

May  
2012

# newsletter

monthly newsletter & journal



Wellington  
Potters'  
Association  
— EST 1958 —

## President's Piece

Thank you to everyone who turned up to the working bee last month. We had a good natter, enjoyed some fine food and got a fair bit done. When I arrived, Mauritz Basson had his arms deep in the clay traps (the things under the sinks that stop clay clogging the drains). He was gouging out the smelly gunge that accumulates over six months – one of those unpleasant jobs that has to be done. But there was lots else accomplished. Hopefully the lights are going better than before, including the outside ones. The wheels were washed down, floors cleaned where they don't usually get cleaned, batts, tools, glaze room, kiln room, garage .... etc etc. Thank you all. It was great, too, to see a few new faces.

I ventured up the hill to Horokiwi recently to help stack wood for the anagama firing. If you haven't had pots in our anagama firings before, I really encourage you to stick something into the firing in August. Anagama is a firing technique that originates in Japan. You fire with wood for days (some kilns in Japan go for weeks) and over that time, the flame and wood ash produce amazing effects on the clay. (You don't even need to glaze your work.) WPA's anagama kiln and firings are overseen by Alan Ross. To find out about past firings and to see some pictures, go to our webpage and scroll down a bit to the picture of Alan. You'll find links to a series of articles Alan wrote:

<http://www.nzpotters.com/Clubs/WellingtonPottersAssociation.cfm>.

Although anagama produces uniquely beautiful pots, it is extremely time intensive. Preparation for each firing takes months. Alan reckons we use approximately 12 cords (43.44 cubic metres) of firewood each firing. The wood is split with a hydraulic splitter and then wheel-barrowed under shelter and stacked to the rafters, one layer this way and one layer that. Shelves and props and bricks and kiln later need preparing. The kiln then takes at least 3 days to load, 5 days and nights to fire, and a week to cool. The firings wouldn't happen without the time and energy Alan and Graeme and Roger and Mike and Shige and co invest. If you want to get involved, contact Alan.

Sue Scobie is the new New Zealand Society of Potters representative for the Wellington region, taking over from Jenny Shearer. Thanks Jenny and welcome Sue. WPA is affiliated with the NZSP, and the committee will work closely with Sue. But individuals can also join. The NZSP organises an annual national exhibition, which members can enter, along with a national convention (Wellington hosted the 2009 convention; the most recent was Woodstoke in Whangamata in March). The NZSP represents the interests of potters more generally, publishes a quarterly magazine and maintains a website containing lots of interesting info (including WPA's webpage). Check it out here: <http://www.nzpotters.com/>.

Happy potting!  
Gwyn

## From the Rooms

Last week Tuesday potter people held a farewell for a founding member Jenny Shearer. Jenny has had a forty year association with the Wellington Potter's Association as well as being a member of the Academy and the New Zealand Society. She has seen our local group move from a series of locations (including the old eye hospital in Newtown) to our present premises.

When she returns from her trip to America Jenny will be residing in her new house in Manly Street in Paraparaumu where naturally she will set up her pottery and will also welcome visitors. We too welcome visitors to our noticeably warmer rooms this year- a thousand thanks to the brave lads who swung from the ceiling risking life and limb, to provide the much needed insulation.

Happy days Rhonda

If you want to sign up for the newsletter Art Around the Harbour – log on to [www.memelink.co.nz](http://www.memelink.co.nz).

Members will probably remember Niharika as a very accomplished Indian potter who made extraordinarily fragile work in porcelain and will be interested to read this email Roger received recently:

-----Original Message-----

From: niharika hukku [mailto:niharika.hukku@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, 18 April 2012 8:31 p.m.

To: Roger Pearce

Subject: hello

Hi Roger,

*How are you? How is the pottery? Have you had any exhibition recently? It's been over a year since we were in Wellington and I miss it dearly especially the lovely WPA community. I hope I can come by and meet you all sometime soon!*

*Shay has been keeping me extremely busy, he is growing up very fast. I have been doing a little bit of pottery in my dungeon garage and have some work in a great design store in Sydney. Once Shay is in play school, I hope to do more work and get it out there so I can make*

some sort of living as I want to avoid illustrating (especially with advertising agencies) :) Anyways, I hope you are well and my regards to everyone at the WPA. Also, I finally have a website up:- <http://cargocollective.com/niharikahukku>.

Best Wishes  
Niharika

Request for 'old clay bags' - in good repair and of good size for the pugging team to fill with recycled clay. They are currently very short. They can be left on the shelf in the pugmill room, thanks.

