



ASP NEWS February 2005

The Newsletter of the
Auckland Studio Potters
Society Inc.
ASP Centre
96 Captain Springs Road
PO Box 13-195 Onehunga
Directors: Peter Lange,
Duncan Shearer
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

classes

We still have space available in the following classes:

Wednesday morning sculpture class, taught by Duncan Shearer. This class is great for anyone who doesn't want to make pots on the wheel. Instead, all manner of handbuilding techniques are used, as well as explorations into different glaze and surface effects. 3 places available.

Thursday evening throwing and handbuilding class, taught by Margaret Sumich. An excellent class for both beginners and those with some experience. Both throwing skills and handbuilding methods are taught, as well as firing and glazing. As a special treat Margaret's students also have a chance to raku fire their work. 6 places available.

Contact the Centre now as these classes are running and the sooner you start the better you get.

Wednesday Afternoon Adhoc Sculpture Sessions

We are starting up informal afternoon sculpture sessions, 12.30pm to 3pm as a new idea to encourage members and students to use our facilities. So all past students of the Wednesday Sculpture class, plus other ex-students and members are invited to come along on a regular basis and make their work here. We hope that you will all learn from each other, and if you get stuck, both Duncan and Peter are here to help you out. Our only requirement is that you are paid up members (\$50 for subs) and that you pay the usual \$2 per hour studio fee. The advantage is the access to our kilns, studio equipment and materials.

Tuesday morning advanced class.

Because of the Diploma class ex-

panding, and a number of them wanting to do the studio as a full time option, we have had to schedule another class. This, alas, means that we lose the Tuesday morning for the members. However we gain by being able to offer a limited number of general students an advanced class. Graham Ambrose is the teacher and he will be designing a programme for the diploma students to follow over 10 weeks. However if any member or other student feels like a bit of a challenge, then they are also welcome to have a go - obviously you won't be expected to do the homework or be assessed, but it will still be a challenge. We can only take another four students, and the cost will be \$195 (same as our other classes). So contact the Centre now to reserve your spot (class starts on the 22nd February and is broken up by the school holidays).



Subs:

Still waiting for quite a few re-enrolments, but there's a month or so's grace to go before the flag on your letterbox stays down on newsletter day. If you've lost your form just send in the changes in your contact details, plus the fees. We communicate a lot by email these days so please send yours in if you want that contact (we're at asp@ceramics.co.nz).

Joe Finch

We have booked Joe in for a school on Saturday 12th March. Joe is an excellent stoneware production potter from Cardigan Bay in Wales, (son of Ray Finch an associate of Michael Cardew), a designer of interesting kilns and promoter of hands-on ceramics education in the UK. He and his wife Trudi came here a few years ago and they showed a wide range of techniques. Trudi is a great decorator - at this stage it is unclear if she will be demonstrating but there is a good chance that that will happen. Shared lunch, 10am - 4pm, only \$35 for the day.

Ring the Centre to book yourself in for the first school of the year.



General News:

Peter Lange



Just been to the airport to pick up John Pollex's daughter Kate, who was last here in her mother's tummy about 24 years ago when John was touring the country. John continues to have successful exhibitions with his colourful, painterly, surfaces. His website is at www.johnpollex.co.uk and is worth looking at if you are considering moving into colourful work – you don't have to do the tired old "fish, flowers and fruit" routine; but his work is very time-consuming and each piece becomes a painting on a pot. He's influenced by painters like Howard Hodgkins. He acknowledges that if the same painting was done on paper, and all the risky processes like drying and firing that go with pot-making are therefore avoided, ironically the price would be three or more times higher. But he likes making pots so that's what he does.

We rebuilt and renovated all the wheels over the summer and already two have broken down. I've had my wheel for 20 years and never repaired it (mind you lately I've never used it either) but it seems that if half a dozen different people use a particular wheel it can't cope.

John Dawson, our most distant ASP member (London) is visiting again and working towards an exhibition in Masterworks gallery in a month or so. We'll let you know. We have a few out-of-town members from places like Wanganui, Taumarunui, the Far North, and Sydney.

Jeff Oestreich from Minnesota has an exhibition of his work at the Green Gallery on Waiheke until the 27th February. Jeff is a regular visitor to NZ and takes the occasional school here, but not this time. We'll try to nab him next year. His schools are delightful events.

Jan Aliah from Creative Joy Studios has spent the summer at the Centre firing a truck-load of biscuited pots left behind by a visiting Czech production potter. She had a successful wood firing in the Phoenix which got to a good cone 12 temperature (so hot it melted the floor of the kiln and tipped a couple of bungs over - funny how these disasters always look worse than they turn out, with nearly all pots surviving, and one jug stuck to the wall hanging in space) and 5 firings in the gas kiln. Meanwhile I was building my Waiheke piece and Gregor Kregar was slumping glass in the

big electric kiln every day, so there was constant activity right through the holidays. His stack tipped over too but it turned out that the floor of the kiln had rusted through and we had to push it up with a carjack; it's still there and I'm hoping that I don't get a puncture any-time soon.

