



# ASP NEWS July 2003

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

Monday	12.30pm - 5pm
Tuesday	9am - 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

# Fire & Clay

## Mairangi Bay exhibition

Receiving Day	Sunday, 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2003
Judging	Monday, 15 <sup>th</sup> September
Unselected work collected	Wednesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> September, before 4pm
Opening night	Wednesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> September, 7.00 – 8.30pm

Now that you have the dates firmly established in your mind and in your diary. (what, didn't do it? Do it now, big red pen, big circle.)

Question for when you are examining your completed work. Can this be set aside for the exhibition? Yes. Can always replace it next month with the next best work.

I know from experience that the hardest part is making the decision to enter something (or rather, anything) so best to just do it and then you are past it. Everyone has to start somewhere.

Plan to get your work fired on time, nothing worse than a last minute panic in the kiln shed, with Peter pulling his hair out or singeing it off and Duncan running in ever decreasing circles while running out of glazes.

Talk to your tutor, ask for constructive criticism. By now you should have at least one piece set aside. Yes I know, I haven't either, but that is no excuse. We still have 11 weeks to sort it.

Jenny Williams – exhibition officer

## A few words from our Prez.

Wally Hirsh

This week sees the departure of Leigh, our resident handy man for the last few months. We are all hugely indebted to him for the many projects that he has completed to improve our place. Weather permitting he may even get time to finish off with a coat of paint on the roof. Many thanks Leigh, your efforts have been greatly appreciated.

Our very own Duncan and Wairapa potter Paul Melsner have an exhibition of their works opening at Compendium Gallery in Lorne Street on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July and running there for a couple of weeks. We wish you well Duncan. Meanwhile Pete is still somewhere in central Turkey and we can only assume that no news is good news. A replica of the sculpture he is creating over there stands in our

courtyard....the great brick cone...aka Lange's last stand.

Have you installed a kiln at your place? From recent discussions which Duncan and I have had with our insurers it just occurred to me that if you have installed a kiln in your garage or wherever the very least you should do is advise your insurance company. Dotted 'I's and crossing 'T's seems to be a strong trend with insurers these days.

Our annual exhibition is coming up with a hiss and a roar so I hope you are working towards it with a fury. Once again we want **MANY OF OUR MEMBERS REPRESENTED**. I put out a call both to our senior members and the new ones. Please get in behind our showcase of the year.

Talking of senior members we extend a huge word of congratulations to Len Castle who has been included in the list of living national Arts Treasures which has just been announced by the Government. It is wonderful to have a potter in that group. Well done Len.

Man! The clay has been cold this week but despite that do keep on potting.



Chris Weaver

## Chris Weaver

16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> August, 10am to 4pm.

Fee: \$100 for 4 days, or \$60 per weekend (shared lunch)

Seen the images above? (stop drooling!) It is time to enrol for this amazing double banger workshop. He is one of New Zealand's finest potters. It's going to be a feast for throwers and domestic-ware makers, and we will incorporate a salt firing in the 2-weekend mix. The enrolments will be limited to those who register early, who will be superseded only by those who actually pay. Remember that we have a limited number of seats and that with EFTPOS there is really no excuse not to prepay.

## Centre Report

Duncan Shearer



Despite, or maybe because of, Peter's absence the Centre is getting a bit of a makeover. First up is the painting of the roof on the old house. We've had the roof water blasted and now Leigh is in the process of painting it (given our current weather it could take months). We have a formidable steel wall around our wood supply, enough to deter the most serious wood thief. This was a request from our insurance company as they take wood theft very seriously. But it will make it easier to store our wood and that leads onto the idea of burning it.

We do have two fully functioning wood kilns here, primed and ready to go at a moments notice. What we lack is about 8 keen potters and their work. So if you're interested in firing a wood kiln (and all the glory that comes with a sooty face) then please contact me at the centre so I can make a list.

We are designing and building a wax booth to combat the odours that waft down from the far end of the studio. This could take a couple of months but watch this space (or rather the space down the end of the studio, beside the back door).

The real reason so many improvements to the place over the last few months have occurred can be traced back to the unstinting labour of Leigh Mathews. He joined us in March and managed to clear heaps of accumulated back burner projects. Unfortunately he is about to move on, so as a gesture to say a huge thank you we are giving him a party on his last day. So if you have some time to spare please drop in around lunchtime on Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> July. We'll have the pizza oven fired up and a few beers.

