

The Canberra Potter



The Newsletter of Canberra Potters' Society Inc.

INSIDE: New Website Kilns Courses Yarauna Centre Instagram for Potters Friday Night Supper Club Open Studios & more...

Potters in Bloom at Potters Place, Watson Arts Centre

Potters in Bloom

It must be spring if our thoughts are turning to Canberra's popular flower spectacular—Floriade. Casting back to last year our resilient shop members spent seven days in very unspring like weather onsite at Floriade. This year they're opting for a more strategic approach with our own mini festival of the garden at Potters Place at Watson Arts Centre.

Titled *Potters in Bloom* the members of Potters Place are springing out of winter to welcome spring from a new perspective. They're inviting their customers to decorate their gardens with locally made studio pottery from the foyer garden display. Every item is unique, offering lots of whimsical fun.

Items to brighten garden or home include: ceramic flowers, tableware decorated with flowers, fish, magpies, chooks, snail motels, herb and bulb stakes, house numbers, mushrooms, watering cans, birds and bird feeders, baths and houses.

Flowers from the Garden at Dickson will be on display providing a wonderful array of spring blooms and potted delights to add a seasonal touch.

***Potters in Bloom* will be open from 14 September to 15 October 2017.**

Open times: 10-4pm Thursday-Sunday

**Canberra Potters
Annual Members
Exhibition 2017**
Opening 5 October
Application Form
and all details
available at [Canberra
Potters website](http://CanberraPotters.com.au)



From the Director

Welcome to the September issue of *The Canberra Potter*, slightly delayed for various reasons, but nonetheless bursting with items of note and various tidbits to herald spring and all the growth it promises.

The most significant news to share is the launch of our new website. It represents a change in the way we are doing business. Students are encouraged to book online for classes and events. Although we're still ironing out some early bugs, I'm confident the process will become easier and relieve much pressure on our enrolments area. Thank you to all those who have contributed ideas, content and support during the development of this new and valuable resource for our organisation.

Potters in Bloom will be on display in the foyer from 14 September to 15 October. Potters Place will focus on all things horticultural. It's open during our usual hours and spectacularly supported by **Flowers From The Garden** in Dickson who will be adding some springtime blooms. Drop in and check it out.

News from the kiln shed includes the arrival of a brand-new kiln to replace the dear-departed Kiln 2. Slightly larger, this little ripper will take up the slack and free up our larger hard-working kilns. We are keen to move some old kilns from the veranda area so please talk to Shaun or me if you'd like to take on a project.

In some late-breaking news (always wanted to say that) we have just heard that the long-awaited upgrade on our extraction hood has been approved. Thank you to the artsACT facilities management group for getting this done for us. It's a significant upgrade to our kiln shed and will ensure the health and safety of our users.

Our eagerly awaited Members Exhibition has been taking shape and I'm very pleased to announce that all our usual sponsors have once again agreed to donate prizes. In addition, we welcome **The Curatoreum** as sponsor for the People's Choice Award. The entry form is available from our website.

Richard Thomas

Director

director@canberrapotters.com.au

Yurauna Centre & Canberra Potters

We're very pleased to welcome the students from the Yurauna Centre at CIT to Canberra Potters as part of our Artist-in-Residence program for 2017. Connections were first made with the CIT Yurauna Centre, Cultural Arts Teacher, Leanne Pope and Canberra Potters' Director Richard Thomas at last year's Floriade.

Once Janet Fieldhouse was confirmed as an AIR participant for part of 2017 it seemed like a natural fit to invite Leanne's group to Watson to take part in a five-week workshop with Janet.

Janet has been working closely with the students as they develop a theme and work towards a body of work which will form part of a later exhibition at Watson Arts Centre Gallery.

This collaboration has been made possible by funding supplied through artsACT as part of their Artist Residency Fund.



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Contributions are welcome.

