

newsletter

September 2014

monthly newsletter & journal



PRESIDENT'S NEWS Rosemary O'Hara

Hello Potters,

I hope you have your pots ready for Ceramicus14! You will receive your entry forms by email very shortly or with this newsletter. Receiving day is 20th September.

It is the convention for exhibitors in WPA exhibitions to take a turn at minding the gallery. It would be great if some non-exhibitors could put their names on the roster too, which will be at the front desk in the club rooms after selection day. You'll find it's nice to have the time to really look at the works or share the time for a catch up with a potting mate. The rooms will be **closed on Sunday 21st** from 10 am to 3-ish for selection.

Survey

You will have received a survey questionnaire about the future of the WPA. If you have not done so already please fill it in and return it by not later than 7 September. You can return it by either putting it in the safe in the kiln room, posting it to Wellington Potters' Association, Box 6686, Te Aro, Wellington 6011; or by emailing it (as a word doc or scan) to wellingtonpotters@gmx.com.

The WPA Committee has been looking at the challenge of improving the management and operation of the club. Please note that the committee needs an indication of what ALL members want or expect. The survey is not simply intended for only members who regularly patronise the rooms. The feedback

you provide will guide the committee in preparing proposals for the AGM. The adoption of any proposed changes will be debated and decided at the AGM. The **AGM is on Sunday the 12th October at 3pm** at the WPA preceded by the Potters Olympics starting at 1.45pm. Please mark this in your diary and put the time aside to come and join the discussion and vote- or even better join in the potters Olympics first, meet some new members and have a hilarious time.

We need to decide how WPA best makes the transition from its current state to an organisation more responsive and able to cater for the diverse needs of its members. I believe the decisions we make at the AGM will be as significant, in the history of the club, as its inception.

The situation at the start of WPA and up to a couple of decades ago, was that the WPA was an association of studio owning professionals, semi-professionals and back-yard enthusiasts who met for club social, potting events and workshops and the promotion of pottery in the community. Initially the WPA didn't have its own premises. Its first permanent home opened in 1980 in the old dilapidated laundry of the disused Alexandra Maternity Hospital, Hanson Street, Newtown. In 1986 it secured from the Musical and Drama Society (MADSOC) the downstairs room at 130 Grant Road. In 1998 the WPA acquired the ownership of the entire building, located on town belt land leased from the Wellington City Council. There was a

Diary 2014 from September

6 August 6pm - 7.30pm	Brownies Class- Karori West Pack
27 - 28 September	Vivienne Rodriguez, Casserole and lids Workshop
20 September, 9.30am - 4pm	Receiving pots for Ceramicus
21 September	Selecting pots for Ceramicus
24 September 5.30 - 7.20pm	CERAMICUS Opening Night
5, 12, 19 October and 2 November	Anthea Grob Sunday morning Glazing Courses
12 October	WPA Annual General Meeting and Potters' Olympics
25 - 26 October	Bruce Walford's drape mould workshop
15 - 16 November	Pit firing at Vera's

much bigger pool of expertise and people with expertise who had more time then to help with running the club. Nobody used the facilities for long-term or on-going potting for personal gain. However, we now need to evaluate the relationship between the daily use of the WPA premises in proportional to contributions needed to keep the club functioning.

Our current situation has evolved from having a potter in Residence upstairs, in 2007 when, quite rightly in my opinion, an attempt was made to make better use of the facilities to provide a professional, and then later an emerging professional potter, a studio. The idea was that the potter in residence would provide a constant presence and return a small fee to cover operating costs and practical support to the WPA's functioning and day-to-day management. The significant change in direction then, opened the door for it to be acceptable for members to be coming in to the WPA on a regular basis to produce their work at the rooms.

Now the committee recognises that the current management structure does not reflect the change in the club's use. Times are tougher; it's harder to set up your own studio, members need and want to make their pots at the WPA. There are fewer potters with studios to cosy up to, to ask for a bit of bench space in exchange for a chat. A much higher proportion of members are new to the craft. While there is room within our facilities for several different kinds of working areas to be provided, so that more emerging potters can use the facilities for studios, there is already an unsustainable load on this committee.

At past AGMs, it has been difficult to get people with the necessary skills or the time to share

the administrative load of the club. Some of these skills may need to be purchased in the future instead of relying on voluntary contributions for essential skills such as accounting or kiln maintenance. The committee is trying to cope with the greater increase in use of the rooms with a management structure that wasn't designed for WPA's current use.

