

newsletter

April 2015

monthly newsletter & journal



Wellington
Potters'
Association
EST 1958

Upcoming Dates to Note

April 3	Empty Bowls Project – Bowl making at the rooms, 5pm on
April 10	Empty Bowls Project – Bowl making at the rooms, 5pm on
April 11-12	Gloria Young's Majolica workshop (details below)
April 17	Empty Bowls Project – Bowl making at the rooms, 5pm on
April 24	Empty Bowls Project – Bowl making at the rooms, 5pm on
May 16-17	Anneke Borren's Throwing Workshop
Regular events:	
Tuesdays	Shared lunch at the rooms - just come along and bring something to share!
Fridays	Friday club night for making bowls; see Empty Bowls Project
<i>For the indicative WPA Programme for the year, see page 4, Pottery Classes page 4</i>	

Gloria Young's workshop 11 - 12 April

Gloria Young's Majolica Workshop April 11th and 12th, 10am – 4pm.

Gloria is a renowned potter working in Wellington since 1980. She has run a couple of her own galleries in Wellington and has exhibited extensively in NZ exhibitions for over 3 decades, and is currently working in a gallery in Miramar. She has kindly offered to take a workshop for WPA to pass on her Majolica painting and slab building skills. This workshop will also include slide presentations on the history of Majolica and Gloria will provide tiles for participants to have a go. This is a once only opportunity! Put it in your diary now and book in with Kate on wellingtonpotters@gmx.com; cost to non-members \$84, members \$75.

What is Majolica?

To understand the meaning of Majolica (or Maiolica) one needs to know the

history of the glaze and then how to create similar glaze surfaces. It's an opaque base glaze, then stains, oxides or coloured glazes are painted on the base glaze and the piece is fired. This technique can just as easily be used for the high-fire range, but the main difficulty is in getting the glaze to fit the clay body, and in the application of the brushwork on the dry powdery surface. The glaze is very important, as it must not melt too much, or the lines and strokes of the brushwork would move. It becomes a shaped canvas on which to paint.



The Weekend Course will cover:

- An introduction to Majolica - talk of the history and origins with slides.
- Talk on English Majolica C1700's - 1800's and connections to this Majolica

and the earlier Majolica/ Faience/Delft etc.

- A demonstration of Gloria's slab construction techniques.
- Tiles will be provided to practice painting on top of the glaze.
- How to mix the colours, and the type of brushes used.
- The glaze, application, recipe etc.

Participants may bring along personal pieces that have already been made with earthenware clay, red or white, so long as they are small enough to be dipped into a bucket of glaze for the firing. Note that they must first be bisqued; and be prepared for the fact that this will be experimental, and the work may very well be lost. A bucket of glaze, and mixed colours will be provided.



Empty Bowls Project – Please Help!

All WPA members will have received a leaflet about the very worthy community event that we are supporting, the **Empty Bowls** project. It aims to raise money to support the Wellington Downtown Community Ministry, by selling 850 bowls of soup. From now until mid-July 2015, Wellington potters are invited to make soup bowls for donation, and over the month of August 2015, your soup bowls will be purchased by patrons, with donations going to the Downtown Community Ministry.

Your involvement is vital to the success of the whole project; please contact **Rebecca Flowerday** on 027279 9077 (rebecca.flowerday@gmail.com) to let us know how you'd like to support this project. You may help by:

- Making soup bowls, and decorating them ready for firing (clay, glazes and firing are supplied free for this project)
- Donating soup bowls you already have
- Assisting at stalls selling bowls with soup over the month of August
- Providing ideas on how people can support Empty Bowls
- Helping organize, market and promote this event



Some dedicated members have already started on bowl creation, and they are now building up on the drying shelves upstairs at the rooms; Friday nights have been set aside as “Friday Night Bowl Making at the WPA” from Friday 6 March with the last being held Friday 29 May, from 5:00pm onwards. **COME & PLAY!** (Bring Wine & Food if you wish). Join in with everyone in a series of free Throwing and Hand Building classes where you'll have free clay and expert Throwers & Hand Builders available to help you make the bowls for the chosen charity. We now have various central cafes and restaurants pledging to sell your bowls over the month of August and provide free soup to patrons who purchase the bowls! So please proudly put your mark on the bowls. This is not only a great event for our Community Charity but also a fabulous opportunity and profile for the WPA and you. Come on and take part!

