

MAY 2017



The Canberra Potter

The Newsletter of Canberra Potters' Society Inc.

INSIDE: Annual General Meeting Workshops Artist-in-Residence Kiln Advisory Group Workshop 2 & more...

Ready set go: Workshop 2 is up and running. Photo: Richard Thomas

NEW: Wednesday Morning Drop-in Calling All Handbuilders

The Thursday Morning Members Drop-in has been running for years with a very loyal following. People enjoy the fellowship, shared interest, informal support and problem-solving opportunities provided by a bunch of like-minded people, together with easy access to the fantastic facilities and expertise that live at Watson.

Just for handbuilders, a new opportunity for a regular drop-in to use the CPS facilities has been opened up on Wednesdays, 9.30 to 12.30, with similar benefits to Thursdays. Suzanne Fox has kindly volunteered to act as co-ordinator and resource person to help people utilise equipment and resources as needed.

Do come along, and share the love.



Members Workshop Closed on Public Holidays

With immediate effect, the members' workshop is no longer open on public holidays to non-keyholders. (Keyholders may continue to use the facility on these days.)

Canberra Potters Society

Annual General Meeting and Friday Supper Club

All members are requested to attend to receive the reports of the last year's activity and to elect the Board for the forthcoming year

6pm Friday 26 May

Guest Speaker:
Dr Julie Bartholomew
Head of Workshop
ANU Ceramics Workshop



From the Director

Welcome to this issue of The Canberra Potter. If you haven't been to Watson lately do try to drop in. We've been busy preparing our long awaited second workshop by amalgamating studios 1 and 2 to form a wonderfully large light-filled teaching space. Our first classes have already happened here and we look forward to the increased teaching capacity it brings to our facility. Thank you to all the staff and members who have contributed, in particular Suzanne Fox for her amazing ability to 'source' furniture and fittings, and to Sara Hogwood for planning and painting! We drew on the advice and expertise of teachers familiar with the space to ensure we created an ergonomic and functional workspace. I hope you find it an inspiring, versatile working environment.

I'd like to acknowledge Chris Harford for his patience and understanding while this project came together. He had been a long time Studio 2 tenant and it did take a while to find the floor! Chris has relocated his studio closer to home but rest assured he'll still be on-site as Workshop Manager and as one of our senior teaching staff.

As I complete my reporting tasks for another year I'm happy to say that the organisation is in good shape with a small profit and we're looking forward to a successful year ahead. The Board and Management have more plans waiting in the wings. It is through the continued success of our education program, workshops, master classes and member activities and the support of our membership and studio holders that we will be able to grow and thrive as an integral part of the local arts ecology.

I hope to see you at the upcoming AGM held with our next Supper Club, Friday 26 May at 6pm. Dr Julie Bartholomew, Head of Workshop at the ANU Ceramics Workshop will be our special guest speaker.

Richard Thomas

Director

director@canberrapotters.com.au



From the Chair

AGM! AGM! AGM! The focus for this month! I trust that you all have the date firmly engraved on your calendars.

As per usual, we need a quorum in order to proceed. I appeal to you all to give us 30 minutes or so, to get through this essential meeting and enable continued management of our fabulous CPS.

There are some Board members lining up for re-election - Jennifer Collier, David Leake and I have re-nominated; and I have put my hand up for the role of President again if you choose to vote for me. We all await notice of new nominees for President and Board. Changes to the independent members include Jessica Coates planning to step down, and the appointment of Russell Eade, our new treasurer, to be confirmed. The Board hopes to announce new independent appointments in coming months.

You will have read that electronic and postal voting are available this year, and will close 24 hours before the AGM. Please see the latest notice for details of how to complete your votes.

As President, I have been assisting CPS management and staff who have been busy dotting the Is and crossing the Ts on the 2016 acquittal to artsACT. This essential document consumes considerable time, and demonstrates evidence of all CPS activities. I am very satisfied with the stewardship of funding bestowed by ACT Government, we are certainly providing excellent value for money for members and the community. A great job has been done not only on the acquittals, but as usual, in the high standard of attention given to day-to-day operations, and the dedication and vision to take CPS forward. Many thanks Richard and the team.

