



ASP NEWS July 2008

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 \$3 per hour
up to a maximum of
\$9.00 per day

The First Fifteen!!

Teapot workshop with Rick Rudd

The first fifteen members that book for this school will get in - others will be "on the bench". This is a biggie for the ASP - Rick is a very accomplished hand-builder particularly of teapots and this school will concentrate on these forms. He has exhibited widely throughout New Zealand and internationally as well. His forms are very sculptural and the techniques that you will learn from this school will be useful in many areas of pottery.

The dates are:

Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th August 10am - 4pm

Shared lunch. Cost \$120. You'll need terracotta clay and basic modelling tools.

Evening with Rick

On the Friday night before the school (8th August) we'll be holding a social evening with a pot-luck supper to welcome Rick back to Auckland after a long absence. Come along at 7pm, bring a snack and a bottle and we'll have a chat and watch a couple of DVDs that Rick is bringing with him about his work and also his amazing garden on the coast at Wanganui. His website is www.rickrudd.com - there are great photos of his work and garden there.



Great to have Peter Stichbury back for a visit on Thursday - here he is with his class (above) and his new hat, looking pretty fit and well. We look forward to next term when he'll be back to normal service.

ASP Domesticware Award

The entry form is in with this newsletter - all the details are there. The show will stay at the ASP Centre for a week to allow as many people as possible to view it. The work may be for sale with a 15% commission for the ASP.

The Award ceremony will take place at the Centre on the Friday night (1st August) at 7.30pm ... Duncan Shearer, the selector, will explain his choices and there will be wine and nibbles.

All members of the ASP should enter this one. Whether you are an experienced potter or a new student, you're all welcome to submit.

The winner will be given a special spot at the ASP Annual exhibition as well.

Interesting websites:

A huge range of potters and their work at this contact website: www.amsterlaw.com/clayart.html

Also www.ceramicmuseum.org - a museum of ceramics in Pomona, California.

www.potters.org is always an interesting one too.

The first 50 years

There's been a useful response to the request for help with this project, so we'll go ahead with an application for funding - if any member has any historical material, anecdotes or funny stories please start sending them in or get in touch.

President's Report

Michael Billington

I thoroughly enjoyed the recent slide evening presented by Duncan and Charade. The dual screen approach with theme music, being "in costume", along with excellent narration (watch out Michael Palin) made for yet another very entertaining members' evening.

Please feel free to offer your ideas to our committee as to future possibilities for members' events. I think it is fantastic to see such a good turnout from our members for these events and I thank you for your support.

While I am on the topic of support I would like to put out a request for sponsorship for our upcoming ASP exhibition at Mairangi Bay. If you have contact with any organisation or individual who could offer a donation of money and/or services to help present this excellent event it

would be much appreciated. Our overheads are increasing (mainly advertising, transport and catalogue), so if you can help us out in some way please contact ASP or myself (michael_b@xtra.co.nz). All sponsors donating to this cause will be mentioned in our exhibition catalogue. I am at present contacting several businesses myself in search of sponsorship with the belief that every little bit helps.

I would like to take this opportunity also to thank Tony Bacon for being the inspiration and backer of the upcoming second Domestic Ware exhibition opening 1st August at the ASP Centre.

I am also looking forward to our first ASP Students' Exhibition starting 15th August. This is a great idea and should provide our night and day class students with a chance to "put their toes in the water" when it comes to showing their work.

I apologise if I sound like a broken record when it comes to finding sources of funds for certain Centre events, but as I said in my last report we do need to bring more money in to help cover the increased costs that seem to be plaguing every organisation at present.

This newsletter will have reminded you of upcoming events and hopefully prompted you to get that clay wedged, wheels spinning and hands building. Many thanks to our Centre staff for keeping us all up to date.

Wishing you the best of health

Raku group

Joelle March

You would have read in the previous newsletter Mike has beautifully crafted a fabulous new raku kiln for the centre. We've tried it out and had great results.

All you raku enthusiasts will know there's nothing like the choreographed dance of a firing; molten pots being pulled from the kiln, billows of smoke when they're reduced and the hiss of steam when they are quenched in cold water. Oh, how we love raku!

ASP has a Raku Group which gets together one Saturday every 4-6 weeks. It's a great social time to share our secrets and learn from one another, not to mention a great shared lunch!

If any members would like to join the group email joellemarch@xtra.co.nz to get added to the email list. All are welcome - experienced and those just starting out. Once you're on the list you will get updates on upcoming

raku firings.

When the group gets together studio charges apply and the kiln charge gets divided up between the group members. I look forward to seeing some new members!

REMINDER; Raku kiln charges are \$10 per hour for students and \$15 per hour for general use.

The Wandering Guppy

Sarah Guppy

I have just spent an inspired 24hrs in Aspen - visiting Andersons Ranch where I confirmed my enrolment for September's class with Sam Clarkson and Mary Barrington. The ranch is every artist's dream come true, set in pines and aspen trees, with magical wood cabins and huge facilities - woodwork, painting and pottery studios are vast, and the smell of linseed oil, wood chips and musty damp clay permeate the air - which now is 89 degrees and rising!

