

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE WAIKATO SOCIETY OF POTTERS 2018

It is with pleasure I present the 46th Annual President's Report of the Society.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS Firstly a thanks to our members for being so special and working together so harmoniously. Secondly to the people who give willingly of their time without being paid eg volunteers on Saturday morning, glaze making, looking after the studio, the help on special occasions, eg displays and open day, and unseen things such as delivering baking and disappearing again before there is time to even say thanks. I'm saying thanks now to the many wonderful members who have contributed in many different ways without asking for thanks or recognition, just to keep the Society ticking over and the happy place it is.

The Committee has given up many hours to contribute to the needs of all. They are Yasmin Davis, David Kenny, Wendy Ball, Dorothy Wakeling, Meg Wilshier (who has just resigned from the committee and as secretary), Sanet Jooste, Catherine Vowels and our resigning Treasurer, Sylvia Sinel. All members of the committee have given up many hours of their precious time for the betterment of the club and my heartfelt thanks and admiration goes out to them. The Resident Potters are special people with their clever fingers making wonderful things and at times firing up the wood kiln for members' benefit.

Lastly, there are those who are paid for the excellent work they do. Trish Seddon our Manager, all the wonderful tutors who do a magnificent job of keeping the organisation in the public eye and interest in pottery alive in the Waikato, our cleaner Julia Jeanplong, and David Kenny, our Kiln Technician. Thank you all for the wonderful, harmonious way you have worked together for the betterment of the club.

FORWARD PLANNING FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS The Committee spent many hours trying to forecast what the club would look like in 10 years time, and as a result, has improved systems, taken the load off the Manager who was so overworked as the club grew it was becoming a health issue: employed a Kiln Technician, and upgraded equipment. Flow systems for pots have been established, cleaning hours increased, new shelves and better layout throughout the studio, plus two new kilns, sun shades and black-out curtains in the studio.

THE 2017/18 YEAR DIPLOMA PROGRAMME The Manager has worked hard to obtain the very best staff for this programme, and we are fortunate to have been able to employ some of the best in New Zealand. There are presently ten diploma students enrolled through Otago for the student practice component. There are some changes coming to the diploma which will be phased in over the next two years but the changes will have little effect on the way the diploma is taught in Waikato.

KATHRYN MASON'S death came as a shock to everyone over the Christmas period and we still mourn her passing. A committee of wonderful members put together a garden party on Saturday 12 May at Meg Wilshier's place in Tamahere. This was well attended and the sale of Kathryn's pottery, (much of it stored in her upstairs Resident Potters space above the Manager's office), raised almost \$7,000 which was given to the family. It was a truly cooperative effort and the biggest thanks go to Meg and her husband Nigel for opening their home and garden for the day and days leading up to the sale. Many members, including Jenni Taris and Burns Macaskill, Dianne and others, spent many hours packing and unpacking her collection, pricing and naming who the artists were that had made the pots. Meg put up with weeks of inconvenience and the Society thanks her very sincerely for her desire to do the best for the memory of Kathryn. She has certainly written a chapter of thanks in a practical way as did the many helpers too great to name on the day of and leading up to the sale.

RESIDENT POTTERS All spaces are occupied again this year with a couple of areas being freed up for the large class of diploma students to work during the week while classes are on and the studio is busy. A selection process and interview times were made for applicants for the spaces. They have been allocated on six month contracts to Naomi Roach, Carmel Van Der Hoeven and Wilhelmina Drummond.

MANAGER It was with sadness the committee accepted the resignation of Trish Seddon. She has been a very competent, capable manager fitting in so well after Duncan Shearer retired. She has brought the Society into the 21st century with updating computer systems, and managed members and staff well. She has been a sounding board in many disputes and wise advice has been given. The committee wishes Trish all the best for the future.

A new manager was appointed on Friday 11 May, Susannah Salter who will be working with Trish for the next month or so to learn what is needed. Susannah has worked in a managerial capacity with charities in Britain and

has a BA Honours degree in Costume Design. She is also a Graphic Artist and Ceramic Artist and has worked as a freelance artist and designer. We are thrilled to welcome Susannah to the Manager's position.

HEALTH AND SAFETY As a result of kitchen towels being used for things other than drying dishes, it was decided to put a paper hand dispenser in the kitchen so that there is quick access to wipe up spills on the floor and table etc rather than using the tea towels! Other health issues have been implemented such as increased ventilation in the kiln room for safety equipment on the new kilns so that members are not able to get shocks when the doors are opened. Better taps have been installed and the Kiln Technician is keeping a record of when equipment needs replacing. A new fan was recently installed in the spray booth.

CLASSES, AND TUTORS Another outcome of our planning sessions saw a change to online booking of classes and the card system for studio use. The community can go onto our website and book a class any time of day or night and they are informed about what the class covers, and whether it is full or not. This has also reduced the manager's work load and made her more able to concentrate on planning and other essential duties. Thanks to tutors for the excellent work they are doing. An extra Play with Clay class was commenced during the year on a Friday evening, run by Susannah Salter to cater for the increased number of people attending on Tuesday Play with Clay sessions. Wednesday morning class is also well attended.

WORKSHOPS The following workshops were held during the year

May 2017:	Fiona Tunnicliffe weekend workshop making slab animals
June 2017:	Mould-making workshop with Duncan Shearer
July 2017:	Clay Forum with Duncan Shearer
Sept 2017:	Thrown and altered porcelain and crystalline Glazes Workshop with American potter Ginny Conrow
Nov 2017:	Rowley Drysdale Demo workshop (Australian judge of Waiclay)
Feb 2018:	Glaze and Surface Decoration Workshop with Yasmin Davis
March 2018:	Throwing Workshop with Peter Collis
April 2018:	Decadent Design for the Soft Surface Workshop with American Ben Carter

Thanks to Trish for organising these superb workshops and tutors.

NEWSLETTER This is always a big job which is tackled so willingly and ably by Ron Pedder, helped by Trish. The newsletter is now emailed so that members can see the pictures in colour and to save the Society a lot of money in postage and time in posting envelopes.

GRANTS We are very grateful for the following providers who have given us grants this year:

- Hamilton City Council Single Year Community Grant of \$1,800.00 to cover the cost of a tutor for the Play with Clay sessions
- CNZ Creative Communities Scheme, Hamilton City to cover exhibition costs in December 2018 of entry fee for the annual exhibition \$925.00
- WEL Energy Trust \$2,000 towards the new kiln

OPEN DAY 2017 saw another very successful open day and many of our members were generous with their time and baking for which we were grateful. A large number of people attended, many tried the wheel and the children had fun playing with clay. Another open day is planned for 22 September 2018 10 am to 3 pm.

EXHIBITION Held at The Wallace Gallery in Morrinsville in Nov – Dec 2017

Premier Award:	Yasmin Davis
Primo Hand Building Award:	Diane Parker
Primo Throwing Award:	Janet Smith
Soul Gallery Award:	Elsa Lye
Primo Glaze Award:	Susan St Lawrence
St Andrews Village Award:	Naomi Roche
Waiclay Award First Time Exhibitor Award:	Meg Wilshier
Dynamic Ceramics Award:	Rose Tuffery

Caryl Ginever (Mrs)
President
2017/2018