

newsletter

June 2014

monthly newsletter & journal



Wellington
Potters'
Association
EST 1956

PRESIDENT'S NEWS Rosemary O'Hara

Hi Wellington Potters,

A successful workshop was had by all at the Jacobson's Naked Raku workshop last month. Inside you'll find some great photos of the weekend and the work. Naked Raku was a true revelation in Raku decorating technique for everyone as Kate and Will had promised it would be. We have an article written about them 20 years ago in the *Ceramics Review* (Feb Nov 1992) in the new acquisitions holder in the library where it will stay on site for now. The follow up Raku demo and participation has been pushed back to 2nd August. More details in the events section.

By the time this newsletter gets to you the mouth of the Anagama behemoth will have opened again and the annual kiln loading and preparation for firing will have started. I wish the Anagama team all the best for the firing and the 'chilly but very warm by the fire' nights and days ahead. May the Kiln Kami be with you! We look forward to the BBQ on the 29th June to celebrate the kiln opening at 11.30 am. You don't have to have been on the firing team or have pots in, to come and participate in the BBQ and the share the awe and wonder of opening day.

Waikato Society of Potters Convention Most of you will have received the email sent out by Vera from the Waikato Potters NZP Conference organisers. Many of you will have seen the NZP Flyers that are at the clubrooms. There has been much interest shown in sculpture courses at WPA in the last year or so; this is a fantastic chance to further develop your skills. The conference is at a borderline situation right now, they need another 25 enrolments to break even. As you may have read, less numbers than that, by the 7th of June, and they pull the plug and cancel everything.

Pottery Societies around the country take turns to organise these conventions. In the last decade or so, clubs that take on this enormous organisational task sit on tenterhooks, wondering if they will get enough potters from round the country to come and support it. The last big convention was in Auckland in 2011. It was followed by the wood-firing convention in Whangamata in 2012 that was fun.

The master classes at the conference this year are accessible and easily translatable for people who only have a little pottery experience. Waikato Potters have made a big attempt to be as inclusive as possible with the theme of the conference this year; it is very beginner and intermediate level friendly. It would be great to see the generation of new members from WPA taking up this opportunity and making the trip up there. It is unlikely that



Results from Naked Raku workshop



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we will get to learn from these particular potters in Wellington, any time soon.

These weekend conventions are organised so that you can sit and watch a potter that you like, for a whole or ½ a day if you want to, or you can rotate around all 5 of the presenters working simultaneously and keep an eye on their progress. All lunches coffee, tea (from 8 am), and Sat night dinner are catered for by the Matangi school PTA and covered in your fee. The Sat night band apparently is a very good covers dance band, a chance to work off the energy and do more connecting with other potters after watching all day.

All of this information and the impressive teaching and exhibiting CVs are available on the website, listed in the events section of this newsletter. As well as the outstanding skills and experience of the demonstrators there is the fun factor. Rick Rudd and Brendon Adams are two of our living treasure artist potters and teachers who have weathered recessions to be still potting after 40 or years, (give or take a decade or so). They are old mates and will be bantering and sparking off one another in one classroom.

Kim Henderson with her beautiful birds and Kirsty Gardener's stunning decorating techniques are both Portage and National exhibitors, and will be in another classroom. The chairs will be arranged in these rooms so that the audience can easily see and hear what both potters are doing and saying.

Di Conway is also one of our living treasure potters has a classroom to herself will hold her demo and hands on session on both days. Bring your tools for that. You can purchase clay you need from Paul Pepworth up there. Paul will have all his clays and Cone 6 glazes there for you to and check out.

Check out Bruce Woolford's CV on the website. He is the overseas guest potter, named one of the top 10 potters in South Africa and his credentials include a very impressive range of technical expertise in clay, glazes, production methods and exhibition credentials. He is currently in NZ working with Paul Pepworth from Decopots, the convention sponsors.

Lastly, especially for those of you who feel that exhibition selections are unfair or imbalanced in some way, you have an opportunity to be judged by your peers. There will be an exhibition on site for you to put 1 piece of work in to sell and be voted on. The winner will be announced on 4 pm Sunday at the closing. The prize is something large and in a bottle, I believe.

