



# ASP NEWS April 2006

The Newsletter of the  
Auckland Studio Potters  
Society Inc.  
ASP Centre  
96 Captain Springs Road  
PO Box 13-195 Onehunga  
Directors: Duncan Shearer,  
Tony Bacon  
Phone: (09) 634 3622  
Fax: (09) 634 3626  
Email: asp@ceramics.co.nz  
Web: www.ceramics.co.nz

### Studio Opening Hours

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

Remember to pay \$2 per hour  
up to a maximum of  
\$6.00 per day

### From the Prez:

Wally Hirsh

The term has just rushed by and it has been full on with all classes full and the usual run of workshops and other social activities. The Diploma students have had a very successful exhibition at NorthArt Gallery in Northcote.

There have been some minor staffing changes and rescheduling of the teams hours but it has all gone smoothly. The pressures on our Centre have also resulted in the executive adding another staff day and that too is going well. Renton is on leave in the US of A. Tony (Bacon) has taken up that position during Renton's absence. Rachel has joined us on Thursdays and what a wonderful job she is doing.

The Centre has seldom looked so smart. Please help keep it that way. It looks good and feels good too. Duncan's days have been rescheduled but all is well. And I hear that Peter is really into creation mode!

With the pressure on enrolments you would be well advised to secure your place early for next terms classes. Enrol now.

The next key event in our calendar early in the new term is our AGM. It is important and it is traditionally a good event. So on Sunday morning the 30th April please come along for coffee and croissants followed by a short sharp Annual meeting. And yes how about giving thought to standing for the committee. Some of us have been on the committee

for a long time and it is an honour to be shared around.

Adele and I have just returned from a great trip to the South Island. A good weekend in Christchurch, hot spas in Hanmer Springs a big drive through Molesworth station and then a couple of days tramping around Cape Campbell.

That was great.

In Nelson we had a feast of galleries and Potters..... called on Royce McGlashen, Katie Gold and Owen Bartlett, saw a lot of John Crawford's lovely domestic ware and had a wonderful visit to the wearable arts museum. From all of that it was off to St Arnaud and the Nelson Lakes for a wedding and some more tramping. It was all very lovely.

Meanwhile keep on potting.



### Library News

Judy Rae

We have around four hundred books which have been dusted off and sorted, they are arranged on the shelves alphabetically by author. Many members are borrowing books, that's great. Just a reminder about how our library works; remember to sign out the book/s you require by including the date, author, title, your name and phone number in the blue folder which is now kept in the Library and not by the till. All books are on loan for three weeks, if you have a problem returning them post them in. We are keen for the books to be "rolled over". When you return the books enter the date in the blue folder and leave them in the basket in the library.

### AGM

The 2006 AGM for the Auckland Studio Potters will take place at the ASP Centre on Sunday 30th April starting at 10am. There will be coffee and croissants before the meeting at 9.30am. The agenda will be:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2005 AGM
3. Correspondence
4. President's Report
5. Financial Report
6. NZSP Report
7. Centre Report
8. Election of Officers
9. General Business.

We're hoping there will be a good turnout for the meeting and that there are members prepared to come forward and help out on the 2006-7 committee. We have a couple of vacancies this year, and it will be good to have new faces and new ideas. The duties are not great -mainly around the time of the exhibition and the BCDO.



There are a number of books not accounted for, we don't charge fines so just slip them in when no one is looking.. Maybe you are having an autumn clean out.

The magazines are a great source of information, I recently found an article of a potter who had exhibited in the Fletcher awards and then found one of his works on our shelves. They are not for borrowing, but do have a browse with another cup of tea!!!

## From the brickyard

Peter Lange

Two exhibitions of interest out there this last month. John Dawson's Porcelain show at Masterworks has just wound down and it was a popular one. He is a consummate thrower of this difficult clay, and sells well and regularly at the CPA shop in London. He tells me that this outlet takes about 66% of the retail price in commission; it's right in the heart of the West End and I imagine expensive to maintain but that's a huge dollop of the selling price and literally doesn't bear thinking about – best to set a price that suits you, hand the pots over and be grateful when the cheque comes in the mail. It seems to work that way quite well. He and I both have a teapot in a show of teapots that is touring the UK right now.

