

PAN 2026 NEWSLETTER



ARTIST SVENJA GARRARD

C O N T E N T S

A message from us

Let's make it a great celebration - PAN 40
years

A round of Hellos

An introduction to your 2026 committee

We want to welcome new members

Why join us

Feature your studio

Dates to look forward to

Provisional dates - events & workshops

Member news

In the Spotlight - Uschi Hallwachs

Pottery tips



POTTERS' ASSOCIATION
OF NAMIBIA

Welcome to both our returning and new members.

AND welcome to our May 2026 Newsletter. As autumn brings cooler studio nights, we're excited about all the workshops and markets planned for this year.

We extend our gratitude to Carola Lorck and Estee Cuff who opened their doors graciously hosting the Annual General Meeting on February 13th, 2026. Attendance was excellent, with one meeting conducted across two in-person venues, and additional members participating online. We sincerely appreciate your commitment to upholding the legal integrity of our Association.

A modest increase in membership fees has been approved. We kindly remind our longstanding members to renew their PAN memberships and look forward to your participation in the exciting events planned on our calendar.

Looking ahead, 2027 will be a landmark year for the Association as we celebrate our 40th anniversary. We invite our senior community members to share recollections of earlier times, including stories about former members who are no longer with us. Email to potters.namibia@gmail.com

Numerous ideas have been proposed to make this a memorable celebration all year long. However, your involvement is essential to its success. As always, we value your ongoing support and contributions.

Thank you to everyone contributing to time, clay and creativity.



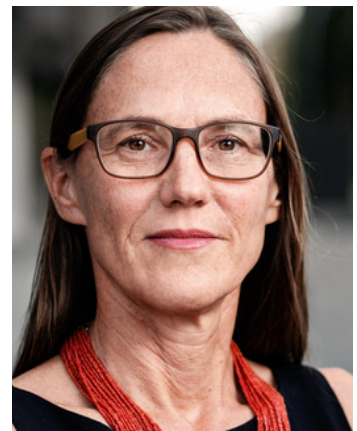
YOUR PAN 2026 COMMITTEE



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RAFIA AFSAR

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WHY JOIN PAN

If you share our passion for pottery, are eager to learn new techniques, connect with a supportive community, or simply want to showcase your work to a wider audience - then PAN is for you! Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned artist, PAN provides the perfect platform to develop your craft and be part of Namibia's growing and vibrant pottery scene.

Exclusive Member Benefits

- PAN aims to increase the number of workshops in Namibia, bringing in both local and international teachers. PAN Members get **discounts** on these workshops.
- Showcase your teaching studio on the website at no additional fee.
- Access to the PAN WhatsApp group where tips, inspirational work and ideas are shared by Namibian potters.

Get Exposure & Showcase Your Work

- PAN will continue to hold the Biennale Exhibition which is a judged event. The aim of this is to stimulate potters to stretch themselves creatively. Exhibitions and Biennale are open **ONLY** to PAN members. By holding such a prestigious event, we help raise the profile of artists and their work in Namibia.
- Get access to exhibitions and events, where you can display and get your work into different galleries around Namibia.
- Enjoy access to the Craft Market Centre in Windhoek to showcase and sell your work.
- Join PAN Potters Markets locations Windhoek and Swakopmund.

Community & Learning Opportunities

- Join a community and share your passion. In addition to official workshops, we will facilitate video evenings where potters can meet, watch a video together to learn about a particular technique and discuss over a glass of wine or cup of tea. We hope to make this a regular event both in Windhoek and Swakopmund; and will encourage potters throughout.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook: [namibianceramics](#).



OFFERING CLASSES?

GET YOUR STUDIO FEATURED ON THE PAN WEBSITE

*We need your updated studio information
to upload to the PAN website and help
get your name out there.*

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU:

A short brief about you and your studio

A photograph of yourself

The name of your studio

Your contact details

To feature – free of charge – please forward your profile with picture to potters.namibia@gmail.com as soon as possible. Deadline is 30th of May 2026!

2026 PROVISIONAL CALENDAR

D A T E S T O L O O K F O R W A R D T O

WORKSHOPS & EVENTS.

April	May	June 12 - 13 th of June From Noice to Voice - Betsie van Rensburg
July Shelley Maisel workshop in Windhoek 25 - 26 th of July Shelley Maisel workshop in Swakopmund 31 st of July to 1 st of August	August 08th of August - Pottery Market in Windhoek.	September
October	November November date TBC - Animals by Night fundraiser for SPCA	December 19 th of December - Pottery Market in Swakopmund.

Shelley Maisel Workshop

The Potter's Association of Namibia is excited to offer a two-day workshop by Shelley Maisel in **July and August 2026**.

