

Otaki Potters

Festival of Pots and Garden Art

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2017



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DVDs and Enrolments Margaret Hunt
Orientation Jude Whitaker
Newsletter Caitlin Taylor
Website Biz Hayman
Cleaning Bees Stephanie Tidman
New members Stephanie Tidman
Property Maintenance Russell Kitto
Clay Jenny Turnbull
Keys David Simmonds
Festival of Pots Convener Brent Craig

Greetings

We are well under way and we are gearing up for a most productive year and what better way to start than with a very successful **Festival of Pots and Garden Art**.

Congratulations to Brent and his team on a great effort. This was Brent's 4th and final festival as convenor. Each year the festival has grown under his leadership and the club has reaped the benefit. Of course it takes a good team to run an event like this so we acknowledge the time and effort put in by those who accepted responsibility for various aspects of the event.

To all who helped and participated a big thank you, it was a grand effort.

A financial statement will be posted in the rooms.



While it is fresh in our minds we need to compile a list of people that should be invited to festival openings. These are people other than friends and family that you would normally invite. Please send names and email address to Caitlin.

The College require the old kiln shed at the end of this term. We have quite a lot of Festival gear stored off site. The College are willing to make land

available for us to put up a building so there will be a discussion around this at the AGM.

The **AGM** will be held on Wednesday February 22nd at 7pm. The meeting will be divided into two parts. The first will deal with reports, election of officers and business that pertains to the club. There will be a short break then there will be time for feedback and discussion on this year's Festival of Pots and Garden Art. Please make an effort to attend, have your say and meet new members.

Adult classes start next week. Jenny Turnbull will tutor wheel classes on Monday and Tuesday night's. Brent will tutor the Tuesday morning wheel class, Linette van Gruenen will tutor the Wednesday night hand building class, Duncan Smith is tutoring the Thursday night sculpture and Garden Art class and Margaret Hunt is taking the Friday morning class. We are fortunate to have quality tutors. Classes are full.

We will have a **raku firing** before the end of term and we hope to have the **pit firing** that was postponed last year so it's time to get the clay out and start pitting.

A **reminder** that members are required to support club fundraising activities and also do a two-hour cleaning bee or pay \$30. If you are

Dates to Remember :

Classes start - week of 13th February
AGM & Key exchange 22nd February

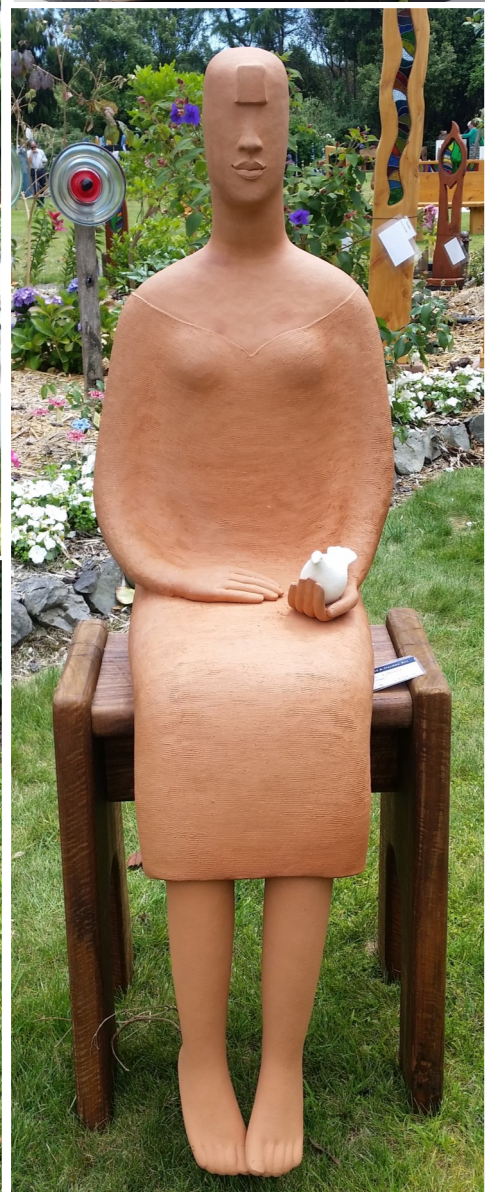
interested in doing your cleaning bee by cleaning the toilet area four times over the period of a month please contact Stephanie. Occasionally there are jobs that can be done in place of attending the organised cleaning bee. -contact Stephanie.

