



# ASP NEWS June 2007

The Newsletter of the  
Auckland Studio Potters  
Society Inc.  
ASP Centre  
96 Captain Springs Road  
PO Box 13-195 Onehunga  
Directors: Peter Lange,  
Renton Murray  
Phone: (09) 634 3622  
Fax: (09) 634 3626  
Email: asp@ceramics.co.nz  
Web: www.ceramics.co.nz

## 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



Tokens From The Game

## Renton's Ramblings

I am back from the land of the upside-down light switches and people who seem extraordinarily polite, living a comfortable life. I do realise if I travelled beyond the rarified life of potters and their buyers that life would not be so 'comfy'.

My 2 weeks away flew by in a state of exhaustion and worry, but I returned to a healthier bank account, having sold all the pots left behind from last year's making and having sold most of the kick wheels that I had restored and shipped over. The whole pottery scene in Minnesota and its wider ripples are largely the effect that Warren MacKenzie has had. He lives in a rather NZ feeling house about an hour's drive from Jeff at Taylor's Falls and I had a wonderful trip down there on the last day of my trip. I went with a younger potter by the name of Guillermo Cuellar - he had worked with Warren for many years and has now moved from Venezuela and set up in the St Croix Valley and built a large gas trolley kiln and also, like Warren, is very prolific. Warren (at about 82) is still firing every 8 weeks, all pots made on a kick wheel; he sells everything he can make at very reasonable prices. A lot of the pots sold immediately go onto eBay at a much higher price. I was very lucky to have about 5 teapots to choose from. I was beaten to my 1st choice by a major collector from Texas, but am very happy with my 2nd choice, a very enjoyable meeting.

My other contact, Linda Christiansen, has now finished her 2 chambered wood kiln and has fired twice with excellent results. Very lightly salted, her pots rely only on a slip and the wood ash to bring them alive. She is beginning to use some glazes now and is also in the happy situation of being able to sell all she can make. Almost like NZ in the 70s. To see collectors arriving from all over the USA and often spending way over \$1000 is an eye waterer. We may be lucky and get Linda to do a workshop here. It is all a bit different though, no real

choice of what wood to use for a firing and not much choice of available ball clays.

So back to NZ and then the excitement of Peter's opening at Corban's Estate. It was great to see all the pieces that had been in our paddock joined by the latest (tent and dinghy). It was a wonderful evening - good weather, hordes of excited children running amok and many ASP members and the cognecenti of the Art World paying homage to our Peter. Well done Peter. And many more public "thankyous" for the incredible Dylan "brick poster". I really feel very overthanked for what was a pleasure and now the sheep and cat have nowhere to rub against or to sit on. If only we could bring them all back home.

Back at the Centre and all is well - more sick wheels of course, and lots of pots to fire and someone has had a massive cleanup in the office - feels very unnatural. But the camera battery charger did thank heavens turn up - in the box of Pyro bits. I feel like a holiday already.

## ASP EXHIBITION

Dates to remember!!

Receiving day: Sunday September 2nd

Opening night Wednesday 5th September

The entry forms will be in the next newsletter so get making special work for this important show.

A special note to the group of "senior" Auckland potters - we really appreciate having your work in this annual exhibition and look forward to your pieces again this year.

## First Annual Domestic-ware Award

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. It's intended to be an educational event as well as an exhibition so it will be good for those who are a little nervous about putting their work out in the public - a chance to have two of our most respected potters, Peter Stichbury and Renton Murray, look at your work and assess it in a kindly manner. "Pot Idol" comes to mind.

It's not far off now and the entry form is in this newsletter. Wheel-thrown, hand-built, slip-cast, salted, electric, gas, stoneware or earthenware, as long as it is functional and suitable for use around the house, then bring it in. You might win \$500! Or a Merit cash prize. Exciting times.

## Stop Press!!

Jo-Anne Raill (who works in our office) has just won the \$1,000 Franklin Arts Award for her anagama figurative piece "Masquerade". Great stuff! Worth popping out to the exhibition to have a look.

## Reminder of conditions

1. The Centre is not open on Sundays - group firings are an exception.

2. All purchases by members using the Centre (clay, tools, studio time, fees, firing costs) are to be paid for at the time of purchase - we don't have capacity for credit and the firing credit sheets are being used for everything from photocopying to buying lollies. From now on they will be used only for evening classes. So bring your cards and chequebooks with you - just like you do everywhere else.

