



# NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2023

**Greetings potters!**

Time for another newsletter, and it's a big one. Read on for updates on what is happening around the club, upcoming events and workshops, and a round up of a few of the excellent events we've had in the last few months.

As we head into the cold winter months there is lots to look forward to, not least our annual club exhibition at Matariki! A great opportunity to push yourselves to make some special work - there really is NO expectation that it has to be perfect, newer potters are strongly encouraged to enter. The opening night is always a lot of fun, and a lovely chance to catch up with some of our pottery friends from our club and beyond.

Another date to note is our working bee on the 24th June, please do come and help as many hands make light work (it's a cliché but it's true!). Pottery clubs in Aotearoa have a long tradition of being volunteer run, and it's how we manage to keep costs down. Come and get involved and meet some more of our members!

Want to expand on your skills? Shona's glaze class in term 3 still has places, and there is one spot left in Renate's monthly wheel class. Details of those on page 4.

Hope you enjoy this newsletter, and we look forward to seeing you at the club soon.

*Eroica*

for the Committee

## **UPDATED CLAY PRICING IS AS FOLLOWS:**

Macs Buff = \$63.50 per bag

Tokyo White = \$41.50 per bag

BRT = \$54.00 per bag.

All clay MUST be paid for in full (no split bags, you can arrange that with a friend after one member has paid) before it is opened. Please remember to also fill in the sheet with your info against the bag number.

## **EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS**

We are aware that a few members have not had replies to their emails in the last few months - we are sorry! The joys of being entirely volunteer run means that the club communications can sometimes be patchy. If you have questions that have not been answered please reach out to your tutor if you're in a class, or to a committee member directly. Thanks for your patience!!

# Time to prep for our **EXHIBITION**

A reminder about our upcoming pottery Exhibition, which will open Friday 14 July at 4pm, during the Matariki weekend. An invitation to all club members to participate in the exhibition by submitting their work. **Submission forms and Information for exhibitors with the newsletter or copies at the clubrooms.** The submission day is on Tuesday 4 July, so make sure to have your pieces ready.

We welcome Andrew Carran as our judge and guest exhibitor this year. The exhibition will be open to the public on the Saturday and Sunday, and the following weekend. All works will be available for purchase.

Hopefully you can come along to the Exhibition Opening. The exhibition is always a highlight of the pottery year and so much fun, so don't miss out.

And we would also appreciate any help at the opening and during the weekends, so please let us know if you are available for the roster we'll allocate jobs to on submissions day. If you can help out or need any further information, please contact Stacey [stace.rod@gmail.com](mailto:stace.rod@gmail.com) or Renate [rgaletzka@gmail.com](mailto:rgaletzka@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you there !

## **KILNS**

Please note that all kilns are reserved for Exhibition firings for the two weeks prior to submission date. 18 June to 2 July.

### **HOW TO TEST THAT YOUR VESSEL IS VITREOUS/WATERTIGHT**

As we are getting ready for our exhibition at Matariki we want to make sure that work submitted is watertight and fit for purpose. Take your pot, fill it with water (keep the outside dry) and set it on a kitchen towel. Leave for three days, then lift pot and see how your kitchen towel looks. Is it dry and only has slight rim impression or has it got a damp imprint of footring or base?





# CLASSES

**The pottery club currently has 5 weekly classes on offer. Demand for all classes is high, with waiting lists in place.**

Led by Alex Prentice, our Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening classes cater to a diverse range of student abilities. Alex is a master at teaching an array of techniques, from hand-building to molds and wheel work, with a variety of methods for decorating and glazing.

Students in Monday's beginners wheel class with Dianne Macdonald are busy developing skills and producing a range of forms. We are fortunate to have Di, an extremely skilled and experienced production potter, as a tutor.

Looking ahead to the future, we have additional classes lined up. In Term 3, Shona Clarkson will lead a Thursday class on glaze development, making and testing.

There are still spaces available in this class, details on next page. Lesley Towart will teach a sculpture class in Term 4. Renate will take her Saturday morning monthly intermediate wheel class in Terms 3 and 4. There is one space available - details on next page.

All our hard work will be showcased at the All Classes Exhibition in November, and we can't wait to see the amazing works on display. Thank you to everyone who has joined us on this journey of learning and creativity.

