

# newsletter

May 2014

monthly newsletter & journal



Wellington  
Potters'  
Association  
EST 1958

## PRESIDENT'S NEWS Rosemary O'Hara

Hi Wellington Potters,

There are major events coming up in our calendar that will be of wide interest: the Jacobson raku/ surface decoration workshop 17th/18th May and the Anagama firing in June. Receiving date for your bisqued Stoneware is Sunday 1 June. Also the Max Gimlett painting workshop later in June is a pretty unique and rare opportunity for most of us to try.

Shige is interested in running a Japanese style tea bowl-throwing course for beginners on an evening, followed by or interchanged with a vase-making course. It may start late May or Early June, (or as soon as there are enough numbers for a small class). Book through the secretary on 'Wellington Potters Association' ([wellingtonpotters@gmx.com](mailto:wellingtonpotters@gmx.com)) to register your interest; 6 week courses, with a small group. Price is to be confirmed but in line with WHS classes that have costs included at approx \$185.

Free Clay recycling workshop again on Saturday 24th May 1-4 pm. Gwyn is available to run a kiln licence workshop. He would like those interested in gaining a provisional licence to contact him ([gwyn.rw@gmail.com](mailto:gwyn.rw@gmail.com)) and he'll co-ordinate a time to suit as many as possible. Do join in and make the most of these opportunities.

Thank you to everyone who came to the

working bee. We had a really good clean-up. Please try to be extra vigilant everyone, about cleaning up after you. Go the extra mile to keep the clubrooms clean as long as possible.

Thank you to Peter who lead the brigade upstairs, Mauritz's organisational magic in the store-room, and Matthew's ongoing efforts in the glaze and kiln room which meant that there was very little to do down there on clean-up day.

There is a tableful of dry pots upstairs that have been cleared from the shelves and the damp cupboard. Be in quick please to check if they are yours. There will be a Big Clay Recycle around the middle of the month for those pots still sitting there by then.

Members who have been waiting for a cubby hole; thank you for your patience. There is progress. Joe will be in touch by email or phone to all those who haven't indicated on the sheet upstairs that they want to keep their cubby holes. In light of this survey there will be cubbies available in the next few weeks. Email [Joe.Zuccarello@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Joe.Zuccarello@vuw.ac.nz) to indicate your need for a cubby or to relinquish one.

We have a new committee member coming on board this month. Breanne Doyle is going to be our financial support person. We're very much looking forward to having her on board. Thank you Breanne.

*Continued on page 2*



*Student's on the last day of Matthew's Monday handthrowing class - enjoying the results of their creativity*

It has become apparent to the committee this year, as it has to committees in the past that the rooms would function much better if there is a paid rooms manager. WPA has run out of retirees who are willing to give up a significant chunk of their week to manage the overall functioning of the rooms on a daily basis!

Alan Ross researched this approach back in 2010 based on a proposal from Mauritz Basson and earlier work by Dave Smissen, the then Treasurer. However it did not proceed as it was agreed that the WPA could not afford to employ either an administrator or a centre director. Also the circumstances which had prompted the proposal had changed.

The current committee is again looking at ways we can generate the income needed for someone's (part time probably) wage. Ideas raised so far include raising membership subs, offsetting expenditure with small areas of the rooms used as personal studio spaces, running all classes next year through WPA without private or Community Education classes, and charging a nominal (such as \$2) hourly fee for casual use of the rooms, with some club or community days or ½ days at a lower rate than that.

Those interested could look at the websites of Auckland Studio Potters and Waikato Potters Assn and see how they have solved the problem of managing an organisation as large as all of ours are. It is likely that solutions to this will include some or all of the above structures or systems and ideas that you may have. Please feel free to write to WPA secretary at Wellington Potters Association <wellingtonpotters@gmx.com> or talk to a committee member with any suggestions. We need them sooner rather than later so that a fully costed proposal, preferably with options, can be tabled and voted on at this year's AGM in October.

