



EDITORIAL

Here we are with the March Edition of the Pot Chatter, and most members will by now have had their holidays. Derek and I took a few days, which ended last week at Paton's Rock for rest and recuperation. The idyllic beaches of Golden Bay are just the place for such inactivity. We walked on those endless "firm sands" and watched "the little dulling edge of foam that browns and dwindles as the wave goes home". I took note of the patterns in the sand left by those receding waves and saw as potters often do the possibilities of using them for pottery decoration. I am in good company here as potters such as Jack Laird, John Crawford and Len Castle have all used the seascape as inspiration for their work. The potter's eye is always drawn to anything that offers a creative idea.

There was inspiration too when travelling the Golden Bay roads from visiting the artists who abound in that area. As a matter of course we visited Paul Winspear in his almost new home at Tukuruia where he shared some of his peaches with us and showed us the pots recently come from the kiln. We talked potter's talk! Close by is Anathoth where we missed meeting Hans Bauer by seconds, the pots by this accomplished potter were breathtaking and as one of his generation I am in awe of his ability as a thrower and the development of his glazes. His 'copper reds' showed me I still have a lot to learn and I left that gallery with a degree of humility. Why have I not heard of this unique and extremely talented potter's worth before? Obviously not one who looks for the acclaim some artists seek. Golden Bay is a veritable sanctuary of artistic talent. There are studio workshops around every bend in the road and I was privileged to meet one who is domiciled in Paton's Rock itself. Sage Cox is a painter of considerable merit. With my limited knowledge I dare say no more about her work, but would be interested in the opinions of some of those who consider themselves more expert than myself.

Sage earns her living as an artist, which speaks for itself, she is a delightful person with a delightful family and in her company I found some measure of that quality of composure that comes from a truly creative spirit. I returned home refreshed and renewed. I trust you too have found this recuperative strain in your break from the woes of the world.



Maggie with a bowl she glazed and fired

COMMITTEE MEETING SNIPPETS {18th Feb}

GALLERY - The suggestions that were put forward to help improve either the look, or the running of the gallery were discussed at our latest meeting. One of the decisions to come from the meeting has been the approval to form a sub committee to come up with ideas on how to revamp the gallery layout. If you are interested in becoming part of this group and you feel that you have ideas that will be beneficial to the gallery, then please contact Jeannine Price asap. Ph 5423033.

OOPS! In our last Pot Chatter I wrote that the prize for the Centre Table Mug Display would be won by the most interesting mug. Not so – all the mugs will be entered into a draw to win the prize.

ROSTER – If you can't do your scheduled gallery duty, you must look for someone to replace you {please don't just remove your name from the Roster Sheet}. If after a ring around, you find it impossible, then please phone Joan Maggs. We must keep the gallery open for the hours we have advertised. We don't want to earn a reputation for unreliability.

POT CHATTER ARTICLES – If you have an article that you would like printed in the Pot Chatter, then from next month on you will need to submit it by the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Articles need to be placed in the marked box {Pot Chatter Articles} at the 'Shed'. The box is also the Suggestion box.

A WARM WELCOME to the following new members:

Gill Jukes: 3 Alexandra Grove Richmond, Ph 5442226 e/mail mgj@value.net.nz,

Rose Brighouse: 49 Ellis St Brightwater, Ph 5424438,

Charlotte van Asch: 1 Newman Drive Stoke, Ph 5473160, e/mail cva@clear.net.nz. Lyn Packer

DOOR COMBINATION: A friendly reminder to all members. It is the job of Lyn Packer to give out the details of the combination to any new members. If you are new, get in touch with her when you feel you are ready to pop out to the Club on your own. She will give you any help you need. Her phone number is 544-6821.

CLASS SECRETARY This position will be filled by Nancy Malcolm, we hope you have a good year Nancy, this can be a job which will keep you in touch with members and with your own experience you will I am sure be able to help those newer potters joining the rest of us claybuds. Good Luck.

WORKSHOP

Had another great CPN day to-day: 'Slip-casting with Wayne'.

A year ago I bought this wonderful second-hand slip-casting mould from South Street. I had never done any slip-casting and was determined not to fall prey to the temptation of just throwing a few runny clay slops into the thing and wait for great things to happen. So I kept it on the shelf until Wayne's day of slip casting appeared on the CPN calendar.

AND, what a wonderful teacher that man is. No big words, no lofty concepts, no contemplative gazing into the clouds, no arty-you-know-what stuff, just lots of good useful information, presented with his useful calm. This man is truly a great teacher, and I never stop marvelling at the magnitude of talent among members of our club.