The Wellington City Council has recently approved under our lease a possible change in use of the rooms that will allow the committee to charge for the use of different parts of the facilities. This has the potential to provide a source of revenue in order to pay, for example, a room's manager to provide organisational continuity at the rooms and to help the volunteers on the committee keep the workload sustainable.

Upcoming workshops: check out the course descriptions for upcoming workshops for 2014 in this newsletter. Vivian's workshop has been put forward a week because of Ceramicus14. It is now to be held on 27th and 28th September. Anthea's comprehensive glaze workshop will be held over series of 4 Sunday mornings: October 5th 12th 19th and Nov 2nd. You can book for some or all of those sessions. We have Bruce Walford's drape mould workshop with paper clay on Labour Weekend 26th and 27th October, followed by Vera's pit firing weekend and club BBQ 15th, 16th November. The latter three workshops are highly recommended for beginners and relative beginners.

I look forward to seeing you at the opening in the spacious, exciting 're:SPACE', 24th September 5.30. Bring your cheque books ☺. Cheers, Rosemary.

Pottery classes at the rooms

Monday and Tuesday 7-9pm: Community Education Centre courses - <http://www.cecwellington.ac.nz/courses/915-pottery-throwing-all-levelstuesday>. Basic to intermediate 8 week course \$245. Enrol for Monday and Tuesday courses online through the Community Education Centre. Next courses start on Monday 13th October or Tuesday 14th October.

Wednesday 7pm: Shige teaches small classes for six-week courses. The next course in the Japanese throwing style is vase making, from the 1st to 29th October and glazing on the 12th November. \$140 plus clay and glazes.

Thursdays 5.30-7.30 and 7.30-9.30pm: Rosemary O'Hara -Throwing for beginners and beyond, 8 week courses run continuously. \$185 per course, plus clay and firing costs. Phone Rosemary 233 0003 or email roseo@klezmer.co.nz. Next course starts 16th October to 4th December.

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. Next course starts soon.

Children's holiday classes: Mon 29th Sept, Wed 1st Oct, Thurs 2nd Oct from 9.30 to 12 and 1 to 1.30. Aimed at youngsters 13 years and over. \$85 all costs included. Wed 8th to Fri 10th October, from 9.30 to 12 and 1 to 3.30. Aimed at children 7 years and over. \$85 all costs included. Book at <roseo@klezmer.co.nz>

Upcoming events

Ceramicus 14

The annual exhibition of our members work

- **When:** Thursday 25 September – Sunday 5 October
- **Where:** re.SPACE Gallery, 176 Victoria Street (near Ghuznee Street, Wellington)
- **Opening night:** Wednesday 24 September, 5.30 – 7.30pm.
- **Guest potter and selector:** Anneke Borren
- **Receiving:** Saturday 20 September from 9.30 am to 4 pm at Wellington Potters Centre

So if you haven't already made some great pots for it you still have time to start but you had better be quick. The conditions of entry and entry form will be posted or emailed shortly with full details together with your invitation and membership invoice for the 2014/2015 year. (You have to be a paid up member to enter the exhibition).

Note: The main rooms will be closed while the selection is going on - that is Sunday 21 September. (The glaze room will be available.)

Help make this exhibition a success by:

- Making and entering your best pots
- Help distribute leaflets
- Attend the opening
- Help mind the exhibition. This is a great chance to have a good look at all the exhibitions running in the gallery.

Please Note: If you enter pots in the exhibition you are expected to also take a turn at minding it. So, when you bring in your pots on Saturday, 20 September you will be asked which day you will be available for the roster.

We may need to touch up the paint on the exhibition plinths that are stored in the storeroom. If you can help please email Roger but he'll only call on you if needed.

We would also really appreciate an offer of help from someone to provide information about the exhibition to a list of news outlets and websites.

If you have any queries email **Vera Burton** davee@paradise.net.nz or **Roger Pearce** roger.pearce.nz@gmail.com

Wellington Potters' Association AGM, 12 October and Potters' Olympics

And the Potters' Olympics are on this year at the AGM with a similar format to last year but with a starting time of 1.45 pm.

There will be five teams each with a team leader and 4 other members in each team.

There will be various amusing clay based challenges to titillate us all.