Please email copy and images with captions to the editor:

editor@canberrapotters.com.au

Next Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday 26 September 2017

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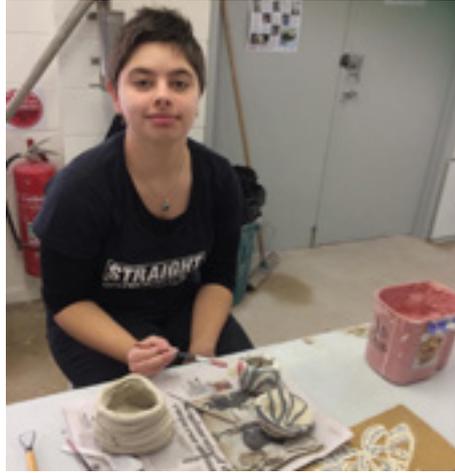
Gallery/Shop hours

Thursday–Sunday

10–4 pm

ABN 65 491 135 689

More images of the students from the Yurauna Centre at CIT.



Website Live

Our website is now live! If you haven't had the chance to explore it fully here's a brief tour of what you will find and how you can use it. Of course, the site is compatible across all platforms and devices (smart phones and tablets) so you can take us anywhere you go. And its address stays the same:

www.canberrapotter.com.au

The homepage is your 'go to' information page for all things Canberra Potters and Watson Arts Centre. Top of page you'll find a search field where you can type in information you want to locate quickly on the website. Directly below this is a link to our Facebook page and in the future, there will be a link to our Instagram account too.

Along the top of the changing 'sliders' is the main navigation menu that contains roll-over-drop-down menu options that will take you directly to specific areas of the site.

The sliders are constantly changing and allow us to promote current events, classes, exhibitions and topics of interest. You can click on the slider for further information but all the information is available elsewhere on the site—there are optional pathways through the menus to the information you want.

The square tiles below the sliders show frequently-used information or events we believe users need to see up-front. This will change from time to time although not as frequently as the sliders. Some tiles will remain constant such as our contact and hours of operation information.

When you click on any option from the homepage you will be taken to a top-level page within that subject area. For example, menu items such as Learn, Potters Place, or Studios will each offer you further menu options available within each subject area. The more complex the information the further down you will be taken.

The class information located within 'Learn' deserves special mention as it sees a significant shift in the way we are taking enrolments to our classes. This also applies to events and workshops. If you are interested in taking a class or signing up for a Workshop the top level will give you a short description of the event and invite you to see more detailed information. If it is of interest, you are able complete an online payment form. An automated response will confirm your booking and give you class-specific information.

Note: People who are unable to book online can still book by contacting the class enrolment officer.

As we migrate more of our information to this valuable information-rich resource we hope you will become familiar and comfortable in the way you use and interact with your organisation in the online space.

Richard Thomas

Friday Night Supper Club Reviewed

On the last Friday of the month Canberra Potters (generally) holds our Supper Club. It's an opportunity for our members and friends to meet an artist in an informal gathering of clay minded people. A great way to keep yourself connected to your fellow potters and to be inspired by the work of others. Our last gathering was no exception as we were introduced to the work of our current Artist-in-Residence, Janet Fieldhouse.



Janet presented slides of her portfolio of work developed since her studies at ANU School of Art. She spoke of her strong cultural heritage to the islands of the Torres Straits and the totems, customs and techniques that inform her work.

Janet was a major award winner of the Indigenous Ceramic Art Award (ICAA) in 2007, very early in her career and she discussed how this has affected her approach to work as a professional ceramicist. She discussed what it's like being represented by a gallery and having an agent. She is now a multiple ICAA winner.

The evening covered lots of ground as Janet generously responded to questions about meanings and symbols used in her work, techniques employed through to packing work for shipment—a complete topic in itself! Of particular interest was her experience with her Melbourne gallery.

Around the Kilns

Over the last couple of months Shaun Hayes has settled in as Technical Assistant and we are implementing the findings of the Kiln Advisory Group. The unexpected meltdown of Kiln 2, which was one of our most popular and hard-working kilns, has fast-tracked the purchase of a replacement kiln. We are expecting delivery in the next couple of weeks.

