



ASP NEWS January 2008

The Newsletter of the
Auckland Studio Potters
Society Inc.
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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 \$3 per hour
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\$9.00 per day

Happy New Year to you all. So you've all decided to come back. Auckland was such a lovely place to be in over the last 3 weeks – you could shoot a rifle down Dominion Rd this time last week and not hit anyone. Now suddenly I'm warming to that idea. Can't help thinking that if enough rats desert the sinking ship the ship may not actually sink. The sun shines as hot in my back yard in Mt Eden as it does at Pauanui and it's not as crowded, there's no sand in the library books, and you can still get "Matinee Idol" on National Radio.

We've had a complete break and now we're open again the place has gone berserk – all sorts of problems being solved, people making stuff, fixing things, jars of white powder being tasted and thrown out, lots of dry pots into the clay baths and class rolls being finalised. They are all pretty full, some over-stretched, so it looks like a very busy term coming up. The Diploma class is full too and there is interest in that for next year already.

We're having a bit of a financial tightening up as well - mainly in an attempt to give our members more advantage, and if you're reading this you will most likely be one of those. There will be discounts on all products and services for our members – for example a bag of ASP mix which retails at \$32 will cost ASP members \$29. It should be pointed out right now that clay and firing costs have rocketed in the last few months and we are playing catch-up all the time. We are exploring other clay options as well but so far nothing works out much cheaper though some of them may be better quality. We'll let you know if we find anything significant. Classes, firing fees, and maybe workshop fees will also be revised and kept at a minimum for members with a discount. This is designed to make it worthwhile being an ASP member – in the past it has been possible to walk in off the street and take advantage of our generosity, our expertise and our facilities without being involved in any other way.

The web-site continues to evolve and the official launch will be announced soon. In the meantime the original version is being maintained by Tony as a stop-gap and it has all the info you need.

The end-of-year wind-up staff do is never a real rave-up but it's always pleasant and relaxing, and the '07 one had the added interest of the Off-Duty Santa reunion. Here's what it looked like:



We're hoping to expand the newsletter from time to time over the next year and so you can look forward to the occasional 8 pager. The December issue was one of those and now it's back to reality with a 2 pager. But the danger is that you get the same news said three times by three different correspondents and so the pages fill happily; what we really need is stuff in from you. We tried to set up a recipe booklet and that fell as flat as one of my Mum's pavlovas, but there will be a chance to include one of those recipes now and then in the new-look

newsletter. So if you have anything interesting to send us about clay, life or the meaning of either of those, then send it in. Photos too; now that's a way to fill a newsletter 1000 words at a time. We have made this appeal before and it has never had a huge response but I suppose that if you have got as far through the newsletter as this sentence you could be classed as an interested member, so spring into action on the internet and help us out. Digital is best – either emails or photos.

The NZSP Annual conference is coming up at Christchurch in April and the programme is on their website www.

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nzpotters.com. It includes potters from both New Zealand and overseas.

The programme for the year is still under review. We have interest from Rick Rudd (hand-built teapots), Chris Weaver (throwing and altering), Richard Stratton (images on clay), John Dawson (porcelain), some sort of glazing class, and there will be the annual Portage Award judge's school towards the end of the year. Barbara Hockenull would be worth a re-run too- she was very popular. Your opinions on our programme are welcome in the form of Letters to the Editor.

The members' social programme is likewise still pretty vague and I'm sure you'll be kind enough to give us the rest of January to sort it out; so we'll let you know developments in the next newsletter.

Duncan and Charade have made it to India where they are living in a Hare Krishna temple and coping with upset tummies and lovely beaches that are unspoilt except for the sewage. Wonder if there's a link? Duncan is pencilled in to do some teaching there and so they may last quite a while. They go to town on the men's second class train which causes some interest what with Charade clearly not being a man. I seem to remember there was a time in India when men travelling on these trains were taken off from time to time and given a vasectomy in exchange for a portable radio. I hope for Duncan's sake it gets the national Programme; wouldn't want to miss "Matinee Idol". I recall the celebrated case of one poor chap "getting two radios" in one day, once on the way to work and again on the way home. When interviewed and asked if he had learnt anything from this experience he said "Yes sir, I will never travel on public transport again" in a Peter Sellers accent.

The anagama firing is timed to start in a month or so after a delay waiting for more pots. There is now enough folk interested in the firing and it looks like the stoking roster will be full.

See you at the Centre

Saturday roster

How about a spell helping out at the Centre on the occasional Saturday? Usually about once every 10 weekends so it's not too often but it's a good chance to get a bit of your own work done, meet a few folk, and help us keep the place running. We are OK for the next three months but will need a few new faces after that, so get in touch and we'll explain the procedure to you.

New Year Recipe:

Margaret Bell

Russian Carrot Pie

- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 - 1 lb. chopped carrots
- 1 1/2 cups cottage cheese
- 1 1/2 cups grated cheese
- 1 egg
- 1 tbsp flour
- 3 tbsp butter
- 1 tsp dried dill
- 1/2 tsp salt
- black pepper

Cook onions in butter, add carrots and cook until soft. Add flour and cook a little. Beat egg, add cheeses and seasoning, mix with onion and carrots, fill pastry crust. Sprinkle 3 tbsp of wheatgerm and some paprika on top. Bake 190C for 15 minutes, then 180C for 30 mins.

Wanted

Someone to take on the pugging and bagging of our left-over scrap clay from the baths at the back of the studio. It is steady and constant work - the baths never seem to get empty. The return is \$6 per 15kg bag.



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