

**Report of the Board of the Canberra Potters' Society Inc.
Annual General Meeting
27 April 2018**

Snapshot

Memberships

Individual, Families, and Honorary Life
Members
360

Education Program Participants

1,512

Courses and Workshops

131

Class Hours

2,222

Children's Classes

30 with 453 Enrolments

Adult Classes

75 with 760 Enrolments

Parties and Corporate Events Hosted

6 with 78 Participants

Gallery Exhibitions

16

Exhibition Visitors

10,020

Artists in Residence

3

From the President and Board Chair

The Board of the Canberra Potters' Society Inc. (CPS) oversees the CPS, which is now in its 44th year. Operations continue from the Watson Arts Centre (WAC), currently with 360 memberships. These memberships are families, individuals, and Honorary Life Members.

The Board and CPS are guided by the 'Canberra Potters' Society Five Year Business Plan 2014–2018' that identifies the purpose of CPS to:

- Be a leading regional ceramic arts hub;
- Have a high level ceramic focussed exhibition program;
- Be a vibrant community venue; and
- Have an effective business and governance structure.

During 2017, there have been some changes to Board membership. At the time of writing this report, the Board comprises Velda Hunter (CPS President and Board Chair), Nicole Hoffman (Secretary), Russell Eade (Treasurer), Joanne Searle (Education Advisor), Phuong Dang, Jennifer Collier and David Leake (Ordinary Members). Jane Jarvis resigned from the Board in November 2017.

There will be little change to the Board at this Annual General Meeting (27 April 2018), other than Phuong Dang, who is relocating interstate and has resigned. There were no Board applications from members, and only one application (my own) for the position of President.

During this reporting period, the Board has met four times, as required by the Constitution. Matters for discussion and decision included:

- New Board appointments;
- Strategic oversight of CPS;
- Implementation of the new CPS Constitution following consultative development during 2015/16 and 17, and its acceptance at the Special General Meeting in March 2017;
- Communication and liaison with Arts ACT;
- Kiln management and updates as per advice from the Kiln Advisory Group (KAG);
- Amalgamation of Studios 1 & 2 to create one large teaching space
- Work Health and Safety and the Risk Management Plan;
- Events including Open Day, a night market;
- The Artist in Residence (AIR) Program;
- Refurbishment of Studio One;
- Staffing matters including new recruitments and adjustment of position hours;
- Flooding of the Members Room, Library, and Potters Place Shop in February 2018;
- Planning for equitable access to the member's workshop, particularly on weekends.

In all, 2017 has been yet another stellar year for the CPS and WAC. This has been made possible by the diligence and dedication of the staff, and all of the loyal volunteers including the Board members, right through to those who tend the gardens.

I extend my sincere thanks to all for their valuable contribution to our vibrant CPS.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Hunter', written in a cursive style.

Velda Hunter
President and Board Chair
Canberra Potters' Society Inc.

27 April 2018

TREASURER'S REPORT – Canberra Potters' Society (ABN 65 491 135 689)

Financial report for the period 1 January 2017 – 31 December 2017.

Financial statements prepared by the Mercury Financial Group (MFC) for the year ending 31 December 2017 are attached as part of this acquittal. The audit opinion provided by MFC is unqualified, and consistent with the Statements of Accounting Concepts and Applicable Accounting Standards.

Balance Sheet

Assets

At 31 December 2017, the Canberra Potters Society (CPS) had total current assets to the value of \$142,072.36 including cash reserves of \$123,525.08 (cf \$132,752.30 as at 31 December 2016) and stock (clay and pottery tools) with a cost value of \$3,178.16. As of 31 December 2017, the CPS had a total of non-current assets to the value of \$91,972.48 (cf \$94,061.40 as at 31 December 2016) with total assets of \$234,044.84 (cf. \$226,813.70 as at 31 December 2016).

Liabilities

Total current liabilities were \$31,623.30 (cf. \$49,483.92 as at 31 December 2016).

Net Assets

At 31 December 2017, the CPS had net assets of \$202,421.54 (cf \$177,329.78 as at 31 December 2016).

