



The Canterbury Potter

Newsletter of Canterbury Potters' Association

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

The year hurtles to a close and the franticness of Christmas is upon us... it has however been a successful and full year though darkened by the passing of three of our members Gary Laurie, Terry Gallie and Steve Dench.

This year we have enjoyed sharing nights including bat making with Alex Prentice and applying gold leaf with Holly Ramsey in addition to numerous workshops, our Mid-Winter celebration and on-going gas and raku firings. I also particularly enjoyed Jane McCullas account of her Artist Residency in Jingdezhen (The Porcelain City), China.

Our annual exhibition (opened 14th November) enjoyed unprecedented numbers of participants (50 in total) exhibiting a diverse range of items, the venue barely sufficed to accommodate all the guests on the opening night. Items produced by Gary, Terry and Steve were also exhibited as a tribute to our friends. Sales were brisk with 41 items sold on opening night. A big thank you to the exhibition organisers, the Museum of Canterbury, our guest speaker Cara Fitzgerald and guest selectors/ exhibitors, Kate and Matt McLean as well as everyone who exhibited.

The Christmas Market held on December 9th was a tremendous success. Stall-holders sold many items and were keen to have another Market next year. There was also a great deal of interest in classes expressed.

I have just come back from our class exhibition and Christmas celebration, it was great catching up with members before everyone disperses for the holidays.

There will be a clean-up day on January 19th 2019 9-1 pm, all hands welcome. We hope to hit the New Year running with a gas and raku firing in conjunction with a shared lunch. Watch this space.

Lastly (but by no means leastly) I want to thank our committee members who organise all of our activities and keep the club, not just humming along but growing.

To everyone a very merry and safe Christmas and I hope to see you all in the New Year.

Darren A. Saunders
CPA President and Clay Master

YOUR COMMITTEE

President / Clay Stock Manager:
Darren Saunders

Vice President / Membership Secretary:
Trish Morant

Secretary:
Grace Campbell

Treasurer:
Ann Goldfarb

Committee:
Mary Lou Foate,
Lorraine Bonisch,
Ngarita Wight,
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WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Nick Craib, Yvanna Boulton, Olivia Tooley, Ann Bastion, Luke Cossey, Joel Kitto, Sara McCormic, Tracey Pratten, Kenneth Bachelor, Peggy Barre, Callum McKercher, Katrina Studholme, Cate Honore Brett, Rob Upritchard, Elizabeth Bay, and Cushla O'Connell.

CPA SOCIAL MEDIA

If you would like to share a photo of your work, an event or a snap of a class at the CPA please email us with your photo and a short caption. Please follow us and help us spread the word of pottery in Canterbury!

Find us at: @canterburypotters

Don't forget our Facebook page and members-only group. (On Facebook request to access this.) It's a great forum for questions, advice or swapping materials.

HOUSE-KEEPING FRIENDLY REMINDERS

A couple of reminders as we move into the new year:

Please do not leave any work on the bisque shelf that is not 100% dry, this area is for work that is ready to be fired only.

The committee have been working to come up with a solution for the clay trap, but in the meantime please remember to take your slops home with you. Please do not pour these into the garden or we will end up with a very sad garden!

WORK COLLECTION

Please remember to collect all work from the clubroom in preparation before our end of year clean up on 19th January!! Otherwise it will be disposed of!!

Are you an exhibiting potter? Have you been to an interesting workshop or exhibition? Something to sell, or wanting to buy something? Have you read a great (pottery-related) book or seen something interesting online? We'd love to hear about it!

We put out a newsletter four times a year, and would appreciate your contributions. Contact Lorraine Bonisch at canterburypotters@gmail.com and don't forget photos.



JANUARY

CPA Committee Meeting
Wednesday 16th January, 6-7pm (ish)

Clean-Up Day
Saturday 19th January, 9am-1pm

- Please come and help keep the club looking sharp at our annual clean-up day!
- Jobs: moving furniture, cleaning kitchen, cleaning book shelf, cleaning guttering, garden tidy-up, window cleaning, checking of shelves, re-organising outside shed etc.
- If you can spare some time throughout the day we would love to see you. Many hands make light work.
- **NB:** Please make sure you have picked up your glazed and bisqued pieces as they will be disposed of on 19th Jan if still there!!

