



## Come and see our immersive installation in Sturt Gallery...

### Gauge...a matter of moisture

A new exhibition installation by **B. Jane Cowie**  
**Continues to 4 June**

On Sunday 9 April we opened our new exhibition that is quite unlike anything that we have seen before in our Gallery. The exhibition was opened by Binalong based glass artist Peter Minson.

Using, thread, woven mesh, heat, plastic borosilicate glass, time, water and space B. Jane Cowie has created an immersive installation at Sturt Gallery investigating the collection and creation of water and rainfall within different lived environments.

*"With a measured intention to gauge my own intent, this exhibition is an installation within a space for a predetermined period of time, addressing matters of process and an emerging meaning in relation to space".*

Creating an environment within a gallery space, as a pleasant, comforting, soft place, almost ethereal in nature, allows viewers to interact with and be amongst ideas, measured and articulated.

**B. Jane Cowie** has been working with glass for over 20 years. Cowie has played an important role in the development of contemporary craft in Australia through numerous roles on boards of key organisations. Cowie moved to Singapore in 2003 and now runs a company called Art Glass Solutions that develops large scale art installations for the public and private sectors and public art commissions. Cowie undertook a residency at Sturt in March/April 2017 to develop work for the exhibition.



Installation in Sturt Gallery; above: B. Jane Cowie & Peter Minson at the Opening

## Celebrating Clay

Congratulations to all the participants in the 'Celebrating Clay' exhibition at the Bowral Art Gallery. This is an exhibition by members of the weekly ceramics classes at Sturt Pottery and is a great initiative to showcase their talent. The exhibition continues until 18 April.

[www.bdass.com](http://www.bdass.com)

## Uncovering the story behind an old box of tools

By Dale Dryen with additional research undertaken by Robyn Dryen.

Sturt has recently received from the estate of David Ratner, a large set of woodworking tools (over 300 items in all). The tools are mainly carving chisels which belonged to Maurice Klein, a wood carver working in Sydney in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. As well as the chisels there are some spokeshaves, a cabinetmaker's chest and a wooden bench plane which belonged to the Ratner family.



Maurice Klein arrived in Australia from England at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and died in Sydney in 1955. Maurice is said to have carved the lectern in St Andrew's cathedral, Sydney. The chisels are the tools of a master relief carver. Maurice's daughter Rose married Saul Ratner in 1926.

Saul and his brother Harry worked in the family's furniture factory, begun by their father Joseph Ratner. Joseph, who had been born in Belarus, moved to England and then came to Australia in 1904 via South Africa. He established his business **J. Ratner & Co. Pty. Ltd.** in about 1911 in Newtown, Sydney. According to information from the NSW State Library, the firm did highly refined work for churches, synagogues and banks. Grace Bros was one of their major clients for a range of good quality production furniture. Production stopped in 1980 when the factory closed and the site was sold.

The tools were handed down to David Ratner (Saul's son and Maurice's grandson). The chisels were in a box lined with newspapers dated 1955 the year Maurice died.

Sturt also received some historical books on carving and cabinet making from David Ratner's estate.

A display of some of the tools and books is now on show in Sturt Gallery. Our thanks go to the Ratner family for their generous donation.

## What's new in Sturt Shop (more on page 4...)



L-R: Elka Lucas ceramics: salad bowl \$140, bottle \$50, vase \$50, sake set \$70, large plate \$150; 4 Leaf Clover cushion \$64; Phil Young resin & wood bowl \$150

## Winter School 2017 – Monday 3 – Friday 7 July

Courses are filling fast!

Online booking and the new printed brochure are available now. The Winter School program includes a great selection of courses such as portraits in watercolour, botanical art – nuts, seeds and pods, figurative sculpture in clay, etching and champlevé enamelling, digital marquetry, exploring ice cool porcelain and much more. We also have daily art classes for children. Check out the full program on [www.sturt.nsw.edu.au/education/winter-school](http://www.sturt.nsw.edu.au/education/winter-school)



## Short Courses 2017

Our next weekend of short courses is coming up in May.  
**Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 May, 9.30am-4.30pm**

### Ephemeral Art with Shona Wilson

**Level:** All levels| **Cost:** \$300 + materials (TBA)

Collaborate with nature. This workshop is for anyone that is interested in connecting with their creative self in a playful and unpressured way. Using lateral thinking you will open yourself up to new ways of thinking and creating.

