



A word from our president

Welcome to our first edition for 2018, I hope you've had a fantastic break and are now ready to practise any form of ceramic art that makes your creative juices flow. The studio has already been occupied by members taking advantage of the facilities, friendship and air-conditioning.

Following in Anthony's shoes isn't going to be easy, however, with your help I believe we can make 2018 into another productive, informative and stimulating year. Members are fortunate to not only belong to WSC, but as a group, we have opportunities to join Ceramic Arts Queensland's Toolkits throughout the year and market our clay ware at the BVAC events. These umbrella groups do all the hard work while we benefit from a variety of choices.

The success of any group depends on the contributions of its members. Whether those contributions are ideas, viewpoints, nominating to join the Exhibition committee or simply tidying a corner or shelf in the studio. Whatever the involvement, your support will be valued and appreciated.

Over the past years I've been Co-Founder, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, but never been President. This is an experience that I am honestly nervous about, but with the help of everyone I

hope to progress through the learning curve competently. If I had one objective for this year, it would be to encourage every member to exhibit at least one pot in our annual exhibition. The benefits of exhibiting your creations will leave you with a huge sense of achievement. It's hard work but worth the effort. Other inspirations will be tabled at the meeting.

Many thanks to Vice President, David, who has been assisting me through a few computer technical issues and diligently working to keep our members up-to-date with ceramic news, writing the newsletter, forwarding incoming information, answering queries, and keeping the website current. I'm not sure yet if his quiet 'grunts' are sounds of sufferance or acceptance, but I am grateful for his input and especially his patience.

Please feel free to contact me via phone or email, if you need some help with a clay project or have some great ideas for our studio. Looking forward to seeing you all in the studio for our first meeting of the year on Wednesday 7th February at 10am.

Happy Potting

Gai McDonald

gai.mcdonald@bigpond.com

0411 090 370

This month's web

The future of ceramics <https://www.facebook.com/britandco/videos/1679014818828627/>

contacts

President

Gai McDonald

Secretary

Susan Graham

Western Suburbs Clayworkers

38 Thallon St Sherwood 4075

Email

wsclayworkers@hotmail.com

Newsletter

David Bartholomew

david@vcgraphics.com.au

member profile - david bartholomew

My name is David and I am a serial potter!

There, I have confessed and please don't think less of me for it.

My mother and I started pottery back in the early 1970s while I was still at high school. Adult Education classes were run at schools after hours. Living at Scarborough, Redcliffe at the time we took the classes at the Clontarf State School - I think it was on a Thursday evening with, I'm sure her name was Chloe. All the work was handbuilt in BRT and reduction fired in a gas kiln. At the end of the term we had a Raku firing at her property at Whiteside near Lake Samsonvale. It was wood fired and was pouring rain but still a lot of fun!

In the years following, a group at Redcliffe met once a week to pot at the Education Centre, Henzell Street eventually becoming the Peninsula Potters, now the Redcliffe Pottery Group Inc. Incorporation forced the name change to satisfy bureaucracy where the name represented the area where the group was based more accurately! For my sins as a long-time and founding member I was honoured to be made a Life Member in 2000.

In the mid-70s I studied at Kelvin Grove for an Associate Diploma in Visual Arts. This was after my Bachelor Degree in Built Environment (to satisfy the olds!). Strangely I did not do ceramics at all, painting and drawing were my major interests at the time. A fellow student, Elizabeth, attempted to teach me to throw while I tried to teach her to draw. Not wholly successful on either account but again, fun.

The family had moved to West Chermside, Brisbane by this time but we still attended the Redcliffe group for many years. The double garage soon became a craft room with the family's various hobbies. A pottery wheel was purchased - a Craig held together with bolts which always worked loose which caused a not ideal wobble. It was resold fairly quickly having not been used much or successfully.

A move with the family in the early 80s to Burpengary saw the purchase of my Venco wheel which I still have and a 6 cubic foot Excel front loading gas kiln - my mum's not mine. In the mid-80s I married Val and moved, with my wheel, to Sherwood and 2 years later to Moorooka.

At Moorooka we totally renovated the house in the first year resulting in a large workroom which I shared with Val's mosaics. Taking work back and forth to Burpengary became a pain with losses etc. and we decided to buy a second-hand gas kiln. A kiln in reasonable condition was located at Brighton on Brisbane's northside - a 6 cubic foot top-loading Excel so I was familiar with firing the beast. As you may know kilns are heavy and I had no way of transporting it myself but had the brilliant idea of using piano movers - they move heavy things all the time and this would be easy wouldn't it? The kiln duly arrived at Moorooka with 2 massive guys who were not very happy - the kiln would not fit through the gate at Brighton and they had to lift it over a fence!!!!

The kiln was duly installed under the back deck with the only proviso by the gas fitter that we install a sheet of fibro above the kiln for flame protection - a bit different to today's stringent requirements.

I can't say I really did a lot of pottery back then and it might take 6 months or more to fill the kiln. I also discovered it was a different beast compared to Mum's. I think it was the first bisque firing accidentally happened in 4 hours! Didn't lose a piece - luck or the quality of the work, who can say!

Eventually we moved to Tarragindi where we now live and the kiln had to go - it hadn't been used a real lot - and I

discovered Western Suburbs Clayworkers. Val saw an article in the local paper and phoned Gai.

I have been president at WSC, treasurer, life member, now produce the newsletter and look after the website and have become a registered volunteer at the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre where WSC is based and now am on the board of the SNC.

Since joining WSC I have advanced my work in leaps and bounds. Anthony Durrington (Val knows his uncle from squash days - small world) has been a huge influence on my throwing. His patience knows no bounds!