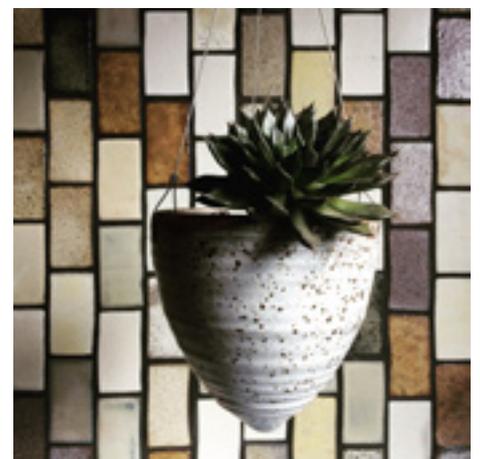
We are undertaking a clean-up of the kiln shed and veranda area and will have several kilns, surplus to our needs and needing repair, for sale. Please contact Shaun if you'd like to make an offer. Notification of which kilns will be for sale will go out to members soon.

A less appealing part of the job is the regular destruction of uncollected work. The trolley load of work pictured is due to be destroyed in the next couple of weeks. Is your work on this trolley? Please pick it up ASAP.



Do any of these pots look familiar? Rescue them now.

Open Studios Canberra 2017 at Richilde Flavell's Girl Nomad



Friday Supper Club

September 29

6 for 6.15 pm

Entry by gold coin donation

This month we welcome Executive Officer of the Australian Ceramics Association (TACA), Vicki Grima. You may be aware that Vicki will be running an important workshop for practising professional and semi-professional makers/artists at the end of this month at Canberra Potters (details on our new website if you are interested). Well we've also enticed her to stay on an extra night so that she can present for us at the September Supper Club!

As well as being heavily involved in TACA, Vicki is a practising ceramic artist in her own right. She exhibits regularly and her fine, delicate porcelain vessels are a joy to behold. She makes her work by hand-pinching the forms and matching up the smooth surfaces of the porcelain with rougher and darker textured clays.

With a background in teaching visual arts, Vicki has developed her own arts practice over many years. She enjoyed 14 years as a member of a co-operative ceramics gallery in Sydney, and continued to teach a broad range of visual arts to adults throughout Australia.

For the last 11 years Vicki's ceramic practice has been squeezed into any remaining gaps, providing her with a place to ponder the beauty in handmade details – finger prints, delicate edges and decoration which unravels as the viewer gets closer.

Her small pinch pots are made using mid-fire porcelain body; they are translucent, impressed with intricate textures and decorated with delicate gold lustre dots. Made to nestle in the

hand, Vicki's work spans functional, sculptural and decorative realms. Check out her work at:

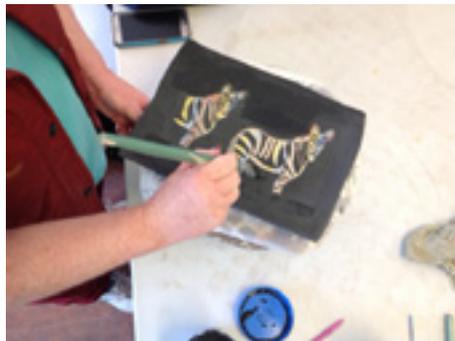
vickigrima.com.au

I'm sure Vicki will have many pearls of wisdom to share about juggling a busy arts practice with a busy 'other' job as she does both with great passion and wisdom.

See you at the Supper Club!



Open Studios Canberra 2017 at Monika Leone's Mawson Gallery



Education News

After a busy Term 3 we are pleased to see the online booking system is working well. Bookings are rolling in for Term 4 with some classes already full. Don't leave your booking too late or you may miss out. Bookings are already starting to come in for our Spring school holiday classes. There are options for all interests and ages.

We have changed the date of the new **Surface design and development** course. It runs over 2 Tuesday nights (28 Nov & 5 Dec). Suzanne Oakman will take you through the principles of design and teach you how to go about developing your own unique surfaces. If you're just awaking from your winter hibernation and feeling like exercising your inner potter, then we have two new short courses to tempt you from your burrow.