I visited the Harvey Meadows gallery in Aspen Highlands Village and to my delight found a wonderful Jeff Oestreich show. I spoke at length to Sam Harvey, one of the owners and got him googling "Peter Lange" NZ potter I spent several minutes trying to explain a "lilo", but we got there after I drew it....

I purchased a Sam Clarkson cup - porcelain with celadon, very pretty with stamped and risen patterns. Tomorrow Santa Fe and a million Mexican pots I image.

We have been basking under clear blue skies since we departed NZ - including 100 degrees in San Francisco, and 99 in Denver and now we are grateful for cooler evenings of 70 in Aspen.

Needless to say having a glorious time, my finger nails are growing like the summer flowers with no work and all play !!

love to everyone

Fire and Pots

Laura Hirst

A while ago Peter Lange posed a very good question about how we could, if we so wished, balance off the carbon that potters emit through the use of wood and fuel in firing.... I am sure some detailed calculations could be made but doubt if ASP is big enough for proposed carbon trading schemes.

However an enjoyable way of mitigating the effects of our potting endeavours could be through tree planting. I have spent many a happy hour at weekends on

the beautiful island of Motuihe (where the sun usually seems to shine) helping the Motuihe Trust restore the trees on the island. Saddlebacks and Kakariki have also been released so far!

Every weekend there is tree planting, nursery work or weeding during the winter, rewarded with a sausage sizzle, (or bring your own snack if preferred).

Camping is allowed and there is a volunteer hut where you can arrange to stay the night. More details can be found at www.motuihe.org.nz

The ferry is '360 Discovery' and leaves downtown terminal at 9.15am, returning 2.30pm in winter plus 5.50pm in summer on both Saturdays and Sundays. The trip costs \$18 return (mention you are a volunteer for the discount).

A group day can also be organised, but best to contact John Laurence via the email on their website beforehand so he can plan for your arrival.

I only wish I could be with you; I have left it a bit late to write this as I bid a very fond farewell to ASP and New Zealand, my marvellous teachers Peter Stichbury and Renton from whom I have learnt so much, plus of course my wonderful and helpful class mates. I will miss you all terribly.

Please keep in touch and visit us in the UK. We will find space for you ... I will aim to 'carry on potting'.

guilty in Tauranga District Court for discharging an airgun recklessly. He said he was drunk and didn't mean to hurt anyone.

Jail time preferred

A judge has disregarded a Wellington man's plea not to send him to the "looney bin". Judge Thomas Broadmore ordered a psychiatric assessment of Derek Raku Raku, who appeared in court on nine charges of falsely raising a fire alarm and one of arson. Defence lawyer Noel Sainsbury said Raku Raku had filled a vehicle with "combustibles" and set it alight. Raku Raku said he was happy to go to jail but did not want to see a psychiatrist. "I've never been to the looney bin before." Raku Raku was remanded in custody until June 25.

Diploma Class

Suzy Dunser

Greetings from the Diploma Class Some of you may have recalled my earlier report that Andrew van der Putten was extending us past our comfort zones. Well, apparently this is going to be a recurring theme in the course (and a good thing too!). For those of us who normally dwell in the land of round thrown things, the Toby Twiss sculpture class is introducing us to a whole new world. Apparently some of the students

even find it fun! It is definitely intense, with the 3 hours of the course seeming to go by in an instant. We have been lucky to have a live model to work from, which has been great. We are learning how to see, as well as how to make different kinds of armatures, and coming soon, how to create a piece mould of our masterpieces.

For the first years, the big event this month is sending our Glaze Technology notebooks off for the midyear assessment - I think we'll all be glad when those are on their way! And the drawing class looks pretty exciting at the moment, what with starting fires in cardboard boxes and all... Well, okay, they were doing chiaroscuro drawings with a candle... but still, in a cardboard box.... Tune in next time for our further adventures!

Andrew and Jeannie Van Der Putten snapped recently by Trien in Bali, in their comfort zone.



New raku kiln

Mike Donaldson

It actually works! The replacement for the old, beaten up Raku kiln fired perfectly the first time. Being fairly basic this was probably to be expected as the requirements of a raku kiln are fairly fundamental....reach a temperature of up to 1050 deg. C under oxidation conditions in about ¾ to 1 hour.

Rather than just making a simple dustbin type kiln I decided on something more traditional, along the lines of the existing kiln but somewhat wider for easier tong access from left or right.

For this reason two burners have been used, either side of a 420x300 shelf. The burners were recycled and needed a lot of TLC to give optimum performance. As part of the construction I have had to relearn welding skills last used more than 30 years ago, however the angle grinder

removes the worst looking, slag filled, duck poo parts of the work.

