



ASP NEWS March 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

MARCH IS A BUSY MONTH

Three events to get involved with

1. Members' Night. The first social event for the year. This will be in 3 separate parts starting with a 20 minute launch of the revamped ASP Website. Tony Bacon has been working very hard bringing our website up to date and it is now full of information, photographs and current news. It is a huge job and Tony has introduced all sorts of attractive paths through the site. Following that we will have a feast of wonderful photos and commentary about a 6 week walking tour covering the pick of the Italian landscape from Cinque Terra to the Amalfi coast. Stuart Newby has taken some stunning photos as he strode briskly through the Italian landscape, ate course after course of glorious Italian food and drank carafes of local wine. And finally if there is time there will be a 10 minute video of an interview with Peter Lange that an obscure TV channel set up. We will cater for the evening with some wine and a small taste of Italy. Bring a koha.

Thursday 20th March at 7.30pm sharp. By all means bring some Italian wine.

2. Our first school for the year. Wellington potter Richard Stratton who has just held a sell-out teapot exhibition at Anna Miles Gallery (pictured right) has agreed to do a one-day school at the Centre dealing with Printing on Clay Stratton-style. It will be from 10am - 4pm on Sunday 23rd March (yes we know it's Easter Sunday - but it's the only day we could get him). It will cost \$30 and a shared lunch. I am sure he will be happy to deal with other aspects of his work which is increasingly sought after and acclaimed. Best to book but we will not turn anyone away - just good to have some idea of numbers.



3. Grand launch of the movie "Passion For Fire" and a red carpet moment for Barry Brickell at Hauraki House Coromandel on 19th and 20th March, 8pm - with an opening by "The Bees". It's a documentary film about two potters : Barry, and Bob Kingsmill from Canada, filmed by the award-winning Jim Elderton. Tickets are available from Driving Creek Railways (www.drivingcreekrailway.co.nz). There are ASP folk already booked for the first night and it will be left for members to organise this one in their own time. The chances of meeting everyone down there are very high - it's a small town and ASP folk will be at Driving Creek, the Easter Exhibition (see back page), or the pub.

So there you have it - a busy month. Ring the Centre for any further information

Breaking News:

"Porcelain without Tears"

A porcelain throwing school with John Dawson of London, who is visiting here for a month or two. John is well-known both in the UK and in this country for his skill with porcelain, and he will guide you through the pitfalls that trip up many of those taking on this difficult clay for the first time.

Limited to 16 students (hands-on)

Two Sundays: 6th and 13th April

10am - 4pm, shared and sociable lunches. Fee \$60 for 2 days. Bring your own porcelain or buy it here.

But book now!!

ASP news

Peter Lange

As this goes to press there is news of two of our members being selected for a prestigious ceramics exhibition in Taiwan opening in July. Peter Collis (skeletal bottle) and Onlie Ong have been selected by 7 international judges to be part of a group of 115 exhibitors from 58 countries, and here's the kicker in line for a \$US50,000 first prize!! That would be a very valuable feather in a new expensive designer cap. Good luck to them.

Closer to home and less pleasant - we have had to re-source our clay stocks after an unsignalled 47% price increase for some of our stoneware stock and an alarming quality glitch with some terracotta, which came out light buff instead of brick red. So at the moment we are in a state of flux, trying this and that, still hoping to maintain a NZ source but more and more tempted by Australian clays for their competitive price, consistency and variety. It seems that as soon as a NZ clay comes in to focus someone

has a bad story to tell about it - bloating, thixotropic, cracking - and we are left bewildered and increasingly clayless. Our shed is getting empty. A good reason for our students to squash 9 pots out of 10 and recycle the clay. Yeah right.

What about wood-firing? Any sort of firing? Are there carbon footprint problems that we are sweeping under the hearth rug? Do we have to plant a forest each year in the King Country to cover our Onehunga carbon debts? These are questions that I am throwing at you partly because they are problems that need to be thought about, and also because I really want to provoke someone into writing to the newsletter. Especially someone who has a few facts. Is this too embarrassing for studio potters to confront are guilt-edged pots on the increase?

Here's an interesting Italian website: <http://www.silviazotta.com>.

Also: Artists in Eden: www.mounteden.co.nz/shop/arts/artists-in-mounteden/

There's a show of art at Tauwharanui Regional Park this next week (8-16th March) Fantastic venue, good cause (predator-proof fence) and some big-name sculptors and painters. I am sending 3 garden seats (1 pictured below). A great day out at the beach and a chance to view or buy good NZ artworks.

