



ASP NEWS May 2003

The Newsletter of the
Auckland Studio Potters
Society Inc.
ASP Centre
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Studio Opening Hours

Monday	12.30pm - 5pm
Tuesday	9am - 5pm
Wednesday	12.30pm - 5pm
Thursday	12.30pm - 5pm
Friday	12.30pm - 4pm
Saturday	10am - 4pm

Remember to pay \$2.00 per hour up to a maximum of \$6.00 per day

Weekend Glaze Workshop.

Ann Crane

With Lawrence Ewing, NZSP Travelling Potter. To say that I have had an ambivalent relationship with the complexities of glazing is somewhat of an understatement, chemistry never was my strong point; however that is now all in the past, thanks to the skills of Lawrence Ewing, Senior Lecturer at Otago Polytechnic.

On the Saturday morning, following a brief introduction into glaze blending techniques we divided into smaller groups to carry out a quadraxial glaze test, the aim being to observe the results in a base glaze of decreasing or increasing the amounts of silica and aluminum. These were fired overnight.

After the usual substantial ASP lunch Lawrence presented what was widely observed to be the most logical and straightforward lecture on the principals of glaze technology any of us had heard. One could positively hear the pennies dropping as the process of identifying the matrix of oxides present in glaze materials (and their behavior) was skillfully presented.

The following day began with a visual presentation of the use of the computer in glaze making. Lawrence has developed his own glaze programme,

Matrix, over the last 10 years or so in conjunction with his role as a tutor at Otago to assist students to begin taking control of their glazes. His programme is now widely used in many countries although he tells me there is considerable reluctance among the established potters. I had to wonder if it was because a glaze programme does seriously demystify the process; knowledge being power and all that or was it a natural reluctance to incorporate contemporary processes into a practice with such strong historical influences, one wonders what Leach or Hamada would have made of it all!

In the afternoon we were finally allowed to examine our fired test pieces, and from only 4 base glazes the range of results was incredible. Lawrence discussed these in terms of fluidity, opacity, etc and to observe the actual results of the basic chemistry theory given the day previously was really useful.

That Lawrence is a very skilled teacher was evident, his presentation was without any distractions, his enthusiasm and knowledge were shared generously and delivered with a gentle humor. To quote one member of the group "I wish I had come across this way of thinking 20 years ago, great information, great teacher, thank you Lawrence," and thank you Creative New Zealand.



Members' Night for May.

"These Are a Few of My Favourite Pots"

Wednesday night 28th May 7.30pm.

Members are asked to bring in their 3 favourite pieces from their collections and be prepared to exhibit them for a couple of hours, chat about them and spend time enjoying other members' selections. This will be a great chance to see strange and obscure pots rarely seen in public, and it will be interesting to see who collects what and why.

We'll provide supper and a comfortable and warm venue. It would be sensible for those bringing pots to bring them by 7.15pm – feel free to come even if you're not bringing pots. You are all welcome.



super special

Special deal for family and friends of the ASP. The Monday evening class taught by Ian Axtell needs you and to make it even easier we are offering a special deal of an all inclusive package. The first 3 people to respond to this ad will get the class plus a bag of clay all for \$140. Only seven classes left - book now!

General News:

Peter Lange



The AGM produced only one real change in our operation – the “Associate” membership category has become superfluous and the AGM agreed to delete it from the constitution. It had an historical relevance but the problem is that it tends to undermine the “Full” membership, without any real justification.

From Renton in Minnesota: “I am helping with wood kiln...Linda Christensen and friends.... we need some cricket rules Peter.... can the bowler be up in the air when ball is released ? provided of course he is behind the crease [bowling or popping crease?] all very vital to the firing...please reply soon as we have a game going and the Yanks are winning. Its Kirk's cruise missile that's doing the damage, but as I'm running in 2 directions I can't help but be rum out. That's run out but the rum sounds good.”

It reminds me that there are many similarities between cricket and pottery. The list of similar terms and expressions is very long. Consider these: “bowl, bat, pad, throw,” and leaving aside terms like “maiden”, the list goes on: “run, slip, wicket”, and of course, that peculiarly Kiwi term, “collapse”.

NZSP are establishing a record of potters stamps and marks. If you can send any information about yours or others please contact the NZSP at www.nzspotters.com.

