

CANBERRA POTTERS NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2020

FIRED UP

connecting through clay



1975 to 2020 - WE'RE TURNING 45

It's true we are 45 years old. From the idealistic vision of thirteen potters in 1975 to the Canberra Potters of 2020 we have come a long way. We really do stand on the shoulders of giants.

So many incredible potters, both home grown and from overseas, have been associated with our organisation and given their time, passion and skill to create what has become a vibrant ceramics community offering opportunities for potters at every stage of their journey in the arts.

We want this year to be a celebration of us. Of each and every person who has been a member, enrolled in a class, taught, volunteered, worked, visited and shared in the last 45 years.

We hope you will join in the celebration. Several events are planned through the year to highlight where we have come from and what we have to offer.

Watch this space!





The Mother of all Marsupials.

A sneak peak of some of the wonderful work coming from the Summer School with Bev Hogg this year.

EDUCATION

Jo Townsend & Sue Cant

January 2020 has kicked off with a rush of great opportunities for potters.

Despite the smoky weather and fires we have run several very successful courses.

Summer School with **Bev Hogg** has produced some incredible work with many participants coming in to continue work in the member's workshop (Image above)

We were delighted to welcome **Anne Mossman** after the delay to her course last year. Participants spent three days making beautiful coloured clay patterns based on the concept of Nerikomi. We have already seen these ideas coming to fruition in the new work of participants.

Exploring surface imagery with **Cathy Franzi** was a busy couple of days trying out new surface design techniques under Cathy's warm and generous guidance. The test tiles have just emerged from the kiln and show some really promising results.

Children's School Holiday classes were full of excited and enthusiastic children making animals, trying new ideas out and learning to turn on the wheel.

The Throwing Cylinders Intensive with **Maryke Henderson** was a great way for participants to really concentrate on honing their skills and building muscle memory to improve the quality and look of their work.

Term One is up and running with twenty-six term classes being delivered and several great short courses on offer.

If you're interested in one of our short courses this term. Follow [this link](#) for more information and bookings.

Two great offerings this term are Design.Make.Repeat.Cups and Time for Tea. Click the picture below for more details and bookings.



SHOP

Kelli Donovan

After lots of hard work the shop renovation is nearly complete.

We are still organising behind the scenes. but really enjoying watching the space flourish and grow to support our member potters and ceramic artists.

Our shop has been an integral part of Canberra Potters and wouldn't exist without the selfless work of the many members who volunteered their time to staff the shop and engage with customers and members.

There have been many members of the shop over the years and we thank you all. We'd like to also thank the most recent shop members Marlene Flanagan, Judy McDonald, Suzanne Oakman, Marion Robinson, Jacqui Lewis, Paul Dumtez, Alex du Vos, Sue West, Fran Romano, Shirley Dunn, Georgie Bryant,

Maryanne Devey and Richilde Flavell. Their contribution through work and volunteer hours has provided a great foundation for the future.

We are getting fantastic feedback from visitors about the new space. Please get on social media and share your images and posts of any of your items or your favourite pieces in the shop. Don't forget to tag us using #canberrapotters

The next big event for the year is Good Food Month and we will be changing the display and adding new pieces to the store that reflect our Gallery Exhibition for the month.

We are looking to increase our range of tools. If there are particular tools you would like to see in the shop please let us know.

This month we welcome Abbey Jamison to the shop. Abbey is a talented potter in her own right having graduated from ANU in 2018. She will be working Sundays and is happy to help with gift ideas and all your ceramic requirements.

The next application process will start [mid March](#). If you are a member and you are interested in having your work in the shop contact the shop at shop@canberrapotters.com.au





GALLERY

Katrina Leske



Distant Visions

5 February to 1 March 2020

Our first exhibition of 2020 is now open!

Distant Visions signifies the launch of Canberra Potters' 45th Anniversary celebrations, and is a small symbol of the impact that countless visiting artists have had on the Society. Since 1975,

Canberra Potters has acquired a number of works from visiting artists, workshop tutors and artists-in-residence from around the world.

Canberra Potters is proud to present this exhibition, which features high-quality work from emerging and established artists alike.

Using the enduring medium of clay through contemporary interpretations, Distant Visions generates renewed conversations around technical and conceptual approaches to ceramics over the last 30+ years.