Chris Weaver has an excellent show of his latest work at Masterworks now – they are at the same time both considered and loose, floppy but controlled. They are small functional pieces, glazed with very rich glazes in the Oriental tradition (or clever substitutes that suit lower temperature, oxidised firings) and the ones that are salt-glazed are very tasty. He has built a small salt kiln based on the little top loading diesel one we had at the Centre and while he fits only about 10 or so teapots into each firing, he is able to fire every day if he needs to. He works inland from Hokitika on the West Coast of the South Island, but from that unlikely spot he is able to travel to Japan, Hongkong and Taiwan and exhibit his work to great acclaim. John Crawford from Hector, further north towards Karamea and even more remote, did the same thing – had successful exhibitions in Germany of work made in the middle of nowhere.

Peter Collis has headed to Dubai with Ann Hudson to show their work, along with one or two other NZ artists, for a couple of weeks. There's a dealer gallery there, the Majis Gallery, which sells paintings and craft in the Western style and Peter's work with its bright colours, lustres and opulent feel should suit the Middle Eastern market. Ann, one of our first graduate Diploma students, lived there for 20 years or more and helped run the Arts Centre there. Peter will be back just in time to head for Taupo for the big NZSP conference, where he is to be one of the stars. It's great to hear of so many Aucklanders going to Taupo – we've always been a little slack about attending these conferences, which is

strange because they always throw up some interesting demonstrators, and Ah Leon is the star of this one. He became famous for his "Bridge" in Garth Clark's Gallery in New York – that connection will be taken further later in the year when Garth Clark himself turns up in Auckland and, if things work out, gives a lecture at the Museum on the current state of international ceramics. That will be a huge coup for the ASP who have undertaken to bankroll his handsome fee in order that our members get a chance to hear this influential author, collector and gallery owner. The Museum is generously providing facilities for this. It will probably take the place of our annual Winter School – there is not enough in the kitty to do both. So watch this newsletter for details of this event ... mid-year by the sound of it. There will be a modest door charge.

It was good to see some of the last work by Peter Oxborough in the Mahurangi Group show at Puhoi recently – he was a founding member of that group and it sets a high standard each year. He will be missed by them, partly because he was one of those people that took the time to do the committee work and kick the rest of the world along. His son John had a couple of his strong expressionistic paintings in the show and that would have pleased him.

Went to a school reunion for Ota-huhu College last weekend – not sure why; curiosity I guess. We're all certainly older than we were 40 years ago. I took the chance to look back and forgetfully wonder what we were like in our work and our play. Probably the cheap wine. But one thing I do remember from the third form was the 4 strokes of the cane dished out when I was discovered in the art room having a go on a kick wheel. I'd broken in which didn't help and I'd made no progress at all anyway and it proved to be another 20 years or so before I had another go, and this time, while I wasn't much better, I was spared the "cuts" by Lex Dawson who was teaching me. I worked on a kick wheel for many years – in fact until the motor wore out.

Had a day at the Centre last Saturday and the place was like Piccadilly Circus. Graham Collings was an amiable host and kept the place ticking along, fielding questions and keeping order. It really felt great. My students had a salt firing to stack and fire and it was a wonderful experience with good results and we eventually ran out of superlatives, compliments and exclamation marks.

One more month in the big workshop and it looks like I'll have to wind down my target. Should get 4 large pieces (half tonne to 1 tonne) finished and some smaller ones too; then I'll ship them out to the rural sector until I figure out what to do next. Hoping to have a show by the end of the year.

Have a good month. There's still room for you at Taupo, might see you there.

## Scribblings from America

*(the land of the upside down light switch)*

Renton Murray

Hello to you all at ASP. After a long and hectic fight (I thought the packing was bad enough) and an interesting but brief stopover in San Francisco, Rosie and I have made it to the open fields of Northern Minnesota. The little village of Almelund is Jeff Oestreich's nearest. "Rod's Store" is largely it. Gas pumps, country store, video (now DV D) library and sun bed – he's got it covered. A garage, fire station, local bar and of course the large dominant Lutheran church; oh and yes the tiny Bank as well. The feed mill has gone since our last visit and the open fields (no fencing) are slowly being carved up for housing.