Congratulations to Shannon Boyd, one of our regular casual users at the Centre, on her recent marriage ... she potted in Canada and now lives her with her NZ husband. Well done, and all the best to you both. See you at the “Favourite Things” evening.

WESTERN POTTERS SUPPLIES

FOR ALL MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

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

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President's Report:

Wally Hirsh

We have just had another big weekend at the Centre. A packed glaze school starring Lawrence Ewing from Dunedin Polytechnic and a well attended AGM. My thanks to all who took part in both events. It shows a healthy and lively interest in the activities of our Society. Our web site is recording a phenomenal number of hits and if you haven't struck it yet do give it a go it's www.ceramics.co.nz. The site is full of great information and it is updated regularly.

I am pleased to announce that we had a full ticket of 10 nominations for the new executive. The following were elected to office for the next 12 months.

B r e n d a n Adams, Graham Ambrose, Lex Dawson, Wally Hirsh, John Pirtle, Ray Pitcher, Chris Southern, Trien Steverlynck, Ngaire Wallen and Jenny Williams.

The committee will appoint the President, secretary and treasurer at the regular monthly meeting later in May.

One of the more worrying things reported at the AGM is the ever increasing demand on our financial resources. As I said in my report there will soon be a need for some serious fund raising. Watch this space because it really will have to happen soon. Meanwhile you can all do your bit by supporting our classes and other activities such as weekend work shops, by paying all fees in advance, by participating in our small projects such as the greetings cards scheme, our forthcoming ASP Tshirtz project and other mini projects as they arise.

We are a co-operative organisation and one which is giving so much pleasure to so many people. But our costs and our needs are increasing. Please put your shoulder to the wheel and help keep us moving on the road to even greater achievements. Your increasingly active support will be needed and when we launch into serious fund raising in the near future we will need everyone's help. Meanwhile keep on potting.

Letter from the Japanese Consulate:

Dear Duncan and Peter

Thank you for all your assistance with organising the lecture and demonstration by Hideo Kobayashi. Without your contribution it would not have been the splendid event it was. I hope that the opportunity arises in the future when the Consulate General of Japan is able to work with the ASP again.

I wish you all the best for your upcoming projects.

Tatsuo Mizumo



Kiln kitted out and ready to move into – literally

Congratulations to you all! (*By setting up the Diploma course*) you at last have accomplished what we set out to do all those years ago, it has taken some time but you have had the courage to bite the bullet. I'm sure it will succeed ! Please give my congratulations to John Parker who was an early Director, he also must be delighted.

Regards, Ruth Court. (Ruth is one of our Life Members and instrumental many years ago in setting up the ASP Centre and the Fletcher Award)

Brick Folly

The brick kiln/furnace that is being demolished for the new Grafton Gully motorway, and was mentioned in the last newsletter, has just been earmarked by the urban archaeologists for a token restoration. The few remaining bricks will be restored by Fletchers into a semi-sculptural shape relating to the original furnace, and it will be situated in a pedestrian area near the new road.

ClayBiz Report:

Deb Addis

Claybiz 2003 Convention started with a bang. On the Friday 3 busloads full of potters headed off in different directions around the Nelson province for a fun filled day in the sun. That evening the "Ignite" opening of the NZSP national exhibition was held at the Suter gallery. The stunning array of work was well complemented by the fine Nelson and Marlborough wines.

A great start to a weekend of visual delights. Over the next two days there were demonstrations from 12 of New Zealand's top potters, who were more than happy to impart their knowledge and studio "gems" to the amassed crowds. Saturday night's dine and dance was a great success. Aside from more fine wines and great food, it was a great time to make new friends. The superb music from the 3-piece band meant that the dance floor was well used. Hats off to the Nelson group for a thoroughly well planned and pleasant 3 days.

The Anagama Kiln:

Duncan Shearer

By the time you receive this newsletter we will be counting the last few sleeps before the maiden firing of the new Anagama kiln. We are firing the kiln on the 16th, 17th & 18th May and everyone is most welcome to come down and admire the huge cloud of smoke, under which a team of hardy, sleep deprived stokers will be creating a mini Dante's inferno inside the kiln. After this initial firing, we hope to fire the beast up again at the end of June. So please, if your interested, tell me and then I can plan wood cutting days (made much easier with the new chainsaw and wood trolley) and kiln stacking.

