



# ASP NEWS February 2007

The Newsletter of the  
Auckland Studio Potters  
Society Inc.  
ASP Centre  
96 Captain Springs Road  
PO Box 13-195 Onehunga  
Directors: Duncan Shearer,  
Renton Murray  
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 \$3 per hour up to a maximum of \$9.00 per day	

## Richard Selfridge Workshop

Slide Show – 16th March, 7pm

Demonstration – 17th March, 10am-4pm

We are extremely fortunate to have the Canadian potter Richard Selfridge visiting New Zealand on his summer vacation and able to nab him for a demonstration during March. Richard has been in NZ before and knows a number of our potters. He has an extensive website: [www.selfridgeceramicart.ca](http://www.selfridgeceramicart.ca) which gives you a bit of an idea of his kind of work. He will be giving a slide show and film evening on Friday 16th March from 7pm, gold coin koha. This will be a great chance for potters to catch up with Richard, have a glass of wine or coffee and chat.

Then on Saturday 17th March the workshop demonstration will kick off at 10am to 4pm, shared lunch. This is where Richard will show off his skills in making, assembling and decorating domestic ware. He is a woodfirer, but also uses other kilns according to the style of work made. He is brilliant at marketing and will be able to pass on much useful information in that regard. Come along to our first workshop of the year and you'll be impressed how much useful information you'll walk away with – all for the price of \$35.



## President's Report

Michael Billington

ASP Appointments:

The big news is that Renton Murray has been appointed as permanent Co-Director at ASP and of course our much cherished Peter L will also be returning as the other Co-Director. Peter having had a health setback is recovering well from a major operation and he will return when he is good and ready. A plan has been hatched to manage while Peter is away. I am delighted that Renton has accepted the position and will work 3 days per week. Peter, when he returns, will work 1.5 days. Jo-Anne Raill will work at the centre on Thursdays. We are very fortunate to have such competent staff that bring with them a huge wealth of experience and often go far beyond the

call of duty. Duncan Shearer's departure overseas is imminent and he is in the process of "handing over the reigns" (so to speak). I think we all fully realize now (if not before) how vast Duncan's job has been. In order to make the handover a little easier on the staff picking up this complex job there are some jobs we could use some support with from our membership. The first one that comes to mind is the Website. If there is anyone out there who would like to help out with the further management and development of our website ASP would love to hear from them. Peter L has said he is interested in doing this but it would be good to have some extra support.

Generous Donation:

Huge thanks to Tom Hubbard who has so kindly donated many tools and

lots of technical information to ASP. It is quite evident from what has arrived at ASP that Tom was a very methodical person who took great care in organizing his life as a potter. I can assure Tom that many of the tools and much of the written material has already found a good home. Thank you so much Tom for your thoughtfulness.

Anagama Firing:

While we are on the topic of thanks, the Anagama firing comes to mind. This firing has, as most people know become an annual event. The Anagama kiln really is like a big baby, in that it needs feeding all the time and can't be left for a minute unattended. Without the many reliable people we have as members at ASP the firing would not take place. Many people have been very generous with their time right from the loading (takes nearly a week), cutting up and stacking of wood to the perpetual supervision that goes on over the three days of firing. So thank you so much to all who donated their time and energy so willingly.

Membership Subscriptions:

Although requests to pay up subscriptions for membership is regularly advertised we still have trouble getting them all paid up. We need this money in so that ASP can continue to develop and thrive as an Arts Centre. If you no longer wish to be a member I would ask that you let staff at the centre know so that we don't waste time trying to chase up the money.

Crossword:

Included in this newsletter is a Cryptic Crossword which is the first crossword of this type I have designed. I have already tested it out with a few people at ASP and they got most of the clues. I decided that the answers would not be in the same newsletter so people will have to suffer until the next newsletter. If people like the idea of a crossword being a more regular feature

*continued on page 2*

in the newsletter I will see what I can do (but no promises). I guess if you have as warped a mind as mine you will be able to find the answers. The answers to the clues are commonly used pottery terms; however some of the clues could be a bit obtuse. Good luck!