I can help organise car pools and sharing accommodation to keep the costs down if you need that please get in touch.

You'll find the details of **Richards Stratton's workshop** June 26th 27th on plaster mold making below. What a timely opportunity to learn how to make forms that you may see at the conference! As a new potter I found it very helpful to learn about plaster mold making. In my case, molds I made 30 years ago are still useable and useful to me. Jump in here new members - grab these chances for learning as they come by. These workshops organised for you by WPA committee and the NZP conference are the cheapest and most convenient education in ceramics available!

Avid owner and WPA member **Dorothy Saunders** has sold the gallery and is moving soon to Dunedin. Her friends and colleagues enjoyed a farewell shared lunch for her last month. We wish her all the best in the next adventure. Avid will continue as a gallery in it's current location.

Thank you to Roger Bagshaw's estate for the kind donation of one of his lovely pots for our collection, alot of his materials and also for the clay stoneware that's for sale in the storeroom. Thank you also to the WPA team who went to Roger's studio to help the family sort things.

I haven't heard any responses from members about how you might see changes in club structure/management working. Please feel free to contact me or anyone else on the committee with your ideas.

Those of you who like Klezmer and swing music, free concerts or both, might like to have your club get together at Old St Pauls on Mulgrave St Tuesday 1st July. Klezmer Rebs are performing again at 12.10 pm in the OSP weekly winter lunchtime concerts program.

Cheers,

Rosemary.

(roseo@klezmer.co.nz)

Tenth Anagama Kiln Opening: Sunday 29 June 2014

The tenth Anagama firing is almost upon us. The firing starts on Wednesday 18 June and finishes on Sunday 22 June. The kiln will be opened on Sunday 29 June starting at 11:30 am. This is a unique experience for Wellington potters and it's wonderful fun celebrating the opening of the kiln. The group host a BBQ and shared lunch as the kiln is unloaded. Even if you are not directly involved in the firing, you are welcome to visit the kiln at 476 Horokiwi Road, Horokiwi (the home of June and Graeme Houston) during the firing and attend the opening.

New Wednesday night classes taken by Shige starting 25th June 7 pm to 9pm: If there is enough demand he will also take a class on the Wednesdays at 4 to 6 pm. Shige will teach small classes, 6-week courses in Japanese style 'throwing-off-the-hump'. This course will be suitable for beginners in Japanese style of throwing.

This coming six week block of classes will concentrate on making a tea bowl, and a second course will follow on immediately; making a vase form. This will be for students who have attended the first course and for potters with intermediate skills in Japanese style. The courses include a glazing session.

Cost is \$140 for the tuition and you can provide your own clay or purchase small amounts of it from Shige. Firing is paid for individually through the club system. Book this class at wellingtonpotters@gmx.com

Hand building conference in Hamilton 5th and 6th July: the Waikato Potters Society, in conjunction with the NZPotters, with sponsorship from Paul Pepworth of Primo Clay, is holding a hand building conference on the **5th and 6th of July** at Matangi School. The two day conference features a variety of New Zealand presenters including: Brendan Adams, Kirsty Gardiner, Di Conway, Kim Henderson, Rick Rudd, Bruce Walford and Paul Pepworth. More information at <http://www.waikatopotters.co.nz>.

There might be an opportunity to share rides to Hamilton. Jenny Daysh is keen to hear from anyone driving up. Jenny lives in Otaki, her phone number is 06 3646291 and email <jenzpotty8@clear.net.nz>.

Mold making- essential skills for all potters 26th and 27th July: Richard Stratton's plaster mold making workshop from 9.30am to 4pm on the 26th and 27th July will cover the aspects of the production of plaster moulds from a master item, the casts- (molds)

can be used for press molding, casting and other variations of plaster mould usage.

