

Upcoming Dates to Note in Your Diary Now!

Apr 2 - 3	Making a Two Piece Mould, Richard Stratton
<i>Note that weekend workshops will take precedence in the rooms – please note the dates, if you intend to use the rooms at the weekends!</i>	
Apr 30 or May 1	Raku for Club Members
Regular events:	
Tuesdays	Shared lunch at the rooms - just come along and bring something to share!
Thursdays	Club night at the rooms – share food, wine, tips, or just your company!

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From the Vice President

March has been a really busy month in the rooms. We had two very popular weekend workshops in March, as part of the year's programme for WPA. It is great to see the good response from our members to the efforts made by the committee in organizing a full year's programme.

Attendance was high for the 'Throwing Big Plates' on 12 and 13 March; all wheels were busy with very enthusiastic potters who spent an entire weekend perfecting the art of plate making. You can see the excellent results by the numbers and quality of the work produced by all participants.

On Sunday 27th, Mason Chidgey was at the rooms busy teaching a full house the art of Nerikomi. If you attended either of these workshops, please send reviews and photographs to the editor, so that we can share the experience of participating in the workshops with all club members.

With classes at full steam the rooms have been busy every night of the week. Club members have approached the committee regarding the availability of working space and wheels during teaching days. As a result I am happy to announce that from April 1st:

Thursday nights are reserved for the exclusive use of all our club members

So come along on Club Night (every Thursday) and enjoy the company of other potters, sharing food, wine, ideas and tips is compulsory. Get to know your fellow club members and become part of the great community of potters at WPA.

Vivian Rodriguez

Two Piece Mould Making with Richard Stratton, 2-3 April

Richard Stratton will be running a workshop on 2-3 April, on Making a Two Piece Mould.

The participants will learn the process of creating a two part plaster mould; the skills they will learn are:

- Working with negative space, designing moulds.
- Modelling techniques clay.
- Mixing and using plaster for press mould casts.
- Removal of cast masters from moulds.

Materials/equipment to bring:

- Old bag of clay(workable consistency)
- Something to cast (Antique plate with foot ring, Rubber doll bottle, something symmetrical).
- Bucket 10L
- 1 litre measuring jug
- Apron
- large flat wooden surface Plywood etc to work on
- Modelling tools
- Gaffer tape, clamps x 4 Bunnings (large plastic alligator type) ,
- Ruler and square, soft pencil, mallet- hammer, old chisel, small plastic container brush - old –board
- Generous plate for shared lunch, both days



Cost is \$80; register now with Kate @ wellingtonpotters@gmx.com.

Note that the workshop will be followed on 2nd – 3rd July by a workshop run by Craig Williams on Slip Making and Casting. Craig's workshop is about using an existing plaster mould and making a casting slip to produce a clay representation of the original item – see picture).

Raku for Club Members, 30 April, or 1 May

There will be a Members Raku Day at the Rooms; one day only, but as this is a weather dependant activity we have Sunday as the alternative weather day:

Saturday 30 April 10 till 4, or **Sunday 1 May** if wet/windy on Saturday

Ring Chris on 021 138 8472 to confirm on the day (10am)

What to Bring:

- Your Pre-Bisqued work; note some bisque pots will be available if you have nothing ready
- \$15 per person for 2 Small/Medium pieces to be raku-glazed and fired
- Your lunch

And we'd appreciate:

- Newspaper or paper (for the reduction tins)

Programme:

- Glazing from 10:00 – 12:00
- Firing from 12:00 – 4:00

Note that the kiln is of limited size; 2 small bisqued pieces per member will be accepted. Raku pre-made Glazes and Firing is included in the price, you just supply the bisqued pieces. Come early and help us set up

the equipment; please do not come late, we can run the firing smoothly if we can organise the flow of work through the kiln.

Your participation is encouraged, under the Supervision of Chris and Elaine. Come and help set-up the firing and take an active role in firing your piece.

Results from the last raku firing, with 3 different club glazes

"Raku Firing is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you're gonna get..."



20 people maximum, so please register with Kate at wellingtonpotters@gmx.com.

Usual payment method – in the safe, or on the internet or on the day; note your name & *Raku Members Day*, a/c 02 0568 0024590 00.

Slab Hand Building with Drape Moulds 28-29 May

Hosted by internationally respected potter Bruce Walford, this popular paper clay course offers two days of hands-on experience to all levels, from beginner to advanced. It will cover aspects of Waka building and free form platters using drape moulds (which will be supplied).

