

Otaki Potters

February 2021

Presidents Report

Greetings!

We had a very successful Festival of Pots and Garden Art. Thank you very much to everyone who worked so hard, your efforts are much appreciated. Caitlin is collating the feedback.

ADULT CLASSES will commence the week beginning February 9th. (Monday night wheel will start Monday 15th). We have vacancies in the Wednesday night continuing wheel class with Lyuba. You need to be able to centre and throw a cylinder with confidence to join this group. Also, we have vacancies in the Friday morning hand building class with Margaret Hunt. To enrol in either class please contact Margaret mhunt@xtra.co.nz.

Liz Earth is running a sculpture workshop over two weeks; (4 three hour sessions). This is open to all club members. Jenny Turnbull is running a mentoring workshop on Glazing, preference will be given to those who have completed four years in classes. Liz and Jenny are very accomplished potters and well versed in the field of Ceramics.

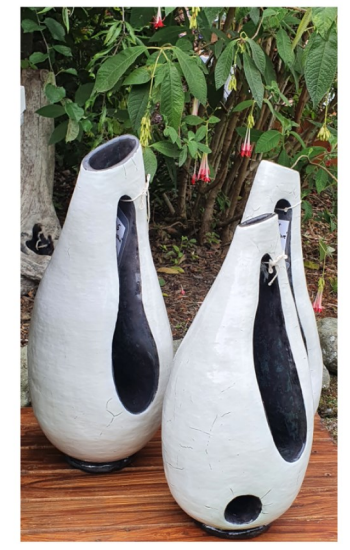
We are planning a club raku in April. Time to get your hands into clay. We will offer an "Introduction to Raku" for those new to this process. This will be held on Sunday 21st at 2pm; about one hour followed by a "making session" for those who want to stay on. Please let Margaret Hunt know if you are interested in attending.

Congratulations to Maureen Hunter on attaining the grand age of 80. Our "Queen of the Asparagus Roll", we wish her many more happy birthdays.

All the best for a very productive 2021.

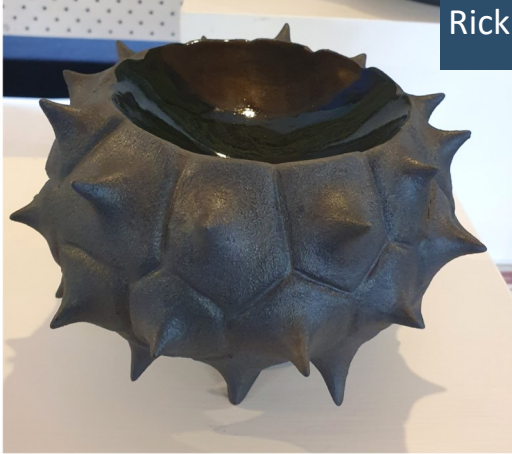


Festival of Pots and Garden Art 2021

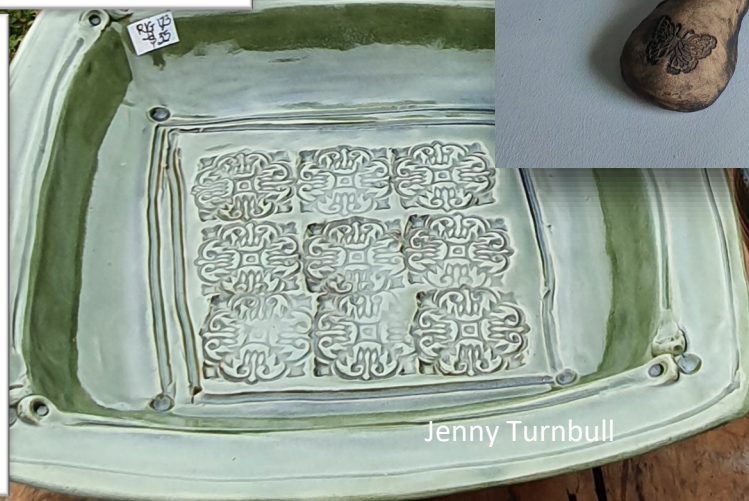




Rick Rudd—Guest Artist



Jane McCulla

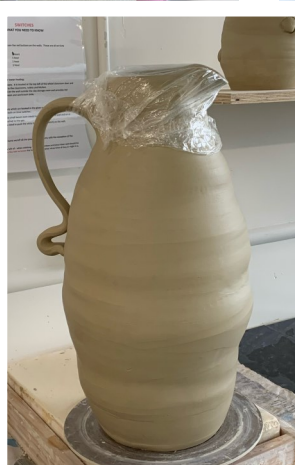


Jenny Turnbull



Paula Archibald

Darryl Frost—Workshop



Two day workshop with the very talented visiting potter Darryl Frost from Nelson . He encouraged us to embrace our creativity. Pushing some of us out of our comfort zone. Very happy with my vase creation. - **Yolande Watson**



Jojo Hare:

Having a thirst for knowledge for all things pottery, I was not disappointed ! This weekend was a weekend for throwing out the rule books and embracing the clay and learning that beauty is not always with symmetry and smoothness.

