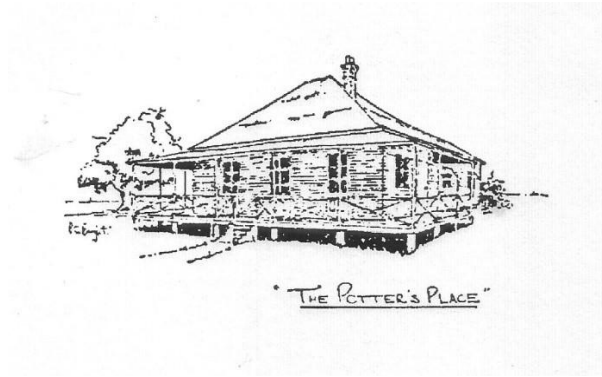




WARWICK POTTERS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 343 WARWICK QLD 4730

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2026

WELCOME

We have now entered the lovely winter months in downtown Warwick and wow is it chilly.

GATE LOCK

The new gate lock is now installed and each member will be given a code to enter into the lock so you can open the gated area.

This new gate lock requires a four digit entry plus the hash key to unlock the lock. When you enter your specific number together with the hash key you will note that a green light will appear, indicating your number was correctly entered. Should a red light be indicated you have entered the wrong number. Once the green light occurs, slightly twist the bottom of the lock and the top of the lock will open.

If you touch the bottom of the lock this will negate your code entered. So please keep your fingers/hands away from the bottom space of the lock.

SOUP NIGHT

Soup night is fast approaching and we are in need of approximately 80 more bowls.

All other aspects are coming together nicely. However, should you be able to volunteer to help pre-clean the gardens, toilets, verandas, outside areas, defrost the refrigerator and deep clean kitchen. Set up on the day [signage, tables, chairs, decorations]. Help set up soup bowl sales area and take ticket sales on the night. Kitchen co-ordination on the night - soup prep, cleaning etc.set up, and cleaning up.

The sale of soup bowls has now gone live on our web site. Please see Pauline or contact Pauline. A meeting regarding soup night will be held on 13th June. at 10am.

If you can help please see Pauline or Jillian.

J & J MARKETS

The markets will be happening within the Town Hall Carpark. Generators will be permitted for those sale holders needing power.

We will have a potter's stall available.

Volunteers are needed to assist with traffic, and other duties so your help will be fantastic if you could spare a couple of hours.

More to come on this topic.

PIT FIRING

A pit firing has been arranged for 13th. September and will be held out of town. Anyone wishing to attend will need to create a pot in August [small say 6"] that will be fired all day on the Sunday.

CALL OUT TO MEMBERS

Our President has put the call out to members to help promote our wonderful Club, utilizing members profiles. It is envisaged that once a month we can present a club member with or without one of their beautifully crafted pieces, to place on our Website and on our Facebook page.

It would be just fabulous to present our members to anyone who loves the world of pottery and who may even want to join us.

WARWICK ART GALLERY

The Museum of Brisbane Assistant Curator Gabrielle launched a video about the Red Dress, coming to the Warwick Art Gallery for one week only on the 16th. to 22nd. July 2026.

To coincide with the exhibition the Gallery is very excited to be able to host a couple of events at the Gallery with The Red Dress creator Kirstie MacLeod. Bookings are open now with the Official Opening on Friday 17th. July and Kirstie's talk on Saturday 19th. July. You can book via the Warwick Gallery's website

<https://www.warwickartgallery.com.au/the-red-dress>

THOUGHTS

Clay is a deeply poetic and untamed medium. A raw lump of earth transforms into an extension of the human spirit. Whether it's in a sculpture, a claylife textured wall hanging, or an artisanal piece, every fingerprint, crease and crack leave a physical record of the artists emotion.

The beauty of working with this medium is that it bridges the maker's inner world with the tangible universe.

Many who engage with this earth-born medium find that it offers endless possibilities, creative storytelling, ranging from whimsical craft to deeply emotive, life-like portraits.

FEATURE POTTER - STEPHEN BENWELL

Stephen has granted us permission to use his photographs and information for our enjoyment in our Newsletter and has given us his personal journey of his thoughts into ceramics.

Stephen is a ceramic artist, based in St. Kilda Melbourne and since the 1980's has been long recognised for his trailblazing approach to the medium and heralded as one of the most significant figures in contemporary ceramics in Australia.

