

# Otaki Potters

June 2018



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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings!

Winter has arrived. Potters are generally pretty hardy but heat pumps are a blessing!

We are coming to the end of another busy term. Nearly all kilns are again operational which is good news because there has been a lot of work moving through the rooms. Not all work is moving fast enough. For the first time we reached the stage where was nowhere to put pots coming out of the kiln. It would be helpful if you could take bisque pots home until you are ready to glaze them. We will be clearing the shelves on July 7<sup>th</sup> so please make an effort to collect your work. We will clear the shelves at the end of each term.

The lighting upgrade has been completed so the place is a lot brighter. The guttering on the south side of the building is being attended to.

We are fully stocked with clay. We have **Mac's Whitestone** now available. Whitestone is good on the wheel and for hand building; raku to stoneware. Medium grog : firing range 1000- 1300deg.C. Waikato Ceramics has informed us that the source of clay used in **Mac's White** has been completely exhausted and the supplier has ceased all operations at their extraction site. In response Waikato Ceramics will be using a new source to produce this clay (from batch/bag number 626 onwards). Brick Red Bag number C38 was taken from the clay shed recently but not recorded in the book and there is no record of payment. Could you please check if you are using this clay?

The **Public Raku** will be held on the first Saturday in December. Pot-ins will be held next term. If people prefer to make pots at home clay will be provided, please see me.

The **Faces with Expression Workshop** with Liz Earth was held on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Lot's of fun and some very interesting

"expressions". Liz is a lady of much experience and it was great that she could share with us.

We have the **Inter-Club Raku** on July 21<sup>st</sup>. There's still time to get Pots made.

We have a **Pit and Barrel Firing Workshop** with Chris Dunn during September. More details in the next newsletter.

The next **Mentoring Group** with Jenny Shearer will start on September 7<sup>th</sup> (then October 5<sup>th</sup> and November 9<sup>th</sup>). Priority is given to those who have done 4 years in an Adult Class. Members must have the skills to be able to work independently. Cost is \$90. Limit 12 people. Enrolments will open on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Discuss with me if you are interested.

**Festival of Pots and Garden Art.** The Festival committee will meet in July. We will bring the Festival website onto the Otaki Pottery Club website, so everything is in one place. But we need a volunteer to



Chrissie Sallis

## Dates to Remember

Cleaning Bee 14 July

Interclub Raku 21 July

*Expressive Ceramics Convention* 10-12 August

*President's message cont.*

manage the website—if you have skills in this area please contact Caitlin. Thank you to Diana Litton, who will be this year's Festival Administrator. I was disappointed in the response for my request for helpers in the June Newsletter. No one offered to co-convene with me. No one offered to be part of a team to manage marketing and publicity; to work with Lynne Corkin to manage the sales desk; or work with Murray Hopping on the demonstrations or manage the guest artists. With 82 members I thought that there would be a bit more enthusiasm. The Festival is the Club's primary fundraising activity each year—we all like to share the benefits; we need more people to share the load. If you can help please let me know.

The Mid-winter get together at Curry Town on June 22<sup>nd</sup> was a great evening out. I think we had 22 there. It was a great opportunity to mix and mingle and the food was good.

There are still vacancies on the list for the cleaning bee on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Contact Stephanie. Just a reminder, each member is required to do a two-hour cleaning bee once a year or pay someone to do it for you. Our cleaning rate is now \$20/hour so the payment would be \$40 for this year.

I hear Michelle Read is making a good recovery. We miss you and your baking! Come back soon!

Thank you to Lynne Corkin for providing sustenance on club days. Talking about club day; why have all the regulars disappeared?

I have put a highlighted form on the noticeboard to let you know times access to the College is restricted (parking available near the tennis courts during these times).

We have a new phone. Same number. You can now walk around and talk.

Jeavons is managing the wheels and has had the electrician in to carry out any repairs and certify each as safe. David Simmonds manages the heat pumps and the vacuum cleaner. By the time you get this the yearly maintenance on equipment should be complete.

Sad to hear Bonnie Wooller's mother passed away recently. Thinking of you Bonnie and family.

Happy potting.