Matt McLean is potter in charge of the erection of the Hans Meeuwse sculpture that was left over from the 1994 Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award. We have a site chosen so next time you visit have a look out the studio windows towards the old stone wall.

The ASP committee has finally dragged the Centre's financial system, kicking and screaming, into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are about to experience the marvels of the cash less society and install EFTPOS at the centre. This will also mean a change in the discount system we use for students who re-enrol. Currently a re-enrolling student gets a discount, paying only \$170 instead of \$185. This discount will expire if the student hasn't paid their fees, either in full or with a \$50 deposit before the start of the term. Many of our classes are at capacity and only paid up students can

be confirmed as enrolled. So if the class starts and you've booked but not paid, your spot may go to someone who has paid.

On a less cheerful note we are experiencing a bizarre series of petty thefts. Small amounts of cash are disappearing from the honesty snack box; tea bags and instant coffee are also going walk about. So if you're using the Centre please keep an eye out, as we need to nip this sort of behaviour in the bud.



Peter's greatest supporter (Wally)

## Udu Drums with Masoud Zadeh

Priscilla Brady

Oh what a wonderful experience the 8 of us had at this workshop. Under the technical tuition of Masoud we produced an Udu drum each (which WORK) plus a small container each. All coloured and burnished to a satisfactory sheen. Teflon pieces were introduced to stack up against spoons, crystal and stones and proved quite dramatic. The pit firing was also very successful. No fire brigade call out even!!

Masoud taught us a new way of doing clay rolls that actually kept the form of the piece where you wanted it to go. (Not as eye catching as the Japanese demonstration but then could anything ever follow THAT act?) Every drum was individually tested and fine tuned before firing. And the results were to say the least, inspiring.

To have attended a hand building workshop for the sheer love of hand building and refresh ones ideas on pit firing paid off 200%. It reminded us of all the wonderful fresh techniques that every tutor has to offer. Not to mention the information we acquire at these classes that is not always anything to do with the particular workshop

Looking forward with gusto to the next "Hand Building Workshop"!!!

### ASP New Members

Welcome to:

Anni Malady  
Jenny Wang  
Tania Mace  
Rosemary Hagg  
Patrick Phillips

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## Merhaba

*Peter Lange*

It really is a delight to be in Turkey. On the plane from Munich they served ... wait for it ... turkey! Pleased I wasn't going to Greece.

Yesterday we went to the Phrygian Valley - the Mayor of the city shouted 3000 people a free concert and meal in this amazing valley full of temples and several cultures overlaid on each other. Main deity was Sybil - her high priest was required to emasculate himself in her honour. I can see where John Cleese got his idea from. She was a powerful woman and not to be messed with. The singer was really good - a sort of Turkish Tom Waits - good backing group and strong stuff even without the words which were apparently extremely strong. He has spent 8 years in a Turkish prison for his trouble, but now he's a bit of a hero.

My cone is finally under way after 5 days of getting stuff organised - pretty frustrating but they are doing their best with 11 sculptors all wanting different things. It will be 3 metres high and wider than it should because of the available bricks and already one face shows a strong Cappadocian connection with holes in unlikely places.

The ceramics department here is amazing - every facility (except wood kilns) and some of the work coming out is pretty slick; seems to be training for an industrial career rather than individual studio work.

I'm the only English speaker but many of the locals are not bad at communicating - I've learnt quite a bit of Turkish out of necessity - the usual: "where is the toilet?" and "what a lovely looking brick". Don't worry I have heaps of slides.

Cheers.

# Term 3

Starts on the 21<sup>st</sup> July

Monday Mornings – Peter Lange

Monday Evenings – Graham Ambrose

Tuesday Evenings – Renton Murray

Wednesday Mornings – Duncan Shearer

Wednesday Evenings – Chris Southern

Thursday Mornings – Peter Stichbury

Thursday Evenings – Margaret Sumich

New Tutor – Monday Evenings. With Ian Axtel devoting more time to his paintings we have a new tutor coming in for Monday Evenings. Graham Ambrose is one of our committee members and learnt much of his pottery from attending other evening classes and workshops. He has a very keen eye for form and surface and is very knowledgeable about glazes for electric kilns. A great new class for members who want to try something new, either hand building or throwing.

Remember – only paid up bookings can be confirmed.