## **Valediction**

Duncan Shearer

I'm both sorry and excited about leaving the ASP. I started back in 2000 when the committee decided it needed a Director five days a week and Peter wanted to work only half a week. It was a challenge getting up to speed with how the Centre worked, but it was a quieter place back then without as many students or classes and I was familiar with some aspects as I had been on the committee for a couple of years.

Some of the highlights that stand out amongst a sea of great experiences are meeting visiting potters, teaching and building kilns. It is always fascinating hearing others talk about clay and their approach to making it work for them. Even if the tricks aren't your cup of tea, their philosophy or justifications are always interesting.

Building a variety of kilns has also been brilliant. Nothing compares to letting me loose with a pile of bricks and some sticky fireclay – bugged the sandpit. And the ASP is the best place to try out all sorts of ideas about kilns, from primitive pits to salt kilns to anagama kilns I've had a go at all of them.

My own work has been hugely influenced by these two factors – people and kilns. New ideas or approaches are always turning up and combined with different firing methods from whichever kiln takes my fancy have helped to keep my work evolving.

Teaching my sculpture class during the last 5 years has kept me on my toes. Although it might sound like I knew what was going to happen I was rarely more than half a page ahead of the class. Good luck made more students happy than any great foresight on my part.

Another huge reason for me staying seven years at the Centre has been Peter Lange. He is the most excellent colleague and a there constantly seems to be a plan hatching around the morning tea table when Peter's around. The kiln experiments were always great fun and always spectacular.

I'll be travelling initially to Australia for April, partly to attend the Gulgong conference. Then I'll move on to England in May before arriving in Europe in June in time for another woodfiring conference in France beginning in early July. After that I'll be making it up as I go along (much like my glaze recipes) but all the while attempting to send in regular email updates to help fill the newsletter.

So lastly a huge thank you to everyone who's made my time here at the ASP so wonderful.

## **Centre Report**

Renton Murray

Several things have happened of note around (and beyond) the Centre this month. But the best one was to see Peter arriving with his sisters at my place last Saturday morning. They had come to view his 'Brickworks' currently residing in my front paddock. Great to see him looking pretty fit, with humour very much intact. We look forward to his full recovery and (me especially) his return to the reigns at the Centre to clear up some of my inevitable cock-ups with the computer.

Duncan's departure is imminent and I'm sure I speak for all members when I say he REALLY will be missed. I don't

where (or how) he stores all that knowledge - he really is a freak and I mean that in the nicest possible way. Probably it's a good thing he's going overseas otherwise I'd be tempted to ring him at least once a day - What's that crackle white recipe? or what's the ratio of Cobalt Carbonate to Oxide? I will need both of those before you leave thanks Duncan. Panic is setting in already...help...reach for the Valium.

Now the Anagama firing - I'll be honest from the outset, they are not my favourite type of pots or preferred firing

method. In today's jargon of Carbon footprint and energy rating etc it is an embarrassment, but at least we don't actually chop down the trees - just use the left overs before they rot in a landfill. Some of the pots out of the firing were very handsome - see that little blush there and those shell marks there are lovely. But the main result was the team effort from all the loaders and stokers and tea makers and music makers. They all seemed to be having a ball and I won't need much arm twisting to join in next time. Perhaps if I was allowed to just put in a tiny little amount of SALT.....

The Centre was humming along over the holidays and already the new term is nearly full to the brim. Duncan leaves the Centre in very good shape and in good heart. Thank you again Duncan.

PS. Some boring bits and pieces.... new broom about to get sweeping.... claim those Bisc pots now...the trailer is empty and I love my trips to the tip....be warned. and also please clean your work areas before leaving...thank you.

## **Escapee from Neuro Ward on loose at ASP**

Jocelyn Logan

I suffer from astereognosia. Just thought I'd share that with the group. It means I can't recognise something when it is put in my hand (left hand, eyes shut). I reckon the therapy is obvious. Put more clay in my hands.

