Potters' Association of Namibia

www.pan.iway.na

NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, Issue 1

Jan, Feb, March 2015

Life is the art of drawing without an eraser.

John W. Gardner

" White Horse with Vervet Monkeys" by Carol Hayward Fell -

Winner of the Premier Award at the Corobrik National Ceramics Exhibition Nov 2014, Cape Town, South Africa

OUR MISSION

The main objective of The Potters' Association of Namibia is primarily to foster the art and craft of pottery and ceramics in every way. We encourage the development, recognition, appreciation of pottery and ceramics; we hold exhibitions, publish regular newsletters, and distribute related magazines. Furthermore, by providing practical workshops, technical information, skills development, arranging and encouraging social interaction, we support the interests of like-minded people.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Page 1: Front Page

Page 2: Index, Committee Contact Details

Page 3: Message from the Chair

Page 4 - 5: Going Potty – How to prevent bloating in your clay body

Page 6: Kiln Sale

Page 7: CPS Advert

Page 8: Membership Report

Page 9: Reinders Advert

Page 10: Hüster Advert

Page 11: AGM Notice

Page 12: Belmont Advert

Page 13 – 14 CSA Clay Festival

Page 15: PAN Events 2015

[Cite your source here.]

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Next Newsletter Deadline: 30.04.2015

FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS OR ENQUIERIES SEND AN E-MAIL TO PAN@IWAY.NA

Greetings from the Chair

Dear PAN Members,

The New Year has started with full swing and I'm sure all of you had a great holiday and returned well rested back to work.

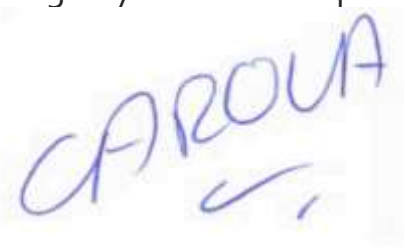
PAN has started off the year with the organization and planning of the 7th PAN National Ceramics Biennale. We have received the confirmation from Cynthia Bringle from the United States of America to come to Namibia to act as our selecting judge and workshop host. Cynthia will be presenting a participating workshop in Windhoek after the opening of the exhibition and another participating workshop in Swakopmund the weekend thereafter.

The first most important event on PAN's calendar is the AGM to be held in Windhoek on **14.03.2015**. Further details are published in the newsletter. Please make an effort to attend this meeting and if you are able please offer your assistance on the committee. Your help and input is very much appreciated.

We also remind you that the yearly membership fee is due in March. You will receive an invoice from Anita per e-mail. Please pay your membership as we need your funds for the smooth running of the association. If you come and pay your membership personally at the AGM you will receive a 10% discount.

On this note I wish you all a great potting year, may all your plans and ideas turn into the most beautiful creations. Start now with the planning of your Biennale pieces, as we all know "Time flies when you're having fun".

With that I wish you all happy potting



How to Prevent Bloating in Your Clay Body

Fault: Dirty Firing

Clays usually contain some organic materials which will burn in the presence of enough heat and oxygen. Some clays contain small to significant amounts of tiny crystals of pyrite, an iron sulphide. The sulphur in pyrite burns readily at moderate kiln temperatures and in a properly fired kiln has burned off by about 700°C. However, if the kiln is starved for air (unlikely in a well-vented electric kiln or a carefully tended fuel-fired kiln) the sulphur, as well as organic materials, can still be present. If oxygen gets into the kiln later in the firing, when the clay body is soft due to nearing its peak firing temperature, large volumes of gas will be generated by the combustion of the sulphur and organics and that will cause gas bloating in the ware.

Fault: Clay Mixing

When firing is clean and fully oxidizing until organics and sulphur are burned off, but bloating is observed, then the fault is not with the firing, but rather with inconsistencies in the clay body mixing. The fault is that flux in the clay body is concentrated in clusters, rather than being distributed uniformly throughout the body. As any clay body approaches peak firing temperature, two features are always present in the work. There is a liquid glass phase formed from flux elements in the body melting the glass former present. There are also small bubbles of kiln gas left over as the body shrinks and becomes dense from the firing.

The glass phase, being a liquid, has almost no strength. At this point in the firing, the strength to keep the ceramic shape is supplied by the clay, quartz, and other more refractory materials in the body.

The gas bubbles naturally exert force to expand because the temperature everywhere in the kiln and ware is rising. The bubbles expand if they are not confined by the clay body. In a well-mixed clay body, the liquid-glass phase is present in minute droplets too small to see with the naked eye. However, in the case of a poorly mixed body, or one contaminated with lumps of

DEFINING THE TERMS

Bloating:

Formation, in a clay body during firing, of a gas bubble large enough to distort the surface shape of the fired ceramic. In severe cases the gas bubble will burst through to the surface of the fired work.

