

Apr
2011

newsletter

monthly newsletter & journal



Wellington
Potters'
Association
— EST 1958 —

Roger's Ramblings

Greetings. By the time you read this edition I hope to be enjoying a swim in Vietnam's Ha Long Bay, temp around the high 20s but of course my thoughts will be with you!

Congratulations to Sue Scobie who took the top prize at last month's NZ Potters' national exhibition in Auckland with her beautiful coiled stratified vessels. Well done, Sue.

HELP! The club's photo tent has gone walkabout. It is in a relatively large black bag that has usually been stored in the library but it has not been seen for some months. Would the member who has borrowed it please put it back as others would like to use it, too.

CHILDREN. I am sure we all like to see children enjoying playing with clay in a constructive way but those who bring them to the rooms must realise that there are hazards for children at the rooms and they must accept responsibility and supervise them at all times. And, of course, this includes making sure they do not disturb other members who may be working there by running around or making a noise.

Firing charges for hiring a kiln have been adjusted slightly so that now they better relate to the capacities of the kilns, in other words those who hire kilns will get more for their money. For those who regularly put work to be fired why not check the savings you might make by hiring a kiln yourself rather than putting your work into club firings. We regularly hold training sessions for those not qualified to fire the kilns.

NEW MEMBERS. We will shortly be running a familiarisation evening for new members. Those who have joined over the past three months and have not yet been shown around will soon be individually contacted.

FOR SALE. The club's Venco pugmill for sale. If you would like to buy it the price is \$1,000 (new cost is around \$3,500). Email the club if you are interested:
wellingtonpotters@gmx.com.

Congratulations to Anneke Borren who was made a Life Member of New Zealand Potters at the AGM in Auckland. In proposing this, Howard Williams spoke of Anneke's many years of dedication to the Society. The nomination was seconded by Graeme Storm and passed with acclamation.

At the same meeting Mal Sole was thanked for his contribution as Wellington representative. He is standing down and Jenny Shearer will be replacing him on the committee.

Happy potting,
Roger

New members to WPA

A warm welcome to the following members: Nick Shaw, Karl Fritsch and Todd Chaplin, and rejoining is Louise Roche Farmer.

Newsletter by email?

If you would like to receive the WPA newsletter by email instead of hardcopy please send your email address to Vera at davee@paradise.net.nz. Receiving the newsletter by email will help the club with economics and the environment. You will also receive it sooner (and in colour)! Cheers ☺

Pottery classes at the rooms

Mondays and Tuesdays 7-9pm – Vivian Rodriguez

Basic to intermediate 8 week course \$145. Enrol through Onslow College (phone 477 1118, email commed@onslow.school.nz)

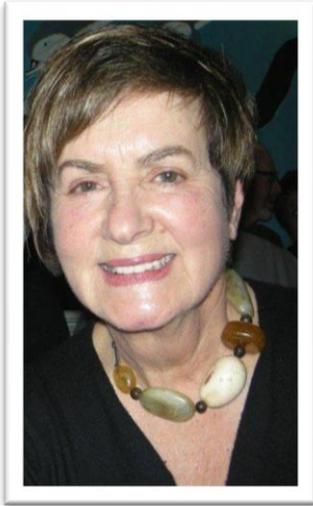
Thursdays 7-9pm – Rosemary O'Hara

Throwing and hand building for beginners and beyond. 6 week courses run continuously. \$100 per course, plus clay and firing costs. Contact Rosemary to enrol: phone 233 0003, email roseo@klezmer.co.nz.

