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Richmond
Nelson

CRAFT POTTERS Nelson Inc. Phone: (03) 544-5172

JA

NUARY 2002



Paul Winspear

Now living in Golden Bay

made this bowl during a workshop in 1994

CPN glazed and raffled it for their 2001 Exhibition

EDITORIAL

With Christmas Day behind us and the Year 2002 ahead this is the time to look forward with some anticipation to what we can do in this next year.

When I was at school notebooks were supplied by the education authorities and when you had proved every page of the old one was used up you got a brand new book. For me opening the cover and with my best handwriting beginning to write on that clean page was a joy.

At Craft Potters we have a whole new page in the Year 2002. Some of the members, helped by the committee are hoping to bring about changes in our attitudes as to how we run our group and what activities we should include in this brand new year.

We make resolutions and then proceed to break them. Get ideas then forget them. Become

enthused and are disappointed that others do not share our enthusiasm. For a group like ours cooperation is the key. New projects must be supported by a core of members prepared to put in the time and commitment to making them work and bring them to fruition. Lets get together.

COMMITTEE NOTES

OPEN DAY

On JANUARY 2nd we will have the open day we usually have at this time of the year. Always a popular day, with stalls in the car park the gallery committee arrange the selling part of the day.

Rodger is organising demonstrations in the workshop and would appreciate any members who would like to come along and join in this. No need to be shy and if you are only just starting it will encourage others to show what they can do. Handwork or wheelwork, or just playing with clay. Turn up and join in even if only for a short time.

Fetch out those pots lurking at the back of the pottery, put a price on that will encourage the sale and go for it. OPEN DAY from 8.30 until 4pm

Sellers in the gallery, this is a good opportunity to get rid of your old stale pots, and give yourself the chance to try out something new. Mark them down drastically and they will sell. The public who visit us on this day, are here for a bargain, and so let's give them some. This is the day of the Wakefield Craft Fair also, and we usually manage to catch those people as they travel to and from Wakefield. – Lyn--

BARBECUE

On a date still to be decided some time in February, a barbecue will be held at Faulkners Bush Wakefield by Craft Potters.

This will be a social day with children and dogs being invited to join in the fun. There is a children's playground there for them to play on. The club are proposing to provide sausages for the barbecue, members bring salads or other food and suggestions are wanted by the committee to improve on the entertainment.

SLAB ROLLER

It has been decided that more instruction is required as to the way the slab roller is used. Sticks must NOT be used on the table and the runners have to be greased to reduce wear. Demonstration of how to use this equipment will be organised and every member who wishes to may take advantage of this very useful article.

National Pottery Convention

The National Pottery Convention will be held in Nelson in 2003.

Members will be kept in touch with this event which is very high on the Calender as a pottery event and will be advertised with details later.

CLASSES

These start on Wednesday 13th February and an application will have to be filled in and all fees paid on the first day irrespective of whether your name is on the list on the board not. That list is not to be regarded as an enrolment.

Starting time 10 am

Clays to be used in the class will be Cone 9 at this stage.

Rodger is arranging for a bag to be purchased that can be

by beginners just starting and anyone in doubt should contact him for advice. The cost to be shared by those wanting to try it out.



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There may be some follow up sessions for those interested where the work started in the class can be continued and practised. These sessions will be on the following Saturday. This is still in the pipeline

KILN FEES

Due to the increases in power consumption it is necessary to raise kiln fees. They are now as follows:

	Bisque	E/ware	Glost
Mini Kiln	4.00	5.00	6.00
No. 2 Kiln	12.00	16.00	22.00
No. 1 Kiln	18.00	24.50	28.00

Gas and Raku to be reviewed.



GALLERY

Traditionally, January is our busiest month, so we have to be extra careful with our adding up of sales and charging the correct amount for pots sold. A few weeks ago one of our members doing their gallery duty, sold one pot and unfortunately did not charge the customer the amount that was written on the sticker. They got a bargain! Later, a pot was sold for more than the amount written on the sticker. I guess you could say that that sale cancelled out the loss from the previous one. But this is not an ideal situation. The amount the customer pays is what the seller receives, less their commission. This doesn't apply to the sales that are over charged. The extra goes to the club. So we need to be more careful.

Apart from those two little oops, you are doing very well with your duties. Do check each day to make sure that there are plenty of sales sheets for the next day. If there aren't, give Maggie Woodhead a ring 544-8768, and she will bring more down. Also, make sure that there is plenty of change for the next person on duty. Ring them if there is not.

Lastly, please make sure that you space the tickets on the sales sheets without placing them on top of each other. Don't forget to fill in the roster this month. I know for those of you on holiday, with children home, and maybe with family staying, it can be difficult. But please do your best.

Lyn Packer

LIBRARY

There is a new book in the Library recently bought for us by Amy on decorating for ceramics, Amy says it is really good value so keep eyes open for it. It is already proving popular but is only allowed loan for one week at a time, please return it as soon as the week is let other people have a turn



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Videos. There have been one or two of these taken without filling in the cards which have to be left in the box just as we do for the books. Please can they be returned and also find the jar for library funds in the cupboard where the videos are. There is a \$1.00 charge for borrowing videos which goes towards library funds. These small reminders keep the library running smoothly. **Amy**

While on the subject a big Thank You to Amy for sterling keeping track of the books and recalcitrant borrowers like myself who occasionally forget until reminded that we a book we have not taken back. I always feel very guilty glad to have my memory jogged!



