

CANBERRA POTTERS NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2020

# FIRED UP

connecting through clay



## AUGUST AT CANBERRA POTTERS

**Richard Thomas CEO**

Welcome to the latest issue of Fired Up and our return to more regular activities at Canberra Potters. There are no promises in these uncertain times but whenever we have the opportunity to resume our programs, we'll grab it with both hands. As you are aware, we have taken a carefully staged approach to ensure we are working in and providing a safe and functional facility. As you will appreciate we are dealing with a constantly changing health environment and we must adhere to strict Government guidelines regarding room capacity, social distancing and cleaning.

Our commitment to our membership during the extended period of physical closure was maintained through offering access to clay sales and firing services. Information was provided through our website via online short clips, courses, newsletters and blog to continue our member engagement.

I'm pleased to say that the return to classes is running smoothly and the gallery and shop reopening has brought welcome activity to the Watson Arts Centre.

We are now able to move to the next stage of our reopening schedule which is to reopen the Workshop and Glaze Shed to our Members. Our planned reopening date for these services is Thursday 13 and Friday 14 August for supervised Drop In Sessions. Detailed information on how these sessions can be accessed is contained below.

With your assistance and attention to our new protocols we hope to be able to continue to provide our artists, students and visitors with a full range of clay focused activities.

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## CANBERRA POTTERS BOARD

Jill Farrelly - President

It is an honour to serve CPS members as President, even though it's a daunting time to do so.

There are three main things that I believe we need to focus on in the short to medium term:

- Surviving COVID - will depend on continuing to deliver our programs while making sure CPS is a safe place to visit, practice and work. It will also mean keeping a very close eye on our finances.
- CPS Members - we need to make sure that everything we do has value for our members. This includes explaining why we do the things we do and how it benefits them. It also means listening to members.
- Continuing to build CPS' contribution to ceramics - in the ACT, Australia and internationally.

I would like to think that my values - collaboration, flexibility and decisiveness - will help to serve the membership well.

I am sure that you will join with me in acknowledging Velda Hunter's and David Leake's contributions to CPS - as well as to Richard and our staff - during what has been a very challenging time.



## WELCOME CALEB

Many of you will know member and teacher Richilde Flavell went off on maternity leave at the end of Term One.

We were thrilled to meet Caleb William this week. Richilde was loading a kiln and popped in to say hi. Looks like Caleb is being initiated into the world of pottery already.

Congratulations to Richilde and Tristan and welcome to the Canberra Potters family Caleb.

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## MEMBER DROP IN SESSIONS ARE BACK!

We know how keen you are to get back into the workshop and we're excited to be able to finally welcome you back.

Starting Thursday 13 August we will be offering two Member Drop In Sessions each week.

**Thursdays 9.30am to 12.30pm**

**Fridays 1.00pm to 4.00pm**

**\$6.00 per session for up to three hours access**

Numbers are limited to 20 people per session and you will have access to Workshops 1 & 2, the Glaze Shed and equipment, The Member's Workshop remains closed for the time being.

COVID constraints mean you will need to book and pay in advance.

If you're not sure if your membership is up to date you can email [admin@canberrapotters.com.au](mailto:admin@canberrapotters.com.au) and we will check your member status.

Please use the booking button below or you can go to the [website - Choose Member Services](#) in the top right hand corner and then click the first choice in the drop down menu - Member Drop in 2020.

**Don't have access to a computer or device to book? Please call on 02 6241670 and we will give you a helping hand.**

**Click here to book Drop In Session**



**TECHNICAL**

## Mark Saunders

Most of the new glazes are now ready to use. I am working on new glaze example boards to replace the old one but they aren't available just yet.

Members will be able to return to the facility soon. However, it will not be in the same way as before as we have to modify our interactions to cope with Government guidelines relating to capacity, distancing and cleaning.

Initially Members will be able to attend Drop-In Sessions on Thursday morning and Friday afternoon. You will be asked to book and pay for these sessions via the website and each session will have a maximum attendance of 20 places. These places will be shared across the two workshops and glaze shed. While onsite, members are expected to follow room capacity notices, distancing and cleaning protocols. We hope that as restrictions are relaxed we can increase Member visitation.

The kiln booking system for members with a kiln license is up on our website. There is still the occasional issue with error messages, if you are having trouble booking online please email [technical@canberrapotters.com.au](mailto:technical@canberrapotters.com.au) and we will help you out.

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## SHOP

### Kelli Donovan

It has been great to see so many people enjoying our shop again after the temporary shut down. We have a great variety of work on sale from our Shop Artists.

We hope you enjoyed the recent Artist Profile on Don Porter. We look forward to bringing you profiles of more of our artists over the next few months.

We now have a mini tool shop located in the clay store so students who attend classes outside shop hours can purchase tools. If you would like to make a purchase please talk to your teacher.

Canberra Potters Shop will open again on Sundays from 16 August and we are delighted to welcome back Abbey after a COVID break.

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

Come in and have a look when you visit the Prue Venables exhibition in the Gallery.

[Apply for the shop](#)

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Daffodils in flower in the Canberra Potters garden.

## EDUCATION

### **Jo Townsend & Sue Cant**

Term 3 classes are up and running and it's great to see everyone following the COVIDSafe practices we have put in place to keep everyone safe. We have 27 classes operating and most are at full capacity. Looks like everyone was keen to get back to working with clay. There were a few glitches in the new booking system for which we apologise to those affected. Staff are working hard behind the scenes to sort these out and we thank you for your patience.