Developing Your Style: Pourers Cups and Mugs with Handles with Kaye Pemberton

Back by popular demand, Kaye Pemberton will run a three day course over the October long weekend called, Developing Your Style: Pourers, cups and mugs with handles. Suitable for intermediate and advance throwers who will under Kaye's expert guidance develop forms suitable for use as drinking vessels and pourers. Particular emphasis will be placed on making handles and attaching them to your thrown pieces. If you haven't had a chance to take one of Kaye's classes yet this is a great opportunity to learn first hand from this exacting and insightful ceramicist.

September 30 October 1 & 2

Cost: \$300

Full details available on [website](#)

Watch out also for details of Kaye's January offering on lidded forms.



One of Kaye's pourers

Gas firing course with Chris Harford

Our second short course offering is from Chris Harford who will impart his skills and knowledge in the use of the Gas Kiln Firing. Those familiar with Chris' work will understand the control and mastery he has over this kiln by the staggering and consistent results he achieves. 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 Members will be licensed to fire the Canberra Potters gas kilns.

October 8, 21 & 22

Cost: \$340

Full details available on [website](#)



Gas fired kiln showing reduction-glazed work

Summer school update

We are currently finalising the Summer School which will be all about layers of luscious surface decoration with Lia Tajcner. It will be 5 days from Monday 8 January to Friday 12 January. This time we have managed to avoid any overlap with Summerfests. All the details and booking forms will be up on the website shortly.

Open Studios Canberra 2017 at Fran Romano's Frattempo Studio



Open Studios Canberra 2017 at Sophi Suttor's Studio Spohi



Instagram—the basics for an artist

Instagram is a popular form of social media and the best thing is—it's free! It knows no borders and can share your photos/videos around the world immediately.

So, why would you use Instagram? If you want to reach audiences, show them your work and direct them to a mortar and bricks shop, website, gallery, market, event or any other activity, then this is the tool to use.

First thing is to set up your profile. Choose a name—everyone has an @ before their name to show it is a link and the name of a profile—eg. [@bridgetbodeham](#). Add a photo (your headshot or a photo of your work/studio). Add a description: Potter. Then a website and/or contact details.

The images you then put up will define you and your practice—so think about how you want your profile to look and feel, and how you want others to perceive you and/or your business. I suggest you find your favourite potters to see what they are doing. Look at a variety and if any resonate with you then that may be a similar style you will adopt when posting photos.

Photos need to be engaging. Don't put up photos that are blurry, faded, half in the frame etc. You can add hashtags to each photo that goes up to explain what that image is about, and this can help you get likes and exposure. For example: #porcelain #australianceramics #cupoftheday #ACOS2017 #ceramicprocess.

Sometimes artist's posts photos of themselves in a relaxed mood so they are showing another side to who they are. It might be a cup of tea with the cat against a window #simpleandstill #quietthechaos #making_winter.

You can also put up a brief or long description about the image. A viewer might see your photo, like it, then look at your other photos and decide to follow you. Everyone is different in their approach. Instagrammer [@floriangadsby](#) has long postings describing his techniques in detail.

When Sara Tasker, the 'Queen of Instagram', was asked, "what would be your top tip for anyone running their own creative business?", she replied:

"Get on Instagram, for starters! There's an amazing community of makers, artists and creative business owners to support you, and a huge potential customer base just waiting to find your work. It's easy to feel like you're late to the party with social media, but it's never too late to get started and Instagram is a pretty level playing field to dive into. Because it's so visual, it's a brilliant way to showcase your work and really get into the hearts and minds of your real target audience. It's a little like having your own lifestyle magazine or lifestyle blog, but you create it in 5 minutes out of your day."

[\(Source\)](#)

A few of my favourite ceramic instagrammers:

[@australianceramics](#)

[@carterpottery](#)

[@musingaboutmud](#)

[@amykennedyceramics](#)

[@paperboatpress](#)

[@allfiredup.pottery](#)

by Anne Masters

[@annemastersceramics](#)

[@ampmceramics](#)

[@galleryofsmallthings](#)

Editor's note: you can follow dear friends of Canberra Potters too! Just search their actual name in Instagram and they should pop up! Here are a few to get you started:

[@girlnomadceramics](#)

[@frattempoceramics](#)

[@cathy_franzi](#)

[@chris_harford_tableware](#)

[@annaoneale](#)

[@erinkocaj](#)