See you all at the AGM

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

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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

The Goss on Studio 1, and Where's Chris?

Members who have been at Watson Arts Centre in recent weeks will have seen the amalgamation of Studios 1 and 2 taking place. The construction project is to expand and enhance the space of Studio 1 and transform it into Workshop 2. Increased numbers of classes, and the need to meet occupational health and safety standards are the drivers for the project. The aim is to create a safer and more comfortable environment for learning and teaching.

The question on everybody's lips is where is Chris Harford? As we all know, Chris has been the long-time occupant of Studio 2, our dedicated Workshop Manager, and teacher.

Negotiations between the Director, the Board, Chris, and our funding body, artsACT have been going on for some months.

Studio occupancy comes with a strict set of criteria, and the issues that were uppermost in the negotiations were those of conflict of interest, and the criterion that staff are not permitted to occupy a studio. Indeed, in the last

year we saw the resignation of a valued staff member Fran Romano as her preferred choice was to retain a studio and develop her ceramic practice.

So, the outcome is that Chris has decided that his best option is to head home and set up his studio practice there. This has presented Chris with some nuisance indeed as he is working extremely long, hard hours to keep up with his growing business.

We will all have to come of age somewhat too. Chris has generously overlooked multitudes of interruptions to his private exploits, and has taken care of our whims and queries as they arose.

Good news though, of course, is that Chris is still the Workshop Manager. He will come to work on Mondays and Thursdays as per usual. And of course he is still one of the senior members of the teaching team and will continue to impart his skills and knowledge, not only to his students, but in supporting new teachers. And of course he continues as a valued member of the Potters Place Shop, giving us all the option to purchase his beautiful work.

I'm sure that members will join me in wishing Chris all the very best. We all extend our thanks for the thousands of unpaid hours that he has given outside his hours of work.

Velda Hunter

More Clay Less Plastic

As we become ever more keenly aware of the environmental harm caused by plastic waste, people are reaching for alternatives far and wide. Some are looking to modern technology for solutions. Many others are looking backwards to what we used to do. And in the kitchen, that often involves clay. There is a growing movement to consciously replace plastic with ceramic, called "More Clay Less Plastic". There is a [Facebook page](#) and a website moreclaylessplastic.org and lots of articles. Just search on more clay less plastic in your browser.



Callout for Volunteers!

We are a busy place with so much going on all the time! Much of the activity reflects the enthusiasm of our membership for tasks as varied as looking after the library (thanks Suzanne) or the graphic design layout of this newsletter (thanks Nina for a great looking issue each month) or the indefatigable pizza wizards (you know who you are). Some members billet visiting experts or help artists in residence get their weekly shopping done. All sorts of talents contribute, some in bursts, others steadily throughout the year. Canberra Potters is still a group of like-minded volunteers at its core and without volunteers the Society would not exist. Are you keen to get more involved in some way? We are looking to establish a Volunteer Program with groups for diverse tasks. If you'd like to put your name down on a general register of volunteers and be involved in other activities, please email education@canberrapotters.com.au



Transformation: Two Studios become one Workshop

Abbey Jamison EASS Artist in Residence

10 April to 9 June

Abbey writes: "My graduating body of work from the ANU School of Art, Comfort Cups, was about comforting people, especially those who suffer from mental illnesses. From my experience with mental illness there isn't much that can be said to make the person feel better. Instead the act of being there for them and with them is more effective. I am continuing this theme through my residency at CPS as I have started experimenting with new forms with the intention of creating small portable "fiddle objects". In the moments when someone needs comfort, my work can step in and act as a companion. These forms will be soda fired using the CPS soda kiln so that each one will be individual.

Soda firing gives each piece inside the kiln a story of the firing, ie how it was sitting and which direction the soda came from. As each piece's story is unique, I hope that through investigation of the surface, the user will develop a relationship with the object.

After my residency I will be a part of a group exhibition at the Belconnen Arts Centre called the 2017 CAPO Emerging Artists Prize Exhibition. I will be exhibiting my Comfort Cups alongside seven other ANU School of Art graduates.