Saturdays 9.45-11.45am – Anthea Grob & Rosemary O'Hara

Introductory and intermediate class in hand building and wheel throwing. 6-week courses run continuously. \$100 per course, plus clay and firing costs. Contact Anthea to enrol: anthea@ecofabric.co.nz

Potters profile: Jenny Shearer

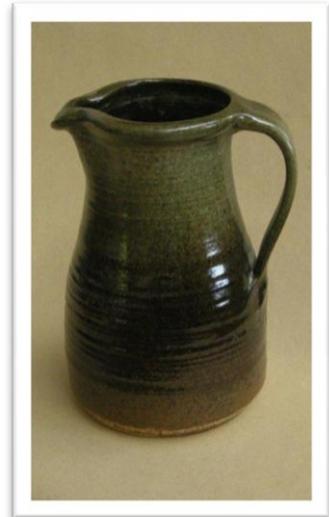


Jenny was born in Hasting NZ 1938. She studied Physiotherapy at Otago 1956-58, and Ceramics at The Gloucester School of Art U.K. 1961-62.

She started in earnest in the early 1970s when her husband David built her a large Cowan style brick kiln on a steep Brooklyn hillside. Filling that on her own was certainly a challenge with four young daughters. They grew up with pots all around them. Holidays were in Coromandel camping at Barry Brickell's Driving Creek property alongside other potters and their families. Eventually they went and lived there for 12 years from 1987 to 1999.

The main thrust of her work has been "The Urban Ritual Vessel". "I have never tired of making functional ware that is a pleasure to use and to look at. From stoneware I moved on to porcelain some 20 years ago and specialised more in tea sets with Japanese influenced glazes and aesthetics. These days I produce a range of fine white

bowls, cups and teapots as well as some wall and "Still Life" pieces. These assemblages represent families and their diversity." Many of us can vouch for the pleasure we get from using Jenny's pottery. She made some of the commemorative cups for our 50th anniversary. At present she fires a modest 9cu ft gas kiln in the small front yard of her early settler cottage in central Wellington.



Jenny's first solo exhibition was at the Antipodes Gallery in Dixon Street with Brian Carmody in 1975. Following this she exhibited widely, taught numerous classes and helped set up The Potters Shop in Tinakori Road ... the first cooperative of its kind in Wellington. She did a stint on The Community Arts Council. She is a former president of the Wellington Potters Association and is a Life Member. In our library is the inaugural pot she threw at the opening of Wellington Potters first rooms in Newtown. She is also the current past president of the NZ Academy of Fine Arts and former Artist in Residence at the WPA.

COLLECTIONS: Government House Wellington, The Dowse Art Museum, Napier Art

Museum, ASP Collection at Auckland Museum, Christchurch Art Gallery, Southland Art Museum.

AWARDS: Merit Awards: Suter Art Gallery 1991 and Royal Easter Show 1997. Twice selected for Fletcher-Challenge exhibitions.

Premier Awards: Thames Summer Art Exhibition 1999 and National Domestic-ware Award. New Zealand Society of Potters. 2005.



Potters' diary

Month	Date	Activity	Subject	Coordinator/tutor
May	Sat 14 - Jun 5	Anagama Firing (and associated activities)		Alan Ross
	June			
	Sat/Sun 21/22	Mike Dee's workshop	'Archy Texture'	Rhonda Edwards
June	Fri 24	An evening guided tour	Victoria University's classical pottery collection (mostly Greek)	Vera Burton
July	Sat 16 Jul - Sun 7 Aug		NZSP Regional Exhibition "Elements 11" at Pataka	Mal Sole
	Sat 23	Raku Firing		Mike Atkins

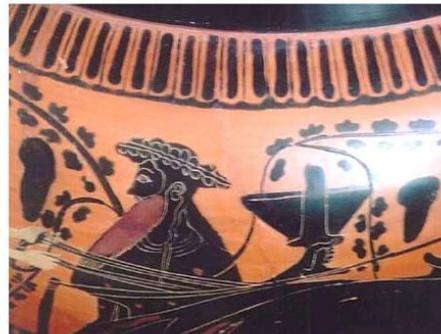
	Sunday 17	Barbara Spencer's Workshop	"Printing on Clay"	Rhonda Edwards
August	Sat/Sun 20/21	Potter-in-Residence workshop\ demonstration	(tb.c)	Vivian Rodriguez
September	Fri 2 - Sun 11	Opening function for Members Evening Friday 2	Ceramicus 2011	Roger Pearce
October	Sun 16	AGM & Pot luck meal (BYO)	47 Simla Cres	Roger & Jann Pearce
	Sat 22	Raku Firing		Mike Atkins
November	Sat 5	Pit Firing		Francesca Costa
	Sat/Sun 19/20	Potter-in-Residence workshop\ demonstration	(tb.c)	Mia Hamilton

