



mudlark

June 2020

South of the River Potters' Club Newsletter

COMING EVENTS:

- **SAGGAR FIRING WORKSHOP** *Shabbi Phelps at SORPC Sunday August 9th*
- **Empty Bowls -** *ChristChurch Grammar TBC*
- **Pit Firing -** *Chris Rogers' place. July 4 or 11 TBC*
- **MCAA Awards** *TBC*
- **(Naked) RAKU Firing -** *Atwell house TBC*
- **Pop-Up Exhibition -** *Atwell Gallery September TBC*
- **Lunch in the Gallery -** *Graham Oldroyd 'Fire' Wednesday Sept TBC*
- **Glorious Mud - 'FIRE'** *September 14 - 20*
- **Atwell Christmas Bazaar** *- November 20th onwards*

Check the Atwell Gallery website for updates on gallery activities - things are steadily returning to normal.

June Meeting

The June meeting was the first to be held 'face-to-face' at Atwell House since the Covid lockdown. Fortunately, we were able to recognise all the strange faces in the room as we had been meeting via Zoom in the past few months.

All of the events listed in the 'Coming Events' column are still intended to go ahead but alternative dates for many have not yet been confirmed.

The City of Melville Art Trail will be held on the weekend of October 17/18 which may be too late for our usual raku firing display, depending on the fire-ban declaration date.

The Club's new kiln will be arriving soon and in preparation for its installation into the kiln room, a clean-up was held and the overhanging tree was cut back to make room for the Hiab crane. Many thanks to Harry for his chain-saw skills and to Chris and David for bringing their trailer to cart away the debris.

Empty Bowls Project - update

The Empty Bowls project is NOT cancelled and the organisers are still hoping to schedule a new date, hopefully in September. So there's still heaps of time to get your bowls made and if they aren't used this year, they will certainly be a great start for next year's event.

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

Remember that the soup bowls should be of a generous size (suggested 14-16cm wide x 6-8cm deep) and, of course, food safe. Our goal is for the South of the River potters to contribute at least **50** bowls!
Our contact person for the project is Geff Gomez
geffandjeannie@gmail.com

***Saggar Firing workshop
Shabbi Phelps - IT'S ON!***

Great news!! The saggar firing workshop with Shabbi Phelps will be going ahead after being delayed by the lockdown.



On Sunday, August 9th Shabbi Phelps will 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 (bring an extra one or two in case the firings go more quickly than anticipated). 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

Kiln

The great news is that our new kiln will be arriving soon and will be located in the kiln room in the space previously occupied by the shelves with the props and kiln furniture.

The not-so-good news is that the Tetlow kiln is out of action and awaiting a new element which is coming from the eastern states. Stay tuned!

A 900°C program has been programmed into the controller of the KilnWest kiln for bisque firing burnished pots with minimal loss of the sheen (as can happen with 980° firings). Check with Narayani if you want more details.

Next meeting: Back to 'normal'!!

**The next meeting will be held on
Wednesday, July 8th in Room 2/3 at
Atwell House at 10.00am**

Lockdown Pottery

Lots of pottery has been going on while everyone was 'confined to quarters' and here are some of the results.

Peggy has been experimenting with rolled textures with inspiration from one of Hsin-Chuen Lin's videos (see last month's Mudlark). She is also developing her expertise in naked raku and the products are great. She tried the 'with glaze' and 'with slip alone' options and the pots with glaze and slip were certainly the most successful.



Clive has been working on bottle shapes and also experimenting with throwing BRT which is extremely gritty so it is blended with some LGH and throws quite nicely. These pots are a commission and will be unglazed.



Clive Eger



Meg Hewitt



Narayani Palmer



Jenny Rygiel



Chris Rogers