Next year I will return to the ANU School of Art to complete my honours year in ceramics."

Abbey welcomes visitors to her studio, so feel free to pop in and see what she is doing.



One of Abbey's studio shelves



Pieces from *Raw Verse*, 2016



Two comfort cups with worry stones

Cultural Awareness Training

As part of the funding provided by the ACT Government Artist Residency Fund there has been a component set aside for the opportunity for staff from Canberra Potters to undertake a Cultural Awareness Training program provided by elders from the Yurauna Centre at the CIT. The training has been developed to: Assist workers to attain a practical and measurable difference in the lives of Aboriginal people and assist organisations such as ours to better engage with Aboriginal people and communities. It includes modules on cultural respect, effective communication, past policies and practices that have impacted upon Aboriginal peoples, and yarning circles on various topics. This training took place early May. This training is important and will provide knowledge and understanding that can and should be applied to any workplace environment.

Maryke's Off to the Orient!

Maryke Henderson has been invited to demonstrate at the the 1st FuLe Soda Firing Festival in Fuping China in September. She will join guest director Jack Doherty (Ireland/UK), who gave a Workshop at Canberra Potters in 2007, and contemporary soda glaze experts Julia Galloway (US), local Canberra region potter Gail Nichols and Ruthanne Tudball (UK), who ran a Masterclass and was our guest Members' Exhibition judge in 2014, among others. The FuLe International Soda Firing Ceramics Festival is hosted by Fuping Pottery Art Village and will incorporate Soda Firing Study Camp, International soda firing ceramics exhibition, workshops, and invited artists' exhibition and ceramic market. Maryke says that the Fuping community's interest is driven by their need to reduce serious pollution from traditional woodfiring while retaining interesting ceramic surfaces.

For more information visit www.sodafiringchina.com



Maryke throws big

Kiln Advisory Group

Due to the growing demand and increasing kiln wear, Management has undertaken the task of forming a Kiln Advisory Group (KAG) to conduct a full and thorough analysis of our kilns and kiln precinct with the aim of reporting the findings to the Board. The members are: Richard Thomas (Director), David Leake (Board Representative), Chris Harford (Workshop Manager), Roger Ellyard, Maryke Henderson and Fran Romano. The purpose of the group is 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 in regard to safety and accessibility

Canberra Potters owns and operates a variety of kilns in the kiln-shed precinct. They cater to various users including: our own class groups, representing our largest user group; resident studio holders, probably our second largest user; and private firers a smaller but regular group of users.

Inside the kiln room we currently operate 5 electric and 3 gas kilns. A large gas kiln in the kiln room is non-operational. There are assorted surplus or non-functional kilns in the veranda area awaiting refurbishment or removal. In addition, in the outdoor area, we have a soda fire gas kiln, a raku kiln, assorted raku bins and a firing pit.

The Group has met three times and a recommendations paper is currently being prepared. Once this is complete, Management will seek direction from the Board to create a kiln shed action plan in response to KAG recommendations.



Would you like to open your studio as part of a national event? You can take part in The Australian Ceramics Association's (TACA) 5th national Open Studio event.

Open the doors and welcome the neighbours and others in to see what you make. According to CPS members who have participated in previous Open Studio days, the benefits include: selling your pottery and talking to purchasers about your pottery; meeting people and establishing connections with locals who may just become loyal ceramic enthusiasts; and often establishing supportive relationships with neighbours. (And just possibly if you are like me, it is the trigger for a clean-up which can't be avoided, put off, excused away with every pretext under the sun - and that has to be a good thing! Ed.)

In 2016, 145 studios opened their doors around the country - mostly individual potters in their studios, but also lots of groups and potters sharing studios with other potters. Gather together some local potters and share a space, or set up a local trail in your area. TACA will guide you by showing how others have done this in past years, providing a logo for your advertising, giving support through national and state promotion, great advice for local promotion and studio preparation, and ACOS fliers which you can personalise with your details. There is even a specially designed website showcasing every participant.

