



WPA Newsletter November 2020

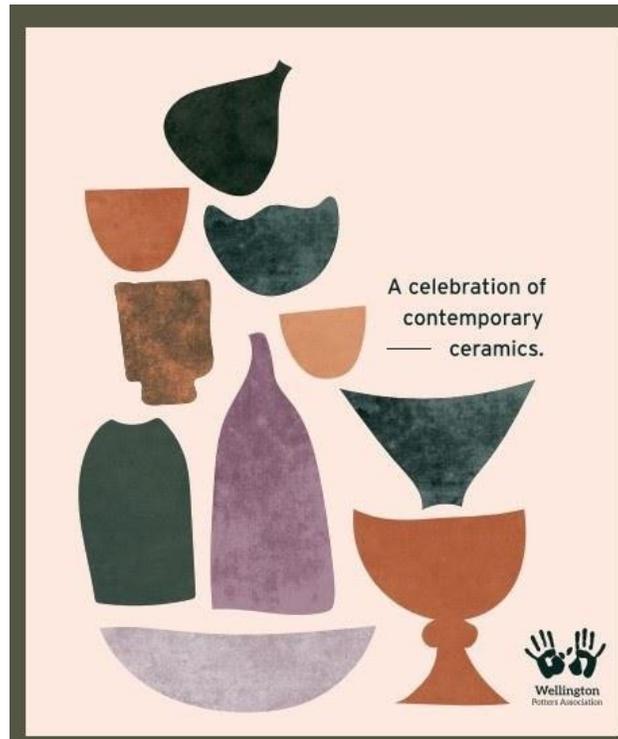
Editor's Note

I hope this newsletter finds you all well! It's been an exciting couple of weeks at the Club with the opening of Ceramicus 2020. If you have not yet been down to the NZ Academy of Fine Arts, make sure you pop by to see the wonderful creations of our members. The exhibition closes on **Sunday, 8th November**.

We also have some exciting news about the re-roofing of the building so read on!

Annax

Ceramicus 2020



WPA's 62nd annual exhibition, Ceramicus 2020, opened to members at the Academy Galleries on Thursday, 22nd October.

Our thanks to our guest artist and selector Debbie Pointon, who created a wonderful exhibition, along with our WPA volunteers: Ceramicus Convenor Claire Ford, Jess Earnshaw, Connie Brown, Fiona Oliver, Beth Brash, Pip Woods, Konny Reichert, Anne-Marie Bush and Elaine Marland. We are also grateful to Donné Hallot, from the Hutt Art Society, who designed our beautiful publicity material. And of course, sincere thanks to all members who have volunteered to mind the exhibition until it closes on Sunday, 8th November.

Photos from the opening night can be found on our [website](#), along with the anagama gallery.

Congratulations to our award winners on the night:

- Wellington Museum Premiere Acquisition Award for Excellence in Ceramics: **Yvonne Guillot** for BLUE
- Abbots Glaze Award for Excellence in the Use of Glaze: **Chris Dunn** for Pohutukawa
- Primo Clays Award for Excellence in Wheel-Thrown Ceramics: **Lyuba Zhilkina** for Vase
- CCG Award for Excellence in Hand Built Ceramics: **Vivian Rodriguez** for Sky Blue
- Nelson Pottery Supplies Award for First Time Exhibitor: **Margaret MacDonald** for her 'Exhale Vase' Series
- Park Award for Innovation in Ceramics: **Evelyn Hodowany** for Procrastination 1

The one award not yet given out is the Vessel People's Choice Award, which is awarded at the end of the exhibition after we have totalled up all of the individual votes. So don't forget to go along to the exhibition before **8 November** to admire the work of your colleagues, vote for your favourite piece, and buy a raffle ticket in the Ceramicus raffle! Who knows, you might also fall in love with a piece.

You can find out more about all of the Ceramicus artists on our [website](#).

