



March 2023

South of the River Potters' Club Newsletter

COMING EVENTS:

- Monthly meeting – Wednesday April 12th, 6.15pm
- City of Melville Open Studios April 29/30 at Karlup and Atwell House
- CAAWA Members' Selective Exhibition – September 16th – October 1st. Moores Building, Fremantle.



QR code - Link to Club website

MARCH MEETING

The wheels in the studio are being serviced and repaired where necessary. The slab roller is also being repaired and will be out of action until this is completed.

The Club has purchased two 'Bali' flags which are located on the verge of Canning Highway to promote Karlup and the classes that are being run by the Club.

A review of Club finances is underway and the decision has been taken to cancel the commercial cleaning service which was proving to be very expensive. Kiln fees are also under review.

Tracey-Lee van den Bergh is planning to purchase a copy of 'Contemporary Tableware' by Linda Bloomfield for the Club library.

STUDIO CLEANING

To reduce Club costs*, we no longer have the commercial cleaners working to clean the Karlup studio each week and there are already signs that the studio is being left in a mess. It is every member's responsibility to clean all floors, chairs and work surfaces thoroughly after use and leave a clean, safe working environment for the next users. There is ample cleaning equipment in the wet room and instructions for wet mopping and bench cleaning. A cleaning roster is being planned so that all members will share the job of cleaning the studio area as well as the kitchen and toilet areas. With the number of members that we currently have, the suggestion is that members work on a club day in teams of 2 which will mean a commitment of 1 cleaning session per member per year. So it will be a small contribution to help keep Karlup ship-shape for all members and for visitors who are

South of the River Potters' Club

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President – Jenny Rygiel 0451 119 242

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attending our classes. A roster will be posted in the studio for members to sign up. Members have already begun to do cleaning as the studio was not presentable for the class being held on Saturday. Detailed information about the cleaning roster will be sent to all members.

**PS: the cost of our contract cleaners was estimated to be \$45/per member/year, so the success of this initiative will save a considerable potential increase to annual membership fees.*

CERAMICS CLASSES

A huge list of classes has just been launched on the Club website (<https://sorpottersclub.com/classes>) and members are encouraged to have a look and spread the word to friends and family who might be interested. There will be regular Instagram posts to promote the classes and you are encouraged to share these with your network.

JEAN CRAGO – A MEMOIR

Eve Gellatly has shared her memories of one of our founder members – Jean Crago. Jean was a ‘force of nature’ with very strongly held opinions and great generosity.

MEMORIES OF JEAN CRAGO by Eve Gellatly “A TAP ON THE SHOULDER”

Not many members of the Potters’ Club would remember Jean Crago. She was a member long before I joined in 1995, and she died a number of years ago. She was kind and generous, especially with her advice, and Barbara Reeve and I still hear her in our heads on certain occasions.

The Club used to be invited to exhibit and demonstrate at the big Craft Fair at the Claremont Showgrounds every year, and this took a lot of organizing. We asked members to donate plastic bags like the ones the supermarkets used to supply. Jean insisted that they all be flattened and folded neatly, and they certainly looked better that way. I still flatten and fold my plastic bags, thanks to Jean. They take up less space that way anyway!

Barbara and I each had a wooden mug-stand which we got from The Clay Cottage in Osborne Park when it was closing down. We used to lend them to the Club for use at the Fair, and now every time when I am putting mugs on my mug-stand I hear Jean telling me to make sure the tops of the mugs showed and not the bottoms. “Yes, Jean”. The same applied when hanging mugs on the large mug-tree which we used to take to Fairs too.

She also gave us advice about setting out the pots, “Always put three together, not four”.

In later years when we were reminding potters about the approaching Craft Fair, Jean would say that she did not have any pots, and we would have a little smile when she turned up with two boxes of dishes which had either a pink or blue floral decoration, and which sold well.

I was regarded as a good mug maker, and Jean told me to make a set of mugs for each of my grandchildren before I got older and less good at it. I put some aside but would sometimes sell them to fill a request. I finally kept six sets, but Jean was right. I am not as happy with last set because they are a bit heavy.

When my youngest grandson came over from Canberra to stay with us for a few days, I made the comment at the Club that he was allergic to eggs. The next week Jean gave me a recipe for eggless cake! I made it but it was not a great success!

Jean was a bit camera shy so I do not have a good photo of her.

Both Barbara and I still hear her voice with her little bits of advice, and we give a little smile!

“Thank you, Jean”



OPEN STUDIOS

The City of Melville Open Studios event will take place on Saturday and Sunday, April 29/30 (*apologies for incorrect date in previous Mudlark*). Karlup will be open to showcase our Club and members are encouraged to come along so that the place is buzzing and visitors can see us at work. Visitors will be invited to have a go at the wheel and get a bit muddy – in previous years some have actually turned up appropriately dressed for clay work! We will also be offering pots for sale, so start planning your stock list! A feature of the display will be a showcase of the teapots made during the Great Teapot Challenge.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday April 12th, 6.15pm