

WPA Newsletter

April 2018



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Key Dates

3 April (and onwards) – Free Tuesday sessions, 10am-12 noon

8 April – Anagama Workshop, p.3

3-4 May – Ben Carter Workshop, p4

19 May – last day for claiming or removing your personal clay, see p.4, Health and Safety Alerts

20 May – Working Bee, p4

New Membership and Fees Structure Approved

At the Special General meeting held on Sunday 25th March, the proposals for a new membership and fees structure, and the consequential changes to the Association's Rules, were approved unanimously by those present. All existing forms of membership are now replaced by two membership categories: Member and Associate Member. The Annual General Meetings will now be held in September each year, rather than October, and the Association's membership (subscriptions) year will start on 1 October. For the full text of the proposal, see the email sent to all members on 8th March, or see the WPA website, <http://wellingtonpotters.org.nz/membership-framework-proposal-special-general-meeting/>.

Life Membership for Graeme and June Houston

Also at the Special General Meeting on Sunday 25th, the proposal for Life Membership of WPA for Graeme and June Houston was passed unanimously and with acclamation. The nomination is given below:

The (*Much Abbreviated for Lack of Space for All their Activities Sorry!*) Nomination:

We the undersigned wish to nominate Graeme and June Houston, Te Haunui, Horokiwi for life

membership of the Wellington Potters Association in recognition of their outstanding service to the Association. Graeme and June Houston joined the club in May 2002: June the potter and Graeme the very supportive spouse, consistent with his philosophy of actively assisting the organisations in which his family members participated.

While Graeme and June are intimately associated with the club's Te Haunui anagama kiln, their involvement in the club is much broader. For many years June actively assisted in the catering arrangements for Ceramicus opening nights; her

catering was also widely appreciated by those involved in the Anagama project. Graeme, for his part, served on the Committee as "Clerk of Works" from 2004 to 2007, and served 3 further terms as a co-opted member responsible for Building Maintenance and Anagama. Examples of Graeme's contributions include: the installation of stairs and balustrade to the mezzanine floor; the creation of the studio on the mezzanine floor used by potters-in residence; improving the air extraction system in the kiln room to prevent the build-up of fumes; enhancing the library by removing the access way from the kitchen; eliminating leaks above the main door, including the installation of a new porch roof; arranging and overseeing the painting of the roof; and laying gravel on the boggy southern lawn to improve its use for parking cars. He also used his contacts to advance the interests of the club, including obtaining a key to allow access to the quarry for parking, exploring the possibility of installing a gas kiln, and assisted in lodging an application to renew the club's lease and subsequently arranged for his lawyer to check the draft lease at no cost to the club. Graeme and June's most enduring contribution was their decision to allow an anagama kiln to be built on their Te Haunui property in Horokiwi. The construction process began in 2004, and the first stage was excavating the site followed by erecting the shelter, installing drains and the construction of the kiln itself, which required large quantities of fire bricks, many of which were obtained at no cost through Graeme's contacts. A whanau room, including a toilet, was provided for use by those involved in the firings.

A prerequisite to firing a kiln is firewood; Graeme has provided logs at a heavily discounted price. Graeme bought a mechanical splitter especially for the purpose of splitting the firewood for the kiln; a much appreciated and generous gesture.

Subsequent to the completion of the shelter a storeroom was moved onto the site to accommodate all the necessary bits and pieces for firings and the maintenance of the kiln.

The anagama kiln, one of a very few in New Zealand, provides members of the Wellington Potters Association with a unique opportunity to engage in an exciting form of firing and sometimes produce memorable pieces.

The first firing started in March 2006, and the 14th firing and associated BBQ arranged by June, will be held in August this year. Central to the success of this project has been the enduring hospitality, goodwill and tolerance extended by Graeme and June. Their home was and is a haven for those involved and June's soup and scones are a notable bonus.

It is with great pleasure that we nominate Graeme and June Houston for life membership of the Wellington Potters Association.

Nominators: Alan Ross, Mal Sole, Mike Atkins, Ian Gear, Roger Pearce, Andy Rattenbury, Megumi Ogo, Vera Burton. **Endorsed by:** Shige Ohashi.



Mal Sole congratulating Graeme and June

What's Up with the Committee?