Profit and Loss Statement

The CPS ended with a net profit of \$25,091.76 on the year's activity (cf \$9,005.02 for calendar year 2016).

Income

Gross profit for the calendar year 2017 was \$536,024.04 (cf \$507,831.07 for calendar year 2016) in line with effects to increase student enrolments and more class offerings.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the calendar year 2017 was \$510,932.28 including depreciation charge of \$15,717.68 (cf \$498,826.05 for calendar year for 2016). Increased expenditure reflects artist expenses and ordinary salaries.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

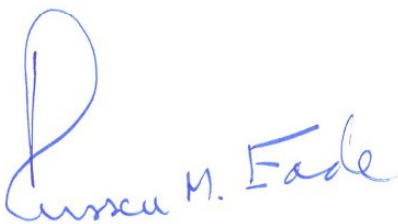
The Management and Board of the CPS are fully aware of the need to run a budget to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the CPS.

A number of strategic initiatives were discussed by the Board throughout calendar year 2017 and will be subject to ongoing work.

- Continuation of the CPS education program to meet the needs of members.
- Continued to improve the planning and marketing of master classes and summer/ winter schools to maximise uptake and to encourage NSW/ ACT enrolments.
- Refreshing the Gallery's exhibition program to facilitate a more cost effective and profitable exhibition program.
- Pro-active engagement with artsACT to secure ongoing funding.

- Continued promotion of the successful Artist-In-Residence (AIR) Program.
- Work, health and safety
- Risk management
- On-going development of forthcoming five-year business plan.

There is no immediate financial threat to the continuing operation of the Watson Arts Centre and the CPS. The CPS maintains substantial cash reserves. The financial position reflects pro-active steps taken to return to profitability compared to previous years.



Russell M Eade CIA FGIA GAICD FFin
Treasurer

April 2018

Education Program

The Education Program continues to grow with an increase in adult classes, and the development of relationships with local schools and institutions continues to strengthen.

Classes for Adults:

- Introduction to Clay
- Intro Intensives
- Basic Wheel Throwing
- General Throwing
- General Hand-Building
- Continuing
- U3A (University of the Third Age)

Classes for Children focus on providing a friendly, fun atmosphere for exploring clay in informative and creative ways.

- Children's Classes (after school)
- Holiday Program
- Home School Classes
- Ainslie School Lunchtime Play Club
- Kingsford-Smith High School for Autism and Special Needs students
- West Belconnen Child and Family Centre
- Gungahlin Child and Family Centre
- Dickson College

Professional Development for Art Teachers

- Teacher Quality Institute accredited course - Art Basics

During 2017 Canberra Potters offered a full calendar of adult, child, and special interest classes to cater for all levels of ceramic arts interest and levels of experience. As our principal source of income, the education program continues to experience strong interest and growth.

Our consolidated education pathways respond to participant wants and skill sets. Introduction to Clay courses proved popular and Intro Intensives gave first time potters more opportunity to take up courses without committing to a term structure. The increase in Introduction to Clay classes has seen a steady flow of students into our General Classes. We also increased the number of Basic Wheel throwing Classes from 1 to 3. These classes continue to be popular and book out quickly.

In support of student desires, we were able to offer General Throwing, and General Hand-Building Classes throughout the year. These classes run for nine weeks and are a structured class where individual skills are further developed. Most participants in these classes choose to reenrol for multiple terms.

Continuing Classes, our third education tier, offer the more experienced students an opportunity to create and produce ceramic/pottery projects on their own with minimal hands on instruction from the teachers. The teachers in these classes offer input on conceptual and technical aspects of ceramic arts and facilitate the achievement of student project goals. These classes ran for three terms, but there were insufficient enrolments to run the classes during Term 4.

During 2017, we offered four or five children's classes each week of term. Offered on Monday mornings

for home-schooled students, Monday and Tuesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. They focus on providing a friendly fun atmosphere for exploring clay in an informative and creative ways. Interest has been consistent with some requests to explore optional times.

