



## **INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF NEWCASTLE STUDIO POTTERS INC**

**About us:** Newcastle Studio Potters Inc was formed in 1968 by a group of potters who wanted to share ideas and techniques in the field of ceramics. From these beginnings grew the need for a workspace and in 1973 the group purchased "Backs" butcher shop at 57 Bull Street, Cooks Hill. This restored building is now a busy workspace for the use of members and also features *Back to Back Galleries*. The two galleries were opened on March 1, 1992, and have been an important part of Newcastle's art scene for over 30 years. The main gallery is an exhibition space with an emphasis on clay work. The smaller gallery is known as *The Gallery Shop* and here members sell their pottery, both as functional ware and as sculptural art.

**Membership:** Membership is open to persons experienced in the art of pottery and clay work. Members who can demonstrate a sound knowledge of ceramic practice and are proficient in the art of pottery can access the workshop and kilns (after induction). All members are bound by the NSP Inc constitution. New members must be sponsored by two current members. New membership intake in February, May and September.

**Benefits of Membership:** A member is entitled to:

- Attend and vote at General Meetings of the Association.
- Attend bimonthly open meetings.
- Sell clay work in The Gallery Shop.
- Participate in all members' exhibitions.
- Make a submission to hold an exhibition in the main gallery, noting that priority is given to members of NSP Inc and that exhibition content must be predominantly clay.
- Receive the monthly newsletter and invitations to all exhibition openings.
- Include their profile on the NSP Inc website.
- Attend educational workshops (after paying the fee) and social events.
- Use the workshop and hire the kilns after attending both a Workshop Induction and a Workplace, Health & Safety Induction followed by Kiln Induction.

**Responsibilities of Membership:** A member is required to:

- Read and comply with the constitution.
- Display for sale a minimum of 6 pieces in The Gallery Shop per year.
- Participate in member exhibitions either by sale of work or by gallery sitting or other.
- Attend a minimum of 2 Open Meetings or social events per year.

*Junior Members* have all the above benefits except they may not vote at General Meetings. When using the workshop facilities junior members must be supervised by a member.

**The Workshop:** The Workshop is equipped with a slab roller, an extruder, 5 wheels and 5 electric kilns. The gas kiln is only used for group firings. Sound ceramic knowledge required.

**The Gallery Shop:** The Gallery Shop is a retail outlet for members to display and sell their clay work. Work in the shop is regularly updated so that it remains interesting and varied. A commission of 25% is deducted from each sale.

**The Gallery:** All members are encouraged to become involved in exhibitions in the Gallery – either by participating in a members' exhibition or by applying to hold an exhibition themselves. Notice of timelines and requirements for applying to hold an exhibition are e-mailed to members and announced in the monthly newsletter.