

The Canterbury Potter



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CANTERBURY POTTERS ASSOCIATION | ISSUE 4 2025

from the president

Well, what a year this has been!

We have had some wonderfully diverse workshops and events. Trying to accommodate every potter's preferences is no easy task, so I salute the events team for achieving this. We've handbuilt flowers, thrown domestic ware, sculpted cats, learned new decorating techniques, had talks and demonstrations from some notable potters, and all have been successful. If you have an idea for a workshop, let us know.

The new system implemented for the firing shelves has been more successful than we could have hoped for! Thank you all for embracing this change - it has meant far fewer items that haven't been collected, a saving of precious resources.

On the subject of kilns and firing, a huge thank you to Mary Lou and her kiln team for all their work during the year getting all our creations through the kilns. No small task!

As always, this quarter began with receiving day for the exhibition. We had a record number of submissions and 138 items selected for the exhibition. It was also very pleasing to see that the number of first time exhibitors has again increased. Well done to everybody. Our selectors,

Ian Dalzell and Sue Pidgeon made carefully considered choices and their commitment to the support and encouragement of potters was evident. The exhibition was, once again, a roaring success and every year I marvel at the creativity on display.

We have created a new website, are busy transitioning to Hello Club, have finalized our new constitution and hope to have submitted it before the end of the year, and although that is the very unsexy side of running the club, it is essential. On behalf of us all, I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in making this happen. Please do your bit - small things make a difference. Pay your invoices on time, clean up a mess even if you haven't made it and remember that we are all volunteers!

As the year draws to a close, I reflect on how much we all achieve in our lives and I am truly grateful for this pottery community I am a part of. Thank you all for making our club such a welcoming and inspiring place.

I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and all the very best for 2026.

Penny



CHRISTMAS MARKET

Another great market was held on the 7th December, there were 37 stalls of awesome pottery on display and many a sale made. Thanks to all potters who held a stall and to those who attended or helped out in any way.

We look forward to next years!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Natasha Leigh • Gordon Lidgard •
Emma Findlay • Courtney Lewis
• Lucila Orjuela • Dominic Jaruis
• Natasha Cater • Penny Hughes
• Gael Abraham • Heather Bell •
Yolande Howell • Brenda Wills •
Nicole Wu • Rachel Caderas • Erin
Marryatt • Rebecca McKinney •
Winnie Zhang

CPA COMMITTEE 2025–2026

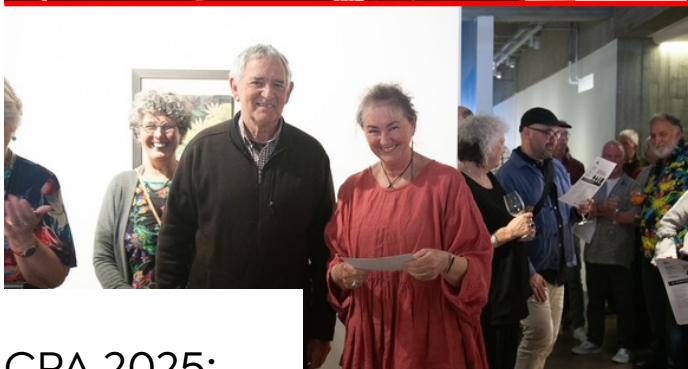
Penny de Jong **President**
Sarah Snelling **Secretary**
Wendy Hsiung **Treasurer**
Annemarie Prendeuvre **Membership**
Alison Wilding **Event Coordinator**

Committee

Kerrie McGirr • Jan Robertson
Eleanor Watkins • Donna Yee



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?



CPA 2025: ANNUAL EXHIBITION

This annual event just keeps getting better and better, in no small part due to the work of the various sub committees who dedicate so much time in perfecting the process.

Congratulations to everyone who submitted work. It was inspiring and a treat for the senses seeing all that wonderful creativity on display.

The awards this year went to:



Alice Hill Award – Julia Viljoen for Body of Work



Premier award

Carmel Pollock for Soshō



Handbuilding award

Hugh Rickard for Leaf Burst



Throwing award

Sarah Geary for Earth Pot



People choice award

Hugh Rickard for Curiosity



LIZ HULLER VISITING CERAMICIST

Exploring Mold Making and Slip Casting

Towards the end of November 2025, six CPA members immersed themselves in a two-day mold making and slip casting workshop led by Liz Heller.

The experience was both inspiring and hands-on, offering a deep dive into techniques that many of us had never tried before. Saturday began with theory: understanding the principles behind creating a “solid, upside down, no undercut, single-piece slip mold.” Liz guided us through the essentials of plaster casting and how to design vessels that are not only beautiful but functional.

Watching a simple mix of plaster powder and water transform into a usable mold felt almost magical. For most of us, this was uncharted territory—only one participant had prior experience with plaster molds and slip casting—so the learning curve was steep but exciting. By the end of the day, each of us had two freshly made molds to take home. With Monday’s chilly, wet weather threatening to slow drying, many resorted to warm ovens on Tuesday night to ensure readiness for Wednesday’s session.

When we reconvened, anticipation was high. We cleaned our molds, mixed slip to the perfect consistency, and poured for the first time. The thrill didn’t stop there—Liz introduced us to marbling techniques, adding stunning patterns to our vessels. Suddenly, the possibilities for colour and design felt endless.

The workshop was a blend of creativity, technical skill, and camaraderie. We left not only with new molds and slip-cast pieces but with a renewed sense of excitement for what’s possible in clay. It was so much fun, none of us wanted the night to end! Liz Heller is an Associate Art Professor at Colorado Mountain College in Aspen, CO, US.

