



Upcoming Dates to Note in Your Diary Now!

17 Jan	First Club Firings for 2017
12, 19, 26 Feb	Workshop for Newbies
Regular events:	
Fridays	Club night at the rooms - share food, wine, tips, or just your company!

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Welcome from the President

I'd like to welcome everyone to a new year here at the WPA.

My immediate focus going into the first half of 2017 will be the lease renewal for our rooms on Grant Road - our last 10 year renewal expires midway through this coming year and we need to apply for a new lease to take us forward for the next 10 years. At the same time we continue to work on the building. If you have been around the rooms over the past week, you will see that the glaze room floor has been sanded and sealed. This was organised by Chris Dunn who took care of the prep for it - including clearing out the room for the work to be done and getting the seismograph moved by GNS. This is a good step towards being about to provide a safer, healthier working environment as we can minimise dust from glazes and better clean the floor of the inevitable spills. On the weekend, I saw Peter Rumble had organised the move back in, and was busy refurbishing the extraction fan for the spray booth. Thank you to all who helped with this.

I'd also like to especially thank Chris for all the work he has done on our behalf over the last year by taking care of the club firings. This is an enormous job - leading the loading and unloading of at least 2 kilns each week, taking care of kiln maintenance and all of the other things that go with running kilns. As his swan song, he organised a working bee to refurbish the kiln shelves for FE 1 & 2 - a full day's work for Chris, Peter, and Alan Carabott who stripped 32 shelves of old kiln wash, ground off the various glaze spills, and applied fresh kiln wash on the reverse side so that we can minimise warping and prolong the life of the shelves.

Our new Kiln Room Manager will be familiar to many of you who get into the rooms: Dave Marshall was our outgoing Potter in Residence, and has kindly agreed to take on the role in 2017. I've loaded a few kilns under Dave's careful eye and know we are in good hands. Being conscious of the workload, we are looking how we can support him in the role and will doubtless be putting together a roster of volunteers to help share the day to day load. I'll come back to you when we finalise the details after the next committee meeting.

You will see below that Donna Bruce is following on as the next Potter in Residence. I'm thrilled at this - Donna is an active member of the club, prolific hand builder and already gives a lot of time to the WPA as one of our glaze mixers. Donna is generous with her time and is always warm, welcoming and helpful.

That's it from me - happy potting.

John Saunders

Workshop for Newbies February 12, 19 & 26

Three Sundays - February 12, 19, 26, from 2 - 4pm.

This is the first workshop of the year!

If you know you want to work with clay, but you haven't had a chance to get started, this is your chance. Dave Marshall - our most recent Potter in Residence - has been around the rooms a lot recently, and knows the kinds of questions new members have. He is keen to get you started with clay. He will run a workshop over 3 Sunday afternoons in February from 2 to 4pm.

You will learn about wedging clay, you will make a pinch pot, you will have a demo of throwing - and have a go. Your work will be bisqued, and you will glaze it. On the way you will learn about how the rooms work, some health & safety considerations, and get some ideas about classes you might do next. Open to all members, especially new ones.

Cost - \$15 per person for the 3 sessions (includes cost of clay, firing and glaze).
Contact WPA secretary at wellingtonpotters@gmx.com to secure a place.

New Potter in Residence - Donna Bruce

The WPA Potter in Residence for January - April 2017 is Donna Bruce. Congratulations Donna!

Donna is currently a member of the clay recycling and glaze making teams. She has been involved in the development of new glazes for the club and also keeping our club glazes and glaze room running effectively. During her residency she will continue to develop glazes for the club and to refresh and upgrade the glaze room. She will also be working on developing a unique glaze for the club using only ingredients sourced from the greater Wellington region. Please do not hesitate to contact Donna if you have any ideas or suggestions about the club glazes or the glaze room, dcbruce@hotmail.com. Donna will also be available to purchase clay from.

Japan Festival - Tadashi Takaesu

Those of you who got to see Tadashi Takaesu at the Japan Festival saw a great demonstration amazing, fantastic, skilful thrower, excellent technique, were just some of the comments.

One member saying that what he also appreciated and found unexpected was that Tadashi worked with such a sense of fun and humour.





