

# The Canberra Potter



The Newsletter of Canberra Potters' Society Inc.

## INSIDE: Winter (School) is Coming! Honouring our honorary life members Workshop updates Artist Talks...and more

Fran Romano test vessels from the very popular Soda Fire course. Image: CPS.

## Welcome to our latest Artist in Residence

Canberra Potters welcomes Artist in Residence from Taiwan, Huang Yu Chun. This enthusiastic young woman has completed a Bachelor's degree in craft and design at the Taiwan University of Art. In 2017, Yu Chun will commence Masters studies at the Tainan University of Art.

Drawing on her experiences of growing up on a small island, Yu Chun's previous works depict the ocean. These pieces are conceptual, porcelain sculptures which convey a certain fragility as small pieces, like petals or millefogie. Varying shades of pelagic blue are compressed and combined to create sculptures that swell and rise, like the ocean that surrounds her island home.

Despite her island upbringing and fascination with the ocean, Yu Chun only recently learnt to swim. This further fuelled her curiosity and creativity as an observer of the wilds of the ocean. She identifies and portrays the subtle delineation of life and culture and the duality that underpins our existence.

Unsurprisingly, Yu Chun is drawn to the vivid blues of Australian skies. On a recent trip to Uluru, the vast, open blue skies piqued her interest. The contrast between white and Aboriginal cultures and the disconnect she perceived between the two has formed the basis of her next project, which she will work on while in residence at Canberra Potters Society. From her perspective as an observant outsider, Yu Chun will use her small box of tools, working with Australian clays, stains and underglazes, to convey her vision of a connected life and culture.



Huang Yu Chun WAC/CPS Artist-in-Residence in her Watson studio.

### Your New Board

The CPS Annual General Meeting was held on 29 May and the following people were elected as board members:

Velda Hunter – Chair  
 Ian Hodgson – Secretary  
 Graham Durant – Treasurer  
 Stefanie Pidcock  
 Jennifer Collier  
 Jessica Coates  
 Zoe Slee  
 David Leake

**CanberraPotters'Society**  
**WatsonArtsCentre**

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## From the Director

Welcome to this issue of *The Canberra Potter*. We're looking forward to busy last half of the year as we prepare for new term classes, special courses, holiday classes and public events.

There are some wonderful member exhibitions happening this month as Kelly Austin and Peng Qian hold their exhibitions as part of the *ANU Visual Arts Graduate Season*—be sure to catch these exciting emerging talents. You may be aware that Kelly is moving to Tasmania and we're sad to lose such a popular and accomplished member of our teaching staff and we wish her well in her endeavours. Caroline Walker-Grime offers *A Potted History* at M16 Gallery that is well worth a peak. I'm sure there is lots more going on please let us know and we'll pass it on.

An excellent Soda Fire course was just held and the results of some of our intrepid participants feature on the front cover. If you missed this one maybe you could sign up for Kaye Pemberton's course—*Attention to Detail* or our Winter School with Steve Williams—*Feast!*

Planning is underway for our stall at Floriade and we thank artsACT for their support in assisting us and other KOAs in getting this initiative off the ground. More detail will be going out to our members shortly.

Our recent AGM attracted many passionate and engaged members keen to see the continued success of our organisation. Thank you to the outgoing Board members who have given oversight to many positive projects that will be coming to fruition this year. Welcome to new board members too who will hit the ground running.

**Richard Thomas**  
*Director*



## From the Chair

Greetings everyone.

As I begin my new role as Chair of the Board, I am reminded that I am here because of you, and I wish to extend my thanks for the support and confidence that enabled me to gain a position on the Board. The turnout at our Annual General Meeting was impressive, and for the first time in a number of years a ballot was held to vote in the Board.

I thank my fellow Board members for electing me as the Chair, giving me the honour and opportunity to serve. I extend a very warm welcome to the new Board members and sincerely thank those who have chosen to continue.

On behalf of the new Board, I thank the outgoing Chair and Board members for all of their dedication and accomplishments in the past year. As a result of their guidance we will soon be able to enjoy a new Canberra Potters web page with numerous new functions and services. Work will continue on the revision of the Constitution and members will be offered further consultation opportunities soon.

