



# The Canterbury Potter

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CANTERBURY POTTERS ASSOCIATION | **ISSUE 2 2022**

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## President's Report

The year is flying by and CPA, like most other clubs, has full capacity in classes. We have kept our hard-working tutors busier with the annual four techniques workshops always a highlight of our year, much enjoyed by all participants. A review follows later in the newsletter. Another great improvement; thanks to Hugh and Ngarita (and me), for installing the new shelving. They are working well and has given us more space with the different sized shelves. Your committee has been busy looking into different heating and lighting options and getting quotes. We hope to have the new heaters and lights installed before the worst of winter hits us. New modern heaters and LED lighting will save on our electricity costs. It is pleasing to see our Wednesday club days are being well attended. This is a great way to get to know other club members and pick up some tips along the way. The members who come along are happy to share their knowledge. There are some great workshops coming up in July, August and October, all details follow later in the newsletter. We have a new membership secretary, Chris Moir, who has taken over from Molly Hindman. I would like to thank Molly for processing all our new members in the past and the ease in which she has moved us into the digital world with our application and renewal forms online, available through our website. Thanks to Chikako and Lorraine we now have good instruction on how to use the pug mill—a great way to recycle all your old clay. As always, a big thank you to your committee for keeping the club running so well. Our AGM will be coming up later in the year so think about putting your hand up for a term, it is rewarding.

Happy potting!  
Trish

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## WELCOME TO OUR LATEST MEMBERS

Mary Brown, Riley Fagan, Raewyn Perkins, Sabrina Idens, Jenny Chu, Jessie Lee, Melanie Kilkelly, Tanja Rosendorfsky, Jamie Clark, Emily Ebdon, Leigh Greyling, Sarah Williams, Rachael Ingram, Chloe Cleaver, Hayden Graham, Michaela Jarvis, Holly Barker, Tania Doyle, Jasper Kibblewhite, Anna Riddell, Alice Borthwick, Carmel Pollock, Hill Mitchell.

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## CPA COMMITTEE 2021–2022

Trish Morant **President**  
Andrew McKaskell **Vice President**  
Angela Williams **Secretary**  
Ann Goldfarb **Treasurer**  
Chris Moir **Membership Secretary**

**Committee**  
Mary Lou Foate, Molly Hindman  
Ngarita Wight, Pat Alexander,  
Penny de Jong

## PLEASE

Please remember to switch the power off when you leave – check oven, water heater, heaters, lights and wheels.

Please calculate your firing costs on your non-bisque (aka greenware) work before putting your pieces on the shelf to be fired.

Please sign in and out.

Please remember to bring a towel to dry off the wheel you've used when you have finished cleaning it.

Please clean the spray booth.

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*Hi there*

*I am resigning from Canterbury Potters as I am no longer active in that field. I am most appreciative, however, of the tutoring and encouragement I received and am glad that I learned enough to hand build and fire some presentable pots. Thank you for the opportunity.*  
*Regards Kevin FitzGerald*

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*I enjoyed my brief time being part of the club and learnt much. I particularly appreciated the encouragement from fellow potters including yourself.*



## Pimp My Clubroom – Part 2

Doesn't the shelving look smart! We've had lots of great feedback from members. Big thanks to Hugh, Trish, Ngarita and Pat for organising and installing the shelves. Please make sure you take your pieces away or put them on your class shelf when fired. We need the shelves cleared at the end of each term (including the member's shelf). Anything that has accumulated a lot of dust will find itself in the shed and then in the red bin.

