

MDC Long Term Plan 2018- 28

Submission Summary

Marlborough Community Potters (MCP) currently operates out of a small single room building on the Bright Centre Reserve, Dillon's Point Road, Blenheim. The club has occupied this site and structure for more than forty years.

The building is no longer fit for purpose. The membership has grown to the extent that it has outgrown the size of the building. The layout of the building restricts the activity that can take place at any given time. MCP for some time has recognised that the facility must be developed in order to meet the needs of the group. Its preference is to develop the current site rather than relocate elsewhere.

MCP has been working hard over last few years to accrue funds and investigate funding options, this work is ongoing. Responding to a query pertaining to funding for the facility development, Rata has indicated any application should include a statement of support by Marlborough District Council for this project.

For these reasons Marlborough Community Potters would like to ask Marlborough District Council for a commitment to assist with the future redevelopment and improvement of the MCP facilities and the corresponding enhancement of the Bright Centre Reserve.

History of Marlborough Community Potters

In 1977 a group of local enthusiasts came together out of common interest. They set out to find 15 people and set up and incorporate a pottery club. They then negotiated with the then Blenheim Borough council for the use of a run-down workshop building in the grounds of the Dillons Point Community Centre. Aided by grants and a debenture system the group was able to purchase an electric kiln and pottery wheels.

All club members were amateurs but keenly attended as many workshops, weekend schools and pottery conferences etc. as they could. Also high on the list of learning opportunities were weekend workshops from professional potters from Nelson. From within the group various members shared their expertise and as a club they developed a regular evening class, which continues to this day. The class provides a basic introduction to pottery and successfully serves as a means to attract new members to the club.

The club today

More than forty years since its creation, the club now has 142 members, runs two six week beginners classes and 1-2 intermediate classes each term. Six to eight new members join every 2-3 months, Holds regular pop up classes, Three – five weekend workshops are hosted each year and a nationally recognised exhibition is held annually. MCP also hosts and teaches ceramics to community groups and school groups on an ongoing basis

Vision for the Future

MCP envisions the continuing growth of the club and ceramics/pottery. MCP wishes to become a key service provider to community groups, schools and individuals in Marlborough.

Within this vision we plan to:

- provide opportunities and access for schools, community groups and individuals to experience ceramics.
- continue to encourage and educate people in its benefits as a creative outlet, occupational therapy, mental health and physio therapy.
- provide greater opportunities for its members to continue to learn, develop knowledge and skills.
- Support local artist in their aspirations to compete at a National and international level, bringing kudos to Marlborough as a centre of excellence in ceramic/pottery.

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- create the ability to host national and international professional potters
- maintain MCP's national reputation as a knowledgeable, welcoming club
- ensure ceramics/pottery is accessible to the whole community by having facilities capable of hosting classes larger than 8 people while allowing simultaneously, members to participate in their own activities without disturbance.
- provide facilities that are safe, warm, and accessible for the all users.
- provide multi use spaces which could host classes, demonstrations, exhibitions and provide a sales point for local artists.

Benefits to the community

The current building is in a state where it does not enhance the beauty of its riverside location, which is visible from the train station, Grove and Dillons Point Roads. The redevelopment will provide incoming tourists, locals and general public with a visually enhanced view in line with MDC reserves enhancement plan.

MCP has a number of community groups, schools and individuals who partake in classes. Providing purpose built facilities would enhance their experience and attract other groups that can't use the current inadequate facilities.

By redeveloping the MCP facilities the Bright centre reserve would be visually enhanced and move towards becoming an even more welcoming community hub.

Inside the current facilities



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Photo Gallery



Forget me not club from Alzheimer's Marlborough, creating ceramic forget me nots at the club rooms.



IHC group, celebrating their finished work at the club rooms.



Members of CCS, creating FODS for their anniversary celebrations.



School holiday programme children looking at what they've created.



Club members with wheel thrown work, freshly unloaded from the wood kiln firing.

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MCP Members making ceramic poppies for ANZAC day commemorations.



Letters

Forgetmenot Marlborough

to me

7 May (2 days ago)

3rd May 2018

To whom it may concern,

Over the last five years we have been involved with the Marlborough Potters. Our clients have benefited hugely by taking part in imaginative and creative activities. The voluntary tutors are invaluable as they have introduced a craft that would otherwise have been difficult for us to access. The enjoyment our clients derive and the experience of working in a sensory environment has nurtured a sense of wellbeing, pride and achievement. We have produced quality items that are both useful and decorative in many ways. The clients, with the guidance of the tutors have crafted tiles, Christmas decorations, forget-me-not fridge magnets and many more items that we are very proud of. The tutors are very community minded and a purpose-built facility such as this would be a huge asset to the wider Marlborough region. The present building is not very user friendly. With the vast range of skills and creative talents the Marlborough Potters have, I'm sure they would make full use of a new purpose-built facility. This would be an asset to Blenheim and could be utilized to support a far wider range of community groups.

