

June
2012

newsletter

monthly newsletter & journal



Wellington
Potters'
Association
— EST 1958 —

President's Piece

Anyone who has been to the rooms lately will have seen the wonderful new roof over the entrance to the upstairs. The old roof sloped towards the building and leaked; the new one slopes away and keeps the water out. Thanks to Shane Whittaker who ripped out the old roof and built the new one in a day, and to Mauritz who organised things.

We've bought a bunch of new wheels, though they haven't arrived ...

You will have received an email about the cone 6 glazes. I really encourage you to try them out. Try them with different clays. Remember that you won't have to pay for work that goes through club glaze firings to cone 6 – all part of the testing process. And just a word of thanks to Shane who is doing a fine job taking care of the kilns, both firing and fixing.

A reminder about our exhibition coming up in October: Ceramicus12. It's still a fair way off, so plenty of time to make pots. We're sharing the exhibition space at the Academy of Fine Arts with Watercolour NZ. Theirs is going to be a Diamond Jubilee Exhibition. They'll have three guest artists – Nancy Tichborne, Sue Wickison and Susan Worthington – each with connections to royal gardens. They have also arranged to display a two-volume book of botanical illustrations called the Highgrove Florilegium. These volumes are on loan from the UK and comprise 124 watercolour paintings of the plants and trees growing in the garden of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales at Highgrove!

Gwyn

From the Rooms

Following the changes in organisation after Dave's departure, there is a new clay buying schedule:

Vivian	Tues 10am-2pm
Mauritz	Tues 7pm-9:30
Rosemary	Thurs 7pm-9:30

The only clays available from the rooms are now: Abbots stoneware, Macs white, Abbots brick red and RKF.

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

Club Firings

We will be doing regular cone 6 club firings as soon as there are enough pots to fire. We will continue with stoneware club firings for the rest of the year, and with earthenware club firings too.

Electric kilns – one to sell; one to give away

WPA has two electric kilns that are surplus to requirements. Details below. You will need a three-phase electricity supply to run them. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with Gwyn: gwyn.w@gmx.com, ph 04 905 2586.

McGregor top loader, 5 cu ft, completely refurbished. The kiln is square and quite deep, so not easy to load for short people (you will manage). Comes with four shelves and a probe (but no controller). Fires to stoneware temperatures ~1300 degrees. \$500.

Cobcraft top loading kiln, octagonal, 8 cu ft. The kiln will need refurbishing before use - the brickwork and elements need attention. But it used to go fine. Free.

**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



A warm welcome to new member Sarah and her fabulous herd of horses



Shane unpacking the first of our wonderful shipment of new wheels



Barbara after three lessons with Shigella



Stevie with her most recent collection

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 ☺

Cone 6 glazes

A selection of cone 6 (mid-fire) glazes is now available at the rooms. The glazes are in clearly labelled buckets in the glaze room. They should be fine to use, though we really need pots coming out of the kilns on a regular basis in order to be sure that the glazes produce good, consistent results.

You can help us to refine the cone 6 glazes by using them! For the next couple of months, you will not have to pay anything to have your work fired to cone 6. And once we establish firing charges for cone 6, it will cost you less per kilo to fire your work to cone 6 than to cone 9.

Feel free to try any mid-fire or stoneware clay with the cone 6 glazes. Stoneware clays will be a little under-fired, but should be fine. You can use RKF, Mac's White and Abbots Stoneware, all of which are available for purchase through the club. Let us know what you think of the results.

If you use the cone 6 glazes, make sure you put your pots on the correct shelf – down the bottom. There are also new firing slips. Please tick the appropriate box to indicate what glazes you have used, and write down what clay you used as well.

If you want some background on the cone 6 glazes, or if you want to know more about the difference between cone 6 and cone 9, have a look at the president's column in the March newsletter.

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)

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

Lombok coiling workshop

Saturday 23 and Sat 30 June, 9.30 till 3 or 4 pm. We'll make 2 or 3 bowls, finish one of them (foot etc) and turn one of them into a jar/urn form.

- Day one is watching a DVD, learning the coiling technique and forming 2 or 3 bowls
- Day 2 one of the bowls is turned into a jar or enclosed form and one the bowls is scraped to finish the bottom

Finished pieces could be put in the Anagama firing in August, pit or raku or glaze fired at the rooms. Finishing technique such as burnishing, slipping and tierra sigillata demonstrated. Some work will need to be completed after the weekend. Cost is \$70 for members and \$80 for non members plus clay. Ph Rosemary O'Hara for details/queries. 2330003.'

Also children's pottery classes are being held in the 2nd week of the holidays

July 9th, 11th, 12th, 13th. Morning sessions 10 to 12, afternoon 1 to 3, 7 years up. \$85 all costs included. Ph Rosemary 233 0003 to book.

8th Anagama firing – revised timetable

STEPS	DATES
Receive pots at rooms (Upstairs)	Saturday 1 September 2012
Transport pots to kiln	Sunday 2 September
Load kiln	Monday 3 – Saturday 8 September
Fire kiln	Wednesday 12 – Sunday 16 September
Cool kiln	Monday 17 August – Saturday 22 September
Unload kiln	Sunday 23 September

Mid-winter pit firing



Mid Winter Pit firing on Saturday 23 June; come and join us – a great way to keep warm during the Wellington winter chill.

Programme: We start at 10am and everyone participates in building the kiln. Our pottery pieces are then placed on a bed of sawdust, and sulphates sprinkled around each piece, which will give our work spontaneous colours and effects. The kiln is then filled with native timber slates, and we light the flame!

Bring along: Several 'bisque-fired' clay forms for the firing (small and larger forms ok); Food to share for lunch; Any dry kindling would be great!

While the firing is underway, we have a shared lunch, after which the kiln is covered to allow our pots to cool down slowly and avoid cracking.

We return the following day to unload the kiln, and to clean and polish our creations.

Cost: The cost is minimal: just \$10 per person to cover materials.

Please text/call Francesca on: 027 678 6006 to confirm your attendance, and/or for any queries.

2012 Workshop/Events Programme

Month	Date	Activity	Subject	Coordinator/tutor
June	9 & 10	Workshop	Casseroles	Vivian Rodriguez
	23 & 30	Workshop	Lombok Coil	Rosemary O'Hara
July	14 & 15	Workshop	Printing on clay	Barbara Spencer
	28 & 29	Anagama receiving		Alan Ross
August	8 - 12	Anagama firing		Alan Ross
September	1 - 2	Workshop	Throwing Big Pots	Vivian Rodriguez

October	Sun 7 Wed 10 Thurs 11 Mon 22	Ceramicus Receiving Day Ceramicus Selection Ceramicus Opening Ceramicus Packing (subject to amendment) AGM		Gwyn Williams
November	23 & 24	Workshop	Throwing Big	Vivian Rodriguez

Committee 2011/2012

President	Gwyn Williams	21 Ames Street, Paekakariki	04 905 2586	gwynwilliams@gmx.com
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	Vivian Rodriguez	49A Moxham Avenue, Hataitai Wellington 6021	972 0811 021 264 5414	vivian.rodriquez@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
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Pit Firings	Francesca Costa	Flat 7, 35 Ganges Rd, 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
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Articles for July newsletter need to be emailed to Saskia by 30 June 2012
(saskia.hendrikse@buddlefindlay.com)