Numbers will be limited so Register now with Kate @ wellingtonpotters@gmx.com



Auntie Agatha's Agony Column

Dear Auntie Agatha

Why are my pots always cracking when drying or after they have been bisqued?

Sincerely

A Total Beginner



Auntie Agatha replies...

Dear Total Beginner

Crack on pots are the result of stress. Most cracks occur during the drying process; often these are visible and more evident after the bisque process. There are many reasons for cracks on ware but the most common are:

The pot was not cut from the wooden batt. As a result during the drying process there is not enough space for the movement of the clay and the stress caused by the drying will cause a crack.

Some cracks have their origin during the throwing process. 'S' cracks at the bottom of your pots for example, are the result of water accumulation in the base during the throwing. Remove water as you work to avoid water absorption on the base. Another cause for 'S' cracks is inadequate pressure applied to the base of your pot during the open stages. Without compression of the base, the clay particles will remain randomly mixed.

For crack information please refer to The Potter's Dictionary of Materials and Techniques, pp77-85. You will find the book in the WPA Library in the Reference section.

Dear Agatha

What should I do if I find a mountain of dirty tea towels on the kitchen table?

Kind Regards

Marta Stewartstown

Dear Martha

Just take the tea towels home. Place them in hot water with 1 spoon of Napisan for a few hours, and then run the washing machine on a cold cycle. Fold them neatly, you can iron them if you want, and return them to the kitchen. The universe will thank you for that.

Tips for potters

Here is an idea and a solution to the pile of soggy clay discarded from the wheel when you are having one of those "I CAN'T CENTRE A \$#%&* THING TODAY" days - place the clay in an empty plastic clay bag and jump up and down on top of it. Not only will you feel great, relaxed and happily free of frustrations and stress, but by the following throwing session the clay will be ready after a quick wedging.

Happy Potting

Auntie Agatha

Have you got a problem you would like Auntie Agatha's advice on? Send a message to our Editor at marland@xtra.co.nz

Potter in Residence at Wellington Potters' Association

Calling all potters/ceramic artists - Potter in Residence at WPA

We are offering opportunities for potters who would like to use the Potters in Residence studio at Wellington Potters' Rooms. There are two 4-month periods available, from 1 May to the end of August, and from 1 September to the end of December 2016. These 4-month periods offer a period of time for concentrated work, to do some experimenting, get together a body of work, or prepare for an exhibition..... whatever your goal. The offer is open to local and overseas potters.



We offer:

- A free studio
- A stretch of time to work on your own work
- The opportunity to contribute to the life of Wellington Potters

The conditions are negotiable, but would include:

- A 4-month residency, with no right of renewal
- Becoming a member of WPA if you are not already one
- Attendance at the rooms for at least 20 hours a week
- A plan of the work you intend to do
- A requirement that you run a workshop for club members
- A commitment to assist with some aspect of the club's work – making glazes or firing, etc .
- While the studio is rent free, you would pay for your own materials and expenses.

Please send a brief CV with your plan for the 4 months, to wellingtonpotters@gmx.com. Those who have applied before should re-apply.

Closing date for the first period (May-August) is 19 April 2016.

Wanted - A Cleaner for the Rooms



We currently need a cleaner for the rooms. This is a weekly task, involving mopping the floors and cleaning the toilets; some payment is provided.

Contact Kate @ wellingtonpotters@gmx.com.

Wanted - Kiln Room Equipment Contributions

Kiln Room Equipment Contributions Wanted – please email Chris at cdunn@ihug.co.nz if you can help.

Plate Setters: Many thanks to Mary Smith for her very kind donation of 10 small and 10 medium sized plate setters and spacers as kiln furniture for our club firings. They will increase the efficiency and speed of stacking the kiln and improve the firings. If anyone else has tile or plate setters, especially large plate setters, that they no longer need, please offer them to the club. We accept donations, of course, and are happy to pay a reasonable price.

Equipment for Raku Firings:

Gloves: Does anyone have any heat resistant gloves for raku firing that they no longer need? We are getting low on these and would love your cast-offs if you no longer need them.

Small pot and test piece holders: We are also looking for a metal or ceramic holder that can be used to put small pieces into the raku kiln during firing. Something like a dishwasher cutlery rack but able to withstand 1000 degrees centigrade? Any ideas welcome.

