



ASP NEWS December 2006

The Newsletter of the
Auckland Studio Potters
Society Inc.
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Web: www.ceramics.co.nz

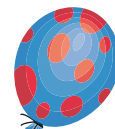
Studio Opening Hours

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 \$3 per hour
up to a maximum of
\$9.00 per day



mer r y c h r i s t m a s



President's Report:

Michael J Billington

It has been a very busy year at ASP and this has been contingent on the fact that many people have contributed many hours of their time and considerable insight. This has come from our general membership, committee and interested people from the wider public.

ASP Exhibition:

Probably ASP's best yet but without all the generous contributions of time and effort this would not have achieved. A highlight for me was seeing the final presentation of the exhibits and watching the reaction of the audience on opening night. Judy Rae and her expert helpers in particular have to be commended on their efficiency and aesthetic sense.

New Salt Kiln:

Once again sterling efforts from members and committee members alike who battled frenetic weather conditions and solved many technical issues to finally achieve good results on the kiln's inaugural firing. I understand that new (old) burners have been donated which may improve the efficiency of the kiln and many more firings are planned in the not too distant future. Particular thanks to Mr Mike Donaldson for his lateral thinking and 'on the hoof' problem solving on many occasions.

Working Bees:

There have been several clean up sessions at ASP this year in the form of Saturday or Sunday working bees. A huge thanks to all who have been involved in this. The centre looks good and more working bees are planned for the New Year. The next big task is to clean the exterior of the studio and to get some more of the rubbish removed from the area next to the band hall.

Big Clay Day Out:

Many people worked very hard on

continued on page 2

Subs

As you open your newsletter please be aware that your 2007 Membership Subscription form is included – didn't see it? – then keep looking, it's a white A5 piece of paper. The society needs your subs money to be paid promptly so please post the cheque in right away.



Christmas Function

This is now set for Tuesday the 19th December (not Friday as was on the website) from 5pm to whenever. We still have lots of sausages left over from the BCDO and we'll also provide the bread, but if you want to barbeque something else then please feel free to do so. Also bring any beer or wine.

This will be a great chance to catch up with your pottery and class mates just before Christmas. These events are a very casual affair and a chance to chill out before the season gets very silly.

Wally Hirsh

Wally came into the fold of the ASP in the nineties having moved from Wellington where he was a keen collector with a slight Wellington bias. He has been in education for most of his professional life and with his wife Adele had raised a family of three children. He distinguished himself at the end of his career with a memorable stint as New Zealand's Race Relations Conciliator. He was awarded the O.B.E. for his services to this country.

He decided to take classes at the ASP and extend his potting experience from collecting pots to making pots in order to find out, among other things, whether the prices he paid for his purchases was a fair one. I think he is happy on that score now having discovered the ceramic process to be full of pot-holes, pit-falls and s-cracks. But nevertheless he has made huge progress to become one of Peter Stichbury's senior students, and his entire extended family is known to be hugely happy with the gift of pots that they have come to expect every Thursday after lunch.

Wally became our ASP chairman in 1999 as a result of an out-of-the-blue request from the ASP committee who had decided to extend their target to non-practitioners and enthusiastic ASP supporters. Wally certainly was enthusiastic and he was also known to have a huge talent for getting things done and running a tight ship. The request seemed to coincide with a vacancy in his busy life and he accepted the position with a little apprehension, but that was dispelled within five minutes of the first meeting when it became clear that he was going to get on well with all of us and we were going to become a good team. That happy arrangement lasted for 7 years through a range of changes, crises

continued on page 2

The B.C.D.O has happened and once again I'm amazed at what a team effort can achieve. I'm used to working at home and things either happen slowly or not at all (this year). So it is great to be doing something and then be aware that loads of jobs have silently been done elsewhere. And at the end of the Big Day with almost indecent haste the studio is stripped of its finery (boudoiresque) and it's time for a well earned beer, a pity that we'd run out hours earlier.

The day went really well, lots of pots sold (more than last year) and I was constantly being told the standard was higher. It is too early to know the finer details of the finances, but all the stalls were busy. I didn't personally have a go with all of them; the Peter Lange 'ack ack' gun was a hit. A good use for the old chairs that plague us.

