



**This is your last newsletter if you haven't paid your subs!!**

## GET OFF YOUR BATTS AUCKLAND POTTERS!

This chance won't come around for at least 10 more years; it may never happen again in this format. It's right here - no travel costs, 7 international and national demonstrators, lectures, discussions, food, music, firings.  
[www.unitec.ac.nz/unitec/conferences/the-big-smoke](http://www.unitec.ac.nz/unitec/conferences/the-big-smoke)

Take your pick:  
**Very smart throwing techniques:**  
Gustavo Perez (Mexico)  
**Computer-aided ceramic design:**  
Tavs Jorgensen (UK)  
**Pop Art sculpture:**  
Michael Doolan (Australia)  
**Figurative terracotta:**  
Carla Ruka (NZ)  
**Elemental wood-firing and throwing:**  
Linda Christianson (USA)  
**Amazing slip and sgraffito decoration:**  
Paul Maseyk (NZ)  
**Exuberant stoneware and stories:**  
Mike O'Donnell (NZ)  
**Weird kilns:**  
Peter Lange and Duncan Shearer (NZ)



All running concurrently but plenty of space and time to move around and talk to other potters and check out the trade stalls - morning and afternoon teas and lunches all provided.

The speakers are very diverse and interesting: from Taiwanese polytech people to Moyra Elliott talking about her experiences setting up an international exhibition in Taiwan, various potters and artists from Australia and NZ, and finishing with Denys Watkins, senior lecturer in painting at Elam giving a slide show (yay!) about ceramic work that has impacted on his life.

### A Day With **PETER COLLIS**

Places still available in this one-day hands-on Master Class with one of NZ's best wheel throwers. Peter also has had a lot of experience in the business of potting and professional studio practice, and he will be happy to talk about that during the day. This will be a day of fun and learning, lavish food supplied. Thursday 31st March, 10am - 4pm.



*Put a ring around it!!*

## Playing with Fire:

**Peter Hawkesby, Denis O'Connor, Graeme Storm... and The Book**  
*Suzy Dünser*

Friday evening 11 March saw the opening of *Playing with Fire* at the Gus Fisher Gallery: the launch of the ASP 50th anniversary book and three retrospective exhibitions of important potters in New Zealand's ceramics history.

"*Playing with Fire: Auckland Studio Potters Turns 50*" was introduced by its creators, Peter Lange and Stuart Newby. For those of you who haven't seen the book yet, it is fantastic. There are stunning photos of gorgeous and important pots and potters, as well as shots of life at ASP; interviews with key figures at ASP and in NZ ceramics; and essays by both potters and art critics exploring the past and future of pottery and ceramic art.

Although the work in the three exhibitions is very varied, they serve collectively to remind viewers of (or introduce them to) groundbreaking work that has happened in pottery here over the past decades.

Peter Hawkesby and Denis O'Connor travelled the United States together in the late 70s, absorbing influences from potters there, and then later shared a kiln on Waiheke Island, developing their own methods of colouring clay and glazing, which they applied in their own distinctive ways.

Peter Hawkesby created both functional and non-functional pots, imbued with an incredible expressive freedom that captures the energy and intensity he put into them. Thirty years later they still radiate life, and have a lot to teach those of us who are possibly a little too much slaves to technique.

Denis O'Connor's show covers two very different bodies of work, thrown vessels and handbuilt sculptures. There are similar themes and symbols that run through his work, regardless of the form, so that a bottle or jar may carry a similar message to a carved slab on the wall. In a twist on what might be expected, it is Denis's thrown pieces that are looser, with vivid colours and captured movement. His sculptural work is meticulous and architectural, and dispels any thought one might have had looking at the pots that these were made in a casual or unconsidered way.

Graeme Storm is possibly the most subtly radical of the three potters. Look at Denis O'Connor's or Peter Hawkesby's work, and the departures they have made from functional pottery are obvious. But Graeme Storm's forms are classical and precise, and the glazes he uses are ones that we are now familiar with. But the key word in that sentence is "now." Remembering the subtle palette that was not only accepted but demanded at the time that he was producing his intensely coloured pots, allows for an appreciation of the way he paved for those who came after to take chances and explore other directions from the Anglo-Oriental philosophy that had dominated until that time.

*Playing with Fire* will be showing at the Gus Fisher Gallery at 74 Shortland Street in Auckland until 30 April 2011.

(We have Graeme Storm catalogues for sale at the ASP: \$10 each)

Email about our book *Playing With Fire* from Justin Paton (senior curator Christchurch City Art Gallery and author of "How To Look at a Painting") .... *"writing from Sydney, where we've fled quake stuff. The green vase survived (but the Lucie Ries didn't). Anyway, the book is wonderful! It really feels like a generous bountiful celebration, with its critical wits about it though. Great photos. I am honoured to be up front .... Top work, is all I'm saying. Reading, I wanted to join the ASP."*

From Roger Blackley Senior Lecturer, Art History, Victoria University: *"It's a very handsome production and I'm sure you and your colleagues are feeling very proud of it. I was really chuffed to see how Warren's work had been given such prominence. And I wrote to Justin Paton to enquire about the fate of the little green John Parker vase in the Christchurch earthquake and it is safe and sound in the Chch Art Gallery!"*

*Peter Hawkesby teapot*



# PLAYING WITH FIRE

The one book about Auckland Potters that you should own. 320 pages of entertaining and provocative writing and beautiful photographs. Featuring Justin Paton, John Parker, Bronwynne Cornish, Denis O'Connor, Marilyn Wiseman, Barry Brickell, Peter Lange and many others.



