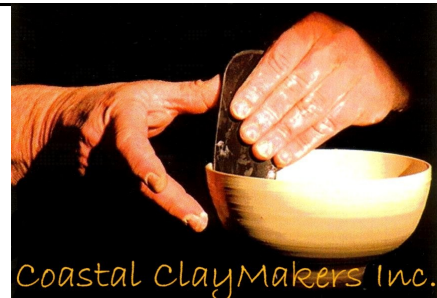


newsletter

Vol 7, No 5, June 2010



Coastal ClayMakers Inc.

EDITORIAL

Email: coastalclaymakers@westnet.com.au

Web : www.coastalclaymakers.com.au

Hello fellow ClayMakers,

The Woodfiring weekend was a great success and the Committee is really pleased to know that those who took part had such an enjoyable experience. If the number of cakes and sausages devoured is any indication of success we certainly have a winning formula. Thanks to all those members who took part.

We have a treat in store for the next member's meeting on the 18th June, which will be held in the meeting room at NSW Maritime. Our guest is Max Campbell CEO of Clayworks. Max has been involved in the ceramics industry for a number of years so here is your opportunity to find out everything you ever wanted to know about clay.

Saturday the 31st July is the much anticipated Pit Firing at Annette Copland's pottery in Middle Boambee. Annette has been pit firing for many years and as one of her former students I can assure members it is an exciting and somewhat hectic process. These are potters pots and the results unique. Annette's pit is large and there is no restriction on size (in fact the larger the better) or number of pots. Annette has asked that participant's leather hard pots be delivered to her pottery between the 19th and 27th July for air brushing with oxides, she will then bisque them to 850 degrees. A detailed information sheet will be emailed to members in the coming week and those interested in taking part in the workshop can contact Shirley Stubington on 66583554 or gstubs@ozemail.com.au or Annette Copland on 66532540. The firing will be exciting so come along even if you don't have a pot.

This year marks a change of direction in the member's annual exhibition. After some deliberation the committee is proposing to hold a member's competition, a departure from former formats. The competition titled "*Sub Celluloid*" will be open to all members, opening on the 3rd September at the Bunker Gallery with two substantial cash prizes on offer. If you are anything like me you are now frantically scratching your head what does the title mean and what can I make. Don't panic John Tuckwell who is organizing the competition has promised a cameo appearance at the next member's meeting to fill our heads with ideas. Stand by for more information.

On Friday 15th October and Saturday the 16th the committee is proposing to run a lecture and photographic workshop with Jack Meagher. Jack Meagher has been a photographer and photographic exhibitor all his professional life and now lives in our region. For many years he worked for Sotheby's photographing antiques and fine art for their auction catalogues. This is an opportunity to learn how to photograph your work to its best advantage from a master photographer.

Coastal ClayMaker's calendar of events is busy and the committee hopes you will find something to stimulate your interest and get your creative juices running. As always member's input is most valued, feel free to contact any of the committee with your ideas and comments. We look forward to seeing you at any of the up coming events.

Shirley Stubington -For the Committee.

A big welcome to new member **Christina Fernandez**

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Our Aim

to promote and encourage the study of ceramics by means of lectures, discussions, excursions, projects and practical workshops.

Coastal ClayMakers Inc

NEXT MEMBERS MEETING

Friday 18th June at 7 PM.

A talk by **Max Campbell** from

Clayworks



Clayworks is Australia's foremost supplier of clay and pottery supplies. Max will be a font of wisdom for any questions you might have and will bring some samples.
DEFINITELY WORTH THE OUTING

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING INTERESTING TO SAY ABOUT CERAMICS? Have you got a story you think others might be interested in that promotes the use of clay in all it's glory??? We would be keen to hear it.

Terra Nova Ceramics at the Chilli Festival

The **Terra Nova Ceramics** group will again present local pottery at the
12th Chilli Festival on Saturday 3rd July from 10.00 until 4.00pm.

The festival is held in Sawtell's main street and is a great marketing opportunity.

Last year pottery with a chilli theme was in great demand. To cover costs, publicity, registration etc a \$15.00 participating fee is required.

This is a great opportunity to be part of a local festival. You can register your interest in participating by going to the group's web site

terranovac ceramics.com

or by calling

Annette Copland on 66532540.

OPPORTUNITY TO MARKET YOUR WORK

"MADE BY HAND"

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS:

Drew Grove is currently looking at facilitating the opening of a shop at the Palm Centre from Nov-Jan (longer if it is successful) and stocking it with locally designed products and artworks from across the region. He is offering a showcase of the best creative talents in a approachable commercial environment. The shop will be called "**Made By Hand**" and is for exactly that...all hand made work.

He believes that this will be a great opportunity for local craftspeople and artists to be a part of this shop. Gaining commercial experience is very difficult within the region and this may act a good starting point for them.

Items that can be produced have to be hand made by the artist. They can range from paintings, one-off clothing designs, jewellery, prints, home-wares/furnishings, stationary, cards, journals, soft toys, badges, sculpture, music, books etc etc. The list is not exhaustive.

