

Nov
2011

newsletter

monthly newsletter & journal



Wellington
Potters'
Association
— EST 1958 —

President's Piece

The AGM was held recently at Roger and Jann Pearce's place and a fine new committee elected. I ended up president, Mauritz Basson was elected vice-president, Kate Ford secretary and Robyn Connolly treasurer. The other committee members are Saskia Hendrikse, Elaine Marland, Rhonda Edwards, Donna O'Connor, Joe Zuccarello and Vivian Rodriguez. Saskia and Elaine are going to keep on doing a wonderful job with the newsletter and library respectively, Rhonda and Donna will share the job of rooms manager, Donna will do graphic design, and Vivian will take over responsibility for club firings from Mia Hamilton. And Roger stays on the committee as immediate past-pres. See the end of this newsletter for contact details, plus names of others who play key roles in the club.

I'd really like to thank those stepping down. Jo Moon was a great rooms manager, but was stolen from us by work commitments. Mia managed the kiln room wonderfully, loading and unloading, rostering on helpers, juggling firings, dealing with accidents and upsets. Alan Ross, whose efficiency and knowledge only made everyone else's job so much easier, is heading up to Horokiwi to chop wood. And Roger, well I don't know what to say. I was kind of hoping we could make him King Roger and he and his offspring could rule WPA forever. Not his vision, it seems.

So, after a stint as president a couple of years ago, I am back. For those who don't know me, I'll give you a brief rundown. I first got into pottery after leaving school and going to day classes at Square Edge in Palmerston North. Then I headed down to Nelson and managed to score a job with Peter Gibbs and then with Royce McGashen. I learnt to wedge great hunks of clay for Peter's enormous planters and to burnish and fire his pit pots, and then Royce taught me how to throw and slip cast and load kilns and smile at customers. Then I headed to Brisbane and worked as a production thrower in a big factory full of illegal immigrants and mental Australians.

I sat all day at my wheel, and a Malaysian guy called Kenny prepared my clay and took away my pots, while fair-dinkum Aussie's Gerard and Brian abused me for being a kiwi. It was fun, but I didn't last. Only a couple of years after starting with Peter, I'd had enough of the repetition (to say nothing of sheep jokes). I quit pottery and went wandering the world – didn't touch clay for 5 years or so.

I came back to Wellington in 1993 and joined WPA. There were no classes at the rooms back then (the high schools covered things), and so I asked if I could start up a throwing class. I ran classes for 3 years (in what is now the glaze/kiln room), sometimes 3 classes a week. I taught one Roger Pearce and one Mal Sole. At one time, I had students called Mandy, Vandy, Randy and Sandy (did Andy ever come?). Once one of my student's hair caught on fire when she turned her back on a bungless kiln. Once someone rang up the club to complain that the the tutor was a drunk. I was told I had to dispense with homebrew and wine at my classes as WPA's reputation was at stake. (I hereby declare that I am not and have never been a drunk. Actually, I am sure it was Roger who used to bring the wine.)

I got onto the committee, did the newsletter for a year or two, loaded and repaired kilns (instructed in repairs by the late Brian Buchanan and Gullie Dowrick). Threw a few pots at home, which I fired in a gas kiln I had plonked in the garden. Went to Martinborough Fair. Disappeared again. Came back. Became president, never threw a thing. Disappeared again. Came back. Became president. Aiming to throw something I am approachable. Please get in touch with me if you want to discuss anything to do with the club.

A couple of pieces of news. Vivian Rodriguez is to be our potter in residence for 2012. Congratulations Vivian. Commiserations to Mia and Peter Knuckey. And congratulations Alan and Mike Atkins, both made life members of the club at the AGM for long-standing and tireless service. More later in the newsletter.

Gwyn

Use of the kilns

The kilns are expensive, hot and electric. When something goes wrong, it can really go wrong. Burns aside, the major risk is damage to shelves, props, pots, elements and brickwork. Recently, something went wrong. A kiln over-fired, the glaze ran off the pots and stuck to the shelves, ruining pots and shelves, and entailing a lot of work to clean up.