**Reminder that if work is not marked it will no longer be fired.**



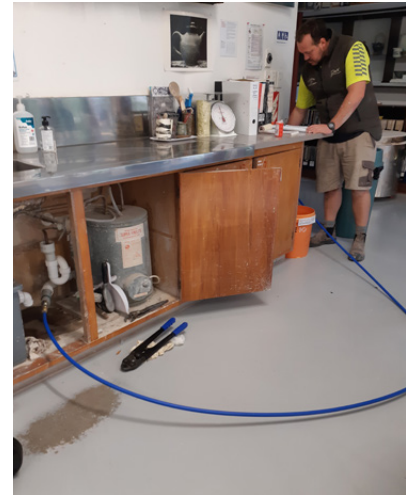
Hugh and Trish talking shelves... followed by Hugh trying to take out Trish with bracing for the new shelves.



## Raku | Saturday 18 June

Love smoke and fire? Come along and join in. Hugh will be taking us through the process and maybe some of us will learn enough to lead a firing in the future. Some glazes will be available but you are welcome to bring your own. Or if you wish to experiment with naked raku, there are some good YouTube sites to get ideas from. Horse hair and feathers have been used to some good effect at our previous raku firings.

**Bring along your pieces and \$10 to cover the gas. Start time 9am.**



## Pipe cleaning

The plumber (Jacob) fixed our leak under the clay trap sink but when Jacob looked inside our pipes, it was full of clay!!! Thankfully our drain pipe has been cleaned out.

This is an important reminder to take as much of your clay slops home with you to minimise the amount of clay that will cling to the drain pipes and clog our pipe system. Wash your hands in your bucket of water.

You can recycle your slops and reuse this precious stuff. It costs a lot of money to buy clay - learn to recycle [bit.ly/TCP-2-02](http://bit.ly/TCP-2-02)





## 2022 CPA 49th Exhibition

### SELECTOR AND GUEST EXHIBITOR

We are very privileged to have **Royce McGlashan** from Brightwater in Nelson to be our selector and our guest exhibitor for our exhibition. Royce is well known as one of New Zealand's leading potters. He qualified as a Master Potter in 1971. He is a member of the International Academy of Ceramics (Geneva) and in 1989 received an MBE for his services to pottery in New Zealand.

At his studio in Brightwater near Nelson he produces a wide range of tableware, ceramic art pieces and paintings. Hand decoration and interesting surface treatments have always been a feature of Royce's work. He has won many awards and his work is held in numerous public and private collections.

To see some of Royce's work you can go to [roycemcglashan.co.nz](http://roycemcglashan.co.nz)



We hope you're busy creating and sorting out pieces to submit for this year's exhibition. Selection is only five months away!! We have a number of awards these include:

**Selector's Choice Award**

**Two Merit Awards**

**Morant Foundation Merit Award**  
\$200

**Avice Hill Award\***  
\$250 (for first-time exhibitors only)

\*If you have never exhibited in an exhibition before, whether at CPA or elsewhere, you are also eligible for the Avice Hill Award, a discretionary award which may be made for a first-time exhibitor.

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### EXHIBITION TIMELINE - DIARY THE DATES!

#### EXHIBITION SELECTION/ TALK & WORKSHOP - ROYCE MCGLASHAN

**Thu 13 Oct | 11am-1pm + 7-9pm**  
Receiving day

**Fri 14 Oct | 9am-12pm**  
Selection date

**Fri 14 Oct | 7-9pm**  
An evening with Royce

**Sat/Sun 15-16 Oct**  
Workshop/Demo with Royce TBC

#### CPA 49TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION

**Wed 9 Nov | 6pm**  
Opening at Canterbury Museum  
TBC

**10-20 Nov | daily**  
Exhibition open to public



## SAGGER FIRING

LED BY  
PENNY DE JONG

**Fri 19 Aug | 6-9 pm**

**Sun 21 Aug | 10am-12pm**

CPA clubrooms

Member only

\$60

We are pleased to announce an upcoming workshop with Penny de Jong 'Sagger Firing' in August. The focus is on making the saggar to fire in our gas kiln. Penny will take participants through the steps of making the saggar on Friday night and putting the saggar into the kiln. Each participant will make their own saggar. Sunday will be taking out the saggar and cleaning and waxing the ceramic pieces. Preparation of making ceramic pieces before the saggar firing is required and information/instructions will be provided. All levels are welcome to join in this alternative firing.

