



Upcoming Dates to Note

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| Apr 29 | Throwing with the Prez – Gwyn Williams Bowl-Throwing Tutorial, 5.30pm on |
| May 1 | Empty Bowls Project – Bowl making at the rooms, 5pm on |
| May 8 | Empty Bowls Project – Bowl making at the rooms, 5pm on |
| May 15 | Empty Bowls Project – Bowl making at the rooms, 5pm on |
| May 16-17 | Anneke Borren's Throwing Workshop 10-4pm <i>[Members not attending the workshop but wishing to use wheels, please come <u>outside</u> 10-4pm; those wishing to use hand building areas please keep your comings and goings to a minimum]</i> |
| May 22 | Empty Bowls Project – Bowl making at the rooms, 5pm on |
| May 23 | Free Glaze Application Workshop with Vivian, 2-4pm |
| May 24 | Empty Bowls Throw-a-Thon – inter-club fun, with a barbecue first – 12pm on |
| May 27 | Empty Bowls Trimming and Decoration workshops, 6.30pm on |
| May 31 | Craig Williams – Drape and Press Mould Making Workshop (to replenish club moulds), 10-4pm |
| 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 6, Pottery Classes page 7</i> | |

A Word From the President

One of the club's big projects for 2015 is the **Empty Bowls** Project. We aim to make 850 bowls to help raise money for the Downtown Community Ministry. 850 is quite a lot, so we need to keep things ticking over. So far, we've been running Friday bowl-making evenings. We will extend these to the odd Wednesday evening (some don't like Fridays), and we're also going to have a Throw-a-Thon in late May (more elsewhere in the newsletter).

The Wed/Fri bowl-making evenings are led by experienced throwers. They are a great opportunity to get some free tuition and to practice making bowls with free clay. And they're fun! So come along!

Newsletter

This newsletter has a new editor; a big thank you to Elaine Marland for taking on the role. And a big thank you to Julie Watson, who has been doing a great job over the last couple of years! The newsletter is an important source of information about upcoming events, exhibitions, what's happening in the rooms, and what's just happened... But there is room for just about anything pottery related. If you fancy writing an exhibition review or sharing some tips or thoughts or whatever, get in touch with Elaine.

Facebook

We need someone to help maintain the WPA Facebook page. Are you a keen Facebooker? Can you help post photos, info about upcoming events, and updates about any ceramic-related activity that is interesting? If so, get in touch with Gwyn (gwynwilliams@gmx.com) and he'll make you an administrator.

Tuesday shared lunch

Come along to the rooms on Tuesdays and enjoy a shared lunch. All you have to do is bring something to share. The only rules are: no bread; no chips. Easy! You'll get to meet some of the rooms regulars. And you can even hang around and make a few pots. Try some bowls for Empty Bowls.

Membership form

The club has a new online application form:

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

Plaster moulds

Plaster moulds are delicate. Please don't use knives or other metal implements on plaster moulds or batts. If you want to learn how to make plaster moulds, come to the free workshop with Craig Williams on 31st May.

Workshops

The club runs regular weekend workshops on a variety of topics. During these workshops, the rooms remain open to members who are not attending the workshop, but workshops will have priority use of equipment. Please keep your comings and goings to a minimum and keep noise down. Tutors need to be able to teach in relative peace and quiet.

Gwyn Williams

2015 Empty Bowls Project – 850 Bowls Needed!

THANK YOU to everyone who has made a bowl for this great project. **300 bowls** have already been made for sale through Wellington cafés and Moore Wilson's.

We - need - your - HELP - to make the **remaining 550**. All money raised is going to help DCM who provide vital support to those in need in Wellington.

Make a new bowl, or help someone else to make a bowl. The clay is free for the project, along with the firings and glazings completed at the WPA.

Please contact **Rebecca Flowerday** (rebecca.flowerday@gmail.com) and register your willingness to help.

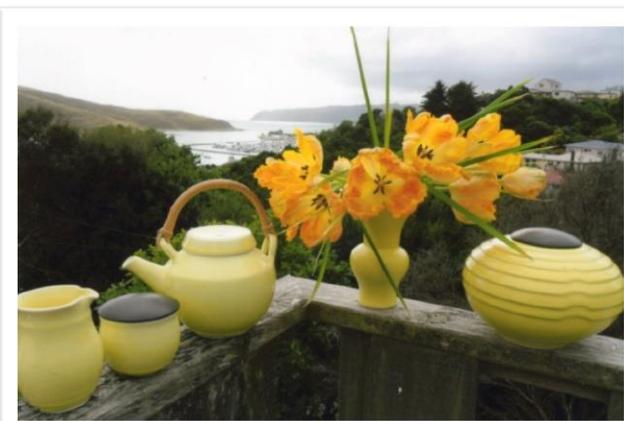


Photos show enthusiastic WPA members making bowls for the 2015 Empty Bowls Project

Friday nights have been set aside as "Friday Night Bowl Making at the WPA" and are becoming an interesting learning session. They're held every Friday from now until 29th May, from 5:00pm onwards; throwers and hand-builders welcome. Come and join in, bring wine & food if you wish. It's a social occasion as well as a learning opportunity, and a worthy cause.