The view out any window is spectacular, just open rolling farmland with leafless trees in the distance, but sadly this time only a little snow and that's all gone now with the overnight rain.

But briefly back to San Fran and our overnight stopover, we had a cheap and cheerful Hotel "The Renoir" (highly recommend it) on Market St. In a colorful area, good theatres nearby with lots of restaurants (red light district also) and galleries selling ART. My god you know you are in a large city when you can walk in (which we did) and buy (which we didn't) Picassos, Lautrec's, Miro's, Dali's and Matisse. The enormous Toulouse Lautrec 'Aristide Bruant' was tempting at \$90,000. But also the contrast then of dozens and dozens of homeless, lying in cold doorways the next morning – just desperate.

Back quick smart to Almelund and unpacking – we did manage to fire the week before leaving Auckland and brought with us about 50 pots to sell here at the sale. (our security blanket so to speak), they all arrived safely thanks to Air NZ and polystyrene boxes, much bubble wrap and a roll of FRAGILE tape.

*continued on page 3*

So far we've mixed clay, pugged it and then aged it (5 min coffee break) and then started on the kick wheel. We have a large wood kiln to fill and fire in about 5 weeks, so we will have to overcome jet lag or allergies and unblock the head and get 'boogieing'

Today we visited another local potter known to some of you (she often had pots in 'The Fletcher') Linda Christianson – another woodfirer. She and her partner live in the most amazing log cabin. They dismantled it log by log and moved it to their property years ago and are nearing completion of their new pottery and glass workshops. The building of these structures in this climate where everything freezes down to 6 feet is incredible. The insulation of floors, walls and roofs is really thick. Linda's new kiln is taking shape, the bricks are 42% Alumina and Peter you would be in shock and awe at her brick saw. Perhaps the ASP could buy one for the Centre.

General living is very comfortable, no real indoor-outdoor flow, double doors make that difficult. The houses and workshops are heated – man are they heated, pots dry out almost before your eyes, you should never complain about our wet cupboards again. Turn on the TV and no it's not Shorty St, but Martin Henderson on something else. And Saturday afternoon has the familiar voice of Harrison Keiller, 'Prairie Home Companion'. I really enjoy it and wish our National Radio would have it on all year round and not just the summer recess.

Eating and drinking here has an amusing 'Oscar' like quality about it. But instead of Paris Hilton (Versace) or Halle Berry (PRADA) we have Renton Murray (Warren MacKenzie) or Rosie

Murray (Gail Kendall?) and on and on. We are surrounded by pots, from humble (but very expensive) English slipware pie dishes to Hamada trays and vases and German salt glazed Bellamines. And of course lots of pots by all the American working potters - and some Kiwi pots in there as well. They are used daily – in and out of the dishwasher, a treat for the eyes. Many are "too much" for the simple tastes of Renton and the pots of Warren MacKenzie really do it for me. His glazes are wonderful and simple decorating techniques work well. Look at his pots in the bisque area just by the piano and imagine lovely thick Shinos and celadons. They are really nice pots to use.

Well I'm off to collect Jeff from Minneapolis Airport (about 70 miles away) and I hope I don't get horribly lost on the freeways like I did after dropping him there on Friday. He's been off teaching again and now its full speed ahead to fill the kiln and hopefully pay for this trip. I'll try to send photos next month. , Don't forget to clean those benches now.

Bye from the Prairies.



## How to Fire a Salt Kiln

Jill Duncalfe

Peter's Monday morning class would like to share with you their favourite recipe :

Ingredients

189 litres diesel  
bucket sea salt  
stack of wood (large)

3 experts

9 Keen Students

tellus vacuum cleaner motor  
agitator washing machine (tub only)

flexi piping

corrugated iron

wet weather gear

a few dozen pots

electric drill

Method

Day 1 – take one of the experts and insert her in kiln. Using the 8 Keen Students, pass the few dozen pots to the expert (under instruction from the remaining experts) until pots completely fill the chamber. Close.

