

## Upcoming Dates to Note in Your Diary Now!

<b>January 19</b>	First Club Firings for 2016
<b>February 20-21</b>	Basic Shapes Throwing for All Levels Workshop
<b>Regular events:</b>	
<b>Tuesdays</b>	Shared lunch at the rooms - just come along and bring something to share!
<i>For the indicative WPA Programme for the year, see page 4, Pottery Classes page 5</i>	

### Newsletter Contents

<b>UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE IN YOUR DIARY NOW!</b> .....	1
<b>FROM THE PRESIDENT</b> .....	1
<b>WORKSHOP ON BASIC SHAPES THROWING FOR ALL LEVELS</b> .....	1
<b>ANAGAMA ACTION</b> .....	2
<b>FAREWELL TO BARRY BRICKELL</b> .....	3
<b>EXHIBITION INVITATION FROM NZ POTTERS</b> .....	4
<b>THORNDON FARMERS MARKET – INVITATION TO WPA MEMBERS</b> .....	4
<b>PROPOSED POTTERY PROGRAMME FOR 2016</b> .....	4
<b>POTTERY CLASSES</b> .....	5
<b>NEW MEMBERS</b> .....	5
<b>CLUB AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS</b> .....	5
<b>WPA COMMITTEE</b> .....	6
<b>CO-OPTED MEMBERS</b> .....	6

## From the President

A very Happy and productive New Year to all!

I hope you have managed to get some well-earned rest and for those that did not manage to get away from the big smoke hope you have made tonnes of beautiful ceramic creations.

We have an exciting 2016 lined up with lots of great workshops and demonstrations planned. There will also be some activity on the maintenance side of things. We are planning to install a new ventilation system in kiln room in the next month or so. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Happy potting!

Mauritz

## Workshop on Basic Shapes Throwing for All Levels

Rhonda Edwards is holding a workshop on Basic Shapes Throwing for All Levels, on 20-21 February at the Rooms. Below are 7 Reasons to enrol; although it seems that interest after the initial email was keen and the workshop is currently fully booked! Contact Kate Ford on [wellingtonpotters@gmx.com](mailto:wellingtonpotters@gmx.com) if you would like your name added to the waiting list.

- 1 You will get back into Throwing in record time, saving valuable Time & Money
- 2 You will learned from a Trained Tutor
- 3 You will develop newly acquired skills & surpass your previous skill level
- 4 You will benefit from Rhonda's years of experience as a Doreen Blumhardt student
- 5 You will understand what a well thrown Mug, Bowl and Bottle looks like
- 6 You will learn about Form and Function and the idea of combining aesthetics with practical use

7 You will enjoy a fabulous learning experience with great company

### Notes from Rhonda:

When I was a child our family used to spend our annual holidays at Hanmer Springs. Hanmer is a small place so the most frequent jaunt was a walk to the pottery where we were allowed to watch the potter at work on the wheel. We were mesmerised. Hanmer Pottery made mostly pale glazed pots with distinctive blue grey vertical stripes, very pleasing and very popular.

At school we were given tiny pieces of clay which we transformed into animals or most popular - ash trays!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We would carve our initials and a letter for a colour and our work would be returned a week later magically transformed for the grand price of one penny. Luke Adams must have spent hours glazing and firing miniatures.

I always knew that one day I would do this. My time came many years later at Wellington Teachers College where I was enrolled in a three year art course run by Doreen Blumhardt. When I left teaching and was at home with a sick child I bought Jenny Shearer's old house with a primitive shed and a large oil fired brick kiln designed by Roy Cowan.

Most of my early efforts were bad copies of the very popular Waimea domestic ware in matt white and tenmoku. At the time Kiwis were crazy for handmade works and I managed to sell pretty much everything including the not so good. Although I fancied myself as an artist the reality was production domestic ware because it sold, although we did mix our own clay sometimes and did some experimenting with our own glazes, my husband Frank being more adventurous than I. We sprayed our work using an old Electrolux and a turntable from a record player.