Some really impressive student work from the last few months



# UPCOMING PROGRAMME

## **WHEEL WORK INTENSIVE – DOMESTIC WARE WORKSHOP WITH RENATE GALETZKA**

When: Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 June 9:30am to 3:30pm

This is a demonstration and hands-on workshop for beginning intermediate to intermediate potters. To understand domestic ware, what makes a good: bowl, plate, cup or serving dish, with a focus on participants projects.

An opportunity to develop skills to design and produce like dishes considering stack-ability, proportion, rims, foot rings, glaze, size, durability

Fee: \$150

Contact: Renate rgaletzka@gmail.com

## **PIT FIRING– ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW WITH SUSAN BLACKBURN**

When: Club night demo Tuesday 9 June 7pm

Susan Blackburn, has arranged a Pit Firing at Halswell for Saturday 9th September. Such fun ! This means plenty of time to make pots, and prepare them for firing with terra sigillata or use hard polished stones to try burnishing. So come along to Club Night demo on Tuesday June 13 to learn about pit firing, what vessels are best and how to prepare your works for firing.

## **TERM 3 GLAZE CLASS WITH SHONA CLARKSON**

When: Thursdays 9.30-11.30am from 20 July, (6 weeks)

Learn how to make, mix and what materials go into a glaze. We will be altering some materials in the glaze each time we make it up. making a clear, white and coloured glaze with a touch of texture. We will be testing about 30 tests per recipe and firing to see the samples at cone 6.

Fee: \$160 (includes glaze materials)

Contact Shona at claytech1@gmail

## **TERMS 3 AND 4 MONTHLY WHEEL CLASS WITH RENATE GALETZKA**

When: last Saturday of the month, 9:30 to 12:30 (10 sessions)

Focus will be improving technical skills and speed in production. Participants will work on their own individual projects developing your own unique style, preference of form and design. Improving wheel work skills including centering, shape repetitions, achieving desired shapes with a focus on dishes including functional baking dishes/casseroles, with (or without) handles, lids and knobs.

Fee: \$180

Contact: Renate rgaletzka@gmail.com





# CLUB UPDATES

## MPPG GALLERY

The Gallery is up and running and gaining momentum quickly.

This is a brilliant space and the very best of our pots are on show and look fantastic.

## MT PLEASANT POTTERY GALLERY

**OPEN 11AM UNTIL 3PM – SATURDAY & SUNDAY**

Would you like to sell your pottery?

We have space to accommodate another 4 potters in the gallery

The gallery is run on a roster system.

So x1 day duty every 6 weeks is the only commitment required.

If you would like to join us – please email

Leigh-Ann

[leighanno@gib.co.nz](mailto:leighanno@gib.co.nz)

This is a great opportunity – once our quota of potters are full we will not seek any others –

So if you are considering the step please don't hesitate.

Come join us - and tell your friends to pop down for a look!

## SPARE ROOM UPDATE

Renovations have begun – the spare room is being converted into some much-needed storage space for the club.

Plus, the front of the room will be available as a rented teaching space – we hope to offer this to the likeminded art community.

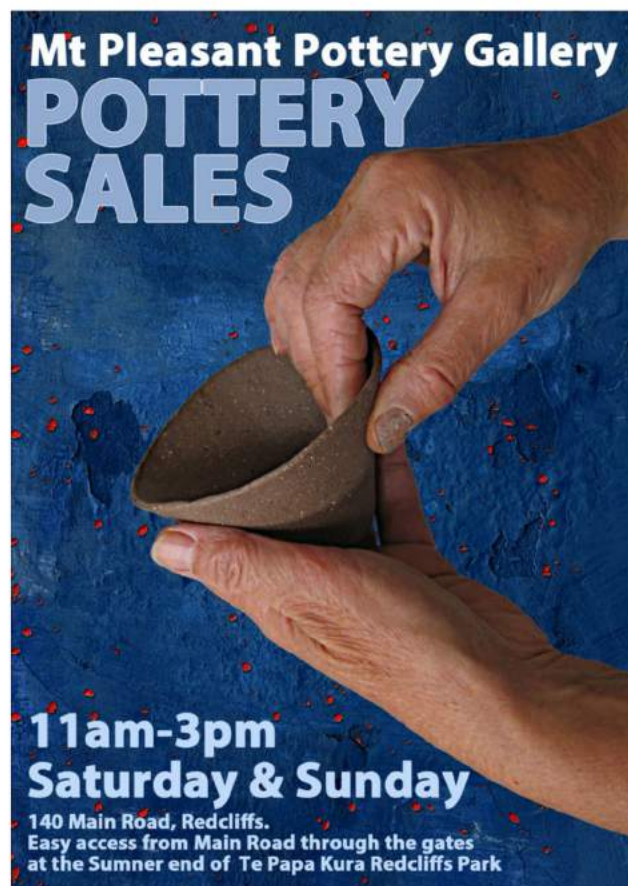
The CCC will be doing some work on the windows and ceiling tiles – to ensure this space stays watertight.