A guided Tour of Classical Pottery

A chance to get up close and personal to pottery which has survived 2500 years. The Classics department at Victoria University has a fine collection of ancient pottery. The techniques are amazing, and the pots depict myths and daily life of the time. Dr Diana Burton who lectures in Greek Art will take us on a tour of the collection.



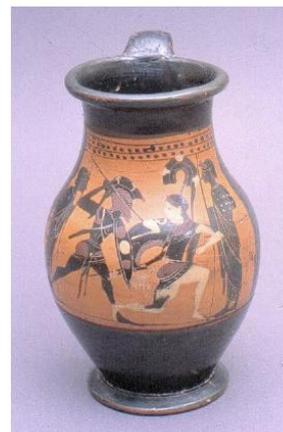
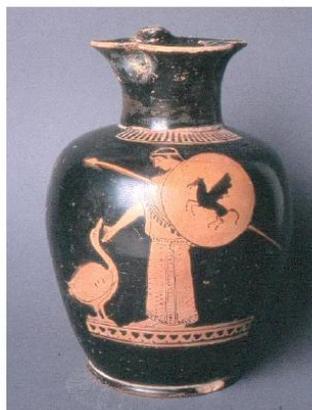
Friday 24th June, 7.30pm.
(you can park in the University grounds in the evening.)



Numbers will be limited - 'first come first served'. So please let Vera know if you are coming. We will provide instructions for getting to the venue nearer the time. You will have plenty of opportunity for discussion over coffee/tea and cake.

Phone: 938 8207

Email: davee@paradise.net.nz



"Make a Mug"



In conjunction with Ceramicus 11 Wellington Potters' are arranging a sale of beer mugs to aid the Christchurch earthquake fund. Ceramicus 11 is Wellington Potters' Annual Exhibition from 3 - 11 September, 2011.

This will be a separate sale run alongside the exhibition. We invite you to donate mugs of any shape, size, funky, serious - but you must be able to drink beer out of them!

Let your imagination run riot! We are hoping for a lot of very individualistic mugs! They will be sold on a cash and carry basis replacing stock as it is sold. We would like you to price the pots and this will be the minimum price for which they will be sold. Wellington Potters will not take any commission on these - all money will be donated.

We will be happy to receive donated mugs from any potters in the greater Wellington area, ie that covered by the Wellington region of NZP. We can also accept them at any time up until Sunday 27 August - you don't need to wait until formal receiving for the Exhibition itself. Send your mugs to Vera Burton, 20 Motueka Street, Ngaio, Wellington 6035. Or drop them into the Wellington Potters' Centre, 130 Grant Road - make sure they are clearly labelled "Make a Mug for Christchurch".

Some mugs may be selected for special sale or auction. WPA does reserve the right to refuse to accept entries that are substandard.

A second venue could be considered if we receive more mugs than we can handle at the NZ Academy of Fine Arts which is the exhibition venue.

Please clearly mark your mugs with your name and price, and include with them your name and contact phone/email if you want any unsold items returned to you. Included are a couple of examples made by Jenny Shearer to get you thinking.

Email: davee@paradise.net.nz



Pyromaniacs reunion

ANAGAMA REKINDLED



Shige Ohashi observes. A photo by Ron Knox from the 6th firing

Smoke and fire will soon abound at the club's "Te Haunui" ("the big wind") anagama kiln on the property of June and Graeme Houston in Horokiwi.