And just out of interest, here are a few stats about the last five years of Ceramicus:

- 2020 - 135 were accepted into the exhibition, out of 211 entries
- 2019 - 115 works were accepted
- 2018 - 135 works were accepted
- 2017 - 82 works were accepted
- 2016 - 93 works were accepted



1 - Yvonne Guillot: Wellington Museum Premiere Acquisition Award for Excellence in Ceramics



2 - *Chris Dunn*: Abbots Glaze Award for Excellence in the Use of Glaze



3 - Lyuba Zhilkina: Pri mo Clays Award for Excellence in Wheel-Thrown Ceramics



4 - *Vivian Rodriguez*: CCG Award for Excellence in Hand Built Ceramics



5 - *Evelyn Hodowany*: Park Award for Innovation in Ceramics



6 - Margaret MacDonald: Nelson Pottery Supplies Award for First Time Exhibitor

Ceramicus: Pack Down Helpers Needed!

And speaking of Ceramicus, we will be packing up the exhibition on **Monday 9th November, from 10am** - we need helpers who can assist with picking up and transporting the plinths and the pots back to the rooms, and also a team to be available to to pack up the pots back into their boxes ready for pickup or transport, and to help buyers and exhibitors pick up their pots. Please email exhibitions@wellingtonpotters.org.nz if you can help out - even an hour or two would be a bonus!

Life Membership: Marilyn Hester



At our last WPA AGM in September, we had the privilege of having Marilyn Hester join the ranks of other potters extraordinaires whose contribution to the Club is acknowledged with a Life Membership.

Marilyn Hester is the force – literally and figuratively – behind the clay recycling system that is a feature of WPA life. Marilyn works – sometimes alone, sometimes with a small team of dedicated workers – to make sure that we don't have a wasteful culture at the rooms, that we treat clay with the respect that it

is due, and that members can have access to a cheaper product than having to purchase new clay. Marilyn's commitment to sustainability is common among potters, and Marilyn ensures that new members get to experience this first hand. Over the years, the revenue from this clay will have contributed significantly to the Club's activities.

There is a constant source of dry clay for recycling at the rooms; while most members recycle their clay, the classes that we run at the rooms often produce imperfect works that are recycled; and some members leave town forgetting that they have greenware drying on the shelves. This is all grist to the pug mill, so to speak.

Observers have noted that the clay recyclers seem to be well balanced and cheerful people who don't have anger issues – they work them out on the clay...though there are outbursts of controlled fury when someone leaves plaster in the clay...!

Marilyn joined the WPA in 2002. In one of her first visits to the rooms she met Maureen Irving who was pounding clay with a purpose. She invited Marilyn to give her a hand, and Marilyn has been pounding and pug milling clay ever since.

Although Marilyn doesn't produce her artworks at the rooms, members are always on the lookout for her sculptures and figurines making their way through the firing process – either at Grant Road or at the Anagama kiln at Horokiwi.

Marilyn has been a regular exhibitor at Ceramicus. In 2007, Marilyn's sculpture of a Tui was selected for the exhibition by John Parker, the well known ceramicist. He was very impressed with Marilyn's work, and awarded it the main prize. He commented that it was the sort of ceramic work that he loathed, but was so taken with it that he was compelled to purchase it and take it home. Which he did. So the Tui has a place of honour in John Parker's collection.

Marilyn's 18 years of commitment to Wellington Potters' Association is extraordinary, and we are very pleased to acknowledge this with Life Membership, the highest honour WPA can bestow.

Construction update: Rooms closure January/February 2021

As most of you are aware, our building is in need of a new roof. Thanks to the generosity of members we have raised enough funds to undertake the work this summer.

Currently the information we have from the contractors is that the building will need to be unoccupied while the roof is being replaced, which will be from the 1 January until 15 February according to our contract. Some preparatory work such as erecting scaffolds may be done before Christmas. In addition, some of the work is weather dependent which may have an impact on timing.