The club has a very strict policy on kiln use to which we expect all members to adhere.

- You need a licence to use the kilns, and even to book a kiln.
- To get a licence, you need to go through a fairly involved training process involving an initial training session, supervision by an experienced (not just licensed) kiln user for 8 firings, and a written test.
- You need to follow club procedures when firing – all procedures, not just what suits or what you have time for because of your busy schedule.
- If you fail to follow procedures, we will revoke your licence.
- If you fail to follow procedures and things go wrong, **we will ask you to pay for the damage.**

Non-firers. WPA has club firings every Tuesday for members who aren't authorised to use the kilns or who don't make enough pots to do a firing of their own. We do not want people firing kilns that are half empty, so there is no point in getting licence unless you have pots to fill a kiln. And please do not expect licensed kiln users to do a firing for you. **You cannot book a kiln unless you have a licence.**

Firers, please note that you must:

- cancel at least 24 hours in advance if you don't want your booking
- fire only your own pots, not pots waiting for club firings
- get your props in the right place
- make sure the **probe** is in and the correct programme set
- set the **timer**
- make up more cones if you have used some
- check in on your firing, put in bungs if you have to, see that all is working
- **clean** any glaze off your shelves immediately – NOT 'a bit later' – and apply wash as needed
- put shelves and props away in the proper place.

And please leave a land-line phone number. We can't call cellphones from the rooms.

Red Cross Christchurch Earthquake Appeal

Thanks everyone who donated mugs for Christchurch, allowing us to send the following letter to the NZ Red Cross:

Wellington Potters Association would like to donate the sum of \$4,000 to the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal. The money was raised from the sale of mugs and goblets at our recent annual exhibition, Ceramicus11. All the items were made and donated by members of Wellington Potters Association, Hutt Art Society Potters Group and Otaki Potters.

Our cheque for \$4,000 is enclosed.

With best wishes.

*Roger Pearce
President*

Your club needs you!

The fabulous and dedicated Dave Smissen, assistant to our treasurer, is to depart down south in the not-too-distant future. Dave does the books. The accounts. He puts figures into a software package called MYOB, and MYOB spits out the sort of financial info that helps us run the club. But with Dave going, we need someone new to take over.

WANTED: A NEW KEEPER OF THE ACCOUNTS

Though experience with financials is welcome, you don't need to know anything about book-keeping to take on this role. We will train you up. You can probably use different software if you want. You can work from home. You don't have to come to committee meetings. You don't have to handle cash (Robyn, the treasurer, takes care of that side of things). All you have to do is plug in figures on a regular basis and send out a report once a month to Robyn.

If anyone out there would be willing to take on this task, please get in touch with Gwyn or Robyn (contact details at end of newsletter). Your help would be massively appreciated.

President's Annual Report 2010 - 2011

I am pleased to report another good year for the Association with plenty of club activities and the finances healthy despite the club throwing a BBQ and quite unwarranted birthday party for me just before Christmas.

Activities

Three workshops run by invited potters were well attended; Chris Weaver, one of NZ's most accomplished table ware makers hosted a weekend workshop in October 2010, demonstrating his inimically style of work. He was followed in February by Ben Carter, an American currently working in China, focussed on throwing, altering and decorating with coloured slips whilst Mike Dee, a local potter who used to teach at Wellington High School, eight years as pottery tutor and another six in charge of ceramics classes, held a weekend in May and introduced members to his 'Archy Texture' approach - brainstorming new ideas, refining them and finally to the finished projects. Very entertaining. In March Ivan Vostinar held a much-needed Glaze Application workshop. And, of course, Francesca Costa and Mike Atkins continued to run their ever popular pit and raku firings for members.

And for something completely different and a real privilege for members was a conducted tour of the collection of ancient ceramics

at Victoria University courtesy of Dr Diana Burton who lectures in Greek Art. Also, members were invited to participate in two DCA workshops: Photography with Hamish Trolove and Drawing with Diane Toscano.