Notices

Kiln Firers

Please be aware that the kilns and kiln shelves are expensive. If you are using the kilns, we expect you to take due care with them and to take all possible steps to avoid damage.

The biggest problem is glaze runs. Small runs are easy to clean, but big ones create a huge mess and can ruin shelves or seriously reduce their usefulness.

You must test your glazes before you do a whole kiln load; test first on tiles and then on a pot. Use cones.

And you must check that the glaze is not too thick round the base of the pot. If you are firing pots made by others, you should check their work carefully.

WPA will ask you to pay for any damage you are responsible for.

What are cones and what is ‘cone 6’?

WPA club firings go to cone 6. But what does this mean? Here's a wee (slightly technical) explanation.



Cones are little cone-shaped ceramic objects that potters often stick in the kiln to tell them whether their glazes and clays are sufficiently cooked. You put three cones in a little lump of clay. When the first bends over, it means your firing is nearly but not quite hot enough; when the second bends over, it means your firing should be done; and when the last bends over, it means the kiln's a bit hot.

At WPA, the electric kilns are wired up with computer controllers which control the firing process and tell the kiln when to heat up and when to stop heating. But before there were fancy kiln controllers, potters used to peer into the kiln to check how the cones were doing. They still do with wood and gas kilns (witness the anagama firing later in the year).

Cones roughly correspond to temperatures, but cones are more accurate than a temperature gauge (like you find on computer controllers) and they give you a better idea of what's going on inside the kiln. Cones are made of the same sort of stuff as your glazes and they respond to the effects of heat in the same way as glazes. So although people talk about temperature all the time (partly because of the digital kiln controllers we use with electric kilns), really it's better to say that clays and glazes fire to a particular cone, rather than to a particular temperature.

There are two important factors that make your clay body vitrify and your cones and glazes melt: temperature and time. If you fire quickly at the end of your firing, you need to go to a higher temperature than if you fire slowly in order to get the same effects. Cone 6 is roughly 1220 degrees Celsius. Cone 6 can, however, be 1240C if you fire quickly over the last hour of your firing. Cone 9 is roughly 1260C, or 1280C, or somewhere in between, depending on the rate of climb.

Potters beware! Your glazes want to run...



Avoid glaze runs: potters beware!

Occasionally, in the course of a firing, a glaze can run off a pot and onto the kiln shelf. It overmelts! This is a big problem as it can ruin the shelf.

Why do glazes run? Well, it might be because the kiln got too hot for the glaze, but there are other reasons related to how you glaze your work.

How can you make sure no glaze gets onto the shelf?

- only use tried-and-true glazes (club glazes should be right)
- make sure your glazed pots go in the correct firing (cone 6 glazes

for cone 6 firings)

- make sure you have wiped all the glaze off the bottom of your pots
- make sure the glaze isn't too thick, especially round the lower part of your pot
- learn how to apply glazes properly.

The club will run some glazing classes for beginners during the year, so watch out for them.



Flora Christeller 1923 - 2004

The recent retrospective exhibition in February of Flora Christeller and Friends at the Academy Gallery Light space was a joint family and friends effort. Sixty of her works were featured. This show brought together her notable repertoire of saltglaze ceramics, painted platters, domestic-ware and crystalline work.

Flora was president of the Wellington Potters Association twice during what could be called Potters heyday, the seventies and eighties.

My first introduction to Wellington Potters was in the early seventies when Flora with her husband Gerald put on a raku at Peka Peka Beach using driftwood for fuel. It was a magic sunset over Kapiti and I was enchanted with the whole process and the evening.

She combined bringing up four children with potting (on a large scale) and teaching at her home first in Pinehaven and later at York Bay. Her inspiration was nature and the surrounding bush. As a Canterbury Fine Arts graduate she worked alongside Yvonne Rust. A friendship that endured until Yvonne's death.

