



ASP NEWS

July 2005

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

Workshop with Neil Grant

6th and 7th August, 10am to 4pm



We are taking part in the NZSP travelling potter scheme funded through Creative NZ, Peter Lange is heading south and Neil Grant from Dunedin is heading north. We have Neil booked in to give a workshop at the Centre on Saturday and Sunday the 6th and 7th August, 10am - 4pm, shared lunch

For members not familiar with Neil Grant and his work here is a brief summary:

Neil gained a Diploma in Fine Arts (Sculpture) from the University of Canterbury School of Fine Art in 1960 and then moved into teaching. He taught at Mt Albert Grammar and then in Fiji before becoming the Senior Lecturer in Ceramics at the Otago Polytechnic School of Art. It is in this position that Neil



has influenced a generation of potters. Otago Polytechnic was one of the first tertiary providers to offer a ceramics programme and today is the only tertiary institution offering a full time diploma, degree and masters course in ceramics.

Neil has also travelled extensively and taken part in international ceramic conferences and events. Because of his teaching experience he has many practical skills in all areas of the ceramic process. He is an excellent thrower and decorator of domestic pots and knowledgeable about different kilns, both their operation and design. For more info check out the www.tekotago.ac.nz website.

This workshop will give you insight on finishing details, how to assess your own work and methods to develop



fresh ideas.

The cost is \$60 for the weekend or \$35 per day. Please note, this will be the last weekend workshop that we can run at these prices, the NZSP potters scheme has increased the fees and we are forced to follow suit after this workshop.

Book now to secure your place.

A few words from our Prez.

Wally Hirsh

As I write these words a number of major events are upon us. Firstly, Peter has departed for Wales where he demonstrated his skills and talents at a major gathering of ceramic artists. He will be away for a month and we wish him well.

Secondly, our 41st annual exhibition has opened bigger and better than ever. Please be sure to come along to the exhibition and do tell all your friends about this major event in our calendar. The show runs right through July.

Thirdly we are about to take delivery of four more American wheels to

replace some of our older, fast wearing out equipment.

In addition to these events we are confronted with major repairs and maintenance issues. The kiln shed, and other parts of our complex need re-roofing and this is a

major item. I am constantly concerned at the increasing cost of keeping our show place up to date and in a sound state of repair. It is conceivable that we may soon need to embark on some significant fund raising.

Meanwhile I ask you to give all of our activities your full support. I also ask you again to remember my request to you all that you include ASP when making your will or if you have already made one please add to it by including ASP. The heart beats strongly at our Centre but it needs constant nourishment. Money is a very essential part of that food.

See you at Mairangi Bay in July. Meanwhile keep warm and keep on potting.

Centre News:

Duncan Shearer



It's fallen to me to write this report as Peter has absconded to the island of Sark (he tells me that this is no mythical Harry Potter island but a bit of English real estate a stones throw from France). A lot has been happening in the last few weeks. The end of term 2 produced a flood of work for the kilns, added to by the last minute desperate pleas from members and students who needed pots fired for the exhibition deadline. The Centre cat Grog enjoyed the warm kiln room, even if I did get tired of seeing the inside of yet another kiln.

Our term 3 classes are filling fast and if you are thinking about doing a class then the sooner you get hold of me the sooner I can confirm your spot. The term starts the week of the 18th July and most classes now fill up before starting. See our website (www.ceramics.co.nz) under the classes menu for more details (or phone the Centre and I can post you a prospectus).

We also have a feast of member's activities coming up. First up is obviously the 41st Annual Exhibition at Mairangi - a must see for all members, their families and friends. Next on the calendar is Peter giving a slide talk about his Welsh adventure when he returns (not in Welsh thankfully). This is booked in for Thursday the 28th July from 7pm. No need to book, just show up. We'll provide tea, coffee and biscuits.

Thirdly is the Neil Grant workshop mentioned on the front page.

Fourthly is the member's night for August. Called "Pots of Delight" we want you to show off the highlights in your collection (big or small, we all

started somewhere). This will be a chance for you to reveal some of your favourite pots and your reasons for collecting them. Pots from foreign countries, or famous potters or even anonymous items that tickled your fancy from a junk shop are all welcome. We'll again provide the liquid refreshment and biscuits. The evening will kick off at 7pm on Tuesday 23rd August.

As I write this the Anagama kiln has had the final wicket bricks inserted and is primed for 3 days of firing. Loads of wood have been cut up and hopefully have remained mostly dry despite the incessant rain. During loading the kiln was surrounded by a moat, tarpaulins were erected and pots hustled out to the kiln hoping that none of the slips or glazes would get washed off. And then we hear that in Australia they actually add water during their firings!

Peter's OE

G'day down there

Just woken up at John Dawson's place in sunny Charlton, very comfortable and hospitable with good food and a good bed. Went for a walk with John and saw 2 foxes, and the Thames Barrier scheme just near his house.

