

A word from our president

Welcome to our May Newsletter and a huge thankyou to David whose tireless efforts editing and publishing are very much appreciated. We are always on the lookout for contributions from the membership, so if you have a favourite glaze recipe, tips or tricks to share or information about a workshop or class, let us know.

At this month's meeting Ann Just delivered an interesting five minute talk on her experiences with architectural ceramics. We hope to organise a workshop with Ann for our members later in the year. Ana-Maria brought along the latest 'angel' she created at recent classes with Clairi Laurence.

The resurgence in ceramics is opening many doors for us and at times the choices of events to attend are overwhelming. Recently, Marelle escaped south to camp out at Clay Gulgong; Anthony's been seen at many gallery openings, and members supported our team at the BVAC Pop-Up shop. David and Marelle will be attending part of the CAMB 'Down-2-Earth' conference this weekend, and Rachael's new incredible sculpture will hopefully make the 'deadlines' for the Brookfield Show. Never a dull moment for our members!!

Next week Anthony will be demonstrating techniques for making a multi-piece vessel (Amphora) on the wheel, and on 13 June, David and

Anthony will discuss several decorating methods using oxide and underglazes. In the meantime, we're at the studio to assist you with any questions and get you all fired up for the October 'Visions in Clay' Exhibition. We do offer the best 'clayground' in Brisbane's west.

Cam and I will be kayaking and bush walking northern New South Wales region for a few weeks so our reliable vice president will be at the helm and chairing the June meeting. However, when we return we hope you can join us at Bellbowrie late July or early August for a studio visit. We plan to demonstrate Obvara, feather and horse hair raku firing, which seems to be the flavour of the month these days! You're welcome to bring a textured raku pot to fire, no larger than a one litre milk bottle, and the usual WSC shared luncheon to enjoy.

Happy potting everyone!

Gai McDonald

0411090370

gai.mcdonald@bigpond.com



Obvara

This month's web

Obvara - What is that? <https://ceramicartsnetwork.org/daily/firing-techniques/raku-firing/marcia-selsors-tips-on-obvara-firing/>

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



Ana-Maria brought the angel figure she made at classes with Clairry Laurence



Anthony had a mug he helped make (early 90s) for Jindalee potter Margaret Rieck

Marelle showed us a chun glazed dish she purchased at Clay Gulgong



David's results from two workshops:

Gai's upside down bowls (left) and Rachael's coral (right)



Diane brought two pots to discuss firing problems.

And there was indeed much discussion!



Rachael's coral reef pot workshop



Rachael's workshop had a lot of us working out of our comfort zone!

I think we all enjoyed the experience to learn something new.

One of our members finished, bisqued and glazed their work - see below - as proof!



Starting with a press moulded bowl - distorted for an organic shape



The coral shapes, starfish, flowers etc are gradually added - attached with a mix of 50% vinegar and water



Colours are added and the piece is glazed



One participant's interpretation of the workshop, based on a thrown cylinder

Sticks and Stoneware Exhibition

Creina Moore and Carol Russell

The 'Sticks and Stoneware' exhibition presented at Impress Printmakers Studio and Gallery on the first weekend in May reflected the mediums of two artists who collaborated and captivated a symbiotic relationship between wood and clay. The artisans' partnership was heavily influenced and inspired by timber and the cause and effect connection of ecological damage to the natural environment.

Creina Moore and Carol Russell share a studio near Brisbane city. Creina's exquisite stoneware utilitarian pieces reflected her experiences from a severe fire in native bushland near her old workshop. She cleverly whittled and attached handles to teapots and hand crafted unique mini spoons as accessories for her petite forms. Her stoneware glazes matured after a specialised seventeen hour firing in her gas kiln.

Carol practises the art of spoon carving. Her three dimensional curved functional and sculptural pieces are characterised by the wood grains from a diverse selection of responsibly sourced Australian timbers. Some twist and turn, but most would be pleasurable creations to stir the soul of any owner.

This exhibition is well worth a visit. It has now moved to the Makers Gallery, until 26th May, where Stephanie will welcome any of our members. Please phone before visiting on 0417 886 185. They have an online shop at www.makersgalleryaustralia.com



Here's a suggestion for a great way to spend a wonderful Brisbane autumn Sunday afternoon:

- catch-up with some like minded people and meet some new ones
- view a demonstration by a skilled artisan, accompanied by a live guitar soloist
- have a couple of drinks and some fine food to nibble
- and do it all in the surrounds of a beautiful nursery and working studio

That is exactly what I did on Sunday April 8 at Mappins Nursery & Aquarium in West End. The event was presented by Makers Gallery to showcase works by local potter Grant Hodges. It was top marks for presentation in a makeshift space. The top-lighting and some slightly rusted plinths created dramatic effects, allowing his large vessels to proudly display their rugged, hand-made and wood-fired qualities. In the background was a slideshow of superb photographs of Grant's work shown on a big screen.

Brisbane's pottery community were well represented. Older hands and new faces aplenty were enthralled with Grant's smooth demonstration. He made it look so easy to create his cylinder forms and alter them whilst still on the wheel. He even did an encore for those who couldn't see the previous demos.

Keep an eye out for similar events as Stephanie from Makers Gallery said there is more to come.



WSC's BVAC tables - set-up day



WSC had another successful weekend at the Mother's Day Pop-up-Shop on 28-29 April.

Overall the weekend was quiet with attendances down but we look forward to the next one in December!

WSC will also be at Mt Coot-tha in the Richard Randall Gallery for our annual exhibition 'Vision in Clay' in October



Brisbane Sculpture Festival

by **Sculptors Queensland**

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Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens and Auditorium

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September display at the Fairfield Library

We have booked a space at the Fairfield Library for September this year.

This will work in well with our exhibition in October.

This is an opportunity to display your work and advertise the group's exhibition and studio.



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