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## Icon Awards

The ASP would like to extend our congratulations to Len Castle for his recent honour of being one of the first New Zealand artists to receive the prestigious Arts Foundation of NZ Icon Awards. 10 of the countries leading artists were awarded these Icons in a ceremony in Wellington on Wednesday night. The other awards were given to: writers Janet Frame and Maurice Gee, artists Milan Mrkusich and Ralph Hotere, architect Sir Miles Warren, poet Hone Tuwhare, weaver Diggeress Te Kanawa, opera singer Sir Donald McIntyre and choreographer Russell Kerr.

Arts Foundation trustees chairman Richard Cathie said: "These were New Zealanders who really made their impact on the arts, our senior artists whose works have become part of our cultural heritage ... Sadly, some of our greatest artists received little or no recognition during their lifetimes. They died, still wondering whether their work would ever be appreciated."

The inaugural group of 10 were chosen from a list compiled by arts organisations and by public nomination, which were then selected by the foundation's governors.

# classified

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

## For Sale:

Rexmark 4 burner gas kiln, 17 cuft, includes furniture - \$800 ono. Digital pyrometer - \$200 ono Phone: Brenda (09) 4266477

## Electricians:

Electricall Ltd are experienced in kiln installations. They have installed our Centre kilns and do a great job. Phone 6365031.

## Material Suppliers:

Imported Australian Clay and Ceramic Supplies: Southern Ice porcelain clay and slip, White Diamond clay etc. frits, glazes, raw materials, stains, tools. Phone/fax for price list from Jan at 09 235 6283, or email at creativejoustudio@xtra.co.nz."

## Pots Wanted:

Collectable pots wanted - good prices offered - any pots by Ian Smail or Dennis O'Connor - any Shino bottles, jars or plates by Len Castle (from the 1970s to early 80s) - any early domestic ware by Barry Brickel. Ring Stuart Newby 027 2750045 or 416 3995

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# events

## Clay Modern

Gulgong 1 - 7th May 2004.  
We are attempting to get a group of potters together to head across the ditch in support of Peter. This will be the 6th event in the series of Gulgong ceramic extavaganzas and promises to be one of the best yet. The program is being planned around sustainability in ceramics, keeping up-to-date in our preferred vocation: fire & kilns, form & aesthetics and clay & materials are all a part of this, and always with a view to promoting ceramics as an art form. There will be exhibitions, special happenings, a feast and fun. Peter has been invited to be one of the special guests and were sure he'll need a helping brickie or two. Cost is A\$420, contact the Centre if interested.

# exhibitions

## Compendium Gallery

New Woodfired Ceramics  
Opening Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 3.30pm, runs until 26<sup>th</sup> July  
Check out the latest Anagama and woodfired pottery by Duncan Shearer and Paul Melser.  
5 Lorne St, City. Ph: 3003212

## Pots of Ponsonby

Shelly Cartmell jewellery until 6<sup>th</sup> July  
Leonie Clapham doves until 20<sup>th</sup> July  
Margaret Sumich in the window until 3<sup>rd</sup> August  
298 Ponsonby Rd, Ponsonby. Ph: 3760145

## The First Taiwan Ceramic Biennale 2004

Entry deadline by slide is September 8th, 2003. See [www.ceramics.tpc.gov.tw](http://www.ceramics.tpc.gov.tw). Grand Prize worth US\$40,000

# classes

## Bronze Casting

Frank Watson is interested in taking another bronze-casting school, so far we have three on the list and I'll be jacking up the dates with Frank soon - definitely term 4, probably around November. Please don't forget to remind yourself to book now (pay later once I've figured out a price).

## Glaze class

We have a gap. A four-week period in September on Wednesday evenings that is surplus to requirements. And given the current interest in glazes sparked by Lawrence Ewing's recent visit we were thinking of running a members glaze evening. It would be fairly loose, designed more to encourage members and students to do glaze tests. So the fee would cover all materials and the test firings plus one actual lesson session. The other three weeks are for experimentation based on that initial lesson. We after about 12 people to make it financially viable and really the best way to approach it is to haul a mate along to help out and keep it social. Please contact the centre if you're interested and we'll start organising it.

## Clay

We now have central Auckland's only supply of Southern Ice Porcelain - available in limited amounts and at great expense (\$48 per 10 kg) - acclaimed around the world as the most translucent available. A fantastic clay to throw, turn and fire. Also an Australian clay suitable for wood and anagama firing called RSF (Ryes Salt firing clay), a gritty little number that's strong and flashes well. Remember that by the time you read this we will have installed EFTPOS, making payment even easier.



Chris Weaver