



ASP NEWS SPECIAL XMAS 2003

The Newsletter of the
Auckland Studio Potters
Society Inc.
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Centre open until 24th
December, then closed
until 5th January.

However for desperate
Centre users there will be people
here from time to time over the
closed period. Just ring first and
you will be made welcome if it is
at all possible.



Merry Christmas

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Tucked in with this bonus newsletter is the subs form for 2004. The fees are the same as last year; the only difference is that the "Associate" membership category has disappeared.

We look forward to your membership next year - and also to your early re-enrolment. We depend on your support for the healthy state of the ASP. We enjoy having you as members, and look forward to increasing our numbers over the next year.

CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Next Monday night (22nd December) we're having a BBQ and drinks for the Xmas Centre Do. For a mere \$5 per person we'll provide sausages (vegetarian too) with trimmings, and hamburgers and there will be beer and wine for sale at \$1. Be here at 7 for a 7.30 feed. No pressure, come and relax, meet friends for a couple of hours before the stress of the rest of the week lands on you like a giant Christmas pudding dropped from one of the Two Towers by Gollum or Moonface.

UK NEWS:

The ceramic news out of the UK was certainly mixed this week with Grayson Perry winning the Turner Prize and a week later the announcement of the death of Mick Casson - both important figures for completely different reasons.

Duncan was fortunate to meet Mick only a month or so ago, and to buy one of his wonderful jugs. He was a charismatic and influential potter.

Grayson Perry continues to make waves and attract a variety of criticism. His accessories don't always hit the mark, but his attitude to clay (and to the culture of "pottery") is wonderfully iconoclastic. Great sculpture? Maybe ... his incisive social commentary on regulation coiled vases is good stuff. His favourite pottery tool? A hammer.

FREE TILE WORKSHOPS

With Tom Barter. No catch - except that you will be helping the ASP design and install a large mural at the Onehunga Community Centre. The project is not yet finally confirmed, but if it is, then over the next 3 months we will be holding a series of workshops for people interested in building and mounting this mural. So at this stage all we want is an indication of your interest and we will contact you as soon as the nod is given. We anticipate one session a week (maybe Sundays), making tiles, glazing, and sticking it up. A chance to learn a lot and be involved with making a substantial work - 10mx3.5m. Leave your name at the Centre.

GENERAL NEWS:

The BCDO will only be mentioned briefly, mainly to thank our sponsors: Auckland City for help with advertising, Western Potters for generous dona-

tions of underglazes for the painted plates, all of those potters who donated work to the auction, and of course the many members who helped - who ran stalls and took money and painted faces, cooked food and made tea. We anticipate a final profit of almost \$8,000 which is great news and enough to fill the hole that appeared during the renovations, in our bank account.

We send our condolences to Jim Palmer on the loss of his wife Pam - she was a talented artist, particularly with watercolours and paintings of old and interesting buildings. It is good to see him at the Centre; his enthusiasm for clay continues unabated.

Congratulations to ASP members Petra Molloy and Jim Innes - they have both completed the Diploma in Ceramic Arts from Canberra and their final submissions were very impressive. It is a demanding course, and includes a high level of commitment with visits to Australia each year. There are still a couple of New Zealanders enrolled at Canberra.

The Gulgong Conference is happening over the first week of May. In the New Year we will organise a meeting of potters and members who may be interested in going, to see if we can't organise an assault firing.

Can't stop saying Craftley's Dunk Show or Crunkley's Daft Show when I see the ads for Dunkley's Craft Show.

The various members' Open Days seem to have been up to last year's standards and that's good news for the few full-time potters left out there. Peter Stichbury told everyone it was his last, but you never know ... it's a good sales pitch anyway. He's looking fit enough for quite a few more, and next year's retrospective exhibition of his work at the Museum will be the highlight of 2004 for Auckland pottery enthusiasts.

Have a good Christmas and New Year - we're here a lot of the time (see box at top right), and classes start at the end of January. Book early if you want to come.

A few words from our Prez.

Wally Hirsh

It sure was a Big BCDO and my thanks go to everyone who supported this excellent day. My thanks also, and especially, go to Peter, Duncan and members of the Exec who got in behind and did so much to make it all happen. The details from Peter reveal just what a good day it was. The occasion has now become firmly established in the cultural calendar of Auckland and next year it will be even bigger and better. The winner of the big raffle was Jim Innes.

