



A Brief History

The Mt Pleasant Pottery Group was founded in 1960, operating from a hut on the other side of the road from the present Community Centre location. The group then was also known as "Betty Crocker Potters" because of their use of commercially supplied materials from Smith & Smith rather than digging them out of the ground like the purist potters did.

The February 2011 earthquake rendered our Mt Pleasant Community Centre clubrooms unsafe so for a number of years the club was without rooms, it was a very difficult time. Class activities did continue to a limited extent in a member's private studio, in association with workshops as part of the Otago Polytech Diploma in Ceramics distance learning. The group will be forever grateful to Shona Clarkson for keeping these group activities going.

In 2016, a then very small but dedicated group of members relocated to the Phillipstown Hub as the group was unable to secure rooms in the newly rebuilt Community Centre. There we occupied a classroom size room plus kiln shed. The club has steadily been re-growing, and presently runs regular classes, children's classes, club days, raku firings, weekend workshops and so on, with mainly new to the craft but keen members.

In 2020, our 60th anniversary year, our club secured the lease for Community Building at Te Rae Kura, Redcliffs Park, a spacious light filled building that will be a permanent pottery haven. We continue to foster the love of pottery and our membership and expertise is expanding.

Address: Te Rae Kura Redcliffs Park, 140 Main Rd, Redcliffs, Christchurch 8081

Email mtpleasantpottery@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.mtpleasantpottery.org.nz>

You can find information on up-coming events, classes, club information, membership and the gallery shop. Also see the Mt Pleasant Pottery Group on Facebook and Instagram

Committee

The club is run by a committee which is elected at the AGM each year.

Current Committee members are

Leigh-Ann Smith (chair)	Sheila Brown (secretary)	Ken Doidge (finance)
Kate Adams	Faye Pearson-Green	Stacey Rod
Lesley Towart	Graham Maguire	Lesley Maclean
Lesley Adams		

Our Administrator is Sarah Mooney

Contributing to the Club

Our club is run by a volunteer committee, and all members contribute to the successful functioning of the organisation and the smooth running of the rooms and all its activities. So we ask that all members help where and when they can .. perhaps attending working bees, general cleaning, items on the 'to do' job list, tidying tools and shelves, repairs, kiln maintenance, as a committee member, fundraising, social media, supporting club events, workshops, exhibitions.

Membership

- Club membership fee is \$100 per person per year – \$60 half year.
- See the Membership Application form on the website for further details.
- Membership gives access to the rooms and facilities from 8am until 9.30pm, except when classes and workshops are timetabled. For Non Members, room access is ONLY during class time.

Key Access

- Access to the key for the studio is via a lockbox located between the studio and the Kuaka room.
- Key access is by application and on approval by the Committee. Experienced members can apply for the key access at any time. Members new to pottery can apply for key access after 1 year.
- On leaving ensure that heater, lights as well as other equipment (radio, wheels, frypan, etc.) are turned off, check windows are closed, all doors locked. Return the lockbox code to 0000.

Payments to the club

- Account details are: Mt Pleasant Pottery, Westpac: 03 1591 0083454 00
- Whenever you are making an online payment, please ensure you clearly show who you are and what you are paying for, and the invoice number
eg. Name, Clay, Invoice # Name, Membership , Invoice # Name, Firing, Invoice #

Members Club day/night

- The club rooms are open to all members on Tuesday during the day 10-2pm and in the evening 7-9pm.
- Each 2nd Tuesday of the month is **Demonstration evening** offering a range of topics during the year. eg. glazes, stamp making, clay recycling, teapots, decoration. If there are topics that you would like to have covered, please talk to a committee member.

Classes and workshops

- There are many different classes and workshops available during the year, offering tuition for the beginner to the more experienced, including hand-building, sculpture, wheel work, glazes, kiln use, colour and texture decoration. See our website for full details.
- Classes and workshops are at a discounted fee price for Members, with no facility fee included. Classes are advertised to members first to give priority enrolment before non-members.
- One-off workshops are offered during the year, usually during a weekend. Information on up coming workshops will be in the newsletter or website.

MPPG Pottery Gallery

Our pottery Gallery has work by our Members for sale. It is open every Saturday and Sunday from 11-3pm.

