



ASP NEWS March 2005

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 \$2 per hour
up to a maximum of
\$6.00 per day

Remembering Margaret

John Parker

Margaret is responsible for starting me on the path I have taken. Ross Skiffington and I went to her night school class in 1966 at Tamaki College. We were soon invited to come and put clay through her pug mill for the class and had our first coffee out of hand crafted pottery mugs. From my "get yourself a trade" working class background, it was my first insight into an alternative lifestyle. She used hand weaving and studio pottery in her everyday life, while we ate off the ubiquitous Crown Lynn dinner set. She had a grand piano.

There are so many memories.

- Introducing Grant Hudson and me to the Perrins, when we were covered in diesel and soot after trying to unsuccessfully natural draught fire our new kiln.
- The holiday cottage in Katikati and Guy and Jocelyn Mountain
- The stories and slides and the real pots from Japan
- Discovering she had actually touched Bernard Leach AND Hamada AND Kawai
- The vicious Auckland vs. Wellington rivalry of the early NZ Society of Potters politics
- The rocking bamboo water feature in her garden, only turned on for national living treasures
- Waiting all night for the big new electric kiln, above Leon Cohen's Seaboard Joinery lunchroom, to very slowly get to 1060°C
- The Twelve Potters, NZ's first co-op
- The hidden cottage in Remuera, which became a highly creative atelier refuge
- The long-drop there, made from one of Chester Nealie's fibrolite exhibition units
- The huge kiln
- The assorted seagulls with wounded wings in convalescent mode
- The fury at neighbours with chainsaws attacking her beloved trees
- Her sense of humour
- Her wide range of work

I wouldn't be here if it weren't for Margaret.
Thanks



Two major events at the ASP this month

Joe Finch School

This workshop is coming up fast and it promises to be a good one, so don't dilly-dally, give us a call now to reserve your seat in the front row. Joe will be able to tell us about the English ceramic scene, he's full of information about kilns (woodfiring and others) and he's a maker of beautiful domestic pots in the Cardew/Leach tradition. We don't get enough visits from off-shore potters, so when someone as qualified as Joe turns up it is worth the effort for you to show up and learn a new trick or two, and observe the approach he has to making pots. Shared lunch, 10am - 4pm Saturday 12th March, \$35, Ring the Centre to book yourself in for the first school of the year.

Bus trip to the Near North

This is going to be a great day! Sunday 20th March meeting at Northcote Centre (instructions below) at 9am.

Starting just after 9am we'll head to Terry Stringer's "Zealandia" studio near Puhoi, where he will take us on a special guided tour (including opening his private workshop just for us) and provide coffee/tea. He's going to put on a surprise guest organist for us too, on his pipe organ set in the bush. Then to Len Castle's studio at Warkworth where we will be shown around the studio by Len. Hopefully there will be a chance to see

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Well done, you're the kind of member we love, paying your subs on time. All our lapsed members are reading a severely truncated version of the newsletter and wondering where all our interesting emails have disappeared to.

Centre News:

Classes are running smoothly and with good numbers. Duncan's Wednesday morning class got so full he had to talk some of them into leaving, so then a whole bunch left, and it was half empty. But now it has over-filled again with new people joining late. A number of the old class have set up an informal post-graduate class on the Wednesday afternoon, and it's good to see that happening. The Diploma class (12 students enrolled) now has a throwing lesson on Tuesday mornings with Graham Ambrose and we are still considering the option of allowing experienced throwers to join in on that one later in the year. Their mould-making slip-casting module is underway with 5 bags of plaster used up on the first day, a lot of it taken home on the students' clothes. Elena surprised us with her floating snake mould - she poured plaster all over a rubber snake and came back a minute later to find it swimming on the surface.

We test-fired another ice kiln during the week and dropped a variety of chemicals into the flame - a lot were unsuccessful but we managed to get a good red with strontium chloride and a vivid blue, turning to green, with copper chloride, yellow with sodium or just by thickening the flame. Casting our own block of ice is a bit of a nightmare - another useful lesson learnt. You still need the fireworks for the dramatic effects.

We had a trailer load of stuff left here recently, amongst which was the makings of a ball mill - Mike and Duncan are busily rebuilding it to its original design. At the moment inside the barrel is the favourite sunbathing spot for Grog the cat and while it is tempting to turn it on we would never do that, certainly not with all the balls inside.

Trien Steverlyncck, our Treasurer, has



started helping at the Centre on Monday afternoons so that the pile of office and accounting work can be attended to more efficiently. It's really good to have her here.

The bundles of wood in the carpark are slowly being whittled away - there are a few wood firings planned over the next couple of months.

John Dawson has been in town again, on a good behaviour break from his job at Holloway Women's Prison in London, working on a new series of finely thrown porcelain pieces. He'll be showing them in an exhibition called "Black and Quiet" at Masterworks Gallery (Ponsonby) opening 16th March at 5.30pm.

The lecture at the Art Gallery by

Grayson Perry was a real treat. He was in a generous and friendly mood ... many of his interviews since he came have seen him a bit scratchy, mainly because the questions were so predictable, but given his own audience and a series of his own slide images he proved to be very entertaining and provocative. It was good to see so many ASP members there and he was kind enough to throw a few technical tips at the

audience. Only one glaze (clear), but up to 15 layers of underglaze and slips. How many slips you put on takes on a whole new meaning with Grayson Perry.

Browsing through the large archive of NZ Potter magazines at the Centre is a delightful experience - one that makes you remember a different time in this country. There is a letter (1959) from a Mr Geoffery Fairburn to Denis Glover who was about to open his (Fairburn's) exhibition of paintings: "Dear Mr G, May I congratulate you on your good fortune on being asked to open an art exhibition. Anyone can christen a battleship, open a mental hospital, or dip a young infant in holy water, but opening an art exhibition is surely something else again. May I offer some help? There are certain words and phrases that can be dropped into any

talk about art with the same result as carbide in beer. It not only makes things much more interesting but improves the flavour. The words are (and don't forget them): Spatial Relationships, Tactile Values, Integration, Luminosity, Fin De Siecle, Monolithic. Spray these accurately into your discourse, mention Gurdjieff, Dada and Eric Westbrook, and the first hour should pass comfortably enough. The second hour is more difficult etc etc" ... lovely stuff.

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the big kauri trees just around the corner from his place as well. Lunch in Warkworth so you'll be able to bring your own hamper if you wish, and hamp wherever you want. There is a new tourist stop at Matakana to visit - it has a resident potter and gallery. Then to the special annual exhibition by the "Mahurangi Group" at the Mahurangi Estate Wine Cellar - this group includes Peter Oxborough, Barry Lett, Len Castle, Robyn Stewart, Terry Stringer and more top ranking craftspeople and artists. Then home - probably about 5.30pm depending on traffic.

The trip will cost \$30 - this includes bus fare and morning tea at Zealandia. Lunch is at your own expense, or bring your own. Conditions apply: we cannot book you in to this trip without being paid first. We have been caught out a few times now and we have finally learnt our lesson. There are only 35 spaces on this trip so send in a cheque or bring in some money or a card and we will put you down. Look forward to seeing you - we'll have all the words of "10 shino bottles" typed out.

Where to park for the day: head for the Northcote Shopping Centre off Lake Rd, Northcote (not Takapuna) which runs north off Onewa Road at the BP petrol station - keep going straight across the roundabout at Exmouth Rd, drive into the shopping centre carpark off Lake Rd, head for Woolworths and just to the right of Woolworths there is a narrow entry to an overflow carpark out the back of the shops. The bus (look for a Hanham's coach) will be in that area, and there are no problems leaving cars there. Charade will be there with her cellphone if there's any confusion. She's at 0211023890. Be there by 9am please.

A few words from our Prez.

Wally Hirsh

The year is well under way... it has started with a bang and a melt down... Peter's latest ice kiln that is. Most classes are full, or very nearly full and we have already had a very successful members' outing. Some 25 members went to Waiheke Island to enjoy the sculpture walk, the opening of an exhibition at The Green Gallery and other suitable events.

This newsletter gives details of the March special bus trip for members. April will feature the traditional breakfast and Annual General Meeting... not everyone's favourite I know, but it is an essential event and we hope you will consider coming along. It is on Sunday April the 17th with croissants and coffee at 9.30am and the AGM at 10am.

It is with sadness that we learned of the passing last week of Margaret Milne, a long time potter, member of ASP and President of our society for a couple of years in the 70s. Many of her old friends gathered at the Centre recently to celebrate her contribution to Auckland pottery.

Some of you may not have heard that Simon Leong was the recipient of the Les and Sonia Foundation award in 2004. The winner was announced at the Big Clay Day Out when Sonia presented Simon with a cheque for \$1500. He was suitably surprised and thrilled. The executive of ASP is very grateful to Les and Sonia who have established this generous annual scholarship, designed to give a member of ASP who shows special talent as a potter a real boost in pursuit of their goals. Well done Simon... and remember I am still waiting to buy one of your teapots. If you're not quick I may just have to use one of my own.

Congrats are due to Peter who sold his sculpture of a ship's prow at the Waiheke Sculpture On The Gulf exhibition. That same Peter has used the internet to great effect in tracking down the makers of high quality slab rollers in California. By the time you read this newsletter, that major addition to our equipment will be on its way to New Zealand and you should know that it has been paid for by one of our members. He insists on remaining anonymous but I nevertheless record our sincere thanks for this very generous gift.

This gift is yet another example of someone asking not what the Centre can do for them but what they can do for the Centre. So many people keep telling me that they get so much from ASP.... friendship, creativity, skills, tranquillity in an otherwise hectic environment, some even speak of the spiritual feelings they get from the Centre. That's great! May it also be a place however, which gets ever increasing support from its members.

Peter and Duncan work really hard to provide monthly activities and weekend schools. We have our annual exhibition, (this year it will be in July and that's not far away), and we have the Big Clay Day Out and there is a whole lot more for us to enjoy.

I hope that in 05, you will give these events and activities your full on support. Lets make it a big year meanwhile just keep on potting.



Woodkiln firing

Duncan Shearer

The plot behind this kiln rests with Peter Lange. After buying a couple of rail-way sleepers Peter, Mike and I set about constructing a very simply, if somewhat rustic, kiln. A teapot of mine and a vase of Peter's were to be fired, even salt fired if we could get it hot enough. The kiln was lit with a big gas burner and caution was thrown to the wind as a race between the kiln reaching temperature or burning down began. Once cone 6 went down we started salting, we also had to start replacing the door, a weak point of our design, we ended up burning through three before the firing ended. When cone 10 had fallen and enough salt thrown in we pulled out the pots as they were in danger of the imminent collapse of the kiln roof. One of the more remarkable artefacts to emerge from this kiln was the burnt and charred wood itself.



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MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30 am-5pm

ASP New Members

Welcome to:

Joelle March

Chuck Joseph and Louise Rive

Tracey Paddison

Margaret Edwards (New Plymouth)

Judith Atkin (not really a new member actually a name change)

Michelle Brown

Gill Webster

Tineke Walst

We also welcome Rachel Carter, Linda Grace, Carol Stewart and Stephanie Wrysch to our Diploma course.

classified

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

For sale:

55 cuft tophat gas kiln. 4 burners, portable. Ideal for very large pieces. \$1,400. Also 100 firebricks at \$3 each. Phone Neil 09 4279030

Wanted:

a handyman/builder to do a few days work at the Centre - basic stuff. Phone 6343622

Ceramics Technical Numbers 3,7 & 10. Ph Graham Ambrose 833 5259

events

Corbans:

