

Dec
2011

newsletter

monthly newsletter & journal



Wellington
Potters'
Association
— EST 1958 —



President's Piece

Well, close we are to the end of the year. A mad rush for many, no doubt, making Christmas presents and getting them fired in time. If you are putting pots through our kilns, please be aware that lots of other people are doing the same. Vivian and the kiln firing team do a great job. You can help them out by making sure you wipe the glaze off your bottoms, fill in all the paperwork properly, and pay. And please collect your pots as soon as they have been fired so that there is room on the shelves for the next batch.

Please note that the weekly club firings will switch from stoneware to mid-fire in the New Year. We have ordered some new clay to go with the new cone 6 glazes Rosemary O'Hara has developed. (Thanks very much Rosemary.) The clays – RKF (a buff clay) and Mac's White – will be available soon.

We have had some things go missing lately, including club glazes. No siphoning off of glazes that aren't yours. I am watching

The committee is currently trying to come up with a programme of workshops and events for next year. If anyone has any ideas about who we could invite, please let me know. At the moment, we have a day-trip to Paul Melser's pottery in the Wairarapa planned for early next year. And the anagama firing is going to be in April. I am sure Alan Ross would appreciate a hand splitting and stacking wood. You'll find his contact details at the end of the newsletter.

Ok, that's it from me. Have a happy Xmas. Next newsletter will be in February.

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
- ensure the shelves have kiln wash on
- 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 to replace those you have used
- 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 cell phones from the rooms.

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 ☺

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

Special General Meeting: 5.30 pm, 14 December 2011 at the Rooms

At our AGM in October, there was a query about the accuracy of the treasurer's report. The report was accepted, but subject to verification of the accounts at a General Meeting of the club. We seem now to have sorted the matter out, and now we just need to invite everyone to a Special General Meeting for discussion and (hopefully) verification of the accounts.

So all invited. Time and place above. The meeting will hopefully not take very long at all. It will be followed by a regular committee meeting of the members elected at the AGM.

Cheers, Gwyn

Potter profile: Aimée Mcleod



Aimée first 'discovered' pottery in the early '70s in a little place called Tachikui, in Japan. She decided there and then she wanted to become a potter! It took a while; in 1989, after finishing the Certificate in Craft Design at Whitireia Polytech, she bought a kiln, set up at home and basically taught herself.

In Japan again from '91-'95 the challenge was potting in a Tokyo apartment with a kiln on the balcony trying to find an outlet in a saturated market!

Back in Wellington in '96, she worked with Paul Winspear for a year, joined the Potters' Shop co-op, and later, helped set up the Bakehouse Gallery.

Her next challenge was the 4-year part time Diploma of Art from ANU in Canberra, run by Janet de Boos and Greg Daly. Aimée finished the course in June 2004 with plenty of ideas to keep going for a while and having met some wonderful like-minded people!



Aimée has exhibited pots in Japan and in New Zealand in a number of selected group exhibitions, done various commissions and supplies a number of shops. Presently, her main outlets are Kura Gallery in Wellington, Lush Design Gallery in Raumati and Pataka in Porirua. She is a member of the Wellington Potters Association and the Gear Homestead Woolshed Potters, where she teaches night classes. She was the Wellington Regional Council Member for the NZP for 3½ years, organising several regional exhibitions and culminated in being the convenor for the very successful Capital Clay 2009. 'This was an incredible learning curve for me, the highlight was meeting so many other potters. I firmly believe all professional and serious exhibiting/selling potters should be members of the NZSP, like a union, to increase our visibility in the public's eye.'

"A person is the sum total of his/her experiences. For me, origins do not have the same impact as identity. I identify strongly with New Zealand and its place in the Pacific and aim to reflect this in my work. Spirals of all kinds, fern fronds, how they unfurl, and koru, representing new life and rebirth, have long fascinated me as potent images for their graphic nature as well as their symbolic meanings. I frequently incorporate these elements in my work as additions or carved patterns. Currently I am exploring the translucence and brilliance of porcelain. Moving slightly away from spirals, some of my bowls have been inspired by Tapa cloths of the Pacific."

