

Report of the Board
Canberra Potters' Society Inc.
Annual General Meeting
26 June 2020





2019 Doug Alexander Award winner; Luna Petrification. Mahala Hill

Mission Statement

To develop Canberra Potters' Society and Watson Arts Centre into a dynamic, innovative and inspiring arts hub of excellence, supporting personal and professional development across all levels of ceramic arts practice while providing exciting community engagement through artist, exhibition and retail experiences.

Dear Members

In all, 2019 was a very busy year for staff at Canberra Potters' Society (CPS). However, this did not impact on significant growth, and ending the year with many new memberships and a strong bank balance. This was possible through the diligence and dedication of our staff led by CEO Richard Thomas, the ongoing financial support from artsACT, and the ACT Government's provision of our much-admired facility at the Watson Arts Centre, and the enthusiastic members and loyal volunteers.

Our industry sponsors, Walker Ceramics (Walker, Feeney & Cesco products), Clayworks, Craft ACTCraft + Design Centre, Keane Ceramics, The Curatoreum, and The Australian Ceramics Association, continue to play a significant part in our success.

During 2019 Board members were:

President and Board Chair - Velda Hunter

Secretary - Nicole Hoffman

Treasurers - Lou Malfone (independent appointee from November 2018 to May 2019), and Melissa Stenfors (CPS member appointee) from July 2019.

Education Advisor - Joanne Searle (independent appointee)

Ordinary members - David Leake, Don Porter and Tessa Hoser

The Board extends sincere thanks to all for their valuable contribution to our vibrant CPS.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V Hunter".

Velda Hunter
President and Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Hoffman".

Nicole Hoffman
Secretary

26 June 2020

2019 MEMBERSHIP SNAPSHOT

Total memberships: 473
Singles: 299
Families: 34
Seniors: 61
Concessions/Students: 79
Honorary Life Members: 6





EDUCATION

Throughout 2019, the education program was the prime income generator for CPS, and continued to expand as well as providing a consistent offering of pottery classes for all levels of ceramic arts practice. Website updates enabled description, enrolment and payment for courses online.

Classes were scheduled seven-days a week for general ceramics, wheel basics, children's classes, home school classes, and Introduction to Clay with Intensive Introductory classes plus Winter and Summer Schools, Short Courses, Master Classes and demonstrations

A highlight of the workshop program was Onggii Pots hosted by the Korean Onggii Pot master Kwak Kyungtae, and proved highly successful and popular attracting students from Victoria and the Mid North Coast. Interstate and regional participants continue to be a growing trend.

The successful Winter School with Malcolm Greenwood was sold out months in advance. Malcolm was a demanding guest and the staff and workshop attendants were busy satisfying his particular requirements. Student feedback was very positive.

Our reputation for offering quality teaching experiences with leading ceramic artists continues to grow as we consolidate our reputation as a ceramic arts centre of excellence.

During Term 2 we offered our inaugural Emerging Makers Workshop run over three Sundays culminating in a weekend market. Workshop participants were mentored on product selection, promotional material production and market stall set up. Successful outcomes and positive feedback from participants ensures this course will run again.

Other short courses and workshops offered included our Hand Building Sundays, Clay Foundations and Kiln Licence courses. All were well subscribed and appealed to students of all levels and skill sets.

Education Snapshot

Courses and workshops : 165

Education program enrolments : 1,782

Total class hours : 32,275

Adults enrolments : 1,171

Child enrolments : 611



Maryanne Huhn, Artist in Residence 2019

GALLERY

During 2019 the gallery program explored new directions with innovative alternatives. The first was an exhibition of still life drawings following the workshop led by local artist Genevieve Swiftie that focused on pottery as the subject material. The show attracted strong visitor numbers and a new gallery audience. Several of our members took part in the drawing workshops. The second initiative was the Emerging Makers Ceramics Market to encourage up-and-coming makers. The market attracted over 700 visitors over weekend and the shop recorded sales of over \$3000 of shop member work.

Exhibitions:

Bald Archy Prize: attracted over 5,200 visitors

Departures 1: featuring the work of Scottish artist-in-residence Michelle Young-Hares

Departures 2: A farewell exhibition of CPS studio holders Richilde Flavell, Lia Tajcnar and Jo Victoria

Arrivals (EASS): EASS exhibition award-winners Naomi Eburn, Katrina Leske and Tanya McArthur had a cohesive and popular exhibition

Student/Teacher: A popular exhibition in our calendar, providing a chance for CPS students to experience an exhibition environment, and for our teachers to display their talents and inspire students

Stillness: Still Life on Paper: This spontaneous exhibition coincided with a short artist residency and two still life drawing workshops with artist Genevieve Swiftie. The exhibition displayed drawings created in the workshops and during Genevieve's residency

4 Words: A mixed media exhibition of paintings and sculptural works featuring Karen Green, Iva Hancevic-Grabic, Gosia Orzechowska and Clare Solomon

