Potters' Society Inc.

INSIDE: Summer Holiday Classes Avi Amesbury Reviewed Special Award Winners Members Studio Sales...and more

Avi Amesbury, *After the Fires* series (detail). Image: Art Atelier Photography

Ceramics as still-life dress tables

By Kathryn Wells

Elegant hand-thrown ceramic dishes – with a dash of soda glazing for Christmas. This is the design trend – loads of hand-made functional plates, bowls, cups, mugs, and pouring jugs. There is style variety to suite a range of chefs, cooks and entertainers. Hand-made ceramics as still-life is the new form of dress for tables.

CPS members and teachers are becoming renowned for their stylish tableware. Ian Jones and Morag McKenna offer wood-fired salt glazed work from anagama kilns. Their work is a sublime reminder of the special time we accord sharing cups of tea and breaking bread over the festive season. Chris Harford creates work for Sage, one of Canberra's finest restaurants, with a production line of hand-made dinner sets, award-winning teapots, matt-black and matt-white oil and vinegar dispensers for delicious salads. Kelly Austin has won a Creative Achievement Award for her tableware that shows the

relationships between objects, still life, and architecture.

Fine porcelain is on offer. We are reminded of Les Blakebrough's creation of Southern Ice Porcelain imbued with the ancient spirit of the southern coastlines, where many of us will be retreating for nourishment this summer. Jo Victoria, who creates works from Southern Ice Porcelain, is off to Denmark, reflecting on the Sydney Opera House and its bespoke ceramic tiles. Danish architect Jørn Utzon spent 12 months perfecting production of the tiles at Höganäs in Sweden. Inspired by a Chinese firing tradition, the glass-like finish catches and mirrors the sky with all its varied lights, like the orbs we celebrate at Christmas.

In Canberra, your chance for a great selection of table ware, and other pieces, will be at the CPS Christmas Gift Fair 10-23 December and your chance to feast from hand-thrown dishes will be at the CPS Christmas Party 12 December. Come along!

Summer School

Choose from two great courses
4-8 January 2016

Carla Wolfs (visiting Artist-in-Residence, from the Netherlands)
Carla will lead participants in the making and use of paper clay.

Malcolm Cooke (ex-Cuppacumbalong)
Indulge your passion for wheel throwing and the making of functional ware with Malcolm.

Details page 3



Saturday 12 December 6pm

RSVP by 4 December, \$10 for adults

CanberraPotters'Society
WatsonArtsCentre

1 Aspinall Street Watson, PO Box 7021 Watson ACT 2602
General Enquiries 02 6241 1670 Classes 02 6241 7800 www.canberrapotters.com.au



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From the Director

Welcome to the last issue of *The Canberra Potter* for 2015. If you like me are wondering where this year went it's not surprising considering what a huge year we've had at CPS. We began with our Summer School with Janet DeBoos and Walter Auer quickly followed by our regular Canberra Show effort (get your entries in for 2016). Stepping Up was a big focus (and success) for us and included our major exhibition Surround/s and Masterclass with (AIR) Juz Kitson. We held a full AIR program and including Juz (Aust); we welcomed Demi Tokutake (Jpn); Michiko Takada (Jpn); and Cori

Beardsley (US). EASS residents Richilde Flavell and Izy Mackay-Sim stayed for a while and Ben Carter (US) taught our Winter School. We put on a full calendar of exhibitions (many of them ceramic focussed) kicking off with the Bald Archy (6000+ visitors) and most recently the Members Exhibition where recent ANU graduate and CPS studio holder Zoe Slee won the Doug Alexander Award, and still to come the Christmas Fair. Oh and the usual classes, special shorts, artist talks, drop-ins, pop ups...and who can forget Open Day! OK you get it—BIG!