After the roof replacement is complete, the building will be able to be occupied, however there will still be scaffolding up while the painters complete their work.

This timeline may change once work begins, and as it proceeds. We will keep everyone updated in case of any changes and advise accordingly as soon as more information is available.

Club Event: 6 November

Show and Tell - Friday, 6 November 6 - 8pm

Join us for 'Show and Tell' - a fun social evening where potters can bring up to three items, one of which should be a 'fail'. Chances are there will be someone there to tell you where you went wrong.

We are here for laughs and advice, no judgements. Let's see some of the cool things you have made. A fantastic opportunity to share with other obsessed potters.

BYO drinks and/or nibbles if you fancy.

Maintenance working bee: 6 December

Volunteers called for maintenance bee on Sunday 6 December, 10am-3pm.

The Main Studio will be closed to all except the Sculpture Workshop participants but the maintenance work required will be in the kiln and glaze room, the garage and around the grounds. Any member with basic DIY skills qualifies to help as well as anyone who can tell the difference between a fennel plant and a *Hebe*.

Please register your willingness to participate by contacting Peter Rumble by email at sales@rumbles.co.nz.

Cubby Renewal Time

The hire period for large and small cubbies in the Main Studio and cubbies in the Glaze Room ends on 30 November 2020. If you are renting a cubby you will be emailed an invoice in early November.

Payments will be due by **20 November**. Non-payment will result in your cubby lease lapsing, and any contents will be cleared and disposed of at the discretion of the Committee. If you don't want to keep your cubby, please let the Cubby Coordinator know ASAP so it can be reallocated and your invoice will be cancelled.

Please note that the Committee has agreed on a fee increase for Main Studio cubby rentals. The new prices from 1 December will be \$30 for small cubbies and \$40 for large cubbies. In addition, some of the *secure cubbies will be available for storage hire at \$15.

The glaze cubbies fee remains the same at \$50. The 6-month rental period will be extended to reflect any disruptions caused by the roof repairs.

You must be a current WPA member to rent a cubby. For any questions please email cubbies@wellingtonpotters.org.nz

* secure cubbies are half the size of small cubbies and are lockable. They can accommodate the equivalent of 2 X 10kg bags of clay

WPA History Lessons: Part 4

By Roger Pearce, first published in the August 2008 edition of the Newsletter

A bit more history: 1998 - 2008

Isn't it easy to take things for granted! Reading Jenny, Gulie and Vera's accounts of the doings of members over the past fifty years brought it home to me what a lot of dedicated and hardworking lot they all were and how lucky we are to inherit the fruits of their labours, especially the acquisition of all of 130 Grant Road. I joined at the time WPA moved upstairs and have an indelible memory of Gulie Dowrick perched on the top of our very tall double extension ladder with a paint roller in her hand reaching out to paint the last bit of wall right up at the ceiling! What dedication - scary!

But, of course, things did not stop with our move upstairs and an active period of consolidation and improvement followed. Although we had great workspaces we had no natural light so skylights and windows were installed, then holes were cut in the concrete basement walls and doors, windows and a garage door installed to provide better access. The lane behind the rooms was a muddy track so when the city council resealed the drive to the quarry we did a deal with them to grade and seal the lane as well as the parking area. Sole rights were established over the parking area and the council kindly put up the current 'private parking' sign. Much of the timber of the white beams on the outside was rotting and the weather-boards were in poor shape so working bees replaced, painted and stained.