It's here, it's been launched and it's very popular. As ASP members you can buy it for only \$55!! Save \$20. Great as a gift for family and overseas friends, birthdays, and one more for your own bookshelves. We have had a swag of complimentary emails congratulating us on this landmark publication. Get it from the ASP now.

## NOTICE OF

## ASP AGM

17th APRIL 2011

9.30 breakfast - 10am start

### ASP Centre

The Agenda will be:

- 1.0 Attending:
- 1.1 Apologies
- 2.0 Minutes from the last AGM
- 2.1 Matters Arising
- 3.0 Financial Report
- 4.0 President's Annual Report
- 5.0 NZSP Report
- 6.0 Centre Director's Report
- 7.0 Election of Executive
- 7.1 Committee
- 8.0 General Business

There will be a generous breakfast of croissants and fruit provided.

With this newsletter you will find nomination forms for the new 2011-2012 ASP Committee - details on the form. If you feel able to put some time into the running of the ASP please contact the Centre.

**We are setting up the roste for this year's "SATURDAYS AT THE CENTRE" It's good fun, it's easy, you get work done, you meet all sorts. Please get in touch if you can spare a Saturday every 3 months or so. We need more people urgently.**

## Help!!!

*Trien Steverlynck*

**Exhibition Labour:** 2 extra persons to come to ASP to help with loading and then unloading on 28th March. Help for opening night.

We could do with more helpers on weekends especially the first weekend Sat/Sun 2nd and 3rd April, the more we have, the shorter the duty.

**Conference Labour:** Thursday to make all material ready (clay, wheels etc), Friday for bringing everything to Unitec and setting up the venue. Need lifters and cars with tow bars for trailer to bring equipment from ASP to Unitec.

Sunday night clean-up gang, putting everything back and bringing material and equipment back to ASP.

**Conference Promotion:** Spread the word.

**General:** Anyone who can be on call for whatever job would be appreciated.

I'm compiling the volunteer list, so please! we want people.

**Emails to:** thebigsmoke2011@gmail.com the easiest way to contact everyone (and also the phone number). The phone at ASP is often engaged and the messages are not as frequently cleared as the emails.

We are very grateful for all your help - it's a big event and so many people are giving their time voluntarily to make it a big success. Thank you.

## Cone 5 Down

The Cone 5 Down group had its second meeting of the year this past Sunday, and we are starting to see some really promising results from our tests - both for ourselves, and also for the glazes we would like to have available for everyday use in the studio. Next we will move on to testing those glazes, to make sure they're stable and food safe, and to see how they layer with each other. We will probably wait until later in the year to launch them, to make sure we have everything right. The group remains open as always for new members, so if you are interested in joining please e-mail Suzy Dünser at [suzy@dunser.com](mailto:suzy@dunser.com).



*Firing the raku in the middle of the city*

## From the Director's Desk

Renton Murray

I had a dream, a bad dream and it almost came true. I have been worried for some time that our ancient drainage system would pack a sad right in the middle of the BCDO or the Conference. And just a month out from the conference it happened. I don't need to give you all the details but we got to the bottom of it (I couldn't help that) and one new expensive pump later we now head into the future awaiting the pathetic pipe to crush again with the tree roots. It's not an easy

fix, road closure, traffic management plans, apart from actually getting a permit from our landlord the Auckland Council. Heigh ho another round of of circular phone calls.... start with Metrowater, transfer to Auckland Council drainage and in 20 mins or worse end up with the first person on the switchboard back at Metrowater. Mustn't grumble, think of Christchurch and now Japan.

But back at base the ASP slips along. We have a visiting potter from the US and he's doing a great job of pugging the scrap clay. We now have good stocks of soft recycled clay, thank you William.

With the Auckland Arts Festival and the upcoming conference we have openings aplenty. The opening at the Gus Fisher Gallery combined with the ASP Book Launch

was a good evening. Wonderful pots by Graeme Storm, Peter Hawkesby and Dennis O'Connor deserve a revisit. Also the "Parkers of Ponsonby". Richard P at Object Gallery and John P at Masterworks. Really good exhibitions to visit. The book launch though is our major event and it's selling well. It's a one print run only so when it's gone it's gone. Peter and Stuart should be very pleased with themselves, a huge effort.

We now have a new raku kiln for bigger

pots, donated by Wendy Ronald and rebuilt by our Marx Bros team and it's almost ready for use. The smaller raku kiln had a high speed dash on the motorway into the city for a "White Night" performance. An enjoyable evening, parked on the footpath outside the Gus Fisher gallery eating wood fired pizzas and firing the kiln. Expertly run by Joelle only one pot blew up and the on-lookers were impressed by the results and the general 'buzz' of the raku spectacle. It would have been a truly miserable night had it rained.

