

Mar  
2011

# newsletter

monthly newsletter & journal



Wellington  
Potters'  
Association  
— EST 1958 —

## President's Piece

Hope you are all into the swing of 2012. Unfortunately, we have been having a few teething problems with the new cone 6 glazes. Hopefully, you got an email about this. The cone 6 glazes aren't quite giving the results we want, and we need to work out kiln programmes for the glazes. Because of this, you will still be able to put the old stoneware (cone 9) glazes through club firings for the moment. We still intend to change club firings to cone 6, it's just that we have delayed the change over until we have glazes and kiln programmes in place that we are confident in.

A couple of people have asked me to explain what terms like 'cone 6' and 'cone 9' mean. Here we go. Cones are little cone-shaped ceramic objects that you stick in the kiln to tell you whether your glazes and clays are sufficiently cooked. You put three cones in a little lump of clay. When the first bends over, it means your firing is nearly but not quite hot enough; when the second bends over, it means your firing should be done; and when the last bends over, it means the kiln's a bit hot. Before there were fancy kiln controllers, potters used to peer into the kiln to check how the cones were doing. They still do with wood and gas kilns.

Cones roughly correspond to temperatures, but cones are more accurate than a temperature gauge and they give you a better idea of what's going on inside the kiln. Cones are made of the same sort of stuff as your glazes and they respond to the effects of heat in the same way as glazes. So although people talk about temperature all the time (partly because of the digital kiln controllers we use with electric kilns), really it's better to say that clays and glazes fire to a particular cone, rather than to a particular temperature.

There are two important factors that make your clay body vitrify and your cones and glazes melt: temperature and time. If you fire quickly at the end of your firing, you need to go to a higher temperature than if you fire slowly in order to get the same effects. Cone 6 is roughly 1220 degrees Celsius.

Cone 6 can, however, be 1240C if you fire quickly over the last hour of your firing. Cone 9 is roughly 1260C, or 1280C, or somewhere in between, depending on the rate of climb.

So part of the problem we are having at the moment is working out what temperature to fire our cone 6 glazes to. 1220 or 1240 or 1210 with a soak or what? We rely on the computerised kiln controllers to turn the kiln off, and we programme those to go to a particular temperature. But we don't know if it was the right temperature until we inspect the pots and cones afterwards.

Change of subject. We have some new people helping out around the place. Shane Gallagher is going to be taking care of the kilns and club firings. Thanks, Shane. And Janine Collier has taken over the accounting system from Dave Smissen. Thanks, Janine.

I just want to say a word of thanks to Dave Smissen. Dave was the club treasurer for a number of years. He was an exceptionally hard working and conscientious treasurer and a valuable member of the committee. When he retired from the treasurer's role, he continued doing the books, entering everything in his MYOB software package and generating detailed reports on income and expenditure. He also took care of the clay stocks, sold clay, restocked, did stocktakes etc. And he did all sorts of other things around the rooms. So with Dave soon off down south, I would just like to thank him for all the hard work over the years. Really appreciate it, Dave.

The club depends on volunteers to keep running. No one on the committee gets paid for what they do. Pretty much everything that happens – from the anagama firing, which takes months to prepare, to working bees – depends on people donating their time. If you would like to help out in any way at all, get in touch.

Gwyn

## 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](mailto: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>.

**Articles for January newsletter need to be emailed to Saskia by 26 March 2012**  
([saskia.hendrikse@buddlefindlay.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## NZ Potters National Tableware Exhibition 17-27 May 2012

**Attached** please find an invitation to submit work for the 6th National Tableware Exhibition, opening in Christchurch on May16. Our quakes seem to have died down and the gallery at the Canterbury Museum is fully restored and secured. With so many Christchurch potters whose clubrooms have been munted and put out of action (Shirley, Bishopdale, Mt Pleasant) it will be a great boost to morale to mount this exhibition once more. We look forward to seeing entries from all over the country. In the attachment you will also find the entry form and all the details about submitting.

Best wishes from Shona Clarkson & Jim Pollard on behalf of the Christchurch members.

## New members

A warm welcome to Tomoko Shin, Lucy, Guy & Owen Nicholson

## Kick wheel for sale

A family member has a genuine Seaboard Joinery wheel available free for removal. It is in fair condition, requiring surface rust removal from the head, repairs to the tray bottom and some largely cosmetic repair to the flywheel. Having once owned and used one myself for some years, I judge it to be a great opportunity for a potter who has a bit of a DIY attitude and is hankering for the pleasure that can be got from a solid well designed kick wheel. The wheel is in Palmerston and, if someone, or the club, is interested in it, but unable to get to Palmerston North, I am happy to assist with transport. You can reach me on 022 039 1936.

