



# ASP NEWS November 2004

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

## The Big Clay Day Out

This will be the fifth year for Auckland's largest pottery fair. So if you are interested in selling your work at the B.C.D.O. then please contact the Centre as soon as possible as we need to co-ordinate tables and space. The deal is a 25% commission, leave your work here and enjoy the day whilst our sales desk does all the hard work of selling your work, then bank the large cheque. The only other criterion to sell your work is that you will need to be a fully paid up member. We will again hold the market area inside the studio with all the other activities and food sales happening either in the courtyard or around the old house.



We are promoting the event extensively and hope for a larger crowd than last year. It will happen rain (likely) or shine (optimistic). Last year the sales desk alone took over \$13,000, so be in quick to secure your spot and then we will confirm details with you about quantities of pots and procedures. We also need volunteers to help both on the day and the day before. On Saturday the 4th we will be tidying up the place and preparing the studio, so any spare hours from members would be gratefully received. On the day we expect full attendance from all our members, their families, friends and vague acquaintances.

This newsletter will have flyers in it for you to give away in a generous manner.

## Guy Fawkes special

Sunday 7th November, from 6pm

Come and celebrate an archaic English commemoration that even the English have forgotten. This time we have a series of three firing events for your entertainment. Kicking the show off will be the ultimate solution to office paper work. We have discovered that with the right conditions, firing paper can be a combustible task. This is a must see for any potter who has worked in an office.

Second on our event list is the firing of Cameron's large pot. We hope to have had it preheating over night and slowly heating up during Sunday so that during the evening we can finish it off to about 1100. It will be a reversed engineered kiln, i.e. built around the pot and constructed from a mixture of brick and fibre.

To finish the evening off an historic, if not unique attempt to fire the ultimate in disposable, eco friendly kilns. No risk of lung diseases from this beast (although there is a remote possibility of drowning!) The ice kiln will last for a good while (about as long as a piece of string), enough time to bisque fire a pot. Each of these firings will be supplemented with fireworks according to our whim on the day.

So come along, bring friends and family, fireworks, food and drink. We'll have one barbeque up and running so another one would be useful.

We have been approached by the organisers of the Ellerslie Flower Show to take part in next year's event. But we need ideas of what we can do to promote the society and pottery in general. Waiheke Art Gallery currently runs a sculpture exhibition which includes some clay. So any novel ideas and suggestions would be gratefully received.

### Party at the ASP

This month Lopdell House is holding a 4 day school in the use of paperclay. It will end with a slide talk and social evening at the ASP so that our members can catch up with some of the content of the school and meet the tutors Nicola McLaren and Brian Staitte from Otago Polytech.

We'll provide light refreshment and music - BYO drinks, and we'll have a relaxed evening catching up with the latest paperclay techniques and other ASP members. Bring friends too.

Friday 19th November 7.30pm  
at the Centre

Also at Lopdell House this week is the Future Fired Forum from 10:30am to 4:30pm on the 6th November. Ph: 817 8087 for more details.



Bruce Martin demonstrating

## Centre News:

Peter Lange



Someone's stolen our plinths. We had a roomful of them at the Panmure Library when I checked on them in August, where they'd been for 12 years or more; by September they had gone! 35 or more of them up to 800mm high have been taken out from the store-room, past the Police Station desk and off to the blackmarket (don't buy a Black Plinth from a dodgy chap in a pub) or the nearest gang headquarters for their annual exhibition of patchwork. 32 hollow core doors we used for tabletops also went past the duty officer and no doubt off to be used in one of those new polystyrene mansions at Shangi La Waters. I'd taken those plinths in and out many times over the years, got to know them by name almost – there was plinth William and plinth Harry, the handsome plinth and the little plinth and so on. Pretty boring job carting plinths. It seems that someone on the council had decided to use the room and finding it full of “boxes” ordered them to be slung out, so we are asking the council to compensate us for them. Under the legal principle of “bailment” landlords have certain responsibilities which appear not to have been met in this case. We'll keep you posted and we promise no more jokes. On the other hand if you had 2 stuffed whales to exhibit what sort of stand would you put them on?