Her contemporaries and mentors were Helen Mason, Mirek Smisek, Roy and Juliet Cowan, Muriel Moody and Isobel Martin. In her latter years she worked with Jenny Shearer, Jean Hastedt, Raeburn Laird, Nan Barker, and Keena Gibbs and many others. The exhibition included a small representation of their work.



Flora was a founder member of the Wellington Potters Shop, a highly successful co-operative venture that started up in Tinakori Road in 1983. The retrospective exhibition, it was felt, was timely to showcase her contribution and diversity to an audience from a younger generation. Members of the Potters shop who are still around were able to engage in a bit of nostalgia at the opening night. A beautiful catalogue of works and photos was produced by Flora's son, John Christeller.

Jenny Shearer.

Proposed Pottery Programme for 2015

Regular events

- Classes
- Tuesday shared lunch – every Tuesday. Just come along and bring something to share!
- Friday club night for making bowls; see **Empty Bowls Project**

April

- Gloria Young – Majolica workshop 11-12th April

May

- Craig Williams – Hump and press mould making, for the rooms (to replenish club moulds) – free one-day workshop (more info in May newsletter).
- Anneke Borren – Throwing workshop 16 -17th May

June

- Anthea Grob – Slip decoration weekend workshop
- Mid-winter Xmas – 20th June

July

- Di Conway – Hollow form sculpture weekend workshop – 11-12th July

August

- Launch of Empty Bowls: 1 August
- 'Soup Day' at WPA for Empty Bowls: 15 and 16 August
- Raku 29th or 30th August
- Possible pit firing (or in September)

September

- Anagama – Loading probably first week of Sept, with firing mid-Sept.
- Possible Pit firing

October

- Ceramicus annual exhibition
- Aaron Scythe – Weekend workshop on tea bowls and soft-clay turning

November

- Anthea Grob – Four half-day glazing workshops – Sunday mornings. Slip decoration weekend workshop.

Plus

- Some regular workshops for beginners on how to glaze.
- Electric kiln firing workshop.

This is an indicative programme of events for 2015 – more detail on each will be provided closer to the event. If you have any suggestions please contact the WPA club.

Pottery Classes

Mondays with Nicola Dench: Kids' class 3.30pm – 5pm running for 8 weeks during school terms, aimed at 8-12 year olds. \$200 per course all costs included. Contact Nicola Dench on 938-3356 or email theclaypenguin@hotmail.com.

Monday 4 May, 5.30-7.30pm for 8 weeks: Community Education Centre courses - enrol for courses online through the Centre at <http://www.cecwellington.ac.nz/courses/914-pottery-handbuilding-and-throwing>. Basic to intermediate 8 week course \$245. Course starts 4 May 2015, courses after that are in July and October.

Tuesday 5 May, 7.30-9.30pm for 8 weeks: Community Education Centre courses - enrol for courses online through the Centre at <http://www.cecwellington.ac.nz/courses/915-pottery-throwing-all-levels>. Basic to intermediate 8 week course \$245. Course starts 5 May, courses after that are in July and October.

Wednesday 8 April, 7-9pm for 6 weeks: Japanese style throwing with Shige Ohashi. Further information and bookings from wellingtonpotters@gmx.com.

Thursday 16 April – 4 June, from 7 – 9pm: Beginners' classes begin on 16 April; the class runs from 7-9 pm each Thursday and will include hand building but focus on using the potters' wheel. Registration is done online at www.chalkle.com under **Matthew's Pottery Classes**.

Saturdays 9.45-11.45am: Anthea Grob - Introductory and intermediate class in hand building and wheel throwing. 6-week courses run continuously. \$138 per course, plus clay and firing costs. Contact Anthea to enrol (grobanthea@gmail.com) or phone 9726672. Next course starts soon.

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

WPA Library Reviews

VIDEOS

Rosette Gault Paperclay Workshop, 25-26 June 1994; 2 DVDs in plastic case.