Please remember to travel through the College at the required speed and park only in designated car parks.

Please familiarize yourself when the barrier arm is likely to be down. Times are listed on the notice board. If you would like them emailed please contact Caitlin.



Happy Birthday to our curator



The Festival of Pots & Garden Art 2017,

.....was a resounding success despite the bad weather.

We exceeded our expectations on numbers attending (up on last year);

We exceeded our expectations on exhibitor numbers (up by 30);
& we exceeded our sales (by almost a third).

A big thank you to all of those Club members who gave of their time help out. Some on a daily basis.

I was impressed with the ease that you accepted your tasks, and performed them well.

I'm going to mention a few stand outs, and if I've missed anyone ? I apologise.

The Cafe was run by Paula & Kaye, who were there every day. The selection of food & service was fantastic.

The Sales desk was managed by Kevin (& Joy), & considering the turn over extremely well done. Maureen was the curator, and did a superb job (once again), with Alan, her trusty helper providing the manpower.

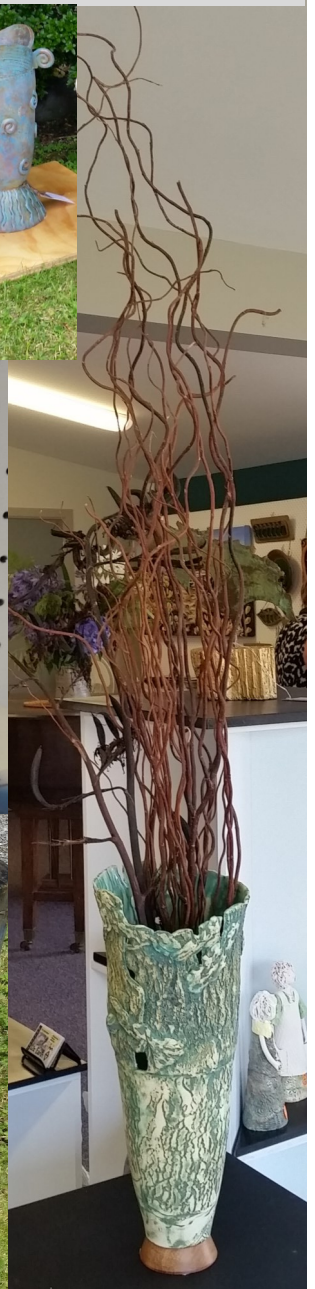
Ann was in the back room every day ensuring that the totals matched.

Sheryl cleaned up the messes every morning.

President Rod, was there every day, doing whatever was needed, with his trusty "side kick" Shane.

THANK YOU ALL.

Cheers
Brent
Convenor



Club Notices

- ♦ **AGM 22nd February, 7pm. - followed by a review of the Festival of pots.**
- ♦ **The key exchange will take place at the AGM ON February 22nd and club day March 1st. The door lock will be changed on the morning of 22nd.. The cost of the key exchange Will be determined at the AGM.**
- ♦ **Member's KILN ACCOUNTS** need to be cleared at the end of each month to avoid a 10% penalty.
- ♦ **Please leave the rooms clean and tidy. - if you cant clean it don't use it!**

Festival Raffle winners:

Sushi platter.....Scott Porter
Two teapots.....Rob James
Water Catcher.....Estelle (Petone)

Please Respect Class times : the rooms are closed when classes and workshops are in session.