Each Participant needs to bring:

- Something to cast
- Old clay 10 kg (this will be used with plaster) so make it cheap clay (Old clay that will no longer be useable for potting with. This is used for making dams and holds the plaster in place, and will become contaminated with plaster.)
- 2 x Bucket 10 L
- Masking or Gaffer tape
- Cloths pegs or scissor clips
- Ruler and 45 or 30 degree set square (largish), not a pocket sized one
- Large batt or board (non flexible) (work surface)
- Banding wheel
- Pencil / oil based or white board maker
- Modelling tools / ribs/ surform blade
- Strips of lino and Vinyl flooring, cardboard, (Banana box type)
- Old clothing
- Lunch to share on both days.

Cost for the workshop is \$70. WPA will supply plaster (up to 10 kg's each) and mortar.

Contact: Kate at Wellington Potters Association wellingtonpotters@gmx.com to book for Richards weekend workshop.

Raku firing: 2 August: (or Sunday 3rd if the weather's terrible on Saturday.) This is an opportunity for those who came to the Jacobson workshop to consolidate their experience and for those who would like to find out what we did, to join in. The workshop entails bringing your pots that have been burnished and/or coated with Tierra Sigillata, low bisque (750 C) on Friday night - if want to try the Naked Raku technique. Some of the workshop attendees will be there then to show how it's done. Clay bodies that we know of so far are that have worked for the technique: Nelson White, Amador stoneware (Chris may still have part bags of that for sale), but clays that usually work in a Raku: Primo Clays and the Australian Raku bodies, are worth trying

If you just want to do a regular Raku firing with your pots bisque at 1000C and put Raku glazes on, there is no need to attend on Friday night and there will be those higher temp firings also happening on Saturday.

For further information on all courses, please email Wellington Potters Association (wellingtonpotters@gmx.com)

Diary 2014

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| 20 June | Max Gimblett workshops 9.15 to 11.30am and 1.15 to 3.30 pm. <i>Note: the rooms will be closed during these sessions.</i> |
| 1 - 29 June | See table below for Anagama dates |
| 25 June | Shige's Wednesday night classes start, 7pm (& poss 4 pm depending on numbers) Japanese tea bowls |
| 5 - 6 July | Waikato Potters Society Hand Bulding Conference |
| 16, 17 and 18 th July | Children's Pottery Classes., 9.30am to 12, 1pm to 3.30pm, Rosemary O'Hara. roseo@klezmer.co.nz . |
| 20th July | Clay recycling workshop. 1 to 4 pm book roseo@klezmer.co.nz . |
| 26 - 27 July | Richard Stratton, Mould making, 9.30 - 4.30pm |
| 2 August or 3 rd weather permitting | Raku (follow up to Kate Jacobson), Mike Aitkens Naked Raku demo fir night 1 st Aug. See Events for preparation details |
| 16 th and 17 th August | Gloria Young , Majolica decoration |
| 20 th 21 st September | Vivienne Rodriguez, Casseroles and Lids |
| (tbc) October | Anthea Grob Sunday morning Glazing Courses |
| 15 November | Pit firing at Vera's |

Pottery classes at the rooms

Monday 7-9pm: hand-building (mostly) and throwing with Matthew van Atta. Term 3 starts July 28th. Book Wellington High School CEC.

Tuesday 7-9pm: throwing with Mauritz Basson - <http://www.cecwellington.ac.nz/courses/915-pottery-throwing-all-levelstuesday>. Basic to intermediate 8 week course \$245. Enrol for Mon and Tues courses online through the Community Education Centre. New course starts in July 29th.

Wednesday 7pm: Shige will teach small classes, 6 week courses in Japanese style 'throwing-off-the-hump'. \$140 per course excluding clay and firing. Book at wellingtonpotters@gmx.com

Thursdays 5.30-7.30 and 7.30-9.30pm: Rosemary O'Hara -Throwing for beginners and beyond, 6 week courses run continuously. \$140 per course, plus clay and firing costs. Phone Rosemary 233 0003 or email roseo@klezmer.co.nz. Next course starts 12th June followed by 24th July.