Roger H Brittain

## Important note about club firings

Although we have previously announced our intention is to switch club firings from cone 9 (stoneware) to cone 6 (midfire), the new cone 6 glazes aren't quite giving the results we want. We also need to work out kiln programmes for the new glazes. So for the moment:

- We will continue with club firings to stoneware temperatures - cone 9
- Stoneware glazes will again be available in the glaze room
- We will make a selection of earthenware glazes available too, and Onslow classes will use earthenware
- We will also continue to work on getting cone 6 glazes and firings right

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:** If you want to participate in the cone 6 testing process and you have pots made out of a mid-fire clay, we'll be happy to let you glaze and fire them for free. If you don't have any mid-fire clay, we'll give you some of the new RKF to try and you can then glaze your pots and have them fired for free as well. Rosemary O'Hara is coordinating this. If you are interested, get in touch with Rosemary: [roseo@klezmer.co.nz](mailto:roseo@klezmer.co.nz).

**PLEASE ALSO NOTE:** Club glazes are available for club members' and students' pots ONLY. Glaze making costs a considerable amount of money, so if you are making money out of your work you should be using your own glazes.

## New Earthenware Glazes Cone 4

New glazes: Transparent, Coral Red, White, Hot Orange, Light Blue, Midnight Blue, Turquoise, Spring Green

You will be happy to know that the club have an entire new range of earthenware glazes for members to enjoy. These Glazes are the results of almost a year of work and about 100 hours of mixing, tile making preparation, testing and firings courtesy of your Potter in Residence. They are all food safe and specially designed for domestic ware, although they can also be used for decorative purposes. These glazes are specifically good to used on Mac's White, Abbots Red and Abbots Brick Red clays, although if you favour bright colours Mac's White is the best clay for them. The earthenware glazes are for dipping and pouring only. As you may be aware spraying glazes leads to sixty per cent waste. However, the recipes are on each bucket of glaze and you are more than welcome to make your own batch if you want to use the compressor machine. The tables are clearly labelled as well as each bucket with the cone, and glaze recipe.

Because of the expense to the club on making such good variety of reliable and beautiful glazes I want to ask club members not to cross-contaminated the buckets by dipping pots from one glaze to another. The buckets are clearly labelled and when you finished using them make sure the corresponding lid is on each bucket. Also be aware that in order for pots to be successfully glazed you need to make sure to mix each glazed properly before application.

I want to thank Mauritz Basson, Shane Gallagher, Angela Gordon, Rhonda Edwards, Joe Zucarello, Lyubov Zhilkina and her son Daniel (who washed all the buckets even though he wanted to do a more interesting job) who happily donated their time on a Sunday afternoon to help me making all the glazes. It was a really big job they were happy to do for the club and its members. The glazes are all under the three tables on the glazing room as follows:

- Long Table all the Cone 9 Stoneware glazes, 5 buckets half full and 3 buckets with less than half.
- Middle size table, all the Earthenware glazes we did today. 8 buckets
- Small size table, Mid-Fired cone 6 glazes. 7 buckets

Thank you all. Vivian Rodriguez, WPA Potter in Residence

## EASTER FIRING



If you are planning on staying home over Easter, come and join us on Saturday 7 April, for the first pit firing of 2012, followed by shared lunch!

**Where:** Wellington Potters Association Clubrooms, Grant Road, Wellington

**Time:** We will start building the kiln at 10am

**Bring along:** Several bisque fired pots for the firing (small or larger pieces), food to share, any dry kindling

**Cost:** \$10 to cover materials

**Tutor:** Francesca Costa has used the pit firing method for over 20 years. She continues to experiment with this process, with very pleasing results. Francesca uses a white clay body, which is burnished, but recommends that you try different clay types to see which results you prefer.

For further details and to enrol in the workshop, please contact Francesca on 027 678 6006. See you there!