[Go to this link](#) to read all about this amazing event!

To participate, you need to be a member of TACA.

Throwing Clinic with Kaye Pemberton

The fabulous Kaye Pemberton will be back in July for a two-day workshop. For those who haven't participated in one of Kaye's workshops yet we urge you not to miss out. Of her last class one participant said, 'Kaye is a great teacher who generously shared her skills and experience while focussing on each participant's goals. Whether participants were a practising potter or an enthusiastic hobbyist, Kaye provided each person with honest critique and genuine support.'

This Workshop will help you improve your technique and conquer those niggling technical issues that are holding you back, plus you will get a few good tips along the way. Whatever your focus—taller, wider, confidence, fluidity or consistency these two days are guaranteed to improve your wheel throwing and understanding of form.

Still unsure? Why not revisit Sue Cant's insightful review of Kaye's last workshop in the March issue of The Canberra Potter.

Workshop 1 & 2 July

\$285 Members

Phone 6241 7800 to secure your place.



Friday Night Supper Club

Have you been to a Friday Night Supper Club yet? They are a great opportunity to catch up with potters and ceramicists in a relaxed atmosphere and to hear from local, national, international and visiting ceramic artists. Recently we've welcomed Michelle Lim and Seok Har from Mud Rock Studio in Singapore to discuss their business operation and their new retail venture. In March, New Zealand artists Louise Rive and Chuck Joseph, owners of Edge City, discussed their unique process of making and selling their work. Earlier in the year Raj Reddy and Garry Palacek shared their experiences, past and present, in large public art installation projects.

For our next Supper Club, Friday 26 May at 6pm, we are excited to welcome Dr Julie Bartholomew, Head of Workshop at the ANU Ceramics Workshop. Julie will reflect on her wealth of experience in the ceramics field as an artist and educator. She has a strong interest in contemporary issues expressed through her works, most recently she has explored the precarious existence of threatened Australian birds, flowers and environmentalism.

The night will include a short recess to complete AGM formalities. Please join us to hear from this fascinating speaker and to be involved in the exciting growth and development of the Canberra Potters.



Julie Bartholomew: *Ice Core Series*

AIR—Janet Fieldhouse

5 June to 31 August

Our next Artist-in-Residence is Janet Fieldhouse. Janet was born in Cairns in 1971 of Torres Strait Islander heritage and a graduate of the Ceramics Workshop at the ANU School of Art (2004). She has exhibited in numerous solo and group shows throughout Australia and has twice won the highly regarded Shepparton Art Museum, Indigenous Ceramic Art Award (2007, 2012). Her work is held in collections nationally in Art Gallery of Western Australia, National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, Parliament House Art Collection, Queensland Art Gallery and Shepparton Art Museum.

Fieldhouse describes her work as 'an expression of my Torres Strait Islander heritage: the material culture, rituals of social and religious life, and artefacts which are created to fulfil the functional and spiritual needs of the peoples of the Torres Strait.'

Janet will have two objectives during her residency in Canberra—the creation of a new body of work and the engagement with indigenous artists from CIT's Yurauna Centre to assist them to develop an indigenous community-based art exhibition during NAIDOC Week 2018 at Watson Arts Centre.

In addition to these objectives Janet will engage with Canberra Potters, its members and the wider community by providing workshops, an artist talk and the usual activities expected of our visiting artists.



Janet Fieldhouse, *Baskets*, 2008. Flexible porcelain, 11.5 x 21.0 x 18.0 cm. Image: Rob Little

Teapots Galore 2

He's back—but only if you want him! Due to what we thought was overwhelming interest in teapot making we asked Rick Beviss if he'd be prepared to linger longer and hold another Teapots Galore workshop. He's agreed but alas uptake has been slow. What's happening people? Perhaps these comments and images from the previous workshop will generate some excitement!

"What Rick doesn't know about teapots is not worth knowing"

"So many tips and tricks and its only 10.30 on day one!"

"My fear of hand-building has been totally cured—fabulous workshop—and fun!"

"I don't even drink tea—but I do now!"