Liz learned how to slip cast while getting her MFA in Sculpture then turned it into a profession once she learned how to 3d print her own designs while an Artist in Residence at The Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass Village, CO in 2014.

Since then, Liz has used various digital fabrication techniques to design her originals and has recently developed this technique for her beginning mold making students, which she now uses in her own studio practice. Her website is www.modcrmx.com.



LORRAINE BONISCH

in memoriam 17th February 1956 - 8th December 2025



Lorraine started her involvement with CPA as a member and student in Michaels Michael's class in 2006 and joined the committee a year later in 2007. Lorraine was also a student of Frederika Ernsten and then later attended Andrew Carran's class which had a focus on hand-building.

Lorraine held several roles on the committee which spanned from 2007- June 2020. Lorraine was vice president for a couple of years in 2008/2009, on the exhibition committee and helped with the exhibition since 2007 to 2024 in a variety of roles, she was the newsletter editor for many years from 2009 -2019. She helped write, compile policies and procedures for CPA when we did not have any at the time and her talent as a technical writer came in handy. There were lively and sometimes lengthy discussions with Lorraine at committee meetings, but she had the members in mind at all times. She believed being a committee member and belonging to a community organisation, her role was to serve the membership.

Lorraine's favourite and most rewarding role was being CPA's curator for the annual exhibition held at the Canterbury Museum and more recently at the CoCA gallery, which lasted almost for a decade. Lorraine took this role very seriously particularly in presenting members work in the best light to the public. I always admired that she consistently held firm to her principles of equity (even in ceramics), ensuring everyone got a fair position in the exhibition. No one person's work should shine more than the next one so it did not matter if you were a notable potter or a beginner potter. At times this caused a bit of a backlash, but she always stood her ground where she placed potters work.

Lorraine was saddened she could not set up the 2025 exhibition as she became unwell. However she did give the tick of approval to new lead designer, Linda Pringle for this year's show.

Lorraine also exhibited her work in annual exhibitions. She started exhibiting at the CPA in 2007 – 2025 there were 4 exhibitions she did not exhibit in during that time. Lorraine was awarded the selector's choice award in 2014 and a merit award for her work in 2016.

Lorraine would often come to club member's day on a Wednesday and then most Saturdays on a regular basis when she was well, she loved the banter of the rooms, sharing her knowledge and connecting with people. She left the committee around 2020 but has always actively been involved with the club in some way. The club was an important part of her life and she has members who had become lifetime friends. She also was remembered as a great maker of vegetarian food – she bought the yummiest foods to special events or workshop lunches as well as swap a bowl/soup night.

In 2023 Lorraine travelled to Italy for 6 months, she enrolled in a couple of ceramic courses, one in Faenza learning a modern take on an old Etruscan technique of creating a black surface that is rich and has a soft texture. She experimented at CPA trying to get the same effect using the raku kiln. She did get a blackish surface but unfortunately her pots were rakked and not black enough. She also spent a week at La Meridiana in Tuscany, a famous international ceramic school making ceramics for a wood firing, which she also took part in.

Lorraine's work was mostly hand-built, she began her hand building at Shirley Pottery Group many years before joining Canterbury potters. She perfected a coil building technique whereby she could make one of her large pieces in a day or two. She taught many potters that technique formally and informally. Her forms were organic. Lorraine also dabbled in wheel throwing which she was also good at, but she had a greater love with building clay forms with her hands. In the last few years, she used rocks from Birdlings Flat and looked for the right sized rocks to mould clay onto, to make her beautiful organic forms. Lorraine was indeed an incredibly talented potter.

She also exhibited in the Canterbury Fired up show and at the Te Huanui- Darfield Gallery in a group show. Her work was also shown at Form Gallery in the One pot One shot exhibition since it began, next year will be no different as she has her pot ready for that show in February 2026. I am sure Lorraine would be delighted if you could go and view her work.

Ngarita Wight CPA member, potter and close friend



WHAT'S COMING UP

WORKSHOP: CUT FOLD CARVE

The first Workshop of 2026 will be a 'Cut Fold Carve' Workshop by Jenny Wilson of OneGreen Leaf ceramics.

This will be over the weekend of 24/25th January.

It is possible to enrol for each day individually (Day One is Cut and Fold - origami style dishes) and Day Two is Carve (Kurinuki) - using a loop tool to carve a tea vessel and/or a lidded box from a solid block of prepared clay. Or get completely engrossed and enrol for both!

<https://events.humanitix.com/cut-fold-kurinuki-two-day-workshop-with-jenny-wilson>



REMINDERS

CLEANING OVER THE HOLIDAY BREAK

Our wonderful cleaner, Selma, will be away from 17th December to 14th January. If you are in the club rooms, please do a little extra other than just cleaning up after yourself.

Importantly - the council rubbish bins will need to be put out on ClubDay - ready for collection on Thursdays.

Our glaze tech, Jalan, will be away until 20th January however she will be back in plenty of time to replenish buckets of glaze before classes start.

HELLOCLUB

Your support for the Club through engaging with the new online Membership platform has been much appreciated by the committee. As expected there have been some learning curves with adopting the programme - onboarding new and existing members and promoting the Club's activities such as events and classes for example.

Increasingly communication with members will take place through the platform, rather than bulk emails from the Gmail account. So it is becoming imperative for all members to be onboarded if at all possible - our deadline for this is FEBRUARY 1st 2026, anyone requiring assistance can meet us at the Working Bee for further help.

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL WORKING BEE

SUNDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

See HelloClub for further details. There will also be help with registration to HelloClub on the day for those who need a hand with this.