

The Canberra Potter

FEBRUARY 2017

The Newsletter of Canberra Potters' Society Inc.

INSIDE: Upcoming Workshops Constitution Update Summer School Review Canberra Show Craft Expo Details & more...

Lane Cove Proposal 1, prototyping ceramic tiles, Raj Reddy 2016



Working Bee

They came, they cleaned, they conquered! Thank you to all the eager volunteers who showed up on a day where the most sensible place to be was cuddling the air-conditioner. Workshop, kiln shed, glaze room and studios—nothing was spared the mop and broom. Thanks to the gardeners who trimmed, raked and watered their way through the day. The lunchtime BBQ and refreshments were a welcome break. A steady stream of volunteers throughout the day got the job done. Stay tuned for round two—in about 6 months!



Canberra Show 2017

See you at the Super Toyworld Crafts Expo

24-26 February 2017

Head to the Coorong Pavilion to see the pottery

READ ALL ABOUT IT

New Constitution (draft) out now. [Click here to read it.](#)

Meeting: Tuesday 21 February 7pm at CPS



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 February 2017 issue of *The Canberra Potter*. We were a hive of activity during January. The Summer School with Jenny Orchard was a rewarding experience for a group of eager participants. Our School Holiday program delivered another successful selection of classes for ages 6 and up. Not missing the opportunity to learn a new skill over the summer break was an enthusiastic group of adults enjoying our first Intro Intensive of the year. For the experienced potters Kaye Pemberton has returned for a special short course, *Thrilling Throwing*, already underway.

Term 1 is about to start and once again is fully enrolled, in fact we've added extra classes to meet growing demand. We welcome Josephine Townsend as acting Education Program Manager for Term 1 and she is more than happy to answer all your enquiries regarding our education program and forthcoming workshop events. Over three Sundays starting in February Carla Wolfs will be teaching a course using Paper Clay and Rick Beviss will be taking participants through the design and construction of the perfect teapot in his course *Teapots Galore* beginning in March. At time of writing some places are left in both these courses but they are limited.

The Gallery is ready for another exciting and inspiring exhibition program. Entries for the Bald Archy Prize have started to arrive and we eagerly anticipate this year's ever-popular exhibition.

Thank you to all those members who participated in the Christmas Market, which was financially one of our best ever—reflecting the skilled and highly desirable work produced by our membership.

artsACT have generously supported our 2017 Artist-in-Residence program and we're looking forward to the exciting opportunities this year's visiting indigenous artist Janet Fieldhouse will present to our organisation.

It's set to be an exciting year at Canberra Potters and Watson Arts Centre and I trust you'll be as supportive and active as ever.

Richard Thomas

Director

director@canberrapotters.com.au



From the Chair

Happy New Year all! I am pleased to report that the Board has been active over the break collating, considering and incorporating feedback from the December constitution consultations. Many thanks to those attended the sessions or provided email input. The outline of next steps is in the article in this edition. You will note that the timeline is on target and that it takes us through to the next Annual General Meeting.

With the AGM in mind, it is time to consider joining the Board, and to prepare an application. We do need keen people involved to keep our wonderful organisation vibrant and moving forward. I highly recommend participation at Board level, the time and commitment are very rewarding.

Good luck to all who have entered the Canberra Show 2017. The pottery stand in the big craft hall attracts many admirers, and the show committee always gives us a generous space to display, sell and demonstrate. It's great that we can showcase the work of members of Canberra Potters. This year's Zig Zag Zest theme is a good one and I anticipate a lively and colourful range of exhibits – dare I say zany? I'm looking forward to helping out on the stand, and hope to see you and your work there. Many thanks in advance to the staunch and true individuals who give freely of their time each year for this event. Outcomes of last year's efforts included new interest in Canberra Potters and class enrolments, making it a worthwhile exercise.

The show is also an excellent sales opportunity for all members. The usual commissions apply, but there is no selection process. Donations of small items for sale on the stand, or for inclusion in the Lucky Dip are always welcome. Please contact Judy McDonald for delivery details.