Please put your name forward to any member of the committee and Chris Pease in particular if you would like to volunteer as a Team Leader.

Now is your chance to shine in the 'umbrellasphere' of leadership and clay!!

Pit firing, 15-16 November 2014 – see details in the August newsletter.

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

Bruce Walford handbuilding Workshop using drape moulds

Labour Weekend 25th/26th October.

Bruce Walford is a very internationally experienced and versatile potter, in hand building, glaze chemistry, clay production and throwing. He has worked in production potteries in South Africa, Italy and Scotland during the 80's and 90's. Visit the NZP website hand building conference or google him on new Plymouth or Manawatu pottery club sites. He currently works at Decopots in Palmerston North.

This is a hands-on workshop limited to 12 people. His workshop will show how to use drape moulds decorating and joining techniques using the paperclay that Bruce has formulated for Primo Clays. Bruce has about 15 drape moulds: waka dishes, platters and spheres that he brings to the workshop. Participants will learn this simple but very versatile hand-building technique, and will have the opportunity to complete a few largish pieces ready for firing and calling your own. Bruce has a delightful quirky decoration and embellishment - animals birds feature a lot. He brings a blow torch for fast drying (possible with paper clay!) so that the moulds can be reused over the weekend. He will also talk people thorough the process of making your own drape mould. Those of you who missed Richard Stratton workshop in July on making Plaster of Paris moulds can get another chance to learn how to make your own unique shapes for reproduction.

He prefers to focus his teaching on handbuilding techniques which are much easier and more satisfying for beginners to latch onto and succeed at, but he is willing set aside some time in the workshop passing on a few tips about throwing if the participants are interested in that.

Cost of the course includes one bag of Primo paper clay and there will be another bag available that you can purchase from WPA on the day. This clay is normally available at WPS. Bruce estimates that each potter will use 1 to 2 bags on the workshop.

Members \$95, non members \$105.00 includes \$25 for a bag of Primo Paperclay
9.30 to 4 pm-ish bring a shared lunch.



Making Casseroles, Tagines and Pots with Lids with Vivian Rodriguez



Saturday and Sunday 27- 28 September
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
At the Rooms
Cost: \$ 70

This workshop will be full participation. It is suitable for all throwers

The workshop will cover:

- ❖ Throwing Casseroles and Tagines
- ❖ Making lids
- ❖ Handles and knob
- ❖ Glazing and finishing tips.

What to bring: Your favourite clay, and a dish for shared lunch

To book: Please email vivian.rodriquez@clear.net.nz or leave your name on the Vivian Rodriguez workshop booking list near the phone at the rooms.



Glaze workshop series

Three workshops: which ones are right for you?

A series of Sunday morning workshops 9.45—12.15pm. You can attend some or all of the workshops. The De-mystifying glazes workshop runs across two sessions with a break for Labour Weekend

Workshop 1

Introduction to making glazes

October 5th

9.45—12.15pm

A good workshop if you have only used club glazes

If you have never made up a glaze yourself, this is the opportunity to get into this exciting part of ceramics. You will learn how to make up and test small amounts of glaze. This will be hands on learning of the basics. You will be guided in safe practices and gain some good tips that will save a few mistakes down the track! Cost \$23. Includes mask and test tiles and materials. Non Wellington Potter's Association member \$28

Workshop 2

Surface decoration techniques

October 12th

9.45—12.15pm

Let your painter out, learn some recipes for on glaze painting to get the rich ceramic surfaces

You know the basics of getting glaze onto the pot, but would like to extend it what you are doing, and let your artist self have a play. Recipes for mixtures for painting on top of the glaze and for using resists to allow glaze on glaze will be given. Taking your work beyond the underglaze and clear mode into a the textural world of glaze and colour. Bring a few mid fire clay or Earthenware bisque items (even duds) to experiment with the techniques, to get the most out of the course. Cost \$25. Non WPA member \$30.

Workshop 3

De mystifying glazes

October 19, November 2

9.45—12.15pm

“As a consequence of the workshop, I am able to create more colour variation and pattern in my work”

—Declan Walsh workshop attendee 2013

You don't have to be a science whizz, or math genius, to do the workshop, it is pretty much like cooking processes, but with unknown ingredients. Places are limited, also, classes have to have appropriate numbers to run. You do not have to be a WPA member to attend

Where:

Wellington Potter's Association rooms.
130 Grant Road, Wgtn. Phone 04 473 3680

Discount for all sessions

If you take all the sessions the cost is reduced to \$70, or \$80 for non WPA members.

