

Otaki Potters

March 2021

Presidents Report

Greetings!

The year is off to a cracking pace. The Darryl Frost Workshop was an exciting adventure for those who attended with some rather radical techniques that challenged a few perceptions. The Sculpture Workshop with Liz Earth definitely set a challenge for participants. All adult classes (9) are half way through the term and the Clay workshop for Young People is producing high levels of Creativity. The **Mentoring Group**, with a focus on glazing with Jennifer Turnbull is due to start on the 12th of March. The Gallery is up and running, including an exhibition of work by Paula Archibald.

We are heading towards our first **club raku** at the Tote. The club is fortunate in having two new members experienced in the process; Trevor Wright and Neil Hey. New people come with fresh ideas and different ways of working. Sandra Sinclair will be demonstrating and helping people with Obvara. Time to get pots made and bisqued.

Obvara Firing of ceramics—Sandra Sinclair

This originated in Eastern Europe around the 12th century. Also called Baltic ceramics. It involves sealing the bisqued pots in a solution of water, yeast, and flour after heating them to 900 deg then dipping in water. Some lovely effects can be achieved.

I have found that the most interesting occur on burnished pots, but also pots with rougher finish can be exciting. Use a clay which is suitable for Raku, fine grog or smooth if burnishing.

Reference Marcia Selsor, Jane Jermyn

Some of my pots below...



and see more of Sandras pots on the following pages



Biddy Bunzl

Our **CLAYDATE** Adult programme gets underway on Saturday March 24th, 2-4pm. These are short workshops that give people a chance to “have a go”. They proved to be very popular last year. Sue Wilson manages these so if you are available to assist please contact her. The Young People’s Clay dates operate in the school holidays and we call on members to help with these. If you can help, wheel and hand building, please see me. CLAY-DATES are supported by CREATIVE COMMUNITIES NZ.

We are assembling pots for the next **gas firing**, hopefully mid-March. If you would like to participate in these firings but are unsure where to start see Margaret, Jenny, Neil, Lyuba or me.

We need a small team of people to make up club glazes. Murray is taking time out. If you are keen to help or learn please contact me.

It was good to meet with Bruce Walford and to find that he will be resident in Kapiti. Bruce has joined the club

and is keen to get involved; he will be running a **wheel workshop** over 4 sessions with a focus on developing technique. We exploring other opportunities for members to work with Bruce.

We have been in the Tote for six months. Managing a large building and a growing membership has presented new challenges. The committee has come up with a proposal to get greater involvement from members and to share the workload. Please be an *active member* sharing your time and talents.

Each member will get a re – registration membership form to complete with your subscription – to be emailed out to members soon. This will help us to update our records (contact details) and give you the opportunity to list the skills and abilities that you (and your partner) are willing to make available to the club. Don't be shy. You are allowed to blow your own trumpet! I have been really encouraged talking to new members who are enthusiastic about getting involved. The form is also to advise any health issues that the club needs to be aware of – for your own safety.

If you haven't already got your updated copy of the Club Booklet. It is waiting for you at the sign-in area in the clubrooms. Please collect and read.



Val Waugh

Our Financial year has changed and now ends on the 31st of March. Subs can now be paid. We plan to have the Annual General meeting once the accounts have been audited and reports circulated to members in May. Tentative date set Sunday 23rd May 3pm.

Brent has indicated that he will step down as vice president. He has chaired committee meetings and acted as Project Manager in establishing the club at the Tote. Brent is willing to continue supporting the club in the current roles that he is serving in.

Derryn Robson has informed the committee that it is



Paula Archibald



Sue O'Rourke

unlikely that she will be able to continue in the role as Treasurer after the AGM. The club is working towards having the financial package Xero in place for the beginning of the 2021/2022 financial year. Derryn is still available to assist with the Festival of Pots in 2022.

At this stage current committee members have indicated that they will be available to stand. If you are willing to stand for the committee please speak with me or Caitlin and we will advise re nomination.

Caitlin and I had an opportunity to sit down with Duncan Shearer (Waikato) and Chris Southern (Auckland). They are both involved in the moving and reconstruction of Mirek's beehive kilns at Te Horo. We shared ideas of how different clubs and events are managed. It was a most informative session and we hope to see more of Duncan in the future.

Some clays are in short supply. Please check the white-board in the kitchen. Tutors need to let Margaret know of any specific requirement for term two. We have in stock a new clay recommended by Bruce Walford. PRGI 4002 is suitable for both hand building and wheel. It is a toasted stoneware clay which will fire to 1300 C. Samples of gas and electric firing are near the sign in book. Margaret says it is a great clay to work with. 2Kg sample blocks are available @ \$6 each.

