



ASP NEWS May 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
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of depression, addiction and mental illness which when combined with often banal occupations like lawnmowing and boat sanding made for some really funny and emotional stories. He is a high-energy expressionist in clay, and while he has had the experience of learning under such famous potters as Wally Keeler and Mo Jupp, he has been able to make his own path and produce highly original work. The irony of that statement is that his favourite expression, after he'd seen a technique that he really liked, was "I'll have that". And he would take it and change it to suit his own work. Good experience for us to have him around for a few days (the obligatory trip to Coromandel thrown in) and good company too. I get the feeling he'll be back – he's got his eye on the vast canvas of Karekare beach.

We had an impromptu Capping Ceremony at the Centre recently when Anne Hudson and Charade happened to be both here at the same time and we were able to present them with their Diplomas in Ceramic Art. (photo left)

This month's members' evening is going to be another cracker, and we're all geared up for it (refer above: cupboard, blue cable and tape). Duncan and Charade are presenting a visual tsunami of images from their year's travels – too many for one evening so split into two night. This month's instalment is "Europe". They travelled widely through less-frequented parts of Europe, with the focus on wood-firing and making pots, so that combination will be a really interesting one. It will be great to see you there. We will repeat the \$5 koha – it is reasonable that the presenter gets a small gift from the ASP and we need to cover our catering costs as well - supper provided, glass of wine. Friday May 23rd at 7pm, all equipment guaranteed to work.

The classes are full again, the new 30 cuft kiln is operating, we're about to reinstall our renovated test kiln, so all the systems are working well. The most vexatious area right now is the clay stock. We have decided to limit our clays to seven types: Abbotts "Stoneware" (replaces their Southstone, a buff stoneware), Abbotts "Sculpture", Abbotts "Brick Red", and from Clayworks (Australia): JB3 (a white stoneware), MFQ (white earthenware), White Raku and Raku Red (Heeneys). THAT'S IT. It has become too complicated and prices have been going crazy, especially from Nelson Clays (their Nelson White has shot up to \$55 retail! When I questioned the manager his argument was based on the prices we were getting for the pots we made from it. I wonder how much Van Gogh's paint would cost based on this arrangement?). All prices will be calculated in the next week and we'll have them on the wall of the office. There will still be a 10% discount for ASP members. Sadly we cannot guarantee price stability— shipping from Australia has doubled in the last year alone. So it's not just luxuries like food and petrol and rent – it's also essential things like clay. By the way if you dig a hole in your back yard you may just find some down there – it's where it comes

AGM

This was well supported, and the agenda went without a hitch thanks to Michael's fine chairmanship. The Treasurer's Report (the highlight of any AGM) was cautiously optimistic; thanks to Trien for getting it all beautifully presented. The new Committee is the same as last year except for the resignations of Trien and Jo-Anne who have both become Centre assistants (and a vote of thanks was moved for their work on the Committee) and they have been replaced by new faces Stuart Newby and Jacqui Brown. More thanks: to Tony for his work on the website, to Lois for her cleaning and to the Centre staff. See you again next year.

Centre News

The evening with Simon Carroll was a very entertaining and enjoyable time. It's a pity we had only 2 days notice and so those without email missed out, but conversely I guess the 30 or so online members who made it can be thankful that they were able to get there. Our technical set-up with the new digital projector was found to be pretty hopeless but thanks to two Tonys and two Mikes and a word or two from Duncan we made it in the end, and we (Renton and I) have learnt from the experience and already have a new foolproof system in place that involves a cupboard, a cable (blue) with strange plugs and a roll of duct tape.

Simon and the audience were very patient, and finally we were all enthralled by the DVD of his sand drawings on the beaches of Cornwall (go to YouTube and search "Simon Carroll") and the images and stories of his life, which has been a pretty colourful and at times difficult one. He has had times

from you know. So just dig until you hit a plastic bag.

Sad news from up north. Nicky Jolly's husband Chris has recently passed away and we send her our love and sympathy. Nicky and Chris had resettled recently at Kerikeri and Nicky has been making pots from there. We wish her all the best.

Howard Williams has been doing a lot of preliminary investigation into the ex-Centrepoint land and buildings which are under review at the moment. They would make a great Arts Centre if the North Shore city buys the land, but they will be under pressure by developers for commercial gain. We're hoping that there might be a possible connection between the ASP and the old pottery workshop that used to operate from the complex. It is a large building with a couple of big kilns and other equipment that would take a little bit of tidying up but are essentially in good shape. It would be a shame to see this beautiful pocket of bush go the way of a lot of the North Shore, and turn into another bland housing development. And there's an Olympic size swimming pool to dive into after a hard day at the wheel to refresh and wash the clay off at the same time.

Monster Slide evening

After a year away travelling and 6 weeks recovering, Duncan and Charade are ready to un-leash the Mother of all Slide Shows. We've taken pity on our audience and split the talk into 2 halves, Europe and India. On Friday 23rd May we'll show the first instalment, Europe, covering France, Eastern Europe and Poland. Even so it would be advisable to bring cushions and red bull energy drink. The evening will kick off about 7pm with refreshments so a koha would be appreciated. No need to book, just show up and hear what (mis)adventures they've been up to.