## Charade's Leaving Party

Gael Baldock

ASP regulars gathered in our usual style of stimulating conversation and gourmet food to wish Charade farewell. There was a round of "show and tell": Charade had all her star tattoos coloured in in all the colours of the rainbow. Jocelyn had lost quite a few pounds as she is recovering well from her stroke. Peter was also slim and sexy and back in good, hearty humour. Rachel had gained a few pounds as the baby continues to grow, helped along by the jaffas and pineapple chunk that we all helped her to eat. Anita got to show us her latest toy, a wee pink ipod with a clip back about 50mm square. I got to show off my latest toy, a wee red sports car as a run about while my Snail gets a new motor and no it doesn't have any space to cart stuff around! The kitchen fairy cleaned up a big load of dishes and then the next load disappeared overnight, thanks Aylex. There were several noted absences, in particular Duncan, who Charade is off to join in Europe.

On leaving she assured us she will be back in a year!

## Tokens from the Game

### – Take 2

Helen Perrett

There was a large and happy crowd at Corban Estate Arts Centre in Henderson on Thursday night. We'd come to celebrate and enjoy the display of Peter Lange's outdoor installation of sculptural brickworks displayed and beautifully lit on the grass down by the back verandah of the old Corban homestead. Peter (actually it was Ro aided by their daughter Kate) generously fed the punters with very healthy and comforting vegetable soup followed by delicious carrot cake (made by Suzy Dunser for Ro's birthday).

My favourite piece was the pup tent

with its lovely tiled floor and the gentle sag of canvas beautifully reproduced in brick. I also loved the dart with its bent nose, I can imagine Peter as a mischievous child firing off paper darts behind his teacher's back. Didn't we all do that at some time? It is not just the nostalgia and playfulness of the works that is charming and evocative, there is also the craftsmanship and scale to marvel over. The eight works represent the time spent working as the recipient of the CNZ Craft/Object Fellowship Award, which Peter was awarded at the end of 2005. Speeches saluting his achievements were given and Peter thanked those who had helped him and this included the presentation to Renton Murray (who had stored the brickworks) of a brick and corrugated iron profile of Bob Dylan. And those of you who know Renton will know what a special gift this was.

## My New Heroes

Part Two of ClayEdge Gulgong 2007  
Jocelyn Logan

"You women don't mind being called Masters, do you?" asked Janet Mansfield, introducing the seven International and eight Australian Masters at the opening. "Oh well," she shrugged as they deafened her with their silence. Although she pulled back on organising the conference this year, she had personally chosen all the guest demonstrators. Long may she do this, for no-one is better connected in the ceramic world, and a varied and fascinating crew addressed the theme of "Ceramics on the edge of function."

Because of fatigue I didn't get a good look at everyone's work, but I certainly acquired some new pottery heroes. My stand-out favourites were the German, Johannes Peters, and his erstwhile master, Jean-Nicolas Gerard, who was born in the Congo but lives in the South of France at Vaiensole. Both make a traditional type of earthenware domestic pottery (terre vernisee), slipped and glazed with (in J-N's case) seriously traditional lead glazes that might be illegal here. Both have an amazing ability to throw simply and directly, producing strong, loose work with grace and appeal. Like all the other artists mentioned, they can be seen at [www.clayedge.cudgegong-gallery.com.au](http://www.clayedge.cudgegong-gallery.com.au) Just click on the artists' photos travelling across the screen, or go to the "artists" tag at the top of the screen. You will get their biopic and a selection of photos of their work.

Another whose slide show and talk was inspiring was the Indian, Adil Writ-

er. He gave up a successful career as an architect when he fell in love with clay. Training with the Meekers, an American couple who live in India, Adil now works in a cooperative pottery village, Auroville. This is in itself an inspiring place where potters cooperate, sharing materials and firings, but each doing individual work. Adil's small pieces feature writing (true!) but he is also involved in building clay houses that are then fired as kilns to make them permanent. He built a large clay beehive-shaped kiln in which the Masters' work was fired. I particularly liked his use of vernacular Indian references, like the red dots with which ordinary women decorate roadside shrines. He talked about how these people are daily making art without any self-consciousness about it.

Most people I spoke to at the conference were of the opinion that the best throwing was done by Lee In Chin, a traditional Korean pottery master. Sadashi Inuzuka, a Japanese-Canadian, impressed me with his DVD of work he does with blind children, although I was utterly puzzled by the work he produced during the conference: a 5 metre round pit full of white clay, exhibited at night with a reflector set up nearby, apparently to emphasise its relationship to the moon. Call me a philistine, but I couldn't help thinking of heffalump traps and that proved to be its main interest with increasingly pissed potters watching to see who and what fell into it. Mirta Morigi of Italy produced exquisite little frogs (on everything) with an environmental message and magical translucent green glaze. Linda Sikora, a Canadian who teaches in the USA was the final International.