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## EXHIBITIONS

**A lot of amazing exhibitions this month - take a day off and see them all. Here is a very brief review of what's on ....**

**Corban Estate Arts Centre:** From March 4th "The Deep End of the Mud Hole" - a group show of ceramics by resident artists at the Corban Estate; some have never touched clay before, some have been potting for many years. From wet clay to shards. In association with the Big Smoke conference.

**Objectspace:** Richard Parker - "Master of Craft". A retrospective show of rarely-seen Parker works from the last 40 years. This must be seen by anyone interested in ceramic art. Until 7th May, then touring NZ for 3 years.

**Gus Fisher Gallery (Shortland St):** Three seminal ceramic artists in one gallery! Denis O'Connor, Graeme Storm and Peter Hawkesby in a rare retrospective exhibition. This is another event to go with the Big Smoke convention.

**And still more - a feast of ceramics!!**

**Masterworks:** John Parker "Testing" until the 27th March. Followed by Kate Fitzharris and John Crawford, two of the South Island most celebrated ceramic artists, opening on the 30th March.

**Whitespace (12 Crummer Rd):** "Clay Paint": Ceramic Group Show, opening on 29 March and featuring Jim Cooper, Madeleine Child & Scott McFarlane. More amazing South Island artists.

**The Depot:** 28 Clarence St, Devonport. "Chalk and Cheese" ... two very different ceramic artists show their work side by side. Suzy Dünser and Lois Jameson are both first-time exhibitors and their work has very little in common except their love of clay. This will be a really interesting show - functional and non-functional, minimal and maximal together. Opening Saturday 26th, 3pm, and runs to the 7th April.

And of course ....

**Mt Eden Village Centre (cnr Mt Eden Rd and Ngaruhoe St):**

NZSP Exhibition - some of this country's best work being shown right here in the heart of Mt Eden. Opening night Friday April 1st 7.30pm until late - live music, wine and nibbles, a great night out. Come and see the first major exhibition in this newly renovated space.

## CLASSIFIED

We are a fairly new workshop in Mt Eden specialising in sculpture supplies, clay, tools, moulding materials, courses etc. We would like to offer a 10% discount to all members of ASP. Contact:

www.sculptureworkshop.co.nz  
33 Altham Ave, Mt Eden. Ph 09 815 3398  
kylie@sculptureworkshop.co.nz

**Wanted:** Someone to make unglazed terracotta containers for bread/ potato storage to fit in a kitchen drawer. Approximate size: 300 x 400 x 200 mm high. I need 3- 6 pots and would get lids made in wood. Pots would need to be made to size specifications. Please contact IK2 design: veryan@ik2design.com

**2 Spaces available** in a warehouse pottery studio near Mt. Wellington. Suitable for either glass casting or pottery. Access to 10 cft electric kiln with glass controller, slab roller and electric wheel, slip tables, and extruder. Each space is approximately 20 sqm. Large roll up door for easy access and outlets for other kilns. (Would consider a gas

kiln if it was needed by tenant). Also shared office space suitable for small gallery. \$60 per week. Contact Tom Barter at 021 416 438 or email Tom at tileart@ihug.co.nz

**Cookbook adjustment:**

*Suzy Dünser*

I've been made aware that there is a tiny flaw in the Creamy Chocolate Fudge recipe in the cookbook, namely, that there is no note stressing the importance of accurately weighing out the amount of marshmallows. (But there is a reason the recipe says 90g and not 100g.) Fortunately, if you do make the mistake of thinking it doesn't matter if you add more marshmallows, the resulting chocolate toffee is pretty popular with children.

So here is a little lesson in fudge technology, in ceramic terms. The three main ingredients of the fudge are the condensed milk (the flux), the chocolate (the glass former), and the marshmallows (the stabiliser). Basically you need just the right amount of marshmallows to keep the fudge from running, without making it go too hard. If you have a gram scale, and use it with the same rigour as for mixing your glazes, everything should be fine. Conversely, if you are a confident baker and hesitant about mixing glazes, let this be a reassurance that there is really nothing trickier about making glazes... you just have to wait slightly longer to get the results of your tests back.



**Chalk & Cheese**

Meanful and functional ceramic work by  
**Lois Jameson**  
and  
**Suzy Dünser**

Saturday 26 March - Thursday 7 April 2011

Opening 3:00-4:30pm  
Saturday 26 March 2011

Depot Galleries  
www.depotartspace.co.nz

28 Clarence Street  
Devonport, Auckland  
Phone: 09 863 2831

## ASP CENTRE

**Opening Hours**  
Monday - Thursday: 12.30pm - 5.30pm  
Friday: 12.30pm - 4pm  
Saturday: 10am - 4pm  
\$3 per hour (includes after class time)  
(up to a maximum of \$9 per session)  
Centre Director: Renton Murray  
6343622

### NEWSLETTER

Editor: Peter Lange. Phone 6306942  
Please send any copy or photographs to  
lange52@clear.net.nz

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