Of course the holiday break doesn't mean you have to stop potting—we won't. We have our usual School Holiday program running and next year we're inviting parents and carers to join in for a special class in the last week of the holidays. We have two Special Short courses running too. *Medieval Cookware* returns and a new course *Intensive Intro* where you can complete an introductory course in three days! Both courses are great Christmas gift options for friends and family wanting to enter the wonderful world of clay. For the experienced potter we've two wonderful artists for our Summer School. New AIR Carla Wolfs (Netherlands) and local potter Malcolm Cooke will be sharing their special skills—please visit our website for all the details on these not to be missed workshops.

The Board and I continue to work on new initiatives and improvements to our operations to make sure we provide our members and visitors with a responsive and rewarding ceramic arts facility. Thank you to artsACT for their ongoing support which is enabling us to grow our organisation and contribute in a meaningful way to the region's arts ecology. None of the year's achievements would have been possible without the hard work of our staff, teachers, contractors and volunteers—thank you all! I hope you continue to stay involved in CPS for years to come.

This year saw the revamp of our newsletter and special thanks is due to all those who help to get each issue out. Kathryn Wells as editor has done a sterling job and we welcome Nina Davis who has stepped in to relieve me of the design and production tasks. Thank you to all the contributors, article writers and photographers—keep it coming!

Finally I'd like to wish you all a safe and happy festive season and I look forward to catching up in 2016 when we can do it all over again!

Richard Thomas
Director



Board Member Profile

Stefanie Pidcock has been a board member for just over a year. Stefanie trained as a zoologist, specialising in the physiology of crocodilians, and has spent the last 20 years working in science research, environmental consulting and public administration.

Until recently, Stefanie was a director in the Australian Public Service managing a \$525 million program, but has decided to retrain into the health sector and is currently enrolled as a Masters student at the Australian National University.

Having a mix of experience across research, private and public sector organisations in management roles, Stefanie brings a breadth and depth of knowledge in organisational planning and management, transparency and accountability in administration, human resource management and risk planning and management.

Board & administration

Board

Brad Thomas **Chair**
Graham Durant **Treasurer**
Cynthia Anderson
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Greg Daly
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Kathryn Wells

President

(Members' representative)

Velda Hunter

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Workshop Manager Chris Harford

Program Manager Sara Hogwood

Education Program Manager

Fran Romano

Education Office Assistant

Bhavana Moylan

The Canberra Potter is published monthly February–December.

Contributions are welcome. Please email copy and images to the editor: Kathryn Wells
editor@canberrapotter.com.au

Next Newsletter Deadline
17 January 2015

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

Canberra Potters' Society will be closed from Thursday 24 December to Monday 4 January 2016.

Members with keys are reminded that the car park will be closed



From the President

Where has 2015 gone? The year has whipped by, and we find ourselves geared up for the Christmas Fair, Children's Holiday Program and Summer School.

It's been another big year for tertiary ceramics education at the ANU. It was a great to visit the Ceramics Workshop at the ANU School of Art last week to see the Graduating Students Exhibition and to have the pleasure of presenting the awards. The CPS Residency Award to the joint recipients, Mahala Hill and Anna-Maree O'Neale. Recipients of the EASS Exhibition Award were all five of the graduating students - Anna and Mahala, and Sue Hewat, Eden Reni, and Alya Khan. Huge congratulations are also due to our very own member and teacher, Doctor Cathy Fanzi, on completion of her PhD a couple of months ago. Congratulations to you all, we look forward to seeing more of your inspirational work in the future.

The kiln packers have been busily firing the Cone 6 glazes, and resolving a few hiccups. Results are very impressive and it is wonderful to see how everyone is putting together new colour and texture combinations. The possibilities are endless.

I have work for the Canberra Show well and truly on the production line, and I hope you do too. The theme for the show is 'Retro' - so get cracking! Entry details and link to form on page 8.

I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and festive season.

Velda Hunter
President
velda@tpg.com.au

Summer Holiday Classes

There is no need to be without your clay fix over Summer!
Canberra Potters' Society offers a range of options for the family.



