

Mt Pleasant Pottery Group Inc.
Mt Pleasant Community Centre, McCormacks Bay Road,
Christchurch 8008
www.mtpleasantpottery.org.nz



Newsletter June 2009

President's bi-monthly report

July/August

Another two months, including the shortest day of the year, have gone by. The good thing about this is that the winter is half over and I could do with a bit of lovely warmer weather.

The 2009 exhibition is now well behind us. I would like to thank all who worked so hard to make it a success. We could not have had a worse week weather wise but it was a great exercise for the club to go to the Christchurch Art Centre. For those who did not see the exhibition, you can now see it on NZPotters.com. Click on exhibitions and there we are.

I would like to congratulate the winners of the merit awards: Di Fox with her black and white plate and Liz Walker with one of her Raku pieces. The premier award was given to me, which embarrassed me but I honestly had nothing to do with choosing it. I do not think that many potters realise the work involved in setting up an exhibition and so I would like to especially thank the members of the committee who worked so hard as well as those who submitted their work for selection.

We have received good comments about the standard of our work from the general public. We also have a few new members thanks to it. Some of the clubs asked us to keep sending our newsletters to them to keep them up to date with what we are doing. The next exhibition is the Canterbury Fired Up show in the Canterbury Museum late March 2010. That may look a long way away but we need to start working towards this as the time is not all that long and as we all know disappears fast. This is the second of the club exhibitions and it would be good to have a good representation from our club this time.

We are now thinking about alternative outside firings and would like to start sorting out when to fire a salt, gas, pit and/or raku firings. So it is up to you to start making work for these firings so when we do set a date all members will be able to join in. If you are interested you need to tell us in order for us to work out which firing to organize first. We will put up a list for you to put your name on in the rooms or send me an email.

Frederika Ernsten

Membership Fee

There are still some members who have not paid their subscription. Our year ends in November. November is not that far away and the subs will be due again at that time. The committee would appreciate it if you could settle your sub if you haven't paid for this year yet, Please!

Frederika Ernsten

Event Calendar 2009

- Wednesday July 8 **Club Night with Jane O'Neill**
Paper Clay and it's sculptural application.
Jane is a local ceramic artist who does sculptural work exclusively. She builds her sculptures up usually in paper clay and with under glaze colours. Her work is very fine, intricately detailed, very closely observed and attended to and often fired many times. Jane works small sculptural pieces that usually reflect people, their feelings, desires, wishes and longings. Her work is inspired by daily events, current affairs or a poem. Jane's sculptures can be enjoyed on many levels.
- Wednesday Aug 12 **Club Night with Shona**
Glaze Making
Understanding glaze materials, what they are and what happens to them when they melt together at different temperatures.
- Wednesday Sept 8 **Club Night with Renate**
Understanding clays and their qualities.
Porcelain, earthenware, stoneware, terracotta... what does it mean in quality, firing temperature, glaze, firing method.... Bring a pot or two to analyse: what is it and how was it made.
- Wednesday Nov 11 **Club Night: AGM and world famous annual auction with Shona**

Club nights are usually on the second Wednesday of the month starting at 7:30 pm. For any ideas and suggestions or to offer interesting and enriching topics and demonstrations please Renate on 388 64 80 or email renate@LRF.gen.nz .

Classes Semester 2

We start the second 16 week term again the week of July 20.

Our classes are full, but we have started advertising for the children's classes. We are looking forward to have as successful at last as the first term.

Monday Night Class	start 29/06/2009
Tuesday Night Class	start 28/07/2009
Thursday Morning Class	start 30/07/2009
Saturday Children's Class	start 01/08/2009

The Crazy Potter

May club night was a stimulating evening with Linda Wilson a potter from South Africa who had found our club via our web site and was in Christchurch visiting family with a view to immigrating. Linda has a ceramics studio in Fouriesburg in the Free State Province.

Linda outlined her approach, discussed technical aspects of slip casting, clays and glazing. The discussion was lively as we wandered on to the issues of intellectual property and cultural symbols and iconography. Linda finds her inspiration from Art Nouveau patterns, nature and the textural influences of African art and the African landscape. The earthy colours and hues used on her pieces are a direct link to the environment in which she lives and works. The unique shapes of the pieces are designed and made by Linda from start to finish.