Anneke Borren's Throwing Workshop 16th-17th May

I'm sure by now all but the newest WPA members will be familiar with Anneke's work. She is one of NZ's Master Potters and has been working most of her long potting career in Wellington. She was the selector and guest exhibitor for Ceramicus last year. These images are some of her current work.



This will be a mixed demonstration and hands-on, domestic ware, throwing workshop. Anneke will demonstrate various forms including her joined thrown forms, and students will have the opportunity to be coached in these techniques. Anneke will also demonstrate finishing of pieces, ribbing and on-glaze decoration.

Anneke has a very experienced and astute eye for ceramics. She will bring along a few pots



from her collection to discuss form with the participants, and she would like you to bring along one or two of your own pots, or pots from your collection to share in a critique of. She would appreciate it if members not participating in the workshop come to the rooms outside of the workshop times of 10 am to 4 pm.

Book in with Kate wellingtonpotters@gmx.com. \$70 WPA members, \$90 non WPA members. Limit 12 students. Bring along your own clay, lunch to share and 1 or 2 pots that interest you, for the critique discussion.

Glazing for Beginners: Free Glaze Workshop 23 May

Vivian Rodriguez is running a free glaze application workshop on Sunday 23rd May, from 2-4pm in the Glaze Room at WPA. This workshop aims to assist with glazing for the Empty Bowls Project; if you have bowls that you have made for the project that you wish to glaze, bring them along; otherwise, Empty Bowls will be provided for you to glaze. Learn the techniques that will ensure you end up with a well-glazed pot and avoid glaze runs and other problems (and help get all our Empty Bowls glazed!). The workshop is designed for people who are new to glazing or who wish to improve their technique. It will cover:

1. Rules of glazing preparation
2. Application
3. Tips and more

Contact: vivian.rodriquez@clear.net.nz to enrol.



Throw-a-Thon for Empty Bowls 24 May – You're Invited!

The Wellington Potters Association is supporting the Empty Bowls charity project by holding a soup bowl Throw-a-Thon. Not only our association but Otaki Potters, Porirua Woolshed Potters and Hutt Art Society Potters are invited to take part. This is a real opportunity to get other local Potters Clubs together plus add a bit of 'clay community' spirit and mild competition into the mix. All for a good cause and no-one will be a loser on the day!

Starting with a Barbeque Lunch at 12:00 @ the Wellington Potters Assn at 130 Grant Road, Thorndon, Wellington. The competition begins at 1.30pm.

Bring along a salad, or sweet for coffee and we'll supply the Sausages and Clay.

Club members, friends and family all welcome. Bring your Club Supporters!

The Format:

6-7 teams to be participating in total: 3 people per team.

When: Sunday 24 May 2015

Arrive: 12:00 to have lunch and prepare 1 bag of clay

Throw-a-Thon: Begins @ 1.30pm

All teams will use the Empty Bowls clay that will be supplied – Primo Mid-Fire Stoneware

How:

Each team can start with 15 wedged balls of clay 650-660 gms each. The 3 team members can choose to interchange their roles:

Thrower: Person on the wheel

Runner: Person making sure that the Thrower is supplied with clay and sweaty brow is wiped

Wedger: Person pre-preparing the clay required to keep the Thrower going

While the Thrower is on the wheel the Runner and the Wedger also need to complete a coil bowl over the 1.5 hours.

Judging:

Each Club will put forward someone to be included in the Judging Committee, who is not one of the immediate team. The winning team will be not only the team who Throws the most Soup Bowls over 1.5 hrs but also the best quality bowls. In the event of a tie – the most beautiful coiled bowl presented by the team will be the all-important tie-breaker!

Contact: Rebecca.flowerday@gmail.com to confirm your team.



Trimming & Decorating Workshops 27 May

Following the Empty Bowls Throw-a-Thon the WPA is planning a big Trimming and Decoration Workshop for finishing the bowls, on Wednesday 27th May from 6.30pm onwards.

Trimming Workshop with Rosemary O'Hara

(Demonstrations provided regularly starting at 6:30pm till late)

Rosemary will demonstrate foot turning and finishing at 6.30pm and 7.30pm, and later than that if attendees require. There'll not be any charge for the Workshop, however you will be assisting with the finishing of the 'Empty Bowls' bowls.