Or, what is the committee up to? The latest committee meeting spent a lot of money on new and replacement equipment - new wheels, new kiln gear. As we deliberated, we could see the

new slab roller actually being put together. There was little swearing, no extra washers or screws left over, and it's a beautiful thing. Be impressed!

We discussed health and safety things, the working bee, the special general meeting, Ceramicus, the finances.....

We finalised the term 2 classes. One of the things we discussed was the pressure on the rooms for space - lots of new members, lots of classes, and heaps of members who want to come and work on their projects.

When can you be sure to get some space at the rooms? You can keep a watch on the rooms' availability by checking the whiteboard at the rooms, and the classes and workshops timetable in each newsletter.

The rooms are available for members most hours of most days - and if you come on Tuesday mornings you can work alongside Mal Sole who is not only an ancient and decrepit member, but hugely knowledgeable and generous with that knowledge. He'll give you a hand if you want it.

The rooms are also available most weekends - but check for workshops.

Lots of members find evenings the best time - after work. So we're keeping Wednesday and Friday evenings class free. It's all yours, except for a couple of enrichments that may add to your fun; Vivian Rodriguez is planning to run a one-off Pottery Widows and Orphans evening one Wednesday night. Think of Golf Widows. Bring along your partner/mother/mother-in-law/children so they can have a clay experience, and understand why you like to spend so much time playing with clay.

And on Friday evenings we are planning to have some experienced potters on hand to advise and encourage, and share your pizza or fish and chips.

Free Anagama Workshop and Demo 8 April

Two mud-slinging pyromaniacs (one a thrower, one a handbuilder) will give you their hands-on insights into what works best for anagama (wood kiln) firings as well as advice on the best clays to use, whether to glaze - or not - and answer your questions on the meaning of life. There will be posters showing anagama activities and 'real, live, unadulterated' examples of the works from previous firings. Vivian Rodríguez will also give you the low-down on making your own anagama glazes.



Sunday 8 April

DISPLAY ON VIEW: (browse the posters, pictures and anagama pots)
10am - 5pm

DEMONSTRATION: Noon until 3pm

Your hosts: Mal Sole, Peter Rumble and Vivian Rodríguez.

CALLING ALL ANAGAMA EXPONENTS

Please bring in your favourite pots from previous anagamas to be displayed at the **Anagama Demonstration Day**. A brief note about what clay, glazes or colourants were used would be helpful. Don't forget to put your name on the tag! Show off a little!! The organisers would **really appreciate** if you were to bring your pots to the rooms prior to the Sunday to allow time for set-up of the display [put your wrapped and cartoned pot(s) under the table near the plaster moulds display, thank you].

Ben Carter Workshop in May

Ben Carter is coming to NZ, and WPA has been given a number of weekday 1 or 2-day workshop options, **probably 3-4th May**. We will be making a decision about how long a workshop we will be asking for based on your responses, so watch out for further information!

Cost for participants and exact topics to be covered will depend on the length of the workshop. Thanks to the generous subsidy from Creative New Zealand and Ceramics New Zealand, workshop fees will be similar to our other workshops from local tutors.

Any questions? Just get in touch with WPA Workshop coordinator Nicole Gaston - nicolemgaston@gmail.com



Working Bee 20 May 2018

Come along **Sunday 20 May** 9 am to 3 pm!

Lunch will be provided



Join your fellow club members to help keep, maintain and enhance our wonderful pottery studio space; and be there for the great food as well, lunch will be provided! If you can't make it on the 20th, contact Vivian, as there are some jobs that can be done before that date.

Please note that the studio will be closed for personal use during working bee dates and times.

Health and Safety Alerts!

DANGER SIGNS

Your Health and Safety is paramount. The Committee is constantly reviewing Club activities to try and identify possible hazards, but **every** member should be considering this issue. We now have **DANGER** signs around the rooms alerting members to "the silent killer". **Clay dust can kill!** Unfired clay contains silica and it can lodge in the lungs and destroy them. You may sweep up recent trimmings because they're usually damp, but any clay that's dry...including the residue on all surfaces (tables, floors) - should be damp-sponged or wet-mopped. Any scraping, carving or sanding of dry pots **MUST** be done outside and it's best to wear an appropriate mask: and don't forget to regularly wash your clay-covered clothing and aprons! There's also a new sign in the glaze room reminding you of the "no food, no drink" rule as well as encouraging you to wear masks and gloves as appropriate. In all activities around the rooms, be mindful of your own and others' wellbeing.