For more information please follow Shelley at:
Instagram: @shelleymaiselceramics
Facebook: shelleymaiselceramics
At the workshop, Shelley will demonstrate a range of decorating techniques using oxides, decorating slips, dry brushing, stamping, dry and wet sponging.

Participants will construct a vessel using a form. In addition, potters must bring the following stoneware items:

- One small undecorated greenware piece
- One small undecorated bisqueware plate or flat bowl
- One partially glazed glazeware piece with line/marks on it (marks to be made at the greenware stage over underglaze).

These items will be decorated using the range of the techniques demonstrated.



Windhoek – Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 July 2026
Lesley Crawford's Studio, 10 Woermann Street, Klein Windhoek, Windhoek

Swakopmund – Friday 31 July & Saturday 1 August 2026
Carola Lorck Keramik Haus - Keep in Touch, 19 Tsauchab Street, Kramersdorp, Swakopmund

Cost – **N\$1,100** (PAN Members); **N\$1,200** (non PAN Members); **N\$1,000** (Students/Retired PAN members)

Applications (click link)

<https://forms.gle/2H8ZENbzWQ412DEo6>



 **Capricorn Asset Management**
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POTTERS' ASSOCIATION
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BETSIE VAN RENSBURG

FROM NOISE TO VOICE

*A workshop for
Artists*

Keramic Haus - Keep in Touch
19 Tsauchab Str, Swakopmund

12 and 13 June 2026
Fri 12 17:00 - 20:00
Sat 13 09:00 - 15:00

Cost
N\$800 (PAN Members)
N\$900 (non PAN Members)
N\$700 (Students/Retired PAN
members)

Application (click link)
<https://forms.gle/LsKSJieKqMSGd8wXA>

Artists of all levels are invited to a reflective and creative workshop exploring the journey from external expectations to the authentic inner voice.

Through various exercises including creating collages, Betsie van Rensburg will guide participants to look at the 'noise' that often surrounds the creative process and rediscover the artist within.



POTTERS' ASSOCIATION
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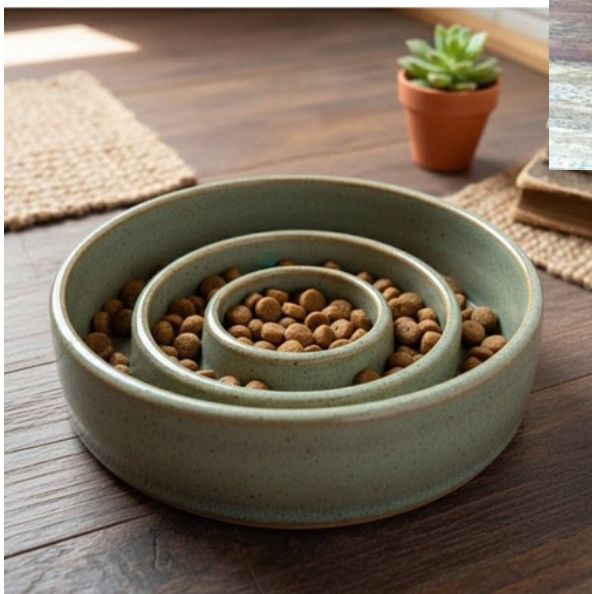
potters.namibia@gmail.com

SPCA Windhoek - fundraiser

Clay meets compassion in our upcoming collaboration with the SPCA:

A community of potters coming together to create one-of-a-kind slow feeder bowls for pets—alongside small sculptures and playful ceramic pieces inspired by our four-legged muses. Each work will be donated to the SPCA, who will auction the collection to raise vital funds, with all proceeds supporting animal care and rescue. Come celebrate handmade craft with a purpose, and help turn kiln-fired creativity into real-world impact.

The fundraiser is planned for November 2026. Exact date: TBC



Uschi Hallwachs in the “spotlight”

Uschi is celebrating her 90th year on planet earth. Congratulations Uschi, who is now an honorary member of PAN.

We thank Sharon Flewellen of Keramos Pottery Studio for her input in making this short article possible. Sharon recalls “In her days, Uschi has given some very inspiring throwing demonstrations in my studio, amazing all who attended with her easy skill, passion, and stamina. She also still recycles her clay herself (a lot of clay is passed on by me to Uschi) and loves collecting and using the “wild” Swakop river clay. Uschi, a self-taught potter, is still incredibly productive and sells her lovely work at her daughters Heidi von Hase’s stall “Tumbleweed” at Trendhaus.



We asked Uschi some questions on clay and all that it brings:

My love affair with clay began in the early 70ties. Back when pottery was the thing to do. I was a young mother, the children had just started school, and suddenly there was time and quiet mornings to be filled. A small advert in the local Perm (Permanent Building Society rag) caught my eye – Pottery classes in a garage in Bryanston. At the same time, I had been offered a part-time job at a plant nursery which was a perfect match, as I always loved anything that grows, whether in soil or clay.