I've been asked to follow-up my December article An Explosion in the Kiln (wherein the Heroine has a stroke while driving her car in rush-hour traffic in Symonds St, suspiciously soon after speaking to Duncan). 3 months after my stroke I have been out of Rehab a month. I had 3 weeks in Auckland Hospital and over 6 weeks at Rehab+ in Pt Chev. Can't recommend Rehab+ highly enough. They have a workshop. With an electric pottery wheel! Seeing as I'm a dyed-in-the-wool Leach wheel addict, and as my left hand had basically no feeling at the time, I never used it. But the lovely John Dixon took me to see Quentin and bought me a bag of clay for coiling. He also helped me set up a little "studio" under the eaves. Sadly, I didn't produce any masterpieces, but I deeply appreciated the effort. He is talking of enrolling at ASP. Be kind to him.

Others also showered me with kindness. Duncan took me to the BCDO, & Brendan & girls got me back to Rehab (my very first outing since the stroke).



Charade, Duncan, George & Michael B carried the wheelchair I was still in then up the steps to the house. Who says ASP's loo isn't accessible? I knew potters would have a solution. Jo-Anne & Anne got me over to the Diploma Exhibition. Thanks to them & all who pushed me over pebbles. Another thank you is to Barbara McGrath on Gt Barrier who was moved by my previous article to send me a lump of clay.

I didn't need the kick-wheel pedal moved to the right. Within 5 weeks of the stroke I could walk without a stick, and now use one only on rough ground. Kicking with my left foot would be therapy for me now. I can also use my hand reasonably. Remaining irritations are the feeling of a dental anaesthetic wearing off on my whole left side, exhaustion and not yet being able to drive and get to ASP. Renton generously picked me up in Titirangi one day & I was able to spend a full day at ASP glazing & slipping my work for the anagama (mercifully all thrown or made before the stroke). The anagama team allowed me to put my work in despite being incapable of stoking.

I was to be allowed to symbolically light the kiln, but was too exhausted on the day to get there. This would have been the first firing of this kiln I'd ever missed, so thanks guys!

The driving thing should improve as soon as I can prise Duncan out of his car (automatic – hah!) and despatch him overseas. As a matter of fact I am following him to Gulgong. Loved it last time & my airfares to Oz for a conference 3 weeks after my stroke were not refundable. Obvious solution – transfer them to flights to NSW in April. Hope lots of kiwi potters will be joining us.

I didn't know when Peter Lange visited me in Auckland Hospital that my first trip back there after getting home would be to visit him. Monday class morning teas have a lot to answer for. It's carrot-sticks and pinenuts for you mob as soon as Peter and I get back!

PS: The Perils of Hemi-anaesthesia; a Vignette from the BCDO: I was waiting in my wheelchair for George to cook a sausage when I saw a small girl eyeing me & whispering to her mother. Oh, OK. My first time out in public as disabled.

She'll be saying "Mummy, why can't that lady walk?" The mother pointed at my baggy navy Capri pants. "She says a bumble bee just crawled up your trouser-leg."

## Subs

Firstly a great BIG thank you to all those members who have fronted up with their subs money – it makes running this place so much easier when people pay promptly. For everyone else, please take your time reading this issue as it could be your last if you don't send in your subs money straight away.

## Anagama Firing

The 7th Firing of the ASP Anagama kiln was a real learning curve for Jo-Anne Raill. Faced with my imminent departure someone else needed to learn the ropes of how these firings are organised. Although they appear casually run, behind the scenes a lot of planning and preparation has gone in. The wood chopping alone takes weeks of co-ordinated effort and then there is the issue of pots, stackers, stokers, food, rosters and collecting money. All jobs which Jo-Anne became very familiar with, including stepping up when holes appeared in the stoking shifts and managing to nearly stay awake during the whole 60 hours of firing.