**Shona Wilson** is an Australian sculptor who engages with the natural world, creating beautiful assemblages. Shona's materials are drawn from her surroundings, continually foraging and hoarding and is renowned for her ability to re-contextualize materials into intricate and striking artworks.



### Tool Restoration and sharpening with Keith Houston

**Level:** All levels| **Cost:** \$300 + materials \$10

Using a tool you have rescued and lovingly restored, whether it is a chisel, a plane or perhaps even an antique bread knife, is rewarding. But what is the best way to restore an object? This two day, hands-on course will show you how – and, importantly, what not to do. Bring a selection of hand tools, no matter what their condition, and be prepared to transform them back into working condition, whether for personal use or for profit.

**Keith Houston**, a retired scientist and past President of the ACT Woodcraft Guild, has been collecting and restoring hand tools for much of his life. You may have seen him and purchased restored items at tool events, or read his articles about hand tools, or attended one of his many workshops on woodcarving or sharpening.



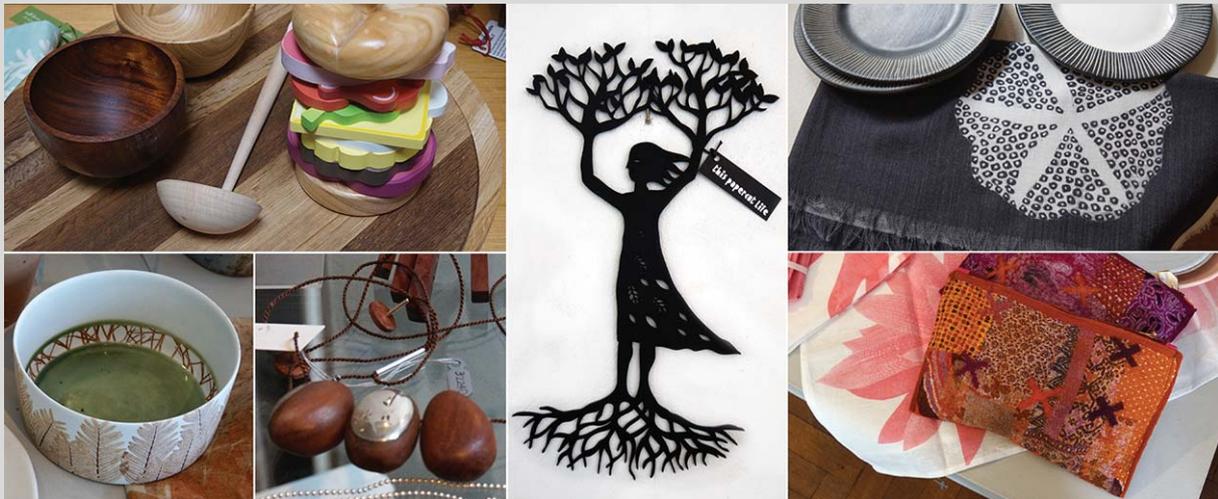
[www.sturt.nsw.edu.au/education/short-courses](http://www.sturt.nsw.edu.au/education/short-courses)

## Our next exhibition...

**Woven in Winter – woven forms in basketry, textiles and ceramics. 11 June to 23 July**  
A celebration of woven forms in the winter months. Includes work by artists Bronwyn Berman, Brooke Munro, Catriona Pollard, Karen Farrell, Keiko Schmeisser, Patrice Cooke, Shona Wilson, Tracey Mitchell and Tracy Luff. [www.sturt.nsw.edu.au/whats-on](http://www.sturt.nsw.edu.au/whats-on)



## What's new in Sturt Shop (cont.)



Clockwise from top: Dave Prattis bowls \$45ea, ladle \$58; Hamburger stack \$50; cheese paddle \$140; Sue Codee wall piece \$80; Elka Lucas ceramic side plates \$35ea; Lynn Elzinga-Henry scarf \$180; Bonnie & Nell table runner \$79; Gill Brooks felt pouches \$95ea; Sarah Bourke necklace (timber & silver) \$220; Mollie Bosworth bowl \$190.

Full details of all Sturt courses, exhibitions, residency programs and events can be found on our website: [www.sturt.nsw.edu.au](http://www.sturt.nsw.edu.au) or to make a booking or enrolment call Sturt Shop on 02 4860 2083 or email: [shop@sturt.nsw.edu.au](mailto:shop@sturt.nsw.edu.au)



Sturt is a division of  
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