Oxidizing

Atmosphere: An excess of oxygen from air in a kiln firing.

Reducing Atmosphere:

A shortage of oxygen from air in a kiln firing.

Overfiring:

Firing a ceramic body so hot that it begins to distort from melting.

flux mineral, the glass phase forms pools just large enough that the clay-body structure is susceptible to being ruptured by expanding gas bubbles. That's what happens when a clay body bloats due to poor mixing of its ingredients. An excessively large glass pool weakens the clay and expanding gas forms a bubble at the site.

Note that while the body is overfired locally, the body does not look overfired in general. Certainly, bloats would not appear if the ware had been fired to a lower peak temperature, but firing temperature alone is not the root cause of bloating. The firing simply reveals the poorly mixed body's susceptibility to this fault.

Troubleshooting the Basics It is critical that the first firing of all ceramic work be done in a fully oxidizing atmosphere until all organic s and sulphur compounds are burned off. This is especially critical with work that is to be fired to full density—functional work intended to be impervious to water or other liquids.

A good rule of thumb is, regardless of the heat source of the kiln, fire such work in a fully oxidizing atmosphere up to ~816°C. Organics and sulphur will have burned cleanly off by that point and will not cause problems later in the firing.

When bloating due to poor clay mixing occurs, the culprit is almost always feldspar in the clay body recipe. Feldspar, when handled dry, tends to form small clumps due to electrostatic attraction. Feldspar clumps, if blended into the body, cause bloats.

Such clumps can easily be prevented by simply mixing the water for the clay body recipe with 5 to 10% of the clay to be used, and then mixing the feldspar into that dilute clay slurry. This process, best done with a high-speed mixer, coats the feldspar particles with just enough clay to prevent feldspar clumping.

It is also possible for crystals of flux oxides to precipitate from clay slip found in recycled clay (crystals formed from soluble salts in studio water or dissolved from the body itself), and for those crystals to cause bloats. Where ware is formed from extensively recycled clay, but not from new clay of the same recipe, the safest remedy is to throw out the reclaim. Crystals can be removed by slurrying and screening, but the result will be a body of somewhat altered, and unknown, chemical composition. Clay is just not valuable enough to risk forming effort on a suspect body.

DISCLAIMER:

Neither the Editor, PAN Committee members, nor the contributors to this newsletter will be held responsible for any errors that may creep in unnoticed. The personal opinions freely expressed are not necessarily those of the Association! We welcome, and are most grateful for any contributions to this newsletter! However, the Editor retains the sole right to edit, and/or refuse unsuitable material, submitted for publication

FOR SALE

Front Loading Kiln

30x30x30 inside

15 Amp Plug in

3 Kiln Shelves

Mod 003

3 Ramp Controller with Soak

N$ 2350,00

Contact:

Ronja Herbst

Cell 0817639183

Home: 061 – 304 765

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LM-60
Daffodil Yellow
LM-67
Tangerine
LM-13
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"I love Amaco's
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the texture reminds me of stoneware glazes I've loved.
Easy to use and dinnerware safe, they
produce some amazing surfaces in an electric kiln.
(And, they photograph really well too!)"
—Justin Rothshank
LM-52
Pink
LM-65
Butterscotch
LM-231
Chestnut Brown
LM-53
Orchid
LM-50
Burgundy
LM-54
Coral
LM-56
Red
LM-66
Orange
LM-58
Purple
LM-21
Sky Blue
LM-20
Blue Iris
LM-46
Dark Green
LM-41
Chartreuse
LM-25
Robin Egg Blue
LM-15
Dove Gray
LM-16
Elephant Hide
LM-42
Parakeet Green
LM-244
Blue Green
LM-30
Cocoa Brown
LM-32
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LM-11
Opaque White
LM-1
Satin Black
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AMERICA'S MOST TRUSTED
GLAZES
All LM Glazes are sprayable
and dinnerware safe.

