



ASP NEWS

April
2003

The Newsletter of the
Auckland Studio Potters
Society Inc.
ASP Centre
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Duncan Shearer
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Fax: (09) 634 3626
Email: asp@ceramics.co.nz
Web: www.ceramics.co.nz

Studio Opening Hours

Monday	12.30pm - 5pm
Tuesday	9am - 5pm
Wednesday	12.30pm - 5pm
Thursday	12.30pm - 5pm
Friday	12.30pm - 4pm
Saturday	10am - 4pm

Remember to pay \$1.50 per
hour up to a maximum of
\$6.00 per day

Glaze School:

3rd and 4th of May with Lawrence Ewing

The aim of the school is to introduce ASP members and professional potters to the useful technology that is available for experimenting with glazes.

In Lawrence's own words ... students at the end of the school will have:

1. a basic understanding of glaze theory
2. insight into simple research techniques
3. experience in biaxial blend testing
4. tried out some glaze software
5. perused glaze books.

All this for \$60!! And a shared lunch too.

For a more detailed programme get in touch with the Centre and we'll post or fax you a copy of the comprehensive programme Lawrence has sent us.

Lawrence has been involved with the Otago Polytech Ceramics Course for many years (from 1986) having been a professional potter for some time before that, and he is taking this school under the auspices of the NZSP travelling demonstrator scheme. He is an excellent teacher and you will go away with a much clearer concept of glaze analysis and composition, and an ability to do your own glaze formulation and adjustment for different temperatures and firing conditions.

AGM:

The annual general meeting is to be held at the Centre on Sunday May 4th at 9.30am (coffee and croissants) with official business timed for 10am.

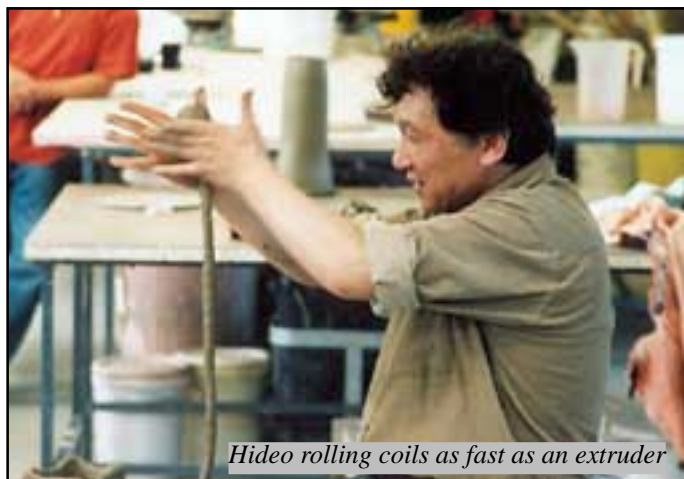
We have received a proposal for an amendment to the rules from Peter Lange, seconded by Duncan Shearer, *that the Associate Membership category of the ASP membership be abolished at the end of 2003.* Enclosed with this newsletter is a nomination form for members to put themselves forward for the Committee. We are always looking for new blood and extra energy – it's not a difficult task; every now and then there is a function to organise, and we need fresh ideas on how to promote the craft of pottery in the Auckland region.

ClayBiz:

Still time to book for "ClayBiz" the annual NZSP Conference on 25th-27th April at Tahuna Function Centre, Nelson with Christine Boswijk, Chris Weaver, Royce McGlashen, Meg Latham, Paul Laird. Demonstrations, exhibitions and parties. We have enrolment forms at the Centre and you can get more info at the NZSP website: www.nzspotters.com or by emailing claybiz@celsoft.co.nz or ringing Chris Hinkley 03 526 6817 (ph/fax).



Hideo applying strip sprig



Hideo rolling coils as fast as an extruder

Term 2 classes

Monday mornings -	Peter Lange, Duncan Shearer, beginners' throwing
Monday evenings -	Ian Axtell, beginners' throwing & slab building
Tuesday evenings -	Renton Murray - intermediate throwing
Wednesday mornings -	Duncan Shearer - sculpture
Wednesday evenings -	Chris Southern (6 weeks) absolute beginners'
Wednesday evenings -	Nicky Jolly, mould making & using
Thursday mornings -	Peter Stichbury, beginners' throwing
Thursday evenings -	Margaret Sumich, beginners' throwing & handbuilding.

General news:

Peter Lange



One of our esteemed members, Merilyn Wiseman, had one of her sculptural "Pacific Rim" platters chosen to be used as an image on a range of stamps NZPO issued in conjunction with Sweden Post. It's on the \$1.50 stamp and looks fantastic. The other pot used (alongside various other mediums) was a Raewyn Atkinson bowl.

Robin Briant, one of our regular students, has joined Medicine Sans Frontieres, and is on her way to Palestine to help people in need there. We wish her all the best for what will be a busy and at times difficult task.

The Annual ASP Exhibition at the Mairangi Arts Centre is pencilled in for September, and this year it will run for a whole month. We will be featuring John Parker, well known potter and tutor of our Diploma Class (who also has a fine book out which every potter should own), who will not only select the show but feature as the guest potter. We are also hot on the trail of a financial prize for the premier pot of the exhibition – we'll let you know how that goes.