Some further comments on being a professional potter:

- ⌘ The longer I pot and the more I learn, the less I know and the less confidence I have.
- ⌘ The largest amount of my time is spent trying to market my stuff.
- ⌘ Selling pots is the most ego bashing of activities and all professional potters must have a real masochistic streak. Obviously I still haven't found what appeals, but it is hard to keep smiling at idiots who say "why don't you make...", "I made a pot once, how did you make this glaze" when they obviously have no idea.
- ⌘ I need to pot to centre myself- as Neil puts it, I am impossible to live with when I don't pot (unfortunately no one sees me in that euphoric potting state!!)

People tell me I'm lucky because I live my passion. Some days, when I open my kiln on yet another disaster, I'm not so sure! Couldn't I be passionate about something easier?"



New members to WPA

A warm welcome to Raine Reen, Alyce Stock, Charlotte Maguire!

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

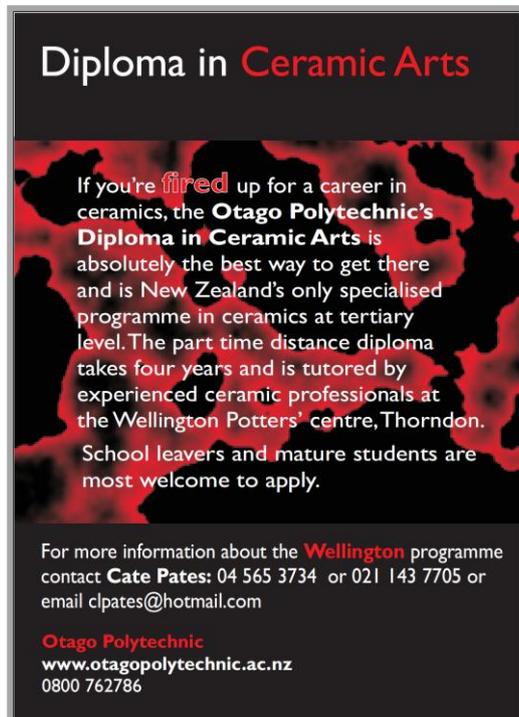
The club is currently trialing a mid-fire clay. A notice will be put up in the rooms shortly advising the name and cost of the clay that is chosen. In the meantime members might like to try out the recycled clay that is now blended with 10% earthenware and 90% stoneware as a trial to bring the maturing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

When working in the glaze room with glazes could members please take advantage of the **gloves** and **masks** provided by the pottery. They are stored on the shelf above the sink.

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

WPA Library Reviews November 2011

JOURNALS

These journals are reference only in the Library, and can be borrowed when the next issue arrives.

Pottery Making Illustrated, volume 14 number 6, November/December 2011

- Throwing Larger Pots
- Adding Joy to Your Pots – using geometric patterns and forms combined with organic, plant-inspired lines
- Creating a retro decorative surface using underglazes as overglazes in a majolica technique
- Putting a "fat lip" in platters
- Glaze additives: conditioning your glazes for brushing, dipping or pouring
- Exotic wood tools
- Piercing by design

Ceramic Review, no.252, November/December 2011

- Grayson Perry's Imagery
- Sophie MacCarthy's decorative approach
- Ceramics Education in the UK
- Learning Through Apprenticeship – the "Adopt a Potter" scheme
- Magdalene Odundo's enigmatic drawings

Artzone: Exhibitions, Galleries, Artists, no.42, November 2011/February 2012

- On the radar: briefs and happenings

BOOKS

Shelved at: Decoration

Maiolica, by Daphne Carnegie. London : A & C Black, 2011. 112p. Covers the essential steps of creating maiolica ware, from clay selection to glaze firing. Includes pictures of Gloria Young's work.

Shelved at: Pottery - History

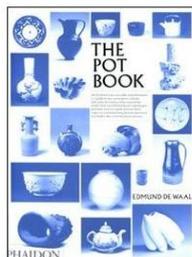
10,000 Years of Pottery, by Emmanuel Cooper. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010. 360p. First published 1972 as 'A History of World Pottery'.

