Welcome to Autumn! Well the leaves are changing colour and are now falling. The programme for the year started with Andrew Carran’s excellent workshop using terra sigillata from his garden and other local sources. We have more very interesting workshops to come. See inside for details.

As you all know now, the tableware exhibition has been cancelled again this year. While we are disappointed, the organisers felt they had no choice once again. The museum is closed for approximately three months! Here’s hoping that our exhibition later in the year can go ahead at the museum.

The club offers its condolences to the Trumic family and the Higgs family, who have both lost loved ones recently.

Looking back to February, the Avice Hill open day was very well attended on a much nicer day than most over the summer. Lots of raku pots were fired and many kids of all ages had a go on the pottery wheels, keeping our able volunteers busy. A really positive spinoff of the day was the starting up of two childrens’ classes, run by Jane McCulla.

We have welcomed Bishopdale pottery to our clubrooms and are all enjoying their company and the fresh inspiration they bring. We also welcome new members Adrian Barnett, Dianne Fox and Patricia James.

Remember we have the AGM and auction on Friday 22 June. We look forward to seeing you all there, with goods to sell or intentions to purchase! Think about joining our committee – many hands make light work. Unfortunately, the time has come to “get tough” on subscriptions. A number of members have outstanding subs, which we must now call in. If your newsletter has a red dot, we need your 2010/11 subscription by the AGM.

Good potting – the time to start making pots for our exhibition in November is right now!

- Terry Gallie

What's on...

May

Neil Hey workshop
Gas firing tutorial and firing
Fri 18-Sat 19

June

Chris Weaver Workshop
Sat 9 and Sun 10, 9.30-4pm
Thrown and altered forms

CPA Annual General Meeting
Fri 22, 6.30pm
AGM, auction and supper

July

Darryl Frost Woodfire Masterclass
Fri 6 (7-9pm), Sat 7 and Sun 8.

August

Jane McCulla Workshop
Thrown and altered forms.

September

Frederika Ernsten Spring School
Sat 8 and Sun 9
Intermediate throwing skills
WOODSTOKE 2012 - a Blazing Success!

A report on the NZ National Woodfire Conference at Whangamata by Jane McCulla

Clay, wood, flames and pyromaniacs all at a National Conference! Focusing on woodfiring, the conference was first of its kind in NZ. I had to go! It’s always a pleasure to attend pottery conferences, discuss clay, techniques, firings, and to meet with like-minded enthusiasts.

Organised by Janet Smith, Duncan Shearer and Maureen Allison, it was held at Maureen’s farm outside Whangamata where she has an Anagama and a salt kiln. Another salt kiln and soda kiln were constructed the week previously. Experimental kilns were constructed by Yuri Weidenhofer (Australia), Darryl Frost (Nelson), Mike O’Donnell (Paeora), Gyan Daniel Wall (Golden Bay) and Americans Lois Kittelson and Marshall Maude.

Duncan and Janet were in charge of salt and soda kilns, firing for six hours on the Saturday. Earlier firings were at Maureen’s Anagama and Mike O’Donnell’s two chambered Anagama with Chester Nealie. Delegates had sent bisqued pieces to the venues to have them fired, heightening the inclusiveness and community spirit often present at these firings.

The workshops were very hands on and enormously successful for those wishing to gain knowledge on the mystique and idiosyncrasies of woodfiring. The woodfiring community of potters is renowned for its strong international bond of friendship. Janet Mansfield from Australia is a key figure in my opinion, promoting woodfiring and introducing opportunities to raise the profile of a truly wonderful, historic, experimental, mindfully chaotic, yet highly rewarding technique. Each potter had their own story: how they succumbed to woodfiring, recalling a specific pot, potter or firing that set their minds racing.

The conference offered the chance to be involved and grasp the challenge of ‘woodfire speak’: path of the flame, heavy reduction, stoking shifts, shino blushes, light hues, flame heights and tumble stacking. There were helpful demonstrations on an original Bernard Leach kick wheel by Chester Nealie followed by Darryl Frost, showing individual techniques on how to create a vessel that will best succumb to the flame’s path, enhancing the subtle surface of the form. I had to laugh when Chester announced to the audience that none of his pots had ‘botox’! He preferred “warts and all” on his forms - what might be considered a blemish could be rendered a very aesthetically pleasing embellishment in a firing.

In an old barn, various potters gave insight into their individual clay practice. There was an interesting overview of woodfirings internationally from Coll Minogue and Colin Sanderson who have contributed enormously to the woodfire scene by writing and editing ‘The Log Book’, (a quarterly publication well worth subscribing to!) as well as numerous books.
Pots fired in the experimental kilns were mostly under-fired due to short firing times, but the results from Mike O'Donnell's kiln were stunning. I was in awe at Chester Nealie's inspirational shino pots; he is so willing to share his experience. I think most potters involved in that firing will be very pleased with the results. It takes time to understand where to place certain pots, how to place them and then the actual firings, often over three or more days, present a huge gamble to the inexperienced woodfirer. Interpreting the fired results is another challenge, understanding the often Zen Buddhist nuances of woodfire pottery and viewing a piece with a very ephemeral tale to tell is out of reach for some, but hugely rewarding for others. The conference was an introduction to the artful nature of woodfiring.