Children and their pottery creations from the School Holiday Program, October 2015

Kids School Holiday program

11-29 January 2016

Let your kids get creative!

Introductory Intensive for adults

27-29 January 2016

9:30am-4pm

Raku firing date to be advised.

This Introductory Intensive course in the last week of January condenses our regular 7 week class into one week. A great Christmas gift idea!

Annual Summer School Intensive - two great courses

4-8 January 2016

Carla Wolfs
(Artist-in-Residence,
the Netherlands)

Carla will lead participants in the making and use of paper clay and will demystify the making of her unique forms. Participants will learn to make moulds from Styrofoam by carving and cutting into it. She will also demonstrate the use of engobes and decorative techniques.



Carla Wolfs

Parent and Child classes

27-29 January 2016

Enjoy some special time together.

Medieval Cookware - two day course

30 and 31 January 2016

This is running with a follow up medieval feast on 13 February 2016.

Malcolm Cooke
(ex-Cuppacumbalong)

Indulge your passion for wheel throwing and the making of functional ware with Malcolm. Participants will be led through all phases of the production process including: clay preparation, throwing of various forms, and thrown and assembled pieces. The group will learn the use of his decorative techniques including carving and resist.



Malcolm Cooke

Avi Amesbury

Elements of Place

FORM Studio and Gallery,
Queanbeyan

4-22 November 2015

Review by Kathryn Wells

Elements of Place is an evocative exhibition concerned with the fundamental constituents of this world; earth, water, air and fire. At the same time, Amesbury has created an exquisite lightness of form in her mastery of porcelain that is uplifting. The symbolic and symbiotic relationship of these elements acts as a metaphor for the elements that form us as humans: spirit, body, flesh and blood, and how we are formed by place.



After the Fires series, porcelain, volcanic ash, clay glaze, black slip, Art Atelier Photography

Each of the series of works in the exhibition speaks to the other and to their symbiotic relationship as elements. The works in the *Elements* series evoke a sense of the creation of matter itself, from deep rumblings and slow organic traces appearing from the darkness and glimpsed light imagined of space to, the singing of porcelain and ochre, created after eons. *Land's journey* is the earth itself, porcelain and



Elements Series, porcelain, clay glaze, Art Atelier Photography

volcanic ash, transparent beauty and the residue of the power of creation from the earth's centre.

The *Horizon* series of spherical forms suggest the floating of life on the air, the wind's currents carrying the seeds of new life.

After the Fires series is characterised by the rough speckle of volcanic ash, clay glazes and black slip, in varying forms. Water is hinted at in the *Horizon* series and *After the Fires* as drops of porcelain or clay glaze, bonded to the surface, finely dispersed, looking for cohesion. Finally, in the one work of *Dreams of Home* series, the sense of the life giving force of water for place

is realised through the imprint of seashell forms, and what could be traces of stone, moss and organic pendulous shapes, in the middle of landscapes.

The cylindrical emergent tubular porcelain forms of just over half a metre in height that dominate the *Elements* series are evocative of emergent energy and life-giving forces. They evoke the creation of place from both its primordial beginnings through volcanic ash as well as after the regeneration of fire with its carbon ash in black slip, ochre and porcelain clay from the earth. The tracing in lines and dots with ochre clay slip and marking the porcelain tells of the spill of creation. In the *Horizon* series, the small half spherical forms appear to float but are full of life and offer the incongruity of stability, like seeds ready to disperse. The sandy white porcelain and the fine detail of the porcelain and clay dots or lines is at once emergent and nascent, like a dry river bed attracting the first stream of water.



After the Fires series, porcelain, volcanic ash, clay glaze, black slip, Art Atelier Photography

Amesbury's bowls in *After the Fires* are fully formed, free but anchored in their



Horizon series, porcelain, clay glaze, Art Atelier Photography



Untitled (detail), porcelain, clay glaze. Image: Kathryn Wells

own presence of clay glazes and black slip, appearing to hold and stabilise the ash porcelain. One of the last pieces presented is a large platter – highly speckled from the volcanic ash – with a small half-spherical vessel, of the same material, resting in the middle, attached to which is a wisp of copper-wire, ready to leave the anchorage of the platter. Amesbury has returned again to the universe and its creation processes.