And many thanks to Jenny Shearer for donating the following beautiful book:

Elaine Marland, Librarian
28 November 2011

Shelved at: Pottery - History

The Pot Book [Reference Only], by Edmund De Waal with Claudia Clare. London: Phaidon Press Limited, 2011. 319p. Descriptors: Pottery - History.



Review of The Pot Book

At first glance this seems like just another coffee table book. However a short perusal will soon show that that is not the case. It is a marvellously entertaining and informative book, covering over 300 makers, styles and schools of ceramics.

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. Next Thursday night class resumes on Thursday 12th January. Phone Rosemary 233 0003 or 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

Children's pottery classes

In January, 25th 26th 27th. Morning and afternoon classes, 7 years up. \$65 clay and firing included. Phone Rosemary 233 0003 or email roseo@klezmer.co.nz

From the Rooms

IMPORTANT - Cubby Storage Allocation & Process

ALL CUBBY STORAGE USERS:

A reminder to all that cubby storage is not an automatic right of membership - the club provides this storage space as a courtesy.

Double memberships must share **ONE** cubby storage space as there is not enough for every member to have their own.

IF YOU ARE A DOUBLE MEMBERSHIP OCCUPYING MORE THAN ONE CUBBY PLEASE CONSOLIDATE YOUR CUBBY CONTENTS INTO ONE SPACE AND ADVISE DONNA O'CONNOR WHICH CUBBY NUMBER YOU HAVE VACATED.

Single members are also expected to share cubby space as demand requires.

Failure to follow the procedure for allocation will result in the cubby contents being removed. Contents will be bagged up and stored in the garage for a period of 3 months. Unclaimed contents will either be thrown away, or considered donated to the club and distributed therein.

If you see an empty cubby please **DO NOT** occupy it; behind the scenes processes are at work to make sure the cubby storage is allocated fairly and promptly to those who require it.

If you would like cubby storage please contact Donna (details below) - applications are processed on a first come first served basis.

WPA thanks you in anticipation of your co-operation in this matter.

Donna O'Connor
Curator of Cubby Storage
04 2102321 / 027 575 6477
ddzignz@gmail.com

Cubby Storage Nos 12, 49, 67, 87, 102

WPA does not appear to have a record of who is using these cubby storage. Cubby storage is allocated through a process following your induction into the club. There is a waiting list, and hence the process.

Please put your name against the cubby number you have occupied on the lists pinned on the end of cubby holes 75-78 & 79-82 (one each side). Failure to declare yourself will result in the cubby contents being removed on 31st December 2011 - contents will be bagged up and stored in the garage until 31st March 2012. Unclaimed contents as at 31st March 2012 will either be thrown away, or considered donated to the club, and distributed therein.

FYI - Cubby Storage is not a automatic right of membership - the club provides this storage space as a courtesy. Double memberships must share ONE cubby storage space as there is not enough for every member to have their own.

If you see an empty cubby please DO NOT occupy it, behind the scenes processes are at work to make sure the cubby storage is allocated fairly and promptly to those who require it.

WPA thanks you in anticipation of your co-operation in this matter.



As we draw to the close of another productive year I would like to give special thanks to all helpers and make mention of Dave for his tireless support providing clay and help and Barbara Spencer for her formal and informal workshops. Barbara often provides individual tuition sharing her design and ceramic skills.

Our Tuesday group is always well attended and we look forward to our final lunch **Tuesday 13 December**.

Have a wonderful Christmas pottery people and a fabulous New Year.

Bouquet to pottery night class student Guy Nicholson who made and donated all the new needles that are on the wall for everyone to use (and return to their place!). Thank you Guy!

Rhonda

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

Photos – at the Rooms during October, November and December 2011



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.

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

President	Gwyn Williams	4 Sand Track, Paekakariki	(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	37 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

Articles for January newsletter need to be emailed to Saskia by **26 January 2012**

(saskia.hendrikse@buddlefindlay.com)

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