# Expressive Ceramics

*Surface Exploration Convention  
Wellington Region 2018*

The deadline for submissions for the 59<sup>th</sup> National Exhibition has now passed. The images have been sent to the selector, Royce McGlashen, for the first phase. We're thrilled to have received entries from 57 potters from around New Zealand with 16 local ones. Good on you, you know who you are. Good luck with the selection.

Masterclasses: both Greg Daly's and Kate and Will Jacobson's masterclasses are fully subscribed. There are still a couple of spots left in both Mollie Bosworth's and Jane McCulla's class.

Mollie's class, to be held at WPA Wednesday/Thursday 8/9 August, will be about throwing porcelain- tips for working with it, control spiralling colour and much more, while Jane's, at Hutt Art Society on Thursday/Friday 16/17 August, will concentrate on texturing slabs, stretching and building with them. If this sounds like you, don't miss out, register now! All the masterclasses are \$150 for the 2 days, including lunch.

We only have this chance for a convention so close at hand about once every 10 years, so make the most of it. It is also an opportunity for club members to contribute to the success of the event (and ultimately profit or loss to the clubs) by offering help when asked. We hope that Otaki Potters will help with making bisqued tiles for Greg Daly to demonstrate his glazes on and any other jobs that require potter power. Please be prepared to help. Everybody benefits when you participate - the convention, the clubs and yourself.

Registrations for the convention are ongoing, with a surcharge in the last week, but an early commitment would be appreciated!

All the details on:  
[www.expressiveceramics.co.nz](http://www.expressiveceramics.co.nz)  
Aimee McLeod, co-convenor



Margaret Hunt



Sue Wilson



Marion Mealings



## A Pottery Residency in Canberra – Chris Dunn

Last year I visited the Canberra Potters Society and found that they had a great set-up. A gallery, retail shop, several rooms for work and classes, gas and electric kilns, studios available to rent and a studio and accommodation for a resident potter. I learnt that all I needed to do to be considered for a residency was to complete the application form on their web site <https://www.canberrapotters.com.au/>.

I was invited to be a resident potter in March and April this year. I had an excellent time. My obligations included providing a workshop for CPA members, giving a talk on and developing my own work, being available to assist and advise CPA members, and present some work for an exhibition. In return I received a lot of very friendly and helpful support, the use of a studio and accommodation, access to facilities and equipment, payment for the workshop I presented, and payment for materials and my airfares. The committee, management and members at CPS were very helpful throughout my stay. I was able to work on improving my pit and barrel firing techniques and develop some of the materials I use for creating colour on clay. I completed some excellent work for an exhibition in Canberra.

The best part of my residency was the workshop I ran over three weekends. The people doing the workshop were very keen, enthusiastic and involved. The workshop was detailed, covering making and burnishing suitable ceramic pieces, making pit and barrel kilns, preparing work and firing the kilns, and post-firing presentation.

I was able to improve my work and techniques as a result of the practical suggestions and improvements from the discussions and arguments we had during the workshop. The firings were very successful and everyone was delighted with their experience and their finished work. Phew! Canberra is a very picturesque and interesting place to visit. Great weather, amazing galleries and facilities, excellent bushwalking and countryside, places to eat, friendly people and not far from the coast. Canberra Potters Society is keen to have a closer relationship with potters and ceramic artists in the Wellington region. They want to encourage anyone interested in visiting as a resident potter or to run a workshop for them in Canberra to get in touch through their website. Please note that arrangements will vary and can be negotiated with CPA.

# CLUB EVENTS & NOTICES

**Festival of Pots and  
Garden Art —  
volunteers needed**  
See detail in this newsletter.

Inter-Club Raku July 21st

Mac's Whitestone now in stock

Cleaning Bee July 14th

Clubroom shelves cleared July 7th

## Management Committee

**Patron** Grant McNab

**President** Rod Graham

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## Committee

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## Other Contributors

Club Library & Rooms: Kaye Stead

DVDs and Class Enrolments: Margaret Hunt

New members and Orientation: Stephanie  
Tidman

Newsletter: Anna Wood

Website: Biz Hayman

Social Media: Stacey Young

Cleaning Bees: Stephanie Tidman

Property Maintenance: Brent Craig + Russell  
Kitto

Keys: Stephanie Tidman

Clay: Vacant