I shared my kiln with another potter, Simon Peels, a Dutchman who worked with Mirek Smisek. As time went by I ran a stall at the Dancing Pig market and became a reasonably accomplished coffee mug and ramekin maker. Rona Morton and Neville Porteous also had stalls there. Over the years we ran a gallery, had open days and shared stalls. After two late pregnancies and a return to academic study I thought my love affair with clay was over until late in life I broke my leg and had to reinvent myself ... so back to Wellington Potters to find that though much of the technology had changed the basics are still just as important.

So if you are interested in the well-made mug or bowl you may find my workshop worthwhile.

As with any craft it is important to master the fundamentals before moving on to your own designs.

In my student days we were well drilled in form and function and the idea of combining aesthetics with practical use.

So ... if you are interested in refining your craft, come to my workshop. The art is up to you! I can guide you but as the Japanese say ... the clay will teach you!!!

### Book and pay before 7 February 2016 to get the Earlybird Special: \$70 for Members

Cost: \$80 Members (if enrolling after 7 Feb. '16), Non-Members \$90

Email Kate Ford to Register: [wellingtonpotters@gmx.com](mailto:wellingtonpotters@gmx.com) (to join the waiting list)

When: 20 & 21 February 2016 - 10:00am to 4:00pm

Where: Wellington Potters Assn - Limited to 14 people

## Anagama Action

Mid-January saw the start of preparations for the twelfth Anagama firing to be held later this year. Inspired by a period of fine weather and some external spring cleaning on the site undertaken by Graeme Houston, the opportunity was taken to stack wood in the shelter that had languished outdoors since last year.

Those suitably inspired were Roger Pearce, Mal Sole, Peter Rumble and yours truly.

Graeme also delivered two truckloads of logs from his Te Haunui forest to enable firewood production to start. My chainsaw enjoyed its outing.

*Peter Instilling in the Stack the  
Virtues of Remaining Upright*



These are the first of several heavily discounted loads of wood. Without such generosity the firings would not occur.

Apart from the usual tasks such as cleaning shelves used in the previous firing, it is likely the front of the kiln will be rebuilt on Shige Ohashi's return from his annual pilgrimage to Japan. Another task is clearing the remainder of the slip that caused the kiln to be flooded prior to the 2015 firing and securing the bank to avoid a recurrence.

Alan Ross  
Anagama Coordinator

*Anagama fodder*



## Farewell to Barry Brickell

Potters throughout New Zealand will be saddened to hear of the death of Barry Brickell, one of New Zealand's most important ceramicists. Below is an abbreviated piece from Radio NZ news:

Artist Barry Brickell, one of New Zealand's most important ceramicists, has died at the age of 80. Potter, artist, conservationist and railway enthusiast Barry Brickell moved to the Coromandel to teach high school in the 1960s. But less than a year later he abandoned teaching to set up a pottery studio and kiln on a property in Driving Creek, north of the town of Coromandel.

Fifty years later he had become one of New Zealand's most celebrated ceramic artists and had restored hectares of native bush and created a wildlife sanctuary.

Most famously he spent 33 years building the Driving Creek Railway - a popular tourist attraction that has now carried close to 1.25 million passengers.

The artist has been described by others as a visionary and described himself as a railway crank. The train track climbs up the side of Brickell's bush covered property to the whimsical "Eye Full Tower" at its summit. It was initially constructed to bring clay down to his studio from the higher reaches of his property.

Brickell has created and sold thousands of pieces of pottery, including clay artworks such as sculptures and murals, written several books, and painted numerous works of art, some of which he exhibited in his own art gallery.

As a child he said he hated sport, and later did not fulfil his father's wish that he had a proper, conventional career.

"First of all forestry and then teaching - both of which were a disaster."

At university he was intrigued by geology and botany, a degree in which made him employable as a secondary teacher.

"I chose Coromandel High School as I had in mind living in Coromandel for the rest of my life being a full time stoneware potter."

He only left teaching in 1961, which he said was a blessing for both the school and him.

"I've got no charisma - none at all."