We're going to build an Ice Kiln on Sunday. I told a friend this and he was surprised that I would even consider building a kiln that wasn't nice. We're heading into uncharted waters – and so is the kiln I suspect – but we are confident of some sort of spectacle and it will be a chance to celebrate Guy Fawkes. We've got another couple of kilns to work on too, so bring family and crackers and sausages and something to drink. And maybe galoshes. Reminds me of the musical “Joan of Arc on Ice” in which the heroine not only burnt at the stake but drowned as well. Our new



New deck being laid.

courtyard should be looking smart by then so it will be good to celebrate that as well.

Classes are really full and busy. The Diploma students have finished the Studio Practice modules and you will be able to see their work on display at the Big Clay Day Out in an exhibition in the Band Hall next to the Centre.

We have a new (second-hand) electric kiln, about 1cuft, for test firings. That completes our family of kilns. Probably. It's good to have the set: 15cuft, 8cuft, 3cuft and 1cuft – a very effective combination. Also from the

same Primary school (giving up clay like many others) a Leach kick wheel which we will be happy to lend to the Art Gallery to be used by Hany Armanious from Australia in an exhibition/installation work that will be on show over the summer. It's great that clay is once again featuring in our main city gallery; doesn't happen very often.

Our new gas kiln is fantastic. I fired it in under 5 hours the other day by mistake; I got distracted by a block of ice or a plinth or something and dreaded opening it the next day but it was perfect with good reduction, quite even and cone 11 flat. That was a relief – it's a huge responsibility firing art for others, but I've found that most of our firing errors can be sheeted home to the student so they think it's their fault.

Getting close to the BCDO on Sunday 5th December. Bring out your pots! There will be lots to do and the Centre will be really alive with kilns and music and food and clay. Make this your Big Day at the Centre.

John Dawson is heading back our way in anticipation of our hot summer and will again be using our facilities for creating new work for a Masterworks exhibition.

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We have started planning next year's schedule of workshops and in particular the overseas guest. So if any members out there have some preferred ceramic performers could they let Peter or Duncan know so that we can start making arrangements. Also, talking about next year, a reminder that coming up in next months newsletter will be your subs notice - \$50 for a full year, \$80 for a couple.

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## Diploma

If you've been toying with the idea of signing up for the Otago Diploma course now it's crunch time. We need to start planning all the amazing tuition for next year and that requires an idea of the numbers of students. Either part time or full time options are available; come and join a great group of students. If you want to get an idea of the kind of work being made in the diploma course come along to the Big Clay Day Out where the students will be holding an exhibition.

## WESTERN POTTERS SUPPLIES

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- casting slips (white, terracotta and stoneware)
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- tools
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- ceramic colours
- glazes (transparent & opaque)
- on-glaze, glaze and body stains
- enamels

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## Anagama firing ahead

Duncan Shearer



The dates for the next firing are: loading on the 6th, 7th & 8th December. Firing on the 10th, 11th & 12th December. We already have a good quantity of wood cut, stacked and ready, but more chopping and stacking is always helpful. We even have a new chainsaw for you to try out. This time around we'll also be experimenting with some different woods, so far we have a little *Macrocarpa* and we are going to try and source a hard wood from our wood merchant. There are 10 names on my list and we need about a dozen or so members to make it work. We need two people per shift, 6 shifts a day, 4 hours long - do the maths and you'll realise that we need 12 people to stoke the evening, graveyard and dawn shifts. So when you sign up to have your pots fired in the most amazing kiln the ASP has, you're also committing yourself to a day shift and a night shift, plus wood chopping, kiln loading and a week of anticipation waiting for the kiln to cool down.

Give the Centre a call now to book your spot.



Peter Shearer at work

## ASP 40<sup>th</sup> Exhibition

Jenny Williams

Thanks to everyone who made the effort and the work to enable our exhibition at Mairangi Bay to be the success it was. In excess of \$14,000.00 worth of work was sold. I have had great feedback from every direction about the quality of the work, the range of exhibits and the calibre of the exhibition.