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MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30 am-5pm

Canadian Connection:

Kathryn O'Regan

Hello from Perth! I have been here for a week, travelled by train from Sydney. Weather is a baking 40 degrees - never thought it could be too warm but.... it just is. Thank you to everyone, I could not have asked for a warmer introduction to New Zealand. You live in a jewel of an island and the memory remains strong with me. I'll soon be at Sydney College of the Art, then with Janet DeBoos at ANU. Gudrin Klix at SCA says the ceramics department is quite small now, more interest in glass and other areas than in the past. Please give my best to Duncan and I expect we will bump into each other at Bendigo. Hope my slides turn out of the kiln building as I plan to incorporate them into my presentation to our members on return. Also would you pop a note into your next newsletter: I would like your members to know how much I appreciated their own personal enthusiasm about working in clay and the interest they showed in my work. Although I told many of them that they have an exceptional opportunity (your facility is just great), it is something we just do not have in Vancouver. A place

ASP New Members

Welcome to:

Shameer Jasani,
Susan Browne,
John Whitehead,
Sue Lavender,
Wendy Penney,
Steven Chinn,
Rebecca and Duane Thompson,
Trudi Butscher.

like yours just does not run that well unless there are exceptional people like you, Duncan, Lois and many others working together as a team - Good on Yer as the Aussies say. I will write again,

Irish Connection:

Dave Hannaway

Hi Peter & Duncan. Greetings from a very cold and wet Ireland. Just a short letter to say thanks very much for your professional attitude and enthusiasm that was given to me during my visit to your pottery. I was totally inspired, great to breathe again such a special and spiritual place. It will be a memory never erased, hopefully in the nearfuture I will see you guys once again. Until then, keep in contact, thanks once again.

William and the Outlaws visit an Archaeological Dig ...

"I don't see what use findin' bits of broken pots is anyway." William said scathingly. "I could give 'em lots of broken pots out of our dustbin, if that's all they want. Our housemaid, she's always breakin' pots. She'd've made a fine ancient Roman, she would. Seems to me these ancient Romans wasn't much use in spite of bein' cracked up so - spendin' all their time breakin' pots."

"They didn't," said Henry exasperated. "The pots only got broken with bein' buried."

"Well," said William triumphantly, "think of that - buryin' pots! 'S almost as silly as breakin' 'em. Think of a race of men like what the ancient Romans is supposed to have been, spendin' all their time buryin' pots ... I always knew there was something fishy about those Romans."

From "William in Trouble" by Richmal Crompton.

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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.

ASP T-shirts:

They're on their way!! Only \$25 each and they will be modelled at the next members' evening on the 28th (with a bit of luck) by Rachel Cruise and Tom Hunter.
Kiln wanted: single phase, 3 – 4 cu ft, for school. Contact Paddy on 6242153

For sale:

Smit 1 cuft.- brick electric kiln - free to good home. Digital thermometer, suitable for kiln - \$95 - Graham - 480 0642

5 cuft electric kiln, 3 phase, front loader, used twice only, very good condition, trolley. \$2,500 Phone Mrs May 5273918 or 021978477.

Cowley electric wheel. \$400 Phone Evelyn 6246508

Gas kiln, 11.5 cuft, brick-lined, 4 burner, easy to fire, good condition, includes shelves and pyro. \$2,000. Phone Lorraine Firth 4834285.

"Paragon" Touch'n Fire 800c, computer controlled, firing space: 330mm x 390mm. \$1500. Phone Ginny 4318782 or email tod-jackson@maxnet.co.nz

Floor Looms for weaving rugs. One rimu (Bartlett): \$1,500; one pine (Janes): \$1,200. Phone Sarah 6259895.

Gas kiln: Elecfurn, 17cuft, will need new burners. Can be viewed at Devonport. \$800 ono. Also some shelves to go with it. Also for sale: Fine mesh silk screens suitable for transfers. Phone Michael Lucas 4466112.