Alan Ross, ably assisted by our veteran anagama master Shige Ohashi, organised our seventh anagama firing over a couple of weeks in May/June and the consensus was that the results were the best ever. Thanks Alan, for your dedication to that ancient art and Graeme and June Houston for so generously hosting us and providing the wood for our firings. We would not have an anagama were it not for you.

Potters in Residence (PIR)

This year we have two potters sharing the PIR mezzanine floor: Mia Hamilton and Vivian Rodriguez. As part of their contract with the club they undertake to hold workshops for members.

In August Vivian ran a very successful Sgraffito workshop resulting in some stunningly decorated platters. Mia will be holding her workshops during October/December covering the techniques of glazing.

Classes

In accordance with our contracts with Onslow College we provided Monday and Tuesday evening classes. These were initially tutored by Ivan Vostinar and Vivian Rodriguez although Vivian took over teaching both classes part way through the year because of Ivan's work commitments. In addition Rosemary O'Hara and Anthea Grob continued their Thursday evening and Saturday morning classes. Class numbers in all classes were good and provided a steady source of new members as well as income for the club.

DCA

The Diploma in Ceramic Art programme we run in conjunction with Otago Polytechnic continued but with just four students. Of these one is due to complete her diploma at the end of this year. Funding provided by Otago Polytechnic was insufficient to meet all the costs but we had 'put aside' \$6,000 of the funds we received when we had high numbers in earlier years and with this WPA has been able to complete the DCA programme this year. The future remains uncertain unless at least three new students enrol for next year. The programme at WPA has been coordinated by Cate Pates who is also one of the tutors and has done a great job.

Rooms

On a more mundane level, some essential tidying up of procedures has been undertaken. Collecting firing fees was always a time consuming business but this has been remedied by having us all pay for our firings in advance. This has resulted in less work for the Treasurer and members now collect their work much more promptly so that we do not have to resort as much to putting unclaimed work on the 'Death Row' shelves. Why did we not think of this before! Upstairs there is still a problem from time to time when work is left on the shelves unidentified and unclaimed for weeks at a time. But a note from Jo Moon, Rooms Manager, in the newsletter plus photos of the offending material did result in much being removed prior to being dumped at the working bee. I think that is a useful technique to use every so often in future.

Two working bees were well attended, despite wet weather for the September one. Even so much was achieved and I would like to thank those who gave generously of their time. There is always work to do, of course, as any building owner will know so please do help at future working bees if you are able to do so. Ivan, despite being very busy working for a film studio (throwing 'ancient pots') he very generously spent a couple of weekends building new cubby holes and new racks for storing the tools and moulds. Many thanks, Ivan - the rooms are much better laid out now.

The wheels are being progressively serviced and we should have our two Cowleys back from Wellington Potters Supplies this month. Shige has been looking at changing the switch on the Talismans so that there is a choice of clockwise and anti-clockwise rotation - an advantage when teaching his Japanese students.

Kilns

We have made quite significant changes to the kilns. Timers have been fitted to most. This is to cut off a firing should it run over the set time as this could result in damage to the kilns which has happened in the past.

We have replaced two old Cobcraft kilns with a 5 cu ft McGregor kiln from Patti Meads and a 5 cu ft Cobcraft kiln from the late Jock Fleming; both kilns in excellent condition. We have also purchased another small (1 cu ft) second-hand test kiln to facilitate glaze

testing and for other small pieces. At present we are waiting for a controller for it.

Mike Atkins has continued to be our Mr Fix It when it comes to the kilns as he has been for over 20 years and we are indeed indebted to him for his dedication.

Change to mid-fire

The committee decided that in order to reduce the costs of maintaining the club's kilns and reduce the amount of electricity used the standard club firings would be changed to mid-fire that is, to fire to Cone 6. This is to apply to the club firings only that is, the Tuesday firings. Members will still be able to hire kilns to fire their own stoneware work as they do now. The complete change is being phased in with the final club ('Tuesday') stoneware firing in the week before Christmas. Classes will continue to use their stoneware clays and glazes until the end of this year. The club will stock a suitable mid-fire clay and that should be available in a couple of weeks.