Monday: 7 - 9pm

Tuesday: 10am -12 noon, and 7 - 9pm

Wednesday: 7 - 9pm

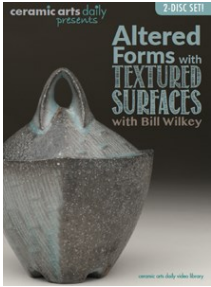
Thursday: 7 - 9pm

Friday: 9.30am - 12.30 pm

NB: Should you have a reason where you need to enter the rooms during the classes please contact the tutors.



We have 2 new DVD's added to the collection:



Altered Forms with Textured Surfaces with BILL WILKIE.

In this installment of the Ceramic Arts Daily Presents video Series, Bill Wilkie shares his techniques for creating wheel-thrown-and-altered, as well as handbuilt pots with layers of texture. Bill begins on the wheel with a simple diner mug, and then moves on to a more-complex sugar jar. Each of these is softly squared off, then textured with layers of contrasting texture on each plane, and finished off with pinched handles that complement the overall piece. Bill rounds out the program with a large oval basket, which is handbuilt using a bisque mold and added coils of clay. He shares his insights for avoiding the pitfalls of working with large, wide bisque molds so that you will be able to tackle this challenging shape with ease. Throughout the video, Bill shares tips for creating work with exceptional function and craftsmanship.



Precision Throwing and Intricate Carving with ADAM FIELD

If you've ever wondered how certain potters can make such elegant pots, there's really no secret—just learning some simple techniques and practice. In this latest video by master potter Adam Field, you'll learn all the secrets to master strong throwing techniques through a series of demonstrations, as well as how to render beautiful carved surfaces. By the end of the video, you'll have the knowledge to use these techniques to create your own elegant pots. Adam works in porcelain however all the techniques are suitable for any good throwing body.

Otaki Pottery Club Video library. *This is a fantastic resource Please use it.*



Neil Grant Workshop:

Disc. 1-6

Crater Clay Convention:

Disc. 1-2

Di Conway Workshop:

Disc. 1-4

Di Conway Workshop:

Disc. 1-5

Michael Dee Sculptural

Workshop: Disc. 1-3

Richard Stratton

Workshop: Disc. 1-6

Lustre Workshop:

Disc. 1-2

Mirek Smiesek:

Disc. 1

Mal Sole Workshop:

Disc. 1-4

Peter Collis Workshop:

Disc. 1-5

Pamela Annsouth

Workshop: Disc. 1-2

Maureen Hunter

Raku Workshop Day 1:

Disc. 1+2

Maureen Hunter

Raku Workshop Day 2:

Disc. 1-3

Cheryl Oliver Workshop:

Disc. 1-5

Neil Grant Throwing:

Disc. 3-4

B van Guilder Pottery:

Disc. 5 P.C. only,

Disc. 6 - Part 1 - Slab

Disc. 7 - Part 2 - Wheel

Pottery Decoration:

Traditional Techniques by
Tom Schafer with Stephen
Jepson

Judy Smith Workshop:

Disc. 1-14

Creative Tile Making with

Angelica Pozo

Bill van Guilders Pottery

Techniques:

Getting Started:

Bowl, Cup, Plate “

Making Handles, Part 1”

Bill van Guilders Pottery

Techniques: Making

Lidded Forms, Part 1”

Trimming Techniques

Creative Forming with

Custom Texture:

Personalizing Hand built
and Wheel Thrown Work
with Amy Sanders.

Pit Firing and Burnishing

with Sumi von Dassow

George Kojis Workshop:

Disc. 1-5

Lively Forms & Expressive

Surfaces with Mark Peters

What If?

Explorations with Texture
and Soft Slabs with
Sandi Pierantozzi

Beginning Raku with

Gordon Hutchens

Making Marks with

Robin Hopper Disc. 1+ 2

Beginning to Throw on

the Potter's Wheel with
Robin Hopper

Advanced Throwing

Extended and Altered
Forms with Robin Hopper

Introduction to Throwing:

Master Potter Stephen
Jepson

Slabs, Templates, Texture,

and Terra Sigillata Hand
building and Surface

Techniques with Jeremy
Randall

Contact Margaret Hunt if you wish to borrow any of the dvds listed.