NZP request

Aimee McLeod

Our retrospective exhibition of 50 National exhibitions, held at the "Museum of Wellington, City and Sea" will last about 4 months, from 24th February- 28 June 2009. Our ideal aim is to have 1 pot from each exhibition. The later ones will hopefully be an award winning one, but as there were no awards in the early years (I think not until 1990) a representative pot preferably from a

'significant' potter.

From the early years, we may end up grouping by decade whatever we can source (eg one each of Helen Mason, Smisek, Stichbury, Oswald Stephens, Brickell, Castle, Blumhardt for the first, from the next decade, we'd love a Graeme Storm). If the ASP or any of the members can help locate some of these pots, that would be great. It would be helpful to get images, dates, and dimensions at the earliest opportunity.

Please contact Lesley Ranson,
lesleyr@paradise.net.nz
or Aimée McLeod (04)970 7093,
mazpots@paradise.net.nz

Breaking News!

The winner of the Website Error competition (after an official toss of the coin) was Elena Renker.

Mistakes: 300cuft instead of 3cuft kiln, John Dawson instead of Lex, in "Take the Tour" electric kilns identified as gas kilns

Utopia

Jim Innes

Nelson Golden Bay is the home to many well known and extremely talented potters and one of this group is Paul Winspear. After the Christchurch Conference, I was lucky to attend a week long workshop that he held in his studio which is 17kms north of Takaka.

The aim of the workshop was to teach you how to throw bigger objects. Paul specialises in large platters and bowls as well as the bread and butter small bowl and plates etc. He has some magnificent glazes that make you salivate with anticipation.

Five potters from Wellington were also at the course and the ability level varied from one girl, who became known as Goldilocks, who had never thrown before, through the whole gambit of talent to one of New Zealand's best known potters. Whatever your ability, Paul was patient and most helpful.

We each had a wheel, (Talisman but they lack the grunt for large work of the Pacifica's) and as much clay as you wanted. Unmitigated heaven. Paul makes his own clay and it is called ST&C, which stands for self throwing and centering. His clay is much softer than what we are used to at ASP although I must admit that Peter Stichbury has been telling me for years to use softer clay. It was an absolute joy to work with and it literally does self centre. No thinking about

whether you can afford another bag. Just over to the pugmill and run through a few more piles and away you go. At the end of the week I had literally no finger nails left.

The class was run on an informal basis in so far as you threw what you wanted to and Paul would help you. From time to time he gave demonstrations and was always on hand to offer help and advice.

At the end of a week, my throwing had notably improved as had also my turning and I felt that I had learnt a lot as we started at about 8.30am and most nights went through to 7pm.

All meals were provided and as Paul's wife, Robyn, is a keen cook, we had great feasts every evening liberally spiced with wine. They grow so much of their own produce and the vegetable garden has to be seen to be believed. There are lots of wild pukeko and it is a constant battle keeping them out of the vegetable patch. The weather was still very warm so lunch was generally served outside along with morning and afternoon tea. At breakfast, all the ingredients were there and you just helped yourself.

Accommodation was excellent with most of us having a room to ourselves. Paul and his wife also run a homestay so this was utilised.

After dinner we generally sat around discussing various aspects of anything that came to mind from lack of discipline in society to Half hearted Helen.. As Robyn is an ardent "greenie" this led to many interesting debates and whilst view points differed, it is always good to hear other persons opinions.

There is a local pub fairly close called the Mussel Inn and this serves 26 different beers, all of which are brewed on site. Three times a week there is entertainment but we never quite made this as we were having such a good time with our after dinner discussions although we did visit for predinner drinks. It is quite amazing how Wellington people do not realise that New Zealand stops at the Bombays. Needless to say, I have been barred from Wellington for the next 50 years.

We went and visited several other potters close by and there are many good artists also in the area so if you are interested in ceramics or painting, this is the place to be.

The cost for a week of tuition, use of all facilities, accommodation, three meals a day plus morning and afternoon tea, your own wheel and as much clay as

you want, \$580.

I am thinking of organising a workshop there for November or early next year, if you're interested contact ASP.

Jokes

I phoned the local gym and I asked if they could teach me how to do the splits.

He said, "How flexible are you?"

I said, "I can't make Tuesdays or Thursdays."

A famous ceramics collector is walking through the city when he notices a mangey cat lapping milk from a bowl in the doorway of a store. He does a double take. He knows that the bowl is an extremely valuable Leach work, so he walks casually into the store and offers to buy the cat for two dollars.

The store owner replies, "I'm sorry, but the cat isn't for sale."

The collector says, "Please, I need a

hungry cat around the house to catch mice. I'll pay you 20 dollars for that cat."

And the owner says "Sold," and hands over the cat.

The collector continues, "Hey, for the twenty bucks I wonder if you could throw in that old bowl. The cat's used to it and it'll save me from having to get a dish."

The owner says, "Sorry buddy, but that's my lucky bowl. So far this week I've sold sixty-eight cats."