Kiln firers

Some time ago we set up a programme of training for would-be firers to protect our kilns from misuse. This involves firstly attending a lesson on how to load/unload and programme a kiln firing, completing a test paper and then loading & firing 8 times under the supervision of a qualified firer in order to become qualified. It is working well.

Annual exhibition

Ceramicus11, our annual exhibition, was held from 2 to 11 September in Gallery 3, Academy Galleries, Queen's Wharf, a venue we have used for the past nine years. We also collaborated once again with watercolour artist, Alfred Memelink who exhibited his work on the walls. Forty nine of our members submitted 188 pieces of which 138 were exhibited which included at least one piece from each person; 46 sold for a total of \$6,516. Sales were down a little on previous years despite large numbers visiting the World Press Photos exhibition next door and large numbers attending the concurrent WoW exhibition at the Arena next door. Nevertheless, it was a good show and the record number of votes for the Viewers Choice prize indicated good numbers attending. The prize of a \$250 voucher from Wellington Potters Supplies went to Sue Scobie and the WPA Selector's Award of \$500 went to Paul Melser from Carterton.

This year we dropped press advertising and relied instead on flyers, our banners and web notices to promote the show. This, plus sharing costs with Alfred and a \$1,000 grant from Wellington City Council's Cultural Pool helped to keep our loss down to \$399.45.

Your committee also decided to raise money for the Christchurch Red Cross Earthquake Appeal through the sale of beer mugs made by our members, Hutt Art Society Pottery Group and Otaki Potters who generously joined in the project. Almost one hundred mugs plus 35 'unomis' (Japanese goblets) made and donated by Anneke Borren, were sold raising \$3780. That was a great result and our thanks to all who donated. At a Sale Day in September we raised another \$130 from the sale of surplus club equipment and that has been put towards it so we have sent a cheque for \$4,000 to the Red Cross Appeal.

New Members

We continue to welcome a steady stream of new members and as our facilities are the very best we need to make sure that those who

join do treat the equipment and facilities with care. Accordingly this year we set up a requirement for new members to attend an Orientation Session before they are given a key to the rooms. Bookings were made through Jo Moon and Rosemary O'Hara and Kate Ford have been running these very popular sessions by prior arrangement on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings respectively. Thanks to Jo, Rosemary and Kate for doing a great job.

Members' successes

It is very pleasing to see members of the club achieving success and our congratulations to Sue Scobie for being selected to exhibit at the 3rd International Ceramics Magazine Editors' Symposium at Fuping, China; Mia Hamilton for being selected for the Waiheke Island and Auckland Botanic Gardens outdoor exhibitions and former member Richard Stratton for his exhibition at The New Dowse. Also congratulations to Anneke Borren, our very distinguished member and former president of NZ Society of Potters for being made a Life Member of the Society.

Donations

I would like to acknowledge the generosity of two long-time members of Wellington Potters who recently told us they were retiring from active potting and most generously donated their tools, books and clay to the club. Items we did not need were sold to raise money for the Christchurch Appeal. The donors were Patti Meads and Jock Fleming. Sadly, shortly after collecting Jock's things we learned of his passing. Vera Burton wrote the tribute to Jock that appeared in our September newsletter.

Finally, and most importantly I would like to put on record my sincere thanks to all who have contributed this year and in previous

years for their input in all sorts of ways. Some I have already mentioned but there are others who are equally important: Mauritz, our Vice President who is always willing to step up when required, Alan Ross for being the highly efficient and long suffering secretary and Jo Moon for being a very pro-active Rooms Manager, both of whom are retiring from the committee, Elaine Marland for the great job she does keeping the library up to speed, Dave Smissen for attending to the Treasurer's bookwork plus being the key man when it comes to stocking and selling our clays and Robyn Connolly for being responsible for keeping on top of the firing fees and other cash, Marilyn Hester and Andy Rattenbury for unflinchingly tackling the strenuous job of recycling clay, Mia Hamilton for setting up and managing the kiln roster and setting up Ceramicus11, Rhonda Edwards for being a great 'host' at the rooms and looking after our inner selves at Tuesday lunches, Saskia Hendrikse for making our newsletter so interesting - a great source of info for those who do not often make it to the rooms. Outside of the committee I want to pay tribute especially to Vera Burton who did so much to make Ceramicus11 a success and who writes the excellent 'Potters Profiles' for the newsletter and to Rosemary O'Hara who has been slaving away in the glaze room making up and testing glazes for the new Mid-fire regime.