[@bobstersdream](#)

[@paulie_dumetz](#)

[@townsendjosephine](#)

[@jackie_lallemand](#)

[@ninadavis_au](#)

[@kellyaustinceramics](#)

Diary dates

September/October

Potters in Bloom

14 September-15 October
10am-4pm, Thurs-Sun

Promotion publishing and
photography Workshop
with Vicki Grima

Thursday 28 September 10am-4pm

Friday Night Supper Club
with Vicki Grima

29th September
6 for 6.15pm

Canberra Potters' Members'
Exhibition

Opening 5 October; delivery from
28 September

Developing Your Style: Pourers
Cups and Mugs with Handles
with Kaye Pemberton
September 30 October 1 & 2

Gas firing course
with Chris Harford
October 8, 21 & 22

November

CPS Open Day and Markets
5 November

Watson Arts Centre is a Key Arts Organisation supported by the ACT government and run by Canberra Potters' Society.

We offer:

Classes for children and adults across all levels of ceramic practice. Workshops, Summer Schools and Kids' Holiday classes are available too.

Studios where tenancy applications are always welcome from emerging and established ceramic artists.

Artist-in-Residence program including studio and residence facilities to national and international visiting artists.

Gallery hosting a ceramic focused exhibition program.

Shop with a range of pottery and ceramics to suit all tastes and budgets.

The gallery and shop are open Thursday to Sunday 10am—4pm and most public holidays.

For further information on all programs, events and available facilities please visit

canberrapotters.com.au

Exhibitions

Out There 2017

Watson Arts Centre Gallery

14-24 September

Canberra Photographic Society's 2017 annual exhibition.

Full details on the [website](#).

Canberra Potters Members' Exhibition

Watson Arts Centre Gallery

5 October-3 November

Full details on the [website](#).

Opportunities

Australian Tea Cultural Seminar (AUSTCS), a Not-For-Profit Australian-registered organisation operated by a team of volunteers, is hosting its first seminar in November, in Canberra.

A Welcome by Tea! Ceremony is planned where attendees make a cup of tea of their choice for others on their table. Each attendee will take their cup home.

The organisers are seeking a local potter to make these cups, possibly in a tulip shape or similar, to contain about 60-70 ml. "AUSTCS 2017" should be stamped or scraped into the base. Around 180 to 200 cups and would be required by the first week of November.

If you are interested in making the cups, please check out austcs.org and contact David Lyons.

Email: david@austrcs.org

Mob: 0449 259 107

Wellington Connections

A recent call out from artsACT has asked us to focus some attention on our sister city, Wellington New Zealand.

Canberra Week in Wellington was planned for last November unfortunately cancelled due to a major earthquake. At this stage the organisers are aiming to relaunch the event this coming November.

Sam Tyler and Debbie Burkevics from artsACT will be visiting Wellington in the next couple of weeks to strengthen our arts connections and have asked that our local arts organisations consider ways in which we might interact.

From our initial research the Wellington Potters have a similar structure and membership-based organisation to ours, they will be a great starting point. They have an active Facebook page that's worth checking out.

We of course have a wonderful and very successful Artist in Residence Program that we will be promoting to Wellington and surrounding regions in the hope that we might start to attract some participation.

If any of our members have connections to Wellington or have some relevant information to pass on we'd love to hear from you.

Contact:

director@canberrapotters.com.au

Canberra Show 2018

February is closer than you think.

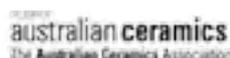
It's not too early to start planning your entry now.

Theme for 2018 is *Kaleidoscope*

Clunes Ceramic Award

The Clunes Ceramic Award is a biennial event, first held in 2009. It is an acquisitive prize of \$10,000, making it one of the major ceramic competitions in Australia and a highly prized Regional Arts Event in Victoria. The short list for 2017 has been announced and includes four CPS members Cathy Franzi, Kelly Austin, Moraig McKenna and Dianna Williams. Their pieces can be viewed here: www.clunesceramicaward.com.au. Congratulations, and fingers crossed for the final judging later this month.

In 2016 the Members' Exhibition was supported by



The family of the late Jane Crick