Exhibitions

We hold two club Exhibitions ..

- Annual **Club Exhibition** is usually held over Matariki weekend showcasing selected works by club Members, including an invited guest exhibitor/judge who will also give a demonstration or weekend workshop.
- The **Classes Exhibition** in December as a celebration of works created by class participants.

We encourage all members, from beginner to experienced, to participate in these events. By submitting work, volunteering for the many jobs large and small you become a valuable member of the club and you help contribute to making the event a very popular and celebratory occasion.

Library

We have a large number of books and magazines available for borrowing. Please write your name and phone number, the book borrowed, and the date in the library book. Please only keep them for a maximum of four weeks.

GUIDE to safe and successful USE OF POTTERY FACILITIES

Arriving :

- **Sign in** : When you arrive at the Pottery Room, please sign yourself into the **Sign in Book** on the table near the entrance door.. This applies even when you are just picking up items, club days, individual use of the room, (un)loading kiln, attending a workshop.
- Some members use their own trolley to transport their clay, materials and work to and from the studio. A club trolley is available.
- Be aware of potential hazards from dogs and humans in the park, including trip hazards from debris, dogs and childrens' bikes etc. along the path.

What to wear: Wear suitable footwear, ie. closed shoes, to avoid slips and injury. Care to avoid tangling on the wheel from loose clothing or long hair. Use a mask and gloves when handling toxic materials.

Lights and Heating : Light switches and the Heat pump controller are on the wall above the 'sign in' cupboard. Turn off both when you leave.

Toilets: The toilets are situated in the foyer between Club rooms working space and the exhibition room.

On Leaving Ensure that heater, lights as well as other equipment (radio, wheels, frypan, etc.) are turned off. Workshop tables, wheels, sink, bench, floor are clean. Check that all windows closed and external doors are locked.

Kitchen area:

- Fridge, crockery, cutlery, tea/coffee making is available for use. Clean up afterwards.
- Do not contaminate 'food only' areas with clay and glaze chemicals.
- Do not wash clay/glaze contaminated hands in kitchen sink.

Rubbish:

We do not have a CCC rubbish bin so 'someone' has to take it home with them. Could you please take your rubbish home with you if possible. There is a small bin there for tea bags etc. Please do not put clay or discarded pots in the rubbish.

General Cleaning:

It is essential that every member helps with keeping the room clean and safe. Clay and glaze dust from the clay can cause irritation to airways and silicosis, so regular careful cleaning is essential.

- All equipment that you use must be cleaned, ready for the next person. This includes tables, boards, table surfaces, wedging boards, batts, wheels, containers, moulds, sponges, brushes etc.
- **Triple clean** wheels and benches - Remove all slurry, Sponge with fresh water. Wipe dry with cloth/towel.
- Sweep and Mop floor. (Do not vacuum as this causes the clay dust to stir up)
- Spray air with water disperser to control air bourn clay particles. Sprayer labelled H₂O

Clay

- **Purchasing clay** - please record your name, clay type, bag number and buddy check by committee member or tutor. Pay when you receive the invoice.
- **Clay Storage** - There is a limited space on shelves for clay storage. Bring only what you need to each session.
- Sanding of green and bisque work should be avoided as much as possible. Wear a protective mask. Use sponge instead for greenware. Any sanding must be done outside.
- Clay easily blocks the pipes. We have a small clay trap it is only meant to catch the last bits of clay residue. Please minimise the amount of clay that goes down the drain.
- **Place all your clay slurry, scraps and tools in your own plastic container and take home. Clean your own tools at home. Recycle your clay .. It is super easy !**

Equipment: (Tools, bats, banding wheels, heat guns)

- All equipment and tools must stay on site.
- Clean all equipment thoroughly after use and return to where they belong.
- **Hot wax pan:** Always use the timer. Do not leave unattended. Open windows. To avoid risk of burns and fire, use cold wax if possible.
- **Moulds and Plaster slabs:** Clean thoroughly after use and return with wet sponge. No sharp tools on moulds. Safe practice when lifting heavy moulds.
- **Slab roller and Extruder:** Take care to not use unless have instruction. Single person use to avoid injury. Clean after use.
- **Heat guns** - Do not touch electrical connections with wet hands and keep heat gun away from water.