Wellington potters assisted with provision of equipment, and help as needed on the day. Thanks to Lyuba Zhilkina who threw all the prepared pots for the demonstration, and to Megumi, Lyuba and Sergey, and Vivian for all their help. They were there to ensure everything went smoothly and they did a great job.

Tadashi Takaesu made a piece specially for Wellington Potters Association which will be added to our collection. A stunning piece, it is called "Shi-sa", pronounced "See-sa" and usually comes as a pair. The design is based on a lion but it's an Okinawan mythology character. They can be found on top of roofs or at the entrances to homes, businesses and shops all over Okinawa. It's believed to keep the evil spirits out.

Vera Burton

Cubby News

We have several new members on the waiting list for cubbies. They are becoming very sought after. Please remember that cubbies are to be used by active members and not for long term storage, it means people that use the rooms frequently have to lug clay all the time (bad for the back), or store it in inappropriate spaces. So if you plan to continue using your cubby regularly, sign next to your name/cubby allocation number on the cubby list at the back of the rooms, or inform me that you will not use your cubby and will empty it.

Cubbies that are not signed for by Feb 20th, will be emptied and material returned to general circulation.

Cubby Man Joe
joe.zuccarello@vuw.ac.nz

Pottery Sales Opportunities

Would you like more opportunities to sell your work? Such as selling at local markets, fairs, retail outlets and maybe an open day at Wellington Potters rooms? So would other members. Creating those opportunities is easier when you can do it with other potters. Jade Valour is keen and would like you to contact her if you are interested in working together; email jade.ov.arcc@gmail.com

The New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts located on Queen's wharf is an excellent place to sell and an excellent organisation to join. Members are notified of exhibitions and sales of work that they can enter throughout the year.

2018 NZ Potters Inc National Convention & Exhibition

The 2018 national convention and exhibition will be held in Wellington.

Would you like to help organise this event?

It's a great opportunity to meet potters from around NZ, and to get some experience in event organisation. If you are interested please email Aimee McLeod, our Wellington Regional Representative at mazpots@gmail.com or Chris Dunn at cdunn@ihug.co.nz.

Upcoming Exhibitions

"Elements 2017"

**Bottle Creek Gallery, Pataka Art and Museum, Norrie Street, Porirua
3 March- 2 April 2017**

This exhibition features work by NZ Potters members of the Wellington and Western Districts. It is held every 12-18 months, alternating between Pataka and a Western District. You can enter if you are a member of our national organisation - New Zealand Potters Inc.

Receiving 24 February, actual pots only, at the Gear Homestead Woolshed Potters. Be aware there may be no one there if you come outside the mentioned times. See the website for entry form. You're all invited to the opening on Thursday 2nd March, 6-7:30pm at Pataka. There will be a \$250 NZP excellence prize to entice you and maybe a couple of merit awards.

If you are not a member of New Zealand Potters Inc, you can join at <http://www.nzpotters.com/>

Around and About in Wellington and Beyond

Festival of Pots and Garden Art at Anam Cara, Rangiuru Rd, Otaki

Organised by the Otaki Potters, 20 - 29 January, with guest exhibitors Greg Barron, Jin Ling and Adele Souster. More than 70 exhibitors, not all potters. **Don't miss it, this weekend will be your last opportunity to go!**



James Greig: Defying Gravity

10 December 2016 to 12 March 2017, The Dowse Art Museum | Free entry

Defying Gravity brings together a lifetime of sculptural works by potter James Greig. Greig's study of European philosophy, Japanese culture, modernist architecture, the natural sciences and his love of the New Zealand landscape fuelled a practice that went far beyond the realm of domestic ceramics. From early in his career Greig created vessels based on land and plant forms, water and the human body. He cultivated an understanding of the physical qualities of clay by moulding and building sculptural forms, sometimes too big for him to move alone. Exploring the dynamic nature of the medium, he melded slabs together to create almost impossible structures. Expressing his values through clay, he brought life and movement to inert objects.

Born in 1936, Greig began studying architecture in the late 1950s. He came across the work of potter Len Castle one afternoon when passing by a shop front. Awestruck by how these works reminded him of water rushing around the Devonport ferry, Greig sought Castle out in order to learn from him. After periods working in Northland and the Manawātū, Greig and his family settled in the Wairarapa.

