

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



Newsletter

4/4/2009

President's bi-monthly report

March/April

On the 31st of January, twelve of our members came together to clean our clubrooms. I would like to thank all who worked hard that morning and made the rooms look a lot more enjoyable to be in. If all, who use the rooms this year could clean everything they use, put all items back where they belong, we should keep the place good to work in all year. We worked till about 12 o'clock and went home after a well-earned cup of tea.

The word is everywhere: **Conservation** of electricity, water, recycle everything possible that can be saved. We all should do as much as needed to save the planet for future generations to have the same opportunities we have today. Why is it that in pottery rooms we abuse this by filling kilns half and leaving water dripping, wheels turned and so on and so on. In our club we were guilty of this most weeks last year, with our kiln firings in particular. Wheels were not turned off last week when we arrived in class on Thursday. The committee would like to change this so we have set up a system where it should no longer be necessary for members to fire a kiln with one shelf of pots. When I questioned it last year, the answer was usually: "but we pay for it". However that is not the point, it is a waste of electricity and we could be more efficient and professional. You do not have to be a professional potter but you can have a professional attitude to your hobby. At our teachers meeting it was agreed that we have an area of shelves where member who would like to fire some work, can leave it and we will put it in the next kiln that is going to be used. More about this later.

The beginning of the year party was a great success about 30 members with children and their partners turned up. Lots of beautiful food and a responsible amount of wine were consumed. Hopefully we will see more of our members at our next event.

Our exhibition is coming closer and I hope that all of you are looking forward to the opening as we would like a lot of people to be there to celebrate the showing off, of our group to the Christchurch public. I have been asked why we are going out of the community centre this time? The change of location and time of year is not a whim of the new committee but was decided by the last year's committee. I do however think that it is a good idea to try something new.

I am looking forward to a good year with plenty stimulation, good firings and fantastic pots.

Frederika Ernsten

If your annual subscription (\$45.00) is now overdue please pay by leaving your payment at the club rooms in the box or post direct to Ken Doidge 48 Mathesons Road Linwood.

Report on Club Night with Gaye Morton

What an interesting and inspiring evening we had! Some 18 of our new and long term members turned up for an information packed and very enjoyable time. Gaye was very generous in sharing her expertise and skills.

Gaye had an assortment of pots on which she demonstrated her very free flowing and relaxed style of slip decoration. Here are just a few points that I found interesting and worth remembering:

- To achieve a soft look, Gaye decorates on leather hard
- Don't wash your paint brushes and the colours aren't so harsh
- An 'atomiser' is used for the spray décor; usually a tool for water colours. It could be purchased at places like 'The Drawing Room' or 'Gordon Harris'.
- Gaye prefers the casual look, air brush would be too controlled
- For this style of decorating, slip needs to be watered down considerably
- Gaye uses paper clay slurry for all her joints
- To transfer sketches from paper to clay, outline with charcoal (on window) then rub onto slab

Thanks so much to Gaye

Renate

Club Night with Julie Wed 8 Apr 7-9pm

Hocus Pocus ...Let's make Glaze

Julie will be demystifying the glaze recipe and we will be mixing/testing a couple of glaze recipes. Be sure you have some bisque tiles or bisque ware on which to test.

Kiln Course with Shona Sat 18 Apr 1pm

Anyone interested in learning about how to fire the Mt Pleasant kilns there will be an introductory 2 hours talk on Saturday 18 April at 1pm. This is to introduce you to the way we load and run the kilns. You will be required to load 3 bisque and 3 gloss kilns under supervision before you can operate on your own, this can be done with your tutor or arrange time with Pat James or Shona Clarkson.

For interest please enrol with Shona Clarkson 385 9821.

Weekend School with Chris Weaver 9-10 May

We will have an exciting weekend school with Chris Weaver coming up later this year. Please pencil this date in to your diaries now!

Chris lives and works in Hokitika on the West Coast. He is an exceptional thrower who works very fine and fast and alters thrown forms of domestic ware transforming them into exquisite domestic objects, at times incorporating wooden knobs and handles. To whet your appetite go see some of Chris's work at the Cave Rock Gallery in the Arts Centre and at times at Form Gallery or: www.chrisweaver.co.nz

Mt Pleasant Annual Exhibition at the Arts Centre 19-25 May 2009

Cloister Gallery, Art Centre Christchurch

Receiving Day: May 7th 2009, Thursday 1-3:30 pm to the Mt Pleasant Pottery Rooms.

Selection Day: May 8th 2009

Entry forms are included in this newsletter.

If you are willing to help, please let Frederika know, either ring **03 310 0630** or preferable, e-mail me at Frederika@cyberxpress.co.nz.

Tips and Tricks and Websites

- To outline designs on bisc and raw ware, use a soft pencil (B 4 or B 6), it will not scratch the pot and will disappear during firing.
- Windows Paint Brush Program can be used for designing patterns and colour combinations
- Have a clear goal before you start working: like "I'm making cups", not "let's see what this will turn into?"
- Old guitar strings can be used for cutting wires
- 'Cool Ice' porcelain will be translucent in electric kiln at cone 4 to 5
- To ensure even drying, turn your pot up side down as soon as you can without distortion.
- How to make Terra Sigilata, go to www.digifire
- Go to www.claystation.com/gallery/index.php to find out more about wood firings
- Always switch electric kiln off when loading or unloading
- For economic reasons, always fill a kiln as much as possible. Try to avoid firing only a few pieces as this is very wasteful. Try and share a kiln with a friend.
- When cooling a kiln wait to at least 100 C before opening lid.