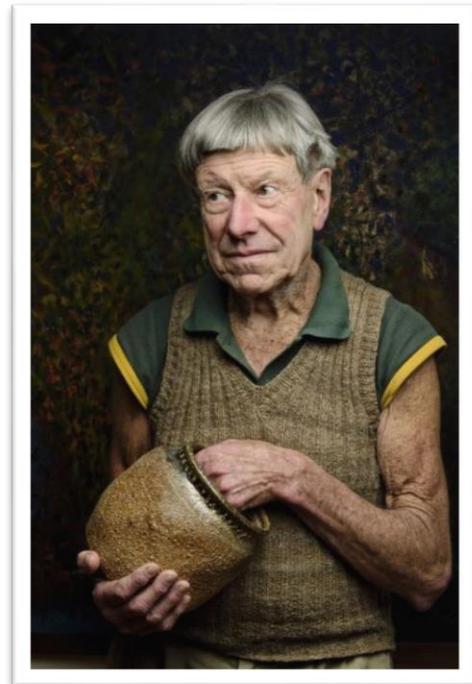
He did teach botany and geology but instead of teaching the curriculum he said he taught extra curricular subjects such as local, indigenous history: "What's around the kids - what they need to know about to live here in this country and get the most of it."

"I've always been an outsider in everything I've done," he told *Nine to Noon* in 2013. "And that's on purpose, so that I can concentrate on what I want to do without external interference."

Shucking off the shackles of convention, Brickell transformed his land into a massive native forest restoration, planting hundreds of thousands of mainly kauri, podocarps and rewarewa.

Brickell funded the native bush restoration, wildlife sanctuary and railway by selling commercially popular pottery.

Alison Carter of the Railway Arts and Conservation Trust said Brickell was the last survivor of a pioneer group of potters that included Len Castle, Mirek Smisek and Peter Stichbury.



*Barry Brickell – photo by Haru Sameshima*

She said he became a fulltime potter in 1961 and later a sculptor in clay and coiled pottery, receiving official recognition for his work many years later when he was awarded an OBE for his services to pottery. He bought the 24 hectare property at Driving Creek in 1973 for its terracotta clay, exciting terrain for a zigzag railway, which combined with sweeping views over the Coromandel Harbour, she said. Ms Carter said Brickell was passionate about steam and rail, early industrial sites, engineering, and geology. He was immersed in New Zealand history and had a keen interest in Maori culture and native flora and fauna.

"To the people of Coromandel, Barry was their most loved character: eccentric, full of new projects and generosity of spirit. His arrival in Coromandel bought artists, potters and writers to the town and helped to make it what it is today.

"Barry will be buried on his own land. He will travel to his final resting place half way up the mountain on his famous elephant train, built early in his career to bring terracotta clay and wood down to the potteries."

## Exhibition Invitation from NZ Potters

If you are a member of NZ Potters you will have already received a copy of this invitation from Lawrence Ewing, the NZP Webmaster. If you are not a member and would like to submit work for the exhibition read on. The Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- The Exhibition is open to all financial members of the NZ Potters.
- Non members and non financial members may enter by including membership fee of \$80.
- The Exhibition is for functional work, within the broad interpretation of items suitable for the table. The decision of the Selector in terms of work being appropriate and acceptable shall be final.

Further information is given below:

### Notice to all NZ Potters members from Lawrence Ewing

NZ Potters invites members to submit work for  
**IMERY'S NATIONAL TABLEWARE EXHIBITION**  
**Canterbury Museum Christchurch**  
**May 17 - 29, 2016**

Premier Award \$1500

Two Merit Awards of \$500

Selector and Guest Exhibitor: Chris Weaver

The Exhibition is organised by *Cantaclay*  
the Canterbury/Westland members of NZ Potters

Receiving day is Thursday the 28th of April between 10 am and 2 pm

Links for the entry form and conditions of entry are available from

[j.pollard@netaccess.co.nz](mailto:j.pollard@netaccess.co.nz)

## Thorndon Farmers Market – Invitation to WPA Members

Dear Friends,

I am a trustee of Thorndon Farmers Market in Wellington and we would like to invite your club or any specific members to consider having a stall at our market as we would like to try and display a range of characteristic products from the Wellington region.

Let me know if there is an interest so I can forward you the e-mail of our manager, or simply contact him on the website: <http://www.thorndonfarmersmarket.nz/index.php/contact>.

Thank you,

Remus Mihaila

## Proposed Pottery Programme for 2016

### Regular events

- Classes

- Tuesday shared lunch – every Tuesday. Just come along, and bring something to share!

### February

- 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>, Throwing Workshop by Rhonda Edwards

### Plus

- A club raku (April or May, to be confirmed)
- Some regular workshops for beginners on how to glaze.
- Electric kiln firing workshop.