Further details on page 9

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## MID-WINTER LUNCH

**Sun 14 Aug | 12.30-2.30pm**  
(after the saggar firing)

RSVP if you can come by 5 August

We would love to see you at our mid-winter shared lunch. Bring something to share. Come and see what the saggar firing members have created and meet some new like-minded people who love clay.





## HOORAY! EXHIBITION CONVENOR

We want to give a big thank you to Trish Morant who has offered to be our convenor this year. Trish has a wealth of experience in this role as she has convened before and has been an exhibition committee member for many years. If you have indicated that you would like to help with the exhibition, Trish will be in contact with you very soon.

## REMINDER SUBS ARE DUE NOW

## COLLECTING WORK

**Please identify your pottery pieces before you take them home. Make sure they are yours.**

There have been some instances recently where our members or students have come to collect their piece from the glaze shelf only to find it missing. If you do find your work missing, check that it is not still on the shelf waiting to be fired, then if possible send a photo to CPA (of the pieces before firing of course!) and we can put an alert out to tutors and members. It is very disheartening when one is looking forward to collecting one's treasures only to find they are not there. So please be careful when collecting your work.

## LOST PROPERTY

Have you lost or found something in the rooms, don't forget to check the lost property box stored in the plastic lidded box under the hand basin in the toilet area (no wet items for CPA members!).

## ANNUAL AUCTION

Our annual auction will again take place after our AGM. Please drop off to the clubrooms any items that have a ceramic connection, any pickles, jam, and plants (bring any plants on the day) that you would love to donate for our auction. Please speak to one of our committee members before donating any glaze material or glazes. Date and details to come.

## CLAYS

Users of CB3 note it does not always vitrify at Cone 6.

We are now stocking Toast RW1802 Stoneware in a 10kg bag. It is a lovely darker clay similar to CB3 and has been trialled by some of our tutors as a suitable replacement.

## PUG MILL

The pug mill is available for use. Please see a committee member for the key and instructions.

This is a great way to recycle your clay if you have over 10kgs.

## LEACH POTTERY ONLINE EXHIBITION SHOWS OFF CUPS

[bit.ly/TCP-2-01](http://bit.ly/TCP-2-01)

## NZ BOWL SWAP 2022

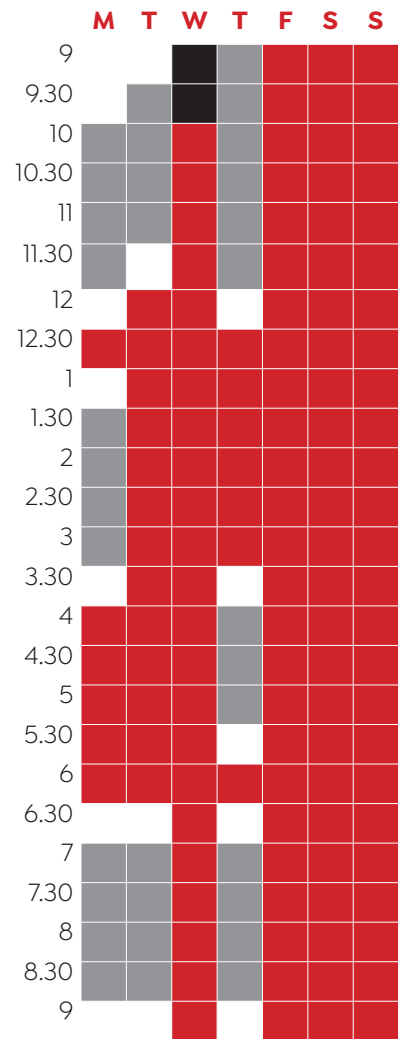
A gift exchange where you are paired with another potter to exchange your handmade bowls. RSVP by 30/6/22

[bit.ly/TCP-2-03](http://bit.ly/TCP-2-03)

## ROOM AVAILABILITY

The red areas in the timetable below are when the rooms are available for members to work and collect fired pieces. Please respect the tutors and students and don't 'just pop in to collect my fired pieces' during class sessions.