As the club works towards being self-funded – this space will provide income to help support the new paid administration position.

Updates will come out soon as we anticipate some evening and day art classes and some after school hand building pottery classes.

Watch this space

The Committee





# CLUB DEMONSTRATION NIGHTS

**Here is a recap of the sessions we've had so far this year:**

We kicked off the year in February with our "Making your Mark" workshop with Leigh-Ann. An enjoyable time to get-together, have a chat, drinks and nibbles while we made ceramic stamps for pot decoration.

In March, Ken Doidge, our glazing guru, gave a workshop on the basics of making your own glazes, with a focus on iron glazes. He answered questions on how to make them, how to modify them, and how they work. Ken is always incredibly informative. A great opportunity to learn from an expert.

Andrew Carran's club night demo in April was a taster for his May two-day weekend workshop. Andrew talked about his decision to focus his practice on hand-building, which was inspired by Japanese techniques. He also discussed his process of problem-solving to achieve desired forms and decorative effects. Throughout the presentation, Andrew showed a range of his pots, including bowls, cups and sculptural forms. It was an inspiring and informative workshop, and we are looking forward to seeing more of Andrew's work at our Matariki Exhibition in July.

Most recently Gwen Parsons, from General Pottery, talked about what supplies are on offer including pottery classes coming up this year. Gwen brought in a range of products, including stamps and rollers, and answered many questions about clay types, their properties and application as well as glazes, underglazes, and slips and demonstrated their uses. Was good to see how best to apply underglaze transfers to slips.

We are grateful for the generosity of the many talented potters who give their time and expertise to our monthly club night sessions. Thank you to all who have come along and participated, and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming Club Night Demonstrations...

**So stay tuned for more information about -**

- **'Pit Firing - All you need to know' with Susan Blackburn (June)**
- **'Surface texture on wheel thrown vessels' with Renate (July)**
- **'Christmas decorations and gift tags' with Faye Pearson-Green (August)**
- **'Surface texture on wheel thrown vessels' with Renate Galetzka (September)**
- **'Tea Ceremony' with Lesley McLean (October)**



# WORKSHOP WITH MARY LOU FOATE

Mary Lou Foate led a two-day workshop in which we learnt handwork, decoration and glazing techniques to create 3D designs on both flat clay surfaces and around the surface of the ball, giving our creations a unique and dynamic look.

We explored different ways to decorate our clay creations using many found objects such as screws, rawls, and plugs to make small, intricate patterns. Mary Lou showed how to use these objects to create interesting textures and designs on the clay. She also demonstrated how to use coloured underglazes and slips to enhance the patterns and bring out their details. We were all delighted by our finished works

Thank you to Mary Lou Foate for your generosity and skill ... and to all the members who participated in the workshop. A very enjoyable and creative time was had by all.



One of Mary Lou's beautiful pieces.  
We were all very inspired!





May club night with

# GWEN PARSONS OF GENERAL POTTERY



Gwen Parsons was our guest demonstrator at this month's Club Night.

Gwen spoke to us about her brainchild General Pottery and the exciting things they have in their lovely and well stocked store.

It was insightful to hear how the store approaches sustainability - from minimising the use of plastic products to eco-consciously sourced clay.

From clay to tools, glazes & beyond! Gwen and the team have the experience to share and are keen to help all pottery enthusiasts.

