Club News

- The AGM was held on 20th August, 2015 and a new committee was elected. Jane Clark (President), Lynne Whitworth (Vice President), Alec Roy (Vice President), Julie Day-Lewis (Secretary), Peter Fitzgerald (Treasurer), Ann Pritchard (member), Dan O’Brien (member), Richard Hobden (member), Alison Fitzgerald (member), Sheryl Field (member).
- Thank you to the previous committee members - Margaret Lingard, Vera Mills, Liz Montgomery, Robyn Judd, Anett Pilz and our interim Chairman, Maurie Merrick. Some of these members have been on the committee for many years and have supported the club with their good judgement and generosity of spirit. None of them are leaving the club so we have the good fortune to continue to pot with them - Jane.
- Reminder for the members’ exhibition on 5th November 2015 at Baycourt.
- The club has a new spray gun. A set of instructions for its use is displayed on the outside fridge.
- After using the spray gun, please remember to bleed the air out of the compressor.
- If members encounter any problem with electricity in the outside (spray booth area) remember that there is an override switch inside the kiln room, located between the gas kiln and large electric kiln.

Recent Feedback From Members:

Lately some mistakes are being made, including - using incorrect firing temperatures, touching and firing others work before it’s ready, leaving a mess in the glaze room - which Alison then must clean up - and interfering with kilns that have been booked and being fired by others (ie, opening doors and/or removing bungs, when the kilns are cooling).

Members should remember to clean and tidy up after themselves, remove their work to the correct area, ie dried work to be bisque to be placed on the bisque shelves and dried work not to be bisque to be taken home as soon as possible.

NEVER touch others work without consulting the owner.
NEVER fire work unless it is either on the glaze shelf or the bisque shelf and labelled by the owner.
NEVER interfere with another person’s kiln while it is firing or cooling.
Spotlight on BPC member - Els Harris

When did you move to the Bay of Plenty?
I arrived in NZ in 1958 and initially lived in Auckland where I worked as a shorthand/typist for an importer and then for Nestle. I have fond memories of eating lots of chocolate in that job.
I met my husband in Auckland then we moved to Tauranga where I then worked for a curtain shop in Piccadilly Arcade.

When did you start potting?
I have been making pieces out of clay for so many years that it’s difficult to pinpoint the exact year but I joined the BPC in 1981. Prior to that I learnt at night school and initially was a member of the Tauranga pottery club. At the night school classes I became friends with a lady who was a member of the Bethlehem Pottery Club and she convinced me to join.

What was it like in the BPC at that time?
In the early years it was a great social environment with lots of fund-raising activities and it was a great group to be part of. It was a time when some things were more difficult to buy in NZ and there was a greater appreciation for hand made ware.

What sort of pottery do you like to make?
Handbuilding. I’ve always liked handbuilding. I like to make birds, especially owls and I’ve often been referred to as the ‘bird lady of Alcatraz’.

Who has been the biggest influence for you in pottery?
Well, I’d have to say Len Castle. Before I made owls, I saw a Len Castle exhibition in Tauranga and his owls were so good that I decided to make owls. Other influences have been Doris Dutch, Chester Nealie and of course Barry Brickell.

Tips for potters....
A clever suggestion from Muriel Hudson on what to do with unwanted pots.
Sometimes we all may have some ‘seconds’ that we don’t want to keep, sell or even give away. Muriel suggests that we can glue them together to make sculptural pieces for the garden and even make ‘strawberry planters’.

Editor’s Note: I couldn’t find a photo example for this but the fish in the photo below looks like it has the potential be made out of discarded pots.

See page 5 for a tip for wood fire stokers

CLUB CLEAN UP...
Coming in September
Can all members check any “stuff” they have lying around and make sure it is in their labelled box or it may get thrown out.
Any solid dried up clay that is not in a labelled box will be recycled for use by the club.
Brendan’s slip recipe for this Technique

Coloured stain - 15-20% of dry clay weight
Abbotts white glaze added at the same amount as the stain
NB: This recipe is for stains only, do not follow this formula if using oxides instead of stains to colour the slip.

Brendon Adams demonstrating Workshp with Brendon Adams

A week-end workshop was held on 1-2 August where Brendon Adams demonstrated a paper transfer technique, using slips to decorate unfired pieces, made on slump molds. Brendon is very proficient at the technique and particularly skilled in the use of drawing onto newsprint using a fine slip trailer, then building up the image using layers of slip on pieces of newsprint, which are then transferred onto clay slabs and dropped into slump molds. Participants were quick to learn that Brendon’s background is in painting so there were a few nervous looks when it was discovered that participants might need to draw on their artistic skills.

There was clearly no need to worry as, by the end of the workshop, the benches were covered in beautiful and artistically creative pieces. The trick being, to work from foreground to background which felt like painting back to front for people who are not used to doing that.

The 2 days were very enjoyable. Brendon was very friendly, was generous with his tuition and support, as well as providing large amounts of coloured slips for use by participants. He also provided lots of different slump molds as well as some useful tips on how to make them.

The shared lunch was great, although it was difficult to get participants to stop drawing, slipping and slabbing in order to have lunch. Such was the enthusiasm in the workshop.

During lunch on the 2nd day Brendon showed images of his exhibition work, many of which were amazing and the group was so interested in his work that in addition to the customary ‘oohs’ and ‘aahs’ there were many serious questions about the methods used in his pieces and Brendon answered the questions fully and provided the group with lots of useful information. All in all, it was a great workshop. Many thanks to Brendon and also to Alison for organizing.

Brendon’s recipe for Magic Water

5 litres water
60 mls Sodium Silicate
10 mls Soda Ash

Classifieds:

FOR SALE:

WANTED: Pottery Wheel in good working order for a student beginner. Contact Laura via Julie Day-Lewis 021 066 0745

WANTED: Electric power mixer drill for stirring glazes at the club. Contact Jane Clark

Members please send to the Editor any items ‘FOR SALE’ or ‘WANTED TO BUY’ to be advertised in future BPC Newsletters
Visit to the ASP Members’ Exhibition by Julie Day-Lewis

A small group of BPC members travelled to Auckland to see the Auckland Studio Potters (ASP) members’ exhibition, held 25 June - 4 July. The exhibition ‘The Vessel : Rethinking Function’ was held at the Allpress Gallery. It was a self-selected exhibition, curated and designed by John Parker.

ASP members were invited to submit “functional” pieces in whatever way that was interpreted, and consequently expressed, by the individual. It was a cold and wet and day but it was well worth the effort as the exhibition was beautifully set up, it is a really nice gallery and the pieces were very inspirational.

Library News

Opportunity to display and sell

The Cargo Shed has invited BPC members to exhibit.

It would involve manning the stall on a regular basis, but could be a great opportunity over the summer.

If you are interested in forming a group to sell work at The Cargo Shed please email (janeclark52@gmail.com) or phone Jane on 552 0046.

Tip for wood fire stokers
(from Ceramics Monthly, Feb 2002)

Cut off the legs of old jeans, slide them onto your arms as sleeves in order to protect you forearms. Put on your gloves to help hold them in place.

If the sleeves become too hot they will be much easier to remove than a jacket or a long-sleeved shirt.

Simply flinging your arms towards the ground and the gloves and sleeves slide right off.

* The jeans material must be natural fibres for this tip (ie, cotton).

Editor’s Note: If anyone follows this tip at next week’s wood firing, can someone please take a photo!

Equipment Repairs and Maintenance

If you notice that a piece of equipment is broken or not operating correctly, please write it up in the “Repairs/Ordering” red exercise book.