Generally, the rooms can be accessed during term breaks but please check the calendar on our website for meeting times, workshops, when the rooms are unavailable, and other events that are happening in the CPA.



■ ROOMS AVAILABLE  
■ CLASSES  
■ ROOMS BEING CLEANED



ANGELA WILLIAMS REVIEWS

# ONE WEEKEND | FOUR WORKSHOPS

We've just had another most enjoyable weekend of stimulating workshops with some of CPA's regular tutors – **HUGH RICKARD, JANE MCCULLA** and **ALYSE OLIVER**.

Unfortunately, Mary Lou Foate's session had to be rescheduled for mid-June – we'll share the results in the next newsletter.

First off, on Saturday morning, Hugh showed us two different ways of combining coloured and textured clays to produce some fascinating effects on thrown pots. The first, applying slivers of different clays to a centred lump of clay, produced smudges and streaks of colour on the outside

surface. The second, using stacks of striped clay 'cookies', produced swirls of colour and textures on both inside and outside surfaces, though the inclusion of some BRT made for more than usual challenges on the wheel!

Sunday started with Jane McCulla's session – really inspirational in applying texture and colour, slapping down and stretching the clay, then forming into vessels. Great fun and what a way to vent!

In the afternoon Alyse gave a most straightforward and helpful session on making and attaching plain handles and feet for thrown pots. A key point for me was to start with a generous amount of clay and to

pull several possible handles. In other words, we should think about handles before allocating clay for the mugs or jugs, rather than trying to squeeze single handles from small bits of leftover clay! And, as they say, practice makes perfect – more practice definitely required on my part, but there is a clear method to follow.

A great set of very different workshops providing interest and inspiration, thanks to the tutors for their knowledge and enthusiasm and to fellow participants for their contributions.





# throwing TEAPOTS

with **SUZY DÜNSER**

**2 DAY WORKSHOP**

**16–17 July | 09.00–15.30**

Hands-on making  
teapots with  
demonstration by Suzy

Members-only workshop | \$160.00  
Numbers are limited.

For intermediate and experienced potters who can centre reliably and throw a cylinder that is taller than it is wide.

If you are interested please email [canterburypotters@gmail.com](mailto:canterburypotters@gmail.com) with the subject line teapot workshop with Suzy.

**FOLLOW SUZY AT**



suzydunserceramics

suzydunserpotter







# throwing TEAPOTS

with **SUZY DÜNSER**

**16–17 JULY**

9.00am–3.30pm

CPA clubrooms

Members only

\$160

We are very happy to announce we have an upcoming throwing and making teapots workshop with Suzy Dünser. This is a two-day hands-on workshop with some demonstration by Suzy on how to make a teapot using the wheel. This is for members who are intermediate to experienced throwers. Participants must be able to centre clay reliably and throw a cylinder that is taller than is wide.

## **ABOUT SUZY**

I first made a serious commitment to clay in 2008 when I began the distance Diploma in Ceramics through Otago Polytechnic, which I completed in 2011. Since that time, I have worked as a pottery tutor as well as a maker, teaching primarily wheel-based skills as well as glazing and wood/salt firing. I was the tutor of the Tuesday night class at the Auckland Studio Potters Centre in Onehunga until the end of 2021, when I moved from Auckland to Paeroa.

My own work is based on vessel forms, and is usually functional. I have been drawn to creating ceramic versions of vernacular metal objects, such as oil cans, railway lanterns, and even basic tin cans, to call attention to the beauty of forms and objects that are often overlooked. I work with a variety of clays and firing methods, taking the opportunity to wood and salt/soda fire whenever I can.