See you at the Members' Night - many wonderful Italian scenes, the new web-site unveiled and plenty of ASP folk to keep in touch with.

And of course book now for Richard Stratton's workshop - it's a one-off unexpected treat and we'll take as many of you as want to come along.

Diploma course

Suzy Dunser

After a summer of anticipation, the Diploma Course has begun, and I can already tell it's going to push me in all the ways I need to be pushed. Our tutor for the studio practice module this term is Andrew van der Putten. He instantly dumped me (and possibly some others) out of my comfort zone by designating white earthenware the clay for the course. No more eternal fiddling with shape - it's get it done now, or watch it collapse before your eyes! Andrew's focus on detailing has also got us all riveted, and we're looking forward to hours of fun trying to make our handles, spouts, lugs, etc. look halfway as good as his.

The students in the studio have varied throwing experience. For those of us

still struggling to establish some control over the clay, Elena Renker is helping out with basic throwing tuition; for the rest of us, Andrew's demonstrations are a reminder that the real trick is to loosen up again afterwards...

For the other papers, the first years are getting some guidance from the old hats as far as dealing with Glaze Technology, although I have to confess I felt behind even before I started.... we'll see how that develops! The second years are having a lesson in brain aerobics with the text issued for the history class, which was bound upside down and backwards... And our devoted Camp Mother is looking into getting some locally-based life drawing into the drawing course.

Overall it should be a very interesting, stimulating, and challenging experience! For those of you contemplating doing the Diploma Course in the future, or just interested in what we're all going through, watch this space, as I'll be reporting regularly on what's happening through the year.

Duncan and Charade

We're in the 'new' India, a tag given to this city of Pune. Also home to the Ashram of the sex guru Rajnessh. We see the blissed out Westerners at lughtime, wandering down the road, heading straight for the coffee bars. I guess you can have too much of a good thing. The psychic vibes from the Ashram are luckily not affecting our students, as we are teaching nearby, and Charade would've had to beat off the 15 Indian women from these tantric sessions.

The course we're teaching is a beginners pottery class - 8 days straight, each day 8 hours long- these Indians are demanding!!! We go home knackered after dealing with a hundred wobbly thrown pots, or cracked candle holders. But it's good fun, and we're seeing and hearing of a different India. For instance the recent racial slur of an Indian cricket player against an Aussie, calling him a Monkey, was misheard by the Aussie media. It was a much worse insult - but in Hindi, it just sounded like 'monkey'. So now we're learning all these swear words so we can abuse the crappy rickshaw drivers when they try driving us in the complete wrong direction.

We took a 3 week jaunt around Gujarat and Rajasthan soon after arriving in India and were in turns, shocked, amazed, appalled and bewildered.

The density of people in Bombay has



to be felt (preferably in a 2nd class commuter train carriage at rush hour) to be believed. The ex-Portuguese colony of Diu was delightful and quite a relaxing tonic.

The western biased town of Puskar was fun, had great coffee, but we couldn't get out of there quick enough. Jaisalmer is like the camel wild west, great shopping (especially from the back of a camel) and a beautiful fort that's sitting on top of a sand pile. Jodhpur has an even more magnificent fort and half the town is painted a beautiful Brahman blue. In all our travels the only pots seen have been a few country potters water pots. No studio pottery.

Tomorrow we're off to glaze all the pots in a nearby pottery studio that has 12 street dogs roaming around it, left overs from the next door dog orphanage. We will let you know how it goes if we survive the rabies!!

We had fun today, we bumped into some local country potters on the way to yet another erotic temple (we're in the erogenous zone of India - Khajaruho). They were making the common water pot. So we explained that we were potters too and so they invited us to have a go. The wheel turned out to be a clay wok sitting on a small metal wok sitting on a marble slab. To throw a pot involved using this device as a turntable and making as much of the pot with the wheel spinning slowly. Only at the end did a damp rag help you to form the rim (the only finished bit on the whole pot). It was then set aside to dry a bit before being paddles out to the final shape. It was bloody hard!! Both Charade and I had a go - the clay was some local dirt really - sticky and short. The locals had a laugh at our expense. But it was good fun. Then they asked for money.

(These journeys must be coming to an end soon - we'll miss the reports, but it will be good to see them back - Ed)

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Anagama Firing

Helen Perrett

Over the weekend the Anagama had its annual firing and it seems to have gone really well. Over 25 ASP members got involved and worked in shifts through 3 days and two nights stoking the beast with a small mountain of firewood (thanks Mike for the cutting and stacking). During the week leading up to the firing Jo-Anne, Kathy and some other volunteers undertook the delicate puzzle of stacking.

