

Feb
2011

newsletter

monthly newsletter & journal



Wellington
Potters'
Association
— EST 1958 —

President's Piece

Happy New Year everyone! I trust you all managed to get away from it all for a bit. I spent some time on Great Barrier Island. Fantastic. No people, no internet, no cellphone coverage. Just empty beaches and lovely bush.

I'll keep this pretty brief. We had a Special General Meeting in mid-December to approve the accounts from the previous AGM. There was some slight confusion about the accounts at the AGM in October, but all is now in order. The committee has its first meeting of 2012 on 15 Feb. We'll be looking to organise a programme of events and workshops and firings and so on for the coming year. Let me know if you have any ideas.

It now looks like the anagama firing will be later in the year rather than in April. We need more time to prepare the wood etc. If you are keen on splitting and stacking and generally having a good time up the hill in Horokiwi, I am sure Alan Ross would appreciate a call.

Remember that club firings are now midfire. Mac's White and RKF are now available for purchase at the rooms. If you are buying your own clay to put through club firings, make sure it's suitable for cone 6.

Classes will be starting up soon. Onslow in mid February. (See our webpage for details on how to enrol:
<http://www.nzpotters.com/Clubs/WellingtonPottersAssociation.cfm>)

Unfortunately, however, we have decided not to offer the Diploma in Ceramic Art course in 2012. Enrolments have dropped off. With few prospective students, but the same number of tutors to employ, we risk losing a fair bit of money. It was a hard decision to make as the DCA has been a great success in many ways. Hopefully, a year's break will give us a chance to reassess things, accumulate students, and we'll be able to start up again in 2013.

A huge thank you to Cate Pates for supervising the DCA last year and for spending many hours looking into the DCA's ins and outs. And thanks to everyone else who devoted time to the club. We couldn't function without you.

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>.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

Changes to Club Firings

Club firings are all now mid-fire. Firings go to Cone 6. Note that 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.

Clay

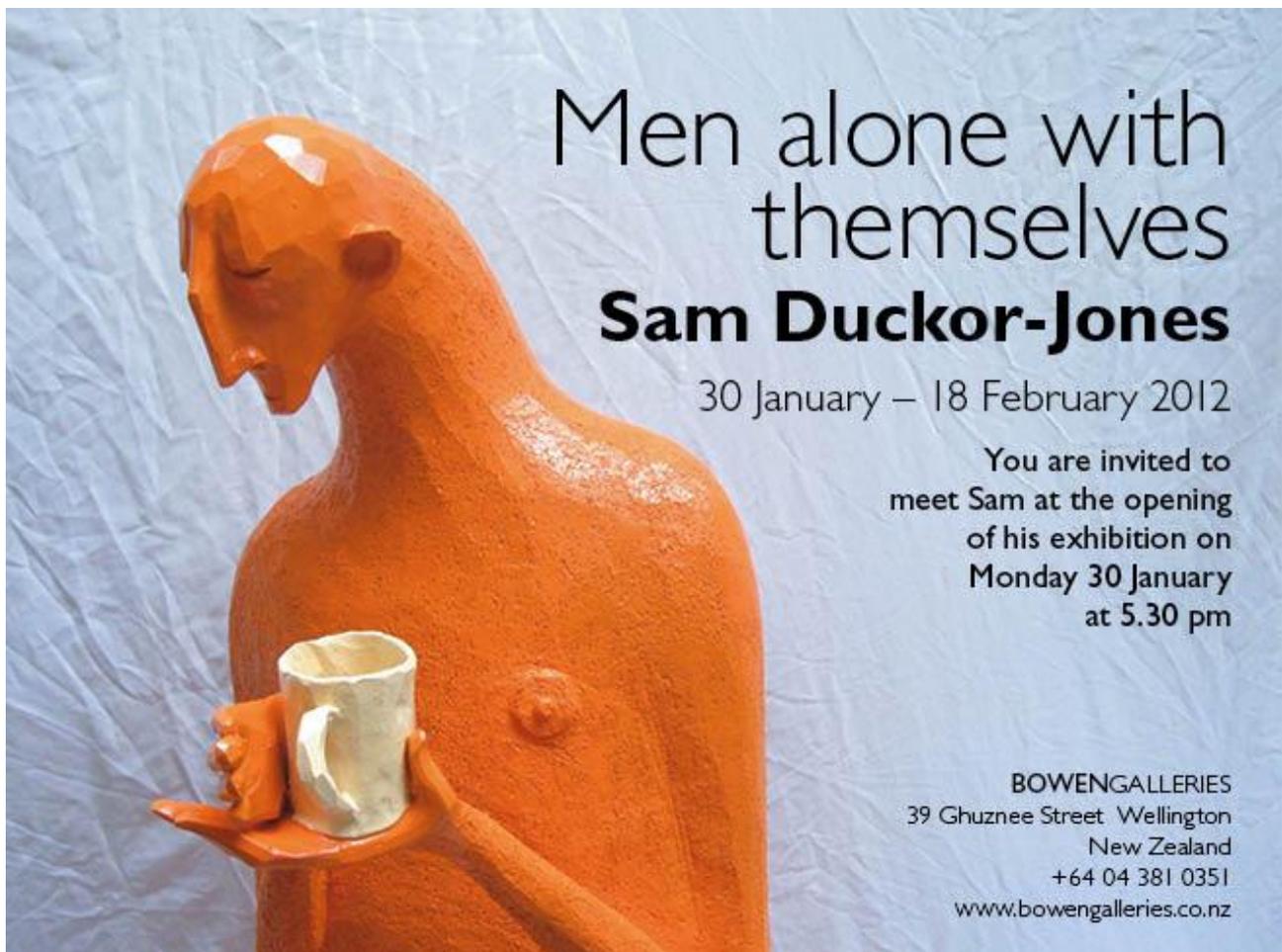
The club is currently trialing two mid-fire clays: Mac's White and RKF. A notice will be put up in the rooms shortly advising of the cost. Members might also like to try out the recycled clay that is now blended with 10% earthenware and 90% stoneware as a trial to