The varied techniques of surface decoration vary through markings, dots of bonded porcelain as well as skeletal gobs of porcelain, imprinted and traces of organic forms, vertical and horizontal lines, dark and light clay glazes to etchings of poems inside the rims of some bowls. Amesbury has decorated inside and outside the open forms, explicating a sense of the fullness of life and creation, as a poetic address to place. As the curator, Peter Haynes, notes; it is not whether the organic shapes remind you of insect life, the residual presence of sap, strands of bark, or plumes of smoke – it does not matter. What matters is that they create a haptic sense of the ethereal traces of life and the creation of place, in itself and with respect to our self.

While the decorative markings might speak of recognition of the Indigenous belonging to country, of dots of sand and traces of journeys left by the Dreaming, elements are known also as the body, flesh and blood of Jesus Christ, the symbolic spirit that is imbued with the Eucharist. Nevertheless, the decorative markings and the use of porcelain with carbon and volcanic ash as materials by Amesbury give rise to a sense of how we as humans relate to place.

The sense of the innate porcelain singing as you walk through the exhibition, amongst the related

elements, is reminiscent of both the singing the country to teach us of its creation as well as singing the spirit of humans in this ancient world. While the elements are the primary constituents of matter, we too, as humans can have a relationship with this sense of rudimentary belonging in our world, with our place.



Elements series, porcelain, clay glaze
Art Atelier Photography

As a solo exhibition, *Elements of Place* situates Amesbury as a ceramic artist with a highly developed sense of her craft; she has created stunning objects and beautiful works with a mastery of her materials that reflects her locality and environment. Amesbury reminds us that nothing can be taken for granted, whether in her dreams or her skeletal layers of porcelain. Her exploration of creative forces and their relationship to each other and herself reveals an artist that has depth to explore meaning in a way that excites a response in and a dialogue with her audience.



Corinne Beardsley

Corinne Beardsley

**Artist-in-Resident
Master class
15 and 22 November 2015**

Corinne Beardsley hand-builds large scale figures, faces and masks. In her residency at CPS, she has focused on the process of experimenting with clay, pushing the clay to create further abstractions in the material, stretching the heads and forms as far as she can from representation while still containing a face. At the same time she has been playing with landscapes with figures, exploring the ambiguities between figures and landscapes, and a sense of illusion.

Corinne was interviewed by Kathryn Wells. In this extract, Corinne discusses how the AIR and the teaching of the master class have influenced her work.

Every studio residency is a fresh start. You begin without context. It is so refreshing and invigorating as there are no visual reminders of all the other things you have made.

The preparation for the master class necessarily involves a review of my own work as I have to think about how I demonstrate what I do, and old things resurface, as well as showing my failures. Together with the studio work, this helps connect it all in a fresh way. However, there is always a lineage in what we make throughout our lives, whether we acknowledge that or not. For example, for the Master Class I had to make a demonstration head that I will now use in my studio work in a different way, and I will connect this with the demonstration for marbling clay.

I apply ceramics in a sculptural way and am interested in engineering armatures from various materials. I love sharing the process for these structures and the sculptures, and how to make these things stand. Teaching inspires me to think of things afresh.

A full interview with Corinne will be published in the February edition to coincide with her exhibition at CPS.

**Corinne Beardsley, exhibition
15 January – 5 February 2016
Closing ceremony: 5 February 2016**

Kelly Austin wins 2015 Carter Wosk BC Creative Achievement Award

A resident of Canberra and Vancouver, CPS Teacher Kelly Austin is an emerging ceramic artist with an active creative practice since 2007. Austin was awarded one of four Carter Wosk British Columbia Creative Achievement Awards for Applied Art and Design on 26 November, 2015.