For any contributions to Tips, Tricks and Websites please email Renate on renate@LRF.gen.nz or ring 388 6480

Angle Grinder

One member received an electric shock while trying to use the angle grinder recently. The cord of the appliance had been badly damaged in two places. A new grinder will have to be bought. It will cost the Club around \$70. We could have spend that money otherwise.

Now, using an angle grinder is not rocket science. Like other electric appliances with a cord, you are suppose TO KEEP THIS CORD OUT OF THE GRINDING END of the appliance!!!

If you have any problem using the angle grinder, please don't hesitate to ask a tutor or a Committee member. They will be delighted to help you.

If you do inadvertently damage equipment could you let a member of the committee know.

Geneviève

Wanted

Our corrugated iron for the pit kiln has rusted out. If anyone has got two sheets that they do not want contact Shona 3859821 or drop in the kiln yard thanks.

For Sale

Talisman electric wheel good going order contact Shona 385 9821

A reminder for all club members

People who use the club room please clean the room afterwards and not leave anything on the floor, under the shelves or on the benches. Before leaving the rooms, please double check all doors, water running, and wheels are turned off.

Gael and Di are tidying up the glaze materials in the cupboards. Anybody who has clear plastic containers (any size) to donate to the club would be appreciated.

Di Fox is also our one and only official buyer of all items we need in our room, this includes glaze materials, so if you think there is something we need contact Di at 384 5270

If you would like your work fired and you have not enough for a full load, Please join with another member to fill kiln or put in on the designated shelf. You need to leave a note with your name and the temperature you would like to fire your work at. If you fire your own kiln, you need to fill in the kiln book (housing in the drawer of the large table by the kilns). Also it has been a long standing rule that kilns and fans have to be turned off at the end of the firing. If you are unable to do so yourself, Di Fox, Ph 384 5270 and Geoff Pearman, Ph 384 7236 who live close by and have kindly offered to do this for you if you ring them first.

Here is an interesting website to visit, it is from Linda Wilson, who is from South Africa and is thinking of immigrating to New Zealand. She is visiting Christchurch in May and we may have an extra evening with her in our rooms sometime in May, we will let you know.

www.lindawilsonceramics.co.za

Visiting Wellington

I am in Wellington most weeks with my work and had a couple of spare hours last week so headed down to the Wellington Museum (not Te Papa) and spent a very interesting hour at the **Shaped by Hand: 1957 – 2009 NZ Potters Inc** exhibition. This is a retrospective including a selection of 52 pots from the “nationals” over the past 50 years. They have been brought together from private and public collections from throughout the country. While I don't think the curating of the exhibition did the items justice it was interesting to view works by some of NZ's leading potters. It was also interesting to reflect on whose work had not been selected.

So if you have a spare hour in Wellington I can recommend the exhibition which is free of charge and open through until 28 June. I have a copy of the catalogue if anyone would like to see the selection.

Geoff Pearman

Mt Pleasant Pottery Group Committee members

President Frederika Ernsten Newsletter assistant	03 310 0630	Frederika@cyberxperss.co.nz president@mtpleasantpottery.org.nz
Vice President Renate Galetzka Programme	388 6480	lrf@lrf.gen.nz
Secretary Genevieve Forrester	329 9659	g-g.forrester@xtra.co.nz secretary@mtpleasantpottery.org.nz
Treasurer Ken Doidge	981 2863	ken.d@midlandbrick.co.nz treasurer@mtpleasantpottery.org.nz
Immediate Past President Helen Campbell	960 6138	a-h-campbell@clear.net.nz
Committee Dianne Fox Clay Supplies, MPCC liaison	384 5270	foxs@clear.net.nz
Faye Pearson-Green Enrolment & Membership	332 0492	Fayeandchris@xtra.co.nz classes@mtpleasantpottery.org.nz
Jane Boxley Membership	981 2422	Jane.Boxley@asure.co.nz
Geoff Pearman Marketing, Publicity	384 7236	geoffpearman@xtra.co.nz
Helen Wong Newsletter	021 168 7655	helen.wong@ritchiescoachlines.co.nz
Denys Hadfield Librarian		haddy@slingshot.co.nz
Other appointments: Pat James Kiln bookings	384 9446	jamesdp@xtra.co.nz

Mt Pleasant Annual Exhibition Entry Form

Cloister Gallery, Christchurch Art Centre

Receiving days: Thursday May 7, 2009; from 1- 3.30pm.

Mt Pleasant Pottery Rooms, McCormacks Bay.

Please complete and submit **BOTH** forms. Please **PRINT** clearly.

Entry Form A: will be retained by exhibition organisers

Name _____ E Mail _____

Address _____ Phone _____

	Title	Medium	Price
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Form B. Will be returned after selection

Name _____ E Mail _____

Address _____ Phone _____

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