In 2017, we offered a Teacher Quality Institute accredited course - Art Basics on three occasions the course to small but enthusiastic groups. We have identified this course as a vehicle to increase our income stream and to develop outreach pathways with the ACT education sector.

Master Classes and Workshops

Once again, professional potters and established ceramicists had opportunity to enrol for Master Classes and Workshops throughout the year. This included 'Mind Your Business', a course to assist professional potters with the business side of their practice.

During 2017, CPS offered numerous Master Classes and Workshops attracting 45 participants. There were:

- Summer School - Jenny Orchard 04–08 January 2017
- Thrilling throwing - Kaye Pemberton 14, 15, 21, 28 January 2017
- Working with Paperclay - Carla Wolfs 26 February, 5, 19 March 2017
- Teapots Galore! - Rick Beviss 25 & 26 March 2017
- TQI Course—Art Basics with Josephine Townsend 14 May 2017
- Raku Firing Course with Chris Harford 28 May 2017
- More Teapots Galore! with Rick Beviss 24 & 25 June 2017
- Throwing clinic with Kaye Pemberton 01 & 02 July 2017
- Winter School— Glaze development with Rob Linigen 15 - 19 July 2017
- TQI Course II—Art Basics with Josephine Townsend 31 August 2017
- Mind Your Business with Vicki Grima 28 October 2017
- Developing Your Style with Kaye Pemberton during October 2016 and May 2017
- Gas Firing Course with Chris Harford 8, 21, 22 October 2017
- TQI Course III—Art Basics with Josephine Townsend 21 November 2017
- Surface Design with Suzanne Oakman 28 November 2017

Using member feedback through informal discussions, and surveys CPS will continue to target Master Class and Workshop presenters, teachers and content to ensure member interests, participation and development opportunities.

Artist in Residence Program

Canberra Potters offers the Artist-in-Residence (AIR) program through the facility at Watson Arts Centre. The purpose built ceramic arts studio and accompanying residence provides a creative haven for practicing national and international ceramic artists and potters. The close-knit community atmosphere encourages interactive and collaborative relationships between the visiting artist and our studio holders and members.

Abbey Jamison—EASS Award
Carla Wolfs—Self Directed
Janet Fieldhouse—Professional

Visiting artists are encouraged to present their work at the conclusion of their stay, sometimes as a formal exhibition but often as a studio show and sale. This helps us share the AIR program with the wider community.

Studios

In 2017 we have completed our third full year under a revised studio holder policy. All tenancies were governed by the policy, and in particular, the timeframes stipulated.

Where artists are complementary in practice and approach to their studio activity, shared tenancies were offered. This resulted in reducing studio waiting times, and an increased number of artists on-site. This significantly contributes to the vibrant creative community.

The studio selection panel made of up staff and members of CPS/WAC. The panel includes: Richard Thomas—Director CPS/WAC; Velda Hunter—Board Chair; Sara Hogwood—Program Manager WAC; and Josephine Townsend—Education Program Manager CPS.

Tenants for 2017 included:

Studio 2—Chris Harford (until March 2017 when Studios 1 & 2 were amalgamated); Studio 3—Dedicated AIR space
Studio 4—Rick Beviss (until April 2017), Lesley Lebcowicz (since May 2017), Jo Victoria (since May 2014); Studio 5—Fran Romano (until December 2017), Verney Burness (until July 2014) then Alya Khan (since December 2017), Mark Saunders (since December 2017)
Studio 6—Zoe Slee (until June 2017) then Andreas Caycedo (since July 2017) and Raj Reddy (since July 2017) Studio 7—Richilde Flavell (since February 2016), Isabelle Mackay-Sim (until July 2017), Lia Tacjnar (since January 2016)

Artist in Residence

CPS offers an Artist-in-Residence (AIR) program through our facility at Watson Arts Centre. Our purpose built ceramic arts studio and adjacent residence provides a creative haven for practicing national and international ceramic artists and potters. Our close-knit community atmosphere encourages interactive and collaborative relationships between the visiting artist and our studio holders and members.

Visiting artists are encouraged to present their work at the conclusion of their stay sometimes as a formal exhibition but often as a studio show and sale. This helps us share the AIR program with the wider community.

