

Darbyshire Pottery Society

NEWSLETTER NO 2 MARCH 2014

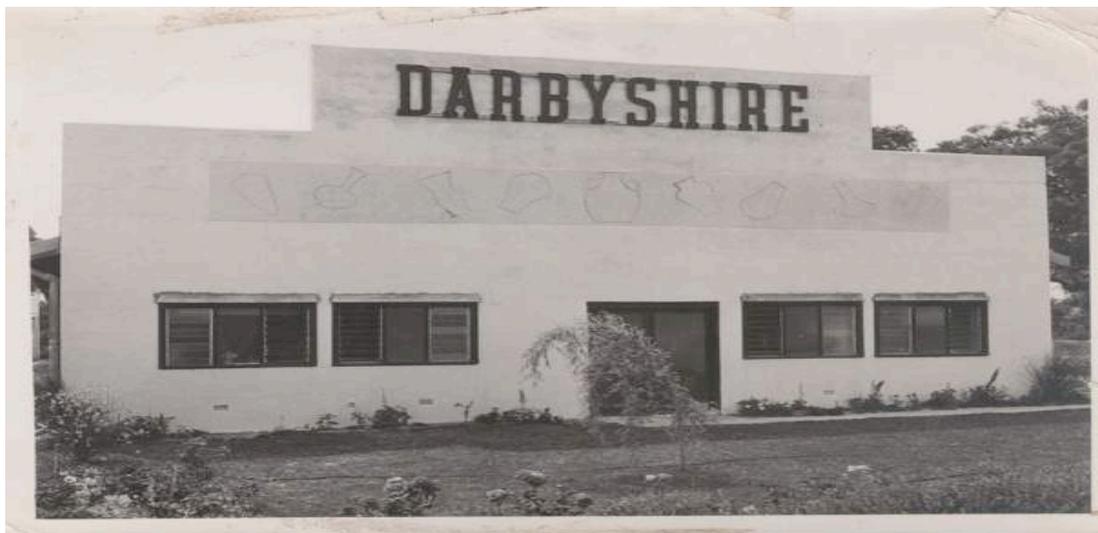
<http://darbyshirepotterysociety.org>

In spite of best intentions it has been a whole year between newsletters, better late than never I guess.

The first item of news is a very sad one. In December 2013 Stirling Shaw passed away after a protracted and painful illness.

Stirling was Jean Darbyshire's youngest son and had worked at the factory for some time when he was a young man.

Stirling was a big help in setting up this Society and his input was invaluable. I was lucky enough to visit Stirling and his wife Judy in their lovely house in Sydney shortly before he died. He had found some incredible photos of the Factory in Odin Road Innaloo, some of which I will reproduce in this newsletter. The photos were taken about 1954.



THE FACTORY IN ODIN ROAD WESTERN AUSTRALIA

2/

This picture is of Jean Darbyshire hard at work paring the articles.



One of the women in the spraying booth applying the glaze.



3/



The busy women at work in the factory. In the lower photo Stirling Shaw can be seen in the back of the room.



VACLOVAS RATAS

From 1951 through to 1953 the Darbyshire Pottery Factory was lucky to employ a famous Lithuanian graphic artist and printmaker. His name was Vaclovas Ratas. Vaclovas emigrated to Australia in 1949, first to Perth and then to Sydney.

He worked as a design model-maker and was responsible for some of the remarkable Aboriginal stylised Australian animals painted on the Darbyshire pottery. Although Ratas is not widely known his work is represented in art galleries around Australia and internationally. Sadly in 1966 Ratas was diagnosed with Leukemia and died in Sydney in 1973.



Vaclovas Ratas in 1934 as a 24 year old artist.

5/

In the years after 2000 prices for some of the rarer Darbyshire pieces went through the roof. I have managed to obtain some of these prices for pieces sold by ebay. Since the global financial crisis prices have come down dramatically.



EMU sold on e-bay 2/03/07 AU \$2803 / At auction in 2013 AU \$1500



KOOABURRA Sold on e-bay 11/02/07 AU \$3000

6/



Kiwi Bird sold on E-bay 2nd May 2005 AU \$4549



Possum Figurine (mother and baby) sold on E-bay 20th April 04
AU \$2178

If anyone has any items of interest, latest prices obtained or news related to the Pottery. Please contact me, by email
tonydarbyshire1@gmail.com