

**Mt Pleasant Pottery Group Inc.**  
Mt Pleasant Community Centre, McCormacks Bay Road, Christchurch  
8008  
[www.mtpleasantpottery.org.nz](http://www.mtpleasantpottery.org.nz)



## **Bi-Monthly Newsletter November-December 2009**

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### **President's bi-monthly report**

#### **November/December**

When you get this newsletter we will be in the last two months of the year. It is now nearly a year ago that I became president and the year seems to have flown. The classes are now in the last term with members firing and working towards Christmas. Several gas firings and another wood firing are being organised for the coming months.

With the National Ballantyne Tableware over it is now time to start sorting out the Canterbury Fired Up exhibition, a reminder for this is later in the newsletter. For the Tableware exhibition, we received 178 entries from 43 members of the NZPotters. 87 entries were accepted from 31 potters, along with the work of the two guest exhibitors. The work that was not accepted was primarily due to items being badly crafted, poorly decorated or having very dull glazes. It was also interesting and disappointing that 65 of the entries accepted were either bowls or plates. While I know that a bowl or plate can be best for showing off a good glaze or decoration, it is disappointing that potters cannot go further and demonstrate craftsmanship in other forms.

If you look in the shops, which are selling pots you will find that bowls and plates are now dominating the space. I wonder, are potters just lazy or can they not make any other types of pots? If potters call themselves craft people then in my opinion they should be able to show more than two items, otherwise they should call themselves bowl makers and be done with it. When I asked why, the answer from both potters and the public was that they thought that bowls were about the only form that could be described as tableware. I wonder what table potters were thinking of, as there are an unbelievable range of items on a table, or any other surface for that matter.

The exhibition looked great. The COCA Gallery is spacious and made the tableware look fantastic. I hope however that when we do this show again we see pots other than the usual bowls.

Frederika Ersten

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## Club night with Renate 8 Sep 09

There were only a few members attending the September Club Night on "Understanding clays and their qualities". Renate first drew up a large summary table with the different types of clays and we all interactively worked out their respective properties. Renate brought along a lot of items made from different types of clay, and we learned how to recognise them. Technically a very interesting club night. Thank you Renate!

Geneviève

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## Upcoming Events

11 November 2009 7:30pm Wednesday

### **AGM and World Famous Annual Auction with acclaimed auctioneer Shona Clarkson**

The committee is looking forward to seeing you all there.

We will have the meeting first and the auction afterwards. Donations will be appreciated and our very own auctioneer Shona will be in attendance.

The AGM is a opportunity for members to either join the committee or tell us what they would like to happen in the coming year. Or on the other hand suggesting any changes they would like considered.

We are looking forward to some positive ideas and/or feedback. This is the time for your voice to be heard.

Saturday 30 January 2010

### **Start of Year Cleaning of the Club Rooms**

Starting at 9:30 am. Bring your own cleaning tools. If you can't make the cleaning, morning tea is always a hit.

Please remove all of your raw and bisc work from the shelves, all unclaimed work will be donated or disposed of.

Club nights are usually on the second Wednesday of the month starting at 7:30 pm. Any ideas and suggestions for interesting and enriching topics and demonstrations please ring Renate on 388 64 80 or email [renate@LRF.gen.nz](mailto:renate@LRF.gen.nz) .

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## Canterbury Fired Up 2 (reminder)

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.

Have you started to make or are you keeping pots for this exhibition yet? If not, there is not that long left with the Christmas coming in between.

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## Canterbury Potters Annual Exhibition

Opening November 5 to the public from 9am – 4.30pm at the Canterbury Museum.

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## Upcoming Shows at The Pot Shop

In the Arts Centre, 10 am to 5 pm daily

28 Oct to 27 Nov 09	Neil Hey
28 Nov to 29 Dec 09	Christmas Treats by local potters and ceramic artists
30 Dec to 2 Feb 2010	Domestic Ware by Frederika Ersten
3 Feb to 2 Mar 2010	New Work by Sally Connolly

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## New Club Members

Welcome to our new members; Shumbi Real, Jackie Faulkes and Nicky Welch,  
We hope you enjoy all our club has to offer.

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## Starting Dates for Classes 2010

Term One	8 February 2010
Term Two	19 May 2010
Term Three	26 July 2010
Term Four	11 October 2010

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## Library corner

We have been donated some books for our library. They are as follow:

Author	Title	Publisher	ISBN	Year	Pages
Bates, Shirley	Popular Pottery	B.T. Batsford	0-7134-4168-2	1982	128
Cooper, Emmanuel	The potter's book of glaze recipes	B. T. Batsford	0-7134-1996-2	1980	208
De Boos, Janet	Glazes for Australian Potters	Cassell Australia	0-7269-2212-9	1978	121

Nelson, Glenn C.	Ceramics - A potter's handbook (2nd Ed.)	Holt, Rinehart & Winston	26015-0216	1966	331
Rhodes, Daniel	Pottery form	Pitman	0273-01184-7	1976	244
Shafer, Thomas	Pottery decoration	Watson-Guptill	0-8230-4206-5	1976	160
Woody, Elizabeth S.	Handbuilding ceramic forms	John Murray	0-7195-3653-7	1978	225

We now have 2 Janet De Boos books on glazes, so the existing one will become a reference book that stays in the rooms (thank you to the person who brought back the reference book that they should NOT have taken out!) and the new one will be available for the members to borrow.

The Committee also decided that it would be great to update the library by buying a few recent books/year, we have bought one so far:

Tourtillott, Suzanne J. E. (Ed)	500 Pitchers	Lark Books	1-57990-687-7	2006	420
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This book is currently for reference only, so we ask that it stays in the rooms for consultation. Thank you.

