

CANBERRA POTTERS NEWSLETTER | JULY 2020

FIRED UP

connecting through clay



WELCOMING YOU BACK TO CANBERRA POTTERS

Richard Thomas CEO

From the minute we closed our doors to the public on Friday 27 March staff and teachers at Canberra Potters began planning for the day when we reopen. That day is getting closer.

We have already welcomed back small class groups to fulfil our commitment to complete all Term 1 classes. In the meantime, behind the scenes activity at Canberra Potters has not ceased and we have tried to make the past 13 weeks as productive as we can.

Indeed, some things developed from strict COVID-19 guidelines will remain—like our video channel, online course offerings, short shots newsfeed, web blog, online shopping and member studio insights. Others, such as smaller class numbers, increased cleaning frequency and social distancing will be with us for some time to come. We have taken full advantage of assistance offered through federal and local government grants and schemes to sustain our employees and upgrade our facility and hopefully some nice surprises await when you return.

I for one can't wait to see faces familiar and new to help us all return to a new kind of normal.



One of our new glazes - Obsidian - available for students to use soon.

TECHNICAL

Mark Saunders

Thank you to all of the people that used the firing service during the shutdown, I'm glad we could help people keep making during a difficult time. From the 9 July the shop will re-open and will resume being the home of the firing service. Members will no longer need to make an appointment with me, they can take their work for the firing service to the shop. Shop hours will be 10am – 4pm Tuesday to Saturday.

The kiln booking system is another service that has re-opened. Members with a kiln license can book dates for hire by emailing me at technical@canberrapotters.com.au. Please visit our website first and check the calendars in the Kiln Booking pages, under Member Services, for availability. Note though the times you are applying for may be taken, I will update which days have been booked and there may be times I haven't entered accepted bookings yet. After checking the website for dates please email me rather than trying to use the system on the website. Bookings can be made now for the use of kilns starting on the 6 July. We are working towards an online booking system so keep an eye on our website.

Unfortunately restrictions are still in place related to the pandemic. Due to this kiln hirers currently will not have access to the glazes and the glaze shed. There will not be 24 hour access to the kiln shed and times for access to the kilns will need to be arranged with me beforehand. There is no storage in the kiln shed and all work must be brought in on the day of packing.



SHOP

Kelli Donovan

We are happy to announce we are reopening the Canberra Potters shop on Thursday the 9th July. Our opening times will be Tuesdays to Saturdays – 10 am – 4pm. We welcome all of our members and customers back to visit and purchase clay, tools, ceramics and drop off firing to our Canberra Potters shop.

We are currently receiving our current shop artists work to display in the shop. If you are a current Shop Artist please contact our Shop Manager Kelli Donovan to deliver your ceramics and paper work. We are looking forward to being able to support our members again in our newly renovated shop.

We highly encourage new artists to apply to become part of the Canberra Potters shop. All shop potters and artists must be members. [Please go to our new web site where you can apply](#) or use the orange button at the end of this piece.

During the COVID19 lock down we have been busy in the back ground preparing our 'Artist in the spotlight' films, blog interviews and social media to showcase our shop artists. This is a chance for us to showcase our talented potters and ceramic artists through the year.

To follow our 'Artist in the Spotlight' stories on our social media and blog

[Canberra Potters Blog](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

We have been working on our on line shop. This is an area in the shop we hope will grow over time to sell our ceramic artists and potters work in a wider location and demonstrate our local talent and ceramic members in the shop.

[Apply for the shop](#)



EDUCATION

Jo Townsend & Sue Cant

Education has had its hands full during the suspension of services. We have been reviewing our class offerings and creating the new 'Clay Away' online kits. We have also been working with teachers to create new systems to maintain a COVIDSafe teaching and class environment.

Term One classes interrupted by the lockdown are currently being concluded. Everyone has returned full of enthusiasm and happy to be back creating with clay.

Term 3 classes will commence on 20 July. Bookings will be available shortly. [Our COVIDSafe video can be viewed here](#) . We encourage all members to watch as preparation for the return of term classes.

Some adjustments have been made to ensure physical distancing and COVIDSafe practices are maintained and some classes will be smaller. We have put on some extra offering to compensate for these changes.

Learning new skills in videoing and video editing has been high on the agenda and we are improving all the time. We have two offerings already ready and on our [You Tube Channel](#) with kits available through the shop.

[Clay Away - Calm Clay with Fran Romano](#)

[Clay Away - Small Porcelain Objects with Jo Townsend](#)

Our school holiday Clay Away Kit is currently in production and will ready shortly.

GALLERY

Katrina Leske



Best Handbuild 2019 - Jill Sketchley

After a three month closure and a total shake up of how we (and everyone else in the world) function, things are finally returning to some semblance of normality. Despite the long closure I have been keeping busy working on our gallery and visitor services behind the scenes. Working to adapt to our new online-only interface, I ran an online [Teachers' Auction](#), updated our website (notably our [gallery](#), [teacher profiles](#) and [studio tenant pages](#)) and have started compiling an exciting array of new initiatives for

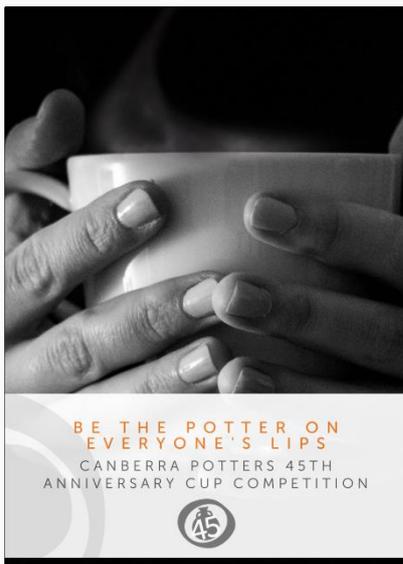
volunteering, research and future events.

On-site once more, I've been excited to finally get the chance to tackle the cleaning and sorting of our gallery storeroom, continue cataloguing our artist-in-residence collection, and preparing for the resumption of our gallery program.

Our gallery will reopen on Thursday 9 July with our annual Student | Teacher exhibition. If you have participated in any classes in the last 12 months please consider submitting work for the exhibition up until and including Saturday 4 July. Instead of hosting an opening we have opted for a closing party and awards ceremony at 2:30pm, Saturday 1 August. We hope you can join us in celebrating then! I'm also thrilled to announce that we will be hosting the Australian Design Centre's touring exhibition Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft | Prue Venables, which will be opening at Canberra Potters on Thursday 13 August.

Finally, I have received a large amount of applications for our 2021 exhibition program. Exhibitions which were postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions will be rescheduled to next year, alongside what is looking to be another exciting year of ceramics-focused exhibitions.

Thank you for all your enthusiasm and support throughout our closure, and I look forward to welcoming you back into the gallery in a few weeks.



CANBERRA POTTERS 45TH ANNIVERSARY CUP COMPETITION - SUBMISSION DATE EXTENDED

We're not giving up on our anniversary. Now might be the perfect time to work on that cup design. We are extending the closing date for submissions until Friday 31 July 2020.

Let's get those creative juices flowing!

[Learn more](#)

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.



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