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Glazing for Beginners 5. Contributed by Bob Heatherbell

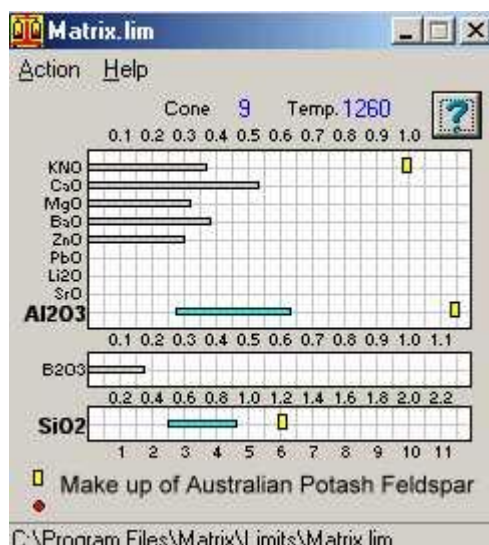
The Fluxes.

We've talked about the clay and the silica. Neither of those make a very good glaze on their own, and they melt at far too a high a temperature. However the addition of a range of other minerals added to them can make them usable. These other materials are generally called fluxes.

Adding a flux to clay or silica will cause it to melt at a lower temperature than it would by itself. The point at which the mixture melts is called its eutectic point. A eutectic mixture is described as the proportional mixture of two substances that melt at the lowest possible temperature. When you get the hang of this, try to remember the term eutectic and how it

works.

There are a large number of materials that can be used as a flux. There isn't the space this time to go into detail. That will have to be next time. But below is a list of the most commonly used materials that contain the oxides we need for fluxing.



Potash Feldspar Soda Feldspar
Nepheline Syenite Cornish Stone
Calcite (Whiting) Dolomite
Talc Barium Carbonate
Bone Ash Gerstley Borate
Zinc Oxide` Wood Ash
Wollastonite Lithium Carbonate

So when we use these materials, we're using them because we want to make use of the OXIDES they contain. At the top of the lists are four materials that are all Feldspars, and contain either Potash or Soda. If you look at the formulas of these materials you will see that they are mostly made up of Silica and Alumina, so that when you add them to a glaze mix it's important to remember that it's not just a flux your putting in. The same applies to some of these other materials as well. For instance if you decide to use some dolomite remember that it contains magnesium as well as calcium. If you decide to use Wollastonite for its calcium, most of that material is made up of silica. So its really important for you to have a fairly detailed knowledge of just what these materials contain.

OXIDES IN GLAZES

RUTILE This oxide is undervalued as an addition to glaze recipes especially by newer members who have been introduced initially to stains and see rutile as a nothing colour. True. On its own rutile has very little going for it but by experimenting with variations of percentage potters can find some surprising and exciting results. Over high iron glazes in both oxidised and reduction firings rutile will produce brilliant speckled blues. Its disadvantage is the elusiveness of the glaze colour which is affected by everything. The underneath glaze, the thickness, the temperature, and so on. Each potter really has to do their own experiments and find their own answers.

Glaze Recipe "January"

I developed this recipe myself when being tutored by Ross Richards with his help and under instruction. Long before glaze calculation programmes, we used calculators and it was very tedious. The glaze has stayed with me however and I still use it. It is really too high in Potash and the Coefficient of expansion is also a bit above what I would like. The result however is a very pleasing blue over a high iron glaze. Try it.

Maggie's Rutile HT 47	%
Feldspar	63
Dolomite	10
Talc	02
Silica	20
Rutile	05



Science in pottery

What most of us like best is the receiving of good information that we can put into practice in our own studios. How often have we peeked behind the photos in magazines, just to see what sits on the shelves, or under the cupboards in the potters studio being featured? We all crave a new idea, recipe, formula that will help make our pots better. When truthful information is passed on, it helps everyone.

Good science is going to be the future of ceramics; we have to have the correct information.

Not myths. What we do with that information will create the great myths of the next generations. We have made a difference. From: *Mel Jacobsen*

Making Stable Glazes for Functional Stoneware and Porcelain

by John Hesselberth and Ron Roy

<http://www.ceramicsmonthly.org/mustreads/stableglazes.asp#pageTop>

Stable Glaze "Limits"

	Cone 6	Cone 10
(K+Na) ₂ O	0.1-0.3	0.1-0.3
CaO	0.2-0.6	0.3-0.7
MgO	0.0-0.3	0.0-0.4
ZnO*	0.0-0.2	
SrO*	0.0-0.2	0.0-0.3
Al ₂ O ₃	0.25-0.4	0.3-0.6
B ₂ O ₃	0.15-0.35	0.0-0.3
SiO ₂	2.5-4.0	3.0-5.0

*If you choose to add strontium carbonate and zinc oxide to your materials list.

This set of limits is not a direct copy of any published set, but rather an amalgam of published sets and what we have learned from leaching studies. Others may have slightly different views on these recommended limits; however, we doubt anyone would argue that this is a "bad" set of limits.

Good Potting and may January be the start of a great pottery



year.

Maggie. Editor.
Phone: 544-8768

Quote

"The life so short, the craft so long to learn." Chaucer's translation of Hippocrates, 5th cent. B.C.