Saturdays 9.45-11.45am: Anthea Grob - Introductory and intermediate class in hand building and wheel throwing. 6-week courses run continuously. \$140 per course, plus clay and firing costs. Contact Anthea to enrol (grobanthea@gmail.com) or phone 9726672.

Tenth Anagama Kiln Opening: Sunday 29 June 2014

The table below provides dates for the steps in the Anagama kiln process:

| STEPS | Dates (2014) |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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. |

Exciting Ceramics

Private Tuition with **Shane Gallagher** BFA Ceramics
 See: www.shanegallagher.co.nz

- Hand Building
- Wheel Throwing
- Glazing and More!

Learn the basics or explore advanced techniques. All levels of experience, beginners welcome.

\$30 per half hr \$50 per hr tuition. Times flexible.
 Clay and firing costs additional.

Ph. 027 632 2285 or

Email: info@shanegallagher.co.nz

Numbers limited be in quick.

Anyone like to teach children's afterschool Pottery classes?

I get calls from time to time from parents looking for classes after school. Is there anyone who would like to run some classes? Schools in the area are generally favourable about advertising in their school newsletters. Contact Rosemary, phone 2330003.

Kiln to a good home: Marjory Smith is giving away her 25 cu ft gas kiln to a potter who is able to come and take it away. Marjory lives in Tawa. It's a fibre-lined Cotter Kiln, with electric elements that take the kiln to about 200 C. It fires beautifully, evenly and quickly, and of course no worries about it getting hot too quickly at the beginning of the firing. Give Marjory a call if you are interested ph 232 6111.

Cobcraft Kiln for sale: octagonal kiln (model EMC4805), 5 cu ft, max temperature 1300C with controller, props and shelves, power input single phase. Contact the "one lady owner" Jan Latham on 233 1426 or 027 3600411.

Ride to Waikato conference wanted: Jenny Daysh is keen to hear from anyone driving up to Hamilton for the hand building conference on the 5th and 6th July. Jenny lives in Otaki, her phone number is 06 3646291 and email jenzpotty8@clear.net.nz.

1 or 2 Volunteers required for a Brownies class clay session 6.30 to 8 pm Tues 24th June.

The theme they are working on this year is 'Space' Making some rockets or aliens comes to mind perhaps. Would anyone like to help with this? Historically WPA provides this as part of our 'community service'. Children are paying for clay and firing. Contact Rosemary please <rose0@klezmer.co.nz>.

Call for volunteers at the WPA

We have some tasks that our team on the committee are having trouble finding time to fill. None of them are onerous, and for the people who have proficiency in these areas- it will only take a little time.

We need:

- some kiln licensees to help out with firings we are sometimes asked to do for schools, and (separately) to be a back stop if either Shane or Peter are away
- potters to write a regular gallery feature for the newsletter alerting us especially to ceramics or ceramics related exhibitions on around town. It would be great to have reviews if the timing of the exhibition was appropriate for our newsletter, but even a regular perusal of galleries and NZP websites to alert people to shows coming up would be good.
- a small team of helpers to take the occasional promotional/charity classes such as the Brownies on the evening of 1st July.
- someone who loves to play on Trade Me to sell some bits and pieces for WPA, and
- we will need extra volunteers to help with setting up Ceramicus exhibition in October.

Attention Rooms closures on 20th June:

WPA upstairs will be closed for duration of the two Max Gimblett workshops on Friday 20th June. The times are 9.15 to 11.30am and 1.15 to 3.30 pm.

The attendees have been invited to have a shared lunch, so that will also be happening. The upstairs area will be open during lunchtime.

WPA Library Reviews

BOOKS:

Classification: Glazing

Glazes for Australian Potters, by de Boos, Janet. Stanmore, NSW: Cassell Australia, 1978. 121p. Donated by: H Billington.

Classification: Kilns.

Alternative Kilns & Firing Techniques: Raku, Saggar, Pit, Barrel, by Watkins, James C.; Wandless, Paul Andrew. New York: Lark Books, 2006. 127p. Donated by: Hazel Calderwood.

Classification: Pottery - Exhibitions.

