

# Otaki Potters

November 2022

**Less than two months to Christmas** – nothing like pressure!!

The kilns are busy and that suggests work going through for the Kapiti Arts Trail, Christmas presents and of course the Festival of Pots and Garden Art.

We really hope to see all our members exhibiting work at these club events. If you are unsure about selling your pieces do not hesitate to ask other club members about it and please just give it a go. They will tell you the same story.... "It is such a buzz selling your first piece and gives making pots a whole new meaning".

Now we are looking toward the end of the 2023... The last **cleaning bee** for the year falls on Saturday the 9th of December. Please talk to Jojo or Sue if you have not attended one for 2023 and if you are unable to attend this one - they can offer you an alternative job. A list of jobs will be posted on the notice board that can be done this year in lieu of your cleaning bee. If you cannot do either, please pay the \$40 fee as soon as possible so the team can mark you off as having honoured your membership agreement. Please note if you have not paid by the end of the year the fee increases to \$60.

If you have split your **subscription payment**, please note the date for the 2nd payment was due on the 31st of October.

We have **sandbags** now for the front of the building. These will be in place this week. Please do not drive over them. These will remain there until the soak pit and flooding issue has been sorted.

**Committee Meeting points.** The committee discussed:

- **removing the hot wax pans** as these continue to be a problem with overheating which creates toxic fumes. The alternatives which we ask you to start to adopt in place of hot wax is using the sponge pads (press your pots firmly on the sponge pad and twist to remove the excess glaze), or simply wipe the bottoms of your pots well. Latex and cold wax is another option.



*Adele Souster with her gorgeous paintings*



*Sarah Brock: Fantastical Mr Cat*



**Thanks Lynne for all your time**

- Agreed to obtaining quotes for the **painting of the exterior of the building** and quotes for improving the driveway and carparking area.
- For deliveries and easier identification of dropping points at the club rooms all doors to have an identifying letter.
- Our **defibrillator** arrives this week and will be installed on the exterior wall outside the gallery. There will be a training session offered to all those who are interested in learning how to operate one. The date will be posted on the noticeboard and emailed out.

We have had serious plumbing problems and are grateful to Kaleb for dropping everything to come and sort this out for us. This job is bigger than first thought and the carpark area will be coned off in sections while this work is being completed. One of the problems was created by clay going down the pipes and clogging them up. The clay traps can only do so much, and we may need to look at emptying these on a more regular basis. What we will end up with, if we are mindful of what we put down the drains, is a system that will serve us well for a long time. We now have a good map of the services on that side of the building.

**Kilns** – We have a new Shimpo top loader arriving mid-December so along with our refurbished test kiln we will be extremely well catered for. The kiln team farewells Luci Robins who has been a valued member of the team. We wish Luci well in her new endeavours and welcome our new member Raelene to the team. It is great to see new members getting involved and wanting to be part of a team.

The kiln team ask that all pots identified with a **yellow sticker** be collected as soon as possible as shelf space is at a premium.

**Clay** - We currently have good stocks of Primo clay. The 10kg bags of Mac's Mud clay are a vast improvement. We have Whitestone, Buff stoneware, Buff Speckle, Brick Red and Weekender in this size. We do have some bags of Classic White, Buff stoneware and Buff Speckle. These have been cut down from 20kg now to 10kg size and repacked as they are easier to handle. We also have BRT in stock again.

Again, big thanks to Glen and team for getting our new clay room completed. It works very well,

and we have a happy clay manager. Lynne would like to extend her thanks to all of you who came along to help move the clay – it was a big job..... And we thank Lynne for the many hours she has put into this.

Please note that clay deliveries will now be dropped outside the red doors along from the glaze room doors. This area will have a clearway in place when orders are expected. Please respect this and do not park there if the cones are there.

**Classes** began on the 16th of October and run through to 15th of December. We are lucky to have such a diverse range of tutoring and the results I see coming out of the classrooms speaks to how good our tutors are. **\*\* New class \*\*** We welcome Sarah Brock to our team of tutors. Sarahs class (beginning 2024) will focus on hand building figurative sculpting and will run on Tuesday evenings from 6.30 - 9pm. The website will have more details.

**Childrens holiday classes:** Thanks to Derryn and Storm for running these classes. There was lots of interesting work produced and lots of happy children. You can see some of the results in the Glazing room.

**Website:** Please do check the website regularly as club information is updated by Kylie weekly. For information on classes, workshops and our events including gallery exhibitions, the Kapiti Arts trail, the Public Raku and more about the club the website covers it all.

**Facebook:** is also a great way to share and hear our news. Wendi does a wonderful job keeping us in touch with what is being produce at the club and what is on. Please remember to share the posts. This is a great way to get word out on what the club is currently doing by way of events.