Austin's work was described as ranging from the directly functional object, being used in restaurants, cafés and the home to conceptual ideas of relationships between objects, still life, and architecture. Kelly will be selling at design markets in Canberra for Christmas.

The Carter Wosk Awards are named in honour of BC philanthropist and academic Dr. Yosef Wosk, whose financial support made these awards possible and for Sam Carter, B.C. educator, designer and curator.



Mahala Hill and Anna-Maree O'Neale winners of the CPS EASS Residency



Velda Hunter with Mahala Hill and Anna-Maree O'Neale at the ANU School of Art with Head of School, Denise Ferris in the background

Sue Hewat, Eden Reni, Mahala Hill, Anna-Maree O'Neale and Alya Khan are recipients of the CPS EASS Exhibition announced at the Australian National University School of Art Graduating Students Exhibition (Ceramics Workshop) on Friday 27 November.

Mahala Hill and Anna-Maree O'Neale were the joint winners of the EASS Residency at the CPS Studios in 2016. Sue Hewat won a residency at Strathnairn and Alya Khan will be artist-in-resident at Canberra Grammar School

Left: Hon. Peter Fassbender, BC Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and Keith Mitchell, Chair of the BC Achievement Foundation with Kelly Austin. Courtesy of the British Columbia Achievement Foundation
Below: Kelly Austin uses clear glazes on her pottery pieces to highlight the natural features in the clay



Jo Victoria wins artist residency in Denmark

The winner of The Australian Ceramics Association Tertiary Student Merit Award at last month's Members' Exhibition, Jo Victoria is off to Denmark next year as an artist-in-residence at Guldagergaard International Ceramic Research Centre from May to July 2016.

Guldagergaard holds the largest studio collection in Northern Europe and visiting artists use the collection for research and inspiration, as well as enjoying their own studio and access to all kilns. Residency is in a manor house accommodating 12 artists, creating a constant dialogue about ceramics. Apparently this is 'a dynamic experience that artists say they wouldn't live without'.

Jo proposes to experiment with European porcelains and plants to develop her technical knowledge and skills; built on her work using Southern Ice Porcelain slip to create sculptural works with translucent qualities.

During her time in Denmark, Jo will develop a new body of work. In her presentations to students and visiting artists she will reflect upon the design of ceramic tiles on the Sydney Opera House by Danish architect Jørn Utzon.



Kelly Austin, *Company*, 2013

Jo Victoria, *untitled*

Members Studio Sales

Christmas Sale and Open Studio

Old Saint Luke's Studio and Gallery – Ian Jones and Moraig McKenna

Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 December

10 am – 5 pm

1045 Shingle Hill Way, via Sutton Road, Gundaroo

You are invited to make the 20 minute road trip from north Canberra to Gundaroo, turning from the Federal Highway along the Sutton Road, until you reach the Pottery at 1045 Shingle Hill Way. Master Potters Ian Jones and Moraig McKenna will be firing the salt kiln soon, and works from this and the earlier anagama kiln firing will be for sale. Students interested in classes, which begin again in February 2016, can see examples of anagama, gas and salt kiln works from this year's students. Enjoy wood-fired pizza with wood-fired pots.



Moraig McKenna, tea pot and cups, wood-fired salt glaze

Mawson Gallery - Monika Leone

December 2015

Wednesday-Saturday 10am – 5:30pm

63 Wilkins Street, Mawson ACT

Monika Leone won the Jane Crick Memorial Award for Hand-building at last month's exhibition for part of her conceptual work. This month she is selling more of her works at her studio gallery in Mawson. Before graduating from the Australian National University's School of Art in 1994, Leone lived in Europe, the Middle East and Asia which have all influenced her work. In 1992, at a workshop with Pippin Drysdale, she discovered the technique which has allowed Leone to develop a signature style with application and use of majolica, latex and lustre on wheel-thrown works.