Gas Firing and Raku Firing
Saturday 26th January, 9am-4pm (ish)

- Please bring something for a shared lunch
- If you would like to attend, please email canterburypotters@gmail.com with the subject: 'Gas/Raku Firing'
- Raku firing - please bring bisqued pieces for firing and \$10.00 firing fee.
- Gas firing - anytime before 25th Jan to glaze pots, we will be loading the kiln at 6.30pm on Friday 25th Jan.

FEBRUARY

CPA Committee Meeting
Wednesday 6th February, 6-7pm (ish)

MARCH

CPA Committee Meeting
Wednesday 6th March, 6-7pm (ish)

CPA Auction
Wednesday 20th March, 7pm

- We have our famous auctioneer Alex Prentice in the house!
- If you have anything that is ceramic in any way or form and you don't need it anymore then we are taking items now. Please leave in the cottage office.
- We have very good books which are surplus to our needs, glaze materials and pottery pieces etc.

Pottery Classes 2019

Monday 10 - 12pm

Tutor: Jane McCulla
e: janemcculla@gmail.com
p: 022 635 3911

Pottery wheel, hand building techniques taught.
Advice on various techniques and surface treatments.
Individual projects encouraged. Beginner to Intermediate level.

Term 1	11/2 - 1/4	8 wks	\$125
Term 2	13/5 - 8/7	8 wks	\$125
Term 3	29/7 - 16-9	8 wks	\$125
Term 4	7/10 - 25/11	8 wks	\$125

Monday 7 - 9pm

Tutor: Michael Michaels, B.App.Art (Hons.)
e: michael@mx2.nz
p: 021 0764 643

This class will cover most aspects of clay work including throwing, hand building, slip casting and glaze development. Students from beginners to advanced level can work at their own pace learning all aspects of pottery and clay sculpture. You will be encouraged to develop your own style and work on self initiated projects.

Term 1	28/1 - 8/4	10 wks	\$145
Term 2	29/4 - 1/7	10 wks	\$145
Term 3	22/7 - 23/9	10 wks	\$145
Term 4	14/10 - 16/12	10 wks	\$145

Monday 1.30 - 3.30pm

Tutor: Jane McCulla
e: janemcculla@gmail.com
p: 022 635 3911

Pottery wheel, hand building techniques taught.
Advice on various techniques and surface treatments.
Individual projects encouraged. Beginner to Intermediate level.

Term 1	11/2 - 1/4	8 wks	\$125
Term 2	13/5 - 8/7	8 wks	\$125
Term 3	29/7 - 16-9	8 wks	\$125
Term 4	7/10 - 25/11	8 wks	\$125

Tuesday 7 - 9pm

Tutor: Hugh Rickard
e: hugh.rickard1@gmail.com
p: 03 362 5054

Beginners to advanced. Each term begins with a different aspect of hand building before moving onto throwing on the wheel. Once students have mastered the basics they have the freedom to move on and pursue their own project work.

Term 1	12/2 - 9/4	9 wks	\$125
Term 2	30/4 - 2/7	10 wks	\$145
Term 3	23/7 - 24/9	10 wks	\$145
Term 4	15/10 - 10/12	9 wks	\$125

Tuesday 9.30 - 11.30am

Tutor: Margaret Ryley Dip. Fine Arts
e: margryley@gmail.com p: 03 313 8406

Clay work taught from beginner to advanced including hand building, wheel work, glazing and surface decoration. This class runs two 15wk terms and both terms observe the school holidays.

Term 1	5/2 - 28/5	15 wks	\$225
Term 2	6/8 - 3/12	15 wks	\$225

Thursday 10 - 12pm

Tutor: Frederika Ersten
e: ernstenfrederika@gmail.com

Wheelwork, form, function, glazing and the firing of students work each month.