JOURNALS

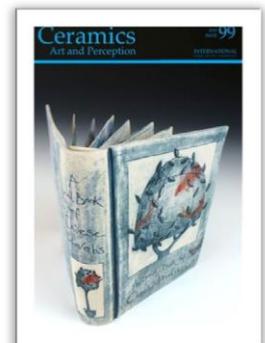
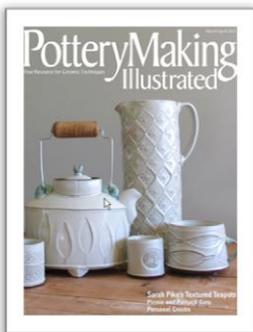
I was disappointed to see when putting the latest Pottery Making Illustrated in the library "New Issues" box on Friday, that the previous 2 issues of the journal that should have been in the box were not, and had not been issued to anyone either – would the person responsible for removing these issues **PLEASE RETURN** them to the Library **as soon as possible**. The library runs on an honour system, and we rely on all members to be conscientious, and help maintain this great resource. So; the newly-arrived journals listed below are currently reference only in the Library (we can only hope), and can be borrowed when the next issue arrives. Below is a selected list of contents:

Ceramics Technical, no39, 2014

- The Final Phase on Merging Ceramics with Glass
- Glaze Description and Notation
- Formulating Slip Glazes Using Ceramic Raw Materials
- The Use of Printing Techniques in Ceramics
- A Simple Glaze: Jeff Zamek Demystifies the Chemistry of Glaze

Pottery Making Illustrated, vol.18 no.2, March/April 2015

- Wrapping – Wrap your Pots with Sheets Covered in Slip and Underglaze
 - Combine Thrown Forms with Handbuilding Techniques
 - DIY Carved and Bisqued Cylinders to Roll Textures onto Slabs
 - Using Mishima, Water Etching, and Watercolour Glazes for Fabric-Like Surfaces



Ceramics: Art and Perception, no.99, Mar-May 2015

- Wendy Kershaw's Intriguing Work, combining Illustration and Fine-Art Ceramics
- Harlan House – Porcelain
- The Figure as a Map to Human Experience
- Robin Hopper, Canadian Potter/Ceramic Artist (he can't decide which!)

Elaine Marland, Librarian
26 March 2015

New members

Wellington Potters welcomes new members: online application forms are available at:

http://www.nzpotters.com/Clubs/WellingtonPottersAssociation_Join.cfm

There are also links to the form on this page:

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

WPA Club welcomes new members: Isabella Molloy, Sophie Hathaway, Jenny Ombler, Phillip Chan, Jade Valour, Jessie Larsen and Franzi Paenke.

Club and committee contacts

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 May newsletter need to be emailed to Elaine by 20 April 2015
(Elaine Marland <marland@xtra.co.nz>)

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/ Volunteer Coordinator	Gwyn Williams	04 905 2586	gwynwilliams@gmx.com
Vice President/ Maintenance	Mauritz Basson	381 6751	mauritz.basson@wellingtonzoo.com
Past President Club Programme	Rosemary O'Hara	233 0003 021 201 6764	roseo@klezmer.co.nz
Secretary Orientation	Kate Ford	473 5356 021 121 6531	kate.ford48@gmail.com
Treasurer Safe/banking	Mike Doyle	021 631 187	mprzdd@hotmail.com
Glazes, Rooms, Orientation, Cubbies	Matthew Van Atta (with Kate Ford) (with Joe Zuccarello)	021 0830 4507	mnvanatta@alaska.edu
Clay, and programme for community groups	Vivian Rodriguez	021 264 5414 972 0811	vivian.rodriguez@clear.net.nz
Forms	Rebecca Flowerday	027 279 9077	rebecca.flowerday@gmail.com
Ceramicus15	Nicci Hulley	027 3056 488	nicola.hulley@gmail.com
Kilns	Chris Dunn	021 138 8472	cdunn@ihug.co.nz

Co-opted members

Anagama co-ordinator	Alan Ross	566 8922	alross@clear.net.nz
NZP delegate	Nicola Dench	938 3356	theclaypenguin@hotmail.com
Membership/ database manager	Vera Burton	938 8207	davee@paradise.net.nz
Library and Newsletter editor	Elaine Marland	021 0505 335 384 4718	marland@xtra.co.nz