



ASP NEWS January 2006

The Newsletter of the
Auckland Studio Potters
Society Inc.
ASP Centre
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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

Happy New Year



Centre News:

Duncan Shearer

The Centre is getting a bit of a make over in the New Year. Starting with my move out of the main studio and into what was the Artist in Residences' space (where Lois, Rhonda and Aylex were). It means a lot more space for me and it gives us the opportunity to develop that corner of the main studio into a maintenance bay. Another concrete wedging bench and kick wheel are also going into that corner. Next on the agenda is a new roof for the kiln shed. The old one resembles a Jeff Thompson lace sculpture rather than an effectual roof.

Coming up on the workshop front we have a number of possibilities, keep an eye out on the website for more details.

Obituary

Peter Oxborough

In the New Year I went to Peter's funeral at Scotts Landing, a beautiful part of the Mahurangi that Peter loved so much. There was a large crowd of his friends and family and a mix of potters, sailors and mates to farewell him. His coffin was made by Robin Pendred a local furniture maker and friend - simple and modestly adorned with Peter's own work, a very special way to leave. Lots of stories and memories came out over the course of the farewell, and through it came the picture of a man who was unstintingly generous, sometimes irascible, always passionate, practical, romantic, funny and loved by many of us. He potted through the 70s at Kaipara Flats where he encouraged others to join him, and I was one of those. He found me a house 4 miles away, helped me build a Cowan type kiln, and our friendship grew from there. At the funeral I recounted the story of his excitement at the opening of the first firing in my new kiln - he liked a bit of ceremony and we took the wicket down at the auspicious time with a special morning tea. He took the first pot out of the firing (a good one, good temperature, good reduction) and to his surprise when he turned it around, exclaiming with delight, he found a price sticker on the pot (\$12.50 PL) all ready to go to the Albany Village Pot-

tery. I'd sneaked in early that morning, taken some bricks off the wicket, put the stickers on and clammed it up again. He eventually forgave me. He had a glaze that he called his "chiching" glaze, a really good seller in the AVP. I'd heard of "ching pai" and "ying shing" but never "chiching". He eventually explained that he'd called it that because it made the till in the shop go "chiching!!". He was a force at meetings - logical, pedantic perhaps, but always well argued, and happy to take the odd democratic knock-back. He moved to the shores of the Mahurangi and his work moved from domestic ware towards more sculptural pieces until in the end his reputation as a sculptor was well recognised, combining ceramic, bronze, driftwood, stone and producing magnificent sculptures almost always with a maritime theme - his other passion. The question of the difference between craft and art is easily answered in Peter's case - about 10 years. I'll miss him - he was a good and constant friend. Condolences to his partner Helen, herself an accomplished potter and always supportive of him, and his two sons Dean (a very talented potter, sadly not working with clay these days), John (an equally talented expressionist painter) and Debbie their daughter in Australia. Sail away Peter, farewell.

Peter Lange

Subs Notice

Hopefully everyone reading this will have either found and paid their annual subscriptions (huge pat on the back) or are fully intending to. If you fall into the latter category then please don't leave it too long. If you can't remember where you put the little yellow slip of paper, or if it somehow escaped your attention then please post in your cheque for \$50 anyway (including your name and address) and we'll sort it out from this end.

Classes

Classes for term 1 are filling up rapidly and already 4 out of the usual 7 classes we run are full. So we've decided to offer Graham Ambrose's Tuesday morning class again. This time it will be a more general class and include some handbuilding/slab techniques. Graham is a talented teacher and has a wealth of skills for both the wheel and slab formed work.

The other classes that still have room are: Monday evening general class, Wednesday morning sculpture class and Thursday evening throwing and handbuilding class.

So if you want to have another go at a class, or forgotten to enroll, now's your chance.

View from the outside.

Peter Lange

The first days of 2006 have been dampened by another funeral. Can't help feeling that the bubble that came through in the 70s is hitting the gorse bush of life. Cliché warning ... it means that for me every day becomes very important and must be filled with worthy activities. These seem to include lying in the sun, a separate and sometimes consecutive siesta indoors, Coronation St and surfing the internet for mentions of my own name. There is a pretender who runs a University in Germany and several upstarts who seem to need to tell the rest of us about their trip to the Black Forest, but there's nothing like the surprise of seeing your own face pop up on the screen in the 1958 Otahuhu College Orchestra (2nd trumpet). It's the 75th reunion for that school coming up this year, and that reminds me that the ASP is getting close to its 45th year. We published a booklet 20 years ago "The First 25 years" and the 50th is not far away. Maybe it's a good time for you to bring in some of the old photos and records so that a good archive can be established and used for a second publication. Owen Cobb, one of our Life Members, has already brought in a pile of old photos and what's more has cleverly put them on CD. There is a need for a part-time hobby ASP archivist. Stewart Newby has started filming short interviews with NZ potters – people like Chester Nealie and Richard Parker for purely archival reasons and they will be a very interesting resource in the future. We thought it would be great idea to film the spectacular Warren Tippett retrospective at Objectspace and that is going to happen with the co-operation and assistance of Philip and Moyra. It is such an interesting show and it will be great to have a record of it – Objectspace will keep the final DVD and we need to thank Stewart for his enthusiasm and commitment.