Out There: Canberra Photographic Society: Exhibition of photographs from the Canberra Photographic Society's members

Members' Exhibition 2019: Over 90 entries. Doug Alexander Award winner was Mahala Hill, opened by Roderick Bamford, Head of Ceramics ANU School of Art and Design

Ash and Clay: 40 Years of Woodfiring in Gundaroo (Ian Jones): Our most popular exhibition of 2019, showcasing woodfired works by Ian Jones. Very well received with many of the works selling

Gallery Snapshot

Total exhibitions : 10

Ceramic focused exhibitions : 6

Gallery Visitors : 11,743



Members Exhibition award winners Don Porter (left) and Richilde Flavell (right) with exhibition judge Rod Bamford Head of Ceramics Workshop ANU (2nd left) and Gordon Ramsay MLA, Minister for the Arts (2nd right)

SHOP

A new operation model was introduced for the shop and has attracted a new cohort of members. One of the major changes is the employment of a Shop Manager whose oversight includes improved functioning, developing a more profitable shop, inventory, curation and styling. This has reduced the hours that volunteers serve in the shop.

I extend my sincere gratitude to all of the dedicated shop members who kept the wheels turning for the preceding years.

Implementation of Square, a new point of sale (POS) system has provided a system that is easy to use, holds all our current stock information and is easy to update. The system automatically reports to our accounts at end of day for input into our MYOB software.

Shop Snapshot

Local potters represented in the shop : 28

Artists in Residence represented : 7



ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

The Artist-in-Residence (AIR) again proved highly successful during 2019. Our purpose-built ceramic arts studio and residence provided a creative haven for renowned national and international ceramic artists and potters. We continue to see that the interactive and collaborative relationships provide our community with great learning opportunities, cross-pollination of ideas and inspiration.

AIR Snapshot

Total visiting artists – 5

Michelle Young-Hares – Scotland

Marianne Huhn – Australia

Jacob Robertson – USA

Tanya McArthur – Australia

Lucy Phillips – England/Australia



Sculpture by Michelle Young-Hares (Scotland)



Jacob Robertson (USA)

Workplace Health & Safety

Total number of Induction Sessions – 11

Number of participants : 96



KILNS

CPS purchased a Tetlow brick kiln in 2019. It is an older model but in excellent condition with only minor refurbishment required. It came with a controller, and replaced the last remaining electric fibre kiln. This purchase fulfilled the Kiln Advisory Committee's objective of replacing all electric fibre kilns with brick kilns.

ENGAGEMENT

Email subscribers : 720

Instagram and Facebook followers : 2,057

Newsletters published online : 7

Media visibility : Gallery Reviews - 5

Media releases : 16

OUTREACH & SOCIAL INCLUSION

U3A : 12 participants attended the Term 4 weekly classes

MS Society of Canberra (in conjunction with AIR Marianne Huhn) : 9 participants over four weeks

Home school : a total of 39 students attended one class per week for four terms

St Vincent de Paul : 14 participants



EVENTS

Friday Night Supper Club : was scheduled nine times with an average of 30 members and their guests attending. Speakers included Sue Cant and Jackie Lallemand speaking about their experiences at Gaya ceramics, Bali, Marianne Huhn, Jacob Roberston, Malcolm Greenwood, Ann van Hoey, and Tanya McArthur.

Open Day November 2019: Open Day is our annual community outreach program and regularly attracts more than 400 visitors to the Watson Arts Centre to participate and view a number of ceramic arts based events and activities.

Christmas Fair : Our yearly members' market. In 2019 we had 16 participants.

Emerging Makers Ceramics Market : This inaugural market coincided with an optional mentoring program and was run to give emerging ceramic makers a chance at selling their works in a supportive environment. Over the two days it attracted over 700 visitors to CPS.

Parties and corporate events : Participants 117

Parties and corporate events continued to grow in popularity during 2019 and included adult and children's parties and corporate team building events.

Working bees : two working bees were held and volunteers helped to get our facility ship-shape – thank you!



CONTACT WITH THE ARTS COMMUNITY

[Ceramics Triennale 2019](#) was held in Hobart Tasmania was attended by a strong contingent of CPS members.

[TACA Open Studios](#) weekend showcased numerous potters at their own studios. Participating CPS studio holders included Raj Reddy, Andreas Caycedo, Steve Roper and Colin Jefferson.

[Design Canberra](#) took place in November and CPS Open Day 2019 was scheduled to coincide with the event to take advantage of promotional activities.



Works by Belgian artist Ann van Hoey

STUDIOS

Shared tenancies continue to support more of our artists, and significantly contribute to our vibrant creative community.

Studio holders during 2019 were Leslie Lebkowicz, Phoebe Breen, Alya Khan, Mark Saunders, Raj Reddy, Andres Caycedo, Steve Roper, Colin Jefferson, Lia Tacjnar, and Richilde Flavell.