## New things to check out in store:

- Pattern Stamps and rollers
- Transfer paper
- Underglazes
- Split leg aprons!

Find them at 22 Essex St, off Fitzgerald Ave in Phillipstown.  
Wed - Sat, 10am til 4pm.





# HANDBUILDING WORKSHOP WITH ANDREW CARRAN

The two-day weekend hand-building workshop by Andrew Carran was a great success. During the first session, Andrew focused on preparing clay and pinching basic forms. Creating spheres by joining pinched bowls was straightforward, however getting them home unscathed provided a challenge. Managing drying of work is a key part of hand building, so we learned ways to control this to give workable forms for the second session. The second session required joining, paddling, and extending forms, which allowed the us to create more complex pieces. Many then worked towards more ambitious goals, with Andrew providing lots of little demos along the way.

Throughout the workshop, we created finished pots, both small and large, which will provide inspiration for our future projects. A highlight of the workshop was the production of a 'draped' bowl form, which looks easy but has many challenges in managing the drying and manipulation of the clay.

We thank Andrew for his contribution to the success of the workshop; sharing his expertise, guidance, and inspiration, and we look forward to his role as our guest exhibitor and judge for our upcoming Matariki Exhibition.





# CLUB NOTES

We bid farewell to Angu and Fleur recently, off on international adventures! We wish them all the best, and look forward to some travel updates. There was talk of a blog, so hopefully we will hear about that soon! Always love to see the world through friends' eyes.



## SEND IN YOUR PICS!

We would love to share your work on our social media pages!  
Send in pics of your pots, pottery activities, work in progress, exhibitions or events.  
You can submit any photos or short videos by direct message to our Facebook or Instagram or via email to the club with "social media" in the subject line.  
Please include your @social media tag (if you have one) and a short description of the image. Thank you!



## REMINDER – ROOM USE:

\$3 half day or less

\$6 Full day

**Demo nights** are a great chance to improve your skills and learn new things! We always reward our demonstrators for their time, knowledge and equipment used. In order to do this, we charge \$5 to attend demo nights.

**REMEMBER THE  
WORKING BEE ON  
SATURDAY 24TH  
JUNE – SEE YOU  
THERE !!**



# Need to make a payment to the club?

If we can't trace you - we can't confirm your payment.

Payment details are:

Account - MT PLEASANT POTTERY

Bank - WESTPAC

Account number - 03 1591 0083454 00

Ensure you input your details correctly

Particulars	Code	Reference
Your Name	What it's for	When
LA Smith	Class fee	Thur PM
John Doe	Clay Bag48	Clay Bag 48 (put the clay bag number)
Shoe KA	Fire 456	Fire 456 (put your firing number)



## COMMITTEE

Co-chairs	Lesley Adams Leigh-Ann Smith	<a href="mailto:chris.lesleyadams@xtra.co.nz">chris.lesleyadams@xtra.co.nz</a> <a href="mailto:leigh-ann.obrien@GIB.CO.NZ">leigh-ann.obrien@GIB.CO.NZ</a>
Vice chair	Renate Galetzka	<a href="mailto:rgaletzka@gmail.com">rgaletzka@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Ken Doidge	<a href="mailto:doidge.ken@gmail.com">doidge.ken@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Kate Adams	<a href="mailto:kateladams81@gmail.com">kateladams81@gmail.com</a>
Committee members		
Stacey Rod	Programme Exhibition Tutor liaison	<a href="mailto:stace.rod@gmail.com">stace.rod@gmail.com</a>
Lesley Towart	Photography	<a href="mailto:lesleytowart@gmail.com">lesleytowart@gmail.com</a>
Sheila Brown	Collection	<a href="mailto:brownbears.family@gmail.com">brownbears.family@gmail.com</a>
Jocelyn Farquhar	Social media/website	<a href="mailto:jocelyn.a.farquhar@gmail.com">jocelyn.a.farquhar@gmail.com</a>
Eroica Ritchie	Newsletter	<a href="mailto:eroica.ritchie@gmail.com">eroica.ritchie@gmail.com</a>

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### Mt Pleasant Pottery Group

www.

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<https://www.mtpleasantpottery.org.nz>



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