We all get stuck for new ideas and trying not to reinvent the wheel, Darryl showed us how to 'move sideways' to move forward and to loosen up our processes. At times many of us were gazing with open mouths at the techniques that affronted us and all we had learned to date. It in a way was liberating and I am much richer in my knowledge after this weekend.





And then there is!! ...Darryl going crazy.



MAUREEN HUNTER — MAINLY RAKU

By Daphnie Hendrie, Wellington

Some 14 years ago, Maureen Hunter wanted to make six coffee mugs, so she enrolled in a pottery class at the *Petone Technical*. Sounds simple enough, but wheels were at a premium so one had to arrive early, which Maureen never managed to do, so she settled for handbuilding which she grew to love. It wasn't until 3 years later that she managed to throw those coffee mugs, but by then the handbuilding had become her forte and she became serious in her work, making a variety of stoneware both domestic and decorative.

Maureen's first glimpse into the realms of raku began about 9 years ago when participating in an outing with the Wellington Potters in the Ohariu Valley. There they built a large bonfire around their raw pots, set it alight and before long the sound of pots exploding and popping was heard. Miraculously Maureen's five pots survived and were then raku'd, three of them being "quite nice, but very low fired". She could see the possibilities and worked away perfecting this method of firing, leaving out the bonfire prelude.

Today Maureen is Wellington's leading exponent in the art of raku firing. She has taken it beyond what we with lesser understanding would dare and creates amazing results, in vibrant tones of red, green and blue shading into black.

Maureen has a 5 cu ft fibre-lined LPG raku kiln which is portable in order to accommodate weather conditions. Pots can be bisqued in this kiln in 3 hours with minimal loss and raku'd within 40 to 50 minutes. She uses well grogged stoneware clay and also porcelain, although the latter is best for small pieces as even grogged large pieces crack in the cooling.

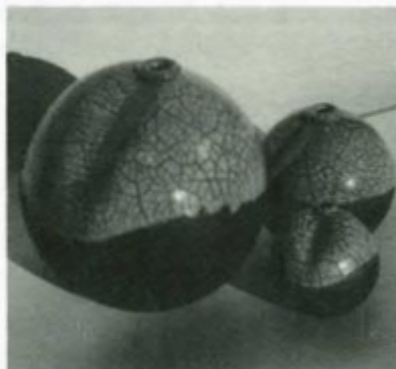
Maureen works in an incredibly small area given the size of her pots. The potting shed lined with shelves is about 10 by 6 ft with an even smaller addition housing her wheel and doubling as a spray booth. In another outbuilding is a 45 cu ft oil fired kiln which hasn't been receiving much use for the past 3 years as Maureen's potting has been dominated by raku, working up to eighteen hours a day at times to keep up with demand. Losses in each firing can be great.

Two years ago Maureen joined with 13 other Wellington potters to form a co-operative which has a shop in up-market Tinakori Road, known as *The Potters Shop*. It is fast becoming one of the right places to purchase excellent pots in Wellington.

McDougal Art Gallery in Christchurch and the Suter Gallery in Nelson have each purchased a pot of Maureen's for their permanent collections.

Maureen hopes to eventually return to her original potting, but as she wants to explore more avenues and glaze techniques in raku, it may take some time yet.

Photos: Gulielma Dowrick



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04 777 0156 | 027 733 9844 | jude.bismark@gmail.com

Sue Wilson Marketing and Raku coordinator.

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Other Contributors

Club Library & Rooms: Kaye Stead

Newsletter: Diana Litton

Young persons classes: Paula Archibald

Social Media: Wendi Lindsay

Cleaning Bees: (vacant) -see Rod if you can help

Property Maintenance: Brent Craig and Russell Kitto

Clay: (vacant) -see Rod if you can help

NOTICES

Welcome to our new members:

Tanya Labuschagne , Joan Kahui , Karen Cross
Chelsea Cormack – Wright , Denise Fahrenkrog
Emily Friedlander , Melina Martin , Charlotte Franklin
Emma Densey, Biddy Bunzl , Bryan Johnston

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - 17th February

WORKSHOPS:

- **Liz Earth—Sculptural Workshop**

Dates: 17th — 26th February. 4 sessions

- **Jenny Turnbull — Glaze Mentoring Workshop**

Dates: 12th March - June 18th 2021
8 sessions fortnightly

If you are interested in either of the workshops please contact Margaret Hunt:
06 364 8053
Mhunt@xtra.co.nz

SUBSCRIPTION 2020

As the club year has been extended by three months to 1st April subs will be now due in April.

The subscription is:

\$138 including GST if paid before 30 April;

\$161 including GST if paid after that date; or
paid in two equal payments of \$80.50 with the
first payment before 30 April and the second
before 31 October.

Gas Firing—we are receiving work for the next firing

General notices:

- * Please do not park on the grass if there are parks available on the gravel.
- * Please remember to use the appropriate canvas for your clay. ie: no coloured clay on the white canvases. In particular when using the slab rollers.
- * And please do not touch other peoples work.