ON WHICH NOTE... Claim it or LOSE it! **Your bags of clay could be in jeopardy.**

The amount of bagged clay stored on the floor spilling out from under the drying shelves and plaster moulds racks has become hazardous. Action needs to be taken, and thus we ask you to **CLAIM** or **REMOVE**. Stickers will be available on site for you to identify your clay. Any clay not bearing a sticker on **Saturday 19 May** will be disposed of at the Working Bee on the 20th. Please don't leave it until the last minute...this matter is urgent but we DO want to give you reasonable notice. Please understand that it's not possible to provide storage for all members' clay. Ideally, unless you have a cubby, you should bring what you need for each visit and take leftovers home.



Your committee and fellow members thank you in advance of your kind co-operation.

News from the Kiln Room

WPA ELECTRICAL UPGRADE complete! Our new fuseboard's arrival was delayed by a more pressing job for the Ruapehu ski-lifts. The manufacturers obviously don't have their priorities straight!! But, now that our upgraded board is in place, the whole building is electrically safer and we can fire more kilns at the same time.

KILNS COMINGS AND GOINGS - The BRICK kiln, a solidly made refurbished kiln is now in place and will soon be operational, once a new controller is fitted. The kiln is bigger than FE3 and smaller than the soon-to-be-retired FE1, and will easily fire to Cone 10. It's going to be a VERY popular kiln for 'private' firings - particularly for porcelain lovers – although it will be proportionately more expensive to hire.

BYE-BYE GOOD FRIEND - As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, our dear old stalwart kiln FE1 is about to be retired. In its place, towards the end of this month, there will be a brand new Woodrow kiln with a SHIMPO controller. We're planning to have all our kiln controllers standardised eventually, hopefully leading to no more (well at least, fewer) "oops!" moments.

New Slab Roller

The new Frema double-cylinder slab roller is in place. In addition to the superior results produced by the two-cylinder system, you can now "dial" the thickness of clay you require instead of having to slip a bunch of boards onto the flatbed as was required with the old job. Thanks to **Jane Grey** and **Steve Moate** for their assembling skills.

N.B. *Please read, comprehend and adhere to* the instructions regarding the slab roller's operation. Bring 'cover sheets' with you so that the rollers and canvas covers are protected from clay residue. Incorrect use resulting in damage will be charged to you.

New Scales

Weighing and pricing your pots is now SO MUCH EASIER with the arrival of an electronic scale. Place your pots on the large weigh pan, input the price per kilo (bisque or glost) and hey presto...the weight and total charge is right there in all its digital glory!

Karen Taylor - Open Studio and Exhibition

Karen P Taylor, winner of the He Korero Waihanga Uku Award at last year's WPA Ceramicus exhibition, is having an open studio and exhibition of work at the new container village, ConArt, situated in Masterton next door to Masterton's Museum of Art and History, Aratoi. Karen is a hand-builder of sculptural work and will be occupying one of the container studios from 28 Mar- 22 Apr.

Opening hours for ConArt are 10-4.30pm, Wednesday to Sunday (the container village is closed Good Friday and Easter Sunday).



Galit Maxwell Ceramic Exhibition



'Clay in Daily Life' Ceramic exhibition by Galit Maxwell

April 9 to April 15
Thistle Hall Gallery
239 Cuba Street, Wellington



Equipment for Tender

Slab Roller for Tender:

Single cylinder Slab Roller. Robust construction. In working order but pulley wires require adjusting and servicing. Whole unit can be moved about on rubber castors. WPA is relinquishing this grand old servant for a new, double-cylinder unit. Deadline for receipt of tenders, 6pm Sunday 8 April. Successful tenderer will be notified by email same evening. Unit must be paid for and moved from WPA premises no later than Wednesday 11 April.

Dimensions: 1.6m long, 1.0m wide, 1.13m high

To view visit Wellington Potters' Association at 130 Grant Road, Thorndon, Wellington, phone 04-473-3680.

Email tenders to: Peter Rumble sales@rumbles.co.nz

Kiln for Tender:

FE1 (Furnace Engineering built). Another grand old servant to WPA. Being replaced as part of the WPA refurbishing and upgrading plan. Still capable of firing to Cone 6. Comes with an easy-to-programme EMC controller and 6 half-shelves. (3 perforated, 3 'solid') More very good quality shelves available @ \$40 each (that's a third – at least – of a new shelf price).