Some of us are retiring and I believe it is certainly time that I did so. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the committee and as President. It has been made a very happy time thanks to the support I have enjoyed from members generally but especially from those who have been willing to put their time and energy into running the club. Thank you. Dave Smissen has told me he will be leaving Wellington next year so we need a new Assistant Treasurer. If you can help in this department please let me know or put your hand up at the AGM.

Looking to the future the Association needs young and vigorous leadership and I am very happy to nominate Gwyn Williams as my successor. If elected he would, I know, be a most effective President.

Roger Pearce

Wellington Underground Market - calling all Potters and Handmade Crafters!!

Wellington Underground Market is looking for pottery, crockery and ceramics artists to sell their creations at a special theme market on Saturday 19 November 2011. Our weekly Saturday market is held in a covered car park on the Wellington Water Front adjacent to Frank Kitts Park. It is very popular with locals and tourists. We see thousands of customers each Saturday so it is a great opportunity to make a sale!

We are offering a free table space (\$120 value) to anyone interested. You are also welcome to combine with a friend and share a space. You will still need to pay our regular \$30 application fee, but then you'll be able to come back on any weekend you choose for future markets. We have wonderful holiday markets in December as well!

Please email Claire at admin@wellingtoncreative.co.nz if you'd like to have a stall or have additional questions.

Details

Saturday 19th November - 10am - 4pm, Frank Kitts Carpark (Jervois Quay). For further information please visit www.undergroundmarket.co.nz.

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 ☺

Website



My website is finally up and running! You can take a look on www.catepates.net.

All the best, Cate Pates

Please Take Note

Changes to Club Firings

The committee has decided that in order to reduce the costs of maintaining the club's kilns and reduce the amount of electricity used the standard club firings are to be changed to mid-fire that is, to fire to Cone 6 with a top temperature of 1240°C. This will apply to the club firings only that is, the Tuesday firings. This does not mean that stoneware firings will cease as members will still be able to hire kilns to fire their own work as they do now.

Timing of the Change

The complete change to mid-fire will be take place at the end of this year and the final club ('Tuesday') stoneware firing will be in the week before Christmas. However, as demand for mid-fire firings picks up then there may well be a mix of both firings from 1 October.

Classes

Classes may continue to use stoneware clays until the end of this year. It will be up to tutors as to when they change to mid-fire clay. Tutors are responsible for their class firings and class work is not to go into club firings.

Clay

The club is currently trialing a mid-fire clay. A notice will be put up in the rooms shortly advising the name and cost of the clay that is chosen. In the meantime members might like to try out the recycled clay that is now blended with 10% earthenware and 90% stoneware as a trial to bring the maturing temperature down. The cost remains \$7 a bag.

Kiln Room

Separate areas of the shelves will be identified for mid-fire and stoneware glaze work.

New members to WPA

A warm welcome to Ruth McKenzie.

Len Castle DCNZM CBE 1924 - 2011



My tribute to Len Castle who died on Oct 1st in Auckland.

Most potters will be aware of his iconic status as one of our early and inspirational ceramic artists. With his scientific background and profound aesthetic sensibilities he made many glorious pots and pioneered some interesting techniques, such as decorative wall bottles made from a solid lump of clay. He refined his work over 70 years and seemed to have an endless well of creativity. I never saw a pot of his that I did not like.

In the early 60s Len became a full-time potter - a very radical move then abandoning his job as a science teacher at Mt Albert Grammar school. Prior to that he worked together with Theo Schoon and became aware of the geothermal heart of the North Island. This had a profound influence in his glaze work. In 1956 Len went to work at Leach Potteries in England ... the discipline of production throwing did not stifle his own style and intuition. By the 70s he was in the swing of production amongst those NZ pioneers such as Barry Brickell, Doreen Blumhardt, Roy Cowan and Juliet, Peter Stichbury, Mirek Smisek and others who could then earn a living

from pots. At that time I visited him at his beautiful Titirangi home complete with mature kauri trees and a large oil fired kiln overlooking the Manukau Harbour.