The Tandoori oven worked overtime and the barbeque provided breakfast for the workers and lunch for the hordes of visitors.

We didn't have an auction this year. Our visiting potters this year were mainly 'talkers'. Garth Clark doesn't make teapots it seems - would they pour well if he did?

Many thanks to all of our supporters and to the helpers, you all make the Centre a great place to be a part of.

Duncan's bit

By now the grapevine and the situations vacant ad in last months newsletter has tipped most members off that I have resigned from the Co-Director job here and intend to travel overseas in the New Year. My last day on the job will be Friday the 16th February and I will be having a monster studio clearance sale on the 17th February. I don't have much room in this month's newsletter but keep an eye out for January's newsletter for more from me.

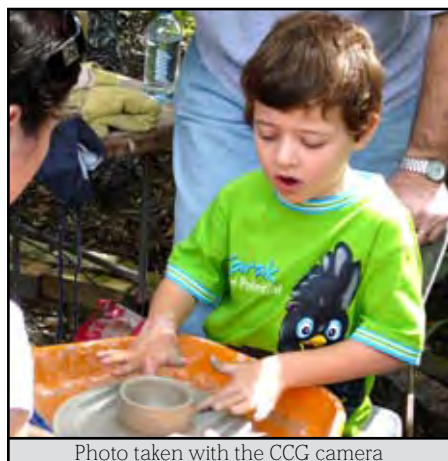


Photo taken with the CCG camera

both the preparation for the day and actually 'manning the pumps' on the day. It was a very successful day with what I felt was a more even spread of people attending throughout the day. It is reassuring to know that there are still many people out there who give generously of their time. A particular thanks to Duncan Shearer and Trien Steverlynck for all their efforts behind and in front of the scenes (so to speak). Thanks also to Hayden Wilson from Murrays Bay Intermediate (13yrs) who fitted in extremely well with the team on the 'slippery dip.' I am glad it wasn't my washing machine their clothes were going into at the end of the day.

Les and Sonia Andrews' Scholarship:

Joanne Raill is the very deserving recipient of this annual scholarship from Les and Sonya Andrews. This is the fourth year that this scholarship has been awarded at the Big Clay Day Out. It is so very touching to witness this very talented and much respected couple give this award to someone from our organisation. Generosity of this kind is rare and we are so very grateful for it. Auckland Studio Potters extends a huge thanks to Les and Sonya and collectively we wish them all the best for a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year. We look forward to seeing them again at ASP in the near future.

Have a great Christmas everyone and a Happy New Year. Thanks for all your wonderful support, advice and hard work throughout the year.

The Magnificent Museum

Last Thursday the Auckland Museum opened two new galleries dedicated to the visual arts. 'Encounter' displays the local content and 'Landmarks' the international collection. Both galleries are situated on the ground floor of the Museum, one to the left the other on the right. These two new additions launch the Museum into the forefront of craft institutions and the ceramics that are now on display are awe inspiring. At the opening the buzz from all the guests was infectious - exclamations of "I didn't know they had one of those", or "finally a chance to see the Hans Coper" were common. It means that once again the Museum becomes an indispensable resource for all potters - both student and professional.

and improvements.

Each meeting that Wally chaired ran crisply and any extraneous nonsense was quickly knocked on the head (though anything funny would set him laughing uproariously and the meeting would develop a temporary wobble) and decisions were made with breathtaking speed. When you got home you found a long list in your pocket of things to do even though you were sure you had sat on your hands all night. The system worked well and under Wally's chairmanship the ASP moved from a fiscally difficult situation to one these days of a modest profit, a profit that is achieved only after all maintenance, salaries and needs are met - and some of those needs have verged on the luxurious: flash wheels, new kilns, a new kitchen. A big part of that expansion has been as a result of the introduction of the Otago Diploma Course which took place under Wally's stewardship.

So now you know why we decided to offer Life Membership to Wally - it's an honour given to those who have put a lot of extra time and effort into the running of the ASP. It has nothing to do with their skill as a potter (though Wally's skill as a student is legendary) and everything to do with their unreserved generosity in making sure the ASP continues as a healthy Society. Wally has certainly earned this honour.