Seriously, Rick does have a great talent and as he's soon to return to South Australia we may not be able to tap into it as regularly as we'd like. So phone 6241 7800 to book a spot.

We'll put the kettle on.

24 & 25 June
\$285 for members.



24 & 25 June 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.

Electric Mud

It's as if the electronic world was invented just for potters. On top of my clay play, I am also hooked on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube and Google.

Because the ways of using the internet are so various and so individual, I propose to share with you what, how and why I use it and in return I would welcome your experiences and tips. I am no expert, but by sharing we can help one another. Sound right for a ceramic community? Just drop me a line at editor@canberrapotters.com.au and I shall include it in the next spot available in the newsletter.

In general I use the e-world for two reasons: expertise and inspiration.

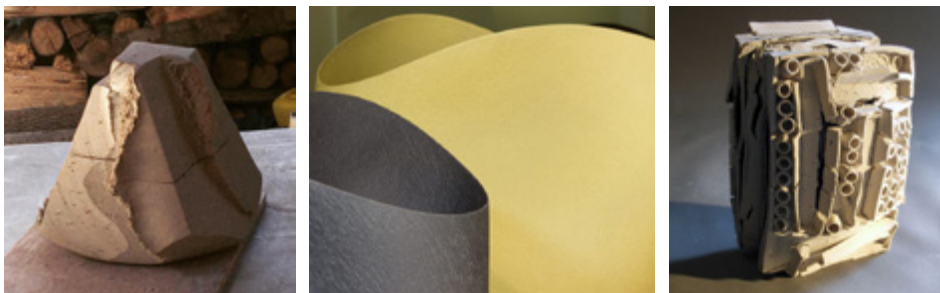
If I have a technical question, I ask Google. With a bit of searching, I usually find an answer. Sites like Glazy, for glaze recipes or YouTube for instructional videos are a great specific source. Other times I simply cast my question on the great ocean of the internet and back comes an answer.

My other use is for inspiration. I love the work of a number of potters (or pottery entities). I find them on the net and they in turn lead to other hitherto-

unknown potters whose work may or may not appeal and I discover new eye candy, new talent, new inspiration – or crap. So, for example, using Facebook, I “follow” Contemporary Ceramics, which is the British Craft Potters Association London gallery. It exhibits top-rate living British potters, indicating up-to-the-minute trends. With each new exhibition, they post high quality images and artists’ statements on Facebook, which I see immediately and automatically in my Facebook stream. Group shows are particularly useful. If I love the look of a piece, I search the potter’s name in Google and find other examples. Sometimes it is a dead end – the work does not interest me after all; other times it is the start of a love affair. I can follow this new discovery on Facebook and am automatically updated whenever they add images of new work. I can electronically copy and paste the most appealing images into my inspirations scrap-book (known as Pinterest) which I look at whenever I like; or bookmark the website in my browser, or do all three.

That is how I use the net today. I bet you do it differently. Do share your secrets with the rest of us so tomorrow I may do it differently too.

Carol Kenchington



Recent posts on Facebook: Akira Satake, Ashraf Hanna at Contemporary Ceramics this month, Rafa Perez

Out and About

Last month CPS members held a pizza night to farewell Garry Palacek, Carla Wolfs and Kees Rullens, and Rick Beviss (not that Rick has actually moved yet). We wish them well.

There was also a visit from Michelle Lim and Ng Seok Har from Mud Rock in Singapore. In a hectic visit, which included an interesting presentation at our Supper Club, they managed to fire the soda kiln, producing work with soda’s characteristic interesting varied surface.



Diary dates

May

Canberra Potters AGM
26 May 6pm @ CPS

Friday Supper Club
26 May 6pm @ CPS
Guest speaker: Dr Julie Bartholomew, ANU

June

Teacher Professional Development
14 June

More Teapots Galore
with Rick Beviss
24 & 25 June

July

Throwing Clinic
with Kaye Pemberton
1 & 2 July

August

Australian Ceramics Open Studios
Where? Your place!
19-20 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

Exhibitions

This Way

**EASS Exhibition: Heidi Strachan
Watson Arts Centre Gallery
18 May to 11 June
Official opening by Peter Haynes
6pm Thursday 18 May with a special
performance by Jannawi Dance Clan
from Sydney**

Heidi Strachan is our EASS exhibition award winner, selected from ANU School of Art & Design ceramics graduates at the end of 2016. Heidi's strong graphic work moves between traditional hand-built vessels and wall installations and uses an eclectic mix of materials that includes beeswax, terracotta clay, charcoal, oil paint, graphite, ochre and sand.