Velda Hunter

Chair—Board of Canberra Potters

velda@tpg.com.au

Board & administration

Board

Velda Hunter **Chair**

Graham Durant **Treasurer**

Jessica Coates

Ian Hodgson

Jennifer Collier

David Leake

Russell Eade

Administration

Director Richard Thomas

Workshop Manager Chris Harford

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
Thursday 23 February 2017

Graphic Design: Nina Davis

Contact us

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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

From the Workshop Manager

Recently one of our glazes, the stoneware clear in the reduction glaze area, has developed a problem whereby crystals are growing on the surface of the glaze and pinging off tiny flakes of glaze. These crystals are sometimes only apparent a number of weeks after firing. A sample of the glaze, a couple of pots and the recipe have been sent for analysis and the glaze pulled from use. If you have recently fired that glaze onto your work and can see crystals on the surface it is advisable not to use it.

A reminder: anyone firing the electric kilns please do not change any of the program settings. For personal firings, the pre-set programs 1,2 and 3 can be used without alteration. If you want to fire using your own settings then only programme 8 should be used. If you are not sure of what you are doing ask a staff member for help.

Chris Harford
Workshop Manager

Workshops in March

We have two exciting workshops running in March this year, teaching very different hand building skills. They will provide Inspiration for both sculptors and functional potters. Hurry as places are filling fast.

Phone 6241 7800 to secure your place.

Paper Clay is led by eminent Netherlands potter, Carla Wolfs. Check out her work at her [website](#). You may remember, Carla was our Artist-in-Residence a year ago, and led a very popular workshop then. She is back and happy to share her sculptural skills again.

Teapots Galore is led by Rick Beviss. Rick is one of our teachers, with extensive experience in all areas of ceramics and in teaching. His CV can be found on the CPS website. Rick takes great pride in producing teapots that work—teapots that make a good cuppa, are easy to use, good to look at, and don't drip. Not At All. Rick will teach us his secrets so we too can make ergonomic teapots, non-drip, every pour, guaranteed.



26 Feb, 5 & 19 Mar 2017

Over three Sunday mornings 9.30 to 1.30

Cost: \$310 members/students \$330 others

See our website for full course outline and booking details.



25 & 26 March 2017

Classes run 10am to 4.30 on all days

Cost: \$285 members/students \$300 others

See our website for full course outline and booking details.

Update on The Constitution

Jen Collier for the Board

Dear Members,
Your Board is very grateful to the members that found time to attend the two consultation sessions held in early December to seek feedback from you about proposed changes to our constitution.
16 members attended the two meetings, including several past Presidents and Committee Members (what we had before we had a Board and a Director/CEO) with executive responsibilities, as well as several members of long standing who have extensive corporate history of the governance of our society. The discussions were rigorous and very helpful. Thank you.

As a result of the feedback received, the Board met on Tuesday 24th January to finalise the shape of the constitution and we are now inviting all members to review the final version which is available on the [CPS website](#) or please telephone the office and we can email a copy or post a paper copy to you.
A meeting will be hosted by the Board on Tuesday 21 February 2017 at 7.00pm (with supper) for all members to come along and have the new constitution explained by our favourite lawyer and board member, Jessica Coates. We appreciate that some of you will not be able to attend that meeting—if you have questions or concerns we **do** want to hear from you—please telephone Velda on 6231 3195 or email feedback@canberrapotters.com.au.
Following the meeting to walk through the new version of the constitution, our key milestones are:

Date	Event
Tuesday 21 February 2017 7.00pm with supper	Final Information evening—to walk through the draft constitution—reflecting the decisions on the contentious questions
Monday 6 March 2017 7.00pm with supper	General Meeting for the Special Resolution to Adopt the Constitution
Within week starting 6 March 2017	Approved amended Constitution sent off to be registered
3 April 2017	Send out notice of AGM, Agenda and call for Board nominations
26 April 2017	Board nominations close
1 May 2017	Board issues Board Nominee Details and voting instructions
Sunday 21 May 2016	AGM

Jenny Orchard Summer School Review

A fabulous summer school full of inspiration. Jenny showed us techniques to build big and support the work as it dries. So many different forms and decorations emerged as Jenny encouraged us all to experiment and play with lots of shapes and colours. We applied texture from Australian native seed pods such as banksias and colour with slips and underglazes and majolica finishes. Jenny likes to work in earthenware to keep the full brightness of the colours. As always it was inspiring and impressive to see work being developed by the range of talented artists that comprise the Canberra Potters Society. We were also joined by some impressive artists from interstate, even as far away as Perth.

Jo Townsend



The Summer School with Jenny Orchard in full swing. Photos: Ayla Khan



Last Friday Supper Club

A Tale about public art: two cities, two briefs, two eras, one passion—clay

Friday 24th February

Join us for a lively dialogue with Garry Palecek and Raj Reddy

Raj Reddy, a studio holder at CPS, will discuss his current public art project for Lane Cove Council, Sydney.

