



Doug Alexander Prize winner 2022, *Shadow Fall #2*, Robyn Campbell

FROM THE BOARD

Dear CPS Members,

2022 saw a return to our vibrant pre-COVID offerings at Canberra Potters with a strong demand for classes. This was made possible by CEO Richard Thomas, his capable staff, and our enthusiastic members and community.

I have been pleased to lead a strong and capable Board, the composition of which at the end of 2022 was:

President	Jill Farrelly
Vice President	Janet DeBoos
Secretary	Kerry Byers
Treasurer	Wil Trewartha
Member	Christine Pearson
Member	Michael Flynn
Member	Nicole James (from 13/12/2022)

2022 in Review

The report on CPS's 2022 activity shows that the effects of COVID restrictions have eased and allowed an almost complete recovery to pre-Covid operations. Richard covers this in more detail in FROM THE CEO.

The headline is that CPS successfully applied for a new Deed of Grant and Licence from the ACT. This secured funding of \$200,000 a year for another 5 years, an increase of around \$80,000 a year. The additional funding will be used to increase staff capacity and to improve services for potters with a disability through more specialised support and equipment.

This outstanding result was made possible by the hard work of the Board, the CEO and CPS staff.

CPS continued to be financially solvent and ended 2022 with an operating surplus of \$108,747, notwithstanding the pressures of rising inflation.

The financial reserves set up in 2020 were reviewed and updated in 2022. At year end the Capital Expenditure Reserve is also starting to pay off for members. We acquired 14 new wheels in 2022, as well as a new large Tetlow kiln to increase our capacity to meet the growing demand to fire members' work.

The Board considered whether 2023 fees would need to increase because of the sharp 7.3% September 2022 increase in CPI. It decided not to increase fees. This was in line with the Board's financial strategy of making sufficient surpluses to keep our Reserves fully funded and to minimise the impact on members for as long as possible.

James Collier stepped down from his position in November 2022. The Board thanks James on behalf of all CPS members for his contribution since being elected in 2020. We welcome Nicole James, a potter and CPS member, who was appointed in December.

2023 Outlook

The Board expects that 2023 will be spent finalising the nuts and bolts of the new Deed and Licence agreements.

The Board decided to pursue two priorities at its Strategic Planning Day in February.

The first is *Developing Community Connections* which includes: improving awareness of CPS, planning for the 50th Anniversary, and developing a communication strategy, including a website upgrade.

The second is *Developing CPS Assets*: working with artsACT on the new kiln shed, building maintenance, pressing ahead with our equipment replacement program, and increasing staff capacity.

The updated 5 year CPS Business Plan for 2023-2027 is included in the AGM papers provided to CPS members.

As always we acknowledge the continued support of and interest in CPS of artsACT and the Minister for the Arts, Tara Cheyne.

Jill Farrelly
President

26 April 2023

Kerry Byers
Secretary

26 April 2023



CPS President Jill Farrelly (l) with Maryke Henderson and Michael Liu Chief of Staff for Minister for the Arts Tara Cheyne at Unpredictable: An Exploration of Soda Vapour Glazing 2004-2022 exhibition.

FROM THE CEO

Introduction

We were pleased to commence 2022 with a full complement of artistic programs, exhibitions and artist opportunities for our members, participants and visitors. The tentacles of the pandemic gradually released their grip and allowed our stoic ceramic arts community to get back to what we love.

Artistic Programs

We were unable to offer a visiting artist for our traditional Summer School but instead offered a revised and diverse School Holiday program with courses for children and adults, novices and experienced artists. For the first time in over 9 months, we had a full calendar of term and holiday courses. Sue Cant supported by Abbey Jamieson and our fabulous teaching cohort of over 14 teachers and assistants provided a jam packed year of term classes, short courses, masterclasses, and workshops. We continue to grow our capacity to provide places for those with disabilities to actively participate and develop their pottery skills. Our artistic programs form the backbone of our operations and allow the rest of the Canberra Potters activities to thrive.