He will be taking some large pieces on a commission basis, but his main aim is to be able to provide affordable art and art that can be used on a daily basis. He wants locals to be able to shop there, in a non sterile gallery space. The space will be filled with a large cross section of objects that are affordable to all. From his experience the best sellers are the pieces that are functional and not just static objects. Depending on the price and whether there will be volumes of products sold he will purchase goods at a wholesale rate and then re sell. Alternatively pieces are of large value would be placed in the shop on a commission basis.

The shop should be a destination in itself. A place that locals feel comfortable to shop and experience art; a place where we can showcase the wealth of talent we have within our area and a place that tourists and visitors can find - a piece of Coffs Harbour that they can take home and treasure.

Please let him know if you think you would like to be part of this project or if you have any questions in relation to this project.

drewgrove1@gmail.com

AND AGAIN.....

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT THERE IS A SPACE WAITING FOR YOUR WORK AND YOUR STORY ON YOUR OWN WEB PAGE— WITH

WWW.COASTALCLAYMAKERS.COM.AU

SEND YOUR PICTURES AND CAREER INFORMATION TO: OZMOSIS@TSN.CC

WOOD FIRE WORKSHOP AT COFFS HARBOUR TAFE

Paul Davis & Jaqui Clayton



As promised, the weekend workshop recently held at the TAFE Ceramics Dept. was full of great moments. Paul and Jaqui were generous in sharing much; their recent experiences travelling in Japan and China, their expertise in pottery making and firing - (on this occasion with the TAFE wood kiln) — and an insight into their own current project in manufacturing in Newcastle.

A full quota of participants attended, with the slide show of Friday night kicking things off. Jaqui gave an informative account with slides of their time in Jingdezhen, China, where ceramics makes up for 70% of the population's employment. There is no parallel in Australia, due in part by our different cultural and historic associations with pottery, OH&S regulations and expensive labour costs. Chinese product flooding the world's markets has impacted on potters in Japan as well, who have turned to reproduction of some lines through mould assisted manufacturing as well as their more expensive traditional ware. Times have changed for potters everywhere and thereby lies the challenge for Australian potters to produce work within our own context.



Paul began the workshop with a demonstration of applying the shino glazes and ash prepared from his recipes. When all students' pots were glazed and dried out in the TAFE gas kiln, Paul began the packing, carefully applying wadding strategically on each pot, keeping in mind the coming play of fire over each one. The kiln was packed and going by 1.30 PM on Saturday, and after lunch Paul gave a demo of throwing and whacking a lump of clay into an open dish. (pictured)



The afternoon was spent continuing the firing, and snapping up of some wonderful pieces Paul and Jaqui brought with them for display and sale. Lists of firing gangs were drawn up for the overnight firing and an evening supper prepared for the workers left to fire into the night. By morning the kiln was reaching temperature, and by 11 AM ready to begin the stoking with wet wood and black wattle. Firing processes causing carbon entrapment, heavy smoking, re hydration and reheating were used for effect in the finished glazes. Then the kiln was allowed to begin cooling, and after lunch a range of kiln designs was discussed and a glaze q & a session ensued. The workshop finished around 3 PM. It was a very cheerful group for the whole weekend and much was learned. Thanks to all the committee members for putting on an excellent workshop, particularly Shirley Stubington for organizing it and hosting Paul and Jaqui, and Phil Greed for the fabulous facilities and help throughout. But most of all thanks to Paul and Jaqui—it was great!!!

Sally Hook

Pics and posts from members

RITA FLYNN'S NOTE BOOK

- ◆ Firing commenced at 1.30pm, by 4.15am. 1200 deg. reached and reduction begun.
- ◆ Paul Davis suggested that this kiln is so efficient we should have begun reduction at 1000 deg.
- ◆ By 4.55am getting good reduction by using pine. Pine is better than hardwood which has too much residue and burns slowly; pine is faster with more carbon. The pine is dipped in water first.
- ◆ Once reduction has commenced avoid lifting lid of firebox which by now should have all holes covered, add small split logs to the stoke hole.
- ◆ At 5.20am one piece of hardwood was added to firebox.
- ◆ When top temperature was reached reduction commenced with green wood.
- ◆ Temperature dropped from cone 11, 1320 deg to 1120 deg in 11 minutes. (Similarly to crystalline glazes.)
- ◆ Smolders not fires, some hardwood also included, sealed off completely with slurry, the dry wood will still fire and the green wood will dry. The water will cause a hydrogen reduction.
- ◆ At some point the wood dries and burns to charcoal and reignites, maybe in a 4 or 5 hour time frame, it depends on the green timber. The pots will develop crystals randomly, but will remelt when reignited.

When emptying the kiln Paul suggests laying the pots out in the order they sat in the kiln to better compare results

Comments:

Paul Davis **Hagi** work is done not in reduction but in oxidation extreme.