The national conference at Invercargill this year is getting closer. Called the "Rrroaring Forties" it's on at the end of April. We have information at the Centre or go to www.nzpotters.com and click on "conferences". Dave Barr, a pottery enthusiast (non-practising) from Christchurch was to have set up a Hawaiian Drum Firing there, but sadly he died a couple of weeks ago and I have been asked to

We've had a group from "TYLA" (Turn Your Life Around) a police initiative set up to help kids at risk, using the Centre over the holidays as well under the care of Tom Barter. It's been a very creative group and Tom took them through a lot of the clay processes with enthusiasm and enjoyment. Hopefully it will be an ongoing project. At least until there are no more kids at risk; or maybe until Tom's no longer at risk. Which could be a little while. As well we had a visit from Migrant Support Services with a group of very well behaved young people mostly from India who have been through the NZ Immigration system and want to learn about aspects of life in this country. That was an enjoyable session.



stand in for him. He was a very generous and helpful person and together we set up a small salt kiln at the Christchurch Polytech some years ago which stopped traffic, cleared the small pub next door and brought security out at the double as the Polytech disappeared into a white fog. That was after only one large handful of salt – I recall Bing Dawe saying "I'm glad that's over" at that point, only to be told it was the first handful of many. In the end the salting was abandoned but the pots were OK, the kiln was kicked over during the night (I suspect by the regulars at the pub) but Dave really enjoyed escapades of that sort. Not sure what sort of kiln we'll build down there but an ice kiln seems to be an option for Invercargill. Or maybe something inside a concrete mixer behind the mayoral car. There are a few Aucklanders booked for the conference; it's a friendly and beautiful place down there in the Deep South and it would be good to see a group of ASPers down there.

Sad news that one of our members, Lyn Mataira, died suddenly recently. She was a keen ASP supporter and regular visitor to the Centre at members' events and Open Days. We send our sympathy and best wishes to Dave and her family.

I talked to Denis O'Connor while I was on Waiheke and he is willing to present an evening for the members some time in the next couple of months, probably April. He was one of the most important NZ potters of the 70s and 80s, working in salt-glazed porcelain and while his work was often based around functional ware it always took an extremely sculptural direction. There has been a video produced about him and his work and he will show that (the uncut version) for us at a time to be decided.

We had a group of young kids from a local primary school visit not long ago and we've just received a bundle of 25 thank-you letters. Here's one ...

"Dear Mr Lange

Thank you for letting class 5 use your

grog for our pots. For my clay I used grog and for my decoration I did incise. For firing I did nothing. I learnt not to play around with my pot more than 2 minutes. Next time I will make my edges more fatter. I will make my sides fatter and make the bottom of my pot more scinnier and make the decoration bigger and better.

From Leigh."

Library News:

The proceeds from Juliet's mum's funeral have allowed us to go shopping for a number of books for our library and we look forward to that. We have bought "500 Bowls" and "500 Teapots" already which are useful as unblockers when the muse dries up, and which feature some NZ potters too, and on the wishlist is a couple of books – one by Garth Clark "Shards", and if the catalogue of the "Secret History of Clay" is available that would be a great addition to our library. I'm sure there will be others. I have heard that Richard Shaw is producing one on how to make decals – something for our diploma students. We will plant two trees as well in her memory.

Stalinist Purge in Onehunga

The General Purge has happened and we have "stored" the unloved objects (raw, biscuited, glazed) on the deck in a sort of purgatory arrangement. Once that's over, in a week or two, they are off to Pikes Point Rubbish dump to await a trip to eternal reclamation. It's really ripe over there today, must be the season for turning the compost. Here we are down a dead-end road opposite the rubbish dump, but we've still got one of the best galleries in town. A hidden treasure.

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Letter from Robin Paul:

I had to write to you to say how sad that Sophie died. I have hugely fond memories of her ratting anywhere, stories of her ratting at One Tree Hill, her energy and intelligence and of course the perhaps unusual difference in size between you and Sophie. I can imagine her enjoying the centre with it's hidden holes and dark places.

Roger and I enjoyed visiting the Big Day Out and purchased presents for Christmas and for ourselves (a Duncan teapot). We are delighted to see the centre so alive and vibrant, looked after and added to. Since we were both involved at different times with its original life and later the decision to add and improve the facilities, it is satisfying to see its progress. It was a bit like visiting the Playcentre we put so much energy into, to share with our grandson's preschool days!!