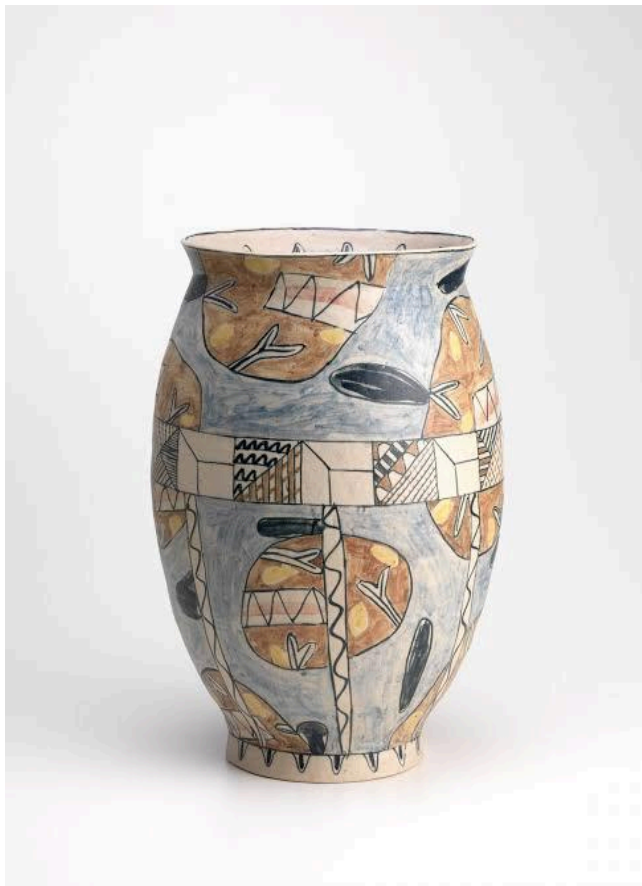
He is a critically acclaimed contemporary ceramicist whose work has developed from its earliest phase as a direct challenge to local and international pottery traditions and art craft context.

Over 40 years Stephen has combined the studio-based craft traditions and practical resolutions of the potter, with the conceptual painter and sculptural concerns of the contemporary artist. His forms draw on a dizzying array of art historical periods and styles, yet are stand alone objects that resist conventional categorisation.

Stephens works from the early 70's to the present day exemplify his distinctive practice, from early exquisitely patterned, eccentric forms that meld references to the archaic with natural and animal forms, through the evolution to large, freely painted hand-built pots and sculptural figures that embody an extraordinary life force and communicate poignant narratives about landscape, masculinity and the primary act of creating.

For the last decade Stephen has focused on a series of ceramic statues - this series of works was first approached through an investigation of 18th century figurines and later developed to incorporate the poise and grandeur of Greco-Roman statuary.

Stephen has exhibitions include presentations at the Melbourne Art Fair, Sydney Contemporary, LON Gallery, Craft, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Deakin University Art Gallery, Artbank, Geelong Gallery, Heide Modern, Bundamom Woollongong Art Gallery at Redlaf, RMIT Gallery, Heide Modern, National Gallery of Victoria, The Vivian [NZ], and KunstformSolothurn [Switzerland]. Stephens work is held in most significant collections in Australia including Artbank, Art Gallery of South Australia, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Deakin University, Geelong Art Gallery, HOTA, Melbourne University, National Gallery of Victoria, Parliament House, Powerhouse Museum, QAGOMA, RMIT University, Tasmanian Museum and Albert Museum in London.





Anthropomorphic Vase with Free Form Growths. Handbuilt stoneware decorated with oxides and stains, matt dolomite glaze.



Stephen has kindly shared some of his new images in ceramics and has written for us a short piece of his works.

“My work is all hand built. I make vessels and ornaments of all kinds. Recently they are earthenware with a clear glossy glaze. In the past I have also made porcelain and stoneware. And I use an electric kiln to fire in. I like to decorate my work with painted designs. This I do on greenware then it is bisque fired and then the glaze is applied a second firing. It’s important to fire the painted decoration before applying the glaze.

For my ideas I have often referred to art books to get inspiration. It might be a figure or a particular colour combination or a piece of pottery but something will spark an idea. Many years ago I had an imaginary patron who I would ask “what would you like me to make for you today?”. For me, art and ceramics is about fantasy and learning the skills to create objects from fantasies.

Here are some photos of work from last year. They were in an exhibition at LON Gallery in Melbourne. The show was called People Today. These little pots are quite small and will fit in the palm of your hand. They are earthenware and decorated in the way that I described above.”





NEXT MEETING

The Next General Meeting will be 6th July, 2026 at 5.30pm at the Warwick Potters Club House. Hoping to see you there.