Another unmissable highlight was the unforgettable sight of Peter Lange and Ian Smail, hammering out ‘Great Balls of Fire’ on a fiercely burning piano with burning footballs hurtling down a hill towards them! Think they got a few singed whiskers out of that escapade!

The National Annual Potters Exhibition was displayed in a woodworking factory - rather too casual and distracting when viewing the pieces in my opinion. See NZSP website for awards and exhibits. Following the conference, the tour to Barry Brickell’s and an exhibition at Tirau were very enjoyable even though the weather had resorted to rain, or ‘liquid sunshine’ as we refer to it in Ireland!

To conclude, I could wax lyrical about my experiences at the conference! Having gone to Gulgong in Australia, (a mecca, for woodfire enthusiasts) and then Woodfire Tasmania 2011, I feel the NZ Woodstoke event was of great benefit to the pottery scene in New Zealand. Hopefully more woodfire conferences will be held here. The huge commitment is ultimately very worthwhile. See more information and photos of the event at www.woodstoke.co.nz

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**Kids' Pottery Classes**

**Canterbury Potters, Avice Hill, 395 Memorial Ave, Christchurch**

Jane McCulla, local ceramic artist is teaching kids lots about clay, introducing different techniques, making pots etc and having lots of fun! Classes are held on **Mondays 4.00-5.30 or Fridays 4.00-5.30**

The cost is **$80** and all materials and firings are included.

Contact Jane for more information: Email: janemcculla@gmail.com Phone: 0226353911
**Chris Weaver Thrown and Altered Forms**

**June 9 and 10**  
$90.00  
“I will demonstrate a variety of throwing and altering techniques that I have developed over more than 30 years as a studio potter. The workshop will focus on tableware, emphasising design and function. I will include a powerpoint slide show of my work.”

To book your place, email canterburypotters@gmail.com or put your name on the form on the noticeboard.

Pay on the day.

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**Mt Pleasant Pottery Weekend School**

June 16 and 17  
Mt Pleasant Pottery Group is hosting an exciting two day weekend school. With six local experts, this event is a bit like a mini convention with demonstrations running parallel throughout the weekend!

Participating potters are Kim Henderson, Averill Cave, Neil Hey and Hugh Rickard, Yi-Ming Lin and Ngaire Van grondelle. See the programme on the club noticeboard

This workshop will appeal to many people interested in ceramics as a very wide range of clay work is being covered. See the programme and poster on the noticeboard at the clubrooms. This is a great initiative that will appeal to anyone working with clay

Venue: Halswell Pottery 9  
Candys Road, Halswell  
Cost: Two days = $85  
$50 for one day or two half-days)  
Bring: a plate for a shared lunch.  
Booking: contact:  
Geneviève Forrester  
g-g.forrester@xtra.co.nz or  
phone 329 9659

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**CPA AGM and Auction**

Friday June 22 – 6.30pm

It’s that time of the year again, to get together and discuss all things relating to our club. While it has been difficult for many of us, there is now a real buzz around the place, so it is a great time to be getting involved. Come to the meeting and have your say. Think about joining the committee – no pressure, but it would be great to have some new faces (or the return of some familiar ones).

As usual, we will hold an auction of anything our members wish to donate. This includes things pottery-related – tools, glazes, materials, books, magazines and pots. But we are happy to receive any donations, including baking, produce and other interesting bits and pieces. Celebrity auctioneer Alex Prentice will take the floor for us, once again. See you all there!

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**Darryl Frost: Masterclass in woodfiring**

**July Sat 7 and Sun 8**  
$100.00  
Everyone welcome – including beginners! The only criteria is enthusiasm! The focus is on thinking, creating and constructing pots for wood firing,

Friday evening: 6.45 p.m. Class participants bring a shared plate for dinner- to meet Daryl. He will outline his intentions for the masterclass and show videos and some work from exhibitions. Venue is Lyanne Fitzgibbon’s, 3 Dinglebay Place, Casebrook.

Saturday and Sunday 9-4 pm at CPA rooms

- Making own clay – turning found clay into clay for pots and forms.
- Demonstrating combining clays when throwing
- Making tea bowls/cups/bigger pots/slab construction.

Bring: “found” clay, If you can find and bring your own raw clay that would be great. Otherwise you can use Slab.
Ceramics Monthly Emerging Artist – Kim Henderson

We were delighted to receive this message from Kim, telling us of her recent success. Here's what she had to say:

"Hi there CanterburyPotters, I thought you may like to share the good news of what this CPA member is up to ...!? It may inspire others too.
My ceramic work has been selected for the American magazine Ceramics Monthly - May issue. My ceramic work will feature along side fourteen emerging ceramic artists picked from an international field of entrants for their Emerging Artists feature this May.
In conjunction with this, it is on their website - Ceramic Arts Daily and running it as a Peoples Choice' award/competition.
You can vote for me in the the Peoples Choice Award.. CPA support would be great! Us Kiwis can do it!"

Your Committee

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Jane McCulla

Situation Vacant - Cleaner

We are sorry to receive the resignation of our cleaner Rebecca, who has done such a great job for us over the past year or so. This leaves us looking for a new cleaner to keep us up to scratch going forward, especially given the busy year we are currently enjoying. The job entails three hours a week during the teaching year – about 40 weeks. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please contact Terry Gallie or Helen.Kendrick