Everyone who took part in 'Wayne's Day' came away with a big smile, lots of thanks, lots of inspiration and kissed all their slip casting fears a Jolly Good Farewell.

Stage two is 'Pit-firing with Wayne' scheduled for the end of March, --- pending fire-restrictions of the day of course, so make a few things, - don't have to be slip cast, no glazing required, (Hey, how easy can it get?) and come along for another exciting day with Wayne.

Hanne, --on behalf of the participants in Wayne's slip casting day.

Mystery Trip to Kaikoura 8-9 March 2003.

As the mini bus is bigger than I anticipated there are 4 seats still available if you or a friend would like to go. You don't need to be a member.

Cost: \$35 p.p. for bus.

Roughly \$35 each for accommodation at Kaikoura Top 10 Holiday Park. Which I'll arrange.

Bring: Lunch – plate finger food to share. Thermos and/or drink. Breakfast food tea etc only.

Spending and accommodation money. Camera – could you take some photos for the record. Jacket. (A chair for lunch – possibly) No – not to eat!

Meet Craft Potters 8.40 am sharp. Leave 8.45am. Please be early. 9 am stop Ellen Nisbets 8 Balmoral St off lower Songer St then off we go!

\$35 required now for anyone else who'd like to join the bus. Will get you back to C/P by 6pm no doubt. Sunday.

There will be plenty to see and do or spare time to do as you wish. Saturday dinner at a restaurant and there is an intriguing exhibition to see!! See you on the bus. Betty 5441193"

THE PUGMILLS

IF NOT SEALED AIRTIGHT WHEN FINISHED USING THEY DRY OUT

When you have finished using a pugmill please **DAMP** the sponges. **SEAL AIRTIGHT** with plastic bags.

The log books for each pugmill are **NOT** ornaments. They tell me how often they are used, what clay was used last (for the next person's benefit!), and also, if a mistake occurred, I know who to explain to what was done wrong, and show them how to use and/or seal the pugmills correctly. If you are not sure about anything to do with, or operate them, **PLEASE ASK**. I would much rather give instructions or help than have to strip and clean up a dried out pugmill.

I will not bite your head off if you report a mishap!!



Maggie's Latte cup in copper Red

Pugmills are not miracle workers, i.e. uneven consistency clay (part half dry and part sloppy) will not come out at the end even and ready to use, even if it does go through.

To put it simply: What you put in, is what you will get out.

Always check that there are no obstacles in the clay, i.e. sponges – leathers, hard bits (we have found them in the past!). There is a sieve in the middle of the pugmill where things get stuck and cause A LOT of problems.

Please don't be scared to phone me if in any doubt.

Rodger Phone 544-4755

INSPIRATION A great teacher/poet said to me, "you can't wait for inspiration to fall out of the sky and knock you in the head. You need to create inspiration, everyday, by working and eventually you will create inspiration and it will show in your work." I have since learned, as they say its 95% perspiration and 5% inspiration with respect to my own work and I keep an open mind in awe of the creation and find myself more inspired because of the enjoyment of the process and not so much the notion of success or the desire to be inspired. Thank you. Tony Ferguson

You might be a potter if,

.....**The** notes in your wallet have gritty grey smudges on them.

UNDERFIRED GLAZES

Underfired "mattes" are all too common among potters. They are a problem at cone 6; they are very common at earthenware temperatures. And, they are less stable. The graph on page 54 of **Mastering Cone 6 Glazes** shows this affect clearly. The leaching rate on the glaze that didn't completely melt until about cone 7 was 4 times higher at cone 4 than it was at cone 7. Underfiring glazes to get a matte surface is an outstanding way to make really bad glazes.

Interestingly, the glaze referenced above fired to cone 7 or 8 and cooled slowly produced just as nice-looking a matte as did the underfired cone 4 sample--but it was a good, stable glaze. ,
John Hesselberth.

POTTERY COLOUR PALETTES

You can make your own "pottery watercolors" with underglazes and glycerin.

Mix a bit of underglaze with just enough glycerine to **SLIGHTLY** moisten it. Pack it tightly into a small container, bottle tops make dandy ones. Let it sit overnight to harden up a bit and you will have a good pat of pottery watercolor, just dip your brush in water and dab it on the underglaze patty and off you go!
Tommy Humphries

I had an idea that might be useful for making these palettes. A smooth bottle top pushed into a small slab of clay, bisqued and then glazed and fired would give you all your colours in the one palette. Worth a try somebody? Editor.