We wish Diana and John Litton a speedy recovery.

And we also wish Colleen all the best for her long awaited op.

Many thanks to Caitlin for publishing this newsletter. If someone is willing to do the April newsletter this would be greatly appreciated.

Happy Potting
Rod



Sandra Sinclair —Obvara



Biddy Bunzl



Jojo Hare

NEWTOWN OPEN STUDIOS 2021

→ **SATURDAY 20 MARCH**
2pm to 7pm

SUNDAY 21 MARCH
2pm to 7pm

MONDAY 22 MARCH
5pm to 7pm

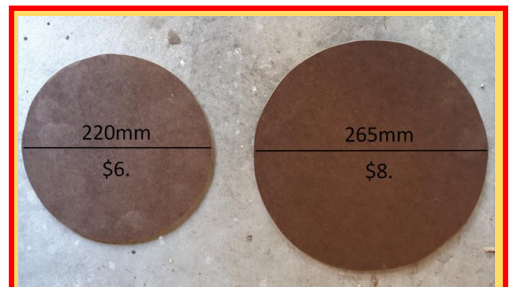
For more information and a map showing the open studios go to:

<https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2021/newtown-open-studios/wellington>

Aprons for sale – Red or Blue only.

2 Pockets, Adjustable straps. \$25.00.

Contact: Lynne Corkin.



Bats for sale:

Tempered hardboard Oiled both sides.
Edges are not perfect but can be sanded.

220mm \$6.

265mm \$8.

Contact: Caitlin or Lynne.

Committee—We are working toward the AGM and welcome member input. If you have ideas on how we can better the way we do things, any concerns regarding club operation or any other areas you would like discussed please email me.

The committee is looking at ways we can improve the day to day running of the club. Members involvement is key to a good club. The following letter from Derryn outlines fairly well a proposal that the committee is developing..

Teams at Otaki Pottery

Now that we have set up this wonderful facility, we ask all club members to give thought as to how we progress our club.

The current committee has come up with a team system that would fairly share necessary tasks and also provide succession for the future. There will be roles to suit all and by contributing will bring an inclusive environment for all.

The areas that we see as necessary to the smooth and safe running, and continuation of the club will be posted on the whiteboard. We ask that you give thought to what and where you (or your partner) can contribute – with a view that in the future the club will need leadership and knowledge to keep it functioning as we enjoy now.



Sandra Sinclair—Obvara



Sue O'Rourke

Caitlin Taylor



Sue Wilson

Management Committee

President Rod Graham

rodgraham1948@gmail.com

027 4457545

Vice President Brent Craig

brent@awatealodge.co.nz

027 2427572 | 04 293 2404

Secretary Caitlin Taylor

otakipotteryclub@gmail.com

021 390888 | 06 364 2191

Treasurer Derryn Robson

robson.pyle@xtra.co.nz

04 293 4669

Assistant Treasurer Lynne Corkin

linnygin@gmail.com

021 1494081

Adult classes, Workshops, DVD's Margaret Hunt

06 364 8053 | mhunt@xtra.co.nz

New Members, Website. Stephanie Tidman

021 2677052 | geeup1@outlook.com

Gallery Manager Jude Bismark

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

Marketing and Raku coordinator. Sue Wilson

04 2938187 29kakaroad@gmail.com

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

Glazes: Helen Walch— one more person needed to help

NOTICES

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - 17th March

Welcome to our new members:

Bruce Walford, Alastair Barnett, Anna Sellars

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.

General notices:

- * **Claydate:** March 24th 2-4pm
- * **Club Raku :** May 1st 10am—3pm
- * **AGM:** May 23rd 3pm.

WORKSHOPS/ EVENTS

JENNY TURNBULL — Glaze Mentoring Workshop
- **FULL**

Dates: 12th March - June 18th 2021
8 sessions fortnightly. 4pm—8pm

BRUCE WALFORD - Wheel workshop—10 places

Dates: March 24th, 31st, April 7th & 14th.
9.30am 12.30pm. 4 weeks. \$80.00

This class is for people who can confidently
centre and throw a cylinder.

To enrol contact Margaret Hunt:
06 364 8053
Mhunt@xtra.co.nz

CLUB RAKU Saturday May 1st 10am-3pm. Shared
lunch. If you plan to participate please let Caitlin
know. Observers are welcome. Raku will take place in
the club carpark area.

Gas Firing—we are receiving work for the next firing