Development of the mezzanine floor (was an attic storeroom) allowed us to create a studio space for a Potter in Residence and desk areas for our Diploma students. Presidents had for years commented on the drab, indeed ugly, appearance of the concrete basement walls ('not a good look for the home of an arts club') but no one was game to take it on until Brian and Beryl Buchanan (Wellington Potters Supplies) offered the club several thousand terracotta tiles and some bags of redundant glaze material. It so happened that a new committee member, Adrienne Riseley, had joined us and with a small group took up the challenge, designing the layout, developing the glazes, putting up the tiles and finally completing the work the week before she departed back home to Sweden with her family. Of course, WPA is not just 130 Grant Road as over the past four years considerable energy (in all forms) and team work has also gone into building our anagama kiln up at the Houston's property at Horokiwi and the annual firings. And so club life goes on: classes on three nights a week plus Saturdays, Friday evening talks, regular workshops, pit and raku firings. I'm sure the founding members would be delighted to see us now. I think you would agree that Wellington Potters Centre now really does look like the home of potters and artists.



7 - Adrienne and Roger at the completion of the tiling project.



8 - The build of the anagama kiln in Horokiwi.



9 - A touch of class: Roger and Jann Pearce at the 2000 Winter Solstice Party.

The Brownies visit WPA

A letter from the Pack Leader:

"In September, Karori West Brownies visited Wellington Potters Club Rooms and had an amazing time being creative with clay as part of the Be Creative Badge! They got to engrave a clay tile, to use their imagination and sculpt with clay and to paint a vase!

The girls were intrigued to see the kiln and may not have had opportunities to work with clay like this before! Thanks also to the volunteers, who helped the Brownies and who were so friendly, and to the Wellington Potters Association for making it possible."

And from the WPA, special thanks to Vera Burton, Heather Payne, Hedy Ankers, Marilyn Hester, Mal Sole and Peter Rumble, as well as the Tuesday Club members who helped them throw vases.



Clay Update

GERMAN CLAY: VERY LOW STOCKS

Although Tim and Peter are considering importing another consignment of Witgert clay, nothing is guaranteed. Go to the Clay Inventory on the WPA website to snap up the last bags from the second shipment of what has proven to be a very popular range of clays.

OTHER CLAYS

COVID-19 has thrown shipping into disarray so the range normally available has been reduced. The good news, though, is that a shipment of Primo-Pro clay arrives in the 2nd week of November (just in time for you to make, dry and fire before the kilns close down). The consignment contains the speckled/with spots range that has developed a strong following as well as more of the non-grogged Atelier white stoneware that has gained favour amongst the throwing fraternity.

CLUB CLAY

Clay for Children: Over the summer break a block of clay can provide the basis for an activity to easily fill in a day. Don't squander your best clay on your little darlings! Our CEC clay (10kg for only \$20) is an easy-to-use clay for hand building purposes and fires white-to-off-white.

School activity: A few Wellington schools have purchased this clay; maybe your child's school might be interested? Contact: Peter Rumble at sales@rumbles.co.nz.

Kiln News

PRIVATE KILN HIRE FOR THE REST OF 2020

Licensed Users are reminded that only two bookings at a time are permitted and must be paid for at the time of booking. Note that the controller on FE4 (the Test Kiln) is not "playing the game", thus this kiln is out of commission until further notice. Please adjust your bookings accordingly.

KILN GOOD NEWS

Our largest kiln (FE2) should be back in commission early in the New Year.

FIRINGS BEFORE XMAS

There continues to be an unprecedented demand on the kilns (AND the Firing Team!). Although the Kiln Team has slotted in extra Club firings up until 20 December, we can't perform miracles. Just because your pot is for Aunt Sally's Chrissie present does not grant you priority so please plan ahead.

USE A BISQUED TRAY

Small, fiddly bits of any sort need to be presented in a fireable container. Individual pieces will not be handled by the loaders. Such items for glazing must be presented on a bisqued tray proportionate to the expanse of items on it. It is up to you to ensure there is sufficient space between each item. The weight of the container/tray must be included in both instances when making payment.

REMOVE ALL PAPER BEFORE FIRING

In the “old days” we used to let ‘former’ or ‘armature’ paper burn out in the kiln. But now you must remove all paper from inside your sculptures before placing them on the to-be-bisque shelves. To ensure WPA remains ‘neighbour friendly’ and within the terms of our WCC lease, we must take all care to not cause any nuisance...which means keeping smoke to a minimum.

