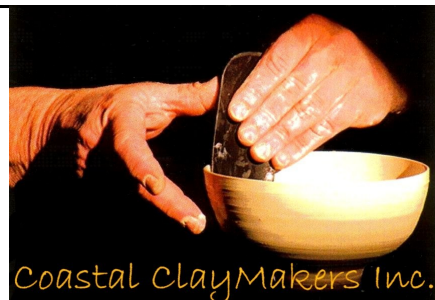


newsletter

Vol 7, No 1, February 2010



Coastal ClayMakers Inc.

EDITORIAL

Email: coastalclaymakers@westnet.com.au

Web : www.coastalclaymakers.com.au

Happy New Year, welcome to 2010 and year seven of operations of *Coastal ClayMakers Inc.* It's hard to believe that seven years have passed since our inception in 2003. Our first workshop "Exploring Glazes" with Trisha Dean, then editor of the magazine **Pottery in Australia**, was held on a very hot February weekend in 2004. What began as an idea in the tea room at TAFE by a group of enthusiastic student potters has blossomed into a most successful organization. Our aim was "*to promote and encourage the study of ceramics by means of lectures, discussions, excursions, projects and practical workshops*". I believe we have been true to our aim. As we move into our seventh year it is appropriate to look back and reflect on what has been achieved. It is important to acknowledge and thank our membership and committee, some of whom have been with us from the beginning. Without their enthusiastic support the group would not have succeeded and we now have more than fifty members.

Since inception in 2003 *Coastal ClayMakers* has presented a veritable Who's Who of Australian potters in either workshops or Friday evening lectures. They include Melina Monks, Geoff Maddams, Paul Davis, Maria Gazzard, Trisha Dean, Victor Greenaway, Steve Harrison, Mitsuo Shoji, Sandy Lockwood, Jane Annois and Peter Rushforth. Many of our region's highly talented potters have given their time and inspired us. They include David Tucker, David Southgate, John Tuckwell, Kari Winer, Bev Butler, Di Collins, Rob Slingsby, Phil Greed, Sally Hook, Tamasin Pepper, Annette Copland, Lisa Magri, Jann Kesby, Steve Williams, Cate Edwards, Joseph Conroy, Susan Massey and Marcia Sullivan to name but a few.

Members have generously given their time and resources to inform us of their travels, to conduct raku firings, bonfiring, and pit firings. TAFE under the stewardship of Phil Greed has been most generous in making the college workshop and wood firing kiln available to the group.

For seven years *Coastal ClayMakers* have produced a monthly Newsletter and the contribution of Parma Keft and Sally Hook as well as the many contributors can not be overestimated. To our founding President Ann Streckfuss who has now handed on the batten our sincere thanks. Members of *Coastal ClayMakers* have presented four very exciting member's exhibitions and *ClayMakers* ceramics have featured successfully in many regional venues.

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Coastal ClayMakers Inc

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Our Aim

to promote and encourage the study of ceramics by means of lectures, discussions, excursions, projects and practical workshops.

NEXT MEMBERS MEETING

Jeff Sosower

**Venue: Southern Cross Pottery
14 Caba Close, Boambee, NSW
Date: 19th February at 7 PM.**

Jeff will give a tour of his pottery studio and gallery and an overview of his long career in ceramic production.

This is a great opportunity to see a fully functioning production studio, and to hear how Jeff is making pottery manufacturing succeed in Australia. Not to be missed.



Editorial Continued from page 1

As we move confidently into 2010 and our seventh year the Committee's aim is to build on the group's successes and achievements. The Committee is in the process of scheduling workshops, guest speakers, excursions and exhibitions. 2010 will see the Newsletter distributed to members electronically whilst at the same time providing for those who do not have email. Members can expect a more expansive publication. Similarly we urge members to avail themselves of the web site:
www.coastalclaymakers.com.au.

If you have not checked out the site do so - you will be very pleasantly surprised. Be part of it.

As always please remember that this is your organization. Your input, ideas and opinions are most valued as is your support. We wish you a happy and successful 2010 and look forward to seeing you at the many events planned for the year ahead.

Shirley Stubington

“GETTING TO KNOW YOU” CAMPAIGN

We are keen for all our members to be visible and able to know each other and our work. To encourage all members do this, we are offering a **FREE WEB PAGE** on our groups' web site. This way members will know other member's names, be able to recognize them and their interests in ceramics. It's great publicity too. **Also**, part of our aim in promoting the study and practice of ceramics is to encourage the professional development of our members as well. With this in mind, any one who would like to make a **presentation** to a monthly members' meeting is invited to send in a proposal. It might be of their own career in ceramics, travel experience with a ceramic focus, a community art project or perhaps a study of a ceramic artist of renown. A shared evening of half-hour presentations is also a possibility.

For the web page you are invited to forward photos of your work (4-6) (including a portrait) and any other information you want, and for a presentation proposal, please send to:

The Committee

Coastal ClayMakers Inc.

PO Box 2124 Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450

Or email: ozmosis@tsn.cc

EXHIBITION BY PHIL GREED & RAY RIXON

“*Pandanus Tectorius*”

Exhibition Dates:

3rd Feb.-14th Mar.