Under the continued leadership of our Director, Richard Thomas, the coming months promise to be vibrant and interesting, just as we have come to expect. I do hope that everyone can make space in their diaries for events such as the inspiring monthly Friday Night Supper Club, Winter School, Members' Exhibition, and Open Day 2016.

I have established the habit of coming to the Thursday morning Drop-In Session, and I intend to keep up my attendance. It is a great opportunity to commune with, and be inspired by fellow ceramicists, if you can make it, it would be great to see you there.

Happy potting,

**Velda Hunter**  
*Chair*

## Board & administration

### Board

Velda Hunter **Chair**  
Ian Hodgson **Secretary**  
Graham Durant **Treasurer**  
Jennifer Collier  
Jessica Coates  
Zoe Slee  
David Leake

### Administration

**Director** Richard Thomas  
**Workshop Manager** Chris Harford  
**Program Manager** Sara Hogwood  
**Education Program Manager**  
Fran Romano  
**Education Office Assistant**  
Bhavana Moylan

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Contributions are welcome. Please email copy and images with captions to the editor:

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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

# Winter (School) is Coming!

**July 18–22**

Bookings are coming in and the excitement is mounting. Steve Williams, well-known for his wood-firing work and community teaching, will be joining us from the NSW mid-North Coast for 5 full days. He has already sent down clay samples from his property for testing in our recent soda-firing here at CPS. The results have been informative! A lot of thought has gone into the structure of this school and Steve will also be making links with some local cafes prior to the workshop to facilitate the design and making process. Who knows where this might lead to!?

This week will be action packed as Steve guides participants through the making process from design and planning to firing and function. This is going to be the whole deal! Works will be soda-fired during the week for use on Friday evening at the popular Friday night Supper Club, where Steve speaks about his work and the outcomes of the week.

This is going to be a fabulous learning opportunity and is especially suited for more experienced practitioners who are keen to take their work to the next level. Importantly: no throwing skills are required as a variety of making methods will be employed.

There's something for everyone here with a highly respected teacher and potter.

Full details on our website and Bookings are now open using Eventbrite:

[www.eventbrite.com.au/e/feast-canberra-potters-winter-school-annual-intensive-tickets-25336222323](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/feast-canberra-potters-winter-school-annual-intensive-tickets-25336222323)

**Fran Romano**  
Education Program Manager



Steve Williams. Image courtesy of the artist.



Knee bowls and oyster dishes. Image courtesy of the artist.



Soda fired work by Steve Williams. Images courtesy of the artist.

# Around the kilns—what's hot & what's not



CPS electric kilns. Image: CPS

We have recently had a backlog of work to be fired due not only to the sheer volume of work coming through but also having a couple of kilns out of action. This has now been remedied — kilns 3 and 4 are now in working order.

The sagging roof on gas kiln 8 has now been repaired, the door is still to come but should be attended to soon.

The popular Red Rock glaze is now back in the glaze line-up after some running issues. Please be aware it doesn't need an overly thick application. As a rule of thumb if you are new to a glaze or unsure of your application technique do a test and fire that instead of ruining your pot.

There is a large amount of bisqued work outside under the verandah. Please check the trolleys for your pieces and move them along as they will be discarded in week 2 of the new term and I hate throwing all that time and wasted energy in the skip.

Eden Reni will be assisting me from time to time so we will have a back-up when I am away. Please introduce yourself to Eden.

**Chris Harford**  
Workshop Manager

# Honorary Life Members



Roger Ellyard with one of his favourite bowls, thrown using a blended clay (white and high iron stoneware clays), Shino glaze, fired under reduction to cone 10.

## Roger Ellyard,

Roger Ellyard was born in Wagga Wagga and spent all his school years on the north coast of New South Wales. He studied science at the University of New England, and followed this with post-graduate studies, which led to a PhD in Biochemistry, at the University of New South Wales.

Following stints teaching in high schools in Sydney and Canberra, 9 years working in horticultural research at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, and 13 years teaching at the Canberra Institute of Technology, Roger retired from the workforce in 2000.

Roger joined the Canberra Potters' Society in 2003, and enrolled in a class for 6 months. He soon joined the committee, being a valued member from 2004 to 2015, including 9 years as treasurer, when his financial and strategic planning skills soon became apparent. His sage and practical advice was also much appreciated during the committee's transition to a board. Very much a hands-on committee member, Roger has also organised or assisted with many improvements and maintenance tasks, particularly those associated with the new kiln shed, including installing the ventilation gizmos on the roof. He retains a long-term interest in gardening and has been deeply involved (together with Ingrid Adler) in landscaping and maintaining the grounds at Watson.

Roger's pottery interest is in simple functional ware and, after the new kiln shed was built, he was instrumental in establishing the society's gas-firing capability, so that he and other members could undertake reduction firings. To date, Roger has focused on cone 9–10 reduction glazes; however, his academic research abilities have clearly never left him, and he is currently interested in investigating lower-temperature reduction glazes (cone 7), particularly Shino.



Maryke Henderson with some of her soda fired 'trees'.

## Maryke Henderson

In 2000 Maryke Henderson, who was living in Tamworth at the time, enrolled in the ANU's Distance Diploma (Ceramics). Two years later she transferred to a full honours degree course in Visual Arts, graduating in 2005. Having previously trained and worked as a midwife at Toowoomba General Hospital, she now delivers babies of a very different kind – beautiful soda-fired pots.

Maryke started potting in the late 80s and, on moving to Canberra, quickly discovered the Canberra Potters' Society, where she began teaching part-time in 2003, quickly establishing a name as an enthusiastic and committed educator, with a natural ability to comprehend and motivate her students. Other skills, acquired during 4 years of running her own bed and breakfast home in Tamworth, soon became obvious, as Maryke's classes also discovered her love of cooking, which we have all enjoyed over the years, especially on exhibition opening nights. It is no wonder that Maryke was elected President in 2013, which role she continued in until last year.

At ANU, Maryke developed a strong interest in soda-firing, which became the final year project of her degree, and which she has pursued with a passion since graduating. The Society and the many new followers of the technique can thank Maryke for our dedicated soda kiln, and for her enthusiasm and skills, which have led to a huge demand for her workshops.

Maryke won the Society's Doug Alexander Award in 2006 and the Art Unlimited ceramic award in 2010. Never backward in taking the lead, in 2007 she initiated and coordinated an exhibition of soda-fired work held in Gulgong during Janet Mansfield's clay festival, Clay Edge.

As if running a home studio and teaching at CPS were not enough, Maryke also mentors Paul Dumetz, something she has been doing now for 18 months, and the results of this can clearly be seen in the development of Paul's work.

To quote Maryke, herself: "I wish to thank the membership for endorsing the board's recommendation for my Honorary Life Membership. I feel humbled by the recognition of the passion I have felt for the CPS since moving to Canberra in 2002 to study at ANU.

It is indeed a joy and pleasure to be part of the wonderful ceramic organisation, to be part of its continual growth and development and to embrace the friendships that it has offered to me."

# Unfolding Memories: Recent work by artist Rosario López

**The solo exhibition Unfolding Memories ran from 19 May – 5 June at ANCA Gallery in Dickson**

## Abstract

As a creative researcher I am focused on capturing, through photography, geological forms moulded by the unseen forces of water, wind and temperature. In my career I have done several fieldwork projects, which have led to the translation of my experiences into tangible sensations. After my trips I build new structures based on these formations and the photographs of the sites, recreating my experience of the natural environment within the gallery. As a female artist based in a country with an on going political conflict, my approach is to explore the landscape by moving to other locations, seeking safety and sustainable environments. I have been influenced by Minimalism and Land Art and my work diverges from these traditions. I merge the political and the transcendental to position the work in the gallery space. I propose a continuum between nature and the white cube, landscape and its representation.

## Biography

Rosario López is an Associate Professor at the Arts Faculty of National University of Colombia, Bogota and currently a Visiting Fellow at the Centre of Creative and Cultural Research at the University of Canberra. Rosario studied Fine Arts at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá and then received an MA in Sculpture from Chelsea College of Art and Design in London. Her work has been shown in Colombia and abroad with solo exhibitions at Bogota Archives, Casas Riegner Gallery, KBK Gallery, Mexico City; and Nara Roesler Gallery, Sao Paulo. She has also participated in prominent international group exhibitions as the 7th Art Biennial in Bogota, the 52nd Venice Biennale, Musée National des Beaux-Arts in Québec, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris; and the International Center of Photography, New York. She has been the recipient of several fellowships and grants from National University of Colombia, Colombian Ministry of Culture; Banff Art Centre, Canada; and the American Center Foundation.