In addition, CPS received funding for the AIR Program toward hosting an indigenous artist.

CPS hosted three resident ceramicists for the AIR Program in 2017. These were:

Abbey Jamison—EASS Award winner
Carla Wolfs—Self Directed
Janet Fieldhouse—Professional.

Exhibition Program

Our 2017 exhibition program saw originality, innovation and quality in artworks from local, regional, national, and international artists.

The exhibition program aims to be diverse and inclusive, representing various cultures, heritages, ages, genders, abilities, forms and scales of art practice. Exhibitors ranged from established national and international artists, emerging and mid-career artists and people for whom their art form is better classed a hobby rather than artistic career but is no less genuine in its quality, diversity and, often, innovation.

In promoting such artistic creativity to Canberra audiences, we aim to foster not just passive audience participation in the arts – viewing and appreciation – but also active participation via the facilities that our ceramics workshops and education program provide.

During 2017, 16 exhibitions were presented in the gallery:

Eleven were ceramic centric exhibitions (one including photography), three more than the goal. Of these eleven exhibitions, one was a solo exhibition by an international artist (Carla Wolfs) and one was a group exhibition by international artists (You You).

One was multi-disciplinary exhibitions (Women, Light the Way).

The remaining single-disciplinary exhibitions were photography (one exhibition) and painting/drawing (three exhibitions).

In 2017 there was no paid curatorial exhibition.

The total number of patrons visiting exhibitions was approximately 10,020 (cf. 11,735 in 2016, 11,609 in 2015, 9,591 in 2014 and 11,156 in 2013). While this did not quite meet the goal of 10,573 the drop is mostly attributed to the lower visitor numbers for the Bald Archy Prize, which saw extremely good numbers in 2016. (The Bald Archy Prize 2018 has already been shown and saw a slight increase in numbers on 2017.)

Exhibitions were:

Temple of Fashion – Amanda Bromfield 19 January – 5 February 2017
New Directions – Paul Dumetz 19 January – 5 February 2017
The Bald Archy Prize 2017 10 February – 13 March 2017 (open daily).
Women, Light the Way 23 March – 9 April 2017;
Pop-Up – Carla Wolfs 13 April – 14 May 2017
This Way – Heidi Strachan (EASS 2017) 18 May–11 June 2017
Student/Teacher Exhibition 22 June–9 July 2017
Changes 13 –30 July 2017
Evolve – Marsden Art Group 3–13 August 2017;
Janet Fieldhouse 17 August–10 September 2017
Light and Heat – Jane Kelly and Josephine Townsend 17 August–10 September 2017
Out There 2017 – Canberra Photographic Society 14–24 September 2017
Canberra Potters Members' Exhibition 5 October–3 November 2017
You You Exhibition 9–19 November 2017;
Elements of Place – Tin Shed Art Group 23 November–3 December 2017
Christmas Pottery Fair 7–23 December 2017; open daily

Award winners at the Canberra Potters Members' Exhibition were:

Doug Alexander Award - Robyn Campbell.

Walker Ceramics:

- Cesco Wheel-throwing Award – Katrina Leske
- Brian Privett Award for Surface Decoration – Chris Harford

Clayworks Tertiary Award – Mahala Hill

Craft ACT: Craft & Design Centre Award – Katrina Leske and Paul Dumetz

Keane Ceramics Hand-building Award – Monika Leone

The Curatoreum Peoples' Choice Award – Leonie Lucey

The Australian Ceramics Association (3 merit awards):

- Steve Roper
- Sue Fisher
- Daniel Leone (tertiary)

Community Engagement

Special Events are highlighted during 2017 by continued community outreach events like Cap Expo and Canberra Show. Our annual Open Day is an ongoing success for our organisation with visitor numbers exceeding those of the previous year and our third appearance at Art-Not-Apart was greeted with extremely favourable responses from the organisers and participants. Through our outreach programs and community activities continue to attract new audiences to our organisation and facility.

Events where CPS participated were:

CapExpo at the Old Bus Depot
Art-Not-Apart.
Canberra Show
CPS Open Day