## Email to Wellington Potters

This photo shows Gloria Young escorting Claire on a visit to our Tuesday lunch (Gloria on the left)

From: Claire Jones <zenshi20@gmail.com>  
 To: rhonda\_je@yahoo.co.nz  
 Sent: Tuesday, 14 February 2012 4:51 PM  
 Subject: Potters Bed and Breakfast



It was lovely to meet you today. Here are the details of the Bed and Breakfast Site. I encourage all your members that are able and interested to host potters from around the world to join this site. From experience I can say that it is a great way to enable potters to travel and allows some great interaction between potters from all around the world. I have been staying with Gloria Young and her partner Bruce for a few days. She has been a wonderful host, showing me around and allowing me to stay with her at her beautiful home. I have really enjoyed my time in Wellington. Previously I have stayed with potters on the site in different areas of Canada finding the same wonderful hospitality and friendship from some very interesting potters living in some wonderful locations. There is no payment to join, you just sign up through the potters bed and breakfast site which was initiated by Robert Compton, a potter living and working in Vermont USA. So if you go to [www.robertcomptonpottery.com](http://www.robertcomptonpottery.com) you will find on his website at the top right hand corner the entry to the Bed and Breakfast site where you can join. You are then able to access a list of potters from the country that you are visiting and you can contact the potters direct to see if they are able to host you when you are travelling. No payment is involved but in turn if someone contacts you with a request to stay you can provide accommodation to them. I am on the site, I am based in Cairns Australia and happy to host anyone that joins and would like to visit. Lovely to see the great facilities at your club, you are all very lucky to enjoy such a large and well equipped space. Enjoy and happy travelling.

Regards

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:anthea@ecofabric.co.nz)

## From the Rooms

Jan brought a pyrex dish with food a while ago and has since failed to locate it. If anyone has seen it, please let Rhonda know.

On Tuesday 27 March there will be a special lunch to farewell our long time accountant, clay manager and general help everybody person Dave Smisson who is going to retire in a fabulous house in Nelson with his wife Barbara. Dave will continue potting in his new abode.

We are very blessed with our large user friendly studio and are further blessed by an amazing team of extraordinary volunteers who contribute to the smooth running, growth and maintenance of our enviable facility. This week we would like to pay homage to Andrea and Marilyn who come in quietly like the Shoemaker's elves to take on the herculean task of recycling our used clay. It is a physically demanding job which also raises funds for the club and provides students and others with affordable clay. You arrive quietly and leave quietly but we do notice your legacy each time and thank you both.

## Recycling

Andy, who finished the DCA programme two years ago describes herself as Marilyn's apprentice.

They say their work has been much easier since Mike Aitkins organised the purchase and maintenance of the large pug mill in the rooms although, even so, all the clay has to be dried, crushed and soaked before processing.

Both women would be most grateful if we potters could recycle our own clay. It takes only a little time for us to sort our scraps and the more we do ourselves the more we lighten their considerable task. Quite simply bag your leftovers and add water and store in your cubicle. If the clay is too soft to wedge then use the large plaster bats provided by another pottery elf (and clean them afterwards people - mother isn't here!).

They ask that when you do use the bins you do not leave slips, paper clay anything with grog or colour. Also they would appreciate us returning the clay bags when possible - in good repair and of good size for the pugging team to fill with recycled clay. They are currently very short. The bags can be left on the shelf in the pugmill room. Make sure that you use correct bins for recycling and purchasing as this year there will be three groups: earthenware, mid fire and stoneware. Outside of the rooms Marilyn is restoring the bush in Trellisick Park and Andy is creating porcelain treasures to fire in her gas kiln.



Marilyn's friends on display at Ceramicus



Kiln masters in action – Mike and Shane

### 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](mailto:roseo@klezmer.co.nz) or ph 233 0003

#### Weeks 1 and 3: Saturday 11am

Contact Kate Ford: [kate.ford48@gmail.com](mailto:kate.ford48@gmail.com) or ph 473 5356

### Kiln to give away (to a good home)

7.5 cub ft Elecfurn LPG kiln complete with flue. I would like to give it to someone who will use it. I would help with firing. The kiln has 2 burners which give it great power for its size. It needs relining of the inner fibre at the top and the exterior at the top needs some sheet metal replaced.

For more information phone (04) 934 4463 or email demas@paradise.net.nz.