If you're out Northern suburbs way pop into Pataka Gallery in Porirua during all of May to see NZP Elements Exhibition, hosting John Roy as guest selector. Hopefully some of you went to the workshop he held at Woolshed Potters last weekend. I haven't seen the exhibition yet but Pataka always does it well. I'm looking forward to seeing his work and the best of NZ Potters from Lower North Island.

Cheers,  
Rosemary.

## Upcoming events and notices

### **Kate and Will Jacobson workshop**

There are still places available at the Jacobson workshop. So still time for you to book in at [wellingtonpotters@gmx.com](mailto:wellingtonpotters@gmx.com). Pick up your clay and Tierra Sig from Chris Pease at the rooms ([cpease@apath.co.nz](mailto:cpease@apath.co.nz)) and put it



in the special low temp bisque that we are doing on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. All these costs and the Raku firing on the weekend are covered in the workshop fees- \$100 for WPA members and \$120 for non members. Astounding value for a weekend of learning and fun from a pair of international experts. Have a look at their website <<http://www.jacobsonartstudio.com>> to get an idea of their decoration techniques.

For those not familiar with using tierra sig: you paint on in thin layers with a soft brush, about 4 layers should be enough for the Tierra Sig mix that is at the rooms. It can go on dry pots but you need to handle them very carefully after that. You get a better effect painting on leather hard clay, but it takes a lot longer to dry between each coat. Any disturbance to the surface will remain and show through subsequent layers, so don't handle them until the T sig has dried. Buff it with a very soft cloth or clean shoe brush to bring up the sheen. Any questions about this, Rosemary is happy to help.

### **Help Wanted for the Committee**

We need someone who loves TradeMe and could do some selling for us we have glaze materials and buckets of glaze we would like to sell. We would also like to know if you'd like to get involved in keeping our website and Facebook page up to date. Let Rosemary know if you can help: [roseo@klezmer.co.nz](mailto:roseo@klezmer.co.nz)

### Talisman Wheels For Sale - \$30

We have a couple of Talisman wheels in the storeroom that need some repairs (not mechanical), possibly only need looking at by a handiman. Contact Rosemary.

### Clay Recycling

We have the beautifully finished clay drying shelf built now, thanks to Mauritz for organising this, and its about 1/2 full of the plaster bats - we need to finish it. Also there are large amounts of clay to be recycled and more to come following the clean up. Those of you who would like some free clay, and to need to know how to properly process it yourself, come and find out how to do it. Its not hard, or that time consuming. We'll make one more plaster bat for the shelf and there'll be room for one of you to make your own for recycling at home. Next session is Saturday 24th May 1 to 4 pm. Let Rosemary know if you're coming on roseo@klezmer.co.nz.

### Max Gimlett Workshop

We have the possibility in June of a couple of sessions with Max Gimlett, who is a highly regarded international NZ painter. He demonstrates his spontaneous Zen style of painting and then you get a turn. This style of marking and painting has its place on ceramics and would be great for people looking for a way to free up their marks and brushwork. Currently, he is available on Friday 20th June for morning and afternoon sessions, and also a possibility in 2015.

His website address is [www.maxgimblett.com](http://www.maxgimblett.com). Scroll down to Sumi Ink workshops. You can

also watch him in action on You-Tube at Auckland City Gallery. Contact the program sub-committee (Rosemary, Chris or Lyuba) to let us know soon if you would like an hour workshop with him. He donates his time for free, but there are expensive papers, card and ink that need to be purchased for the class, so numbers need to be planned and a course fee included to cover materials. Let non-club members who would be interested know too, its just about getting numbers.

### Richard Stratton Workshop

Richard's workshop 26-27 July will focus on plaster mold making; primarily two to four part molds plaster type for press molding, release agents and a lot of other things. Check out: [www.pinterest.com/richardstratton](http://www.pinterest.com/richardstratton) or Facebook under Richard Stratton Ceramics.