At the time of writing more people are needed to assist on some of the 16 shifts of the 5 day firing which starts on Wednesday 25 May. Most of you will have already received a copy of the draft shift roster to which you can refer. Each shift has an experienced shift leader. Ideally they should be assisted by 2 to 3 helpers (inexperience is not a handicap). We are also keen to build a group of people competent to conduct such firings in the future. Apart from shift members, volunteers are also needed to help receive pots on 14 May and to assist in loading.

Points to note:

- Bisqued pieces only will be accepted for the firing;
- The firing charge remains at \$8.00 per KG of the bisqued weight of pots prior to firing;
- Clay: Stoneware or a porcelain white body - any of the non-translucent porcelains are suitable;
- Type of pieces: Vases, bottles and lidded containers are the most suitable. Avoid making large voluminous pots as they occupy a lot of space and if space is at a premium we may not be able to accommodate them;

- If you want to glaze your pots there will be some specific anagama glazes available at the rooms from Saturday 7 May formulated by the alchemist Mal Sole.

Timetable

Steps	Dates
Receive pots at rooms (Upstairs) 2 – 5 pm	Saturday 14 May 2011
Transport pots to kiln	Sunday 15 May
Load kiln	Tuesday 17 May – Saturday 21 May
Fire kiln	Wednesday 25 – Sunday 29 May
Cool kiln	Monday 30 May – Saturday 4 June
Unload kiln	Sunday 5 June

Volunteers

If you are interested in helping in any way or want more information, please contact me at: alross@clear.net.nz

Alan Ross
Coordinator

Archy Texture

Archy Texture (Ceramics and Architecture) - A weekend workshop with Mike Dee, Saturday 21 – Sunday 22 May



This hands-on workshop is suitable for anybody who has ever made a sandcastle – or wanted to make an “Ann Hathaway’s Cottage” teapot. Exploring architectural form in miniature is an exciting way to exploit and enhance existing pottery skills. It is also a pathway to achieving original design concepts that can be readily adapted to conventional pottery making and decorating. This is an opportunity to combine wheel-thrown, slab and/or coiling techniques with impressed and applied clay decoration to produce pots, sculptures, models, and/or tile murals inspired by architectural examples.

The aim of this workshop is to explore ways and means of developing original design ideas in ceramics, towards achieving an identifiable, personal style.

The method is to find and exploit adaptable motifs from a closely related discipline, architecture (as an example).

The process is to follow the design practice of setting a brief, conducting research, widely exploring possible outcomes and selecting and refining a final product.

Potters have been inspired by architectural forms for centuries. There is a considerable cross-over between the two disciplines, from brickwork and tiles to murals, sanitation fittings and decorative ceramic fixtures. Many ceramics are designed specifically for interior and exterior architectural spaces, such as the Hans Coper candle-holders in Coventry Cathedral. Potters’ kilns are a specialised branch of architecture.

Adobe, tile, brick, and mosaic; the bonds between clay-work and architecture are ancient and inextricable.

- Date: Saturday 21 – Sunday 22 May;
- Time: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm;
- Cost: Members \$70 and non-members \$80;
- Sculptural clay: Bags of sculptural clay may be purchased at the rooms either in advance of or during the workshop. \$26 a bag;
- Bring 5 images to the workshop: 3 buildings displaying distinct styles of domestic, industrial/technological and ecclesiastical architecture, a doorway or window; and a structural feature e.g. a pillar, buttress, beam, etc;

- Bring usual hand-building tools and anything you can use to make interesting impressed textures;
- Bring food for a shared lunch.

You can register by either e-mailing or ringing Rhonda Edwards at Rhonda_je@yahoo.co.nz or 389 8751.

To pay (by not later than Friday 13 May), please send a cheque (made payable to the Wellington Potters' Association and addressed to: The Treasurer, Wellington Potters' Association, PO Box 6686, Wellington) with a note giving the name of the workshop "Archy Texture" and your name.

Alternatively you can place your note with a cheque or cash in the safe at the rooms.