As an established potter, Greig took several opportunities to research, work and show in Japan, developing a particularly strong connection with the work of Kawai Kanjirō. By the 1980s



he had become a well-known figure in the international ceramics world, and a New Zealand cultural ambassador in Japan.

In 1986, Greig's career was cut short when he died of a heart attack in Kyoto. As a result of his untimely death, Greig remains something of an unsung figure in New Zealand art and ceramics history, best known to connoisseurs and historians. *Defying Gravity* seeks to unpack Greig's practice, share his vision and work with today's audience, and acknowledge his unique approach which reconfigured the boundaries between ceramics and sculpture.

Quartz Museum of Studio Ceramics, Whanganui

Established in Whanganui by Rick Rudd, the Quartz Museum of Studio Ceramics is definitely worth visiting. It houses Rick Rudd's collection of more than 400 ceramic works. The museum is operated by the Rick Rudd Foundation which was created in 2013 as a charitable trust. In 2014 Rick bought Munford House, in which the museum is based, and gave it and his collection to the Foundation.

The museum includes a New Zealand History Collection consisting of almost 100 pieces illustrating the development of studio ceramics from the early 20th century to the present day. Apart from the pleasure of viewing the permanent collection during a recent visit, highlights included seeing a comprehensive retrospective display of Peter Lange's work as well as work by John Parker. Pieces on loan from Simon Manchester's collection were also on display.



Rick, who works on site, was an excellent host and provided a guided tour of the museum. A range of his work is on sale.

According to a recent newsletter from Aimeé McLeod (this region's New Zealand Potters [Inc] representative) this year's National Exhibition will be held at the museum from 1 August - 19 November.

The museum is centrally located at 8 Bates Street, Whanganui. It's open from 10:30am to 4:00pm from Tuesday to Sunday and occasionally on Mondays. You can also arrange to visit by appointment (phone 06 348 5555). For a preview of what awaits you can go to: www.quartzmuseum.org.nz.

Alan Ross

The Solo 41 at the NZ Academy of Fine Arts exhibition finished on January 23rd, hopefully people managed to get in and see the work of Keil Cas, displaying both his ceramics, and an amazing 6-panel painting:



Proposed Pottery Programme for 2017

Regular events

- Classes
- Friday Club Night – share wine, food, tips – or just your company!

February

- 12th, 19th, 26th – Workshop for Newbies

We are still working on an indicative programme of events for 2017 – if you have any suggestions please contact the WPA club.