Wanted - Volunteers for Club Rooms Tasks

There are many small tasks that need to be done regularly to help the club run smoothly. The committee would like members to volunteer to organise, or be a part of, a team to do these tasks. For example, we have four members who keep our glaze buckets full and develop new glazes. Two come in together every second week. That means we need only do it once a month and the glazes are always full.

Some tasks: We need people to

- Keep the **kitchen** tidy – let's say spotless
- Organise the **batts** and get new ones made – we are running low
- Keep the **front desk and table tidy** and information up to date
- Keep the club's **towels** clean and set out where needed
- Stock up **plastic bags** regularly

- Organise **plaster moulds**
- Monitor **drying shelves**
- Sort out and maintain the **pottery tools** available to members

Some members already do some of these tasks, but not to a regular routine and often on their own without support. Life would be easier if we could get organised to do them regularly.

If you have any suggestions or wish to volunteer please contact Chris cdunn@ihug.co.nz.

Bacteria Rule the World - or Possibly our Kitchen...

The kitchen at Wellington Potters is shared by a lot of people, and generally is kept reasonably tidy. However recently we have had issues with food being abandoned, both in the refrigerator and out on the bench. This is an actual picture of rotting and mouldy food found in our kitchen; it is becoming a health hazard, and it would be appreciated if all of our members could:



1. Remember when they have brought food into the kitchen
2. Remember to remove it once they have finished with it!



We have had issues with vermin in the past, and now we are getting rot and mould as well. Please be mindful of everybody's health, and take care of your food.

Thank you!

Proposed Pottery Programme for 2016

Regular events

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

April

- 2nd – 3rd, Making a 2 Piece Mould, Richard Stratton
- 30th – 1 May, Family Raku, Chris Dunn & Elaine Marland

May

- 28th – 29th, Sculptural Waka Forms, Bruce Walford

June

- 11th – 12th, Sgraffito Ornamentation, Vivian Rodriguez

July

- 2nd – 3rd, Slip Making and Casting, Craig Williams (following on from Richard Stratton's Mould Making, Craig's workshop is about using an existing plaster Mould and making a Casting Slip to produce a clay representation of the original item – see picture).
- Date to be confirmed, Raku for Club Members, Chris Dunn and Elaine Marland



August

- 13th – 14th, Decoration and Surface Textures, Jennifer Turnbull

September

- 17th – Photographing Your Work – To Be Confirmed

October

- Dates to be confirmed – Raku for Club Members, Chris Dunn and Elaine Marland
- Date to be confirmed – Demonstration on Hand Building Techniques, Brendan Adams

November

- Date to be confirmed – Clay Ocarina Making, Paula Weir

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. 2016 classes start 15 February, 9 May, 25 July and 10 October.

Community Education Center courses: Community Education Centre courses are currently being finalized for 2016; check with <http://www.cecwellington.ac.nz> or contact cec@whs.school.nz.

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) or phone 9726672. Next course starts on 15th 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) or phone 9726672. Next course starts on 9th January 2016.

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

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: Angela Francis, Craig Bond, Meryl Smith, Jennifer Koepele, Jill Downes, Loren Coskerie, Jane Manthel, Clare Hopkins, Regine Deleu, Lazslo Borbely, Guy Baker

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 the May newsletter need to be emailed to the Editor's cat by
25 April 2016*

(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	Mauritz Basson	381 6751	mauritz.basson@wellingtonzoo.com
Vice President/ Programme	Vivian Rodriguez	021 264 5414 972 0811	vivian.rodriguez@clear.net.nz
Past President, DCA Liaison	Gwyn Williams	04 905 2586	gwynwilliams@gmx.com

Secretary/ Orientation	Kate Ford	473 5356 021 121 6531	kate.ford48@gmail.com wellingtonpotters@gmx.com
Treasurer Safe/banking	Mike Doyle	021 631 187	mprzdz@hotmail.com
Programme Co- ordinator	Rebecca Flowerday	027 279 9077	rebecca.flowerday@gmail.com
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Kilns & Glazes	Chris Dunn & Andrew McKaskell	021 138 8472 021 444 106	cdunn@ihug.co.nz spinyagm@paradise.net.nz
Cubbies	Joe Zuccarello	479-1299	joe.zuccarello@vuw.ac.nz
Volunteer Co- ordinator	Paula Weir	385 1840	paula.weir@paradise.net.nz
Cubbies	Joe Zuccarello	479-1299	joe.zuccarello@vuw.ac.nz
DCA Liaison			
Building maintenance	Mauritz Basson & subcommittee		

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	davee42@clear.net.nz
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