

Craft Potters Nelson

Handbook

2016

Web Page [craftpotters.org.nz](http://craftpotters.org.nz)

Face Book Craft Potters

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# Introducing Craft Potters Nelson

Welcome to Craft Potters Nelson. We are a group of enthusiastic potters who enjoy coming together to gain support and inspiration for our endeavours with clay. We also promote and maintain interest in the art of pottery in the Nelson area by organising classes, workshops and exhibitions.

Craft Potters Nelson started with a group who had been attending classes at the Nelson Polytech with Mirek Smisek. They formed the first organized potters group in Nelson and started meeting in 1974 at Zenith Orchard near Hope. By 1975, the membership had risen to 140. In 1976 a split occurred and Nelson Community Potters was also established.

After 10 years of renting the Zenith Orchard, the property was sold and an enormous effort was made to purchase and develop our present clubs rooms. The land at Ranzau Road was purchased, and with a grant from the Lottery Board, a small grant from the Waimea County Council and a huge fund raising effort from the members, the building was opened in 1984.

The ongoing maintenance of the rooms, equipment, and the activities of the club requires dedicated input from our members. To familiarise yourself with the workings of the club we encourage you to read this manual, address any queries about the running of the rooms to committee members and if interested come on board with us.

# Membership

The club relies on membership subscriptions as a large part of its income.

We have three categories of membership:

## 1 **Class Members**

The annual subscription is \$60

This gives members a 20% discount for classes, workshops and Raku Days.

Class members receive priority for attendance to classes and workshops. They receive the newsletter via email; have full voting rights but only have access to the club rooms during classes and other club activities.

## 2 **Full Membership**

The annual subscription is \$150. This gives these members access to the security code and pin that allows entry to the rooms at any time, ability to book a kiln for their own use, and the use of all the glaze materials.

Full members get a 40% discount and priority attendance on all classes and workshops and Raku Days. They receive the newsletter via email and have full voting rights.

## 3 **Associate Members**

The annual subscription is \$30. This membership suits retired club members who will receive the newsletters via email, have full voting rights and can attend club evenings.

# Classes

The classes run for a six to eight week period that follows the school term.

Currently we have classes running on Wednesday mornings from 10a.m. to midday. The tutor for these classes changes and depending on their particular interest hand work or wheel work is taught. An optional shared pot luck lunch is enjoyed following these classes.

There is also a popular Tuesday evening class from 7pm to 9pm on handwork which is currently tutored by Kirsten Bosjwick.

Class Fees	Non Members	\$140
	Class Members	\$120
	Full Members	\$100

Payment is by internet banking before the first class into the Craft Potters Nelson account is NBS 031354 0335355 00

~~Start up~~Clay can be purchased for the classes at South Street Gallery or Potters Clay A small amount of clay is available at the rooms. All work made in class is glazed and fired as part of the class cost.

Details of enrolment are included in the newsletter notifications.

## Workshops

Throughout the year the committee organises different weekend workshops. Last year we were fortunate to have Royce McGlashen, Sue Newitt and Allan Ballard run workshops. The newsletter, web site and face book page all advertise upcoming workshops and the registration processes.

## **Raku Firing Days**

There is a Raku Kiln outside at the back of the rooms. During the winter months we try to have monthly firings on a Sunday. If you are interested in attending one of these firings you can have your pots bisque fired at a given date before the firing and come and join the fun. Glazes are provided and applied on the day. Details of enrolment are included in the newsletter notifications.

## **Boredom Busters**

During the school holidays the club runs clay modelling classes for children aged from 6 years. These classes run from 1pm to 3pm on a weekly basis at a cost of \$15 per student per class. The children's work is bisque fired and can then be painted on for further decoration at home.

## **Birthday Parties**

If there are club members available to run a class, the rooms can be rented for a children's birthday party at the cost of \$15 per child.

## **Library**

The club library has an extensive range of books covering all aspects of pottery. These are available for members to borrow. For the books that are carded put your name and date on the card and leave it in the card box. Some of the books have been donated and are not carded. For these books write the name of the book, your name and the date in the notebook provided on the library shelf. Please return all borrowed books within 2-3 weeks and mark off on return.

## **Clay**

The clay that is mainly used for classes is Terra Cotta Red that fires to 1150°C (cone 1 to 3) or Mid Fired White Clay that fires to 1230°C (cone 6 ). There is a small supply of clay for sale at the rooms but it is cheaper to buy at the South Street Gallery at 10 Nile Street. South Street Gallery has an extensive range of clays and pottery supplies for sale.

## **Glazes**

There are a wide range of glazes and glaze materials held at the rooms available to class participants and club members. The colour and cone number is on a tile on the buckets. There is a catalogue available to show the colours of the Abbotts glazes held.

When using glazes please use clean paddles when stirring, do not mix glazes and always leave with lid securely on so they do not evaporate. Glazing is a messy business. Be sure to thoroughly clean up, including the floor, following a glazing session.

## **Kilns**

In the rooms there are four electric kilns as well as a raku and a gas kiln. Full members may book a kiln for their own use. In order to do this find the booklet relating to the specific kiln which will have a calendar page showing availability. Book the kiln then make sure that there is a member with kiln knowledge that is available to help you set the temperature gauge and load it if you are not familiar with doing so. Workshops are run to familiarise members with the running of the kilns.

The for a firing costs are

	Bisque	Midfire	Gloss
Kiln 1	\$36	\$39	\$43
Kiln2	\$26	\$30	\$34
Kiln 3 (front loader)	\$42	\$57	
Small Sample Kiln	\$12	\$14	
Gas Kiln	\$60		

Please pay for all firings via internet banking to our acc with a reference of your name, and the Kiln used.

## **Health and Safety**

The equipment at Craft Potters is available for use by full members or those potters enrolled in classes or workshops. Be aware that inhaling the fine dust generated by dry clay particles is hazardous. Always clean up with a damp sponge or mop rather than dusting or sweeping.

Please familiarise yourself with all the health and safety requirements involved in using the glazes or kilns. A document regarding these is on the Health and Safety Notice Board at the front of the rooms. If you have any concerns please contact a committee member.

## **The Gallery**

Gallery space is available at the rooms for members to display and sell their work.

## **Diploma of Ceramic Arts**

Through Nelson Craft Potters, in partnership with University of Otago, it is possible to study for a Diploma in Ceramic Arts. Theory is taught via distance tuition from Otago and the practical component of the diploma is taught at the rooms under the tutoring of experienced local potters. The current tutors are Kirsten Boswijk, Sue Newitt and Darryl Frost.



If you are interested in more information about this course contact committee members Tanja or KarinKarin.