Clarification of types and origins of wood firing kilns was very interesting, Korean Anagama, Japanese Noborigama, Chinese Snake or Rifle kiln.

The Boury box kiln designed by Ivan McMeakin is the most economical in use of wood, has a greater calorific value (similar to TAFE kiln).

Suggestions for woodfiring surface treatments - thick shino over black slip, plus carbon trap glaze, and feldspar chip glaze. Also a variety of shino glazes used together. Sprinkle ash randomly on glazed surfaces. Dob glaze thickly with fingers at finish. Dip in salt water before glazing.

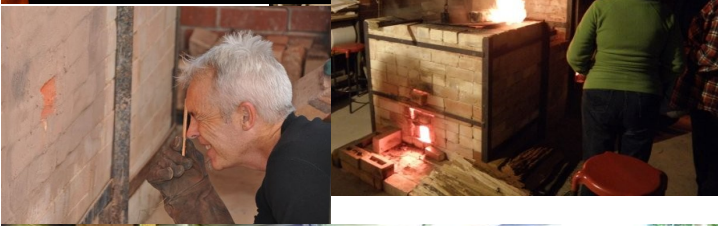
Suggestion for black firing:

Glaze inside not outside which should be burnished. Use Kagero clay for making lidded saggars for black firing, but don't seal lid. Place 'red gum charcoal' around form but don't let it touch pot. Fire at 580 deg. Use of a light metal deburring wheel, medium grade, gives a fine finish to turned pots.

FINAL RESULT—COMMENT BY PHIL GREED.

"It was a successful firing with excellent glaze melt and body reduction, with some real gems, particularly where people had a group of related pots. Lots of interesting results due to wadding and lots of food for thought for future firings."

Read Rita's review on the weekend workshop on our web site www.coastalclaymakers.com.au where some pics are included on our "current news" page.



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INFORMATION

Subscriptions:

Single \$45, double (one newsletter between two members of the same address) \$50. Those joining after June pay \$25 to end of year (new members only), \$50 for groups or organisations. Web site inclusion—for 2010 this service is free to members.

Members Meetings:

Third Friday of every month, Feb to Nov inclusive.
Venue: Refer to page 2.
7.00 PM start. Gold coin donation, includes supper.

Committee Meetings:

First Thursday of the month, Feb to Nov inclusive.

Newsletter: printed or by email:

Ten issues per year (Feb to Nov incl) First week of each month for ten months
Publication deadline; 3rd Friday of the month prior to the month of publication.

Web Site: www.coastalclaymakers.com.au

CLASSIFIEDS:

Members pottery classifieds \$10 per item That ad will be placed on receipt of payment. Commercial advertising space available.: 1/4 page \$50

COFFS HARBOUR POTTERY SUPPLIES

For all pottery equipment, clays, materials, tools....etc

Proprietors: Dave Mason and Lynette Smith

UNIT 4/26 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE (OFF ISLES DRIVE, turn at Blackwoods)

Follow the signs to Ludo's Antiques; we are in the same complex

OUR PHONE AND FAX NUMBERS:

66 515944 and David can be contacted on 0414 603320

Business hours from March: TUESDAY 10-4, WEDNESDAY 10-4, THURSDAY 10 - 4 & THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH 10 -12.00

"SUB CELLULOID"

is the name of our 2010 Members Exhibition

- think movies, books, music - and comment in clay

September 3rd - 26th at the Bunker Gallery

Coastal ClayMakers Inc.

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HUNGRY HEAD STUDIOS

David & May Southgate

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Pottery Classes

8 week term begins 3rd June 2010 and ends 23rd July 2010

Comprised of two half day sessions per week –

Thursday afternoons 2pm – 5pm

Friday Mornings 9am – 12 noon

FEES - \$ 25-00 per half day session

\$ 40-00 combined two sessions.

10% off for full term pre-payment of Fees

Includes use of equipment- slab roller, potting wheels, kiln space, tools (does not include clay)

Our Sessions cater equally for those wishing to expand on their knowledge of ceramics and for anyone with little or no previous experience in using clay and glazes to create satisfying results.

TECHNIQUES EXPLORED:- Slump molding, slip casting, wheel throwing, glazing, sprig making, sculpting, brush decoration and hand building in Earthenware and Stoneware clays.

CLASS NUMBERS ARE LIMITED !

For bookings and more information, contact David or May at
HUNGRY HEAD STUDIOS Ph 66557550

DIARY DATES:

- ◆ June 18th — Monthly Members' Meeting : Max Campbell from Clayworks. 7PM Venue Maritime Building, Isles Drive, Coffs H.
- ◆ July 31st — Pit Firing at Annett Copland studio. Date: 31st July.
- ◆ August 20 — Photographer Jack Meagher — Friday night presentation, Saturday workshop at Maritime Building, Coffs Harbour
- ◆ September 2nd — Annual Members Exhibition — "Sub Celluloid" 2nd — 26th September at the Bunker Gallery, Coffs Harbour