Lane Cove has a long association with pottery historically and the Council wants a public art work for their new Little Lane Development which will continue this ceramic tradition. Raj, with his architectural and ceramic training, framed a proposal based on a response to site history and the floral motifs of William Holford's ceramics. His bid was successful and he is now creating the work.

Garry Palecek, a long-time member of CPS, will present his experience with Public Art: THE CLAY WALL PROJECT in Canada, the largest Ceramic Mural in the world, now 40 years old.

In 1977 Garry was invited to manage a small team to produce a ceramic picture wall for a new building, to cover the space from the 2nd to the 8th floors. It had to be guaranteed to last 25 years. Many questions, many solutions, many hours, days, months and years of work followed. Not to mention 30 tonnes of clay. But it was a 100% success.

There should be rich insights from both Raj and Garry into the production of public commissions.



Raj Reddy holding two prototypes



Garry Palecek (left) in front of the Clay Wall, Saskatchewan, Canada, 2015



Lane Cove Proposal 2, prototyping ceramic tiles, Raj Reddy 2016

Mentorship between Paul Dumetz and Maryke Henderson

This has been a rewarding, wonderful journey for both Paul and me. I had been approached by Ann McMahon from Belconnen Arts Centre to work with Paul 2½ years ago as part of a mentorship program. When funding did not become available Paul and I decided to go ahead anyway. I knew little about mentorships and how they operated at the time. Our original plan was to meet once a week for an hour or so planning projects and discussing outcomes. We didn't find this adequate or satisfying, so I invited Paul to work in my studio one day each week.

With a full day of tuition Paul soon improved his wheel skills in leaps and bounds, so much so that we needed to get work into an exhibition. Coexistence, an environmental show at BAC resulted from the first year of working together. While I taught Paul to throw, he taught me about frogs and how to draw them. I learnt how just a spot of paint in the right place could breathe life into these drawings on pots.

Paul's throwing skills continued to improve which naturally led to exploration of the surface. He was

drawn to the surfaces of wood, salt and soda fired pots and wood ash glazes. Kiln access was a consideration as wood, salt and soda kilns are specialized so Paul settled on ash glazes. Wood ash varies from tree to tree, from season to season and from different parts of the tree making consistency of repeatable glazes difficult.

While teaching in New Zealand last year I came across cone 6 oxidized fake ash glazes. By using the usual glaze materials in the correct proportions (without wood ash) a glaze can be developed with the same properties as the genuine wood ash glaze.

Paul did many, many tests to find and develop surfaces that he relates to and which suited his forms. The results were seen in his *New Directions* exhibition in the WAC Gallery.

Maryke Henderson



Clockwise from top: Paul Dumetz with some of the functional ware on display in his exhibition *New Directions*; Paul Dumetz, *Teapot*, midfire clay, iron fake ash glaze; Paul Dumetz, *Teapot and yunomi*, midfire clay, blue fake ash glaze



Around and About

Congratulations to Canberra poet Kathy Kituai and Scottish potter Fergus Stewart. In December their collaborative book of poetry and photographs, 'Deep in the Valley of Tea Bowls', was announced a winner in the 2016 ACT Writing and Publishing Awards.

After many years of taking notes at Fergus Stewart's pottery studios, Kathy Kituai and Fergus Stewart, who both endeavour to capture the ordinary moment in their art, came to the conclusion that the main difference between pottery and poetry was only an extra 't'. Deep in the Valley of Tea Bowls, then, sets the process of craft into a fluid dialogue between art forms —pottery and poems—with pleasing and sometimes surprising results.

We currently have just one copy of the book available for purchase in the shop.

Congratulations also to Canberran Mel George, glass artist and a Curator at Crafts ACT. The National Institute of Dramatic Art has awarded Mel an Indigenous Fellowship in Cultural Leadership. The \$300,000 grant, provided by the Luminis Foundation, provides significant financial assistance to Indigenous creative professionals undertaking an Master of Fine Arts in Cultural Leadership at NIDA. Mel is the first recipient of this prestigious award.

Teacher Quality Institute TQI

CPS is now accredited to provide training for ACT school teachers under the Teacher Quality Institute. We currently have one course, Art Basics, Design and Composition, scheduled for Tuesday March 14 2017. The course runs from 9 to 3 and is accredited for 5 hours. We will be developing a

range of courses this year and are able to tailor professional development to meet your needs. Contact us at education@canberrapotters.com.au for more information.