I now have a small electric kiln at home that I purchased from a club member (Manu). It is used frequently and of course the old Venco still going strong after all these years (I had it serviced at Pottery Supplies 5 or 6 years ago).

Note the green pot on all our notices, newsletters etc was thrown by Anthony (past president), Raku fired by myself (another past president) at Gai's (our current president)!



Samples of some of my recent work

Ceramic bits and pieces

1. McGregor Summer Arts Retreat 2018. **Ceramics with Anthony Brink** from **7 to 13 January 2018** at USQ Campus, Toowoomba. Visit artsworx.usq.edu.au/ceramics-with-anthony-brink/ for more details.

2. **5-day intensive overglaze workshop** with Johanna DeMaine from **Monday 8 to Friday 12 January 2018** at her studio, 55 Maleny Street, Landsborough. Cost: \$850, early bird \$800. Book via Johanna@demaine.org.

3. **Shapes & Scapes** by Helen Saint-Smith and Carol Watkins at Butter Factory Arts Centre Cooroy from **Friday 19 January to Tuesday 20 February 2018**. Check out the website, www.butterfactoryartscentre.com.au.

4. **Basic slip casting and mould making** with Dianne Peach at Brisbane Institute of Art from **Monday 22 to Thursday 25 January** from 6.30pm to 9.30pm for 4 evenings. Cost is \$285.00. Email enquiries@brisart.org, or phone 3857 5377.

5. **Petite Pieces** by Aspire Gallery, the annual competition for small objects up to 40x40x40cm in size. Applications close on Sunday 28 January. Exhibition dates are from **Wednesday 7 to Saturday 24 February**. For more details contact info@aspiregallery.com.au.

6. **Cameron William** throwing large vessels for Toolkit workshop series by Ceramic Arts Queensland on **Sunday 18 February** at Brisbane Institute of Art. For details, visit ceramicartsqld.org.au.

7. **Stanthorpe Art Prize 2018** by Stanthorpe Art Gallery offering total prize money \$40,000. Entries close midnight **Wednesday 4 April 2018**. For details, go to www.stanthorpeartprize.org.au.

8. **2018 Biennial North Queensland Ceramic Awards from Friday 27 July to Sunday 16 September**. Application closes on Friday 30 March. Go to North Queensland Potters website.

9. **Holding Space Making Space**, The Australian Ceramics Triennale Tasmania in Hobart **from 1 to 4 May 2019**. Submissions close on Thursday 1 March 2018. For more details, go to www.australianceramicstriennale.com.au.

CAQ Toolkits

Cameron Williams - Large Throwing Simplified

Date Sunday, 18 February 9:30 am -4:00 am

Venue Brisbane Institute of Art
41 Grafton Street Windsor, QLD 4030

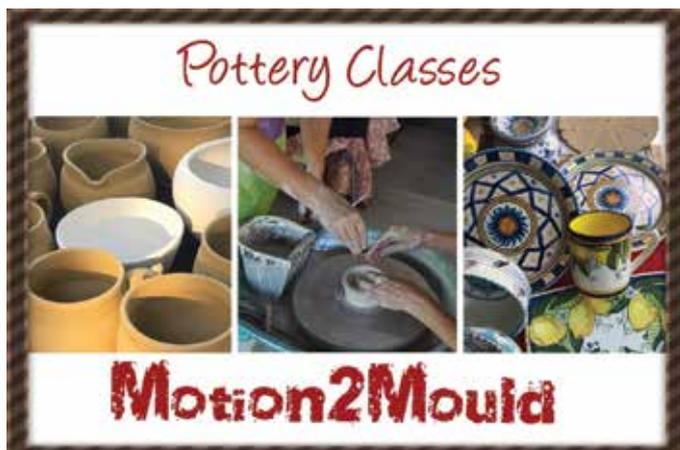
Cost Members \$65. Non-Members \$100

Large Slab Constructions with Dianne Peach

Date Sunday, 18 March 9:30 am -12:30 pm

Venue Royal Queensland Arts Society
162-166 Petrie Terrace Brisbane, QLD 4000

Cost FREE to Members
\$35 for non-member (include 12 months membership)



37 Essex Rd, Indooroopilly,
Brisbane, Queensland
Australia 4068

Phone 0427 000 996

Email motion2m.lana@gmail.com

Contact Us Login Check Out My Account



Pottery Supplies Online

For all your ceramic needs....

Call +61 07 3368 2877



Shop Firing Service About Us Glazes Colour Charts Technical Information Location What's New

Search

Search

Pottery Supplies

Like 287

Shopping Cart

YOUR CART

Empty Cart

GO TO CHECKOUT

Categories

- Bisqueware (12)
- Books (26)
- Casting Slip (11)
- Clay (32)
- Clear Glaze (26)
- Electric Kilns (235)
- Engobe & Slips (3)
- Equipment (28)
- Frit (36)
- Glaze (3)

Pottery Supplies Online. For all your ceramic needs....

 Bisqueware	 Books	 Casting Slip
 Clay	 Clear Glaze	 Engobe & Slips

potterysuppliesonline.com.au



The Sunshine Coast's Pottery and Ceramic Supplies Specialists

The Clay Shed

2/24 Hi Tech Drive, KUNDA PARK Ph. 5476 5977
www.clayshed.com.au

- Pottery Supplies •
- Clay
- Glazes
- Tools
- Brushes
- Firing Service
- Studio Equipment for Hire
- Refractory Materials •

2/24 Hi-Tech Drive KUNDA PARK QLD 4556

Ph 07 5476 5977 | Fax 07 5476 6061 | Email clayshed@internode.on.net

 Find us on Facebook

Trading Hours Mon-Thur 8:30am- 5pm | Fri 8:30am- 1:30pm | Sat 8:30am- 12pm
 Closed Sundays & Public Holidays