These pioneer potters seemed to spark a passion in the NZ psyche ... hence waiting lists to get a place in one of the many nightclasses and a proliferation of new potters all over the country. Len's classic glazes stood out ... the shino, the copper red, the chun and the white over tenmoku. "Making the Molecules Dance" at the Dowse was his iconic exhibition and others followed. In the last 10 years work slowed but still new work evolved and at auction his pots fetch the highest prices. He was and will be an inspiration for generations to come.

Jenny Shearer

SALE: Pots by Jenny Shearer and prints by Penny Harrison

SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2011 - 10 AM TO 5 PM

252 OHIRO RD (a block from the Penthouse Movie Theatre on R)

SECONDS plus mainly functional items in porcelain and earthenware - cups, jugs, bottles, teapots, plates, bowls and more bowls, unomis, corrugated baskets etc

Original prints at affordable prices both framed and unframed

ALL WELCOME - enquiries to Jenny 976 1195

Gas kiln for sale

Are you interested in a large gas kiln from The Learning Connection? Please contact Aaron Frater at: a.frater@tlc.ac.nz

Otago Polytechnic Diploma in Ceramic Arts

Diploma in Ceramic Arts

If you're **fired** up for a career in ceramics, the **Otago Polytechnic's Diploma in Ceramic Arts** is absolutely the best way to get there and is New Zealand's only specialised programme in ceramics at tertiary level. The part time distance diploma takes four years and is tutored by experienced ceramic professionals at the Wellington Potters' centre, Thorndon. School leavers and mature students are most welcome to apply.

For more information about the **Wellington** programme contact **Cate Pates**: 04 565 3734 or 021 143 7705 or email clpates@hotmail.com

Otago Polytechnic
www.otagopolytechnic.ac.nz
 0800 762786

In association with Wellington Potters Association Inc

If you're fired up for a career in ceramics, the Otago Polytechnic's Diploma in Ceramic Arts (Level 6) is absolutely the best way to get there and is New Zealand's only specialised programme in ceramic arts at tertiary level. The part time course takes four years and you can study for the distance diploma here in Wellington.

What will you study? Studio practice is tutored by experienced ceramics professionals at Wellington Potters Centre in Thorndon, while the theoretical aspects of ceramics- drawing and design, theory and history of art and glaze technology -are taught via distance tuition from Otago Polytechnic.

Studio practice Students attend Wellington Potters' Centre on a Friday to receive tutoring. Each year consists of three, ten week modules covering a range of ceramic techniques, from wheel throwing to plaster casting and hand building. Students also have access to electric kilns and glazing materials and facilities.

Contact details Otago Polytechnic: Freephone 0800 762 786; or email: julie@tekotago.ac.nz. Otago Polytechnic's website is: www.tekotago.ac.nz

Co-ordinator for the Wellington programme: Cate Pates: 04 565 3734 or 021 143 7705, or email: clpates@hotmail.com

Pottery classes at the rooms

Mondays and Tuesdays 7-9pm – Vivian Rodríguez

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. \$120 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. \$120 per course, plus clay and firing costs. Contact Anthea to enrol: anthea@ecofabric.co.nz

From the Rooms

Compulsory orientation for new members

Membership of WPA requires attendance at an Orientation Session. Sessions are held for new members in the 1st and 3rd weeks of each month according to demand. Bookings are essential. Please contact the facilitator hosting the session of your preference.

Week 1: Thursday 9pm

Contact Rosemary O'Hara: roseo@klezmer.co.nz or ph 233 0003

Weeks 1 and 3: Saturday 11am

Contact Kate Ford: kate.ford48@gmail.com or ph 473 5356

⌘ Check out the New Zealand Potters website <http://www.nzpotters.com/Clubs/WellingtonPottersAssociation.cfm>.