Linda studied Ceramic Design at Wits Technikon and received her National Higher Diploma in 1996. The Crazy Potter Studio has recently employed 3 local ladies who are being trained by Linda to be able to run the production line



and so increase the production rate of Crazy potter pots. The studio currently supplies outlets across South Africa, the USA, the Netherlands and in Namibia.

Geoff Pearman

Check out Linda's work at, www.lindawilsonceramics.co.za www.crazypotter-studio.com
www.lindoro.eu

Ballantyne's National Tableware Exhibition

The members of Canta Clay (members of the NZPotters Ass.) are organising the bi-annual National Ballantyne's Tableware show. This year it will be in the Coca Gallery in September. Financial members of the NZPotters are eligible. If any Mt Pleasant members would like to enter you can do so if you are not yet a member of NZ Potters by joining during the receiving time. Receiving day is September 2/3 2- 3.30pm at the Canterbury Potters Ass. Rooms, 395 Memorial Avenue.

The exhibition will be open to the public from September 23 - October 10, 10.00am to 3.00pm

Frederika Ernten

Canterbury Potters Annual Exhibition

Receiving day Thursday October 15 for members of the Canterbury Potters.

Note: Renate Geletzka and Frederika Ernten have postponed their exhibition in the Cloisters Gallery

Canterbury Fired Up 2

In 2008 the Canta Clay group organised the “Canterbury Fired Up” exhibition, this was such a success that it was decided to make it a Bi - Annual event. The visitor’s gallery, in the Canterbury Museum has been booked for the second half of March 2010.

Anyone belonging to a group or club in Canterbury and Westland is entitled to join in as long as the group also belongs to the NZPotters. Potters do not have to be an individual member of the NZPotters.

We would like as many groups to be involved with this and it is up to members to start making pots for this event.

This exhibition will be a selected exhibition and there will be an entry fee.

This is a good opportunity for potters who never show their work in public exhibitions and for all clubs to get extra public exposure. If you have not started making work for this exhibition yet, please start as this is a selected exhibition and it is important that we join in with the other groups.

The Pot Shop Exhibition

1 July to 28 July	On Show: Mary Lou Foate and Mary Bartos
29 July to 1 Sept	Great Creations by members of the Risingholme Community Pottery
2 Sept to 29 Sept	Work by members of the Halswell Pottery Club
30 Sept to 27 Oct	New work by Shona Clarkson and Julie Bartlett.

Tips and Tricks and Websites

* Save tomato sauce/mustard squeeze bottles - good for putting slip in (just squeeze out) no messy brushes etc

* When making glazes, always put water in to your bucket first

* Two interesting wood firing sites: www.robertcomptonpottery.com/
www.woodfiring.com/kenpottery.html

* Find pictures of our very own 2009 exhibition at the Cloisters on the NZ Potters site:
www.nzpotters.com/Exhibitions/Exhibitions.cfm

* www.lopdell.org.nz the site for the yearly portage ceramics exhibition

* If you want to know what’s on at the Christchurch Art Gallery go to:
www.christchurchartgallery.org.nz/Events/

For any contributions to **Tips, Tricks and Websites** please email Renate on renate@LRF.gen.nz or ring 388 64 80

Clay Purchases

The club has clay supplies available for members and can be purchased from our rooms. As there is no way we can have someone there to help you with the sales it is very important that whoever buys clay, fills in the book for clay sales and the front of the envelopes provided and located in the drawer of the table closest to the door, We need your name, amount paid, what clay you bought and the date. Often people leave the money but details and we do not know what it is for or who paid it. Please help us to keep our records straight by writing these details clearly on the envelope.

Frederika Ernsten

Kiln Course

Anyone interested in a kiln course please put your name down at the club room (the blackboard by the door). We will run the course when we have a minimum of 8 people.

Can anyone help?

I received the following email from one of our new members Gillian Weavers (info@gill.co.nz)

"I am a new member of the club and I have been offered some very old McPherson's Quality pottery clay "1100" & #18 stoneware. It is old and needs to be reconstituted - do you know what it is or have you heard about it. It looks to be like a Terracotta. I am wondering if it will be suitable for club use/firing/glazes etc."

Any thoughts send Gillian an email.

Frederika Ernsten

Mt Pleasant Pottery Group Committee members

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