Today Adriano arrives and tomorrow we drive to Wales picking up Linda on the way. Got a brand new car and the Phoenix Foundation on the stereo and the road stretches ahead at least until the M25 where the traffic stops. But the Phoenix Foundation keeps playing.

To my horror my "friend" I stayed with in Surrey when I arrived had lost all interest in Rugby after 35 years over here, and I was forced to listen to the first test on a small transistor with an english commentator who called our brave captain You-Man-Ga and worse still when something exciting happened the crowd got to its feet and he couldn't see what was going on. He got more and more depressed as the game went on and along with no crowd microphone the whole thing lacked atmosphere and excitement. The next test is at exactly the same time as my slide show in Wales, so I am missing out on the whole event.

Nothing to report on the ceramic front but soon that will change and I'll let you know all about that. Missed meeting Trien but it was always a bit optimistic. Might wander out and sit in the sun, it's really fine and not too hot. I'll get in touch again soon - I think.

Member News:

Up date on Jenny Williams

Hi Team

Just thought I would let you know that Jenny finishes round 2 today, and thanks to all concerned this time she went without the tummy problems, however she covered that with coughing, nowhere near the problems of round 1.

The doctors are very impressed with the way Jenny's bloods are regenerating, however they are still not sure why; (if only they knew that with kind thoughts and deeds of friends; we can help the healing process) I suggested this to the doctors and they were okay about it, however I think they are still trying to find the drug that is doing this marvellous work. (keep hunting mate).

All in all from friends in Thailand, Singapore, Peru, London, Melbourne, Hungary, Denmark, Ireland, America and here at home, thank you all.

Jenny must be pretty special with the Auckland Thai temple as they sent a monk up from Hamilton to give Jenny some special tuition on meditation, thinking that this may help if she is to go thru the same horrendous suffering as in round 1, he taught her how to concentrate away from pain.

Well team she should be home within the week we have shifted ourselves from the front house to the rear as it will be a lot easier for Jenny to manage on her time out.

Getting ready now for rounds 3 and 4.

Thank you all again.

Thanks from Ming

I'm not sure who'll get to read this email first, but I would like to thank everyone, especially Peter and Duncan, for letting me work on my own in ASP. I'm very pleased with how my last piece came out, by the way. It was too bad that I couldn't take a class due to time conflict, but being around friendly potters with so much expertise has been very helpful and enjoyable; hopefully I have improved during this short 4 month period. I am leaving New Zealand tomorrow, and you guys are together a large part of my unforgettable New Zealand experience; I'm looking forward to come back here one day. Good luck and best wishes.

Ming,

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Fire & Clay

A first hand account

Helen Perrett

We had a busy and lively time setting up the 41st Annual Exhibition at Mairangi Bay but it was all good and seemed to go smoothly, probably because Judy Rae organised us all so well. I got involved in the fun stuff: painting up the display tables and watched Wally fixing some wobbly table legs (dunno how we're going to get them apart again!) Then the really exciting bit - setting everything out - a big job with such a great turn-out of works by around 60 of our members. It was very challenging, lots of sets to find space for. Some Diploma students arrived at lunchtime to set up the display of slip-cast works, interesting and fun pieces as far from conventional ceramics as I've ever seen. I just hoped no one would kick any of Jo-Anne's 'rubber' tyres and it was terribly hard not to prod the 'card-board' shoe box they were so implausibly, implausibly real. Eyeing up Peter Lange's teapots it was pretty easy to guess who the tutor for that particular module had been.

Stapling up catalogues back at the ASP was tense as prize-winners Mike Donaldson and Charade Honey kept wandering in, they were gently distracted: "go and load some more pots into the anagama kiln... cut some more wood... water the plants..." They never suspected a thing.

Wednesday night was the first ASP opening night I have been able to attend and the atmosphere was great. Lots of old friends catching up, collectors walking around looking excited and prize winners totally un-

aware of the judge's choice, I positioned myself to watch their faces - total surprise!

Another little excitement - the raffle tickets were drawn from the award-winning bowl (with the maker, Mike Donaldson's permission) but the judge Geoff Perkins went to photograph it just seconds after it was taken away - Gael told me he had a moment of horror thinking a passionate ceramic aficionado had swiped it.

I had a great evening and I plan to return to the exhibition to more serenely contemplate the lovely pieces on show. I wander down the aisle of tables displaying the members works to the altarpiece of Duncan's rich and elegant salt-glazed pots. I have also promised myself to investigate this business of soda and salt-firings, I really love the interesting speckled surfaces and the changes in colour. Lots of food for thought.