Clays for sale at WPA

How to buy clay

New clay is kept under lock and key in the storeroom. The rooms manager, president and treasurer have keys. Clay is available for purchase on Tuesdays between 10am and 2pm. Please pay immediately. Note that we can't give change or receipts.

Abbots Stoneware: \$22

Traditional buff stoneware.

Abbots Sculptural: \$26

Grogged stoneware, suitable for raku or sculptural work. Low shrinkage. Oatmeal buff colour in oxidation, brown in reduction. Firing range: cone 8-10.

Abbots Red: \$22

Fine, plastic earthenware. Orange terracotta colour at maturity. 50mesh. Firing range: cone 03-2 (1100-1150).

Red Raku (12.5kg): \$26

Great for hand building. Grog content of about 30%. Pale terracotta colour. Won't take glaze all that well. Firing range: cone 03-5

PCW (Potters Clay White): \$36

A versatile, pale grey-firing (grey in reduction) stoneware body with excellent throwing characteristics. Suits many applications (including raku firings because of a good thermal shock resistance). 80 mesh. Drying shrinkage 5-8%, total when fired about 16%. Firing range: cone 9-10 (1257-1282 degrees centigrade).

W10 (10kg): \$23

White clay with a firing range from earthenware to stoneware (similar to Abbots white). (Members using this are impressed with its texture for throwing)

Primo white stoneware (10kg): \$20

Primo buff stoneware (10kg): \$20

Recycled clay: \$7 per bag

Who's Who in the WPA

President

Roger Pearce
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Vice President

Mauritz Basson
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Rooms Manager

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Mia Hamilton
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Kilns – Repairs

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DCA Supervisor

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Email address for the WPA

wellingtonpotters@gmx.com

As a club we try to keep our fees down while still covering costs.
If for financial reasons you feel excluded, please contact the President.

Articles for April newsletter need to be emailed to Saskia by 22 April 2011

(saskia.hendrikse@buddlefindlay.com)

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Phone (04) 473 3680, **Email** wellingtonpotters@gmx.com

Committee List 2010/2011

Position	Name	Address	Contact number	Email
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Vice President	Mauritz Basson	9 Kilgour Way Crofton Downs	381 6751 (021 227 8151)	mauritz.basson@wellingtonzoo.com
Secretary	Alan Ross	58 Viewmont Drive, Harbour View, Lower Hutt 5010	566 8922	alross@paradise.net.nz
Treasurer	Robyn Connolly	2 Worcester Street, Wilton, Wellington 6012	977 8448	rob.c@paradise.net.nz
Immediate Past President	Gwyn Williams			gwynwilliams@gmx.com
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Rooms Manager	Jo Moon	33 Harbour View Road, Northland, Wellington 6012	972 1133 (021 177 4191)	jomoon@paradise.net.nz
Host	Rhonda Edwards	12 Connaught Terrace, Brooklyn, Wellington 6021,	389 8751	rhonda_je@yahoo.co.nz
Kilns	Mia Hamilton	19 Freyberg Street, Lyall Bay, Wellington 6022	027 668 6711	mia.hamilton@xtra.co.nz
Grants	Kate Ford	14A Salisbury Garden Court, Cecil Road, Wadestown, Wellington 6012	473 5356 (021 121 6531)	kate.ford48@gmail.com
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DCA Coordinator	Cate Pates	2 Trilids Lane, Churton Park, Wellington 6037	478 4433	clpates@hotmail.com
Database lists	Vera Burton	20 Motueka Street, Ngaio	938 8207	davee@paradise.net.nz
Kilns & Raku	Mike Atkins	13 Nevay Road, Miramar	970 1205	kayne_nz@yahoo.co.nz
Pit Firings	Francesca Costa	Flat 7, 35 Ganges Rd, Khandallah	479 1522 (027 678 6006)	costaf@xtra.co.nz
Glazes	Rosemary O'Hara	8 Reserve Road, Plimmerton 5026	233 0003	roseo@klezmer.co.nz
NZP Delegate	Jenny Shearer			