Not content with creating two major new galleries the Auckland Museum has just opened the exhibition "Kan: the Green Gallery Collection of International Studio Ceramics", marking the generous gift of a large collection of contemporary ceramics to the Museum by Mr and Mrs Shigenori Itoh of Waiheke Island, Auckland. This large collection is on display in the two bunker spaces on the first floor and is another reason (not that you really need it) for you to visit the Museum. We are hoping to organise a member's event there in the New Year and so keep an eye on the newsletter for more details.

Anagama Firing

It's time to chase away the spiders and do our bit for carbon emissions. So the next scheduled Anagama firing is on the 26th to 29th January. Loading will start on the 22nd and continue until the kiln is full. If you have never had a go at wood firing then now is your chance. Get hold of the Centre and talk to Duncan or Renton about adding your name to the list – we need about 12 people to take part and fill the stoking roster. We also need a pile more wood sourced and cut – preferably before Christmas. These events are rare and special

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- tools
- kilns and equipment
- ceramic colours
- glazes (transparent & opaque)
- on-glaze, glaze and body stains
- enamels

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 PO BOX 60126 TITIRANGI AK7
 Phone (09) 815 1513 Fax (09) 815 1515
 quentin.w@ihug.co.nz

Member's Events

The first Members Event for the 2007 year is on the weekend of the 10th and 11th of February. We are planning a trip to Waiheke Island to take in 3 sculptural exhibitions. The idea is to take the ferry across and spend the night at a variety of members' baches. We'll have more information about all this in January's newsletter – but if you're keen on good company and seeing amazing art on a jewel of the Waitamata then pencil the date in your diary now.

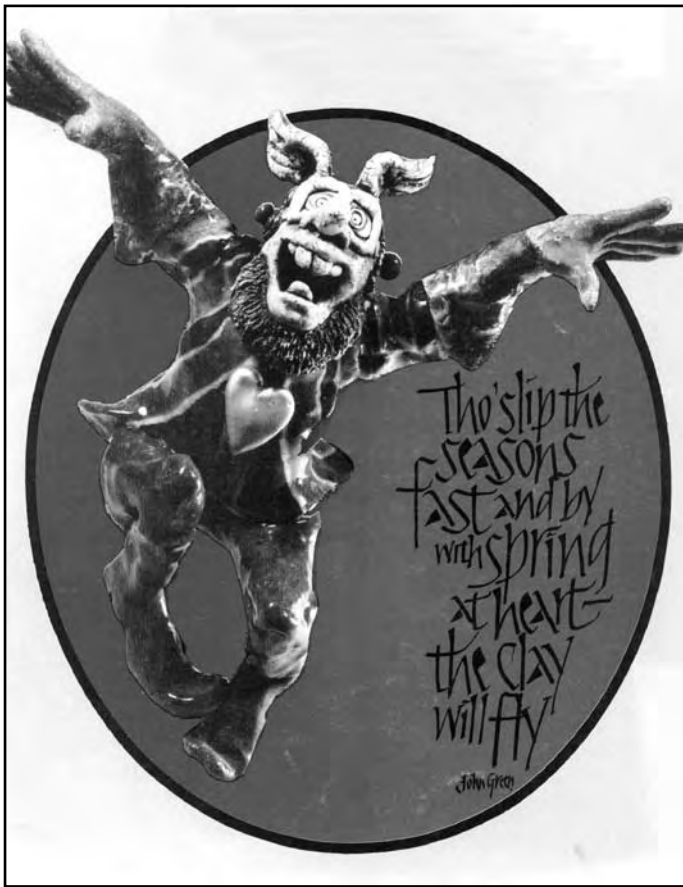


Photo taken with the CCG camera

ASP Christmas hours

We will be open up to 3pm on Friday the 22nd December – usual hours of 9am to 5pm and will endeavor to fire everyone's pots before Christmas. When we close over the Christmas, New Year period and re-open on Monday the 8th January, again from 9am to 5pm. Classes restart the week of the 30th January. Re-enrolling students and members are most welcome to come and use the facilities during January. Please note that we will be conducting a purge of all pots and unlabelled buckets in the New Year – so thorough it would make Stalin blanch, so please make sure that all your pots are fired and taken home, glaze buckets labelled and odd bits of clay in the clay shed removed. We also need all our library books returned for a stock check – so if humanly possible could you please return all our books.