In my last column I told you all about the Les and Sonia Andrews Scholarship. The winner in the inaugural year, was Alex Whyte and what a surprise he got when the winner was announced at the BCDO. Les and Sonia presented Alex with a cheque for \$1,500. Congratulations and thanks are due all round and we look forward to having another winner in 2004 and in the years to come.

Many visitors commented to me on Sunday, on just what a great atmosphere prevailed at our Centre. I have heard it many times before and we can all take pride in that, in our caring and our hospitality. People like coming to ASP. Others commented on the marvellous display by our first year Diploma students and I am sure you will all agree it was a great display. Our congratulations to all of them and to their teachers.

CAN YOU HELP?

A small job for some one: Each year we have the opportunity of applying to different organisations for grants. It is a precise, important and exacting job. It has the potential to raise quite a lot of money for ASP. We are looking for someone who would take over the co-ordination of this task, say for 2 years. It is a job that needs to be done, but it is too much for Duncan and Peter as it needs to be done in the quiet uninterrupted setting of someone's study. If you are interested please give Peter or Duncan or me a buzz and we can discuss it further.

In April next year there will be a prestigious display of arts and collectibles as a fund raiser for another organisation I am involved in. I have been asked to co-ordinate the ceramics section. We are keen to have fine pots exhibited for sale. A commission of 20% will be taken from all ceramic sales. If you are willing to display a pot or two

please send me an email at whirsh@ww.co.nz and I will then contact you.

And while on the issue of fund raising the committee recently discussed the issue of bequests to ASP. Why not, when drawing up your will or even if you are advising some other member of your family in drafting theirs, include a clause whereby "I leave \$X to The Auckland Studio Potters Society Incorporated, of 96 Captain Springs Road Onehunga Auckland. The official receipt of the Society shall be full acknowledgement of this bequest."

This year has been a great year at ASP. It has been a hectic year with lots of big successes....workshops, our annual exhibition, the diploma programme, term after term of full classes, the BCDO, Peter and Duncan's trips overseas, the kitchen redevelopment, the potters in residence programme and the growth in our membership to mention just some of the big events. ASP is an exciting and successful organisation. Have a good rest over the summer. Enjoy the holiday and festive season in which ever way you celebrate and come back in 2004 ready to make it another big year at ASP. Meanwhile keep on potting.

PIONEERING POTTERS:

There's a wonderful display of the work of Jova Rancich and Wally Silva at the Corban Estate Gallery in Henderson. These two worked together in the 30s and 40s and Rancich in particular produced some very enthusiastic glazed surfaces, very loose and energetic. Some of the members of the Fish, Flowers and Fruit brigade would do well to pop in and take the odd note. On until 8th February.

Contact Corbans Estate Arts Centre for information on Summer Schools and exhibitions - they are doing a great job for the crafts in West Auckland. Phone 8384455 or info@ceac.org.nz

ROCK THE STONE 2:

The 2nd biennial stone carving symposium is to be held at Kells Park, Albany Village from 1st-22nd February. Twenty top carvers will be working there daily and the public is welcome to come and watch. There will be an exhibition at the end of the symposium for a week. Contact Howard Williams 4159817.

RICHARD PARKER:

"Ceramics" at Lopdell House, Titirangi until 1st Feb. Another must-see.

Term 1, 2004 classes start 27th January

Monday Mornings - Throwing with Peter Lange

Monday Evenings - Slab and throwing with Graham Ambrose

Tuesday Evening - Throwing with Renton Murray

Wednesday Morning - Sculpture with Duncan Shearer

Wednesday Evening - Absolute Beginners with Chris Southern (6 week course)

Thursday Morning - Throwing with Peter Stichbury

Thursday Evening - Sculpture and throwing with Margaret Sumich

Friday Mornings - Diploma class

Diploma News:

The diploma students who mounted the excellent exhibition at the Band Hall were:

Ann Hudson, Elena Renker, John Webb, Anne Crane, Trish Brown, Marilyn Wheeler.

Their tutors this year were: John Parker, Peter Collis, Bronwynne Cornish.

Next year's tutors are: John Dawson (porcelain throwing), Hilary Kerrod (print, musical instruments), Matt McLean (large sculpture).

DAVID MILLER:

We are still hoping that David Miller, a great British potter residing in France will be here to give a school in February. His handling of clay and slips is superb and it will be a great start to the year. January's newsletter will have all the details - communication is difficult where he is but we're getting there. Jeff Oestreich is holding one school in the Auckland area at Titirangi Potters in mid-February. Contact Lorraine at 8168008 for details.