



Pot Chatter

Craft Potters Nelson Inc.

PO Box 3149 Richmond, Nelson, NZ Phone: (03) 544-5172

MAY 2002

Paul Winspear



EDITORIAL

The last few weeks have had some very encouraging signs for the pottery scene in Nelson. In Craft Potters we have moves towards trying out the old methods of reduction firing in gas and wood kilns. There has been more interest in the use of oxides in glazes for colour, constantly pushing the boundaries of making and decorating pots in familiar yet newer ways. In May members are getting together for gas and wood firings and those promoting this interest are inviting other groups to join them either by participating or observing. Nelson Potters Association members have many times in the past either held workshops or schools at Craft Potters premises or been involved with those organised by Craft Potters themselves. Sharing these activities with potters from other groups is a wonderful way to increase our information on all sorts of

subjects. Technical knowledge, information regarding equipment, even the hints and tips we find out for ourselves flow from one potter to another and we learn more as we share with other potters. Some potters are extraordinarily generous, sharing the results of their experiments and giving the latest test results. In the past this was how the whole world wide pottery scene became so popular with both the makers and supporters, from the Leach and Hamada days to the present. Sharing with one another can only assist the production of better results and better pots. At Craft Potters we have wonderful facilities and equipment, hard earned by quite literally the sweat and hard work of those who started and continued to work for the group. If we share these benefits with others prepared to join and help to keep up the standards so far kept, we have nothing to lose and much to gain.

PAUL WINSPEAR WORKSHOP

This weekend thanks to a request from Cathie Durham a workshop was held on 20th and 21st of April and was such a success it is hard to find the words to describe it. Paul is a superb demonstrator and a raconteur to boot. The stories interspersed with instruction on the making of VERY large pots gave us two days of entertainment and the encouragement to push the boundaries for the making of large plates and bowls. His personality is such that everyone who attended came away with improved skills, the pots resulting from the work and a feeling of having had a thoroughly enjoyable weekend.



The pots were EVERYWHERE. On several tables, over the outside sink, on the top of every flat space there was, standing on concrete blocks. There have never been in Craft Potters so many pots drying at the same time. I used too much water and as a result mine took longer to dry, a lesson well learnt.

Everyone was working **so hard**.



The members of Craft Potters who signed up for this workshop had an experience we have not had for a long time. It was also pleasing to see several old friends, members of the Nelson Potters Association joining us. There were faces I had not seen for several years, and it was a joy to be in their company again, a big thank you to all who came and made it such a successful activity. I was also impressed that people cooperated so well. There was a friendly sharing of space and equipment in crowded conditions with about twenty wheels, many brought by potters themselves.

Tatjana who organised the weekend went to a lot of trouble with the arrangements.

I personally am aware of the amount of effort required to organise a weekend like this. The phone calls, the arrangements for materials, the supply of food for the breaks and lunches, What a spread that was! All done with a grace and amiability that was appreciated by everyone. Thank You Tatjana.

The French have the words for it, "Merci Mille Fois".

A final thank you to those who came and helped set up the workshop which had to be altered considerably from the usual set up we have for class. Rodger put in hours of time with a few who came one or two days before the weekend.

Hanne, Jo Ellis, Tatjana and two early arrivals from N.P.A. who carried out buckets of glaze and tables to make more space. It was a full house. Again at the end there were several who did the job no one ever wants to do. **CLEAN UP.**

Tatjana who went to a lot of trouble with the arrangements

Rodger had a team of the same people, Tatjana, Hanne, Anneke, Jo Ellis and others

All in all a Workshop we shall remember for a long time, and a sample of the way we should do it.

GENERAL MEETING

There will be a general meeting on Saturday 11th May at 2 pm.

We hope there will be a discussion of some of the proposals that have been put forward regarding the redesign of the gallery area. Also some discussion about renaming the gallery to bring us a more marketable aspect.



Every member is encouraged to come to this meeting, if you do not come you lose the opportunity to put your point of view. The usual Craft Potters afternoon tea for which members are requested to bring a few biscuits or similar.

WOOD FIRING

On the same day as the General Meeting there will be a firing in the wood kiln.

That is on Saturday 11th May. Allan Ballard, Bob Heatherbell, Rodger and Jan Moresby will be loading on Friday 10th any time after 9.00 a.m. with anyone who is keen invited to join in and help to load and fire.

On the Saturday there will be an early start around 8.00 a.m. Corinna Wanty will report this 'happening' in the next N.P.A. newsletter and suggest members take part with an invitation to put in a pot. Bob says there is plenty of wood but we will need the gas bottle to give us a good start. Community Potters and Motueka Potters have also been informed. Jan is urging as many members as possible to take part and if there are enough pots to get fired up for a follow up close on the heels of this one.

Sue would like class members to take a look at how we do this too. Wood firings are something else, the reality of the flame is very exciting.

Hope to get to Cone 8 to 9.

Many members have never experienced a wood firing. Now is your chance.

COMMITTEE NOTES

More Pots

Parking

Judith Harper has been given permission to park her yellow Ford Laser in the front left hand side of the parking area. Judith lives in the house on the Ashton property which is rented to the Christian Fellowship Society Library. She wishes to keep her car away from the traffic. If this causes problems or if it requires to be shifted please ask Judith at the house next door.