Heidi Strachan: *The Bottle*

New porcelain

**Keiko Matsui, Kenji Uranishi, Prue Venables
Beaver Galleries
27 April - 14 May 2017**



**Heat & Light: Jo Townsend ceramics
and Jane Kelly photography
Strathnairn Arts
90 Stockdill Drive Canberra
April 27 – May 21**

2017 CAPO Emerging Artists Prize Exhibition

**Belconnen Arts Centre
Opening Friday June 2 at 5.30pm
Includes Abbey Jamison's work**

Opportunities

Smoke on the Water 2017 Australian Woodfire Ceramics Conference

June 28 – July 1

Cooroy, Sunshine Coast, Qld

If the chill winds heralding winter are licking round your ankles, consider visiting the Sunshine Coast. There is a very interesting program which has been designed to appeal to a broad range of ceramic interests, not just wood firers. For example one of the masters is a Japanese expert in the use of overglaze enamels and lustres. Another specialises in nerikomi, producing ware of great delicacy. There is a full program of events, talks, demonstrations and firings, with Australian and international experts. For more details check out the website: smokeonthewater2017.com.au

Clunes Ceramic Award 2017

\$13,000 prizes

Entries open 13 March close 28 July

More information:

www.clunesceramicaward.com.au

Retail Opportunity Out of the Box

Opportunities for Canberra Region makers to show and sell small hand-crafted works including, textiles, jewellery, woodcraft, metal, ceramics, etc are available NOW!

- » Works are displayed in well-lit exhibition cabinets in the Belconnen Arts Centre foyer
- » All items need to be for sale and the price, not more than \$300, inclusive of 30% commission
- » Unsold works are returned to the maker after 1-2 months
- » A sales reconciliation is forwarded to artists at the conclusion of their display term and payments are processed promptly on receipt of the artist's invoice.

Contact Creative Program Director Monika McInerney on 6173 3304 or email monika.mcinerney@belconnenartscentre.com.au with images of sample works.

Call for entries now open!

2017 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize

The 2017 Call for Entries is now open for the 17th Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize. Artists are invited to present images of their proposed or completed original and freestanding sculptures. The submitted art works must also be non-site specific, three-dimensional and constructed of durable materials up to 80cm in any dimension.

Total prize money for the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize is \$24,000, awarded across four categories: the main Acquisitive award (\$20,000); Special Commendation award (\$2,000); Viewers' Choice award (\$1,000); and Mayor's Award (\$1,000).

Further information and on-line entry facilities can be found [here](#).

Entries close on Friday 7 July 2017

For Sale

Talsteet/Ceramic Clay Slab Roller.

Heavy duty slab roller. Excellent condition. Effective rolling: 1100x600mm, thickness 25–3mm. Required floor space 2000x1000mm. Only used once or twice. Canvas and boards excellent condition. \$1000

Large Automatic Kiln max temp.

1300°C. Good condition, works beautifully. Duncan Energy Saver, the Pro-Plus EA – 1029. 3 phase electricity. Inside Kiln (firing space) 730mm high, 600mm diameter. Includes shelving: 7x ½ circle shelves and 4 round shelves (530mm diameter). \$700

Small test Kiln max temp. 1300°C,

excellent condition. Chromartie Kilns, Model CTL 28 no. 17/1759. 50 Amp, single phase electricity. Inside Kiln (firing space) 340mm high, 340mm round. Includes 4 kiln shelves \$250

Contact Karina Edwards
04666 74168

karina.edwards@hcourt.gov.au

**In 2016 the Members'
Exhibition was supported by**



**The family of
the late Jane Crick**