**Events: Kapiti Arts Trail** - Saturday 4th and 11th and Sunday 5th and 12th, November.

Derryn Robson is managing the exhibition for the Trail. If you wish to exhibit registrations papers are in the kitchen on the sign in bench. If you can help on any of the days, please let Derryn know.

**Public Raku** – Saturday 2nd December. Everything is on track and all we need now is fine weather for the day. Spread the word and remind people to come early as the kiln team will close of accepting





work for firing at 1pm. If you can help there is a schedule on the notice board or please let Janine know via email. [janinemh68@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:janinemh68@hotmail.co.nz)

**The Festival of Pots and Garden Art** – 19 to 24 January 2024. The team met on Saturday to discuss the running of the event. All areas have been well considered however there are a few roles that will need to be filled. If you can help to manage an area, please talk to Sue, otherwise Jackie will have the rosters going up soon. I don't need to remind you that this is the main fundraiser for the club and as a member you are required to do 6 hours toward the running of the event. If you know now that you will not be here to help, please talk to Sue – she has many other jobs that can be done prior to and after the event. Kilns have asked that please don't leave the firing of your pots to the last minute. This is a busy time of year for them and with classes finishing early to mid-December the kilns will be running red hot!



**Building work report:** Rob and his team have finished the shelves for the new molds. Thank you to Trevor and Michael. Rob will organise specific places for each mold. When this system is in place, please make sure you clean the mold that you have used before returning it to the place you got it from. If anyone has a yoga mat or two that they are willing to donate to the club, these would be useful for the shelves to help protect the molds from handling damage.

Clay room is completed and the Glaze making room on track for its makeover.

We will give our builders a rest for now, but it was discussed that we look at breaking through the wall into the west storeroom to increase shelving for the hand build classes. With the class numbers increasing the rooms are having to cope with storing many pieces of work and some very large pieces at that!

The Wheel classroom would like to add another double door commercial fridge if anyone hears of one going spare, please let someone on the committee know. It doesn't need to be working but good seals would be preferred.

The next biggish job is to remove the boiler from the room off the kitchen and then spruce the room up. I look forward to that and seeing that smelly boiler gone!!



The area on the eastern side of the building is looking much tidier and we are very grateful to NZ Community Trust for providing funding to help us achieve this result. We now have an area for clay recycling baths and a pugmill and the collected clay is now close to being able to be pugged. All we need to do now is line the fencing to obscure the view in and we have a fantastic result. At the other end we will make it secure and store the Raku kilns freeing up space in the western store room.

### Workshops:

**Javier Murcia Head sculpting** on Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th November - see website for Javier's two other workshops in 2024.

**Lithography on Clay** with Jenny Turnbull on Saturday 25th, November 2023 10am - 4pm

The **Pit firing** scheduled for the 28 /29th October has been postponed to 2024 due to the many events filling the rest of the year. Please register your interest through the website for either a work shop - (run by Chris Dunn) or a club firing.

**Downdraft Gas Kiln** – report from Neil Hey (abridged).

**Next Firing: - All work on shelves:** Friday 8th December, 5pm

**Kiln loading:** Saturday 9th December 9.30am

**Kiln firing:** Sunday 10th Dec, start time 7.45am

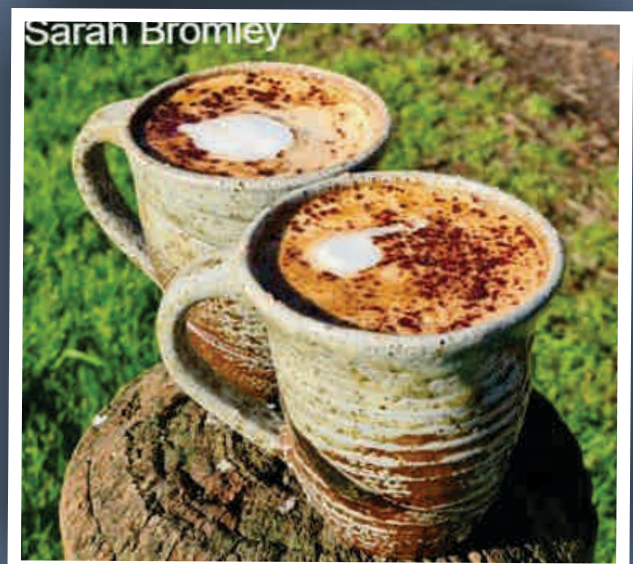
**Kiln unloading:** Tuesday 12th December, 2pm

### THIS WILL BE THE LAST FIRING BEFORE FESTIVAL OF POTS,

(unless there is unprecedented demand by the middle of January in which case, we may be able to fit in a January firing) Members of the cooking with gas team attended and carried out the loading and firing under kiln master Luci. Other members also helped with the unloading, and my thanks to all who helped. There was a surfeit of work for this firing and more had to remain on the shelves than from any recent firing. That work will get preferential loading for the next firing, so it will be worth getting additional work completed as early as possible.