As you know the COVID situation is still very fluid and we are working through options for Term 4. We anticipate bookings will opening early October but will provide more information as we get closer to this date.

We are also working on options for children and adults over the holiday period and we will let you know about these shortly.

Clay Away Kits 'Calm Clay' and 'Pinched Porcelain' are available in the shop for purchase and more kits are coming soon.

We were very proud to see the quality of the work of students and teachers in the recent Student Teacher Exhibition. Well done to everyone who entered and to the award recipients and their teachers.

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## GALLERY

Katrina Leske



Image: Prue Venables, *Betty's Kitchen*, 2017. Photo: Terence Bogue

Despite a rocky year, our gallery is well and truly rolling forward with the closure of *Student | Teacher 2020* on Saturday and preparations for a very exciting exhibition coming up next!

### Student | Teacher 2020

I'd like to extend my gratitude to all the enthusiastic students who submitted work for our annual Student Teacher exhibition, and of course our wonderful team of talented and dedicated teachers. It's always a pleasure to see what the students at Canberra Potters are making, and this year was no exception. I was blown away with the quality of work, which just seems to improve every year!

Our closing event on Saturday 1 August was a huge success, with the gallery full of socially-distanced friends and family.

Congratulations to all the students who came away with awards, and a big thank you to Joanne Searle for judging the exhibition (always a difficult job!) and to Chris Harford of Spinning Gum Pottery for his generous sponsorship of the *Best Overall* prize.

The award winners were:

Winner Best Overall, "*Proud Flightless Wedge-tailed Beagle*" by Jill Sketchley;  
Winner Best Adult Wheelthrown, "*Smoke and Naked Raku*" by Don Porter  
Winner Best Adult Handbuilt, "*Gravity: Garden Art Sculpture*" by Tess Neill  
Winner Best Adult Surface Decoration, "*Barry*" by Michael Nelson

Winner Best Children's 10 & Over, "Rabbit Warren: Eight Saggar-fired Bunnies" by Lauren Jensen  
Winner Best Children's Under 10, "Mint Tea Dragon" by Ophelia Hargrave.

## Coming Up

We're thrilled to be hosting Australian Design Centre's national touring exhibition *Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft \ Prue Venables* from August to October.

This exhibition presents an outstanding body of work by one of Australia's greatest artists working in clay.

Acclaimed ceramicist Prue Venables is the ninth artist in the Australian Design Centre series *Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft*, which celebrates the achievements of Australia's most iconic crafts practitioners.

The works of Prue Venables show a true mastery of materials. They demonstrate a profound understanding of porcelain, that most precious and temperamental of clays, whose fine-grain and opaque qualities are expressed in rigorous works of refined detail. These are handmade functional artworks that possess clarity, luminosity and a quiet beauty.

The details:

**Opening:** 6pm, Thursday 13 August 2020 by Lisa Cahill, CEO and Artistic Director, Australian Design Centre

**Opening event admission:** \$10 per ticket which includes entry to the exhibition and opening talk, a drink and canapes upon arrival and entry into our lucky door prize.

**Exhibition dates:** 14 August to 11 October 2020

**Gallery hours:** 10am to 4pm, Tuesday to Sunday

**General Admission:** Adult \$6.00 | Concession/CPS member \$4.00

Book your tickets to the opening event [here](#).

[Book now](#)



Canberra Potters  
Student | Teacher 2020

## **BEST CHILDREN'S 10 AND OVER**

*Rabbit Warren: Eight  
Saggar-fired Bunnies*

by Lauren Jensen



Canberra Potters  
Student | Teacher 2020

## **BEST CHILDREN'S UNDER 10**

*Mint Tea Dragon*

by Ophelia Hargrave



Canberra Potters  
Student | Teacher 2020

## **BEST ADULT HANDBUILT**

*Gravity: Garden Art Sculpture*

by Tess Neill



Canberra Potters  
Student | Teacher 2020

## **BEST ADULT SURFACE DECORATION**

*Barry*

by Michael Nelson



## Congratulations to Canberra Potters member Mahala Hill!

Mahala has just won the *City of Townsville Art Collection Award* in the *North Queensland Ceramic Awards*.

This \$10,000 acquisitive prize provides artists with support and adds their pieces to one of Australia's most significant ceramic collections. Her award-winning piece was *Armoured Misted Frog*, 2020, bone china, porcelain, stoneware, volcanic glaze, h.8cm, w.17cm, d.15cm (attached)

For more information, on the award, go [here](#).

Image: Mahala Hill. *Armoured Misted Frog*, 2020

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Have you renewed your membership for 2020?

We've had teething issues with our new member database and haven't been able to issue the usual reminders. We will be moving our existing member database over to the new system shortly and reminders will start up again.

You can still renew online in the meantime if you know your membership is due.

Not sure if you're due? Give us a call and we can help you find your renewal date.

If you have renewed and not received your card yet, please bear with us. Your card will come soon. We will of course honor your membership without the card. Just let teachers and shop staff know you are a member to receive your discount.

[Renew your membership or join up by clicking here](#)

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## We're staying CovidSAFE

Canberra Potters takes the health and safety of our staff and visitors seriously.

Our spaces and activities are being managed in relation to the current social distancing and hygiene guidelines. Please follow signage and staff directions while on site.



## 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](mailto:editor@canberra-potters.com.au) by the end of the second week of the month.