Jo Townsend



New Directions

Paul Dumetz

Watson Arts Centre Gallery

Review by Sara Hogwood

January is often a quieter time in the gallery with most of the space given over to receiving entries for the Bald Archy Prize. However, this makes it a great opportunity for smaller displays of new work.

Paul Dumetz is well known to many people for his small sculptural works: dragons, dinosaur hatchlings, frogs, dogs and cats, all showing his skill at fine detail. It's not easy working in miniature but Paul has honed his craft since graduating from the ANU School of Art. But now, taking a left (or is it right?) turn into a new direction, he's given us something completely different: wheel-thrown teapots, cups and bowls finished with fake ash glazes; the result of his very successful ongoing mentoring by Maryke Henderson.

Paul has put time and effort into refining his throwing skills and it shows in his well-formed and balanced works. His investigations into and development of cone 6 (mid-fire) 'fake ash' glazes have given him a palette to complement the thrown forms. Fake ash glazes give effects in electric (oxidised) firings that are similar to the ash glazes of reduction firings.

This is such a successful new path for Paul that one can't help being excited with, and for, him and we can look forward to seeing where this new work takes him.

Temple of Fashion

Amanda Bromfield

Watson Arts Centre Gallery

Review by Sara Hogwood

At the end of her residency at Canberra Potters in December, Amanda Bromfield donated a sculptural work of a Caryatid (an architectural column in the form of a young woman) to our artist-in-residence collection. This piece, and two amphora vessels displayed with it in the gallery, were made during her residency and were the result of research into the creations of fashion designer Maggie Shepherd, who put Canberra on the fashion map in the 1970s and 80s. The Caryatid is now on display in the gardens at WAC so if you missed it in the gallery you'll find it amongst the other ceramic pieces that adorn the garden beds.

Exhibitions

The Bald Archy Prize 2017

Watson Arts Centre Gallery

10 February – 13 March

Daily 10am–4pm

Admission \$8, concession \$6

That eccentric icon of the Australian art calendar is on again. Created in 1994 as a spoof of another more serious competition, the Bald Archy Prize provides a genuine opportunity for artists of all styles and standards to create portrait paintings of humour, dark satire, light comedy or caricature. Known internationally as the only art competition in the world to be judged by a sulphur-crested cockatoo named Maude, the satirical side of this event has its basis in the irreverent, larrikin Australian comic comment and has great appeal to people from all walks of life.



Women, Light the Way

Angharad Dean, Simone Doherty,

Marijke Gilchrist, Lynn Nicholas

and Anita Smith.

Watson Arts Centre Gallery

29 March–9 April

Thu–Sun 10am–4pm

Coming shortly after International Women's Day, this exhibition aims to show how a woman's view can transform the world. The artists work in a range of media and have in common the fact that they balance their work with their lives as women: always with many balls in the air but centred on the joy of bringing light to life.



Angharad Dean, *Into the Bush*

Diary dates

February

Draft Constitution

Information Evening

Tuesday 21 February 7pm at CPS

1 Aspinall St Watson

Canberra Show Craft Expo

24–26 February at EPIC

Last Friday Supper Club

Friday 24 February 6pm at CPS

Paper Clay Workshop

with Carla Wolfs

26 February, 5 & 19 March

March

General Meeting for CPS to adopt Constitution

6 March 7pm at CPS

Teacher Quality Institute

14 March

Bald Archy Prize Exhibition

10 February – 13 March

Watson Arts Centre Gallery

Teapots Galore

with Rick Beviss

25–26 March

April

Nominate for Board position

3–26 April

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

It's Showtime 2017 Canberra Show

Thanks to all members who have so willingly volunteered to be stewards, giving their time and skills to help with the pottery exhibition at the Show. The roster is full. However, if you would like to help in another way, Judy is looking for donations of small items for the Lucky Dip, which raises money for CPS. She would also appreciate wrapping paper in good condition.

Entrants

Everyone should have received their Entry Acceptance letter and Exhibit ID TAGS. Tags need to be placed on the exhibit for delivery and judging and you need to bring the letter with you for collection.

Deliver your entries **between 10am & 12 noon on Sunday 19 February 2017** to the Coorong Pavilion, EPIC, via Gate 4 (the McDonald's entrance). Judy would prefer if all entries were delivered to the Pavilion but if this is difficult please leave them on the table in Members' Room at CPS by Saturday 18 February at 6pm. If you have items that are large and heavy Judy may not be able to collect them so please call her to confirm.