Mary Smith

### 8<sup>th</sup> 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

### Brookside Pottery – items for sale

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

I have pottery items for sale as listed below:

- 18 used kiln shelves \$5 each
- Shelf props from castilated small 1 to 8 inch straight \$1-2 depending on size
- 1 jet burner
- 1 pot burner negotiable

Items can be purchased Mon-Sat by contacting Rona Morton-Grant at 479 2167

### 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

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

#### 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)

#### Primo buff stoneware (10kg)

#### Recycled clay

#### 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).

# LUMBER & MUD EXTREME JEWELLERY

**DUNCAN SARGENT AND  
MIA HAMILTON**

**23 March to 14 April**

opening night  
22 March 5.30 to 7.30pm

61 Abel Smith Street, Te Aro, Wellington  
10am–8pm weekdays • 10am–4pm weekends

TOI PŌNEKE  
gallery

## 2012 Workshop/Events Programme

Month	Date	Activity	Subject	Coordinator/tutor
<b>February</b>	21	Showing and telling over lunch	Gillian McMillan	
<b>March</b>				
<b>April</b>	7 21 & 22	Pit Firing Sgraffito		Francesca Costa Vivian Rodriguez
<b>May</b>	5 – 6?	Art in Action WPA bus or minibus trip	Visit to Wairarapa potters and winemakers	Vivian (Richard Pointon) Roger Pearce
<b>June</b>	2 & 3	Workshop	Casseroles	Vivian Rodriguez
<b>July</b>		Anagama receiving		Alan Ross
<b>August</b>	8 - 12	Anagama firing		Alan Ross
<b>September</b>				
<b>October</b>	12-21	Ceramicus AGM	Annual Exhibition	Roger Pearce
<b>November</b>	23 & 24	Workshop	Throwing Big	Vivian Rodriguez

## Committee 2011/2012

President	Gwyn <b>Williams</b>	21 Ames St, Paekakariki	04 905 2586 (021 159 7560)	gwynwilliams@gmx.com
Vice President	Mauritz <b>Basson</b>	9 Kilgour Way Crofton Downs, Wellington	381 6751 (021 227 8151)	mauritz.basson@wellingtonzoo.com
Secretary	Kate <b>Ford</b>	14A Salisbury Garden Court, Cecil Road, Wadestown, Wellington 6012	473 5356 (021 121 6531)	kate.ford48@gmail.com
Treasurer	Robyn <b>Connolly</b>	2 Worcester Street, Wilton, Wellington 6012	977 8448	rob.c@paradise.net.nz
Immediate Past President	Roger <b>Pearce</b>	47 Simla Crescent, Khandallah, Wellington	970 2113 (027 356 4025)	roger.jann.pearce@gmail.com
<b>Committee</b>				
Newsletter editor	Saskia <b>Hendrikse</b>	146 Mulhern Road, Judgeford, Porirua 5381	H 238 2779 (021 661 324)	saskia.hendrikse@buddlefindlay.com
Librarian	Elaine <b>Marland</b>	91A Webb Street, Wellington	384 4718	marland@xtra.co.nz
Host	Rhonda <b>Edwards</b>	12 Connaught Terrace, Brooklyn, Wellington 6021,	389 8751	rhonda_je@yahoo.co.nz
Rooms manager	Donna <b>O'Connor</b>	37 Greyfriars Crescent, Tawa Wellington 5028	210 2321 027 575 6477	waywardkiwi@gmail.com
	Joe <b>Zuccarello</b>	139 Awarua Street, Ngaio, Wellington 6035	479 1299	Joe.Zuccarello@vuw.ac.nz
	Vivian <b>Rodriguez</b>	49A Moxham Avenue, Hataitai, Wellington 6021	972 0811 (021 264 5414)	vivian.rodriguez@clear.net.nz
<b>Co-opted Members</b>				
Anagama Coordinator	Alan <b>Ross</b>	58 Viewmont Drive, Harbour View, Lower Hutt 5010	566 8922	alross@clear.net.nz
DCA Coordinator	Cate <b>Pates</b>	31 Foster Crescent, Belmont, Lower Hutt 5010	565 3734	clpates@hotmail.com
Database lists	Vera <b>Burton</b>	20 Motueka Street, Ngaio	938 8207	davee@paradise.net.nz
Kilns & Raku	Mike <b>Atkins</b>	13 Nevay Road, Miramar	970 1205	kayne_nz@yahoo.co.nz
Pit Firings	Francesca <b>Costa</b>	Flat 7, 35 Ganges Road, Khandallah	479 1522 (027 678 6006)	costaf@xtra.co.nz
Glazes	Rosemary <b>O'Hara</b>	8 Reserve Road, Plimmerton 5026	233 0003	roseo@klezmer.co.nz
<b>NZP Delegate</b>	Jenny <b>Shearer</b>	8 Barton Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington 6011	976 1195	jennymary@paradise.net.nz