Potters' Diary

| Month | Date | Activity | Subject | Coordinator/tutor |
|----------|--------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| November | Sat 5 | Pit firing | | Francesca Costa |
| | Tue 8 | Glazing | Glaze Application Course | Mia Hamilton |
| | Wed 16 (tbc) | New committee meets | | |
| December | Sat 3 | Glazing | Glaze Application Course | Mia Hamilton |

New WPA Life Members



That this club has been in existence for over 53 years and continues to be successful is due in no small measure to those members who, over the years, have put their time and energy into making sure it runs smoothly, often working away quietly behind the scenes. One such has been a member for over 22 years and, apart from absences away from Wellington, has been a willing and enthusiastic volunteer at every working bee and helper at every exhibition; a quiet worker who gets jobs done with minimum of fuss. Not only that but together with his wife a very keen participant in the club's social life.

Elected to the committee in September 1990, on which he initially served for three years, his public service background proved invaluable as he was well versed in preparing submissions to government agencies and over the years put this skill to good use. Initially his work was influential in the drafting of Wellington City Council's Arts and Culture policy and subsequently in obtaining grants to buy the club's equipment. After a period overseas he rejoined and was appointed secretary in May 2002, and has held that role with distinction for six of the last eight years. His encyclopaedic knowledge of the club's history and in particular of the committees' decisions has been invaluable to the work of the committee and especially to me.

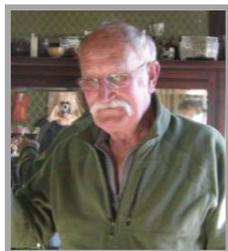
His keen interest in Raku work is reflected in the success he has enjoyed at many exhibitions and this love of playing with fire evolved into a passion to promote the building of the club's anagama kiln at Horokiwi. Not only has he been the organiser but without doubt he has done more work on that project than any other member, whether building the kiln and kiln shed, cutting and splitting timber, preparing the firing rosters or maintaining records. He corresponded with other established wood-firers here and overseas to learn how to obtain the best possible results from our kiln and then enthusiastically promoted the idea of building a salt kiln as a private venture but has been generous in opening up these firings to other club members who are prepared to help.

I am, of course referring to Alan Ross who is stepping down from the committee and role of secretary and, I must say, has been my stalwart supporter over the time I have been President. Vera Burton and I have great pleasure in nominating him to be a Life Member.

Roger Pearce
16 October 2011

Vera Burton

Nomination endorsed by: Mauritz Basson, Mike Atkins, Mal Sole, Robyn Connolly, Jo Moon, Rhonda Edwards, Mia Hamilton, Rosemary O'Hara, Saskia Hendrikse, Elaine Marland, Francesca Costa, Jenny Shearer, Cate Pates, Marilyn Hester, Margery Smith, Aimee McLeod



Mike has been a stalwart of Wellington Potters' Association for 20-25 years. During this time he has made an extraordinary contribution to the club.

He was already technician for the Wellington High School pottery classes when he joined us, and although I am not sure exactly when he joined, he was certainly active in 1990. At this time he was making videos of schools with our visiting potters which were for club use and further reference by the participants.

He has always been closely associated with the committee; sometimes as an elected member, mostly as a co-opted member. And been involved in a number of tasks - not so well known was newsletter distribution for a number of years.

He has had a particular interest in the raku firing, initially joining Alan Reynolds in organising those - especially the public ones. He eventually took over all that organisation, and has been very innovative in producing a variety of glazes for us.

He still manages to retain enthusiasm for that and is still experimenting with glazes! He has looked after our kilns for years being always willing to come to the rooms to solve a problem - sometimes as often as 4 or 5 times a week to keep the kilns running. (And not only for our club). He is always willing to go the extra mile and has helped many individual members with their kiln problems.

When the club decided to build a wood fired anagama kiln Mike was one of the first to be there digging holes, building the shed, bricklaying, making adobe from cow dung and clay and chopping wood.