Bowl Decorating Workshop with Barbara Spencer & Lyubov Zhilkina

(Starting at 6:30pm with ongoing Demonstrations)

Barbara and Lyubov will be offering their expertise of decoration, underglaze brush and stencil work. Come and have some fun decorating on 'leather-hard' bowls. Again no cost for the Workshop or use of materials, as the bowls will be contributed directly to the Empty Bowls project.

Craig's Mould Making Workshop 31 May

Craig Williams, our rooms expert on making plaster moulds has offered to run a free workshop on Sunday 31st May from 10 to 4pm, in how to mix and pour plaster for press moulds and drape moulds. In the process participants will get hands on experience learning this very valuable potters' skill, plus make a shape that you would like to have in use at the rooms. Many of the club press moulds need replacing and there are very few drape moulds available. Those of you who attended Bruce Walford's drape mould and paper clay workshop last year will know what a lot of versatility drape moulds provide for handbuilders and how successful this way of working is for beginners.



The class is limited to 9 persons: free to WPA members, \$20 for non-members; all moulds made will be for use in the WPA rooms. Register with Kate at wellingtontotters@gmx.com. Bring some lunch to share and some shapes you would like to recreate. Craig reserves the right to say whether they are suitable or not for reproduction or WPA use.

Transformed Earth - Shane Gallagher & Maurice Bennett

Shane Gallagher and Maurice Bennett held the opening of their exhibition at Thistle Hall on 7 April, on possibly the wildest weather night of the year so far, but plenty of ceramic enthusiasts braved the downpour to view the very impressive exhibition.

Maurice had an eclectic collection of bowls, with a wide variety of glazing and finishing techniques, see the image of just a few of them, on the right. Shane's mastery of glaze (picture left) was a stand-out.



Gloria Young on Majolica Painting and Slab-Building

Eight keen WPA members gathered at the Potters rooms for a workshop with Gloria Young over the weekend of 11-12 April, and what a rich and varied treat it was. First Gloria showed us some of her amazing slides that she had taken on trips around the world, looking at the history of Majolica / Maiolica / Faience / Delft through the ages (beginning in Crete, 100s of years BC!). Gloria brought in just some of her collection of majolica work from around the world, as well as many of her own pieces.

With that to inspire us, she went on to demonstrate the construction of a large vase using her slab building technique, involving beveling the edges to be joined, scoring and spraying the edges with vinegar to ensure a good "stick", using a paper-clay slurry to join the pieces, reinforcing joins with the strips of clay from cutting the bevel edge, and "batting" the joined edges gently with a wooden bat

Leaving the joined vase to dry some more, we went back to majolica, and Gloria gave an introduction to the best type of brushes, her preferred earthenware (white, from England), and the glazes to use (white slip for red earthenware, Abbots white as a base glaze, and Abbots clear glaze mixed with stains for the colours).





We were given 6 tiles to glaze, and as usual it was fascinating to see the different results that everyone came up with.



It was a wonderful weekend, learning new techniques, plus enjoying the amazing shared lunches! Thanks to Gloria for the generous sharing of her knowledge and skills.

Elaine Marland.

Cubby News:

Cubbies are starting to fill up and we have a waiting list. Remember cubbies are for members that regularly use the rooms. So (rules): 1) if you are not a paying member, or if you will lapse, please empty your cubby or we will. 2) Within the next month, when you are in the rooms, please sign your name on the cubby list next to your allocated cubby number (list at back of rooms). If we do not hear from you, your cubby may be emptied to make room for others. We really would like cubbies to be used by people that use the rooms and not for long term storage (attics are for that). We also have cubbies with member things in them but their names are not on the list- I will presume they should be empty unless you place your name on the cubby list. For question write me Joe (the cubby-man): joe.zuccarello@vuw.ac.nz.

Around the Traps

I recently got up close and personal with a group of birds. This occurred when I came across an exhibition of ceramic birds by Madeline Child, on show at Visual Culture, a small gallery along Oriental Parade. While not being ornithologically inclined, I would describe the birds as a grouping of Tui, Parrots and Sparrows. However, to think of them to represent a certain species, is left entirely up to the viewer. The works are a personal representation of birds as a whole.

What impressed me was the simple form. There was no concern with detail, with the white clay body that makes up each work, being squeezed into shape. This was heightened with a simple use of glaze. Colours such as deep greens and light blues, highlighted by dabs of a bright red glaze, flow over the work. It would seem that little care had been taken, but I would disagree, for colours do not mix and become muddy. The various glazes have been applied with some care and a knowledge of how they would adhere to the surface.



