

CANBERRA POTTERS NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2020

# FIRED UP

connecting through clay



## SEPTEMBER AT CANBERRA POTTERS

### Richard Thomas CEO

Welcome to the latest issue of Fired Up. So far so good — our return to the 'new business as usual' sees us nearing the finish of Term 3 classes and other activities at Canberra Potters. Congratulations and thank you all for staying the course and following our COVIDsafe guidelines. There are still a few activities to resume and we continue to work toward these in the coming weeks and months.

It was lovely to formally welcome new studio holders Sue Peachy and Julie Pennington at a small get together last weekend. We also farewelled long time Canberra Potter teacher and studio holder Richilde Flavell who is moving north with her new family in tow. Her many years with us has seen her practice grow and develop and we wish her all the best with her new adventure. For those wishing closer contact with us we currently have the option of renting our AIR studio on a short-term basis. If you are keen and would like some further information please contact me via [email](#).

I'm sad to say that Jo Townsend will be moving on from the position of Education Program Manager and after almost five years in the role. She has been instrumental in building up our popular and extensive education area. I'm equally excited to say that we will not miss a beat as Sue Cant takes over the reins and will continue to develop this important aspect of our organisation. As an extension to her shop duties Abbey Jamieson will be helping out around the place particularly with membership services and social media.

If you haven't had a chance to visit our latest exhibition please treat yourself to the wonderful Prue Veneables Living Treasures from the ADC. We do ask for a small entry fee to assist us in the provision of such a high quality and memorable exhibition. Why not pop in and see the latest shop offerings too—they are looking fantastic. Check out the online videos of some current shop members on our website—they are an insightful look into their practice.

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## SATURDAY NIGHT DROP IN SESSIONS ARE COMING

Starting October 10 we are offering a Saturday evening Drop in Session for members. There will now be three drop in sessions available.

### DROP IN SESSIONS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE TERM BREAK

Thursdays 9.30am to 12.30pm

Fridays 1.00pm to 4.00pm

**NEW!!! Saturday 6.00pm to 9.00pm starting October 10**

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

Numbers are limited to 20 people per session (12 on Saturday evening) and you will have access to Workshops 1 & 2 (Workshop 1 on Saturday), 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.

Please use the booking button below or you can go to the [website - Choose Member Services](#) in the top right hand corner and 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

2020 is disappearing fast. If you are planning on making things for Christmas my suggestion is to start now.

As with last year, members will only have limited access to kiln hire during December. Members with a kiln license are limited to a hire total of two kilns during December to ensure everyone gets a fair go. The end of every term is chaotic but the end of the fourth term is especially intense and we need as many of the kilns available as possible to get our student work through.

Apologies for the rollout of the new glazes taking longer than planned. There is still some minor adjusting to be done with formulations. Once all of the formulas are working optimally I can make the new sample boards to replace the old ones.

For people that are unaware, several of the glazes are being discontinued and replaced with new glazes. Several members have already been getting great results with layering the new glazes. Once there is a new sample board up I think people will be surprised by the breadth of interesting new options. For members who aren't ready to let some of the old glazes go the recipes for the discontinued glazes will be made available to everyone.

The glazes being discontinued are Pitch, Straw, Lilac, Sand, Wax, Jade and Bluebell. The new glazes are Ruby (red), Citrine (yellow), Obsidian (black), Emerald (green), Titanium (off-white/designed for layering) and a change to the colour of Teal. I was careful when designing the new glazes to include some options similar to old ones. For example, the new Titanium glaze over Red Rock gives a result similar to what Polar over Pitch used to give.

It's great to see some of the new glazes in use and members exploring new, fresh glazing ideas.

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## Expression of interest for a Gas Kiln Course with Chris Harford

A number of members have expressed interest in undertaking a gas kiln course. We have devised a program under our COVIDSafe practices to get this up and running.