Earth and Fire:

The History and Development of Japanese Ceramics

21 May 2008, 6.30pm

Presenter: Kelvin Bradford

Department of Asian Studies, Lecture Theatre B4, Business School

The History of Japanese pottery spans more than 10,000 years, dating from c.14,000 BC. It is often difficult for visitors to Japan to understand why pottery is so revered.

This Lecture will trace the crucial stages of development from the earliest Jomon era to the present day, noting particularly the introduction of the potter's wheel and Anagama kiln. Other topics include the importance of the Tea-Ceremony, Wabi-Sabi, events during the Muromachi and Momoyama periods, influences from China and Korea, Arita Porcelain (1616.), Mingei, Hamada – Leach (1926), Shino renaissance (1938), Sodeisha (1948), the Anagama renaissance and the effect of the pollution laws (1971). The lecture will be preceded by selections from a presentation given at Harvard University by Ryuichi Kakurezaki in 2006, which gives an extraordinary insight into a person who many believe is currently Japan's leading contemporary Master.

Kelvin Bradford is recognized in Japan as a leading international artist and acknowledged as an authority on contemporary Japanese Ceramics. He has held 20 solo exhibitions in Tokyo, Kyoto, Kobe and Kyushu, and given lectures and demonstrations. He has been featured on both Asahi and Fuji TV art programmes and is also an accomplished writer, publishing articles in NZ, Australia and writing regularly for "Ceramics Monthly"(USA) on the Japanese Ceramic scene.



Simon Carroll at the Waterworks, Coromandel

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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:

Electric kiln, single or 3 phase, good working order with controller, anything considered. Phone Paddy 6242153

Submissions wanted

Artists throughout New Zealand are invited to submit proposals for exhibiting at the Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens, a new sculpture garden being developed in 2008.

Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens is a tranquil, peaceful oasis set in gardens on a rural property looking out to the Kaipara Harbour. It will feature selected contemporary sculptures, created by established and emerging New Zealand artists.

The sculpture gardens are being developed in conjunction with Kaipara Coast Plant Centre which has been owned and operated by David Bayly from this site since 1988.

The site is being developed so that visitors to the gardens can stroll along the sculpture trail and find inspiration for selecting sculptures and plants to enhance their gardens and property while enjoying great views of the rural setting.

Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens will be promoting the sculpture trail as a visitor destination through visitor information centres in the North Island as well as the website, local radio and print media. You are invited to submit a proposal for a new or existing work(s), to be exhibited on a sale or return basis for a period of 3 to 6 months unless sold prior.

Contact: Curator Sally Lush:

Ph 09 420 4044 or 027 260 9486
PO Box 63, Kaukapakapa, 0843

Wanted

My name is Korena Calder, I'm 20, and I am a second year undergraduate student majoring in Fine Arts at Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, New Hampshire, USA. I am currently studying abroad at Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, in Brisbane, Australia for a semester.

I am interested in working or apprenticing (with or without pay) with a potter or pottery company in the South Island. My email address is calderk@franklinpierce.edu or korena.calder@student.griffith.edu.au.

To rent:

1/4 share of a large industrial warehouse at Unit2, 26 Bancroft Crescent, Glendene. \$150 per week. Phone John Hall 0211107668 or Joe Sheehan 0212018663

Opportunity:

My name is Barry Hall, and I have been in and around the manufacture of slip cast ceramics for the past thirty odd years. I am going to the UK at the end of May, and would be happy to represent anybody who may wish to have their products introduced into the NZ shop in London. There will be no charge for this, and they may make some money out of it!! Please phone 5758079 to discuss further.

exhibitions

Masterworks Gallery

Benjamin Edols and Kathy Elliott
8 - 28 May 2008

The artist partnership of Benjamin Edols and Kathy Elliott is considered to be amongst the most advanced glass

studios internationally. Their work has been exhibited in Australia, Japan, the United States, Germany, England and Italy.

Jewellery Box Sheridan Kennedy
8 - 28 May 2008

Like Edols and Elliott, May's Jewellery Box exhibitor is based in Sydney. Sheridan Kennedy has been creating jewellery for over twenty years.

Anna Miles 47 High St

Until 18th May "Limboland" featuring, among others, potters like Bronwynne Cornish, Richard Stratton, Marilyn Wiseman and Janet Green.

Art of This World, Devonport

ASP member and Exhibition award winner, Steve Bailey, has work in this gallery at the moment

Edge City

As good boy says to good girl: "it's the small things that count."

Edge City - at the green door 65 Old Mill Road, Westmere, Auckland.

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New ceramic work from Edge City by Louise Rive and Chuck Joseph. May 2008. www.edgcity.co.nz.

NEW MEMBERS

Hannah Ferens, Donna Sarten,

Susan Allen, Yvonne Van Baardwijk, Kim Hayman, Antal Kalocsai, Toni Cross-Dechannes, Bob Kay, Lorita Fifita, Becky Cameron, Sally Trolove, John O'Leary, Michael Lund, Jo Rice, Rebekah Hall, Tracey-Anne Watson, Bronwyn Jones, Lorraine Barnett.

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