Yours sincerely,
Maree Patchett.

Maree Patchett-Day Programme Supervisor



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Letters cont.

From: jane mcculla <janemcculla@googlemail.com>

Date: 10 May 2018 at 4:59:07 PM NZST

To: Sara Scott <sarascottnz@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: MCP Clubrooms

To Whom it may concern,

I am a ceramic artist, based in Christchurch, NZ and have practiced my art throughout Uk, Ireland and NZ and visited numerous pottery clubs here varying from small clubs such as Invercargill to the largest club, Auckland Society of Potters.

I have experienced the warm hospitality of club members of Marlborough Community Potters, and have both taken part in one of their organized workshops with international potters, and taught a workshop there myself.

I have been asked to write to you outlining my assessment of the Marlborough Community clubrooms as I experienced them first hand.

In my opinion the club members would greatly benefit from a more spacious venue with more defined spaces to practice clay work. The current designated areas for glaze material storage, glaze preparation is in my opinion too close to the small sink/kitchen or food prep area. This is a major health and safety hazard and the members have been very diligent using these areas to date.

The glaze materials especially should be stored and prepared in a safe and well ventilated space due to their toxic airborne nature and should not be anywhere near to food/drink preparation or where it will be consumed. These areas in particular are in serious need of an overhaul and reorganization for future use.

Again space was an issue, regarding teaching a workshop with participants who where actually making their clay work on top of kiln lids, due to lack of table space in the small cramped area.

This is most unsatisfactory and bad practice but it was a necessity at the time. A purpose built clubroom space or extension would make such a difference to this vibrant and community spirited club.

I would encourage you to consider their application favorably as I believe they are very able minded and have a strong desire to make this happen. With rising membership numbers and a popular trend with the public wishing to attend classes, I think the Marlborough Community Potters have a bright future ahead, but this is strongly dependent on a good quality, safe, warm and spacious clubroom venue.

Very best regards,

Jane McCulla

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Michael Potter and I am a full time potter having graduated from the Dunedin School of Art with a Diploma in Ceramic Arts in 2014.

I have had the pleasure of running two weekend workshops at MCP as well as judging their annual exhibition in 2017.

MCP is a very dynamic and well run club and the committee has been very professional and an absolute pleasure to work with when organising workshops. It is also full of very talented potters that made my task of judging their show a very difficult one!

However, their clubrooms leave a lot to be desired.

With little room for pottery wheels, the club misses out on extra revenue by restricting numbers of participants because of a lack of work benches and the amount of wheels that can be accommodated. The same effort goes into the workshop by the organisers, so much better to have room for 10 wheels and participants, than 5 or 6. Teaching at the wheel also requires a lot of room around them as it is a very hands on experience teaching the students.

One thing I noticed that is a serious concern is the lack of separation of a cleaning area and a kitchen/eating area. As it is, the same area is used for both and that is a serious health and safety concern. There should be a clear separation of these areas in any club facility because of the dust from raw materials used in glazing as well as silica dust from clay.

Kiln areas should ideally be ventilated if they are within the rooms, and ideally be in a separate well ventilated room because of the high temperatures and gases given off during the firing process.

At a time when ceramics is enjoying a huge revival and clubs around the country are reporting record numbers of students enrolling in classes and workshops, it is a shame to see MCP restricted by its present building. A new bigger facility would not only see an increase in membership but also able to attract more professional potters from around the country, and internationally, to run workshops and demonstrations.

I sincerely believe that a new club facility would be of great benefit to the Marlborough community. Pottery has benefits beyond just the making. It is a social activity, has a rich history, and in this digital age, is a very grounding activity that connects us with the earth.

Yours sincerely

Michael Potter


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MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY POTTERS


working along side the Marlborough Community



Work produced by members of the Forget-Me-Not Club




Alzheimers Marlborough




MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY POTTERS

working along side the Marlborough Community



Daffodils produced by students of every Primary School in Marlborough



Cancer Society
Te Kōwhiri Mātauranga
i te Aotearoa



MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY POTTERS

working along side the Marlborough Community



Work produced by members of CCS Marlborough



disability action
Including all people
TE HUNGA HĀUA MĀURI NŌ AŌRĀ TĒNGATA KĒTOU