External dimensions: 960mm wide, 1.2m deep, 2.0m high (includes 650mm of wheeled stand)

Internal dimensions: (denotes normal loading space) 500mm wide, 600mm deep, 770mm high

Deadline for receipt of tenders, 6pm Sunday 15 April.

Only tenders over \$500 considered. Deadline for receipt of tenders, 6pm Sunday 15 April.

Successful tenderer will be notified by email same evening. Kiln must be paid for prior to being moved. Liaise with Paige Jarman regarding window for removal (needs to coincide with arrival of new kiln).

To view: visit Wellington Potters' Association at 130 Grant Road, Thorndon, Wellington. phone 4733680 to ensure someone will be on site.

Email tenders to: paige.jarman64@gmail.com

Proposed Pottery Programme for 2018

Regular events

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

April

- 3rd, 10-12, free Tuesday session with Mal Sole and Vera Burton; also 8th, 17th and 24th April
- 8th, Anagama Workshop and Demonstration, Mal Sole and Peter Rumble

May

- 3rd-4th, session with Ben Carter
- 20th, Working Bee

If you have any suggestions for the WPA programme please contact the WPA club.

Pottery Classes 2018

- **Mondays 9.30am-11.30am, 30th April for 8 weeks. Throwing for Beginners with Galit Maxwell**, for WPA members, absolute beginners and intermediate; includes the practical skills of wedging, centring, throwing cylinders & bowls & trimming. Covers different types of clay & variety of

techniques. Email maxwellgalit@gmail.com to enrol. Cost for 7 weeks course \$200, to be paid in advance. Clay & firing costs extra.

- **Mondays 5.30pm-7.30pm, Handbuilding and Throwing with Anthea Grob**, 8 week sessions from 7th May; see **Community Education Centre** cec@whs.school.nz to

enrol.

- **Tuesdays 5.30pm-7.30pm, Throwing, All Levels, with Mauritz Basson**, 8 week sessions from 8th May; see **Community Education Centre** cec@whs.school.nz to enrol.

Tuesdays 7.30pm-9.00pm, Throwing, All Levels, with Mauritz Basson, 8 week sessions from 8th May; see **Community Education Centre** cec@whs.school.nz to enrol.

- **Wednesday 9.30-11.30 am, 2nd May for 8 weeks. Throwing for Beginners and Advanced Beginners with Galit Maxwell**, for WPA members, absolute beginners and intermediate; includes the practical skills of wedging, centring, throwing cylinders and bowls & trimming, different clays and techniques. Email maxwellgalit@gmail.com to enrol. Cost for 8 weeks course \$200, to be paid in advance. Clay & firing costs extra.
- **Wednesday 1-3pm, 2nd May for 8 weeks. Intermediate Japanese Pottery with Lyuba Zhilkina**. Builds on skills acquired in the Introduction classes, for those with past experience with pottery, e.g. able to centre 1.5 kg. of clay, and interested in learning the intricacies of the Japanese Style. In this course, we will learn to throw larger works like bottles, vases, plates and lidded pots. Email info@kiwiclay.com to enrol. Cost for 8 week course is \$200, to be paid in advance. Clay & firing costs extra.
- **Wednesday 4-6pm, 2nd May for 8 weeks. Introduction to Japanese Pottery with Lyuba Zhilkina**. For those interested in starting Japanese Pottery. Lessons include preparation for work (wedging, centering,) throwing basic shapes on the hump (bowl, cup, saucer, jug,) trimming and decoration (handles, stamps, slip, glazing). Email info@kiwiclay.com to enrol. Cost for 8 week course is \$200, to be paid in advance. Clay & firing costs extra.
- **Thursdays, 9.30am-11.30am, 10th May for 8 weeks, Hand-building with Peter Rumble**; contact **Community Education Centre** cec@whs.school.nz to register.
- **Thursdays 5.00pm- 7.00pm, 3rd May for 8 weeks. Throwing for Beginners and Advanced Beginners with Galit Maxwell**,

for WPA members, absolute beginners and intermediate; includes the practical skills of wedging, centring, throwing cylinders & bowls & trimming, different clays and techniques. Email maxwellgalit@gmail.com to enrol. Cost for 8 weeks course \$200, to be paid in advance. Clay & firing costs extra.