*Richard Stratton's ceramics*

### Diary 2014

17 and 18 May	Kate and Will Jacobson, Raku and painted glaze/paper resist decoration
24 May, 1-4pm	Clay recycling workshop, Rosemary O'hara
1 - 29 June	See table below for Anagama dates
(tbc) June	Raku (follow up to Kate Jacobson), Mike Aitkens
26 - 27 July	Richard Stratton, Mould making
(tbc) August	Gloria Young , Majolica decoration
(tbc) September	Vivienne Rodriguez, Ceramicus Exhibition
(tbc) October	Anthea Grob Sunday morning Glazing Courses
15 November	Pit firing at Vera's

## Ceramics in Japan by Maurice Bennett

Last month, I had the pleasure to revisit Japan, the reason for my return, was to visit my daughter Julie, who is up there teaching English.

While I was blown away with the cherry blossoms, as it was spring in Japan. I also had the privilege to see some great ceramic work. Work that is internationally historically important, such as jugs by Bernard Leach, large bowls by Shoji Hamada, and vases by Lucie Rie.

Plus, work by young Japanese contemporary potters that was very challenging with the use of clay, while still maintaining traditional forms such as Tea Ceremony bowls. The various pieces were defiantly a modern take. I am unable to speak Japanese, so it was really hard to make comment on just how greatly I was impressed, or to ask anything of their working methods.

Once again I was able to make one of my signature fish. This time with a third generation potter in Nara.

Japan is full of historical ceramic areas, which because of the area's clay or firing methods

and or a combination of the two, make the traditional pottery of these regionals very individual. I saw exhibitions of both Shigaraki and Bizen ware.

A train journey of just under two hours from Kyoto, will bring you to The Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, which is situated in a beautiful mountain valley. At the Centre there is an Exhibition Hall, and a number of Ceramic Workshops. In one of the workshops was the largest electric kiln that I will probably ever see in my life. While around the campus there was an array of Japanese traditional kilns. The workshops were equally well equipped and I was told that there are numerous specialist tutors on hand.

Of course the reason of the visit was to catch up with my daughter, she is doing well and enjoying the place and work a lot. This is great because it will give me an excuse to revisit.

If you have any questions, as I saw heaps and will be returning to Kyoto early next year, E-mail me at [maurice.bennett@extra.co.nz](mailto:maurice.bennett@extra.co.nz), or run into me at the club rooms, as I am there most days.



*Left to right: Mauritz in Japan; students' work drying at Ceramic Centre; sake bottles, Shigaraki*

## Pottery classes at the rooms

**Monday 7-9pm:** hand-building and throwing with Matthew van Atta. Term 2 starts 5<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

**Tuesday 7-9pm:** throwing with Mauritz Basson - <http://www.cccwellington.ac.nz/courses/915-pottery-throwing-all-levelstuesday>. Basic to intermediate 8 week course \$235. Enrol for Mon and Tues courses online through the Community Education Centre. New course starts 6<sup>th</sup> May

**Thursdays 5.30-7.30 and 7.30-9.30pm:** Rosemary O'Hara - Throwing for beginners and beyond, 6 week courses run continuously. \$120 per course, plus clay and firing costs. Phone Rosemary 233 0003 or email [roseo@klezmer.co.nz](mailto:roseo@klezmer.co.nz). Next course starts 12<sup>th</sup> June.

**Saturdays 9.45-11.45am:** Anthea Grob - 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 ([grobanthea@gmail.com](mailto:grobanthea@gmail.com)) or phone 9726672. Next course starts soon.

## Anagama Antics June 2014 Anagama Firing

The tenth anagama firing is almost upon us. This year the firing will be conducted by a Firing Masters' Team comprising Andy Rattenbury, Peter Rumble and Mal Sole. Mal Sole Esq. has kindly volunteered to prepare glazes especially for the firing. Those glazes will be available at the rooms from Thursday 22 May.

The Anagama Loading and Firing Briefing, which was to have been held on 25 May at the kiln site in Horokiwi, has been cancelled.

