



mudlark

February 2020

South of the River Potters' Club Newsletter

COMING EVENTS:

- **Kiln Firing workshop** -
bisque March; glaze April
- **Saggar Firing Workshop**
- Shabbi Phelps at SORPC
- **Pit Firing** - *Chris Rogers'*
place. July 4 or 11 TBA
- **MCAA Awards** *Aug 10 -*
30
- **RAKU Firing** - *Atwell*
house Sat August 15th
- **Pop-Up Exhibition** - *Atwell*
Gallery September 7 - 13
- **Lunch in the Gallery** -
Graham Oldroyd 'Fire'
Wednesday Sept 16th
- **Glorious Mud - 'FIRE'**
September 14 - 20
- **Atwell Christmas Bazaar**
- November 20th onwards

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held at Atwell House on Saturday, February 15th and was very well attended. President Jenny gave a summary of an exceptionally busy year, particularly in regard to the campaign for a new studio facility for the Club. The year has been filled with countless meetings, site visits, presentations to the City of Melville Council, lobbying of politicians and consultations with CoM staff and project officers.

With the guidance of the CoM project officer, an architectural brief was developed and the result has been the production of some most encouraging architectural plans for the building. These need to be approved by the Council before costing and a tender process can take place. Stay tuned!

The AGM meeting acknowledged the extraordinary work by Barrie Anne Morgan in leading this process and fearlessly engaging with Council staff, Councillors, politicians and developers to achieve such excellent progress in a relatively short time. What began as a 'like for like' replacement of our work sheds is now taking the form of a spacious, well designed 'fit for purpose' ceramic studio facility.

Jenny also mentioned the number of exhibitions that have taken place and the donations of plinths and a spray booth that the Club received during the year. The Club was also successful in receiving a grant towards the purchase of a new kiln for the new studio.

On a sad note, Jenny recalled the loss of two members - Mardi Thomas and, very recently, Nick Baranowski.

South of the River Potters' Club

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President – Jenny Rygiel 0451 119 242

Secretary – Chris Rogers 9453 1401

Treasurer – Peggy Stacy 9331 2507

Club Activity - Glaze production

An enthusiastic group joined a group activity at which we salvaged and reconstituted several old glazes which were developed from a recipe from Mike Kusnik and which can be seen in the glaze test samples in the kiln room. A second session is planned at which a couple of Greg Daly glazes will be compounded from dry ingredients and this time masks will be worn (comments were made on Facebook about the lack of masks in the first workshop but it did not involve dry ingredients).



Saggar Firing workshop Shabbi Phelps

On May 17th the Club will host Shabbi Phelps to present a workshop demonstrating her technique of saggar firing using aluminium foil saggars in a raku kiln. Shabbi is renowned for her beautiful and distinctive hand built pots, many of them fired using this technique which produces wonderful warm and varied colourations.



Her work can be seen on Instagram (Instagram: art_by_shabbi) and Clive can show you examples from his own collection if you ask nicely 😊



Members can attend to view and learn about the firing process and may also bring pots to be included in the firings. Places will be limited for pots with a maximum of two pots per participant. The pots should be about 15-20cm high and made of raku-suitable clay with a smooth, preferably burnished, surface. Bring along materials for inclusion such as dried, salt soaked string, dry seaweed or banana peels, copper wire, etc.

The fee for the workshop will be \$25. (\$35 if you wish include pots in the firing.)

The workshop will run from 10.30am-2.30pm in the area near the Club workshed.

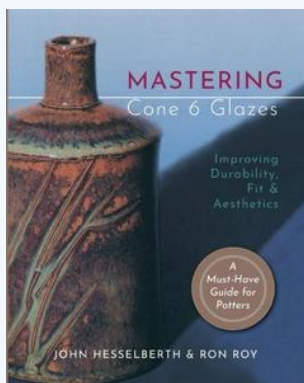
Contact Clive Eger by email to register your intention to attend and mention whether you will be bringing pots for firing. clivesmail71@gmail.com

Google Calendar on Facebook

A Google calendar has been ‘pinned’ to the top of the Club Facebook page and the dates of Club activities and other events of interest are being added as they are planned.

Glaze Book in Reprint

‘Mastering Cone 6 Glazes’ by John Hesselberth and Ron Roy is a classic and favourite reference book for many potters. It has recently been reprinted and is now available from several online sellers. If you are interested in buying a copy, it is worth checking out the Book Depository website where it is available for A\$65.44 including delivery.



Mentors

Plans are being made to offer mentoring for new and less experienced members to assist them in learning more about our craft. The plan is that some of the more experienced potters will be in the work shed at scheduled times so that anyone with questions about techniques or materials can get advice on the spot.

Chris is drawing up a list of mentor volunteers and anyone willing to join this initiative is asked to get in touch with her. At the moment the suggested times for a mentor to be present are:

- Wednesday afternoon
- Friday afternoon
- Saturday afternoon

Please contact Chris Rogers if you are able to join the roster of mentors. You would be free to get on with your own work while at the Club; it’s just a matter of ensuring that someone is available to answer questions.

Vale Nick Baranowski



Members were shocked this week to hear of the sudden passing of long time Club member, Nick Baranowski. Nick was renowned for his sculptural works, particularly his ‘Ned Kelly’ figures. A regular participant in our raku firings, Nick will be remembered for his quiet good humour and generosity.

It is hoped that work by Nick and by the late Mardi Thomas can be featured in the ‘Glorious Mud’ exhibition later this year. ‘Glorious Mud’ was the brainchild of Mardi Thomas so this will be a fitting tribute.

Library

The Club maintains a comprehensive library of pottery books and periodicals for members to borrow and enjoy. For many years this collection has been under the dedicated management of Elizabeth Mioceвич Turner who has catalogued it and grown it with the addition of many new titles. After a very long time in the role, Elizabeth is handing over the reins to Meg Hewitt who will be our new librarian.

As access to the library cupboard in the back of Room 3 is generally limited to Wednesday mornings, it is planned to improve access by circulating the full library catalogue to members so that requests can be made to Meg and the books left for collection in the work shed.

Workshop plans and ideas

As you will see from the calendar above, there are already a lot of activities planned for this year. But the Committee is always keen to hear members' suggestions about workshops or demonstrations that we could plan for the future.

Current suggestions include workshops on stains and on majolica. If you have any ideas or can recommend someone that could provide a demo or workshop for the club, let Jenny or Chris know.

Atwell Gallery Shop

Club member Stephanie Zuvela is now in charge of the Atwell Gallery Shop and has given it a thorough makeover during the summer break. The shop is now brighter and the displays are much less cluttered, so that the artworks can really be seen and appreciated.

To achieve this, Stephanie will display fewer items at any one time but will rotate items for sale frequently so that makers' products get good exposure. She also has plans to improve the promotion of the shop so that more visitors to the gallery include it in their visit.



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Next meeting:

Wednesday March 11th at 10.00

Don't forget that Club members gather informally every Wednesday morning in the meeting room and in the work shed - drop in and say hello.