**Cost:** \$365 per person

**Places:** limited to six people

### Dates and Times

Day 1 - Sunday 24 February 9.00am–1.00pm

Day 2 - Saturday 9 March 9.00am–1.00pm

Day 3 - Sunday 10 March 7.00am–5.00pm

### Class overview

This course runs over three days, with a two week gap in the middle to allow time for students to prepare and glaze their work. You will learn all about how the kiln works, what reduction does to glazes and clay, and be able to fire your own work. At the successful completion of the course. CPS members will be licensed to fire the CPS gas kilns.

### The Short Course includes

#### Day 1: The downdraft gas kiln

Design, how it works, how it is packed, the combustion system, temperature measurement, explanation of the reduction firing process, burner operation, glaze talk, kiln and kiln furniture care and maintenance, safety aspects.

#### Day 2: Packing

The gap of 2 weeks, gives participants time to glaze their work. (*You will need to make and have your work bisqued and ready to glaze by the start of the course*) Bring as many pots as you like, we will fit as many as we can in the kiln.

#### Day 3: Firing

This will run from 7.00am to approximately 5.00pm and we'll be firing all day. Participants will be able to access Workshop One during the day to work on their own projects.

If you would like to attend please email [classes@canberrapotters.com.au](mailto:classes@canberrapotters.com.au). Places will

be allocated to the first six responses and we will contact you with payment details when we confirm your place.



## SHOP

### **Kelli Donovan**

We have been very busy relaunching the shop after a crazy year with so many things affecting all of us and our shop artists selling their work.

We have been so excited by the amazing customer response to our growing list of artists selling in our shop. We have been selling lots of stock, clay, tools and other shop stock as the weather gets warmer and hopefully this strange year is settling down. Christmas presents are already being purchased from our great selection of products.

We have lots of plans for our Canberra Potter's shop this year and look forward to it growing it into next year.

We now stock the work of around 18 local, talented potters and ceramic artists. If you wish to follow our shop artists we have launched a new 'Artist Spotlight' series. We have been interviewing them and slowly getting each on to our Artist Spotlight on social media- Instagram, YouTube and Facebook. Please support them comment and share their work. It helps support their art and our shop to continue to grow in this region. We also have a new blog page on our website called [Fusion](#). This blog talks about lots going on in the centre and our featured 'Artist Spotlight.'



We are working on a few special things for all of our members and customers for our 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Canberra Potters. It is a very important year and celebration for us. We are working in collaboration with local ethical designer Kelli Donovan and her Pure Pod team to create a Canberra Potters apron. We will send out an order form shortly for the limited edition apron. All orders must be paid for in advance and taken by a due date so they can be manufactured together. These are Australian made high quality aprons. This is a great Christmas present for any potters or ceramic artist. We will shortly have a prototype in the shop for you to view.

We will also be a part of the Design Canberra Festival on 21 November to celebrate our potters and ceramic artists.

Save the date.

[Apply for the shop](#)



Jo Townsend at work in her studio

## EDUCATION

### Jo Townsend & Sue Cant

It's been a busy Term 3, and I'd like to thank everyone for all the work complying with our COVIDsafe practices. Keep up the good work, the workshops have never been so clean. Term 4 classes will continue with the same reduced numbers and will open for booking on October 1.

On a personal note, I am moving on from my role as Education Program Manager to focus more on my own work and have more family time. I'd like to thank everyone for their support and particularly the fabulous teachers and staff of Canberra Potters. This is a great place full of generous people.

All the best

**Jo Townsend**

Term 4 is shaping up to be a busy end to a very strange year. I think for many of us coming to Canberra Potters for classes and to spend time in our shared community has been a wonderful safe and social place to be with like minded people.

We are seeing increasing numbers of members returning to Drop In Sessions and also some new faces. It has been great to have everyone back and to welcome new people.

We will be offering a Saturday evening Drop In Session (6pm - 9pm) from October 10 with the support from members who have generously offered their time to unlock and lock up and make sure the COVIDSafe protocols are followed. You will be able to book into these shortly.