A personal favourite was a light blue glaze parrot, its head turned sideways, as these birds do, with a seemingly inquisitiveness look. Another standout item, and one which I absolutely loved, was a small pair of sparrows on a shared stand. This sweet little couple, occurred to me to be both delicate and intimate at the same time. I know many will think these works are crude, almost juvenile. Far from it, they show a lot of knowledge of the ceramic progress. I can imagine there would have been many failures during the various firings, until a method of construction and glazing was worked through.

The birds do not stand alone, incorporated into each is a stand, a plinth. Crudely made, they are an important part of each work, adding balance and vigour, and to me enhance the appeal. While the birds will

not appeal to everybody, they are a must-see for anybody interested in ceramics, especially those of us who believe in making more than just domestic ware, and also for those ceramic makers who are attempting to develop a personal style.

Also seen on my walk around town, was a great vase by Mal Sole and a lovely small jug by Jenny Shearer, both in the shop at the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts. Mal's vase is a reflection of both his skill as a potter as well as his knowledge of salt firing, a difficult technique to master, and one where results can vary markedly. The vase is beautifully balanced, and just the right size. While the deep blue glaze contrasted by the band of yellow around the neck was beautifully thought out and executed, the whole work was a pleasure to behold.



Jenny's small jug was also a delight. I have seen many of these jugs before, made in a white porcelain clay, and with a bright white glaze. It is a form she commonly makes. This version introduced me to a

new colour, a warm brown tone, and on a terra cotta clay body. The colour lifted the work, making it more homely and personal. On the surface of the vase were little painted details, which further enhanced its appeal. I very nearly purchased the work, as it was very well priced.

This quick and personal round up of ceramic work, all recently seen, will be something that I intend to keep up, as there is far too little reported about the many exhibitions and works of this nation's talented ceramic artists.



Maurice Bennett

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

- Wednesday 29th April @ 5.30pm – come meet our President and throw bowls for the Empty Bowls project under his tutelage!

May *(further details on all May workshops earlier in the Newsletter)*

- Anneke Borren – Throwing workshop 16 -17th May
- Free Glaze Application Workshop with Vivian Rodriguez, 23th May
- Empty Bowls Throw-a-Thon with BBQ from 12:00 mid-day, Sunday 24th May
- Empty Bowls Trimming and Decoration workshop – learn new techniques, Wednesday 27th May
- Craig Williams – Hump and press mould making, for the rooms (to replenish club moulds) – free one-day workshop, 31st May.

June

- Mid-winter Xmas – 20th June
- Anthea Grob – Slip decoration weekend workshop, using slip for coloured inlays, paper resist, dipping and pouring – 29th June. On the right is an example of inlaying and paper resist that Anthea will be showing on her June 29th slip day, \$35, booking as usual with Kate (wellingtonpotters@gmx.com).



July

- Di Conway – Hollow form sculpture weekend workshop, 11-12th July
- Free Glaze Application Workshop with Vivian Rodriguez, 25th July

August

- Launch of Empty Bowls, 1st August
- 'Soup Day' at WPA for Empty Bowls, 15th and 16th August
- Possible Raku, 29th or 30th August
- Bruce Walford paper clay sculpture sometime this month – to be confirmed

September

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

- Possible Pit firing and Raku.

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.

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. Class starts 4 May.

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, 5.30-7.30pm, and 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**.

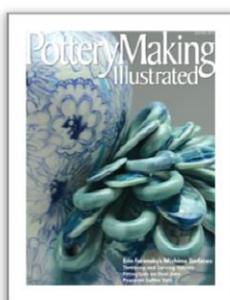
Saturdays 9.45-11.45am: Anthea Grob - Introductory and intermediate class in hand building and wheel throwing. 6-week courses run continuously. \$138 per course, plus clay and firing costs. Contact Anthea to enrol (grobanthea@gmail.com) or phone 9726672. Next course starts soon.

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

WPA Library Reviews

JOURNALS

Please note that there are two issues of **Pottery Making Illustrated** that are still missing from the Library;



Nov/Dec 2014 and Jan/Feb 2015. They have not been signed out. On the left are images of the covers of these missing magazines; if you have borrowed these without signing the cards, **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.

There have been no new magazines arrive in the last month (well, I don't think so anyway; assuming that somebody hasn't "borrowed" them before I can add them to the Library collection...); hopefully there will be some new magazines next

month, plus the return of the missing Pottery Making Illustrated magazines.

Elaine Marland, Librarian

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 member: Cam Munroe.

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wellington-Potters-Association/213144062066063>

Articles for May newsletter need to be emailed to Elaine by 20 May 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

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|---|---|--------------------------|--|
| 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 | mprzzd@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 |
| Cubbies Manager | Joe Zuccarello | 479-1299 | Joe.Zuccarello@vuw.ac.nz |