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.



Men alone with themselves
Sam Duckor-Jones
30 January – 18 February 2012

You are invited to meet Sam at the opening of his exhibition on Monday 30 January at 5.30 pm

BOWENGALLERIES
39 Ghuznee Street Wellington
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www.bowengalleries.co.nz

Club glazing book

I seem to have mislaid the club glazing book. It is an exercise book with some loose blue pages tucked inside it. Last seen it was in my cubby hole in the glazing room where the children's class work is stored. It contains records of all the tests for the cone 6 glazes. If you have seen it please feel free to copy any or all glazes and return it to me. Thanks, Rosemary

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 resumed 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

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

Brookside Pottery – items for sale

Brookside Pottery started up in 1966 and is will close with the sale of the property.

I have many pottery items for sale as listed below

- Sufficient fire bricks and carborundum bricks to make a small kiln, including some arch bricks - negotiable
- Earthenware clay \$5 a bag
- Stoneware clay \$5 a bag
- Fixed bench grinder \$25
- Glazes and minerals - negotiable as some of them are in large quantities
- Spigots - 3 small 3 large \$2 each
- Corks very small to 12cm at the base
- Pug Mill \$100

Items can be purchased Mon-Sat by contacting Rona Morton-Grant at 4792167.

There will be burners, a calibrated set of scales and shelf props available in the next newsletter.

8th Anagama firing – revised timetable

STEPS	DATES
Receive pots at rooms (upstairs)	Saturday 28 July 2012
Transport pots to kiln	Sunday 29 July
Load kiln	Monday 30 July– Saturday 4 August
Fire kiln	Wednesday 8 –Sunday 12 August
Cool kiln	Monday 13 August – Saturday 18 August
Unload kiln	Sunday 19 August

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

Traditional buff stoneware.

Abbots Sculptural

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

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

Red Raku (12.5kg)

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)

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)

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)

Recycled clay

Primo buff stoneware (10kg)

Committee 2011/2012

President	Gwyn Williams	21 Ames St, Paekakariki	04 905 2586 (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				
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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

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 February 2012

(saskia.hendrikse@buddlefindlay.com)

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