At the firings he always cheerfully volunteered for the midnight 'dog shift'. He is, in fact, the general fix-it man for the club, always relied upon to be there when work is to be done. Not many people will know that he is also, a quietly competent potter, not that he ever gets time to do it, but occasionally he will surprise you.

Roger Pearce and I have great pleasure in nominating Mike as a Life Member of this Association.

Vera Burton
16 October 2011

Roger Pearce

Nomination endorsed by: Mauritz Basson, Alan Ross, Mal Sole, Robyn Connolly, Jo Moon, Rhonda Edwards, Mia Hamilton, Rosemary O'Hara, Saskia Hendrikse, Elaine Marland, Francesca Costa, Jenny Shearer, Cate Pates, Marilyn Hester, Margery Smith, Aimee McLeod

Glaze Application Course

You have learnt how to throw, hand build or slip cast. Your work survives the drying and bisque firing, only to be let down by your glaze application?

Let's get together and talk glaze application:

- Waxing vs non-waxing
- Brushing, pouring or dipping
- Using club glazes – testing, sieving vs stirring
- Bring your own bisque pots.

This session will be offered twice only before the end of the year and is free to members.

- 10am – 2pm
- Tuesday 8th November 2011
- Saturday 3th December 2011

Text Mia on 027 6686711 or email mia.hamilton@xtra.co.nz to book your place on any of these dates.



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. Please also note that you are able to purchase clay through Dave Smissen when he is at the rooms.

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

Committee 2011/2012

| Position | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| President | Gwyn Williams | 4 Sand Track, Paekakariki | 04 905 8816 (021 159 7560) | gwynwilliams@gmx.com |
| Vice President | Mauritz Basson | 9 Kilgour Way Crofton Downs, Wellington | 381 6751 (021 227 8151) | mauritz.basson@wellingtonzoo.com |
| Secretary | Kate Ford | 14A Salisbury Garden Court, Cecil Road, Wadestown, Wellington 6012 | 473 5356 (021 121 6531) | kate.ford48@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Robyn Connolly | 2 Worcester Street, Wilton, Wellington 6012 | 977 8448 | rob.c@paradise.net.nz |
| Immediate Past President | Roger Pearce | 47 Simla Crescent, Khandallah, Wellington | 970 2113 (027 356 4025) | roger.jann.pearce@gmail.com |
| Committee | | | | |
| Newsletter editor | Saskia Hendrikse | 146 Mulhern Road, Judgeford, Porirua 5381 | H 238 2779 (021 661 324) | saskia.hendrikse@buddlefindlay.com |
| Librarian | Elaine Marland | 91A Webb Street, Wellington | 384 4718 | marland@xtra.co.nz |
| Host | | | | |
| | Rhonda Edwards | 12 Connaught Terrace, Brooklyn, Wellington 6021, | 389 8751 | rhonda_je@yahoo.co.nz |
| | Donna O'Connor | 32 Greyfriars Crescent, Tawa Wellington 5028 | 210 2321 027 575 6477 | waywardkiwi@gmail.com |
| | Joe Zuccarello | 139 Awarua Street, Ngaio, Wellington 6035 | 479 1299 | Joe.Zuccarello@vuw.ac.nz |
| | Vivian Rodriguez | 49A Moxham Avenue, Hataitai, Wellington 6021 | 972 0811 (021 264 5414) | vivian.rodriguez@clear.net.nz |
| Co-opted Members | | | | |
| Anagama Coordinator | Alan Ross | 58 Viewmont Drive, Harbour View, Lower Hutt 5010 | 566 8922 | alross@clear.net.nz |
| DCA Coordinator | Cate Pates | 31 Foster Crescent, Belmont, Lower Hutt 5010 | 565 3734 | 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 Road, 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 | 8 Barton Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington 6011 | 976 1195 | jennymary@paradise.net.nz |

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 January newsletter need to be emailed to Saskia by 26 January 2012

(saskia.hendrikse@buddlefindlay.com)

Clubrooms 130 Grant Road, Thorndon (opposite George Street)
PO Box 6686, Te Aro, Wellington 6011
Phone (04) 473 3680, **Email** wellingtonpotters@gmx.com