Monika Leone at CPS Open Day



Majolica, latex and lustre work. Image: Andrew B Sikorski

Diary dates

December

Marsden Art Group

Watson Arts Centre Gallery

26 November–6 December

Thu–Sun 10am–4pm

Opening Thursday 26 November

6pm

Meet-the-artists afternoon tea

Sunday 6 December 1–3pm

CPS Christmas Gift Fair

10–23 December

CPS Members Christmas Party

Saturday 12 December 6 pm

Rsvp and \$10 to be paid by 4 Dec

January

Annual Summer School Intensive – two courses

4–8 January 2016

Carla Wolfs (Artist-in-Residence, the

Netherlands) and Malcolm Cooke

(ex-Cuppacumbalong)

Kids School Holiday program

11–29 January 2016

Parent and Child classes

27–29 January 2016

Introductory Intensive for adults

27–29 January 2016

Medieval Cookware – two day course

30 and 31 January 2016

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

Eco Elves Night Market, Canberra
Fri 4 December 5–9pm
Canberra Environment Centre
 Peta Leisbeth Designs has a stall



Peta Leisbeth, Ceramics

Graduating Students Exhibition (Ceramics Workshop)
Australian National University School of Art

27 November – 6 December

See award winning work from Anna O’Neale, Eden Reni, Mahala Hill, Alya Khan and Sue Hewat



School of Art Graduating Students work

Paul Dumetz and Maryke Henderson
Coexistence

Belconnen Arts Centre Arts Lounge
20 November–13 December

Floor Talk Sat 5 December 2 pm

Opening Sat 5 December 3 pm

This exhibition is the culmination of a twelve month mentorship between the artists. While each artist’s work is distinctive and different, part of the exhibition will include collaborative works, both functional and sculptural.
www.belconnenartscentre.com.au

Opportunities



1/30 Aurora Avenue, Queanbeyan

FORM is now accepting exhibition proposals for 2016. Please contact Claire Primrose for an exhibition information package.

Contact:

claire@formstudioandgallery.com.au



Royal Canberra Show Craft Expo
26–28 February 2016

Entries invited for Pottery Section
 Theme: Retro

Entries close 17 December 2015

Send completed forms to:

RNCAS Craft Section
 PO Box 124 Mitchell ACT 2911

Sub-sections for all skill levels. Special challenges include retro, teapot, firing and jewellery.

Cash prizes

Support your Society and enter now.

www.canberrashow.org.au/craft

Download your entry form [here](#).

ACT Craft Expo Pottery Section
CPS Volunteers and stewards needed

- Demonstrate hand building or wheel throwing
- Set up before and after
- Help on the stall
- Sell their work at the Show.

Please contact

Judy McDonald 0414 342 916

Email: judymcdonald1@gmail.com

2016 Biennial North Queensland Ceramic Awards

Applications close 5 February 2016

Selected works will be on display 11 March to 1 May 2016

Email

pinnacles@townsville.qld.gov.au

Entry forms are available in the library

Extended Banff Artist in Residence program, Canada

Ceramics Residency – Studio space

The EX BAiR – Banff residency is best suited to emerging and established artists with wood and/or soda firing experience who want to push their work in new creative directions

Application deadlines:

15 February for May–August 2016

Residencies

15 May for September–December 2016

15 September 2016 for January–April 2017

Located in Banff National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

See www.banffcentre.ca

Foundation Atasim, Macas, Ecuador
Pottery teacher volunteers



Training Centre Foundation Atasim

1–2 months

Atasim is seeking 20 women volunteers to teach pottery techniques, especially the foot potter’s wheel.

Accommodation is comfortable and food will be provided. A commitment of one to two months is sought See

www.fundacionatasim.org/

www.turismomoronasantiago.com

In 2015 the Members’ Exhibition was supported by



The family of the late Jane Crick



Feeneys Clay