Greg Barron Workshop article

On the morning of the 23rd January a group of 18 potters gathered for the first day of Greg Barron's workshop. The workshop had drawn people from as far south as Christchurch and Wellington and from as far north as Waikato and Whanganui, with a good dollop from the Kapiti coast.

Greg had spent time here in 1972 working with Mirek Smisek for a 3-month period learning as much as he could learn from an established potter. It was appropriate then that he stayed with Pamela Annsouth while he was here for the Festival opening and the workshop.

The first day Greg starting by throwing a 10kg base, which would become a very large urn. He had to work through some clay combinations, mixing some of his own dug clay from Whangarei with our commercial clays. He produced a very large wide bowl, which later was widen further, once firmed up, then 2 large coils were added which he continued to throw, work and shape to form the widest part of the vase.



In between the firming up of this large vase, Greg threw a large 5kg jug, forming, and shaping it, then pulling its spout and throat, including discussing possibilities of altering its neck form by cutting away under the rim, and issues around dribbly spouts.

Next he threw two 5kg bowls to join into a 10kg composite form on the second day. Lastly Greg threw a dinner plate which had interesting features for a glaze to catch and pool in.

He also discussed his clay making process, with the aid of a very jumpy video, due to my old computer not working properly. Greg makes his own porcelain clay, stoneware and terracotta, sourcing high quality local china clay from Northland's Matauri Bay. He uses a blunger, mixers and a clay press, which he has built himself to produce his own clay. He discussed how to alter a clay's composition to reduce crazing in glazes and adding nylon instead of paper to clay to increase its strength and joining abilities.





The second day we started early at Anam Cara, where Greg discussed the pots on display of his and Jin Ling's.

The main focus of this was to cover his glazing techniques and construction of some of the thrown, altered and slab built forms, which I'm sure we all will be keen to have a go at in classes. Followed by a quick cuppa, thanks to Paula opening the café early for us.

Back at the rooms Greg continued to add 3 more coils to the large vase, throwing, shaping and collaring the form inward, then allowing it to firm up for the last coils at the end of the day.

Next he demonstrated joining two large bowls thrown the day before, together to form a large composite form, then continues to throw the top of the form, altering the shape, scraping away using home-made hacksaw blade tool, which gave interesting surface textures. Following this Greg threw several faceted forms, bowls and a jar, stretching the form from the inside out. Discussed turning foot-rings, shadow lines, and echoing rims shapes and feet to work in harmony. Also he threw his style of teapot spout, shaping, and moulding it to attach to the faceted jar.



During the afternoon Greg talked about his crackle slip tests. These he uses on top of his vases, providing texture and interest, using oxide washes to emphasis the crackle once bisqued.



He showed us his soap stone hand-carved stamps, which he uses to decorate and finish pieces with. These hold special significance for him personally, as they symbolise his feelings about the environment and his lifestyle, and combines influences from his travels to China, Jingdezhen. He briefly touched on his new smokeless wood kiln, which the majority of his pieces for the Festival of Pots came from. Sadly, though we didn't have enough time to watch his slides on China.



One of the highlights for me was watching Greg finish his large jug. It just showed the immense skill of this potter, the years of practice and the complete understanding of clay and balance of form, negative and positive shapes. Attaching a huge handle to the rim, leaving enough evidence of the potter's hand on the work. And then sitting on the floor to rhythmically flute the belly of the jug with a hand made tool. Just amazing!

Greg was very interesting to listen to, he comes from the generation of potter who was influenced hugely by Bernard Leach and Hamada, and his many overseas travels.

A completely self-contained potter and largely self-taught, who has total control over the whole process and production of their work, digging and making their own clays, and glazes; making equipment and kilns, repairing wheels, you name it they could do it! And though Greg was quietly spoken and stopped to consider people questions, it brought out the immense knowledge he has gathered over many years of potting and I felt privileged to have been a part of the workshop.

Jennifer Turnbull.