Volunteers, preferably pyromaniacs, are needed to assist in loading the kiln and as team members for the 16 (6 and 8 hour) firing shifts. The kiln has a voracious appetite for firewood.

If you are interested and haven't been involved before, contact me, Alan Ross (Anagama Coordinator), at: [alross@clear.net.nz](mailto:alross@clear.net.nz)

Stalwarts of the previous firing will receive an invitation, plus a copy of the loading and firing rosters, by email.

<b>STEPS</b>	<b>Dates (2014)</b>
Receive pots at rooms (Upstairs): 10am - 3pm	Sunday 1 June (Queen's Birthday weekend)
Transport pots to kiln	Monday 2 June
Load kiln	Tuesday 3 June - Tuesday 17 June
Fire kiln	Wednesday 18 June - Sunday 22 June
Cool kiln	Monday 23 - Saturday 28 June
Unload kiln & BBQ: 11:30 am	Sunday 29 June.

## WPA Library Reviews

### JOURNALS

The latest of these journals are reference only in the Library, and can be borrowed when the next issue arrives.

Ceramic Review, no.267, May/June 2014  
Akiko Hirai explains the Beauty of  
Imperfection

The Importance of Place to Jim Malone in  
Cumbria and Ruthanne Tudhall in Norfolk

Christiane Wilhelm's Unconventional Shapes  
and Tactile Surfaces

Jean-Nicholas Gerard's Joyous and  
Expressive Ceramics

Simon Hilbert, Maker of Functional  
Gardenware

Wood Firing - Matthew Blakely and Svend  
Bayer

Lisa Hammond's Approach to Making Chawan  
Teabowls

Tiffany Scull and her Love of Sgraffito

Artzone, Apr/Jul 2014

Greg Moyle's Collection of Military Art and  
Memorabilia

Walters Prize  
Plus what's on throughout NZ - exhibitions,  
galleries, artists

Elaine Marland, Librarian  
3 April 2014



**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), Wellington 6011  
or PO Box 6686, Te Aro, Wellington 6141 | **Phone** (04) 473 3680 | **Email**  
[wellingtonpotters@gmx.com](mailto:wellingtonpotters@gmx.com)

**Articles for June newsletter need to be emailed to Julie by 20 May 2014**  
([jmwatson61@gmail.com](mailto:jmwatson61@gmail.com))

### WPA Committee

President	Rosemary O'Hara	233 0003 021 201 6764	roseo@klezmer.co.nz
Past President	Gwyn Williams	04 905 2586	gwynwilliams@gmx.com
Vice President/ Clay	Chris Pease	027 2636096	cpease@apath.co.nz
Secretary	Kate Ford	473 5356 021 121 6531	kate.ford48@gmail.com
Treasurer Safe/banking	Lubya Zhilkina	477 1334 021 024 00550	zhilkina_lyubov@mail.ru
Glazes	Matthew Van Atta	021 0830 4507	mnvanatta@alaska.edu
Newsletter editor	Julie Watson	478 4020 027 223 1889	Jmwatson61@gmail.com
Oversight of rooms	Sonia Waters	803 8124	sonia.waters@wcc.govt.nz
Library assistant/ rooms manager assistant	Frances Kuo	973 2852	fshkuo@gmail.com
Maintenance	Mauritz Basson	381 6751	mauritz.basson@wellingtonzoo.com
Form Manager	Louise Caig	478 7446	louise.caig@gmail.com

### Co-opted members

Anagama co-ordinator	Alan Ross	566 8922	alross@clear.net.nz
Kilns	Shane Gallagher	027 632 2285	shanedg@gmail.com
Raku firings	Mike Atkins	970 1205	kayne_nz@yahoo.co.nz
NZP delegate	Nicola Dench	938 3356	theclaypenguin@hotmail.com
Membership/ database manager	Vera Burton	938 8207	davee@paradise.net.nz
Library	Elaine Marland	384 4718	marland@extra.co.nz