Term 1	7/2 - 11/4	10 wks	\$145
Term 2	2/5 - 4/7	10 wks	\$145
Term 3	25/7 - 26/9	10 wks	\$145
Term 4	17/10 - 19/12	10 wks	\$145

Thursday 7 - 9pm

Tutor: Alyse Oliver
e: alyseoliver@hotmail.com

This weekly class will focus on the core skills necessary for wheel thrown pottery. Students will be introduced to working on the wheel and to basic clay forms as they become confident.

Term 1	14/2 - 11/4	9 wks	\$120
Term 2	2/5 - 27/6	9 wks	\$120
Term 3	25/7 - 19/9	9 wks	\$120
Term 4	17/10 - 12/12	9 wks	\$120

Friday 4-5.30pm Kids Class

Tutor: Adrienne Goodwin
e: adriannemgoodwin@gmail.com p: 021 829 707

Age ranges from 8 to 12 years. Class is limited to 10 kids. Enrolment cost includes materials. This course covers hand building, looking at basic techniques. There is a new project each week.

Term 1	1/2 - 15/3	7 wks	\$140
Term 2	3/5 - 14/6	7 wks	\$140
Term 3	26/7 - 6/9	7 wks	\$140
Term 4	18/10 - 6/12	7 wks	\$140

Saturday 9am - 12pm

Tutor: Andrew Carran
e: janda.carran@gmail.com p: 021 026 55395 or 03 310 8453.

Hand building and decorating techniques for beginners in term 1. Wheel basics in term 2-4. Project development for experienced potters. Glazes and glazing for everyone.

Term 1	9/2 - 13/4	10 wks	\$140
Term 2	4/5 - 6/7	10 wks	\$140
Term 3	27/7 - 28/9	10 wks	\$140
Term 4	19/10 - 21/12	10 wks	\$140



MATT MCLEAN'S LARGE WORKS CERAMIC DEMONSTRATION AT CPA 14 OCT '18

by Penny Wright

Matt is a machine - he prepared the start of two large works the day before and continued to work on these plus two other demonstrations for almost 7 hours with very little break.

The clays he used were BRT (lots) and Slab that had been printed on during Kate's workshop on Sat.

The main project demonstrated was how to build one of his large, multi-sided, geometric pieces that make up his large outdoor installations. The main points I learned from this were:

Slab formation - large slabs for the base - he used his feet with the clay on a sheet on the floor & if joining pieces - only used water not slip to avoid a wetter, mobile "jam" layer in between. Smaller elongate slabs for building up the side etc were made by cutting off a block & using a throwing technique to elongate the piece into a "roll" before using his hands to get it into the right thickness. He doesn't use a slab roller - he feels the stretching by the roller reduces the slab strength compared to hand working.

Re-enforcing - Use of ribs/ struts particularly up the large flat surfaces & the ones that will abut other elements of the installation. Partial shelves to strengthen the corners - not too large nor thick because they will dry slower than the outside surfaces. Create spaces or holes to ensure no trapped air spaces are created.

Slip - Matt used a thick, very sticky slip and created "plastic" clay pieces by putting off cuts into the side of the slip bucket; these he used for small alterations, patches etc. Overnight the top edges were covered with thick slip & plastic & any excess of the former was removed before continuing to build up the sides the next day.

Matt also started a second multi-sided element from scratch to demonstrate how to get a close abutment & recommended using pieces of corrugated cardboard in between that could be sequentially removed as the elements dried & contracted.





Firing – such large pieces had its issues:

1. Need a large kiln
2. Tended to stand them on a corner to avoid friction stress with the kiln shelf. Which corner was to be used was determined during building to ensure it would be strong enough.
3. Use of rollers – either hand-made & bisqued (varying diameters) or kiln props so as the form could move in a supported way during firing
4. Very slow firing – 10hrs to get to 90°C then 10-20' increases/hr > 1000°C

The second form Matt created was a slump form in a beanbag using inlayed printed slab panels on a BRT base. He demonstrated creating & installing a slumped top to it. The printed slabs had been stored on a damp towel overnight to keep it hydrated from the bottom. The slab was cut to create interesting shapes, the backs were scored, water applied with his fingers & scored lightly again > very thin slip layer. These were then placed onto a BRT slab, a board placed over the top & the whole thing flipped over. Again feet were used to work the back of the BRT slab to inlay the pieces. This was then flipped over again & carried out by many hands to place it onto the slumped form & work it into position. Before being placed more thick slip was applied to all potential joining surfaces

of the slumped form & gain care was taken not to create closed air pockets by placing some holes in internal supporting parts. The top was moulded to fit with some parts being elevated & others depressed > folded appearance. Gaps in places (or a hole created if needed) were used to work "blind" underneath to ensure joining of the top & bottom elements.