### **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

### **New members**

A warm welcome to Pascaline Hoarau, Stevei (Nicole) Stevenson, Sarah Brock, Rob Gittings and Tom Conway.

### **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 ☺

### **Cone 6 glazes**

The Cob kiln now has a firing program for Cone 6 and these firings will be commencing on club days as soon as there is enough pots to fire. The other kilns have not had the top temperature setting on the controllers worked out yet, except for the test kiln. Those details are in the kiln log. Cone 6 glazes pots are going on the bottom shelf of the rack.

The cone 6 glazes available are on the floor in the kiln room in the areas marked. Cone 6 glazes that are still on the shelves in the glazing room, or in the toilet area need adjusting and are better not used yet.

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.

### **Pottery classes at the rooms**

#### **Mondays and Tuesdays 7-9pm**

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)

#### **Lombok style coiling workshop June 23rd, 24th 9am to 4pm**

\$70 for the weekend. We'll make 2 or 3 bowls, finish one of them (foot etc.) and turn one of them into a jar/urn form. Finished pieces could be put in the Anagama firing in August, pit or raku or glaze fired at the rooms. Finishing techniques such as burnishing, slipping and tierra sigillata demonstrated. Some work will need to be completed after the weekend. Ph Rosemary O'Hara for details/queries: 233 0003.

**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.**

**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)

## Elixir of Anagama Life

Central to the success of any anagama firing is an abundant supply of dry, split wood. The firewood for the eighth anagama firing, starting on Wednesday 8 August, now sits poised on either side of the kiln awaiting its fate.

Sourced from the Horokiwi quarry, the firewood is the result of the combined efforts of Graeme Houston, Roger Pearce, Mal Sole, Mike Atkins, Mike Turner and Gwyn Williams with a little help from me. Sustenance was provided by June Houston. There were enthusiastic cheers leaders in the form of Te Haunui farm dogs, the farm being where the anagama kiln is located. The task of processing the wood became a little protracted because of problems with the splitter. These are in the throes of being remedied by Graeme through the installation of another motor and possibly a hydraulic pump.

Wood firing in New Zealand received a terrific boost with the Woodstoke Conference, and associated firings, held in March organised by the NZ Society of Potters. Those WPA members, with whom I've spoken, who attended the conference returned with an even greater commitment to this aspect of pottery life. Those of you who have participated in previous anagama firings will need no introduction to the attractions of such firings. For the uninitiated this can involve helping Shige Ohashi, the firing master for the forthcoming firing, to load the kiln, preparing wadding, being a firing shift member helping to stoke the kiln and extracting pots from the kiln after the firing. Typically the kiln is fired over a 5 day period for approximately 100 hours. Shifts are of 6 or 8 hours duration – 8 in the early stages and 6 in the latter when the kiln is hot and pulsating and getting into its work. Each shift has an experienced shift leader with 2-3 helpers. Provided you are reasonably fit and healthy inexperience is not a barrier.



**Gwyn Williams and his one wheeled friend**

If you are interested in participating get in touch with me at: [alross@clear.net.nz](mailto:alross@clear.net.nz) and I'll include your name on the list of prospective volunteers for loading and firing duties. I'll be circulating a shift roster to those on the list nearer the event so that you can commit to a particular shift or shifts convenient to you.

The 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

Alan Ross  
Anagama Coordinator

## WPA Library Reviews

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

### Pottery Making Illustrated, vol.15 number 1, January/February 2012

- Making Dessert Bowls
- Developing an Iconic Pour-On Glazing Technique
- Making Pots that Serve as Cookware and Serving Dishes
- Homemade Underglaze
- Making Canisters
- "Naked Fauxku" – a High-Fired Non-Reduction Process Producing Results like Naked Raku

Elaine Marland, Librarian  
22 April 2012

**Articles for June newsletter need to be emailed to Saskia by 5 JUNE 2012: [saskia.hendrikse@buddlefindlay.com](mailto:saskia.hendrikse@buddlefindlay.com)**

### Surprise Visitor from Vancouver

On a Tuesday in February half dozen of us were having lunch at the club with a surprise visitor, Gillian McMillan, a very active potter from Vancouver, Canada. Gillian and her husband were touring the North Island for a couple of weeks whilst en route to Australia (he is an archaeologist) and stopped at New Plymouth to meet up with the New Plymouth potters. Her club has established a link with New Plymouth to foster exchanges between the two clubs.