Bronze Casting with David Reid
Fri 11th, Sat 12th, Sun 13th, & Mon 14th
March. 10am - 4pm daily \$600 Contact
Diane Blomfield

From Robert Compton:

To all our Potter Friends .. we will be giving workshops at our studio again this summer. However we are not mailing a printed post-card as we have in years past. All information about this summer's sessions are on our website:
<http://www.RobertComptonPottery.com>

Special Event

Sculpture in the Domain - Meet the Artists
Sunday 6 March, 11.30am - 1.30pm Come for a walk in one of Auckland's premier parks to meet the artists responsible for the new permanent sculptures in Auckland Domain. Pack up a picnic and make a day of it! Remember to collect your map of the walk from the Auckland Museum Information Desk or print one from the Museum website.

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- enamels

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Phone (09) 815 1513 Fax (09) 815 1515
quentin.w@ihug.co.nz

Rroaring Forties

NZSP Conference in Invercargill: Good to see that there is a group already booked from Auckland. It will be a great event in one of the friendliest cities in NZ. Did you know it is also the most western NZ city? Not country and western - just western. Marianne Cole from Adelaide is the star turn, with Michael Michaels (Rangiora) and Yi-Ming Lin (Christchurch) completing the demonstration team. There will be a raku firing and a salt firing, so bring bisqued pots. Lawrence Ewing will be there demystifying glaze technology and there will be a couple of strange firings to commemorate Dave Barr, who was to have featured but sadly died a month or so back. Check out www.nzpotters.com or phone the Centre.

From Creative NZ:

On their web-site are the Guidelines for the 2005 Asian Residencies. Once again the opportunities are for a three month residency at either the New Delhi Sanskriti Residency (anytime between Sept 05 and April 06), and the Beijing Red Gate Gallery (only between Oct and Dec 05). Both residencies are for writers and visual/craft/object artists (including curators). For more information please contact: Assistant Arts Advisor, Arts Services, Creative New Zealand Phone: (04) 473 0880
Email: info@creativenz.govt.nz

exhibitions

Royal Easter Show 2005

If you want to take part in the exhibition or shop at the Easter Show this year then please contact Phyl Humphries on 489 5546. There is a 25% commission on sales and you get to display your work to thousands of people over about a week. Delivery dates are 17, 18, 19 March.

Masterworks

"Black and Quiet" John Dawson at Masterworks Gallery (Ponsonby) opening 16th March at 5.30pm. Exhibition runs until 2nd April. Ph: 378 1256

Waiheke Community Gallery Ceramics Exhibition and Award.

The deadline for submissions is Monday 11th April and applicants need to send a slide with a matchbox placed next to the object to be submitted. Bronwynne Cornish will be selecting from the slides on the 14th and 15th and we will notify the chosen applicants on the 22nd April and works will need to be in the gallery by the 29th.

Object Gallery

Superstrata: a John Parker ceramic installation, 22 February - 12 March
John Parker has been working solely with white glazed and formally rigorous forms since 1997. Rather than narrowing his practice, his decision to work solely in one colour has opened up numerous formal challenges and possibilities, as can be seen in this experimental installation. He explores layering white on white, overlapping textures, interactive glazes and competing shapes within the white tonal continuum. John proposes that by extending these ideas beyond their logical conclusions, the aim is to take the artist and his audience outside their normal comfort zones of accepted definitions of beauty. Superstrata is an AK05 event.

Pots of Ponsonby

"Recent Soda Fired Work" by Jeff Oestreich. Missed the show at the Green Gallery? Here's your chance to see one of America's finest potter's work. Opens 1st March until 19th March. Ph: 376 0145

Art Station

Go and see Rhonda and Lois' latest creations at 1 Ponsonby Rd. On until the 11th March

NorthArt

"Focus - 3 Ceramic Artists" Brendan Adams, John Roy and Robert Rapson. On until 20th March, Northcote Shopping Centre. Ph: 480 9633

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Write for more details to:



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