Her current work can be viewed at [rosariolopez.info](http://rosariolopez.info)

## Artist Talk

**Friday 24 June 6pm**

Join us at Friday Night Supper Club for an informal evening of conversation and inspiration. Light refreshments provided. Gold coin entry.

*Unfolding Memories*, Rosario López. Images courtesy of the artist.



## Diary dates

### June

#### Friday Night Supper Club

24 June, 6 pm  
Rosario López  
Gold coin entry

#### Kaye Pemberton

#### Attention to Detail

24 June & 3, 10, 31 July  
(Booked out!)

### July

#### Winter School

#### Feast!

18–22 July  
Focus on tableware with Steve Williams  
Bookings through Eventbrite

#### School Holiday Classes

4–15 July  
Bookings now open

#### Term 3

23 July – 25 September  
Bookings now open  
(see website for details)

### August

#### TACA Open Studios

20 & 21 August

**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](http://canberrapotters.com.au)

## Exhibitions

**WAC Gallery**  
7 – 24 July

**Exhibition 1: Student & Teacher Exhibition**

**Exhibition 2: Work made by students in the term 2 'pottery for all' seniors' classes**

**Recollect: Ceramics until August 2016**

The thrilling potential of a material that can be modelled in myriad ways, patterned, coloured and then fired has never ceased to attract makers and users. Recollect: Ceramics at the Powerhouse Museum reveals how ceramic artists have used creative ideas and technical skills to transform clay into evocative works that enchant, intrigue and inspire.

The display includes historical Hispano-Moresque wares and Chinese vases alongside showpieces from such celebrated European ceramic factories as Meissen, Sèvres, Minton, Wedgwood, Doulton, KPM, and Villeroy & Boch. Richly expressive contemporary artworks – both Australian and international – feature prominently. It is arranged in seven key groupings: Art and industry; Contemporary ceramics; Indigenous ceramics; International exhibitions; Majolica; Porcelain; Red glazes.

**Powerhouse Museum**  
500 Harris St, Ultimo NSW 2007  
[maas.museum/event/recollect-ceramics](http://maas.museum/event/recollect-ceramics)



**Plates, Shapes and Containers**  
Recent ceramics by Megan Patey  
**STURT GALLERY**

**5 June to 24 July 2016**  
**Exhibition Opening: Sunday 12 June, 11am.**

To be opened by Karen O'Clery,  
Director of Narek Galleries, Tanja NSW



**Essence of... porcelain**

**Maria Chatzinikolaki**  
**16 June - 3 July 2016**  
**Beaver Galleries, 81 Dennison Street, Deakin**

[www.beavergalleries.com.au](http://www.beavergalleries.com.au)



## Opportunities

**Life in Death**

A competition running through the website [www.dyingtotalk.org.au](http://www.dyingtotalk.org.au).  
**Entries are open until 14 August 2016.**

Entrants from all over Australia are invited to create an artwork (painting, drawing, photography or object) reflecting on the theme Life in Death, and submit a photo of their artwork for judging.

There is \$2,000 in prize money up for grabs – \$1,000 for the overall winner as chosen by a panel of judges and \$1,000 for people's choice as voted by the Australian public.

Shortlisted competition entries will also be offered the opportunity to exhibit at the inaugural art exhibition to be held at [M16 Artspace](http://M16Artspace) in Canberra from 29 September – 9 October 2016.



WAC studio tenants will be opening their studios. If you're a CPS member and will also be opening your studio as part of ACOS, [let us know](#) so that we can promote you.

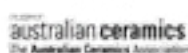
## Wanted

Used insulating refractory bricks, 200+, such as RI 23, RI 26. I would be willing to dismantle structures if desired.  
Please call Murray on 0450 437 200

**In 2015 the Members' Exhibition was supported by**



**The family of the late Jane Crick**



**Feeneys Clay**