Gillian has an impressive CV. She started as an art teacher in UK in the '60s before emigrating to Canada and culminated in a BFA in 1994. Her principal tutor was Tam Irving, one of the leading ceramic artists in Canada, and Gillian has generously donated a beautiful book of his work ('Transitions of a Still Life: Ceramic Work by Tam Irving') to our library. After lunch she gave a PowerPoint presentation of her work which showed its diversity and beauty. I have copied it so that it can be shown to members sometime soon but here are some samples of her work.

Gillian is an enthusiastic salt glazer and gave Mike Atkins and me a few tips from her own experience. She also left us some of her glaze and slip recipes that I will copy for the newsletter.



Have a look at her website ([www.gillianmcmillan.com](http://www.gillianmcmillan.com)) or Google Gillian McMillan potter to find out more about this very talented lady.

### 2012 Workshop/Events Programme

Month	Date	Activity	Subject	Coordinator/tutor
June	2 - 3	Workshop	Casseroles	Vivian Rodriguez
July		See timetable on page 3		Alan Ross
August	8 - 12	Anagama firing		Alan Ross
October	7 10 12 22	Ceramicus Receiving Day Ceramicus Selection Ceramicus Opening Ceramicus Packing (subject to amendment) AGM		Roger Pearce
November	23 - 24	Workshop	Throwing Big	Vivian Rodriguez

### Committee 2011/2012

President	Gwyn Williams	21 Ames Street, Paekakariki	04 905 2586	gwynwilliams@gmx.com
Vice President	Mauritz Basson	9 Kilgour Way Crofton Downs	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	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 <b>Edwards</b>	12 Connaught Terrace, Brooklyn, Wellington 6021,	389 8751	rhonda_je@yahoo.co.nz
Cubby Curator & WPA Forms	Donna <b>O'Connor</b>	32 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	<a href="mailto:vivian.rodriquez@clear.net.nz">vivian.rodriquez@clear.net.nz</a>

### Co-opted Members

Anagama Coordinator	Alan <b>Ross</b>	58 Viewmont Drive, Harbour View, Lower Hutt 5010	566 8922	alross@clear.net.nz
DCA Coordinator	Gwyn <b>Williams</b>			
Database lists	Vera <b>Burton</b>	20 Motueka Street, Ngaio	938 8207	davee@paradise.net.nz
Kiln firings	Shane <b>Gallagher</b>			shanedg@gmail.com
Kilns & Raku	Mike <b>Atkins</b>	13 Nevay Road, Miramar	970 1205	<a href="mailto:kayne_nz@yahoo.co.nz">kayne_nz@yahoo.co.nz</a>
Pit Firings	Francesca <b>Costa</b>	Flat 7, 35 Ganges Rd, 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>Accounts</b>	Janine <b>Collier</b>			jcollier@symbolique.net
<b>NZP Delegate</b>	Sue <b>Scobie</b>			suescobie@xtra.co.nz



**Clay Sculpture Workshop**  
At Trinity Farm, 202 Waitohu Valley Road, Otaki, Kapiti  
[www.trinityfarm.co.nz](http://www.trinityfarm.co.nz)  
Sat 26 May 2012 9am—3.30pm



**Let us bring out the artist within you...**

- Create a beautiful unique garden sculpture (up to 50cm high)
- Learn the coil technique
- Decorate with oxide
- Work will be fired to ensure it will last forever
- Experience a fun day out at Trinity Farm
- Groups of friends encouraged
- **No experience necessary**

Your tutor will be Michelle Retimana from Waikanae. She has been exhibiting her work for some 10 years, in prestigious galleries in New Zealand and overseas that include the Academy of Fine Arts exhibitions, Te Papa Store and Pataka Art and Heritage Museum. Michelle's art has a contemporary New Zealand/Maori influence in design and decoration. Living in a beautiful natural environment on the Kapiti coast, she prefers to work with natural items for texture, using heavily textured clays and earthy oxides rather than glazes. She is an experienced pottery tutor and enjoys drawing out people's creative side to sculpture beautiful pieces you can be proud to display in your garden. Read more about Michelle— <http://www.creativecoast.co.nz/kapiti-coast-artists.html>

The workshop will take place in the purpose built barn at Trinity Farm in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.





**What's included?**

- Tutoring & participation at the workshop
- Morning tea
- Light lunch
- Creation of a unique piece of garden art (will be fired when dry and ready to collect several weeks after workshop)
- Materials (4-5kg of clay) and firing

**Cost \$150 inc GST**

**Book Now**  
Tel Karen on 0800 955 555 or email [karen@trinityfarm.co.nz](mailto:karen@trinityfarm.co.nz)