Our first term is finished and it's been a busy time – all classes very full and lots of pots moving through. The new Diploma Course is settling down, though I suspect the standard of work coming out is way above the requirements. We will soon have a second computer at the Centre, supplied by Otago Polytech, to help students with the glaze programme. Because of the avalanche of pots moving through we have commandeered the old container and made it into a bisque-ware rack.

Now we don't have to carry pots so far, and some of the pressure is taken off the existing racks ... strangely enough the racks that have been freed up are full already. Leach's Law it's called.

So it's almost the same again next term – the new class is a four week mould making class with Nicky Jolly. Learn how to make pressmoulds and use them. Ring the Centre for more details or to put your name down. It will be on Wednesday evenings late June to July.

The day with Hideo Kobayashi was a very enjoyable one and there were a couple of techniques that made it worth the trip. His coiling technique looked simple but my first attempts produced strange oblong coils that flayed around like a demented snake and eventually fell on to the cat. The sprig-like textured surface that he peeled off the plaster reel was a bit of a revelation and left me thinking about possible variations. There were 70 there – one of our biggest crowds and we're grateful to the Green Gallery and the Japanese Consulate for their sponsorship of the event. Also to those generous members who brought along a really great lunch. The Vice-consul was more impressed with the food than anything else. He was pretty quick to copy the local style and filled his plate with pickled onions, curried eggs, mince pie and toffeepops just like a regular ASPer.

My old Senra made it into the Demolition Derby painted all over with bricks, and lasted a creditable 75% of the race, making it about 30th out of 150 entries. The ASP is trying to attract people from all sectors of the community and petrolheads are second cousins to pyromaniacs; they do the same thing only at 150kph.

See you at the AGM!!

The Anagama Kiln:

Duncan Shearer

It's been almost 3 months of brick laying and the beast is almost done. The roof was finished off as I typed this, and it only awaits a thick layer of insulating adobe to complete it. About eight foot of chimney is also required. Then the hard work really begins, this kiln should gobble wood like it's going out of fashion (no worries here about dropping lake levels and skyrocketing power prices). The arch making has been great fun, like a giant jigsaw but you only have one size of piece, so the exercise is one of precision chipping. The most dramatic moment is, after the last bricks have been laid, to unscrew the arch former supports and watch the shape that supported the roof drop – if built right the only sound heard is of crashing wood. So far the arch is sound, even after I danced a jig on the top to prove to the unbelievers inside that physics really works.

The team of helpers over the weeks has been great, some weeks there were half a dozen keen labourers, other weeks a more intimate crowd of two or three. But the important thing was the way slowly but surely it grew, and that members who were interested got a chance to build a kiln. The first firing is put down tentatively for mid May, with more details about that in the May newsletter.

I'm off to Melbourne and Bendigo for a couple of weeks holiday and to attend the Australian National Pottery Convention called 'Ignition', so the next time the kiln will be worked on is the 25th, 26th April.



Firebox arch completed



First chamber arch under construction

Members News:

From Howard Williams: I'm sorry I'm missing a bit of the ASP doin's, but I'll be back in circulation soon. Most enjoyed the day at Tawharanui though I was stuffed after - the first day I'd been out since hospital. Prognosis is good and the surgeons are pleased with my apparent excellent recovery to date. Can't keep a good something down!

This from one of our students Ann Gilbert: If you check out the website: <http://cmi.transit.govt.nz/images/GGP4.pdf> there's a snippet on an interesting brick kiln/furnace that is being demolished for the new Grafton Gully motorway.

Another site sent in by two potters, Bruce Martin and Linda Harris: Details of a huge appeal to raise money to restore the Leach Pottery in Cornwall. Basically they need a million pounds to buy and preserve this historic site. They're looking for indications of support rather than cash at this stage. Check out: www.oakwoodceramics.co.uk

This sent in from Leo King:
Has 'design' replaced 'craft'?

Craft is about the expression of meaning through the language of material and technique. Like most languages, it takes years of experience to become fluent in a craft medium. This hard-earned skill provides the means by which creative aims are then expressed. Such embodied knowledge makes possible the austere beauty of Prue Venables' cups and the fluid dance of Jane Sawyer's bowls.

How is this different to other arts?



The creative process ranges from an idea to its realisation. Contemporary visual art tends towards the conceptual, where the artist increasingly stands back from the making process. Design also rests more on the particular idea, style or brand of the author - production is of subsidiary importance. Contemporary craft - a practice to be distinguished from recreational craft or restoration work - puts making in dialogue with the concept.

Presently, there is no doubt that both design and visual art are thriving in Melbourne. Victorian governments have provided substantial support in capital works and programme funding. But this is only one side of the creative process. For a society to be grounded, it is important that an alternative cultural practice survives that relates to our own condition as creatures of the material world — our common plight as embodied beings. As a lingua franca of the material world, craft provides an important bridge across cultural divides. Many crafts practitioners now play a

critical role in traditional indigenous and regional communities — helping them build reciprocal relationships with the increasingly dominant Western culture.