Day 2. Don wet weather gear. Pile wood under shelter to keep dry. Light secondary firebox portals and stoke gently for 1 hour. Tie sling under existing shelter roof and wedge corrugated iron between shelter roof and sling to extend roofline to prevent rain running off roof and down inside of wet weather gear. Morning tea. Begin stoking from front portal. Erect tarpaulin over whole area to extend shelter from rain. When flame looks right, lie washing machine tub on its side in front of secondary portals. Place Tellus vacuum cleaner motor inside tub. Attach flexi piping to motor and point each of the 2 nozzles into the portals. Place 20 L diesel on shelter roof and attach to flexi pipe. Turn on. Stand back. If black smoke is within reasonable limits, break for lunch. Continue stoking wood and adjusting diesel. Use electric drill to pump diesel from supply on ground to 20L on shelter roof as required. Afternoon tea. Continue for another 3 hours. Dinner. Team talk. Use expert to remind team that avoiding temptation to begin salting before cone 8 bends has higher moral value than chucking salt in now and going home and watching TV. Await call "stoke!" "stoke!" from expert and alternate wood and salt for next 2 hours. Turn off. Allow to cool gently.

Day 3 : Wait.

Day 4 : Reverently open kiln. Feast and salivate over delicious colours and orange-peel effects and transformation of clay to works of art.

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# classified

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

### For Sale:

McGreggor single phase electric kiln, 1 cubic foot. Ph Sarah Dansey on 5270503

### Situations Vacant:

A pottery teacher is required to teach the pottery classes at Selwyn Community Education. Talk to Duncan for more details.

# exhibitions

### Pots of Ponsonby

Your last chance to buy Jill Fanshawe Kato pottery is fast approaching, visit soon or they will have to be sent back to England.

Karleen Winters - in the window

from 1st April to 16th April.

Jan Cockell - in the window

from 18th April to 29th April

Viv Keenan - in the window

from 1st May to 13th May

298 Ponsonby Rd, Ponsonby.

Ph: 3760145

### The Majlis Gallery

Is delighted to invite you to 100% New Zealand, an exhibition of art and artifacts, on 5 April from 6.00pm to 9.00pm. Including work by Peter Collis and Anne Hudson The exhibition will continue until 20 April

### Where I Fell in Love Gallery

The Cup & Saucer Exhibition

14 July- 31 July 2007

Bruno & Fiona would like to invite all the potters & ceramists around the world to send us 1 cup and saucer to organise the biggest ever exhibition in the world. Prizes up to £500 will be awarded to the best 3 cups and saucers in the show

The Shambles, Market Place, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire, CV36 4AG  
01608 663809

www.wheriefellinlovegallery.com



### The New Salt Kiln

A good keen group of about a dozen members showed up to talk plans and schedules on the 22nd March with the results mainly being in the demolition on the 8th April of the old salt kiln and the pouring of footings for the new kiln on the 29th April. We have a hastily drawn sketch of an interesting and novel design that could burn either gas or diesel, or even both if necessary. So if you want to help out please contact the Centre and we'll add your name to the list - only the names on the list get reminders and additional info via email.

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### Member News

Shannon Boyd has recently been volunteering at a pottery co-op in remote Indonesia (Sorowako is on the island of Sulawesi).

'Couple of pics of the studio. I use the term studio loosely. Most of my throwing demos are attended by 3 feral cats/chickens for every student. What you can't see in the photos is the pile of smoldering garbage, the herd of goats or the fire ants ... any volunteers ???'

### Garth Clarke's visit

An Auckland Studio Potters event in partnership with the Auckland Museum and Objectspace

International Perspectives on Ceramics Today. An Afternoon Symposium with Garth Clark and Mark Del Vecchio

Saturday 15th July

2.30pm Introduction

2.35pm Garth Clark: Answered Prayers-State of the Art (the state of ceramic art today as seen by Clark)

3.20pm Mark Del Vecchio: The Pot in the 21st Century (where post-modernism has gone since del Vecchio's book on the subject)

4.05pm Coffee / Tea 4.30pm Discussion

5.30pm Ends

This event will be the big One for the year so please mark it in your diaries now. More information will be coming in the next newsletter.

### Easy Listening

Be listening to National Radio on 14th April (Good Friday) between 11am and noon to hear an interview between Lynn Freeman and Mirek Smisek and Doreen Blumhardt.