General Business

POTTER'S MARK REGISTER

Register your mark, not just so your pots can be easily identified in the kiln room but also to establish yourself as a potter, whether hobbyist or professional. The register, to the left above the telephone desk, will also, in years to come, be a valuable historical document.

Please enter your family name (surname) and mark under your family (surname) in the *alphabetical register*.

REMINDER: MAIN STUDIO STORAGE

Stacks A, B and C are for drying greenware; nothing else. Nothing – a Health & Safety requirement - must be stored on the topmost shelves (the same applies to the top of the cubbies). Also, any possessions stored on the floor will....disappear! Cubby renewals (see article elsewhere in this newsletter) are due soon; if you have storage issues, make sure you apply for one.

POLY-BOXES: There are 5 lidded polystyrene boxes under Stack A. These may be used for ‘works-in-progress’. They must not be used for general storage. Make use of them if you have more than 4 items; leave the Damp Cabinet for other members with just a few items. The standard 14-days maximum time limit applies and the standard Drying Shelves/Damp Cabinet slip with full details must be attached to the lid.

Don't hog the drying shelves and be sensible with your placement. Putting your 15mm high plates on a shelf that's 650mm high is hardly considerate! Likewise spreading your pots right across the front of a shelf; this is a sure way to have your pots handled – with possible nasty consequences - by those looking for space for their own pots. If you plan to take up more than one-third of a shelf, you are required to make use of the Pay-Per-Day shelves on Stack E. There's a Forward Booking Sheet on the right-hand end adjacent to the extruder.

REMINDER: NO GLAZING IN THE MAIN STUDIO

No matter that the label on your glaze container says "non toxic". The blanket WPA Health & Safety rule is that glazing may be done **only** in the glaze room. This goes for mezzanine users too. Also, use of atomisers containing glaze must be conducted **well clear** of doorways and pathways. The same goes for sanding any greenware and bisqueware. Always think "Safety First".

MISSING BANDING WHEEL FROM SPRAY BOOTH IN THE GLAZE ROOM

Enquiries are continuing and we have managed to narrow the scope of our search. A new member, not yet familiar with names, has provided information and only has to sight the alleged offender around the

rooms for a positive identification to be established. It would be wise for the culprit to return the item *immediately*...or stay away from WPA forever with their ill gotten gain.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE BATTS FLOWN TO?

And while we're on missing items, dozens of batts have disappeared, mainly the ones made especially for our Shimo wheels. Don't just shrug your shoulders...make an effort to locate them or learn how to throw off the hump....*really soon!*

Handy Info

Website: <http://wellingtonpotters.org.nz/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wellingtonpottersassociation>. If you have any pottery inspiration, cool videos, articles, or upcoming exhibitions, message us on Facebook or Messenger.

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wellingtonpottersassociation/> If you have any pottery inspiration, cool videos, articles, or upcoming exhibitions, send us a DM.

WPA Newsletters: PDF versions of our newsletters, as well as past editions can be found on the [WPA website](#).

WPA Newsletter deadline: Articles for the December 2020 newsletter need to be emailed to the Editor by 20 November 2020: newsletter@wellingtonpotters.org.nz

Payments: Please pay using the eftpos machine in the kiln room (no other form of payment is accepted at the Rooms). If you are unable to come in person, our account number is: Wellington Potters Association, 02-0568-0024590-00

Clay Purchase: WPA has clay for sale to members, but the process does rely on availability of a few of our hard-working volunteers. For more information check out the [WPA website](#) or to organise a purchase, contact Peter Rumble (021 067 8099) who is often at the rooms.

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.

Concerns: If members have any complaints/issues/concerns they are welcome to approach any of the Committee members at any time.

WPA Committee

President, Workshop Coordinator:

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Vice President, Librarian:

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Contact Us



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