Opening 5th Feb. 5.30 pm

Grafton Regional Gallery

158 Fitzroy St. Grafton.



New Committee Members

With the coming year 2010, new committee members have entered into the fray to assist and guide *Coastal ClayMakers Inc.* on to even greater heights. Bellingen potter **Kari Winer** and Boambee potter **Jeff Sosower** have joined the current committee — the existing members staying put, albeit with some shuffles in their roles. Details are on the last page: see “Committee”. The role of acting President currently falls to Shirley Stubington who will undertake this responsibility with active assistance from the other committee members when she is not available due to other plans.

May Southgate — Ceramics in Archaeology



Long time local potter and recent graduate of Archaeology at the University of New England in Armidale, **May Southgate** was guest speaker at the *Coastal Claymakers Inc.* AGM in November. May presented a stimulating talk with supporting images and reference material on the subject of pottery and its importance in understanding ancient cultures.

May believes that potters can really make a significant contribution to research in the field of anthropology and archaeology because of their technical knowledge, in particular their knowledge of clay and mineral deposits and availability of other resources such as water and fuel. By examining the geological history of a given region and examining pottery artifacts and sherds, we can draw conclusions about the extent to which potters in ancient times engaged in experimentation. Evidence of trade of specific ingredients and evidence of trade in finished pottery, can be understood by examining the connection between a craftsman and his environment. What would have been produced locally and what would have been imported?



Furthermore, by looking at the artifacts through a potters' eyes, particular techniques can be identified, and quality of workmanship which an archaeologist, who has no personal experience of pottery making, may miss. A potter might conclude that a certain type of kiln was likely to have been used and this kind of information can prompt the archaeologist to seek out specific forms in the landscape. Or, specialist skills might imply a long-standing tradition or pottery school, influenced the development of certain works.

In this sense I would say that May advocates ongoing specialist education in ceramics. She would also encourage any potter interested in archaeology to pursue that, for their specialist knowledge is sought after, and potters can make the difference in piecing together the theories of cultural evolution.

We thank you very much, May, for your contribution.

Lisa Magri



THANK YOU TO OUR OUTGOING PRESIDENT, ANN STRECKFUSS

Ann has decided that seven years at the helm is a good innings, and is happy to turn her attentions to spending more time with a bit of travel and quality time on her own family and projects. Ann has been a fabulous president who has been intrinsic in establishing the *Coastal ClayMakers Inc.* as a key founding member and has steered the group with enthusiasm and diplomacy throughout her LONG term. Ann's unflappable attitude and ability to bring key people together has been extremely effective in moving the group forward. We all thank her sincerely for her work and wish her all the very best for her retirement as president. Don't go too far, Ann!



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INFORMATION

Subscriptions:

Single \$45, double (one newsletter between two members of the same address) \$50. Those joining after June pay \$25 to end of year (new members only), \$50 for groups or organisations. Web site inclusion—for 2010 this service is free to members.

Members Meetings:

Third Friday of every month, Feb to Nov inclusive.
Venue: Refer to page 2.
7.00 PM start. Gold coin donation, includes supper.

Committee Meetings:

First Thursday of the month, Feb to Nov inclusive.

Newsletter: printed or by email:

Ten issues per year (Feb to Nov incl) First week of each month for ten months
Publication deadline; 3rd Friday of the month prior to the month of publication.

Web Site: www.coastalclaymakers.com.au

CLASSIFIEDS:

Members pottery classifieds \$10 per item That ad will be placed on receipt of payment. Commercial advertising space available.: 1/4 page \$50

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Committee

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COFFS HARBOUR POTTERY SUPPLIES

For all pottery equipment, clays, materials, tools....etc

Proprietors: Dave Mason and Lynette Smith

UNIT 4/26 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE (OFF ISLES DRIVE, turn at Blackwoods)

Follow the signs to Ludo's Antiques; we are in the same complex

OUR PHONE AND FAX NUMBERS:

66 515944 and David can be contacted on 0414 603320

Business hours from March: TUESDAY 10-4, WEDNESDAY 10-4,
THURSDAY 10 - 4 & THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH 10 -12.00

SPECIAL FOR FEB. ONLY—PB103 \$15 IF PURCHASING 2 BAGS OR MORE

John Tuckwell success in Cairns

Congratulations must go to **John Tuckwell** on winning a prize in the Cairns Potters Club Biennial National Exhibition Melting Pot 2009. John's entry entitled: "Satellite" was praised by the judge Jan Bainbridge-Perry as a very appealing and cohesive group ("colouration reminiscent of Cezanne").



John's success is a great example to members in showing that it is always worth entering art prizes because you might just win!

CLAY ENERGY—GULGONG 2010

Wednesday April 28 — Sunday May 2

This is the eighth in these series of clay events and promises to be as rewarding and stimulating as the previous seven have been. This year's events feature international artists from Finland, Hungary, UK, USA, NZ, Israel as well as Australian artists who will lead the workshop presentations.

Participate in experimental raku and hands-on events. Register now by going to www.ceramicart.net.au or contact the management by mail:

**Clay Energy PO Box 101 Gulgong NSW 2852
Australia**

Fax: +61 (0)2 6374 0257

DIARY DATES:

- ◆ FEBRUARY MEMBERS MEETING—JEFF SOSOWER PRESENTS A TOUR AND TALK AT HIS WORKSHOP: SOUTHERN CROSS POTTERY 7 P.M. FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY