



# ASP NEWS

June  
2008

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



## General News

Peter Lange

We have a few plates in the kitchen but they are 95% factory made and pretty ordinary. It would be good to have some hand-made plates to use at our members' evenings. So if you are making plates and feel benevolent please pass them this way, we'll feel a lot happier using studio pottery plates.

Mike and Tony have been working away in the workshop building a new raku kiln to replace the old worn-out kiln which is in a state of collapse; the burner is the only thing worth saving off it. The new kiln has already been tested and works like a dream. From 0 - 1000 C in 20 minutes! And while it looks smaller than the old one it's actually bigger and has more useable space inside. They are pictured (left) finishing the kiln off. A very useful addition to our stable of kilns. Not sure whether there is a collective noun for kilns - maybe there is room here for a competition

among our readers .... coming up with collective nouns for potters, kilns, pots and other ceramic things. Give it a go and send them in. I thought one for artists on my walk yesterday - a Chest of Drawers.

We have potters and members coming from outside Auckland to stay from time to time, many from overseas, and often wanting to stay with one of the locals. It seems to fall on one or two people to deal with these requests, and so in an attempt to spread the load a little it would be useful to have a list of members willing to take in visitors for a night or two occasionally. It might only be once every couple of years but it would give the regular hosts a bit of a break. It's an enjoyable experience - I have looked after potters from all around the world and in turn they have looked after me when I have been away, and I have made good friends that way. Can't remember a bad one. It's just that there are times when it is not convenient and it would be good to have backup. If you can help please get in touch. Qualifications: Probably the main one is access to transport so that they can get to the Centre without too many problems. After that they tend to be pretty independent and there's always something going on at the ASP to keep them occupied. Which reminds me ...

We are expecting a Japanese potter to visit Auckland for 3 weeks in July - he is looking for paid home-stay type arrangement. He wants to be within striking distance of the Centre or at least public transport heading that way. See the back page.

Get in touch with the Centre if you can help in this area.

We already have a lot of help from our team of volunteers. One recent addition has been Elena Renker who comes from

## ASP Domesticware Award

The Second Annual Domestic Ware Award is coming up at the end of July. The final dates are not set yet but there are only 2 months or so to make work for this 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. The selector will be announced shortly and it will be their job to select and add useful comments about the work.

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.

You might win \$500 or a Merit cash prize!

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

Get started now - final details in next month's newsletter.

## Indian Slide Show

The second instalment of Duncan and Charade's hugely successful slide spectacular will be held at the Centre on June 20th (Friday) at 7pm. We're issuing a warning to get there on time because it was a full house last time and they have both threatened to come dressed in traditional garb so it will be standing room only like 3rd class on the Mumbai Express. We'll provide a taste of India with the supper and once again there will be lots of images, stories and sounds to make it a great night. \$5 entry, 7pm 20th June - see you there.

way up Okura way on a Friday morning just to see what needs to be done. It's fantastic - I just have to point to a messy bit of the Centre and by lunchtime it's sorted. We have our handymen and our envelope stuffers, gardeners and Centre minders. We are very lucky to have members with this sort of generosity.

The cost of diesel has gone through the roof and probably won't stop for a while - as a consequence our diesel salt kilns are now almost impossible to justify firing up. The smallish new one now costs over \$500 to fire! It's a real problem - you can rationalise around it and charge a premium for salted pots, and almost make a case for it, but I know I will be thinking twice before salting in a diesel kiln again. We still have a wood kiln and a wood/diesel option as well. We're going to look into using waste oil from takeaway bars - but we might have pots coming out with chips around the rims.

We're going to saltfire an old fibre kiln to destruction this weekend - hoping to get a couple of firings out of it before it heads to the dump. It was on the way there already and we collared it for this experiment. Problem will be finding a horizontal surface to salt onto when the burners all point upwards. We'll figure something out.

Congratulations to Australian ceramist and frequent visitor Jeff Mincham who was recently named as a Master of Australian Craft as part of an initiative run through Object: the Australian Centre for Craft and Design.

## **Diploma Class**

The class has started its second specialist module of the year with Toby Twiss and the first day dealt with forming a life-sized head over an armature, using Lois as the model. I think Lois went away with a bit of an identity crisis at the end having been presented with a large variety of interpretations of what she looks like. But they were a good start and the second session will be used to refine the first rough effort. There will be a life model coming for a couple of weeks soon and the truck drivers coming out of the rubbish dump might be distracted by an unexpected vision straight in front of them; well placed newspapers over the windows should sort that out.

The first throwing module with Andrew Van Der Putten was a great success with many of the students making good progress and developing a lot of enthusiasm for the fluid nature of Andrew's

throwing.

We look forward to having him back again some time soon. The Diploma course has a 50% throwing component and the rest is hand-building, casting and using moulds. The intake for next year is already full so think about it for 2010.

## **Jokes**

A wealthy man commissioned Pablo Picasso to paint a portrait of his wife. Startled by the nonrepresentational image on the final canvas, the woman's husband complained, "That isn't how she really looks!"

When asked by the painter how she really looked, the man produced a photograph from his wallet. Returning the photograph Pablo observed, "Small, isn't she?"

## **Interesting websites:**

[www.kerameikon.com](http://www.kerameikon.com) for Croatian Ceramic Association - there are one or two international competitions on this site.

## **The first 50 years**

The 50th anniversary of the ASP is here in a couple of years (just in time for the World Cup) and we need to think about producing a publication about this period - we have one already called "The First 25 Years" and while it is not exactly a Montana Award winner it describes in detail an important time in the ceramic life of Auckland. The sequel ("The First 50 Years" "The Next 25 Years" need not be the title - you might be able to think of a better one) should be started soon with some research based on the complete set of newsletters that we have in the office, plus interviews with the potters who have been around for that time or a good part of it. The researcher need not be the writer/editor - that task could go to someone skilled in that area. So if anyone has any interest at all in either researching or writing (or both) please let us know. Details like budgets and deadlines are not finalised yet but they will be sorted before long.

## **Two letters:**

Hello fellow potters .... thank you for your thoughts and support, especially those that sang for Chris at the funeral and/or gave me a hug. A woman gave me a Leach kickwheel and I will donate my electric one to a local school and give them a lesson. I plan to throw an urn for his ashes that are to be scattered on our

pond in a year. We were discussing ash glazes after the funeral, I am sure Chris would like that idea so send recipes if you have any. I will make a better effort to keep in touch, something Chris was very good at doing.

Bye for now- Nicky Jolly

Hello George, How are you? Hope that you are fine.

My son is back to NZ and studying in Massey, Accounting. I had an exhibition in Hong Kong recently. I am showing my bubble vases that present my complex feeling to my children when they were small and they are turning adulthood, independent from mum. They are presented in an installation in groups of two, three, five or more.

Please send my best wishes to Peter Lange, Simon, Peter Stichbury and Joanne.

Love, Kam-han

## **NZ Sculpture OnShore 2008**

This begins with a Gala Opening on the evening of November 6 and then runs every day until November 16. Fort Takapuna Historic Reserve in Devonport, which looks out over the Hauraki Gulf, is again the exceptional site for the biennial outdoor sculpture exhibition. Curator Rob Garrett has selected over 100 New Zealand artists offering emerging talents, new work by familiar names and significant pieces from leading sculptors. All sculptures are for sale and raise funds for New Zealand Women's Refuges. Open from 10 - 6 each day (until the final day when it is 10 - 4), admission: \$10 adult, \$8 senior citizens, \$5 children 5 - 12, family pass \$25. There will also be an indoor Sculpture Gallery and a cafe.

## **President's Report**

Michael Billington

I would like to officially welcome Duncan and Charade back home after their "world wide wanderings". It is really great to think that after their time away, New Zealand still has enough "pulling power" to ensure their return home. I note that no time was wasted and they are both back in full production again. I am very sorry that I was unable to be at the recent slide evening presented by Duncan and Charade. I hear that it was a great evening attended by over 50 people. I am surely hoping that I will be able to attend part two of the series.



Renton "RMMM RMMM" Murray at the Pukekohe Race Track

It is hard to believe that this is the third year of my term as President. I would like to mention that it is a great privilege to be in this role and have such a functional committee, enterprising staff and supportive membership. ASP continues to thrive despite the present downturn in our national economy (some say worldwide) but we too are affected by the "price hikes" that are much in the news lately and as a result unfortunately, we are also forced to pass some of these increased costs onto you. The most noticeable cost increase has of course been clay prices. We try to deliver the best cost we can but some types of clay have gone up significantly. I do remember when I first started potting I remember thinking how cheap clay was, but I note that I used to think this about petrol – some of you might remember when petrol cost 40c a gallon. Milk was 4c back then too. Oh for a return of

those days but I am sad to say "it aint gonna happen!" In short, we are just as concerned about the increasing prices as you are and will endeavour to get the best deals we can. As I have always said to people "working with clay is the cheapest therapy in town" and that still stands in my books.

At the AGM Howard Williams presented his thoughts and ideas about the former Centrepont community up at Albany on the North Shore. Howard is a very active participant in many arts fields and is primarily concerned about ensuring that this beautiful spot is recreated as a Centre for the Arts. It has great potential and if not saved from inevitable deterioration it would be a great loss. Howard has approached ASP with a view that we support the possible rekindling of the pottery that now lies idle. ASP has been approached for a possible "Expression of Interest"

regarding the pottery. Right at this point in time there seems to be some confusion regarding what is going to happen to the centre as far as ownership goes. Suffice to say we are keeping in touch and waiting until a clearer picture forms before any decisions are made about ASP involvement. It would be nice to think that a great resource such as the pottery could become a teaching centre for pottery on the North Shore. Extensive feasibility and market research tasks would have to take place before any kind of Expression of Interest was made. It is important I think that people who do support the arts or are current artists in production give the idea some thought and communicate their opinions to others. It will be interesting to see what develops.

Yes, thanks to Mike D (Marx Brs. Inc) we have a new larger double burner Raku kiln. I think I can speak for all members of the "little Raku group", in saying that we really are looking forward to making some larger pots and not having to deal with the other kiln that really had reached the end of its days. I hear the new one has already been tried out with great results. Thanks Mike – what would we do without you?

### Portage Award

We have entry forms for the 2008 Portage Award at the Centre. This is our biggest national award and one that you must enter. \$12,000 first prize! Plus other awards. Closing date for entries is 15th August. We'll keep reminding you.

### Waiclay:

Another important exhibition/competition coming up on the 12th December. Premier Award \$2000. Selector Janet De Boos from Australia, will be giving a talk and leading a discussion as well. Get in touch with Janet Smith: oakford@xtra.co.nz or (07)8271888.

### Concert:

Auckland Gay and Lesbian Singers present "Bravo" a celebration of our musical icons, a smorgasbord of musical treats. Centennial Theatre, Auckland Grammar, Mountain Rd, 5.30pm on Sat 28th and Sun 29th June. Tickets \$20 from ASP member Frank Checketts 0274372624 or The Women's Bookshop - or \$25 at the door.

Come and see Auckland's nearly best kept secret - easy listening, old favourites, a great evening.

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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:

Old men's suits and ties. Got any of these that you don't want - all donations accepted. Phone Charade 0211023890

### For sale:

4 cuft electric kiln, electric wheel. Contact Mrs Stutteds, 18A Holyoake Pl, Browns Bay. 4794551

### Homestay wanted:

A Japanese potter will be visiting NZ and would like to work at the Auckland Studio Potters for about 1 month from the end of July to the end of August. He is now looking for a place to stay during this time. Hopefully he'd like to stay at a member's house (or someone who lives a bus ride away from ASP), so he can come to the studio with the member. He can pay about \$150-200/w. His name is Yukihumi Yamaguchi, 56 years old, and he owns a pottery school in Yokohama, Japan. He doesn't speak English well but is keen to communicate with Kiwis. Please call us or email us if you have space in your home or know someone else who might be interested. Phone Rick Urban 07 348 9505 or email:

rickurbanpottery@yahoo.com

### Studio space

I wondered if you could possibly help me. I have recently established a pottery/ceramic studio with two 15 cu ft kilns (one is for decals) an electric wheel, pouring table, and work tables, shelving, 400 ceramic moulds, and beautiful garden surroundings. This is situated 5 minutes off North Western State Highway No. 16 just before Bees

on Line. There is also space and shelving, to sell products from the studio. Facilities for teaching up to six people, coffee machine, stereo, and access to computer. A small fee for using the kilns would be charged. I would be interested in sharing the studio, whether it be for tutoring, or for passionate potters/ceramicists who need a peaceful space to work in.

Phone Stephanie 094122678 or 021104105.

## exhibitions

### Objectspace:

Uhengaparaoa: Works by Tangimoe Clay is a new exhibition at Objectspace which surveys the work of Tangimoe Clay, an outstanding and innovative contemporary Maori weaver.

Precious: 27th May 2008 - 21st June 2008. "Precious" is a new window installation for Objectspace by Bay Of Plenty-based ceramic artist John Roy. "Precious" comprises of two opposing figures of similar stance and proportions that appear to be whispering to one another. Perhaps questioning the respective values, condition and age of these similar yet differing works, the viewer is immediately drawn to the most singular difference between these two objects: One figure is finished in the punctured surface treatment and off-white matte glazing that John Roy is known for, while the other figure is treated to a new and shiny golden veneer.

### Award:

From the Titirangi Community Arts Council: we're pleased to advise that we'll be holding our Inaugural Emerging Artists Awards in August, giving new talent an opportunity to earn one of two grants - \$1000 plus a trophy to

hold for a year, or \$500 - to go towards their further development as an artist. Any medium.

20 works will be chosen for final grant selection, and 3 week exhibition in the Upstairs Gallery at Lopdell House, Titirangi.

Opening night and award presentation. Open to all Waitakere Residents Upstairs Gallery

upstairs\_lopdell@xtra.co.nz

### Masterworks Gallery

The Sum of the Parts

5 - 21 June 2008

The Sum of the Parts is a group exhibition showcasing artists whose work makes use of individual elements assembled to make a unified whole. This concept has been utilised by artists in ceramics, glass and jewellery, and the exhibition will provide a snapshot of the wide variety of work this theme encapsulates.

The exhibition involves contributions from Linda Bruce, Hilary Crawford, Vicki Fanning, Peter Lange, Ross Malcolm, Matt McLean, Tom Moore, Nick Mount, Richard Parker, Lyndsay Patterson, Emily Siddell, Katherine Smyth, Blanche Tilden, Ann Verdcourt and Lisa West.

### NEW MEMBERS

Theresa Yong, Zekiah Heath

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Slide Evening

June 20th

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