More next month on the Aussie stars.

## An interesting exercise:

1. First of all, pick the number of times a week that you would like to go out to eat. (more than once but less than 10)

2. Multiply this number by 2

3. Add 5

4. Multiply that by 50

5. If you have already had your birthday this year add 1757, if you haven't, add 1756.

6. Now subtract the four digit year that you were born.

You should get a three digit number.

The first digit of this was your original number (i.e., how many times you want to go out to restaurants in a week.)

The next 2 numbers are your age!

## From our foreign correspondents

# CENSORED



A worried Brian Halstead stoking the Thursday morning class salt-firing - the results were really great.

## From the President

Michael Billington

ASP would like to boost its membership because of a need to generate more income to fund planned improvements around the place. The committee has been talking over some ideas which will form part of a long term strategic plan for the Centre. The 2007 committee are very keen to find sources of funding for some quite major items possibly including a van for the centre. We welcome suggestions from our membership about possible sources of funding and your ideas about what you would like to see improved or developed around the place. Becoming members is a good win-win situation because we need the money and you get something back in return. I think there has been some confusion among our students about whether they can become members. We would strongly encourage membership from anybody interested in clay and ceramics, and also our weekly and Diploma students. You can join our membership at any time. I understand that there already have been some discussions about this during class time. Please feel free to discuss your ideas for centre development with me or members of the committee either face to face or by emailing ASP. Feedback from our student body would be much appreciated.

Just a reminder that firing and studio costs are on a cash sale basis and students' individual class balance sheets should remain in credit. The tutors are very reasonable people and if you are having difficulties I am sure temporary arrangements can be made.

It has been a busy month for me and I am afraid this report is somewhat brief this month. Have a good month and get those hands into some clay.

## Water etching workshop

with George Andrews

Two day workshop, for throwers and handbuilders, coming up later in the year. Here's a taster:

- Pot is thrown and forced dried with a burner to a stage when it can be reversed onto a chuck.

- Bottom is finished on the chuck and forced dried so pot will stand without distortion

- Pot is put into a drying cabinet and dried to a bone dry stage

- After drying pot is taken out and the interior 'slushed' with a water resist slip

- Pot is 'decorated' using a water resist slip

- Water resist slip is 'heatset' (using burner) and pot is etched in water

- Surfaces are finished prior to firing

Examples of the type of pot I will be making can be viewed at the following website: <http://www.mesheffect.co.nz/>

What will make the workshop more interesting is a variety of clays used by participants.

Obviously the process is rigorous on clays and finer clays are more 'stressed' but often give better results.

## WESTERN POTTERS SUPPLIES

FOR ALL MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

- casting slips (white, terracotta and stoneware)
- clays
- raw materials
- tools
- kilns and equipment
- ceramic colours
- glazes (transparent & opaque)
- on-glaze, glaze and body stains
- enamels

UNIT 4/43a LINWOOD AVE. MT. ALBERT  
PO BOX 60126 Titirangi Ak7  
Phone (09) 815 1513 Fax (09) 815 1515  
[quentin.w@ihug.co.nz](mailto:quentin.w@ihug.co.nz)

## WE PROMISE SATISFACTION

EASY TO FIRE • CONSTANTLY BETTER RESULTS  
KILNS FOR EVERY PURPOSE from 0.6cu.ft. to 30cu.ft.

POTTERY, CERAMICS, RAKU, PORCELAIN DOLLS,  
ENAMELLING, CHINA PAINTING, CRUCIBLES,  
GLASS KILNS FOR FUSING AND SLUMPING.  
All kilns are available in FULL FIBRE (layered or Stack Bonded); FULL BRICK; or FIBRE & PARTLY BRICK.

Suppliers of slab rollers, banding wheels, kiln and raku burners, ceramic fibre, kiln bricks, fibre cement, anchors, shelves, props, pyrometers, controllers, elements for most kilns (reasonably priced).

Write for more details to:



FURNACE ENGINEERING (1986) Ltd  
Razorback Road RD2 Pokeno 1872  
Phone: 0-9-233 6690  
Fax: 0-9-233 6690  
Email: [FEKILN@IHUG.CO.NZ](mailto:FEKILN@IHUG.CO.NZ)  
Internet: [www.furnace-eng.co.nz](http://www.furnace-eng.co.nz)

## classified

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

### For Sale:

Two Talisman potters wheels both with seats, \$500 each. Phone Shirley 6222038 or Valma 021687655

Talisman wheel - offers wanted, includes banding wheel, batts and tools. Phone Peter Grant 6258006.