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An Explosion in the Kiln

Jocelyn Logan

There's something about talking to Duncan that over-excites one's brain, as I found out one day in early November, chatting to him in Albert Park, as he changed a bicycle tyre. I apologise for saying you gave me apoplexy, Duncan. I will miss you when you leave ASP- so many great kiln-buildings and firings, so much technical knowledge. What can ASP replace him with? I suggest Google.

Anyhow, as I walked away from Duncan I remember thinking 'I feel weird'. I then got into my car and drove in rush-hour CBD traffic. Now, if you ever want to have a stroke, I recommend that you don't choose these circumstances, or that you at least drive an automatic. As my clutch foot and gear-lever hand etc turned to concrete, I was a prisoner in a car I couldn't drive, in a place with yellow lines and no parking. It was the most terrifying experience of my life, worse even than the primitive firing at Gulgong - where 394 of 400 pots blew up.

When I finally managed to stop and got rescued by some guys in a WOF station, I fell out of my car in a screaming heap, as I couldn't stand.

I'm now in the Neuro Ward, unable to feel my left side. Anyone know how to move a kick wheel pedal to the right? Can I remember how to throw one-handed? Peter will have to teach me to throw again. Is that Chris I hear, saying I don't need the 'again' in that sentence? I'm lucky, I still have speech. No, shut up-you all wanted me aphasic, didn't you? They gave me a wheelchair the other day, now my big ambition is to get someone to take me to the BCDO and prop me in a corner with a rare book.

Thanks to all who have visited, sent cards etc and to Aylex for the lovely salt-glazed mug. I'm going to rehab soon; Clay as therapy, anyone?

And remember: Hemiplegia is when you find a strange body in your bed and it's your own. OR, Hemiplegia is when you lose a limb and find it attached to your shoulder. [Don't spend too long in Peter Lange's class or you start thinking like this.]

PS: my best advice is to treasure your ability to wipe your own bum. You never know when it will be taken from you. I have perspective on all this in the shape of a 7 week old grandson. We are having a race to see who walks first or at least stops dribbling...

Grayson Perry show in London, July 2006

Lynda Harris

Islington, a northern suburb of London, is semi industrial intermingled with rows of tall brick houses and a good number of dealer galleries. One is the Victoria Miro Gallery housed in an old warehouse fashionably indistinguishable from the surrounding industrial buildings. Go through the heavy dark door and one is greeted by Grayson Perry's latest installation. This, "The Charms of Lincolnshire" was curated by Perry for Victoria Miro and alongside his own work he has selected pieces from the collections of various Lincolnshire museums. Photographs, embroidery (some designed by Perry), costumes, a horse drawn hearse from Victorian times, and many more artefacts relating to his chosen theme of death, a popular Victorian subject. For many, Grayson Perry came to our attention when he won the prestigious Turner Prize in the UK. He accepted the prize as his alter ego Claire in a beautiful frilly dress. It was this that captured media attention more than the fact that a potter had won the prize. Even during an exhibition of Outsider Art at the City Gallery in Auckland a while back we were able to see his work in NZ and hear him speak.

For those of us who are decorators, we can thank him for bringing the decorated pot, every day pots into the high art world. However the works are deceptive. They draw you towards them as a purely decorative piece but on closer observation the images are at times subversive. Look closely and one is rewarded with a mass of detail, some shocking but why not? And being three dimensional ceramic the decoration is in the round, and that is what you find your self doing, looking around and around the pots trying to make sense of the tumult of images

from Perry's fantasy world.

Each pot is made by coiling and can be up to half a meter in height. Hours of work is involved building up layers of decoration, beautifully drawn people, cars, jet fighters and so much more. Colour photographs, many of them personal to the artist, are transferred onto the glossy surface. In some areas the slip or glaze is etched through to the terracotta clay beneath creating texture which contrasts with the smoothness of the glazed areas. The high gloss glazes are embellished with gold, lustre, floral decals and text. So much information and thought goes in to each piece that they reward the viewer time and time again.

If you are interested in Grayson Perry's work, look for him on Google. Or find a copy of his biography, Portrait of the Artist as a Young Girl, as it will help explain his background, why he does what he does. He is an interesting man with an active mind and that is shown in his work. It is heartening to see that he still calls himself a potter and his work is being shown in the leading galleries. And selling for high prices. It was murmured that a platter about 24 inches in diameter was selling for 20,000 pounds. How much then for a vase? There is one for sale on Victoria Miro's web site but it is POA.