The Chef and the Potter Featured Artists

Andres Caycedo, Annie Parnell, Chris Harford, Girl Nomad Ceramics (Richilde Flavell), Hillgrove Pottery (Susan Hill), Linburn Handmade (Georgie Bryant) and Saw Pit Studios (Joey Burns).

[The Chef and the Potter](#)

[5 to 29 March 2020](#)

[Opening 6pm Thursday 5 March](#)

The Chef and the Potter is a celebration of handmade tableware produced by local artisan potters for restaurants and cafes.

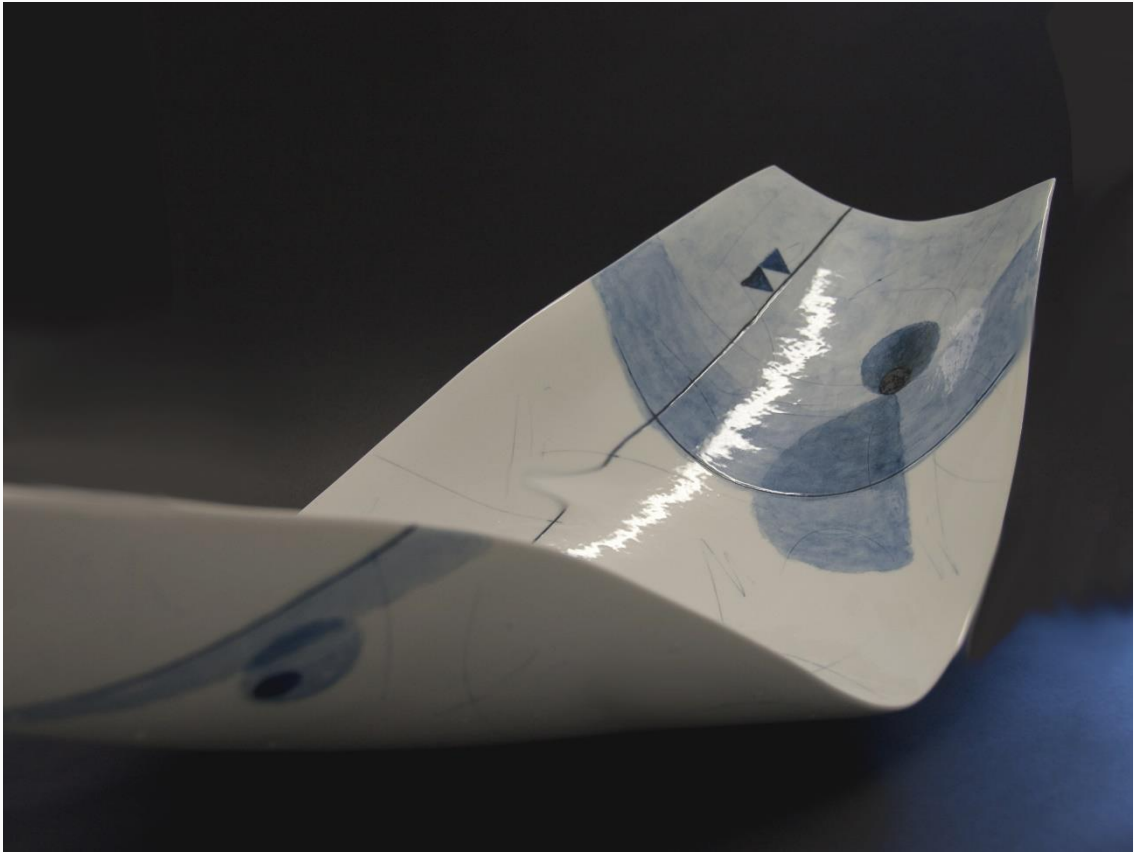
The desire to serve food on tableware designed for a particular dish or made by a specific chef has seen a resurgence in the last decade, resulting in a greater interest in handmade ceramic vessels.

This exhibition, coordinated to coincide with Good Food Month

Canberra, invites viewers to explore the playful, refined and unique tableware used by chefs in and around Canberra. It aims to provoke a deeper consideration

of beautifully crafted vessels we use every day exploring the continued reinvention of ceramic tableware by chefs and potters alike.