Pottery Classes

- **Mondays 12 --2pm: 20th February for 8 weeks. Exploring forms from the hump with Keil Cas.** Suitable for beginners and others. 'Throwing from the hump' is an ancient technique, which Keil uses for delicate vessels and forms. Keil also trims from the hump and would like to show you the full range of uses that throwing from the hump can provide. No previous experience necessary. Keil Cas's work can be found at www.keilcas.com. Contact keilcas.com@gmail.com to enrol. Cost for 8 week course - \$150, to be paid in advance. Clay and firing costs extra.
- **Mondays 5.30pm - 7.30pm, Handbuilding and Throwing with Nicola Dench**, 8 week sessions from 20th February, 8th May, and 31 July 2017 (classes are full; contact **Community Education Centre** cec@whs.school.nz to join waiting list).
- **Tuesdays 5.30pm - 7.30pm**, Throwing, All Levels, with Mauritz Basson, 8 week sessions from 14th February and 9th May 2017 (classes are full; contact **Community Education Centre** cec@whs.school.nz to join waiting list).
- **Tuesdays 7.30pm - 9.00pm**, Throwing, All Levels, with Mauritz Basson, 8 week sessions from 14th February and 9th May 2017 (classes are full; contact **Community Education Centre** cec@whs.school.nz to join waiting list).
- **Wednesdays 9.30 - 11.30am, 22nd February for 6 weeks: Handbuilding with Peter Rumble.** Suitable for beginners and others. Learn the basics – no previous clay experience required. Handbuilding forms is based on a few simple techniques. A cube can become a house, a sphere plus a cylinder can transform into a jug, a press-mould can be used to form the basis of an exquisite platter. Besides learning how to BUILD you will also learn some decoration and carving techniques and also have the SLIP-CASTING method demonstrated. Your tutor, Peter Rumble, is a sculptor and a clay fiend and has learnt by *doing*...he's no academic! Contact sales@rumbles.co.nz. Cost for 6-week course - \$150, to be paid in advance. Clay and firing costs extra.
- **Wednesdays 5.15pm – 7.15pm, 1st March for 8 weeks: Throwing for Beginners with Lyuba Zhilkina.** Wedging, centring, Japanese tea bowls, plates/saucers as well as trimming and glazing. The course will also cover cups, mugs and jugs and go along the process of attaching handles. Contact lyuba.zhilkina@gmail.com. Cost for 8-week course - \$200, to be paid in advance. Clay and firing costs extra.
- **Wednesdays 7.15pm – 9.15pm, 1st March for 8 weeks: Intermediate course with Lyuba Zhilkina** for people confident working with up to 1.5kg of clay or who have completed an earlier course. The course will cover cylindrical forms, large plates, round vases, bottles and lidded pots. Contact lyuba.zhilkina@gmail.com. Cost for 8-week course - \$200, to be paid in advance. Clay and firing costs extra.
- **Thursdays 5.30pm – 7.30pm, 23rd February for 8 weeks. Exploring forms from the hump with Keil Cas.** Suitable for beginners and others. 'Throwing from the hump' is an ancient technique, which Keil uses for delicate vessels and forms. Keil also trims from the hump and would like to show you the full range of uses that throwing from the hump can provide. No previous experience necessary. Keil Cas's work can be found at www.keilcas.com. Contact keilcas.com@gmail.com to enrol. Cost for 8 week course - \$150, to be paid in advance. Clay and firing costs extra.

- **Fridays 9.45am - 12pm: 24th February for 6 weeks, with Anthea Grob. Suitable for beginners, not quite beginners--up to intermediate level.** Anthea will cover a mix of hand-building and throwing including: centring, pulling up the walls and shaping, as well as technical understanding, safe workshop practices, and glaze application. For more detail contact Anthea Grob grobanthea@gmail.com. Cost for six week course \$150 to be paid in advance. Clay and firing costs extra. Anthea Grob is an experienced ceramicist and tutor, she has an MFA from RMIT and has exhibited in Australia, Canada and New Zealand.
- **Saturdays 8am - 10am: 25th February for 6 weeks, with Anthea Grob** (*note one week 1/2 an hour shorter and one week 1/2 an hour longer to fit with workshops in rooms). **Suitable for beginners, not quite beginners-- up to intermediate level.** Anthea will cover a mix of hand-building and throwing including: centring, pulling up the walls and shaping, as well as technical understanding, safe workshop practices, and glaze application. For more detail contact Anthea Grob grobanthea@gmail.com. Cost for six week course \$150 to be paid in advance. Clay and firing costs extra.
- *note courses can only go ahead if there are sufficient enrolments, otherwise the course will be postponed or cancelled and enrolment fee refunded

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

CLASS FULL? You might like to put your name on the tutor's waiting list for a class early next year, or if someone else cancels before the current class begins.

New Members

Wellington Potters welcomes new members: application forms from wellingtonpotters@gmx.com.

Latest new members: Lena Cromartie, Gayelene Barker, Kate Peirse-O'Byrne, Irena Kennedy and Henry Livesy.

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>. If you have any pottery inspiration, cool videos or articles, or upcoming exhibitions, email your idea through to wpafacebookpage@gmail.com

Buying Clay: WPA has clay for purchase by members, but organising that purchase does rely on the time and availability of a couple of our hard-working club members. To organise clay purchase, email Chris Dunn cdunn@ihug.co.nz or Vivian Rodriguez vivian.rodriguez@clear.net.nz, or see the current Potter In Residence at the Rooms, Donna Bruce.

Suggestions Box: Suggestions about what needs doing, or better ways of organising the club – see the Suggestion Box on the front table upstairs.

Articles for the March Newsletter need to be emailed to the Editor's cat by 25 February 2017

(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

John Saunders

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kiwipens@g.mail.com

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