My involvement in the New Zealand ceramics community includes a term on the Council of Ceramics New Zealand (2012), five years as President of the Auckland Studio Potters Society (2013–2017), and currently as an admin on the New Zealand Studio Pottery and New Zealand Studio Pottery – Technical Facebook groups.

You can look at Suzy's work on Facebook at [suzydunserceramics](#) and [@suzydunserpotter](#) on Instagram,

Please email [canterburypotters@gmail.com](mailto:canterburypotters@gmail.com) to express your interest with **teapot workshop with Suzy** in the subject line and we will get back to you if your place has been confirmed! Limited to 12 people.

## **WOULD YOU LIKE TO TEACH PEOPLE ABOUT CLAY?**

CPA will be running short introductory classes for beginners.

We are looking for a tutor for these classes. Please email CPA if you are interested.



# ALTERNATIVE FIRING TECHNIQUES

WITH PENNY DE JONG

**The month of August focus is on saggar firing. The accepted definition of saggar firing is: a box or casing of clay used to protect delicate ceramics during firing.**

Saggars came into existence over a thousand years ago, probably in the Jiangxi province in China, to produce porcelain. The purpose was to protect delicate wares from direct flame, and to protect the purity of the white of the porcelain from blemishes caused by ash from the fires used to heat the kiln.

The use of saggars began in Europe sometime in the 1700s. The famous bottle kilns of Stoke-on-Trent were primarily coal fired and produced a vast number of impurities and blemishes. The use of saggars became commonplace, at least for domestic ware, from around the 1950s.

As clean air legislation became more commonplace worldwide,

the use of gas or electricity to fire kilns became the norm and made saggars largely obsolete.

From a pottery perspective, saggars are only used nowadays by experimental potters, either to achieve unique and unexpected results by adding organic and inorganic material or by potters trying to recreate traditional kilns and kiln firing techniques.

An example of this would be an anagama kiln which is wood fired.

As a studio experiment, making a temporary saggar using paper and / or cotton can recreate some of the surface colouration achieved in pit fires. It all comes down to the materials used and sheer good luck!

If you are interested in trying this technique, book your place on the saggar workshop (see poster on next page).



A stack of saggars



Anagama kiln

## GOING TO THE SAGGAR WORKSHOP?

Penny will be doing a demo on applying terra sigillata and then participants can apply terra sigillata to their own work for saggar firing.

**Wednesday 3 August | 7-8 pm**

# COOKING WITH GAS!

We had another successful gas firing on 15 May. Thanks to those that made it happen and those that participated. The results are stunning!!

If you are interested in joining the group just send an email to [canterburypotters@gmail.com](mailto:canterburypotters@gmail.com) with the subject line - gas firing group.



top: Loaded and ready to fire.  
below: The results!





# SAGGAR FIRING WORKSHOP

LED BY  
PENNY DE JONG

## WHAT IS SAGGAR?

Saggar firing is the method of creating confined atmospheres in a kiln within a container or saggar. Depending on the type of firing, the saggar can be made out of anything from the traditional refractory clay to newspaper.

In the ceramic saggar process, various organic and combustible materials can be added including copper wire, seaweed, grasses, flowers, sawdust, copper carbonate, Epsom salts and table salt.

## FRIDAY 19 AUGUST 6PM – 9PM

Learn how to create saggar parcels and make your own, then load the kiln.

## SUNDAY 21 AUGUST 10AM – 12PM

Unload the kiln, clean, buff and polish your pieces.

### \$60 PER PERSON

Members only event. Numbers limited. Register your interest by emailing [canterburypotters@gmail.com](mailto:canterburypotters@gmail.com).

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Prior to the saggar firing – you will need to make items for the saggar firing. A total of A4 x 20cm size bisque fired pieces. Instructions on this process will be emailed to participants.