Only five pounds for a tea towel. Yes there was even a tea towel to commemorate the exhibiton!!! Of course I bought one.



Photo taken with the CCG camera

From the Brickyard

Peter Lange

A good and happy start to the month with the success of the BCDO and all of the enjoyment that that brought, good sales, great food and entertainment, and positive promotion for the ASP. Jo-Anne got a bit of a shock when her name was called out for the Les and Sonia Andrews Prize, but managed to find her way to the front – she has been working hard with her clay work and also around the ASP and is a worthy recipient. I really loved the carols.

Now a few days later an extremely sad period has hit with the deaths of Adrian Cotter, Toby Stafford, Bryce Stevens and John Green, all within a few days.

These 70s potters have been important participants in the pottery movement in New Zealand and good friends to many of us. It will be a sad and difficult Christmas for their families and I hope the New Year brings them some comfort. 2006 will be recalled as a year of great loss to the Auckland pottery movement. I hope there will be space at a later date to talk of these friends.

Tony Bacon's wife Jean passed away recently and we send him our sympathy and support as well. Jean was a lively and funny woman with a great Scottish accent who always took an interest in what was going on at the Centre and with your work. At her funeral she was paid many tributes by those involved with her at work and in community causes. It was good to see Tony at the BCDO but noticeable that his clothes stayed clean all day – claims he's earned a year off from helping with the have-a-go stall, and fair enough. You need the patience of the Dalai Lama to deal with that for 5 hours.

Thirty or so friends and contemporaries of Ian Smail gathered for a 'toast' to him at Alleluia café recently. Ian has been out of potting (and Auckland) for quite a few years but was a major force in the 70s with his wood-fired kiln at Nodsdale in Albany, and his generous approach to other potters and friends has never been forgotten. His presence and approach to life appeared to be what you might call 'loose' and slightly shambolic, but once on the wheel or with a lump of clay in his hand he could work magic. His work was always under-rated and undervalued by the buyers, but he was uncompromising and in the end effectively walked away. He is one of NZ's great ex-potters, and you never know, it might happen again. Reckons he's got a new firing

technique worked out that involves cat biscuits and plywood, but it might have been the wine talking. In the meantime we look forward to getting together with him for a bit of impromptu piano playing down at Gisborne at the next NZPotters conference in April.

I have a "taster" show at Object-space at the moment (until 22nd December) but my main focus is on a bigger event "Tokens From the Game" at Corbans Estate Arts Centre for the month of February. I hope you'll be able to come to that. Have a good Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Otago Diploma

So you've been coming to a few of our regular classes and are thinking about taking your ceramic education a bit more seriously. Perhaps with a view that it might turn into an income earner, or because it keeps you sane, maybe you need a higher level of training to add to an existing art practice – for whatever reason the Otago Diploma programme is what you need. Enrolments are open for 2007 and we can run you through the programme, including the tutors and part-time options. Contact Renton or Duncan now for an enrolment pack.



Photo taken with the CCG camera



Photo taken with the CCG camera



Photo taken with the CCG camera

classified

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

For Sale:

Cowley electric wheel, only \$200. Ph: Rex Waugh 2924768

Situations Vacant:

Auckland Studio Potters

Part Time Centre Director

The person applying for this position would need to have some flexibility with working hours and the position would be shared with the other part time Director. It is important that the person applying be good at interacting with people, be a competent potter and have some clerical management skills

Duties would include:

- Organizing teaching classes
- Studio management
- Kiln management
- Membership newsletter
- Financial management duties
- Committee work – liaise with President and committee
- Coordination of major events at the Centre
- Excellent knowledge of a wide range of pottery skills for general running of the centre and the teaching of classes

Applications close on the 8th January 2007. More specific information about duties and terms of employment can be obtained by ringing 634 3622 or emailing asp@ceramics.co.nz

Pottery Activity

I am not sure if this is the kind of event that anyone from your organisation might attend, but wonder if you could suggest someone who could provide a pottery/ ceramic activity, for children to paint and take away with them, for our school festival. (an annual event held in January, this coming year on the 6th)

Although we are a rural school, our festival attracts over 15,000 people and we realise the need to provide activities for the children who are attending.