Another printed slab was used to demonstrate how to turn it from 2D > 3D using the fingertips underneath & gently stretching the printed clay surface up to create contours. This was then left to become leather hard before turning it over onto a large foam pillow to place a re-enforcing rim in from the edge to create a base from which it could be hung (holes were put in this). Also, the floating free edges were "tied back" to this rim for re-enforcement

The last demo was of a hanging, fibrous clay form where Matt used part of an onion bag hung from a branch onto which he slapped & moulded fibrous material (such as hanging basket coconut mat) impregnated with slip. This could then be moulded anyway you chose using the bag material as a template. Matt decorated it with slab slip once it had dried a bit.

Overall, a very full-on, inspiring day- greatly enjoyed by all. By the end most of us had got to get our hands dirty doing a bit of finishing work on either of the large two projects.

A FEW MORE SNAPS OF KATE AND MATT MCCLEANS WORKSHOPS



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING
AT THE CPA

END OF YEAR CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thank you to all who joined us at our annual christmas party! It was a wonderful evening catching up with everyone. We hope you have all had a fantastic Christmas break and wish you a happy new year. We look forward to seeing you all back soon!



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE CPA

45TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION

The exhibition was a great success with 49 members exhibiting their work. Almost half of the pots sold. Matt and Kate McLean as guest selectors and exhibitors were very well received, and we are grateful for their time and energy in these roles. Thanks to the many volunteers and the Museum staff who helped put it all together.





Class Act . . . Artists with their tutor, Rangiora potter Frederika Ernsten, centre front, at the opening of their exhibition of wheel-thrown clay art at the Art on the Quay Gallery.

PHOTO: SHELLEY TOPP

At 82, Frederika is still the wheel deal

By SHELLEY TOPP

The pupil-teacher affection was obvious at the opening of *Class Act*, an exhibition of wheel-thrown clay art, at the Art on the Quay Gallery in the Ruataniwha Kaiapoi Civic Centre, last Thursday.

Class Act is the work of one of New Zealand's most eminent potters, octogenarian pottery tutor Frederika Ernsten, and her 12 adult students, Chikako Neale, Bridget Anderson, Adrian Goodwin, Grace Uivel, Judy Kirkpatrick, Tessa Chisholm, Trish Morant, Alyce Oliver, Gael Abraham, Monique Fleming, Nikki Berry and Alex Prentis.

"We are lucky to have Frederika as a teacher. She is so experienced," Trish says.

Frederika was born and educated in Holland. She came to New Zealand in 1960, living in Christchurch until 2001. She now lives in Rangiora.

She began learning to be a potter in 1964 in adult education classes.

Since then, she has exhibited widely and has works in many public and private collections world-wide, including in embassies in Brussels and Tokyo.

In 1999 she won an Art Excellence

Award, which enabled her to study pottery and travel throughout Australia.

"My work has been selected as presents to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and Christchurch's sister city, Kurashiki, in Japan," she says.

Frederika enjoys the challenge of the clay while working on the wheel, and making pots that other people enjoy using.

"My work is mainly domestic and my main interest is the use of colour, form and function."

She has also established a reputation as a highly regarded, gifted pottery teacher.

"I have been around a long time," the 82 year-old says, "I am not unhappy about that. There are so many things you can pass on to people if they are willing to listen, when you are my age.

"I am fortunate that I have students who want to listen and learn," Frederika says.

"It is a fantastic group of people who support and care about each other."

In that friendly, non-judgmental environment, each artist has been encouraged to develop their own style and technique to a high standard. The result is the body of work in this exhibition. *Class Act* ends on Wednesday, December 19.