COLOUR FOR FOOTRINGS

I discovered by accident that brown shoe polish applied to bisque can NOT be removed. Not by refiring, washing, soaking in solvents or any other means I could think of. So now if I need to blend a light foot into a dark glaze I wax the foot with shoe polish.
Judi Buchanan

I have had a deal of trouble with my dark glazes and foot rings so **MUST** try this one. But what shoe polish to use? Maybe good old Kiwi Shoe Polish! Editor.

Editor's Note

Sadly this is my last Pot Chatter as Editor. I have taken great joy in this monthly communication with members of Craft Potters, and am grateful to those who took the chance on giving me the opportunity to try out my latent writing skills. It has at times been quite exciting and I have enjoyed searching the resources available to put together a newsletter worthy of the name. Thank you to all who have supported me in my endeavours and now as ever Good Potting to you all!



Maggie Editor

QUOTE

I've always made work that people like me would buy. How many artists have to cater to people they probably wouldn't enjoy having lunch with? It's a little like being a prostitute.

Lee Love (potter who worked in Japan)





NZ Society of Potters 2003 Convention

Tahuna Function Centre, Nelson 25 – 27 April

Demonstrations by

OWEN BARTLETT · CHRISTINE BOSWIJK · STEPHEN CARTER

Hand building - decorating - slabs - glazes - paper clay - lustres - coils - printing - bottles - slip trailing - microwaving - throwing - sculpture - carving

LAWRENCE EWING · DARRYL FROST · KATIE GOLD · PAUL LAIRD

Lustres - coils - printing - bottles - slip trailing - microwaving - throwing - sculpture - carving - hand building - decorating - slabs - glazes - paper clay

MEG LATHAM · FRAN MAGUIRE · ROYCE MCGLASHEN

Slip trailing - microwaving - throwing - sculpture - carving - hand building - decorating - slabs - glazes - paper clay - lustres - coils - printing - bottles

ClayBiz – the 2003 NZSP Convention aims to provide a unique opportunity for potters from throughout New Zealand to network and keep abreast of trends and developments. The convention will include demonstrations, lunch, tea and coffee all weekend. The timing has been specifically chosen to enable delegates to make the most of Nelson. We will have a pre-conference Bus Tour visiting Potters' Studios in the Nelson region on Friday and a Taste Nelson Dinner/Dance on Saturday evening.

Registration will open on Thursday at the Convention Venue from 6.00pm and the 44th NZSP National Exhibition Opening at The Suter will be on Friday at 6.30pm.

The AGM of the NZ Society of Potters will be held on Saturday 26 April.

Nelson is a popular holiday destination with accommodation being at a premium when large groups are in town. We have secured a range of accommodation options at the convention venue, Tahuna Beach Holiday Park, and the surrounding accommodation establishments. There is something to suit everyone.

The convention will start on Friday 25 April at 5.00pm with registrations and coffee at the Tahuna Function Centre followed by the official Exhibition Opening at The Suter at 6.30pm.

For booking information contact Nelson Tourism Services

Ph: 03 546 6338 Fax: 03 545 9227 Email:

ClayBiz@nzdirect.co.nz

For general information & forms see the NZSP website at

www.nzpotters.com or Chris Hinkley Ph/Fax: 03 526

6817 Email: ClayBiz@celsoft.co.nz

Registration includes

Exhibition opening.

Demonstrations.

Slide shows.

Forums.

Lunches, morning and afternoon teas (Saturday and Sunday)

Confirmation

You will be sent a confirmation letter and receipt with a quote for your accommodation, flight and rental car requirements.

Refunds

A full refund of registration fees, less an administration fee of \$50 will be made to any participant cancelling before **April 1, 2003**. Refunds will not be possible after that date, unless exceptional circumstances prevail.

As of the 21st of February 2003 Haven Computers will be closing. We are retiring due to health reasons and the expiration of the lease on the shop. This decision has not been easy. Haven Computers will transfer their customer database to Bell Computers on Friday the 21st of February in a mutual agreement arranged with David Bell of Bell Computers.

Regards

Brian & Linda



Bell Computers
44 Halifax St
Nelson
Ph 03 548 1000
Fax 03 548 1010
sales@bellcom.co.nz

On behalf of Craft Potters we wish to thank Linda and Brian for all the help and assistance they have given us, also a happy and successful future

Maggie and Derek