Wheels:

- There are 10 wheels. Most can be reversed for left-handers.
- Take care to not touch electrical connections with wet hands.
- Ensure any water or slip around the wheels is cleaned up immediately to prevent falls. Keep all areas you are using tidy and free from trip hazards.
- Clean wheels thoroughly:
 - Remove all slurry. (you must take this home)
 - Clean and Sponge with fresh water
 - Wipe dry with cloth/towel
- Turn off power when finished.
- Report any issues.

Shelves and storage

- There is a limited space on shelves for clay storage. If possible bring only what you need to each session.
- Pots can be stored short term at the club, on designated shelves. This short-term storage is intended to allow for work to firm up so that it can be finished and taken home.
- We recommend you obtain a polystyrene box with a lid in which you can safely transport and dry your pots in a controllable environment.
- Please do not handle other people's work

Glazes

- Premade glazes in the Kiln room are exclusively supplied for class members during class times only. All glazes in bins need to be stirred thoroughly before every dip.
- If you are new to pottery, you can learn about glazes, glaze making and application in classes.
- Pieces (and kiln shelves) can be ruined by incorrect glaze use, over application, or base clean prior to firing.
- Only designated members, have permission to access glazes and glaze materials, ie, tutors, glaze coordinator, committee members. Do not touch glaze materials unless under their direct supervision.
- There are significant hazards from the toxicity of many glaze materials. Wear a mask when dealing with glaze powder/dust to avoid inhaling toxic chemicals. Wear gloves if in direct contact with glaze. Wash hands thoroughly.
- Members who don't attend classes have a number of glaze options available. You can make your own glazes or you can buy some premade ones. There are a number of NZ companies that supply these, please ask a committee member for guidance.

Kilns and Firings

- We have three electric kilns.
- There are significant heat, chemical and electrical hazards.
- Do not touch the kilns unless you are a club designated trained kiln user. Kilns are only to be fired by approved members. This includes both loading and unloading.
- We do not run a firing service. There are a number of places locally that do, eg. General Pottery

Trained Kiln Users Firing

- Kiln are only to be fired by approved members. This includes both loading and unloading. Only trained kiln users are permitted to fire our kilns.
- If you are interested in becoming a trained kiln user, there are yearly kiln courses held by the club. You will be placed in a kiln group and be enrolled for training sessions.
- Current firing costs are:
Kilns 1/2 - \$40 bisque \$60 gloss, Kiln 3 - \$20 bisque. \$30 gloss
- Commercial rates for members - 50% addition to firing charge
- Firing details are to be entered into the firing book and will be invoiced.
- If several members are sharing a kiln load then one person must pay for the firing in full and seek reimbursement from the other members.

Members 'casual' and Classes Firing

- There will be weekly club firings, dependent on demand, managed by a trained kiln user.
- To have your pots fired - Weigh your pots,
 - Enter your details into the Members or the Classes firing book,
 - Write your details on a firing slip
 - Place the note with your pots on the members shelves.
 - You will be invoiced at the end of the month.
- **Members and Class firing costs** are:
 - Bisque and Gloss = \$15 per kilo. (includes access to club glazes)
 - Weighed before bisque fire. Weight, number of pots recorded in Members firing book.
 - Paper slip with name and details placed with pots on Members shelf.
- Kiln shelves can be ruined by incorrect glaze use, over application, or by not cleaning pot bases prior to firing. Test any new glazes or combinations before applying to a pot and if in any doubt, place your pot on a patty to protect the shelf.
- Every pot needs to be individually marked with your initials or potters mark on the bottom or it can't be fired.
- Please do not pick up or touch another member's work, unless invited to do so by the owner!

Injury: First Aid Kit In cupboard kitchen

Incident Book Please fill in if any accidents or incidents happen. Book is in the 'sign in' cupboard

Emergency: Fire: Evacuate to field, call 111, Advise fire service of hazards (glaze chemicals/kilns)

Earthquake – drop, cover, hold, Evacuate to field.

Tsunami: if alarms sound or prolonged quake, evacuate to higher ground

Safety Induction: On becoming a member or when starting a class, you will be given a short health and safety information by either your tutor or a club member about the location of exits, hazardous materials, safety protocols and other items of note. If you have not been given this talk, please see a Committee member.