

A word from our new president

The studio

We have had a very busy year in the studio. Tuesdays have really taken off and Tuesday evenings gained some new members who wouldn't otherwise have been able to attend. Wednesday is always a good day to fall back on - throw on Tuesday and turn on Wednesday! We welcomed quite a few new members, some of whom have been very active. Hope you can continue.

See you in the studio 09 January, 2019 from 10am

The kilns

We have certainly had some ups and downs with the kilns for 2018.

Generally there has been a lot of work put through successfully. A quick audit identified the medium kiln as being on its last legs though it is still working well! The small kiln has gone and we may be looking for a replacement.

The large kiln had its thermocouple fail after being damaged in the move from last year and is now replaced. The door element then failed and has been replaced. The final firing in it for the year was the long awaited stoneware firing which was a disaster - over-firing hugely and one unfortunate work left melted glaze all over the bottom element and shelf which will need to be cleaned up and replaced; the suggestion being we no longer provide stoneware firings as they have never been entirely successful!

AGM - 2018

Gai stood down after a big year with the intention of travelling more next year (with Cam of course). I (David Bartholomew) have stepped into her huge shoes. Derek will be Minutes Secretary, Rachael will take care of memberships, Daphne of course will be our hardworking treasurer again and Raewyn steps in as Vice President. Sue, Liz and Rachael aided by Geeta will take care of the kilns and firing.

XMAS Party

Well, it almost didn't happen. Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre closed for 2 days to rebuild their power system right when our party was due to be held.

Thanks to Derek we still enjoyed the day in air-conditioned comfort at the other end of the park in the Half Dozen Group's premises.

What Have You Done 2018

Congratulations to our 2018 winners and I hope they enjoy their hard won Pottery Supplies vouchers. See their work in the newsletter.

Membership for 2019

Yes, it is that time of year. Your 2019 membership is due: \$32 for the year plus \$2 for each studio day attendance - plus a voluntary donation of \$2 toward kiln maintenance etc.

Cheers, David

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The Xmas
Party at
HDG



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2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Presidents Report

Western Suburbs Clayworker's continued to be as successful this year, it's 13th year, as it was in its first years. We're a unique pottery group in Brisbane that, may I say, is more like a clay family. There's a comradeship and aura amongst members that permeates a vibrant and receptive environment. One of our best attributes is that we freely share our wealth of knowledge.

There have been challenges this year, but with the support of the executive team we've come through them with flying colours. It was the kiln that caused the most anxiety, but it was successfully fired to stoneware last week. The firing team, Sue, Liz and Rachael, have been magnificent through the months of firing with only one 24 year old kiln. A fantastic job and it was very much appreciated.

Of course, without The Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre we wouldn't have our group. The recent experience with our kilns has made us aware of the cost of maintaining pottery equipment for the studio. In an attempt to assist with a small contribution towards any maintenance we are trialling a voluntary donation system for studio users.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Karen and her staff for their tremendous support this year. Karen has advised that we will know about their grant application for a new kiln early next year.

The focus in the studio this year has been on education. We have held workshops for creating coral reef pots, surface decorating, making double bowls and an amphora, an ad-hoc slip casting demonstration, sculpting faces and finally Xmas decorations. Thank you to David, Anthony, Daphne and Rachael who volunteered their services and to members who participated in those fun days. Of course our experienced members are always assisting and answering questions to support the newcomers. The Anne Just and Martin Lack talks enriched our knowledge and dared us to think outside the square.

This year we introduced the Tuesday communication link, for members who wish to work in the studio on Tuesdays, thanks go to Rachael, Merrily, Daphne and Linda the initial volunteers who opened the studio. It is becoming

just as popular as Wednesdays. Rachael and Daphne often open Tuesdays evenings too. Many thanks to Daphne who has worked tirelessly keeping the financial side of things running smoothly.

Then there was our 'piece de resistance', our Annual Exhibition at the Mt Coot-tha Gardens. Marelle and her team did a fantastic job. She purchased more banners, and introduced The Square, which I thought was an advantage to encourage more sales. Even though it was miserable weather we still made a profit. Many compliments and accolades flowed from visitors about the quality of the work displayed. I hope we can encourage more members to participate next year. Our aim is to just cover costs at these exhibitions, it's the rewards from the experience that cultivate confidence and self-esteem in our members which is simply priceless.

Now a huge thank you to David, a life member, who organized the library display at Fairfield; is the Newsletter Editor; does everything that a Secretary does, except write the minutes; creates and organizes the advertising material for the exhibition; develops our web site; opens the Studio on Wednesdays; fires the raku kiln, and now purchases and wires up the probe of the thermocouple. And, this year he had to deal with me!

(Val supports him through all of this and when he isn't well, doesn't offer words of empathy, just tells him to get back to work!!!!)

It's been a busy year for me, a most enjoyable year. Cam and I hosted our first social, the raku demonstration and luncheon, which we enjoyed immensely and the social trip to Swell was amazing. You're a great crew!

I'm stepping down from the Presidency because we intend to travel in 2019. However when in Brisbane I will be at the studio to chat and help out where ever I can. Thank you so very much everyone for being so accepting and especially supportive, it has been truly appreciated. Best wishes for a very happy Christmas and safe and enjoyable holidays.

Gai McDonald - outgoing President

MEMBERS' TO DO LIST

**The studio will be closed:
12 December 2018 until 9 January 2019**

- 2019 **Handbuilding/Decoration workshop** with Rachael
- 2019 Anyone for **Raku**?
- 2019 The rest is up to you! Bring your suggestions to a meeting



BVAC Pop-up Shop December 2018



A selection of work from the Pop-up Shop.
Some of our members even got to model in the re-stitch parade.

What Have You Done Competition 2018

Congratulations on the fabulous diversity of pieces in the WHYD competition! There were glorious glazes, fabulous faces and fish, a menacing mask, beautiful bowls and serene sculptures.

Thank you to the 14 members who submitted 32 entries and to the 20 members who voted.

And thanks to **David** for all the time he put into organising the competition: allocating a code for each piece to ensure impartiality by the judge (!), uploading the photos to the website, preparing the entry form and submission form and generally being a great club life member!!!!

They say "there can only be one winner" but really we all gained something from this competition – YOU completed your pieces (a victory in itself!) and WE got to see the range of work being done by our members.

First prize went to **Raewyn Hogben** for her 'Echidna' – a great achievement considering this is her first year of potting!!!

- Second prize went to **Ana Maria Duque** for her 'Earthly Angel'
- Third prize went to **Daphne Morgan** for her 'Time to Relax'

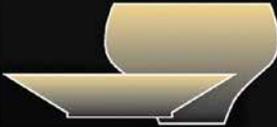
A thought for the new committee: Should we consider separating functional ware and sculpture for next year's competition as they are two very different skill-sets. We tend to applaud and be enthralled with sculpture while perhaps not appreciating the precision needed to produce functional ware or the expertise to get the glaze just right.

Val Bartholomew



Top left: Raewyn's first place Echidna. Bottom right: Ana Maria's Earthly Angel.
Bottom left: Daphne's Time to Relax

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