Each activity provider charges as they

see fit, and at the end of the day makes a donation to the school, depending on the amount they have made. (There is no set fee for activity providers.) This is a very profitable day for those attending.

I can provide accommodation overnight for anyone who will provide this service for us. I look forward to receiving a reply, and thank you for any assistance you could give me.

Debbie Oberrn.

Tairua School Wine and Food Festival Committee. email: debo@xtra.co.nz phone/fax: 07 864 8823

exhibitions

Edge City

Green door gallery 65 Old Mill Road is open Saturdays 10am to 3pm during December. The gallery is open by appointment at other times Phone:3763692 mobile: 0212088583 email: rive&joseph@edgcity.co.nz www.edgcity.co.nz. Behind the green door 65 Old Mill Road, Westmere.

Object Space

Brick-Work, an installation by Peter Lange

9th December to 21st December

'Brickwork' is part of a larger ongoing body of works produced by Lange as a result of receiving the 2005 Creative New Zealand Craft/Object Art Fellowship. He describes these works as tokens, oversized fetishes made with bricks foraged from builder's yards. Peter Lange was the recipient of the Premier Award in The Portage Ceramic Awards 2006 for his work 'Lilo', described recently in the Listener by Tessa Laird as bringing "working-class bricks into the high-class realm of sculpture, but possessing a wit that (renowned American conceptual art guru) Carl Andre never had". 8 Ponsonby Rd, Ponsonby.

Antiques on Main

On Saturday, December 9, Antiques on Main opens in its new premises at 5 Willoughby street, Paeroa. The building is the historic National Bank gold refinery which we have fully restored over the last 6 years.

Our trading hours will be 10am-5pm, Fri-

day, Saturday, Sunday & Monday.

Apart from our large range of antique furniture & books we also carry a significant range of studio pottery, kiwiana, pacifica & art. Greg and Katy Waite Ph:07 862 8850, Email: info@antiqueson-main.co.nz

Masterworks Gallery

Feast. On Saturday December 9th we open our next exhibition celebrating the festive season with invited artists working in a range of media and scale. This show will include both major pieces and smaller works and include work by many of our newer artists who have been introduced over 2006. We would love to see everyone in the gallery over the duration of the show to celebrate Christmas and to wish you all the best for the holidays.

77 Ponsonby Rd, Ponsonby, Auckland Ph:378 1256

events

Clay Edge – Gulgong 2007

The central western NSW town of Gulgong is preparing to transform itself into the world's epicentre of ceramics with ClayEdge 2007. The week-long international ceramics event, held every three years, is scheduled from Sunday April 15 to Saturday April 21. This year's ClayEdge will again attract clay masters and practitioners worldwide and will witness a swell in the local population by over 500.

"The Edge of Function is the theme," Clay Event Creator, Janet Mansfield said. "The event will explore means to sustain our art form in exciting and viable ways, which is why we are calling the event ClayEdge."

The impressive line-up of international ceramic stars featuring in the talks and practical demonstration program will provide a truly universal range of techniques and styles. Included in the program is Jean-Nicholas Gerard of France, Mirta Morigi of Italy, Sadashi Inuzuka of Japan and the United States, Linda Sikora of the United States, Lee In-Chin of Korea, Adil Writer of India and Johannes Peters of Germany. Also featuring in the week's schedule is an outstanding range of Australian ceramic masters including Vipoo Srivilasa of Victoria, Hermie Cornelisse of Tasmania, Toni Warburton and Paul Davis of New South Wales, Fleur Schell of Western Australia, Rowley Drysdale of Queensland, Janet DeBoos of the ACT and Gerry Wedd of South Australia.

ClayEdge 2007 will be the seventh time the ceramics extravaganza has been held. The event, designed to provide the perfect forum for ceramicists at all levels to learn, swap ideas, create works and above all have fun, will culminate in a community festival event that will be open to the public as well as attendees of ClayEdge.

The festival will feature live entertainment, ceramic artworks available for sale, food, demonstrations and more.

Contact us early as bookings are limited - <http://www.clayedge.cudgegonggallery.com.au/>

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