



CENTRAL COAST
POTTERS SOCIETY

10a Russell Drysdale Street
East Gosford NSW 2250
ABN - 48 785 509 432

P O Box 4043
East Gosford NSW 2250

www.ccpotters.org
info@ccpotters.org
+61 2 4324 5343

CCPS COURSE IN CLAY Term 1 2020

Lynn Treers

Wheel Forming - Beginners

Tuesday 6:30pm - 9:00pm - 8 Weeks - Cost \$280

TEACHER PROFILE

Making things from clay has been an abiding interest of mine from childhood.

My formal pottery classes began in 1968 at the NSW Potters Society headquarters in Woolloomooloo, which I continued at TAFE after relocating to Inverell in 1980. Following these classes, I accepted the invitation to teach pottery to children and adult beginners. I relished the visits from the Queensland Flying Art School tutors who held workshops, introducing new and exciting aspects of working with clay for isolated country potters.

I came to live in Gosford in 1982 and joined the Central Coast Potters Society (CCPS) in 1983. Since then I have been heavily involved with CCPS, including being a pottery teacher to adults as well as children. In 2008 I was awarded a Life Membership for my consistent contribution.

There are many workshops and courses which I have attended since 1983, expanding my knowledge and proficiency in clay. Of particular note was a five-day workshop with Greg Daly, Japanese tea bowl making with Paul Davis and throwing with Cameron Williams. I continue to participate in many interesting and challenging ceramic workshops to broaden my skills, including Hornsby TAFE where I completed a number of qualifications.

As CCPS Exhibition Manager, I love being involved in the creation and organisation of our exhibitions in which I regularly exhibit. Over the years, I have been awarded prizes and commendations for my ceramics, some of which are on display in the CCPS studio.

COURSE OUTLINE

In this course students will gain experience in wedging clay, centring clay on the wheel and throwing simple forms. Each student will have the opportunity to complete a mug and a small jug with a handle, a cereal bowl and a small 'sugar bowl' with a simple lid. Additional skills will be incorporated into the course, such as weighing clay, measuring and making a lid for a pot 'off the hump', trimming forms and bases, altering a rim to form a functional spout, pulling a handle, throwing and or adding a knob to a lid.

Students will be encouraged to repeat shapes, cut them up and review outcomes, thereby gaining the skills to throw pots independently and confidently taking into consideration shape and proportion. Each student's best pieces will be selected each week for firing. Basic glazing and firing will be discussed, along with the use of slips, underglazes, decals, surface treatment and pot alteration.

Students of differing levels of expertise will be accommodated within this class, making their term of using clay an enjoyable experience.

WEEKLY PROGRAM

Week 1

Welcome + workshop tour

Work Health Safety / CCPS Rules / Emergency procedure & assembly area

- Refer to documents emailed to students

Getting to know clay

- clay properties explained, different firing temperatures

- pinching, coiling, surface texture, stamping etc.

Demonstration - wedging clay & clay preparation

Demonstration - tool making - students make a cutting 'wire'

Demonstration - throwing techniques

- emphasis on cutting pieces to assess improvement

Clay preparation - students prepare clay for wheel work

Weeks 2-5

Student practice

- Wedge clay, centre clay on the wheel and throw simple forms
- Students will be encouraged to repeat shapes, cut them up and review outcomes, gaining the skills to throw pots independently and confidently.
- Students will be asked to consider shape and proportion of their pots.
- Basic glazing and firing discussed, as well as the use of slips, underglazes, decals, surface treatment and pot alteration.
- Pots selected for keeping each week will be stored in polystyrene boxes.

Demonstration - reclaiming clay from slops and turnings

Week 6

Completion of thrown pieces - final week for completing work to be bisqued

Week 7

Final glazing of work

Additional work made in this class will not be bisqued

Week 8

Review and collection of work

- Collection of work, discuss pros and cons of results
- Feedback about their class experience and outcomes

SKILLS OUTCOMES

On completing this course, students will have developed skills in:

- wedging clay;
- centring clay on the wheel;
- throwing simple forms - a mug, small jug with a handle, a bowl and a sugar bowl with a lid;
- measuring for and making a lid;
- trimming and turning thrown pieces;
- judging shape and proportion of their thrown pieces;
- a range of additional skills according to each student's ability and progression;
- surface treatment including glazing;
- basic kiln & firing knowledge.



Lynn Treers, *Inverted Platters*, 2018. Photo: Kylie Rose McLean