Gallery

Our 2022 gallery program brimmed with a full calendar of exhibitions by emerging and established ceramic artists and potters. Katrina Leske was able to present a rewarding and expressive program comprised of new works and fulfilling commitments from the previous years disrupted program. We were honoured to host renowned Australian ceramic artist Owen Rye as he explored new directions in his work. A highlight of the year was presenting an important survey of Maryke Henderson's work titled *Unpredictable*. A leading Australian exponent of Soda Vapour Glazing this was Maryke's first solo show in Canberra. The gallery continued its commitment to supporting emerging makers with our Emerging Artist Support Scheme (EASS) exhibition featuring recent graduates for the ANU School of Art and Design Ceramics Workshop and *(in)tangible* an exhibition of recent Honours Graduates later in the year. We spread our wings in the form of a collaborative exhibition with Belco Arts featuring several of our members in the Generator Gallery at the Belconnen Arts Centre. *Not the Only Clay in the Village* was a very popular exhibition and featured the work of ceramicists and potters from the LGBTIQA+ community and we hope to explore further opportunities with these artists.

Member's Shop

The Canberra Potters Member's Shop continues to champion our member makers and visiting artist's work. Abbey Jamieson worked tirelessly throughout 2022 to ensure the shop offered a varied selection of table ware and contemporary ceramic artwork and pottery to an ever growing customer base. The shop provides a platform for our emerging makers to begin to sell their work and as a desirable outlet for established makers too. The popularity of our Clay Away Kits (a CPS staff innovation during lockdown) continued

to grow. They have become an important addition to our children's and corporate team building activities.

Technical & Workshops

The Canberra Potters engine room with Joey Burns and Dan Venables guiding their support team of Paul Dumetz and Anna O'Neale ensured our infrastructure was in excellent condition to rise to the challenges of a post pandemic onslaught of member and course work. An ongoing program of equipment renewal saw the introduction of 14 new Shippo wheels across the three workshops and the purchase of a new Tetlow kiln.

Artist-in-Residence (AIR) and Studio Tenants Program

As our AIR program ramped up, we welcomed five visiting artists during 2022. Happily, we were able to have Rob Linigen host our Winter School after having to cancel his planned previous visit due to the lockdown. The remaining visitors were drawn from national and international sources and provided well attended and engaging artist programs. Notably our AIR activities consistently gain interest from interstate participants as our reputation for workshops of excellence grows.

Events & Community Outreach

2022 was a welcome return to our member events and community outreach. Most of our visiting artists gave studio or floor talks. Our second presentation of our winter festival Fired Up! grew in popularity gaining warm praise from all those attending.

Thank you to Jill Farrelly, Chair and the Board for their governance and continued support throughout the year. Together we were successful in securing a new Deed of Grant and Licence from the ACT Government. Thank you to artsACT and Minister Cheyne for their continued support and confidence in our organisation. Not only did we receive another 5 years of secure tenancy at these wonderful premises but we have gained additional funding to support our activities and services to our members. Importantly, special thanks from me to our members who through your contribution of time, participation and creativity make my job so worthwhile.

As ever I'm grateful for my hard-working staff, largely casual and part-time workers, who through their love of ceramics and dedication to our organisation make Canberra Potters such a significant part of the Canberra arts landscape.



Richard Thomas

CEO

Canberra Potters' Society

26 April 2023

CPS REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2022

Our Purpose: To develop Canberra Potters' Society and Watson Arts Centre into a dynamic, innovative and inspiring arts centre of excellence; to support personal and professional development at all levels of ceramic arts practice; and to engage the community through arts, exhibition and retail experiences.

GOAL 1 Continue to be a leading ceramic arts hub by delivering dynamic, innovative, and inspiring ceramics programs

Program	Measure	2022	2021	2020
Masterclass/ Workshops	Number of hours	1152	924	540
Artists in Residence	Number of Residencies	5	3	0
Studio tenancies	Occupancy rate (%)	100%	100%	100%
Class contact hours	Adult	34830	24105	12744
	Children	10800	3379	2349
	Holiday	448	320	368

Masterclasses & Workshops

The last impacts of the pandemic meant we were unable to offer our usual Summer School however local artists and members Anna O'Neale, Mahala Hill, Joey Burns and Jo Townsend offered an eclectic selection of short courses and skills based workshops over the summer holidays. Further short courses were offered throughout the year as our members and students slowly regained their confidence to begin attending regular classes again at CPS. Masterclasses were led by visiting artists Emma Parker, Rob Linigen, Kazuya Ishida and Ruth Ju-shih Li.

Classes

Classes commenced slowly in January 2022 with the tail end of pandemic restrictions seeing people more confident to return to classes at Canberra Potters.

2022 has seen strong demand for term classes for children and adults. Children's classes returned in Term One and our offering has grown to eight term classes.

Adult term classes have expanded to include special skills classes each term covering altered forms, glaze, working with slabs and tableware. All have been well subscribed.



Visiting artist Kazuya Ishida (Image: Sue Cant)

Studio Tenancies

Tenancies remained stable during 2022 and continued to support our artists and reflect our role as a leading ceramic arts hub and are a significant part of our vibrant creative community.

Studio holders during 2022 were Sue Peachey, Robyn Booth, Julie Pennington, Jackie Lallemand, Lea Durie, Steve Roper, Tanya McArthur, Maricelle Olivier, Phoebe Breen and Eden Reni.



Artist in Residence Ruth Ju-shih Li welcomes Minister for the Arts Tara Cheyne to her studio during her residency in December 2022.

Artists in Residence

There were five artist residencies during 2022. Victorian ceramic artist Emma Parker joined us to share her figurative sculptural works during a masterclass and exhibition. Julie Bartholomew spent some time in our workshops as a self-directed resident, Velda Hunter returned to Canberra to prepare a body of work translating decorative surfaces onto ceramic forms. Rob Linigen joined us over the winter to present his postponed Winter School and lastly Ruth Ju-shih Li gave as a short stay taster of what she would be presenting in her upcoming Summer School.



Trees Maryke Henderson 2022 from Unpredictable: An Exploration of Soda Vapor Glazing 2004-2022.

GOAL 2 Be a leading ceramics-focused exhibition space by delivering dynamic, innovative, and inspiring exhibition programs.

Program	Measure	2022	2021	2020
Ceramic-centric exhibitions	Number of exhibitions	10	8	5
National & international exhibitions	Number of exhibitions	2	2	1
Studio Collaborative multidisciplinary exhibitions	Number of exhibitions	2	1	0
CPS curated exhibitions	Number of exhibitions	3	3	3
All programs	Number of visitors	8461	7997	3488

Gallery Exhibitions

In 2022 the Gallery presented 11 exhibitions of which 10 were ceramic-centric (this compares to 14 in 2021, of which 8 were ceramic-centric).

Highlights included a highly anticipated survey show by Maryke Henderson, an exhibition of new works and photography by Owen Rye and the Doug Alexander Prize awarded to Robyn Campbell for her work *Shadow Fall #2*.

Shop

The shop represented 41 local potters (an increase of 6 artists from 2021) and 7 AIR participants. The online shop continues to gain a following and the Clay Away kits are reaching new audiences such as corporate events, hen's nights and children's parties.



The Shop is a popular destination to purchase CPS Member work and for expert advice.

GOAL 3 Be a vibrant, inclusive community venue by meeting the needs of the ceramic's community and members through programs that are vibrant, accessible and inclusive.

Program	Measure	2022	2021	2020
Community events	Number of events	5	3	2
	Number of participants	3410	3427	1000
Inclusion: Special group events	Number of events	5	4	2
	Number of participants	89	36	35
Member events	Number of events	12	3	0
Membership	Number of members	666	534	471

Member and Community Events

We returned to an almost full program of member and community events in 2022. Including: Fired Up!, 5 exhibition floor talks, 3 community markets, 4 Clay Conversations, and our studio holders took part in the TACA open days program.



Shoppers and stall holders at our Christmas Fair market 2022

Inclusion and Access

Canberra Potters continues to work to provide access to people of levels of skill and ability. Courses are developed with the Education Program Manager and designed to meet students' specific needs. CPS provided 5 standalone courses for 89 vulnerable people and supported in excess of 100 adults and children living with disabilities to participate in mainstream courses at Canberra Potters during the year. The Education Team has developed strong working relationships with Support Services across Canberra.

Membership

Our membership as of 31 December 2022 was 666 and consisted of 327 singles, 87 families, 131 seniors, 37 senior families, 73 concessional students and 11 life members.

GOAL 4 Be a recognisable brand in the ACT and Australian arts community by providing exciting experiences for makers and audiences, as well as bringing makers and audiences together.

Strategy	Measure	2022	2021	2020
Engagement	Email subscribers	2117	1708	1206
	Social media followers (2021 inc. FB & Instagram)	3959(FB) 4266(Ins)	3641(FB) 3621(Ins)	2800
	Member Mailouts	53 open rate avg 53.5%	24	7
Media	Reviews, interviews	5	3	5
	Media Releases	11	9	6

Engagement and Media

In 2022 CPS returned to a full program of public events. All our exhibitions and events were supported by media releases, social media promotion and member engagement through newsletters, website and onsite contact. We were excited to hold our second Fired Up! Winter Festival and a significant survey exhibition by

Maryke Henderson. An approach from members of the LGBTQIA+ community resulted in developing new media contacts through Fuse magazine. Articles also appeared in the Canberra Times, City News and local radio stations ABC Canberra, ArtSound FM and 2CC.



Media Post for Rob Linigen Artist talk at Canberra Potters 29 July 2022



Media Post for 2022 Emerging Makers Market

GOAL 5 Be a sustainable arts organisation characterised by best practice governance. By adopting best practice Board, financial and people practices.

The response to COVID

CPS staff, led by the CEO, continued again to manage COVID risks and minimise their impact through the COVID-19 Response Plan, Safe Operation Plan and Return to Work Plan.

Strategy	Description	2022	2021	2020
COVID	Respond to and address risks	Yes	Yes	Yes
Best practice governance	Annual review of governance against AICD principles	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Implement Board submissions processes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Update 5 year Business Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sustainable finances	Set aside funds for a Capital Expenditure Program	Fund intact	Fund intact	Yes
	Set aside funds for Prudential Reserve	Fund intact	Fund intact	Yes

Best practice governance

The results of the second governance review were implemented. This included development and implementation of a Risk Management Framework.

A third survey was conducted for 2022. This found that our practices were sound overall with an average score of 4.3 on a scale of 5 (compared to 4.1 in 2021 and 3.8 in 2020). It identified further areas for improvement which will be the Board's focus in 2023 such as Board succession planning.

The Board agreed to an updated Business Plan for 2023-2027 as part of the Deed of Grant application process.

Sustainable finances

The Board reviewed its arrangements to ensure CPS' long term financial sustainability and continues to:

- set aside funds from our cash reserves for a capital expenditure program. This will ensure that we are able to fund the replacement of ageing equipment such as wheels and kilns, as well as for leasehold improvements; and
- set aside funds from our cash reserves for a "Prudential Reserve". This will ensure that we are able to ride out unexpected events (such as COVID) for up to 10 weeks.

The Board in 2022

The Board met 7 times in 2022 (the Constitution requires four meetings) and the AGM was held on 12 May 2022.

The Board and AGM considered 15 operational reports (19 in 2021) and 23 strategic submissions (32 in 2021) during the year.

The dates of Board meetings during 2022 and attendance of eligible Board members is provided in table on following page.



Emma Parke, visiting artist, following COVID protocols during Floor Talk 2022

The CPS Board in 2022

Board Member	CPS Member	18/02	24/03	AGM 12/05	23/06	18/08	01/09	20/10	12/12	Total
Jill Farrelly (President)	Yes	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8/8
Janet DeBoos (Vice President)	Honorary Life Member	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8/8
Kerry Byers (Secretary)	Yes	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8/8
Wil Trewartha (Treasurer)	Independent	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8/8
Christine Pearson	Yes	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	7/8
James Collier (to 1/11/22)	Yes	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	NE*	6/7
Michael Flynn	Independent	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8/8
Nicole James (from 13/12/22)	Yes	NE*	NE*	NE*	NE*	NE*	NE*	NE*	NE*	0/0
Adeline Jeffrey (Observer as Board Intern)	Yes	NE*	NE*	NE*	1	1	0	1	1	4/5
Board Business	2021									2022
Operational Reports, Submissions	19	2	2	3	2	2	0	2	2	15 (-4)
Strategic Submissions	32	3	4	0	5	2	1	2	6	23 (-9)

*Not Eligible