As one lot: Rexmark Gas kiln about 12 cuft, rangehood, Talisman wheel, kick wheel, lots of glazes. \$2,500. Phone Irmengard 09 424 7081 or email wohlfa@xtra.co.nz

Electricians:

Electricall Ltd are experienced in kiln installations. They have installed our Centre kilns and do a great job. Phone 6365031.

exhibitions

Tribal Structures

An exhibition of Buildings and People by Peter Lange will be held at 16 Carrick Place, Mt Eden, from Friday evening 16th May at 6pm (opening), running for 11 days until 25th May, weekends 12 noon – 5pm and weekdays 6pm – 8pm. There will be 10 substantial indoor slipcast pieces and one 2 metre high brick garden sculpture. Phone 6306942 or email: lange52@clear.net.nz

Indoor Bowls

Ron Sang is holding a Group Exhibition of "Bowls" by some of New Zealand's most prominent potters at his home:

Graham Ambrose, Graeme Storm, Christine Boswijk, Len Castle, Peter Collis, and Linda Forrest.

It opens on Saturday June 7th 1pm – 4pm and continues for only one further day: Sunday 8th 10am – 4pm. This will be a special event. 11 Glenfell Place, Epsom.

Pin Up II

Masterworks: On Monday 5th we preview Pin Up II exhibition at the Viaduct Gallery. There are around over 40 brooches or pins all made especially for the show - it is a fabulous selection!

Pots of Ponsonby

Helen Adams in the window
11th to 25th May

Lee LeGrice in the window
25th May to 8th June
298 Ponsonby Rd, Ph: 3760145

events

STOP PRESS!! The wonderfully successful and inspiring Glaze Course given by Lawrence Ewing will be repeated. Titirangi Potters have asked him to come to their rooms in June, and so those of you who missed out will have a chance to enjoy the school. He makes glaze theory simple and the computer programme is a wonder to operate. 'This is horrible. I'm suppose to be concentrating on what I am doing, it's not working. The treasure chest, opened over the weekend, ended up with more questions than I started off with, such is the nature of learning. Questions will be answered or they'll be worked through as time progresses. Thanks for organising such an in-depth educational.'

Bob Johnson.

ASP Exhibition:

VIP Date: 7th September 2003

Please mark this Very Important Date in your diary/calendar (Yes you will forget to do it later) This is the day by which you must have completed your work for the Mairangi Bay Exhibition "Fire and Clay", which is in fact the ASP Exhibition held at the Mairangi Arts Centre.

That means you have 15 full weeks to complete your work. So start designing, making, firing. Last year the numbers were great – this year they will be even better. The Exhibition is open to all members (not a member? not a problem, sign up now – only \$50 pa and lots of perks) Experienced Potters – you know the format. New/less experienced/less confident/"but I've never done this before" potters – keep your best work over the next few months and enter it. Each member can submit up to 4 entries,

which can include 1 "set" and 1 "not for sale". All work must have been made by you in the 12 months prior to the show.

So, in essence, yes, you can do it, yes, you have time, and yes, I am talking to you. The venue and the dates (15th September – 12th October) are set. I will be checking next month to see how you are doing.

Jenny Williams – Exhibition Officer

Great News

Chris Weaver is coming to the ASP in August for our Winter School Double Banger. He is one of New Zealand's finest potters. It's going to be a feast for throwers and domestic-ware makers, and we will incorporate a salt firing in the 2-weekend mix. The enrolments will be limited to those who register early, who will be superseded only by those who actually pay.

Mould Making (and using) Class with Nicky Jolly.

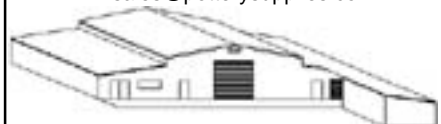
Limited to 12 students (only 4 spaces left) \$80. This introductory course is all about moulds and what you can do with them. Nicky is experienced in making moulds from original shapes and textures and then using them in creative ways. Learn the basics of mould making and then how to use them as press moulds. Includes free plaster of Paris.

4 Wednesday Evenings 11th June – 2nd July, 7-9pm

Timbertank

Remember Tim Currey who won the Fletcher Award in the 90s with a wonderful white sculptural form? He's not potting a lot at the moment but instead builds wooden water tanks for major installations. He reckons potters are handy and flexible people and he's looking for hammer-hands to go out of Auckland for a few days or a week at a time and build tanks. Must be good with a hammer, happy on tall ladders and ready to have an interesting time; and there's money too. Phone Tim 8200385.

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