Collect your entries **between 8am & 10am on Monday 27 February 2017** from the Coorong Pavilion, EPIC via Gate 4 (the McDonald's entrance). Don't forget your Letter of Acceptance from the Show.

Stewards (aka volunteers)

When you deliver your Show entries on February 19, make sure you see Judy for your entrance ticket (no ticket, no free entry) and your parking voucher if you need one. The car parks up Horse Park Dr will be open and there is a train to bring people down to the main entrance. It might be easier for some to get dropped off. Or park at CPS and enter at Gate 4 at McDonalds. The ever-popular Bald Archy exhibition will be open so parking at CPS may be limited.

Demonstrators: clay and tools are provided for demonstrating, but if you wish to use your own stuff please drop it off with entries or talk to Judy about it.

Additional Sales

There is limited display space available additional to the exhibits. If anyone wants to sell more work at the Show, contact Judy and deliver these pots on Sunday 19 February with the show entries.

Contact Judy McDonald
Ph. 0414342916

Email judymcdonald1@gmail.com

Biggest Loser or Greatest Winner? Notes on the Potter's Web

When I use the net I flipflop between seeing it as the greatest waste of time ever, to loving the unparalleled access to a huge range of ceramic information and inspiration. Scrolling through image after image of gorgeous ceramic sure eats into my day, but easy access to sites like Glazy provides a benefit previously unknown.

Glazy is a collection of glaze recipes, freely available and eminently

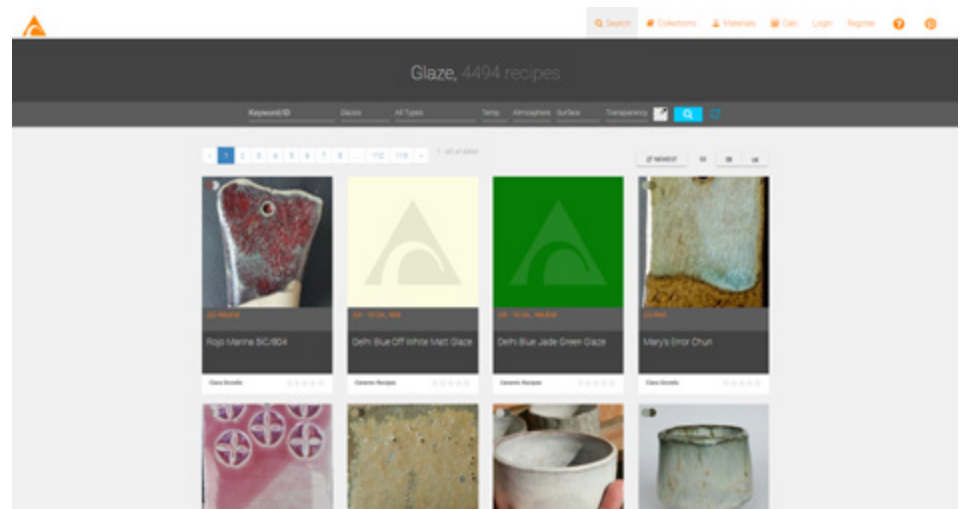
searchable. Its core is several collections of glaze recipes provided by highly-regarded ceramists. For example, one of my favourite glaze books is *High Fired Glazes* by John Britt. He has provided 68 of these recipes to the site, free. There are collections from Louis Katz, Val Cushing, Nigel Woods (*Chinese Glazes*) and many more. All potters are encouraged to share their own recipes, or comment on how they find different glazy recipes, and to upload images of their glazes.

You can easily search for recipes by temperature, atmosphere, surface, transparency, colour, or ingredient. For example, I can search for glazes that are satin white, reduction, cone 8.

Each recipe lists the ingredients and some also have excellent images, notes on use, percentage chemical analyses, unity molecular formula, reviews and links to similar recipes. The one small downside is that it is an American site, so ingredients are not necessarily identical with what we use in Australia.

This great resource is found either by searching for glazy in your browser, or go to glazy.org. Try it, you won't be disappointed. Glazy is free, but if you do find it useful you are encouraged to donate to its ongoing maintenance.

Carol Kenchington



glazy.org homepage

In 2016 the Members' Exhibition was supported by



**The family of
the late Jane Crick**