

Darbyshire Pottery Society

NEWSLETTER NO 1 FEBRUARY 2013

<http://darbyshirepotterysociety.org>

I have finally put together a newsletter for the friends and collectors of the beautiful Darbyshire Pottery made in the 1950s by my father and stepmother Bill and Jean Darbyshire in Perth Western Australia. Not as much news as I had hoped but hey it's a start.

I have been in communication with Stirling Shaw (Jean's son) who lives in Sydney, and he has told me that he with his brother Robert had donated a large selection of the pottery to both the Perth Art Gallery and the Shepparton Art Gallery in Victoria in the year 2000.. I hope to visit both Galleries in 2013 and find out what has happened to these pieces.



Jeans favorite vase

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A LIVING TREASURE IS FOUND

Recently I had the pleasure of meeting Michell Balle who was an employee of the Darbyshire pottery factory in 1955-56.

Michell was 16 years old at that time and worked for approx. one year before obtaining a job with Wembley Ware with some help from Jean. Michell says that Jean was like a mother to her and she enjoyed every minute working there.

The staff for some reason nicknamed her “Bobby”. She started in the fettling room and progressed to the hand painting section.

She says that one of the highlights was when Paul Rigby came to the factory to discuss the making of replicas of his famous little urchin.

Michell is still in good health and living in the same house in Perth that she has had for 30 years. She is the mother of 6 children and the grandmother of 10.

Good on you “Bobby”



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Collectors Corner

I intend to call on as many collectors as I can in the future and the first one myself and my daughter Joanne were lucky enough to visit was Graham Chave and his lovely wife Sheryl.

We took some great photos of their extensive collection displayed in beautiful cabinets.



Graham and Tony

Many thanks to Graham and Sheryl for a very interesting and informative visit.

Bill and Jean Darbyshire at the Widgemooltha Hotel 1959

This photo of Jean and Bill shows them with Lee Ranford (later Director of W.A. Geological Survey) with a female employee at the Widgemooltha Hotel. The date of the photo was 1959. Stirling Shaw (Jean's son) took the photo when he and Lee were working in the area. Note the aboriginal figures on the shelf above. The factory closed in 1956 and Bill and Jean then leased the Boyup Brook Hotel before moving to Widgemooltha.



If anyone has any items of interest or news related to the Pottery I would be delighted to hear from them. Please contact me, by email darbywa@bigpondwa.com

Cheers Tony Darbyshire

Some more photos from Grahams Collection and other collectors.