If you have any suggestion for books to buy, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Geneviève Forrester

## About our clay

I thought it would be a good idea for everybody to have as a reference the Manufacturer's description (Potters Clay Nelson) of the clays available for sale at the rooms:

### Red earthenware:

NELSON RED: a rich red coloured terracotta body with exceptionally low shrinkage and optimal workability for all applications. 50 mesh. Drying shrinkage 5-7%, total when fired about 13%. Firing range Cone 1-5 (1136-1184) depending on desired colour. \$32 – currently out of stock.

### Stonewares:

- SC80: A versatile pale grey-firing (grey in reduction) stoneware body with excellent throwing characteristics. Very plastic and superbly suited to all domestic stoneware applications. 80 mesh. Drying shrinkage 5-8%, total when fired, about 16%. Firing range Cone 9-10 (1257-1282) \$36.
- WDW (White domestic-ware): A blend of 50% Nelson White and 50% SC80. A smooth clay with excellent throwing, drying and firing characteristics. 80 mesh. Drying shrinkage 65, total when fired 13-16%. Firing range Cone 7-10 (1240-1305) \$51
- LF18: A cream to pale-grey (darker-grey in reduction) stoneware. An excellent throwing clay. 50 mesh. Drying shrinkage 5-8%, total when fired about 17%. Firing range Cone 7-8 (1237-1247) \$32

- CB3 (aka GB2): Easy throwing, versatile, stoneware clay. Fires buff to grey in oxidation, dark grey in reduction. Usefull for all domesticware, handbuilding and well suited for salt glazing. 50 mesh, dry shrinkage 5-7%. Total when fired 16%. Firing range 10-11 (1257-1282). \$34
- CB3-G: Same as above, but contains 10% Huntly grog (10 mesh) added to assist handbuilding. Drying shrinkage 5-8%, total when fired about 15%. Firing Cone 10-11 (1282-1293) \$40
- NELSON WHITE: A pure white earthenware to porcellaneous stoneware body. Significantly more plastic than porcelain. Suitable for small to large thrown pieces. Very fine and smooth. 200 mesh. Drying shrinkage 5-6%, total when fired about 15% (Cone 3) and 16% (Cone 10) Recommended firing range Cone 6-10 (1228-1282) \$56 – Currently out of stock.

(Note: Cone figures are for Orton large cone @ 60°C per hour firing ramp, temperatures in brackets are equivalents in degrees Centigrade)

We also have Keane White Raku, BRS, and shortly hopefully BRT will be available at \$35/bag of 10kg.

Any requirements/comments, please don't hesitate to contact Di Fox.

Compiled by Geneviève Forrester

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## Kiln Yard

Firings in the kiln yard are dangerous and with extreme care needed at all times.

This is the reason why the committee has decided that children under 12 or "unruly" children over that age are not allowed in the kiln yard. We hope that our members will follow up this rule.

Frederika Ernsten

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## Cleaning of club room

Could you please note that our cleaner (Baden Melhuish) is working in the rooms from 3.30pm to 5.00pm every Thursday and has asked that the rooms be free and reasonably tidy for that time. Try not to leave things either on the floor or on the tables or benches, thank you. Baden will also work a few hours during the holidays: he will put a note of his schedule on the black board at least a week in advance.

Geneviève Forrester

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## General Business

If you would like to get your newsletter by email or if you want to change to snail mail please let us know. Any items for the newsletter will be gratefully accepted if send before the 20<sup>th</sup> of each second month. (eg December 20)

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## Mt Pleasant Pottery Group Committee members

<b>President</b> Frederika Ernsten Newsletter assistant	03 310 0630	<a href="mailto:Frederika@cyberxperss.co.nz">Frederika@cyberxperss.co.nz</a> <a href="mailto:president@mtpleasantpottery.org.nz">president@mtpleasantpottery.org.nz</a>
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<b>Secretary</b> Genevieve Forrester	329 9659	<a href="mailto:g-g.forrester@xtra.co.nz">g-g.forrester@xtra.co.nz</a> <a href="mailto:secretary@mtpleasantpottery.org.nz">secretary@mtpleasantpottery.org.nz</a>
<b>Treasurer</b> Ken Doidge	981 2863	<a href="mailto:ken.d@midlandbrick.co.nz">ken.d@midlandbrick.co.nz</a> <a href="mailto:treasurer@mtpleasantpottery.org.nz">treasurer@mtpleasantpottery.org.nz</a>
<b>Immediate Past President</b> Helen Campbell	960 6138	<a href="mailto:a-h-campbell@clear.net.nz">a-h-campbell@clear.net.nz</a>
<b>Committee</b> Dianne Fox Clay Supplies, MPCC liaison	384 5270	<a href="mailto:foxs@clear.net.nz">foxs@clear.net.nz</a>
Faye Pearson-Green Enrolment & Membership	332 0492	<a href="mailto:Fayeandchris@xtra.co.nz">Fayeandchris@xtra.co.nz</a> <a href="mailto:classes@mtpleasantpottery.org.nz">classes@mtpleasantpottery.org.nz</a>
Jane Boxley Membership	981 2422	<a href="mailto:Jane.Boxley@asure.co.nz">Jane.Boxley@asure.co.nz</a>
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Helen Wong Newsletter	021 168 7655	<a href="mailto:helen.wong@ritchiescoachlines.co.nz">helen.wong@ritchiescoachlines.co.nz</a>
<b>Other appointments:</b> Pat James Kiln bookings	384 9446	<a href="mailto:jamesdp@xtra.co.nz">jamesdp@xtra.co.nz</a>

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