- **Thursdays 7.00pm- 9.00pm, 3rd May for 8 weeks. Throwing for Beginners and Advanced Beginners with Galit Maxwell**, for WPA members, absolute beginners and intermediate; includes the practical skills of wedging, centring, throwing cylinders & bowls & trimming, different clays and techniques. Email maxwellgalit@gmail.com to enrol. Cost for 8 weeks course \$200, to be paid in advance. Clay & firing costs extra.
- **Fridays, 9.45am-12pm: 4th May for 8 weeks. Pottery Projects with Anthea Grob**. Explore surface treatments including inlay, terra sigillata, dipped slip, sgraffito and glaze and some on-glaze treatments; the first 2 weeks for throwing or hand-building, then trimming and completing pots, ready for surface treatments over the remaining weeks. For WPA members at intermediate level (i.e. have done a prior course so that the course is not about establishing basics such as wedging, needing to do two firings etc). Contact grobanthea@gmail.com, or 9726672 within office hours. Cost for 8 week course: \$200, to be paid in advance. Clay and firing costs extra.
- **Saturdays 8.30am-10.30am: 5th May for 8 weeks. Beginners Mixed Hand-Building and Throwing with Anthea Grob** (*times may change to 8-10am if a club workshop held in the Rooms). For WPA members new to clay. Contact grobanthea@gmail.com, or 9726672 within office hours. Cost for 8 week course: \$200, to be paid in advance. Clay and firing costs extra.

**note courses need sufficient enrolments to go ahead, or 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).

New Members

Wellington Potters welcomes new members; application forms from the WPA website <http://wellingtonpotters.org.nz/>, or email wellingtonpotters@gmx.com.

Latest new members: Mariana Garita-Rodriguez, Michelle & Brett Miller, Alice Andersen, Jude Maich, Alice Buchanan, Karla Marie, Thomas Fitzgerald, Dana Fridman, Briana Cleverley, Genevieve Burke.

About Us – Contacts, Social Media Info

Internet Payments:

Wellington Potters Association; Account Number: 02 0568-0024590-00

Location, Mailing Address, Phone & Email:

see front page of Newsletter.

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 Chris Dunn – chrisdunn6@gmail.com.

Website: The WPA website is at <http://wellingtonpotters.org.nz/>; send contributions or suggestions to webmaster@wellingtonpotters.org.nz.

Clay Purchase: WPA has clay for sale to members, but the process does rely on the availability of a few of our hard-working club members. To organise clay purchase, email Vivian Rodríguez vivavivianr@gmail.com, or talk to a class tutor.

WPA Committee/ office holders: see below.

WPA Newsletter Deadline: Articles for the April Newsletter need to be emailed to the Editor (Elaine Marland marland@xtra.co.nz) by **25 April 2018**.

Membership Costs: 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, ph. 021 343 790, kiwipens@gmail.com.
Vice President/Newsletter Editor: Elaine Marland. Ph. 021 050 5335, 384 4718, marland@xtra.co.nz.
Past President/Maintenance Manager: Mauritz Basson, 021 227 8151, mauritz.basson@wellingtonzoo.com.
Secretary/Orientation/Supplies: Kate Ford, 473 5356, 021 121 6531, kate.ford48@gmail.com, wellingtonpotters@gmx.com.
Treasurer: Mike Doyle, 021 631 187, mprzdz@hotmail.com.
Committee Members
Kiln Team Leader: Peter Rumble, 021-067-8099, 475-9411, sales@rumbles.co.nz.
Classes, Shelf Manager: Shona Carstens, 021-490-661, 473 3055, shona.carstens@xtra.co.nz.
Workshop Coordinator: Nicole Gaston, 022-674-7815, nicolemgaston@gmail.com.
Librarian, Clay Sales, Working Bee Coordinator: Vivian Rodríguez, 021-264-5414, vivavivianr@gmail.com.
Treasurer's Assistant, Ceramicus Convenor: Ulli Rosenfeld, 022-089-2952, ulli.r@gmx.de.
Fees & Membership Sub-Committee: Tim Foote, 020-407-52468, foote.timothy@gmail.com.
Co-opted members
Anagama Coordinator: Alan Ross, 566 8922, alan.lynne.ross@gmail.com.
Membership: Vera Burton, 938 8207, veeanddave93@gmail.com.
Cubbies: Joe Zuccarello, 479 1299, joe.zuccarello@vuw.ac.nz.