After all the drama of the firing the unveiling all went according to plan on Saturday and revealed a kiln load of brown pots, luckily that's exactly what we wanted. These events are a huge amount of fun to take part in and the more you lend a hand the more you get out of them. So next time you see a notice about an Anagama firing in the newsletter seriously consider it as chance to have a lot of fun with fellow potters and play with fire at the same time.

## Party Party Party

Duncan's farewell party is on Sunday the 18th February at the ASP Centre. Kicking off at 5pm, bring something for the barbeque and something to drink. We'll have bread and sausages on the go along with tea and coffee for the drivers. Everyone welcome – let's make this a send off he won't forget.



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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

Talisman Wheel, with seat.  
Ph: Michael Whitmore on 817 6621

## Situations Vacant

The Auckland Museum is hoping to host a childrens' ceramic workshop during the July holidays. It would be themed around Ancient Egypt to relate to the upcoming exhibition 'Life Beyond the Tomb', about the preparation for death and the afterlife in Ancient Egyptian cultures. The dates for those holidays are 1st - 15th July.

The fee to the contractor running the workshop is \$100, plus of course the costs of any materials they provide. Please contact Ariane for more details.

Ariane Craig-Smith - Programme Co-ordinator

Stevenson Discovery Centre  
acraig-smith@aucklandmuseum.com  
Ph: 309 0443 x 808 Auckland Museum

## Commission

The Auckland Museum also needs a potter to help with the Egyptian exhibition. They hope to find a potter who could make us a replica Egyptian pot and possibly also a mould for it. See photo (and about 25cm tall).

Contact Florence for more details.

Florence Hassall  
Museum Educator  
Auckland War Memorial Museum  
Ph: 306 7070 ext 804

# exhibitions

## Masterworks Gallery Ponsonby

Factory Man

John Roy

7th Feb - 24th Feb

Tauranga artist John Roy presents his new series of work 'Factory Man'. Using his signature figurative characters as the

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basis for a new series of sculptures, this exhibition incorporates a new set of references towards building and architecture. "Buildings are interesting to work with as they can be interpreted in many ways, from hopes and aspirations to nightmares." John Roy, artist statement 2007.  
77 Ponsonby Road, Auckland. Ph 378 1256

## Pots of Ponsonby

"Aotearoa" - NZ Summer Images

Pots of Ponsonby Members

13th January - 13th February

A changing display of our favourites

Fabrics of Jeannie Van der Putten

17th February - 3rd March

New Pacific flavoured designs from Jean-nie

298 Ponsonby Rd, Ponsonby. Ph 376 0145

## Corbans Estate Arts Centre

Notice of Postponement

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the 'Tokens of the Game' exhibition by Peter Lange and the related workshops and talks have had to be postponed until later in the year.

## Object Space

The Faux

27th January to 3rd March

This exhibition explores an Alice in Wonderland world where nothing is what it seems. Furniture is recyclable, snack food takes on giant uneatable proportions and the accoutrements of the lavatory become soft sculpture for the living room. This exhibition features work from 13 makers working in ceramics, jewellery, textiles, wood and glass. Artists included are; Fran Allison, Sue Bridges, Madeline Childs, Regan Gentry, Janet Green, Philip Jarvis, Megan Knarhoi-Hansen, Paul Maseyk, Vaune Mason, Elizabeth McClure, Nicky Soons, Amanda Sorensen and Katy Wallace.  
Ponsonby Rd, Auckland.

## AGM

The Auckland Studio Potters AGM is on Sunday the 1st April (no this is not a joke) and we are seeking nominations for committee members. Kicking off at 9.30am with croissants and coffee the meeting usually lasts about an hour. Come along and have your say about how your society is running and make suggestions for changes - please remember that you must be a paid up member to vote (another benefit of sending in your subs money). Nomination forms will be in the next newsletter and are already on the website under Notices.

## The ASP website

If you haven't visited the ASP website recently you won't have noticed how much it has changed. A complete style makeover has been done to it - a 'Queen eye for the straight guy' kind of overhaul. While admiring the new website bling, check out the Pikes Pt Gallery - you too could be added to this page, just contact the Centre for more details.

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