I signed up for the classes and that was the beginning of my story. From the very first piece, I knew: this is my thing. I have been hooked ever since.

Uschi in 2025 collecting clay in the Swakop River



I have always leaned toward the functional. Pieces are meant to be used, held and lived with. I love working on the wheel; there is something deeply grounding about it. For 16 years I ran a stall at the Bryanston Organic Market, selling my work and sharing that quiet joy with others.

In 1996 my husband and I moved to the Cape, where I continued working from my studio in Somerset West. After his passing in 2015, I chose to begin a new chapter in Swakopmund, closer to my daughter Heidi.

Today clay is still my companion. My new home has become a new studio, and my “clay play” sessions with fellow enthusiasts in the Antonius Residence are among my greatest pleasures. We often use clay from the Swakop River by mixing it, working it, and bringing it back to life in our own way.

Even now, I return to the wheel whenever I feel strong enough. Clay has shaped me as much as I have shaped it. It has grounded me, delighted me, and stayed with me for over 60 years.

And I am not done yet!!

I have always believed that objects should have a purpose.

But it is simpler than that: If something is useful, it is beautiful. And if it is beautiful then all the better.

Contributed by Sharon Flewellen.

Biennale 2027

Categories proposal

Dates: 26th of September – 17th of October

Category 1: This category presents everyday use pieces and examines current interpretations of traditional ceramic craft. 80/20%

Vessels and tableware made using the wheel: Includes items such as plates, bowls, cups, and vases, emphasizing design and craftsmanship; and yet of a utilitarian nature.

Prizes:

- Best Newcomer (for individuals not previously exhibiting at the Biennale)
- First and Second Prize

Vessels and tableware built by hand: Includes items such as plates, bowls, cups, and vases, emphasizing design and craftsmanship, and yet of a utilitarian nature.

Prizes:

- Best Newcomer (for individuals not previously exhibiting at the Biennale)
- First and Second Prize

Category 2: This category addresses ceramics as a medium for aesthetic expression, with works that may intersect with contemporary art. 80/20%

Ceramic sculpture: Individual pieces or series using clay primarily for artistic rather than functional purposes.

Prizes:

- Best Newcomer (for individuals not previously exhibiting in this category at the Biennale)
- First and Second Prize

Installations: Large-scale or immersive works incorporating ceramics and other materials (80/20%) designed to convey a narrative or social message.

Prizes:

- Best Newcomer (for individuals not previously exhibiting in this category at the Biennale)
- First and Second Prize

Figurines: Includes small or larger ceramic figures.

Prizes:

- Best Newcomer (for individuals not previously exhibiting in this category at the Biennale)
- First and Second Prize



Tips and Tricks!

Structural and Shaping tips:

- Internal Support: Use crumpled paper, foam, or wadded clay to support large, complex forms during construction to prevent sagging.
- Paddles for Contour: Use a wooden paddle to beat, shape, and strengthen walls while the clay is leather-hard, ensuring a smooth, uniform contour.
- Reversed Construction: Build complex slab vessels upside down, starting with the rim, to ensure stability.
- Moisture Management: Work with slightly drier clay for better "wet strength," or use a heat gun for rapid, targeted drying of leather-hard pieces to maintain rigidity.
- Puki for Bases: Use a puki (a bowl mold) for the base of large coil pots to keep the form stable while adding weight.

Magic joining slip, to be used on leather hard clay. (tips by Jacqui JvVuuren)

Cup of dry clay trimmings

Cover with vinegar

2 tsp Soda Ash (or Sodium Bicarbonate)

1tsp Sodium Silicate

Slake the clay in the vinegar for an hour, stir in sodium silicate, then little by little the soda ash. (30-50% blended toilet paper pulp can be added, to make a bone dry joining slip and crack filler)

Damp box

Fill a plastic tote (box) or bucket (for tall pieces) with about 2cm of water. Weigh the water, and add 1.3x (the weight of the water) plaster of Paris. Pour this into the plastic box and let it set. When the plaster is set, leather hard pieces can be stored in the closed box for long periods of time and will stay leather hard, as long as there's moisture in the box. If the box dries out, water can be poured over the plaster until saturated. The damp box is also great to let the moisture content of pieces with attachments, even out.



Closing message: Pottery Market Updates

We have had a fantastic turnout for the Windhoek Pottery Market—it's great to see the demand for an event that showcases your creativity. Thank you to everyone who has signed up.

Windhoek Potters Market: 8th August (Project Room)

Tables applied for: 18 potters

Event management:

Thank you to the Jantje and Rafia team for committing to manage the event.

The Swakopmund Pottery Market will take place on 19th December (venue to be confirmed). If you are interested in joining this market (PAN and non-PAN members), please contact potters.namibia@gmail.com.