1st Prize winner Mike Donaldson



2nd Prize winner Charade Honey



Selector Geoff Perkins

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classified

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For Sale:

Leach treadle wheel: \$100, 3 plate setters: \$50 each, assorted corks and handles: free, phone Judy Wood, 09 4258712

Wanted:

Hi. I'm an American potter moving to Rotorua to set up a pottery studio and pottery gallery. I'm looking for a used gas kiln, electric kiln, electric wheel, and leach treadle kickwheel. I'm also seeking numerous potters, both functional and decorative to buy from at wholesale or on consignment at 60% to artist, to exhibit in the new clay arts gallery "Of Hand and Heart." If you know of any such equipment or have any suggestions please contact me at rickurbanpottery@yahoo.com or at PO Box 432, Dillsboro, NC, 28725, USA or call (828) 586-9183 in USA. -Rick Urban

events

Peter Lange's Slide Evening

Come and here all about his Welsh Adventure. Thursday the 28th July from 7pm.

The Wednesday afternoon adhoc sculpture sessions are back (not that they really went away). These informal sessions start from 12.30pm and are an ideal time for members and students to work in the studio together, sharing ideas and techniques. It is also a good time to collar Duncan and pick his scatty brains for new glaze ideas. No need to book, just show up and pay your \$2 per hour.

exhibitions

Pots of Ponsonby

"Urban Ritual Vessel" an exhibition of recent work by Jenny Shearer 11th to 30th July Window display by Carol Dewe 31st July to 13th August 298 Ponsonby Rd, Ponsonby. Ph: 3760145

The Portage Ceramics Award

This prestigious award is getting ever closer, entry closes at the end of August. Contact Lopdell House for entry forms, or visit www.lopdell.org.nz

Auckland Museum

Decorative Arts Exhibitions 8th July - 4th September Auckland Museum celebrates contemporary New Zealand design with three exhibitions showcasing the art of glass and jewellery making - Glass Invitational NZ, jewellery by Warwick Freeman and work in silver by Tanya Zoe Robinson. The exhibitions are supported by a programme of public events and activities, from a panel talk and a film screening to children's school holiday workshops.

More from Robin Briant in Sukhuni

(found it on the map yet?)

Hullo again everyone: I hope this finds everyone well and not too troubled by winter ills. My health continues well, even if the promised summer is still not here. I have never known such rain - that's a confession from an Aucklander. Every time the weather seems to have hit summer, it lasts about 2 days and then the rain returns. There was a lovely day at the beach last Sunday, preceded by a full week of heavy skies and heavier rain than I have seen since I came here, with lots of logs and trees washed down the rivers into the sea - and mud. With drainage nearly non-existent the roads become impassable quickly, but also clear quite quickly. Unfortunately there is a lot of noise to keep one awake, especially from the next door neighbour's dog, a good-looking golden spaniel who recently produced 4 pups. They whine all the night, and she barks for half of it, in concert or competition, it isn't clear, with others in the neighbourhood. She is just outside my window, but swearing at her in English doesn't seem to have the desired effect. I have taken to describing the nights as one-dog or 3 -dog nights, depending on the amount of racket.

The majority of my day is spent, hidden and sweaty behind a mask, at the TB hospital at Gulripsh, a town about 15 km from Sukhumi. It is the sole TB treating place for Abkhasia and is run officially by the Min of Health, but in close association with us. So the relationships are complex and much negotiation is needed about everything. The Doctors there are of variable but mostly low quality and the nurses uniformly abysmal - of which more at another time perhaps. I have been there long enough to star to feel despondent about the clinical standards and the hope of change. The old Soviet way of doing

things is engrained, so there is absolutely no demonstration of enthusiasm or initiative. People are paid very poorly also (though all the clinical staff get their salaries more than doubled by an incentive payment from MSF) so there is little motivation to do anything beyond the absolutely essential. The Hospital Director is unable to make decisions, everything has to be referred to the Deputy Minister of Health, who by chance was once the Head doctor of the TB hospital. Mostly when I go to see the Director he is doing crosswords, or next door in the office of the Hospital Manager playing cards on her computer (the only one in the hospital). Reminds me of a particular Superintendent at Auck Hosp, in days when the place seemed to run itself, and the boss reading the Readers Digest was normal. The TB team gets driven to the hospital each morning in one of the MSF Landcruisers which have been set up with bench seats the length of the van and can carry 10 or 12 people if needed. They are extremely uncomfortable for long journeys out to the Ambulatory Points where I go from time to time; one has to be quick to get the front seat which is the only comfortable one - alas no concessions are made to my age or status, so I mostly find myself rattling around in the back.

Our clientele are a mottley group of mostly males, and mostly in the 20-40 age group. When I first arrived here I could see only this mass of emaciated, dark-skinned young men and couldn't tell one from another and could not pronounce their names. Gradually they have resolved into individuals and become personalities, and now names come reasonably easily to me, especially those who are in hospital for ages...

For the full letter contact the Centre and I will email it out -Ed.

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