Membership News

2015 Membership Fees

Single: N$ 350.00

Couple: N$ 400.00

Student / Pensioner: N$ 220.00

PAN RULES OF MEMBERSHIP

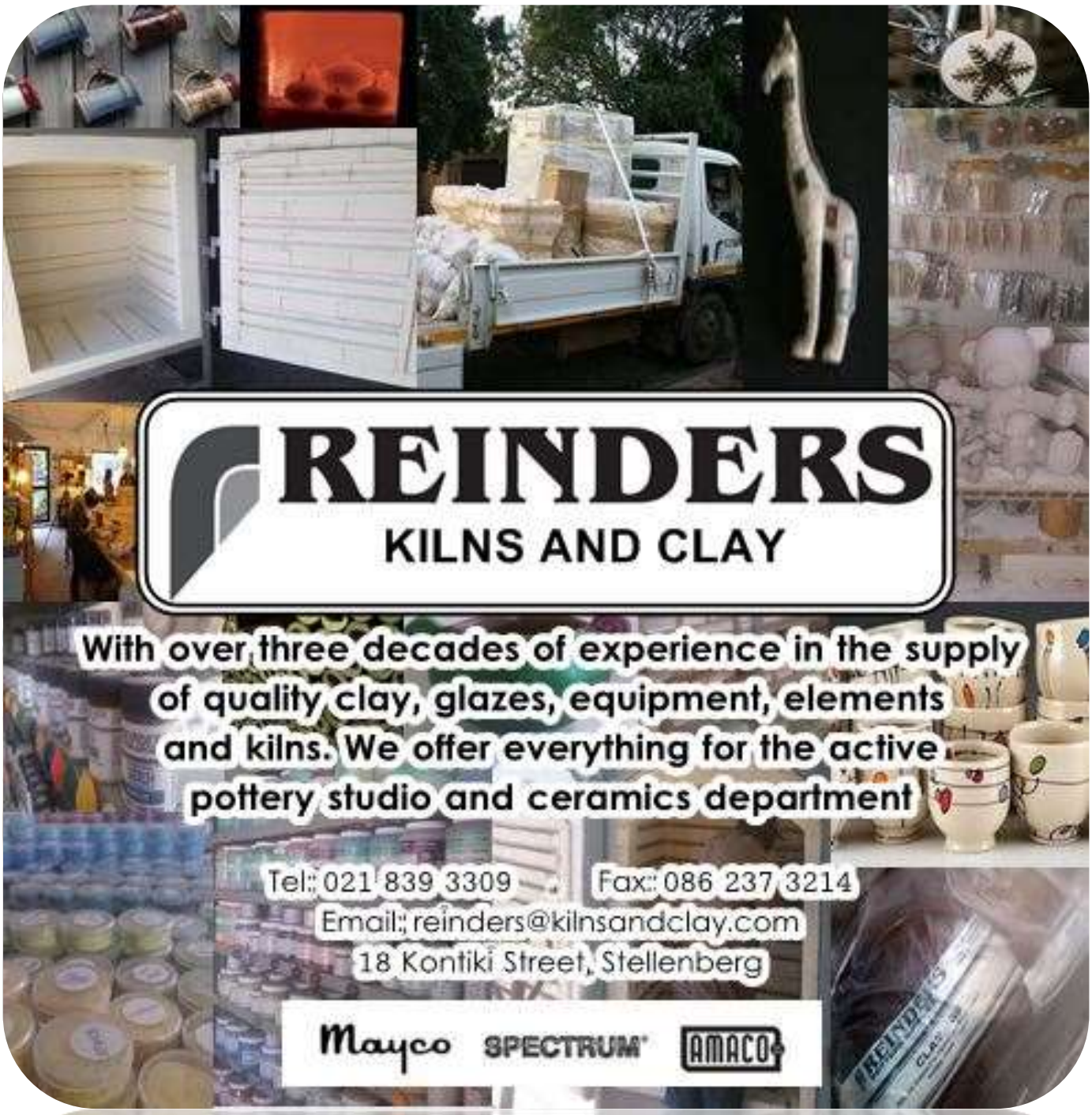
1. Membership is valid for a period of **12 consecutive months,** starting 1 March until 28 February the following year. A renewal reminder with an invoice will be sent to you before the end of February. If your renewal fee is not received **by the end of March**, membership will automatically expire and newsletters and the NCQ magazine will be withheld.
2. Annual membership and events fees are regularly reviewed and adjusted if required, at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
3. A **Bona fide student** is a full-time ceramic student, or is a part-time ceramic student under the age of 20 years, registered with a recognized tertiary institution. A **Pensioner** is a potter/ceramist whose sole income is derived from their pension and sales of their ceramics. **Proof of either status must be attached to membership application form.** Student and Pensioner members receive the PAN newsletters only and not the NCQ magazine, and may enter exhibition, attend workshops and other events.
4. The Committee of The Potters' Association of Namibia reserves the right to decline any application for membership or to terminate the membership of any person and shall not be obliged to furnish any reason for doing so.