Over the term break we will be concentrating on getting the website ready for bookings starting October 1, deep cleaning the workshops and adjusting our safety protocols so we can continue to provide a safe environment for you to come and enjoy.

We are working on a Summer School with a difference this year and will be in touch as plans fall into place. It is shaping up to be an exciting program.

I want to wish Jo all the best in her new adventures. She has created a wonderful vibrant program of classes for Canberra Potters and we will miss her.

**Sue Cant**

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**GALLERY**

**Katrina Leske**



Image: L: Steve Roper, Graffiti Head, 2019. R: Rob Linigen, Bushcare Bowl, 2020.

As spring slowly sets in and Canberra starts coming out of hibernation, it's lovely to see more and more people join us at Canberra Potters. We have a great set of exhibitions to take us to the end of the year, including our current touring exhibition from Australian Design Centre: [Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft\Prue Venables](#).

Our 2021 exhibition program is almost finalised and includes a brilliant mix of emerging and established artists – from those who are having their first group or solo shows, to professional, internationally-acclaimed artists. I'm proud to announce that once again we will have a full program of ceramics exhibitions, reinforcing Canberra Potters' importance in the local and national ceramics scenes.

Finally, I am continuing to work on new programs and events which will encourage more involvement from our members and volunteers. Keep an eye out in our upcoming mailouts and on social media for more ways to get involved soon!

## What's On

Open for a month already, [Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft\Prue Venables](#) is on in the gallery until 11 October 2020. This stunning exhibition has been well received by members, students and non-clay folk alike. You still have a few weeks to see it – this is one you definitely don't want to miss!

[City News](#) and [The Canberra Times](#) have written some lovely reviews on the show, but if you're still not convinced you can watch [this 10 minute video](#) of Prue talking about her work.

Dates: Open 10am-4pm Tuesday to Sunday until Sunday 11 October 2020

## Coming up in the Gallery



In October, we have two fantastic exhibitions planned for the gallery: [Head to Head](#) by Canberra Potters studio holder Steve Roper, and [Lost and Found](#) by Blue Mountains potter Rob Linigen. These two exhibitions will run consecutively in the gallery, displaying distinctive bodies of work from each artist.

Dates: Friday 16 October to Sunday 1 November 2020

Opening: 6pm, Friday 16 October 2020

## Christmas Fair

If you haven't already, it's time to start thinking about our annual Canberra Potters' Christmas Fair! The fair will be running in a similar extended-market format to previous years, but with an additional focus on having a COVIDSafe environment. As Canberra's only ceramics-focused Christmas market, the fair is always well-attended by people who appreciate buying local, handmade ceramics.

We know a lot of markets have been cancelled this year, so we hope to have many great makers join us in this fun and welcoming event. All Canberra Potters members are encouraged to apply to sell their work.

Dates: Open 10am-4pm Tuesday to Sunday from Thursday 10 to Wednesday 23 December 2020

More details to come, but time to start making!

## The Australian Ceramics Association (TACA) Open Studios

Canberra Potters are happy to be participating in [The Australian Ceramics Association's](#) (TACA) annual [Open Studio weekend](#). Come and join us for a weekend of celebrating all things clay, with demonstrations, artist talks, shop events and opportunities to buy!

Want to be involved? Please email Katrina at [gallery@canberrapotters.com.au](mailto:gallery@canberrapotters.com.au)

Dates: Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 November 2020

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Image: Prue Venables, Black Tea Caddy, Black Oval Forms, Yellow Sieve and White Bowl, 2017. Image: Terence Bouge



## CAPO Grants Round 2020

**Closes 30th September!**

COVID-19 may have meant the cancellation of CAPO's 2020 Auction but our Grants Round continues! Go to CAPO's website to apply for grants from \$500 Emerging Artists' Awards right up to the \$4000 Rosalie Gascoigne Memorial Award.



a Cahill, last year's Rosalie Gascoigne Memorial Award winner, with award sponsor Stephen Bates & Pickering.

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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.



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

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