

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



Mt Pleasant
pottery group

Newsletter May 2009

President's bi-monthly report

It is time again to write about what is happening in our club. The last two months have once again flown and the exhibition which was safely in the future is now a fact.

The kilns have been going most of the last two months and the members have given their pots for selection. Pots for selection were submitted by 21 of our members with a total of 154 pots received. The selection had to be heavy as the room we are having our exhibition is a lot smaller than the rooms we previous showed out work in. In the end 76 pieces were chosen.

Chris Weaver wrote a selectors comment, which is later in this newsletter. He did not want to write individual comments as they would have to be repeated most of the time.

The exhibition is now on and if you have not been to the Art Centre to have a look at it yet: Please do so, it is an exhibition with a lot of variety.

I would like to thank all members of our committee, who worked hard and are at this time still working to make this exhibition a success.

Thank you to all of you who now have paid your subscription.

Frederika Ernten

Mount Pleasant Pottery Group Exhibition

Thank you for the invitation to select this exhibition. Solo selection is always a very subjective exercise but apart from the award winners, I have tried to put aside personal preferences. I was pleased to see the quality of the pieces offered for selection despite the varying levels of experience.

I thought it was appropriate to include work from every person that submitted as a representation of the group as a whole. I also selected with the vision of how the exhibition would be viewed, not only groups of individuals' works but also the overall impression.

The limitation of space meant that I could only select half of what was submitted. Some pieces were left out because they detracted from other stronger pieces by the same

exhibitor and I felt it was important to showcase the best. Some, but not many of the pieces offered, were poorly executed and had obvious flaws and probably should have been self-selected out instead of trying to submit the total number of pieces allowable.

Three pieces really stood out for me which made the selection of the award winners an easy choice. They showed good design and craftsmanship and competency with clay and glaze. I felt honoured to be guest exhibitor and selector and heartened that, despite the decline of pottery groups nationwide, the Mount Pleasant Pottery Group is indeed thriving.

Chris Weaver

Round is boring!

Spending a weekend workshop with Chris Weaver exposed the 14 who attended not only to his skills and methods but to a person who was generous in sharing his ideas and who quietly shared with us his evolving journey from the time he discovered clay as a young child.

To return to the “round is boring” comment. Chris is a clean fast thrower on the wheel, no careful weighing of clay just an intuitive sense of what is needed after 30 years potting. To watch him pull a pot quickly and cleanly and then transform it into an oval bowl, a teapot, a container, none of which resembled the pulled pot he started with was treat. One of his early inspirations that has subsequently played out through the unique form he has developed was an old cast iron domestic iron found clearing out a deceased estate. He recalled liking the shape, the handle and the weight. Chris also spoke of often discovering new forms through mistakes or accidents that he kept on his shelves and allowing the idea to form in his imagination over time.



Chris had an array of specially crafted tools; most formed from rata driftwood gathered from the West Coast beaches. His cutting wires were made from guitar strings and strung between two smooth round stones again from the beach. There was his heavy-duty twisted cutting wire on a bow saw like frame that enabled him to cut clay and leaving wonderful patterns that graced the bottom of his bowls or the ends of his teapots. We all had a go with the cutting wire with varying results. Finally there was the platter thrown on the wheel, the surface carefully cut to give it an interesting pattern and then stretched to an oval shape and draped over a basketball covered with foam.

What better way to spend a wet and cold weekend than to be inspired by a master potter.

Check out his website and be inspired <http://www.chrisweaver.co.nz/>

Geoff Pearman

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

Cloister Gallery, Art Centre Christchurch
Opening night 6pm 19 May 2009

STOP PRESS

Around 60 people turned out on a wet blustery evening for the opening. The top award was given to Fredericka Ernten, a merit award for Liz Walker and the student prize to Di Fox.

Summary of Club Night with Julie 8 Apr 09

A very informative and enjoyable back to basics glaze evening. Julie stripped back some recipes for us and explained what role all the different ingredients play - very helpful for those new to glazing and definitely a few penny-dropping moments even for the more experienced amongst us. We made 2 different base recipes and then added colorants to each so we each ended up with 4 test tiles as well as a bit more confidence and better understanding of glazing - and the recipes of course!

Jane Boxley

Renate Geletzka, Frederika Ernten and Elaine Armstrong Exhibition

Elaine is a printer and water color artist and with Renate and Frederika will be staging a combined exhibition of their work in the Cloister Gallery from 23-29th of June.

We would like to invite all our members to come and visit us while we are there.

The Canta Clay members

(NZPotters Ass. members) are at this time organizing the bi-Annual National Ballantynes Tableware show. This year it will be at the Coca Gallery Gloucester St. Christchurch, in September, eligible are all financial members of the NZPotters.

If any of you like to enter and you are not a member yet, you can become a member at the time of the receiving of the work, more about this next time.

Bi – Annual Canterbury Club exhibition

In 2008 the Canta Clay group organized 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 Christchurch museum has been booked for the second half of March 2010.

Anyone belonging to a group or club in Canterbury and Westland are entitled to join in as long as the group 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 your 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 good extra exposure.

General Business

We have talked about the cleaning of the rooms in the last two newsletters but forgot to talk about the cleaning of the kiln shelves and the kiln itself.

If glaze is spilled on the shelves it is the responsibility of the potter who made the mess to clean it. Most of us take it for granted that this is so but there are still some of our members who are leaving the shelves and the kiln not as they found it.

We the committee hope that we are all responsible enough to do this without us having to police this.

Frederika Ernten

Halswell Pottery Pizza Lunch Invitation

On Saturday 25th of April a few of us visited the Halswell Pottery Group who had invited the Mt Pleasant Pottery Group for lunch. On arrival the Pizza oven was hot waiting for the pizza’s to be put in. There were a great selection of pizzas made by their members and as soon as they came out of the oven they were cut and eaten.

They were so delicious that we never got to the table which was waiting but stood by the oven and ate. Unfortunately there were not too many potters there as the date did not suit many. It was agreed to do it again on another date in the future.

Frederika Ernten

Mt Pleasant Pottery Group Committee members

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