Vacuum formed fibre board was used on the base, rear and top. This insulation is somewhat more robust than the wool type fibre and will hopefully take some of the knocks and bumps that occur during loading and unloading. The door, underside and top outer panels are stainless steel while the other panels are steel mesh. Prior to assembly the fibre panels were fired in a kiln to pre-shrink them thus enabling a tighter fit and reduced warping during future firings.

With the help of Tony Lowe (one of the other Marx Brothers) final assembly was completed and the first dry run fired.....1000 degrees in about 20 minutes!! This proved to be far too fast for the handmade porcelain buttons holding the top fibre panel in place, several slivers were later found on the floor of the kiln.

The first firings with actual pots were

most successful and the temperature seems to be quite even throughout the kiln. Hopefully the design is robust enough to withstand the rigours of time and multiple users.

Happy Rakuing !!

Kiln stuff

Two recent firings worth a mention - the salt firing in the fibre gas kiln was a cracker at the second attempt. The salting arrangement had to be revised with an extra horizontal burner introduced on to a brick floor at the time of salting for better salt combustion (it's very difficult getting the salt hot enough to volatilise with vertical burners). The roof fell in and some of the aluminium walls melted but most of the pots were great. At exactly the same time, 5 metres away, in the nature of an unspoken race, Simon fired his little brick salt kiln to perfection using 30% fish and chip oil and smoking the other team off the property. But he had great results too and the experiment of the used chip oil showed that, with a little tweak to get the flow better, a good part of the firing could be done using this throwaway fuel. Of course now it's not as throwaway as it was 6 months ago but we're hoping to secure a free supply. The gas kiln will go on to be used for salting some terracotta bricks in an attempt to reproduce the old Huntly facing bricks. The brick clamp inside will hold the roof up. We hope.

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Write for more details to:



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classified

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

Wanted:

16" x 16" perforated shelves. Phone Marilyn 4452220

Kiln:

We are decommissioning an old Elecform kiln if anyone is interested. It is a top loader and the insides are ok but the steel box is getting on.

The lid is in poor condition. It still opens and closes fine but the safety cutout has rusted off.

The contacts are fine but the controller and pyrometer are broken. Doesn't sound that attractive, does it? But it is free.

The outer measurements are 3 ft x 3 ft (incl. open lid and contact box.) The inside measures 18 x 18 x 24 inches. d.clapcott@auckland.ac.nz or 6238899 ext48596.

Mairangi Arts Centre

We would like to invite you to participate in our 2008 Christmas Exhibition, which will be called Beautiful Gifts 2008. We would like you to submit work that would be highly desirable as Christmas gifts.

All work should be priced at \$100 and under. (We will be charging a 30% commission fee on all items).

Artists will be required to pay an administration fee of \$15 to participate.

Phone Elaine 4782237

We need you!

We are looking for sponsorship for our Annual Fire and Clay Exhibition - please consider any donation small or large: cash for prizes, goods to raffle, contacts for advertising - or maybe you have a

hidden talent we can use. "All for one and one for all". Phone the Centre and talk to Anita Barlass - Exhibition Organiser.

For sale:

Cotter gas kiln approx 15 cuft, 18 shelves 22"x14", 4 burners plus 4 extras, trolley and framework on wheels, chimney, gas fittings and gauges, assorted boxes of cones, props, gloves. Also Talisman wheel. Price negotiable. Phone Ian 8275176 or Julia 5375367

exhibitions

Objectspace:

Strange/Familiar: Ceramics by Nick Mullany - 28 June 2008 - 26 July 2008
Strange/Familiar is a new exhibition of sculptural ceramics by Nicholas Mullany. Trained at Otago Polytechnic and based in Christchurch, Mullany is an exciting young maker poised to make his entrance into the New Zealand arts scene.

Mullany's exhibition consists of several distinctive series of work. One group of works is made by repetitively stacking sheets of clay which Mullany says he treats "in a manner that is methodical and borders on the neurotic". Writer Christine Whybrew observes that Mullany's works are "reminiscent of Lego creations"

Masterworks Gallery

"around about" Kate Fitzharris

26 June - 16 July 2008

Otago-based ceramicist Kate Fitzharris has become well known for her dolls; endearing little creatures that appear as well-loved antiques from the moment of their creation.

She writes: In this new body of work I continue to explore ways to make

sense of the world around me. Ways of imagining the other in order to know ourselves. Like slipping into someone else's skin or holding their hand ... The dolls reference domestic places and the playfulness of childhood. Life is attributed to inanimate objects. Dolls can be playthings but also can represent ancestors or deities.

Coming up!!!

Mark these dates in to your calendar

Evening with Rick Rudd: 8th August

Rick Rudd School: 9th - 10th August

Domesticware Award presentation and social evening: Friday 1st August

ASP "Fire and Clay" Exhibition Opening: 3rd September, invitations in the next newsletter.

A busy time ahead.

PS

Only one entry for our "Collective Noun" competition for a group of potters from Rick Rudd:

"A set of mugs"

tending towards the cynical I must say but probably perceptive.

PPS

We've had hints from Chester Nealie that he's hoping to get a chance to hold a school at the ASP later in the year.

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