Pottery Studio and flat for sale.

4,340 sq m (1&1/8 acre) in its own secluded bird-filled bush valley.

3km to Albany Village, 4km to major shopping centre and main north motorway into Auckland.

The studio comprises an 11m x 7m workroom with a 3.4m double-sink stainless steel bench, mould-pouring bench, work tables, fixed and mobile shelving. 6sq m kiln alcove with folding doors to outside. 10,000 galls water tanks. Phone line and 3 phase power.

Cromatie soft-brick kiln, 3 phase, 5 cu ft, with shelves, etc. Radiance Engineering kiln, single phase, 1 cu ft. Both kilns, front loading. 44gall slip barrel with 3 phase mixer paddle. Sundry tools and materials. Attached 1 bedroom flat, storeroom, office/lounge, kitchenette, shower and toilet. The flat's power is on a separate single phase metre from the studio's 3 phase. Large carport and ample parking. \$600,000.

Phone Harcourt's Albany agent, Laurent Neuenschwander: 4414200 or 444 5942.

Elcurn electric kiln, fibre lined with sigma controller, 6.5 cuft, 3ph, tables, bats, chemicals, clay, chicken grit grinder, Talisman wheel etc. ph Lanny 575 7993

### Wanted

to borrow a 60cm diameter Swiss Exercise Ball to make a mould from. Contact ASP or Mike 6340360.

CLAYS  
GLAZES  
CHEMICALS  
STONEWARE STAIN  
AND MORE

Everything for the potter at:

**CCG INDUSTRIES LTD**

Unit 2, 25 Triton Drive, Albany

Phone 09 475 5224 or 09 475 5004

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30 am-5pm



This "Golfball" sculpture was made in earthenware by Mike Donaldson for the lake at the Akarana Golf Club - 60cm high

## exhibitions

### Masterworks:

"Teapots?"

New work by Rick Rudd 31 May - 16 June  
In the 34 years he has been resident in New Zealand, Rick Rudd has become one of our best-known potters.

This exhibition of new work demonstrates both Rudd's outstanding skill as a hand-builder and his continuing focus on the container.

For any collector of New Zealand ceramics this is a definite must see!

### Pots of Ponsonby:

"Pacific Jewellery"

Carly Goffe & Shelley Cartmell

27th May until 10th June

"A Turn in the Road"

New Ceramics from Diana Poor

10th June until 24th June 2007

"Mosaics, Patchwork and Porcelain"

New Directions from Jan Cockell

24th June until 7th July 2007

"Art from Earth"

Nicky Jolly

7th July until 29th July

### Objectspace

"The Crafted Container" 19th May - 16th June.

A collaboration between Jessica Barter and Stephen Brookbanks, The Crafted Container addresses "the home as an instrument of self-articulation and the idea that the home itself is inscribed and impressed with traces and stories of the occupants."

The fragile ladders, bridges and platforms in Stephen Brookbanks' scaffold-like constructions encase ordinary objects within imaginary landscapes. Also within the domestic realm, Jessica Barter's slip cast ceramics explore an important part of every home, the medicine cabinet. Inspired by architectural developed surface drawings, Barter's work deconstructs this space.

Through the perspective of architecture, The Crafted Container offers a new lens through which to view objects residing within the home.

Jane Whitten: Refresh 19 May - 16 June.

"Refresh" is the title of Jane Whitten's window installation for Objectspace. A self confessed 'collector and organizer,' Whitten is an established Australian based artist whose work has attracted considerable attention in both Australia and North America.

### Compendium:

You may be interested in a huge sculpture of a king and queen of almost life size proportions have appeared in the front of the newly renovated, so upmarket and wonderful Compendium Gallery, Lorne Street, City. The artist's statement reads like the usual up-market bullcrap stuff that artist's spout, but in this case it is absolutely true. I know because I wrote it myself. This work is getting a lot of interest. You may want to take a look. Graham Collings.

### Corbans Estate:

"Tokens form the Game" - an exhibition of brick sculptures by Peter Lange until the end of June

See the **LARGEST** range of **KILNS** available:  
**pottery or china painting - electric - gas - fullfibre**  
All with our 12 months unconditional guarantee

**THE ELECTRIC FURNACE  
COMPANY LTD.**

73 Wiri Station Rd, Manukau City

PO Box 76-162 Manukau City

Phone 0-9-263 8026

Cheapest spare elements with guarantee for any make of kiln.  
Also other spare parts, temperature controls, pyrometers etc.  
We manufacture gas burners and blowers.