Many thanks for your efforts and Duncan's. Robin Paul

Letter from NCECA

The International Teapot Art Conference, Yixing, China, June 2-4, 2005 NCECA is working with the Chinese Ceramic Art Council to promote the International Teapot Art Conference, Yixing, China, this coming June. This unique Chinese town is the capital of the special Yixing Teapots and supports many ceramics studios and master artists. The conference will offer studio tours, opportunities to observe the history of teapot making and Chinese tea culture, and visits to the ancient purple sand clay mine and dragon kiln sites. NCECA is organizing a special international exhibition of teapots and helping to coordinate three scholarship awards for travel to the Teapot Conference next June. You may learn more about the conference at www.Yixing2005.org

Duty Roster:

Duncan's threatening email has produced the goods again, and we're OK up until July. Thank you.

A Day On Waiheke

Occasionally unexpected things happen around here that fall between newsletters and we use our email list to help organise them. We apologise to those who are not on the internet, but it's difficult to see another option at short notice. Last Saturday a group of 25 who are current ASP members and on our email list spent a day on Waiheke walking the sculpture walk and visiting the Waiheke Gallery's "Sculpture on the Plinth", followed by lunch and a bus trip to the Green Gallery for the opening of the Jeff Oestreich exhibition. It was a relaxed day, with the weather a little stormy but good for walking around the cliffs and cramming on to buses (to the point of blowing a tyre on one bus after we overfilled it) and watching Jo-Anne trying not to throw up on the ferry.

There was talk about more of these expeditions and that is a good idea but we will definitely ask for payment beforehand next time, and of course hopefully we'll have the event planned and booked well in advance. One suggestion is to go for a one-day visit to the Near North with Terry Stringer happy to host us en route, and there are potters in the Warkworth area who may be relaxed about a visit. Two days in Coromandel could be a good one too, or three months in Tuscany. We'd have to see the colour of your dough for that one.



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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.

Work wanted:

Thomas Preisol is after a job in the ceramic industry. Contact him on 027 4735532

For Sale:

A range of English clays (eg Podmore's porcelain) and Duncan glazes, plus other chemical and ingredients. \$350 o.n.o. Ph Bruce McKinnon 8175518.

Talisman pottery wheel, very good condition. Ph Ken Anderson on 4107994.

Seger cones - 3 boxes of assorted numbers, 16 c per cone, Phone June 5242058

WWW:

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events

Waiheke Ceramics Award

The deadline for submissions to this award is Monday 11th April and applicants need to send a slide with a matchbox placed next to the object to be submitted. Bronwynne Cornish will be selecting from the slides on the 14th and 15th and we will notify the chosen applicants on the 22nd April and works will need to be in the gallery by the 29th. Entry forms will be available at the Centre.

exhibitions

"Sculpture on the Gulf"

The opening was a grand affair with Helen Clark and John Hawkesby amusing the guests, along with a café orchestra, local wine, good food and a wonderfully camp spectacle presented by Warwick Broadhead featuring a vintage concrete mixer, layers of coloured gauze, angels wings made of newspaper and a defunct Masport mower. We fired a lot of Gregor Kregar's glass panels here, and his finished sphere is very impressive, especially if you stick your head in it. At night too it is wonderful, all lit up from solar storage batteries. The "Prow" I built looks comfortable half-sunk next to a swamp in long grass, and it seems it will stay on Waiheke in a sculpture garden there. The lead-copper glaze is very vibrant amongst the greenery. Liz Earth, a potter from Hawkes Bay, built a Haast eagle's nest on site, out of vine cuttings and objects gathered from the site and it is very evocative.

So if you get a chance it's worth the trip. It's the second of these great outdoor sculpture walks around a spectacular part of Waiheke with 24 sculptures in a variety of mediums, spaced every 100 metres or so, so that you rarely see more than 2 at a time. It's a great half-day adventure and runs until 13th February. Take a hat, sunblock, sensible shoes; it's free! See work by people like Denis O'Connor, Gregor Kregar, Jeff

Thomson, Chiara Corbelleto. Just off the ferry wharf, easy to find, well signposted. Website: www.sculptureonthegulf.co.nz

Green Gallery

Recent Soda Fired Work by Jeff Oestreich 5th Feb to 27th Feb
20 Cory Rd, Palm Beach, Waiheke, Ph 3722891

ASP Annual Exhibition

The exhibition is being brought forward this year to suit the Mairangi Arts Centre calendar, so start work now!! The show will open on the 6th July.

Royal Easter Show 2005

If you want to take part in the exhibition or shop at the Easter Show this year then please contact Phyl Humphries on 489 5546. There is a 25% commission on sales and you get to display your work to thousands of people over about a week. Delivery dates are 17,18,19 March.

Compendium Gallery

'Bowls' - a group show by - Linda Forrest, Graham Ambrose, Sang-Sool Shim, Keum-Sun Lee, Masoud Zadeh.
Opens 7th February to 26th February.
5 Lorne St, City, Ph 3003212

Pots of Ponsonby

New thrown black and white vases by Brendan Adams.
From 13th February to 27th February
298 Ponsonby Rd, Ponsonby, Ph 3760145



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