Kamaka: the Ceramics of Bruce and Estelle Martin, by Shaw, Peter. New edition. Napier: Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust, 2005. 47p. 2 copies. Donated by: Jenny Shearer.

Classification: Pottery - Materials and Techniques

The Complete Potter's Companion, by Birks, Tony. New edition. London: Conran Octopus Limited, 1997. 192p. Donated by: Roger Pearce.

Classification: Pottery - New Zealand.

Making the Molecules Dance: Ceramics 1948-2008, by Castle, Len. Auckland: Lopdell House Gallery, 2008. 248p. Donated by: Hazel Calderwood.

Elaine Marland, Librarian
29 May 2014

New Donations to the WPA Pottery Collection and Library

Check out these new donations...



Roger Bagshaw donated one of his pots a few weeks before he died. It is a typical example of his beautiful brushwork. See the newsletter of March 2014.

Kate and Will Jacobson donated a pot from their Naked Raku workshop. They also very kindly donated a copy of the book 'Naked Raku and Related Bare Clay techniques' to the library.



Margery Smith has donated a beautiful lusted bowl to the collection. This replaces the vase which had come into the collection more or less by mistake and which has now been withdrawn. See the newsletter of November 2013.



Our thanks and appreciation to those who have donated these very welcome additions to our collection.

We have also formally incorporated into the collection 3 wine cups typical of those made by Anneke Borren for the NZSP convention in Wellington in 1988.



Clay Recycling Workshop

I attended Rosemary's clay recycling workshop in April where we learnt different recycling techniques needed to efficiently recycle clay. I learnt a lot from Rosemary and started applying the techniques straight away, taking clay from bone dry to workable in only two sessions. The top points I learnt from the course:

Manage your clay recycling as you go, 5 - 10 min at the beginning and end of a session can save you time, effort and money.

It is always preferable to recycle your clay before it becomes dry, as recycling dry clay not only takes the longest amount of time and effort but reconstituting dry clay breaks up the bonds in clay particles that provide plasticity.

Do not mix clay with different stages of dryness in one recycling bucket.

Depending on the stage of dryness your clay will require a different recycling technique, for example:

- Leather hard trimmings simply require a momentary dunking in water (do not squeeze) and placing in a bag where they will be ready to work up in a couple of days.
- Clay just past workable stage can be sliced and either wrapped in a damp cloth and

plastic or immersed in water (for 20 min - 3 hours) and then worked up.

- Bone dry clay can be broken up to pieces of a similar size and soaked in water, once soft the excess water drained off and the pieces mixed to a slurry (by hand or with a paint stirrer) then dried on a plaster bat. Recycled clay off the drying bat can be used immediately if wire wedged with new clay (see below) or you can leave it a while to naturally regain its plasticity.
- Semi dry clay can be more difficult to recycle as each piece may not absorb water uniformly and the centre of the piece may remain hard. Clay that is still sliceable (even with effort) can be immersed in water and returned to a workable state over days or a week. Clay that is too hard to slice may need to be completely dried before recycling.

We also learnt wire wedging, a technique to quickly form workable clay from clay with different levels of firmness and softness and how to make a plaster bat for drying slurry. Clay recycling is neither difficult nor time consuming, but it is not as obvious as you might think, I highly recommend taking a clay recycling workshop to ensure you are getting the most out of the clay you are buying.

Charlotte Gair

Kate and Will Jacobson's Naked Raku workshop

Eggshells peeled away

Unfolding a surface

Charcoal crackles

Matthew van Atta



New WPA members

The Wellington Potters Association welcomes the following new members this month: Terese Fitzgerald, Marion Hughes, Charlotte Gair, Charlotte Hayes, Emily Holdsworth, Matsuyo Bellamy, Aly Ortega, and Maris Turley. Please make yourselves known to others in the club; our aim is to foster communities of creative practice.

FEE PAYING BY Internet:

Wellington Potters Association; Account Number: 02 0568-0024590-00

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

Articles for July newsletter need to be emailed to Julie by 20 June 2014
(jmwatson61@gmail.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.**

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 |