The NZSP Conference at Taupo is the Next Big Thing. Greg Daly from Australia and Ah Leon from Taiwan are the main overseas guests and they will be fantastic. Get to the NZSP web-site (nz-potters.com) and check it out or contact the Centre. Let's try to get a large group from Auckland down there – it's not far and there's a lot to do in the area if you want to stay longer. The ASP is going to fire a kiln made of pumice, and there will be NZ demonstrators like Peter Collis and George Andrews, social evenings

and slide shows – lots of information and relaxation as well.

Ah Leon is a dynamic potter in the Yixing tradition but influenced by Western approaches to sculpture – he once made a 20 metre long bridge that stretched across a gallery at the Smithsonian Institute. Google him and see some of his amazing work. I visited him a few years back - he works on the 5th floor of a Taipei apartment block and has to bring all his materials up to his well-appointed studio by a block and tackle over the side of his balcony.

Greg Daly of course is a well-known potter and author and glaze expert. He could entertain the whole conference for the whole weekend all by himself. A must-see at this special weekend.

I'm making my own bricks and sticking them together, also buying some and cutting them. But right now I'm off to Stewart island and the Catlins for a 12 day break, then back to the BrickYard for 2006. Have a Happy New Year.

Situations vacant

Renton is heading to America in late March for a couple of months to play wood kilns with Jeff Oestreich. That means we need a temporary Centre Director for those two months. The job entails a bit of everything, but boils down to kiln loading and firing, general maintenance, computer data entry and lots of tea drinking. So if you're interested in stepping into the breach then please contact either Duncan or Renton for more details.

General Purge!!

We intend to start the new year with clear racks and floors and shelves. So by the 31st of January we will have put all pots (raw, bisqued, fired), clay, moulds and buckets of glaze that are not official into one big rubbish heap outside the studio in the rain. By the 7th February anything left will go to the dump. We are really looking forward to this.

Duty Roster:

The new year brings in a new set of Saturdays and we are keen to keep the Centre open each Saturday. So please get in touch if you are able to help out. It's a simple deal – you look after the Centre for a day and in return you get a day's work in, drink lots of tea, use the facilities and help us keep our members happy. Please get in touch urgently.

exhibitions

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

Corban Estate Arts Centre

On until Sunday 12th February 2006

Patricia Perrin: Potter

Patricia Perrin is considered to be one of the first potters of the 'modern school' in New Zealand. Pat's influence on the growth and popularization of pottery making in New Zealand was significant, particularly through the influence she had on her students over many years of teaching.

In this exhibition we present a survey of Patricia Perrin's pottery which ranged from colourful domestic ware, through to sparingly glazed, elegant and distinctive sculptural pieces.

Pioneerware

Ceramics by Paul Rayner

In January 2004 artist Paul Rayner began hand building ceramic portrait heads inspired by character mugs and the English toby jug tradition. This, together with his admiration for early New Zealand potters, has led to a series of works he has titled Pioneerware. The likenesses of potters such as Briar Gardner, Elizabeth Lissaman and Luke Adams appear on vessel forms such as storage jars, jugs, vases and lidded pots – the vessel forms he strongly associates with each potter.

426 Great North Rd, Henderson.

Ph (09) 838 4455

Matakana Gallery

You are invited to this exciting new show with a specific South Pacific Art influence (oil painting, ceramics, harakeke (flax work), tapa, woodturning, stone and clay sculpture).

Don't miss it. This is something special.

We are featuring the following artists: Daniella Hulme; Sylvia Masters; Renee Boyd; Patz McGahey; Iona Matheson; Greg Barron; Marie Flavell; John Ecuyer; and some of Andrew Pendergrast's Pacific Artifact Collection.

See you there or later. The exhibition is on from January 7th till 29th January.

1 Omaha Flats Road, Matakana, Rodney
Tel. (09) 94229790

Pots of Ponsonby

In the Window:

Bridget and crazy tea cozies.

15th January to 29th January.

Memorial window for Jim Palmer

29th January to 11th February.

Also we still have some excellent work by Jill Fanshawe Kato.

298 Ponsonby Rd, Ponsonby.

Ph: 3760145

Pots of Ponsonby are after new members to join its' co-operative. Please phone: 376 0145 for more details.