Keep an eye out for more information and events coinciding with this exhibition.



TECHNICAL

Mark Saunders



Firing

Over the last few months we have been trying to simplify firing services for members. We are doing everything we can to ensure your work is looked after while in our care, and is fired in a timely manner.

From Tuesday 18 February we are separating members and students work for firing.

Members will no longer drop off their work on the bisque trolley in the glaze shed.

All member work will now be weighed and paid for at the shop during shop hours.

Firing procedure:

- work to be bisqued will be weighed, paid for and left at the shop. Work to be glaze fired only will be weighed, paid for at the shop and then taken up and placed on the glaze shelf by you.

Shop hours are 10am to 4pm Tuesday to Sunday.

The Technical Manager will be available in the shop on Wednesdays from 4pm to 7pm if you are unable to drop off your work during normal shop hours.

Your bisqued work can be collected from the trolley labelled 'MEMBERS'.

If you have paid for bisque and glaze, your work can now be glazed and placed on the regular glaze trolley for firing.

Members will no longer record clay weights in the folders that are kept in the members workshop.

If you have unpaid firing fees from the member workshop folders please see the Technical Manager to arrange to pay these as soon as possible.



Cleaning

Beginning of term is a great time to remind everyone that cleaning the workshops is a shared task. Clay is an inherently messy business and it's really important from a health & safety point of view that we keep on top of the mess and dust.

Equipment should be washed with a wet sponge, dried and put away at the end of your session in the member's studio or class.

Tables should be wiped with a wet sponge and dried with a towel.

Wheels need extra attention. One of the most common issues raised by members, teachers and students is that wheels have not been effectively cleaned by previous users. Wash down with a wet sponge, remember to clean under the wheel head to remove any clay and wipe over with a towel to dry. Pick up any large pieces of clay on the floor and put into recycling or bin.

Scrape and wipe the wedging table and plaster slabs of all clay.

Lastly don't forget the sink. It should be left clean and wiped out for the next class or member to use.

Share the load and help others to keep the workshops clean and tidy.

Leave it as you'd like to find it and everyone can enjoy the workshops to the full.



STUDIOS

Richard Thomas

Canberra Potters has five excellent artist studios at our Watson Arts Centre facility. The studios are available for committed ceramic arts practitioners to apply for a two-year tenancy to pursue their ceramic arts career.

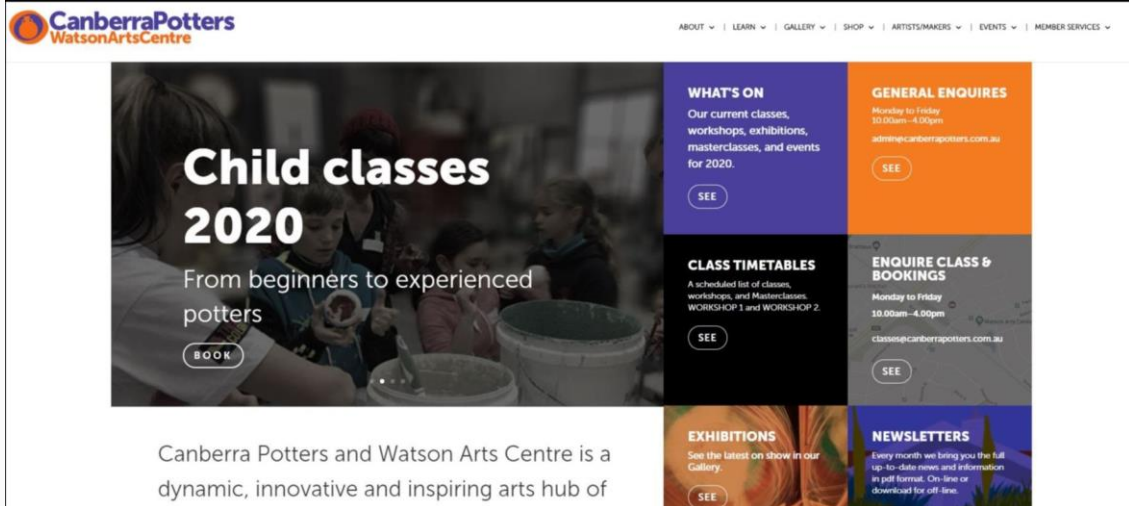
A further 12 months may be available on application.