The samples of the gas glazes on each of the club clays have been strung together and are now hanging in the glaze room. Check these out before your next glazing session as you can now see what each of the combinations have to offer.

Cheers from Kiln master Neil.  
Happy potting everyone, Caitlin.



## Management Committee

**President** Caitlin Taylor

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**Vice President** Sue Wilson

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**Members Representative** Sue Wilson

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**Teams Representative** Rob Young

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**Education** Jenny Turnbull

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**Minute Taker** Vacant

**Marketing & Events** Kylie VanDyke

**Treasurer** Bryan Johnston

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## Administration Team

**CLASSES Adult** Alastair McKenzie

**Children/Youth** Derryn Robson

**CLAY** Lynne Corkin

**CLEANING BEES** Jojo Hare

**EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE** Rob Young

**EVENTS & MARKETING** Kylie Van Dyke

**FUNDRAISING** Katherine Joyce-Kellaway

**GALLERY** Paula Archibald

**GLAZES** Rod Graham

**GRAPHICS** Kylie Van Dyke

**HEALTH & SAFETY** Dean Lewin & John Little

**KILNS** Rod Graham

**LIBRARY** Kaye Stead

**MAINTENANCE** Brent Craig

**MEMBERSHIP** Stephanie Tidman

**NEWSLETTER** Lyndele MacDermaid

**ORIENTATION** Kathryn Lim

**ROOMS Manager Needed**

**SOCIAL MEDIA** Wendi Lindsay

**WORKSHOPS Adult** Clare Botha

**Children/Youth** Derryn Robson

# TOTE MODERN GALLERY OPENING

This month we  
feature work for  
the Kapiti Arts Trail

# MEMBERS NOTICE BOARD

**Committee Meeting** - Friday 17th November.

**New Members:** We welcome Simon Bell and Nicola Papatsoumas to the club and the return of Carey Kwan.

**Rooms Manager:** Along with the team the role is ensuring the rooms are kept in order.

**Education Manager** – Along with the team the role requires liaison with the tutors regarding the classes for each term.

**MISSING!** Please if anyone has inadvertently taken any OPC equipment/tools home please return. We have many batts missing which is sad as we had recently purchased a hundred new batts.

We are also missing 2 atomisers. It maybe that these have just gone home in your toolbox but please return them.

Replacing these is not just the cost to the club but it means someone has to spend time sourcing replacements and it also means that members no longer have the use of these items.

**Hams for sale:** Good quality Christmas Meats and Hams. If you are interested see the information near the whiteboard or contact Rod 027 445 7545



Christmas Ham

**Double Door Fridge wanted** – The Wheel class room needs another fridge to use as a drying cupboard. This fridge does not need to be working but preferred it has reasonable seals.

\*The Kilns at Te Horo.

Did you know Mirek Smišek?  
Or visit him at Te Horo?



The location of his historic bee-hive kilns is re-opening to the public soon and will be known as **The Kilns at Te horo.**

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!** The Mirek Smisek Arts Trust needs funds to open and keep open for the public to enjoy this special place again. Plus Artist in Residence & info storyboards. Opening mid December 2023.

**CAN YOU HELP?**

**BUY A BRICK for \$250.**

*Hand-made brick tiles stamped with your name (s) or company logo. They will be on permanent display at The Kilns*



To BUY: <https://thekilns.helloclub.com/public/event/65134b8b261723aed7be84dc/buy-a-brick-250>

Or visit the website  
[Thekilnsattehoro.co.nz](https://thekilnsattehoro.co.nz)



Hyperlink <https://thekilns.helloclub.com/public/event/65134b8b261723aed7be84dc/buy-a-brick-250>



The club thank NZCT for their generous funding enabling the eastern side of our building to be tidied and made secure and to be able to purchase a pug mill to recycle all waste clay. This has created another area of learning within the club.

### Sarah Brock Informal Sculpture get-together.

The sessions will run every third Sunday of the month from approx. 1-4pm. Sarah says "It wouldn't be a tutoring scenario. OPC members interested in sculpting - particularly figurative or animals - are invited to come along, work together and share things learnt along the way about building, glazing, preferred clays, current projects etc.

No fees apart from membership. Maybe bring something to share at afternoon tea".

**Great idea – thank you Sarah.**