It was great to be part of it, the members who volunteered their time to help also found it to be a positive experience which added to their skills in assessing ceramic design and laying out an exhibition. It looks like next year's exhibition will be held in July (Mairangi Arts Centre have adjusted the calendar) and will run for a month again. So as a result of the exhibition being bought forward by a few months it is almost time to start thinking about it again. Good project for the New Year.

## Bruce Martin

Jeanette Shearer

Those who were not fortunate enough to get a place in Bruce Martin's weekend workshop were given a taste of what they missed at a slide showing on the Saturday morning. Not only did we see some of Bruce's work but the slides of Bruce and Estelle's experiences and impressions of the Japanese way including architecture, gardens and pottery put his work into context. His love for the wood firing process was evident as he described how the shapes and edges on a hand formed vase would catch the ash and create an unexpected flash on the finished work.

It was a pleasure to watch Bruce work. He is clear and precise in his movements which makes his hand building technique easy to observe but as with

all techniques what looks easy is not necessarily so when you attempt it yourself.

The Japanese way was very evident in his work. No slab rollers, sponges or sandpaper for Bruce! He cuts his clay to the thickness required pulling stretched piano or modelling wire over batons piled up to the required height. Air bubbles were removed by dragging one of these sticks over the surface of the clay with a downward pressure, which compacted and strengthened the clay. This was laid onto fibrolite boards and left away from direct sunlight but in a position so that air could circulate under the boards so the clay dried evenly. This took about 2 hours to achieve the required firmness.

Precut patterns were laid on and cut around with his favourite tool, a pallet knife worn thin through use. Freshly cut edges were scratched with a fret saw blade, slipped and joined. All joints were sealed with a roll of clay on the inside, every movement supported equally on the outside. With this same method he created dishes bowls and bottles both square and round. For a potter who hasn't made a pot for 4 years he hasn't lost his touch.

Thank you Bruce.

## A nearly new salt kiln

Duncan Shearer

About 5 years ago the ASP built a salt kiln, utilising the centuries-old firebox originally described by Emile Bourry and given his name ever since, the bourry box salt kiln served us well as a salt kiln. It has been fired a good number of times with a number of modifications to the firebox and is now on it's 4th throat. However, it is a hard taskmaster of a kiln, unforgiving of wet wood, or injudicious stoking. Some of the firings have reached epic proportions, rivalling the anagama kiln for duration. Having said that, fired with skill and really well prepared timber can produce a very beautiful 14 hour firing with amazing salt glazed results. In an effort to make the kiln a more pleasurable firing experience for all, we have resurrected the spectre of the diesel jet burner. We have now fired the kiln twice with a combination of wood and diesel and achieved a well cooked kiln in 12 hours with minimal use of both wood

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and diesel. We use wood to heat the firebox and ware up to about 800 degrees and then set the burners off and keep a light stoking going to maintain good heat in the firebox. This combination is easy on the workers and keeps all the qualities of a wood firing. So come and talk to the Centre if you are interested in hiring the wood/diesel salt kiln and we'll fill you in on the firing procedure.

## classified

### For Sale:

14 cuft Cotter kiln - \$1500, 2 X 60lb gas bottles - \$200, pyrometer - \$200, flue kit - \$100, 14 X 18"X12" shelves and props - \$100, Talisman wheel (excl. cond.) - \$500, Cobcraft kickwheel - \$100, Talisman sieve - \$100, pugmill - \$400, electronic scales - \$100, bats, chemicals, etc - \$100. Phone Peter Collis on 4809856

Home and studio in Glen Eden. Gorgeous north-facing cottage-style 2 bdrm home with large light warm studio and gallery space. Includes some pottery equipment. Phone Catharine on 8185858

### Pottery Library

Lot 1: 14 books "Beginners", Handbuilding, Throwing - \$140. Lot 2: 14 books "Advanced", e.g. Leach - Mary Rogers - R Wren - \$140. Lot 3: N.Z. Potter - 19 copies - \$30. Lot 4: Ceramic Review - 27 copies - \$55  
WILL NOT SPLIT Ph: Dilys 4139071

## events

### Pottery Expo @ Warrandyte

Sat 26 & Sun 27 February 2005 10 - 5pm  
Applications are invited from ceramic artists to take part in the next Pottery Expo at Warrandyte. Please send expressions of interest with images of work to be exhibited, by 30 November 2004. Images can be photographs or digital, by email. Send name, address, phone and email address to:  
Jane Annois  
Email: jannois@bigpond.com  
Fee of \$150 to be paid on notification of selection, early December 2004.