Thanks to Jo-Anne's huge input of time and her organisational skills, everything went smoothly; it's a huge job making sure everything is ready and co-ordinating the 7 stacking and 16 stoking shifts. Despite the complications of some heavy rain everyone seemed to have a good time. We had a great team of pyromaniacs, some of whom didn't even have any work in the kiln! Now looking forward to opening it and pondering

the results.

We'll have more details next month.

AGM

This will be held next month - all the details for it will be in the next newsletter. You may be interested in being on the ASP Committee; please get in touch, through the office, with the present Committee for more information. It would be good to have fresh input.

Trien has almost completed the accounts for the Financial Report and she is looking quietly happy.

There will be a Centre report and the usual formalities, plus a good morning tea and time for informal discussion about the ASP. Maybe it's time for someone to produce a small publication on the last 25 years. We've achieved a lot in that time and it should be recorded.

Recipe:

Suzy Dunser

Roast Beetroot Salad with Haloumi and Walnuts

(This salad works equally well with a mix of beetroot, pumpkin, carrots, etc.)

- 4 large beetroot
- 3 large red onions
- 3 large pears
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp balsamic vinegar
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 - 1½ cups walnut pieces
- 4 - 6 handfuls mixed salad greens

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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.

Free:

C.C.G kiln no longer produced, was widely used by the NZ Education system. Kiln size 90x72x76. Weight 150-200kg 7 to 8 kilowatts - 230 volts, single phase. Phone Pam 445 3068

For sale:

11 cuft FE gas kiln in good condition, includes pyro and gas bottles. \$1500 Phone Sue 8188813

For sale:

Gas kiln 30cuft, FE 4 burners, basic and big and a real goer. \$800. Phone the Centre 6343622

exhibitions

Pots of Ponsonby:

Last chance to buy pots from this famous co-operative shop - the lease is ending and the doors will be closing at the end of the month. Sale weekend 15-16th March. Phone 3760145 for more information. There will be an article about this historic shop in the newsletter soon.

Coromandel Exhibition

Our dates for our Easter Exhibition: 15 - 24th March and the film showing is on 19 and 20th March 8p.m. at Hauraki House Gallery, Coromandel.

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COROMANDEL
easter exhibition
→ opens saturday 15 march @ 5-8pm

Barry Brickell,
Tom Elliott, with special guests
Mairin Elliott, Sue Pidgeon &
Mike O'Donnell, Chris Ingraham
Erik Drundson & Jenny Shearer

Hauraki House Gallery | Kapsinga Road | Coromandel
15-24 March 2016

artist Dante Marioni: an elegant black Reticello Vase, a red Mosaic Vase and an exquisite reticello White Acorn.

We have also received an outstanding new citrine Passage from Emma Camden and an Envelope Pod from Dominic Burrell's new series.

Objectspace

www.objectspace.org.nz

"Redefining Agility: craft/science/sport." 1st March - 5th April.

NEW MEMBERS

This list is only from late December - it is not necessarily perfect and there may be some old members re-enrolling after a break, but welcome to you all anyway

Fiona Garlick Carol Brenner
Jill Guillemain Sally Picot
Ken Twist Desiree Hirner
Gudrun Frerichs Louise Dentice
Melanie Paterson
Kathleen Graham
Linda Holloway
Vince Kobylarz

Mireille Vreeburg
Bronwyn Jones
John O'Leary
Tracey-Anne Watson
Michael Lund Sally Trolove
Becky Cameron

Membership numbers seem to be increasing - we now have incentives like 10% discount on normal retail clay prices. And this newsletter comes straight to your letterbox each month. It would be good to hear from you ... write us a letter or an article or send a photo of your latest pot.

From page 3....

balsamic vinaigrette salad dressing, to taste

150-200g block haloumi cheese

Preheat oven to 220°C. Place cut up beetroot in a shallow roasting dish. In a separate dish, place onions and pears. Divide sugar, vinegar and oil evenly between the two dishes and mix through. Spread out evenly in a single layer in each dish. Bake for 40-50 minutes, stirring a couple of times until vegetables are tender and all liquid has evaporated. Bake walnuts in a separate dish for 12-15 minutes. Allow to cool separately.

To prepare the haloumi, cut into strips and dust with flour, then saute in olive oil until golden on both sides. Allow to cool and then cut the strips into bite-sized chunks.

To assemble the salad, toss the vinaigrette through the salad greens. Mix together the beets, onions, pears, walnuts and cheese, and either pile on top of the greens or mix through. Serve immediately.

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