Who is teaching the series?

Anthea Grob the tutor, is an experienced teacher as well as potter/artist.

To enroll

Places are limited! To enroll email Kate wellingtonpotters@gmx.com for details of making payment or deposit to reserve your place.

Who is the workshop aimed at?

If you have probably made up some glazes, but don't really know how to get the results you want, or fix and modify them to your liking.

If you don't know your ball clay from your bentonite, or what either actually does in a glaze, this workshop is for you.

The main idea of the workshop is to get you to a point of a good overview of what glaze is about. This is a complex topic, but every effort has been made to break it into bite sized chunks. Participants will take away a useful set of notes. Some simple tests such as line blends will be made for midfire or Earthenware temperature firing. Cost of workshop \$30. (held over two mornings) WPA member \$35. WPA is generously subsidizing this workshop with materials because of the importance of this subject

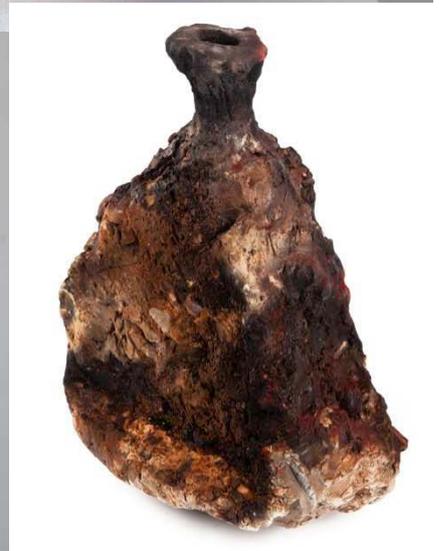
De mystifying glazes includes;

- what every glaze has in common
- six main influences on the potter's palette
- ingredients with strong personalities
- how rocks fit into the picture
- how to be safe—in handling materials—how can you know if your pots are safe?
- how to make your glazes easier to apply
- the foibles of colourants
- fixing the faults

Cost workshop 3: \$30. Some materials are included. Non WPA member \$35.

Roar Gallery – Tectonic Clay exhibition

If you have time this month nip into the Tectonic Clay exhibition at Roar Gallery, 28 August to 21 September. Maurice Bennett has curated this wonderful exhibition – featuring ceramics by renowned potters such as Len Castle, Doreen Blumhardt and Chester Nealie, along side work by members of Wellington Potters' Association. Left to right clockwise: Peter Rumble, Chris Pease, Maurice Bennett and Shane Gallagher.



New members

Wellington Potters welcomes new members: Paul Giles, Deshpande Dayanand, Georgie Craw, Rachel Barr, Jenna Rogers and Madelaine Richardson, Liz Novak, Kate McInnes, Mike Robinson, Angela Fisk, Chris Dunn, Stuart Miller, and Susannah Aitken.

Membership fees.

These are now due for the 2014/2015 year.

Invoices are being sent out with this newsletter along with Exhibition entry forms etc.

If you have joined within the last 2 months you will not receive one.

You can always pay before then and if you're not sure how much you owe please contact Vera at: davee@paradise.net.nz

Notices

Looking for Potters to share ideas

Nicola Dench (NZ Potters) is interested in compiling a list of potters who would be willing to talk on or demonstrate a skill or area of interest to at club days/nights at the Woolshed potters club. Each talk would be low key, up to an hour, presenting on an area of pottery, demonstrating a skill or showing and talking about their own work. If you are interested in this opportunity please contact Nicola on theclaypenguin@hotmail.com to let her know what your area of interest is or whether you would talk about your own work or would like to discuss other ideas.

Looking for potters interested in taking classes

WPA's lovely secretary, Kate, gets hundreds of emails per month and a large number of these are from people who are looking for one off pottery classes to be taken. These range from pottery classes for children to weekend pottery sessions as special occasion parties. If you'd be interested in hosting and tutoring one of these sessions, please contact Kate on wellingtontotters@gmx.com.

NZ Potters Conference and National Exhibition: Important dates for your diary: National conference (Uku) in Whangerei Easter weekend 2015. For more information go to ukunorth.wix.com/ukunorth. NZP is 50 next year and at Uku they will launch celebrations for the year which will include an open studios weekend, dates to be confirmed soon.