Payment Method

Kindly settle by EFT or deposit a cheque directly into: Standard Bank Namibia, Swakopmund Branch Code 082172, Current Account No.: 240211073. Fax proof of payment with this completed form to either 088 6509503 or fax 088 643215 (PAN's fax to e-mail nr) or e-mail to: pan@iway.na

Bonus

If you sign up 3 new members in one year you will receive 1 year's membership free!


REINDERS
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ahuester@iafrica.com.na

WINDHOEK

We are proud to announce that we are the Namibian agents for all kind of Pottery Equipment and Supplies!

This includes all:

Wheels

Kilns & Instrumentation

Glazes and Underglazes

Tools and Equipment

Clay and Chemicals

Raw Materials

Books, etc.

We also offer Spares and Service and Repair all Pottery Equipment.

Contact us at the above numbers for any enquiries

TAKE NOTE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TO BE HELD ON

SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2015

09:00 for 09:30

Crn Joseph Mulwato Ithana & Xena St. Ludwigsdorf, Windhoek

Anita Zimny's House. Entrance Joseph Mulwato Ithana St.

AGENDA

1. Attendance & Apologies
2. Opening welcome
3. Acceptance of Minutes of AGM 15 March 2013
4. Chairperson's Annual Report
5. Treasurer's Financial Report
6. New Matters / Motions to be considered:
7. Relief of Outgoing Executive Committee members
8. Election of Incoming Committee members
9. General: Open Discussion
10. Adjournment
11. Refreshments

Please note:

Voting by proxy for the elections to the Executive Committee will not be allowed.

***** PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE / NON-ATTENDANCE**

e-mail: pan@iway.na

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Danie: +27 71 906 3313
E-mail: belmont@cermalab.co.za

Programme & Booking Information
7th & 8th March 2015
Berario Recreation Centre
Cnr Dolores Ave & King Str, Berario, Jhb
P O Box 2900 North Riding 2162, Tel: 074 703 4399, Fax: 086 664 0958, e-mail: ceramicssa@icon.co.za

PROGRAMME & BOOKING INFORMATION

To book for any of the workshops or talks please do payment by EFT and send your proof of payment to ceramicssa@icon.co.za **using your name and the numbers of the workshops you wish to attend as your reference.**

Please study the workshops carefully and avoid overlapping when making your choices.
Clay Festival 2015 will be booked per workshop and runs over a week end only.

All workshops cost R350.00 for members and R400.00 for non-members

Member's Special: book for 4 workshops for R1200.00

Lunchtime Talks open to members only, R50.00 each

Workshops on offer will be Demonstrating, Participating (in some instances PowerPoint presentation/ demonstrating/participating) and an illustrated talk. There is an interesting line up of presenters, 3 of whom are from the Cape and the rest from Gauteng.
A firing service (*without liability)* will be available to those artists who would like work made in participating workshops fired. Rose Hobson can be contacted on 084 436 4312.
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Get to know your workshop presenters on the CSA website, Facebook and blog sites, as well as their personal web sites

http://www.ceramicssa.org/
http://ceramicssouthernafrica.blogspot.com/
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ceramics-Southern-Africa/344223788683

Demonstrations in the Trade Hall will be organised by Gauteng Teaching Studios and there is no charge for watching these amazing artists at work. An excellent line up of artists will be doing demonstrations of decorating and forming techniques in the trade hall throughout the week end. In addition, artists will be demonstrating wheelwork and an ongoing sculpture building exercise over the 2 day period to further complement the line-up. Many of the artists will have examples of their work on sale.

Flavours

Deli & Bistro

Will be offering a delicious array of homemade goodies, salads, and refreshments.
Their superb bottled products will also be on sale.
A lovely café area in the trade hall near the demonstrations will be available where you can watch, eat and relax.

PAN EVENTS
2015
March
Saturday 14 - AGM, Windhoek
April
Saturday 18 - DVD Evening Swakop & Whk
July
Saturday 18- DVD Evening Swakop & Whk
August
Saturday 29 - Biennale Entries hand in at NAGN 09:00 - 12:00
September
Thursday 03 - Opening of 7th PAN National Ceramics Bienanle
October
Saturday 17 - DVD Evening Swakop & Whk

7TH PAN NATIONAL CERAMICS BIENNALE

SATURDAY 29 August 2015

Hand in entries at the NAGN, Windhoek

THURSDAY 03 September 2015

Opening and award presentation by acclaimed US potter *Cynthia Bringle*