Firing Certificates

For record purposes members are advised that Derek Woodhead, Rodger Fowler and Bob Heatherbell are of course people who are on the list of people able to fire all kilns.

Kiln Supervisor

Contrary to the notice in the last Pot Chatter, Amy is still able to teach and handle the firing of the electric kilns. A comment made by her to one of the members was misunderstood. What she meant was that one day she will not want to do the job and that there should be someone in training as a teacher for future firing instruction. My apologies for that mistake Amy and glad you are still aboard.

GALLERY

A few notes re the Sales Sheets, all been said before but one or two reminders are needed from time to time.

- 1) Please do not put the stickers too close together. No shortage of paper as yet.
- 2) Only price stickers in the first column. Any others leave on the pot. i.e. 2nds
- 3) Make an entry in each column e.g. as follows:-

Sticker	Item	Price	Total	Cash	Eftpos
Ab \$5	Vase	\$5			
Ba \$6	Pot	\$6	\$11	\$11	
Aa \$20	Plate	\$20			
Bb \$9	Mug	\$9	\$29		\$29

The total for each sheet should be at the bottom of the Total column, none of the others require totalling.

- 4) Keep sheets in numerical order and if there are not many left please ring me
- 5) Rule a line between multiple sales

On the whole you are all doing a brilliant job. Makes my life easy. Maggie

Phone 544 8768

Lucky Dips

Caught Joy Brown out glazing some more lucky dips. It reminded me that this is a source of funds that most of us could support more than we do. If each member can produce one or two pots at each firing it gives results way beyond the value of our fees. Some are more generous than others. This is what has put Craft Potters where it is. There is a CPN stamp available to mark the bottom and they can be left at the shed.

Notes on BLENHEIM BUS TRIP Sunday May 5th

as submitted by Betty Dick Phone 544 1193

Just three seats left if you would like to come on this FUN day out. If bus is not full i.e. 24 people it will cost a little more but please pay your \$19 immediately if you have not already done so. Cheques made out to me or leave at Craft Potters on the board for me. As we want to get away to a good start be at Craft Potters ready to leave at 8.45 a.m. Stoke Fire Station Bus Stop 8.50 a.m. or Millers Acre 8.55. Phone me where you wish to be picked up from, and re your payment. Thanks to Jan, Jeanine and Kaye for donation of raffles, that's great.

Some Blenheim potters will join us for lunch out. Please remember to be on time at your pick up point so we can get away to a good start, with Wayne who is our bus driver.

RAKU

The following tip for holding that lovely colour on raku pots could be worth trying.

The only way to stop oxidation of a reduced metallic surface, such as the copper matt finish, is to make it impervious to air. Try using a solution of 3 heaping spoonfuls of sodium silicate (medical grade) in 1 litre of water sprayed over the surface, using a hand-pumped plastic bottle, then "bake" the piece in an oven at 50°C for 45 minutes.

Experiment with this. Teaspoons? Kiln all right as long as you can control it? Ed.

Glaze recipe for May

Pete Pinnell's Copper Red. This is the glaze recipe for the copper red that Derek and I have been working with since I returned from Denver. We adjusted it using the Matrix program for our local materials. This is that adjusted recipe.

Aus potash feldspar	6 6.8 %
Gerstly Borate	10.2 %
Whiting	11.6 %
Silica	11.5 %
Tin Oxide	1.0 %
Copper Carbonate	0.3 %



Note the very small amount of copper carbonate only point 3 %. In case you think it is a misprint. Also the tin oxide is less than in most recipes. The tin and copper need to be mixed with a small quantity of the glaze thoroughly before adding to the rest of the bucket. This is a reduction glaze we take it to ^9 to ^10, it only needs light reduction not too heavy. The real secret if you can call it that is in the cooling which must be very slow through the 930°C down to 790°C. The white glazes such as Nelson White or Mac's White give the deepest and strongest colours.

Glaze thickly. Too thin and you get a grey colour, too thick and it goes orange peel. I look forward to seeing results from other potters.

OXIDE PENCILS

This was printed on Clayart and it would be good if someone could try it out.

“From a low fire body of 50:50 ballclay/talc plus oxides or stains...it is so easy to roll a small coil, roll a point on one end, or just cut, and sharpen with a pencil sharpener...you can have a multitude of colours if you need them, purchased are so expensive, and if you once make your own, you will laugh at the cost of pre-made one fire to about 800°C. it works, and I think any type low fire white body would do equally well, just as long as it is fired low enough to still be fairly soft...give it a try.....if you don't have a clay body that will work, just mix up a little ball clay and talc, and I don't see how you can go too wrong.....they work great to label test tiles quickly too.

..Melinda Collins, Antigua, Guatemala.”

A bit rushed to get this off as Derek and I are taking a break and catching up with a relative from overseas, we should be home before the General Meeting and look forward to seeing you all then. Good pots everyone and we hope to see some of those very large ones coming out of the kilns.

Maggie. Editor.

QUOTE

“Never put off 'til tomorrow that which you can do today - you may enjoy it so much, you want to do it again tomorrow.” Unknown



Sue Newitt and Paul Winspear
Discussing Terms



.Bob arranging future production