The artist is welcomed into a friendly, creative and supportive environment of fellow ceramicists, potter and arts professionals.

The studios are secure and may be accessed 24 hours a day and studio holders gain access to a variety of well-maintained kilns and arts infrastructure.

Participating artists are expected to align with the Canberra Potters objectives to: promote excellence and innovation in ceramics; foster appreciation of handcrafted ceramics in the broader community; and encourage the professional development of its members.

Several studio vacancies are due to come up over the coming months so if you are interested in a studio please contact Richard Thomas via email director@canberrapotters.com.au to discuss your needs.



OUR NEW WEBSITE IS ON THE WAY

We're excited to launch our new website this month.

While not too different in structure from our existing site it will have some features that we hope visitors will love.

These include:

- A revised class booking system that gives the visitor more information about each class, its content, availability and teacher information
- an online kiln booking feature so you can login and check which kilns are available and on what date
- an updated membership database will enable us to automatically let members know when memberships are due
- a secure members login where we will eventually keep a number of members only goodies.

Many other things are planned to come online in the future and the new website platform will enable us to build on these services.

Contributions to the Newsletter

Would you like to include something in our Newsletter. We welcome your input and ideas. Please

send text and photos to editor@canberra.potters.com.au by the end of the second week of the month.



GAS FIRING WORKSHOP

Celia Dickinson - Member

Gas reduction firing with Chris Harford – workshop review

Late last year, eight participants took part in a three-day reduction firing workshop led by pottery maestro Chris Harford.

Our objective was to gain first-hand experience of how to safely pack, light and operate a gas kiln from beginning to end.

We discovered, like everything else about working with clay, firing is both an art and a science. I wrote 14 pages of notes. Okay, I'm a bit of a swot. But such was the depth of information and insights shared by Chris over the three days.

The guy has been experimenting with clays, glazes, kilns, and firings for decades and his ability to articulate his knowledge makes him an excellent teacher.

And who knew this curious vocabulary existed? Aspiration burner. Primary air. Thermocouple. Cone pack. Stilts. Props. Stackers. Bat wash. Spyhole. Bungs. A new language emerged as we learnt how the gas kiln operates and how to pack it.

As the kiln reached target temperature, we took it in turns to don welding goggles and heat-resistant gloves, remove the bung and blow courageously into the dragon-flame flying out of the spyhole. This is to get a clear view of the cone pack, to see which of the cones have melted. I worried about singeing my hair, or losing my nose, but an almighty exhale subdued the flame. A true Harry Potter moment.

Another highlight is that we loaded the kiln with our own work, which made the 'great reveal' at the end of the firing even more exciting – and educational.

I'm not someone who naturally embraces technical and mechanical processes, but after Chris's thorough instruction I now feel confident about partnering with other trained members to run a gas firing on our own.

Oh, and he's a dab hand at running the wood-fired pizza oven too! We assembled our own toppings on homemade dough and enjoyed lunch together in the courtyard on our final day.

Thanks Chris! First-rate course.





BE THE POTTER ON EVERYONE'S LIPS

Isn't that what we all dream about?

You work hard creating beautiful, unique designs but getting that foot in the door of markets, cafes and shops can be tough.

Maybe we can help. Are you the Potter to design our 45th Anniversary Canberra Potters cup?

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU? *

- The successful Potter will be commissioned to produce approximately 100 cups at a payment of \$30 per cup (with an option to make up to a further 100 if required) to be sold in the Canberra Potters Shop.
- All entrants will be featured in a proposed Exhibition of submissions
- The opportunity to have your cup and your work featured in the Canberra Potters Shop and in our media
- Artist opportunities include artist talks, meet the maker opportunity, interviews, networking with artists and
- associated retail and café owners

WHAT'S IN IT FOR US?

Well ... it's our birthday and we get a new cup to celebrate turning 45 and best of all we get the satisfaction of helping you promote and showcase your pottery.

Open to all current and life members of Canberra Potters

WANT TO KNOW MORE

www.canberrapotters.com.au/events

*Full information about terms and conditions can be found here

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