We have recently seen the word 'craft' disappearing from official titles. Some may ask, 'What's in a word?' Most makers are gripped by a passion for their medium and will continue their work regardless of what others think. However, for a society to enjoy the contribution of craft practitioners to our culture, it is important that we respect their endeavour. To call them 'designers' is to deny the critical role of making in their practice. The word 'craft' has been nurtured over generations as a place to acknowledge the making process. It would be a shame to abandon it now.

Let not the present fad for design make us lose touch with the real world of craft.

Kevin Murray, Director, Craft Victoria www.craftvic.asn.au



Final arch leading to chimney

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All phone numbers in these sections are in the Auckland free-calling area unless an area code is explicitly stated.

For Sale:

REXMARK KILN, light-weight "Barrel" type with shelving, props, pyrometer, 2 gas jets. Has had only the initial "commissioning firing" by Rexmark and since has never been used. Cost me \$2000 - - reasonable offers please to Ann M (09) 4275960.

Rexmark gas kiln, 6 cuft, 2 burner, top loader. \$1500 ono. Leach kick wheel \$180 Phone Ron Van Dam 5372716

18 cuft F.E. 4 burner gas kiln. Used only for bisque and excellent condition, includes shelves. Phone Peter, 2668072

Electricians:

Electricall Ltd are experienced in kiln installations. They have installed our Centre kilns and do a great job. Phone 6365031.

Books missing:

I may have lent these 3 books to someone at the Centre up to 18 months ago: "Glazes for Special Effects" Herbert Saunders, "Pottery Decoration" Shafer, "Fire on the Clay" Dick Scott. I would love them back - they've got my name and phone inside. Margaret Sumich, 4105396.

Kiln wanted:

single phase, 3 - 4 cuft, for school. Contact Paddy on 6242153

Situations vacant:

We're looking for someone interested in dusting off the cardboard boxes of old photographs and cuttings (and we're talking real dust here) and assembling the contacts into some sort of chronological order. It's a really interesting collection of stuff and the job can be done at any time, no hurry. Also looking for a librarian to maintain the Centre library. Someone quiet and dewey.

WESTERN POTTERS SUPPLIES

FOR ALL MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

- casting slips (white, terracotta and stoneware)
- clays
- raw materials
- tools
- kilns and equipment
- ceramic colours
- glazes (transparent & opaque)
- on-glaze, glaze and body stains
- enamels

UNIT 4/43a LINWOOD AVE. MT. ALBERT
PO BOX 60126 Titirangi Ak7

events

Great News

Chris Weaver is Coming!! He'll be taking a Winter School over the first two weekends in August. Get ready.

exhibitions

Green Gallery:

"Bright Shadow" a collection of vase forms by prominent Japanese potter, Hideo Kobayashi until 13th April. 20 Cory Rd, Waiheke.

Compendium Gallery:

"Smoking Pots" is an exhibition of pots by Masoud Zedah, originally from Iran and now on Waiheke. Masoud's highly effective work is simple and evocative of earth and time. Using the ancient methods of pit-firing, the burnished surfaces serve to communicate to the observer in an intuitive language. While many of his works are percussion instruments and vessel forms, others are wall plaques signalling "peace on earth" which is at the heart of Masoud's work. A performance and review of the work will begin at 6pm, April 14th and the show runs until May 2nd. 5 Lorne St, Auckland City

Pots of Ponsonby

Copper wases in the window 6th April to 20th April

Deb Dickinson; Torsos in the window 20th April to 4th May 198 Ponsonby Rd, Ph: 376 0145

ASP New Members

Welcome to:
Nina Buksh,
Solan Chiu,
Elizabeth Johnson,
Sue Bridges,
Abby Waite,
Taylor Boyd.

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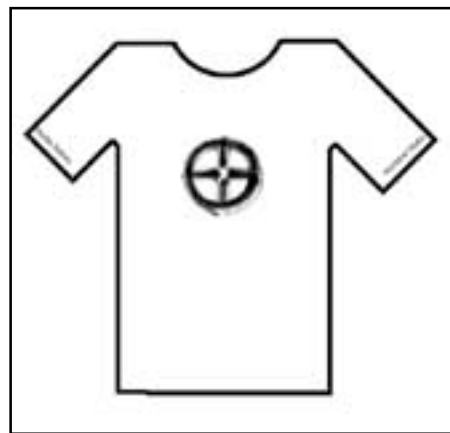
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T-Shirts:

Breaking News!! ASP T-shirts. We had a visit from a Japanese potter Shuhei Yasuda (he's the one who made the wonderful lanterns) and he painted his version of the ASP logo for us. We like it so much that we're adopting it as our new logo ... starting with a range of t-shirts. So what we need to know now is the level of interest among you lot: if a great looking t-shirt costs say \$25 how many would you buy? Please let us know very soon. We want to move on this. It's a simple design with minimum wording and an image on the front with high visual impact. The text on the sleeve reads Auckland Studio Potters. Black on white or white on black - let us know.



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