This is an indicative programme of events for 2016 – 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](mailto:theclaypenguin@hotmail.com). 2016 classes start 15 February, 9 May, 25 July and 10 October.

**Monday 15 February**, 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 \$250. Course starts 15 February; the February course is full, but you can join a waiting list; further classes start 9 May, 25 July, and 10 October 2016.

**Tuesday 16 February**, 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 \$250. Course starts 16 February; the February course is full, but you can join a waiting list; further classes start 10 May 2016

**Fridays 9.45-12pm:** 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](mailto:grobanthea@gmail.com)) or phone 9726672. Next course starts on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

**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](mailto:grobanthea@gmail.com)) or phone 9726672. Next course starts on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

**For further information on all courses, please email Wellington Potters Association ([wellingtonpotters@gmx.com](mailto:wellingtonpotters@gmx.com)).**

## New members

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

[http://www.nzpotters.com/Clubs/WellingtonPottersAssociation\\_Join.cfm](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 who have joined since November last year; we will publish their names in the next newsletter (when all of our volunteer workers are back from holiday!).

## 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](mailto:wellingtonpotters@gmx.com)

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

*Articles for the March newsletter need to be emailed to the Editor's cat by  
25 March 2016*

(Elaine Marland <[marland@xtra.co.nz](mailto: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	Mauritz Basson	381 6751	<a href="mailto:mauritz.basson@wellingtonzoo.com">mauritz.basson@wellingtonzoo.com</a>
Vice President/ Programme	Vivian Rodriguez	021 264 5414 972 0811	<a href="mailto:vivian.rodriguez@clear.net.nz">vivian.rodriguez@clear.net.nz</a>
Past President, DCA Liaison	Gwyn Williams	04 905 2586	<a href="mailto:gwynwilliams@gmx.com">gwynwilliams@gmx.com</a>
Secretary/ Orientation	Kate Ford	473 5356 021 121 6531	<a href="mailto:kate.ford48@gmail.com">kate.ford48@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:wellingtonpotters@gmx.com">wellingtonpotters@gmx.com</a>
Treasurer Safe/banking	Mike Doyle	021 631 187	<a href="mailto:mprzzd@hotmail.com">mprzzd@hotmail.com</a>
Programme Co- ordinator	Rebecca Flowerday	027 279 9077	<a href="mailto:rebecca.flowerday@gmail.com">rebecca.flowerday@gmail.com</a>
Ceramicus16	Andrew McKaskell	021 444 106	<a href="mailto:spinyagm@paradise.net.nz">spinyagm@paradise.net.nz</a>
Kilns & Glazes	Chris Dunn & Andrew McKaskell	021 138 8472 021 444 106	<a href="mailto:cdunn@ihug.co.nz">cdunn@ihug.co.nz</a> <a href="mailto:spinyagm@paradise.net.nz">spinyagm@paradise.net.nz</a>
Cubbies	Joe Zuccarello	479-1299	<a href="mailto:joe.zuccarello@vuw.ac.nz">joe.zuccarello@vuw.ac.nz</a>
Volunteer Co- ordinator	Paula Weir	385 1840	<a href="mailto:paula.weir@paradise.net.nz">paula.weir@paradise.net.nz</a>
Cubbies	Joe Zuccarello	479-1299	<a href="mailto:joe.zuccarello@vuw.ac.nz">joe.zuccarello@vuw.ac.nz</a>
DCA Liaison			
Building maintenance	Mauritz Basson & subcommittee		

### Co-opted members

Anagama co-ordinator	Alan Ross	566 8922	<a href="mailto:alross@clear.net.nz">alross@clear.net.nz</a>
NZP delegate	Nicola Dench	938 3356	<a href="mailto:theclaypenguin@hotmail.com">theclaypenguin@hotmail.com</a>
Membership/ database manager	Vera Burton	938 8207	<a href="mailto:davee42@clear.net.nz">davee42@clear.net.nz</a>
Library and Newsletter editor	Elaine Marland	021 0505 335 384 4718	<a href="mailto:marland@xtra.co.nz">marland@xtra.co.nz</a>
Forms & stationery	Karen O'Leary Doyle		