Karori West Brownie Pack. Wednesday 6th August 1014

This time 26 girls made tiles and animals along with decorating the vases.
Thanks to Louise, Megumi, Lyuba and Dave and an unscheduled throwing demo from Rose.



Library Reviews

BOOKS

- *Alternative Kilns & Firing Techniques: Raku, Saggar, Pit, Barrel*, by Watkins, James C.; Wandless, Paul Andrew. New York: Lark Books, 2006. 127p. Shelved at: Kilns. Donated by: Hazel Calderwood.
- *Ash Glazes*, by Tichane, Robert. New York, New York State Institute for Glaze Research, 1987. 216p. Shelved at: Glazing. Donated by Roger Bagshaw.
- *Extracts from Laid Back Wood Firing and Australian Wood Firing*, by Harrison, Steve. Balmoral Village, NSW, Hot & Sticky Press, 2003. 100p. Shelved at: Kilns. Donated by WPA member.
- *Glazes for Australian Potters*, by de Boos, Janet. Stanmore, NSW: Cassell Australia, 1978. 121p. Shelved at: Glazing. Donated by: H Billington.
- *Kamaka: the Ceramics of Bruce and Estelle Martin*, by Shaw, Peter. New edition. Napier: Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust, 2005. 47p. 2 copies. Shelved at: Pottery - Exhibitions. Donated by: Jenny Shearer.

- *Making the Molecules Dance: Ceramics 1948-2008*, by Castle, Len. Auckland: Lopdell House Gallery, 2008. 248p. Shelved at: Pottery - New Zealand. Donated by: Hazel Calderwood.
- *Naked Raku and Related Bare Clay Techniques*, by Lazo, Eduardo (editor). Westerville, Ohio, The American Ceramic Society, 2012. 151p. Shelved at: Glazing. Donated by Kate and Will Jacobson
- *Naked Raku Workshop*, by Kate and Will Jacobson. NZ, K & W Jacobson, 2014. 8p. Shelved at: Glazing. Donated by Kate and Will Jacobson. (small A5 booklet containing brief notes on requirements for naked raku, as produced by Kate and Will Jacobson)
- *Painting on Ceramics*, by Byrne, Kate. London, Conran Octopus Limited, [2000]. 96p. Shelved at: Pottery - Decoration. Donated by Rhonda Edwards
- *Raku Handbook: a Practical Approach to the Ceramic Art*, by Dickerson, John. London, Studio Vista, 1972. 112p. Shelved at: Glazing. Donated by WPA member
- *The Complete Potter's Companion*, by Birks, Tony. New edition. London: Conran Octopus Limited, 1997. 192p. Donated by: Roger Pearce. Shelved at: Pottery - Materials and Techniques
- *The World of Japanese Ceramics*, by Sanders, Herbert H. & Kenkichi Tomimoto. Tokyo, Kodansha International Ltd, 1967. 267p. Shelved at: Pottery - Japanese. Donated by Roger Bagshaw

JOURNALS

The latest of these journals are reference only in the Library, and can be borrowed when the next issue arrives. Below is a selected list of contents.

Artzone, no.55, July-September 2014

- Glen Hayward, sculpture

The Log Book, no58, 2014

- Matthew Blakely - A New Sense of Place - using local materials (in Britain) for clays and glazes for wood-firing
- Chris Lewis - Forty Years of Earth and Fire

Ceramic Review, no268, Jul/Aug 2014

- The Joy 4 Sake Vessels Have Given
- Ipek Kotan's Restrained Vessels
- South Korea's Contemporary Ceramics Scene
- Alistair Young's Step by Step Process for Creating a Jug
- Carving and Facetting Vessels - Emily Myers

Ceramics Technical, no38, 2014

- Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts
- The Famous Blue Delhi Pottery
- Etched Black Pottery from Azamgargh, India

Pottery Making Illustrated, vol.17 no.4, July/August, 2014

- Bringing Indigo Batik Patterns to clay
- Handbuilt Vases with Natural Undulations
- Watercolour Majolica technique

Elaine Marland, Librarian
17 August 2014

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 September newsletter need to be emailed to Julie by 20 September 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
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Form Manager	Louise Caig	478 7446	louise.caig@gmail.com

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Finances	Breanne Doyle		