### ARTS SPEAK

Monday 1st November @ 7pm in the Gallery. Free Entry. Speaker: Kate Gallagher: Arts Adviser - Creative NZ.  
Topic: The role of Creative NZ and current special topics.  
Join us in the gallery to hear Kate Gallagher speak about her role at Creative New Zealand Arts Adviser for the Northern Region. Kate will talk about the special projects that she is working on: Creative Communities Scheme, Regional Strengths

Maurangi Toi, The Creative Places Award and general arts advisory work.

Kate has a comprehensive knowledge of the visual arts and brings a passion and commitment to fostering the arts as a professional practice. She has been a key player in establishing a number of arts initiatives including the recent CUBE ideas competition. If you want advice on projects, and to meet one of the key personnel from Creative New Zealand this is a great networking opportunity.

## exhibitions

### The Portage Ceramic Awards 2004

Go and see New Zealand's most prestigious ceramics award at Lopdell House Gallery. On until the 5th December, 418 Titirangi Rd

### Object Gallery

'Talking About' 30 October - 4 December  
Talking About involves a group of experienced 'players' including Don Bassett, Moyra Elliott, Ngarino Ellis, Richard Fahey, Bronwyn Fletcher, Louis Le Valliant & Rigel Sorzano, Sean Mallon, Anna Miles, Cushla Parekowhai, Elizabeth Rankin and Grant Thompson choosing an object and engaging in some in some serious and strong object-play through the medium of writing. The objects chosen by the contributors range from hand made ceramics to scientific instruments to ceremonial objects from a range of cultures.

'The Ring Project' 27 October through to Mid December

Jeweller Pauline Bern developed the idea for this project whilst completing a Creative NZ funded Craft/Object Residency at the Grey Street Workshop in Adelaide, 2003. Upon returning to Auckland Pauline reconsidered the resources available in her local environment. In The Ring Project natural and man made fragments from the Waitemata shoreline form the basis of her pieces.

'The Jar Known as Pinchmetight' October to Mid November

Is the name collector/maker Denis O'Connor has given to his collection of shards from pots that he made in the 1970s. Each of these shards has a story to tell and are complemented by two complete works from the same period now in different private collections. In Denis's story he makes a connection between his works and a ninth century Japanese Heian Dynasty masterpiece The Jar known as Pinchmetight. A separate element of the installation is a new work on slate by Denis entitled Pinchmetight.

Objectspace is at 8 Ponsonby Rd Auckland  
Open Tuesday to Saturday 10 to 5  
09-376-6216

### Masterworks

Pippin Drysdale Western Australia

Porcelain Vessels - Tanami Traces Series III - 2004 October 27th - November 13th 2004  
95 Customs Street West ph 09 357 6693

### Friends of Womens Refugees

have an annual - and magnificent - outdoor sculpture show which has previously been held in Genevieve Becroft's garden but this year is being held at the Fort Takapuna Historic Reserve, Narrow Neck, Devonport.  
Dates - 5 - 14 November 2004 10am - 4pm  
This exhibition has been curated by Helen Schamroth, it holds works from over 100 leading and emerging New Zealand sculptors, there is a small sculpture shop and cafe, and tours of this historic site which is jointly owned by the Department of Conservation and North Shore City Council. All proceeds to NZ Womens Refuges.  
It is well worth a visit. Write it in your diary as a "must go and see".

### 2005 ROYAL EASTER SHOW

ART AWARDS 24<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> March 2005  
Auckland Showgrounds

This year we intend to have Pottery and Glassware. These will complement the Spinning & Weaving, Chinese Fan Painting and the other Static displays.

All the display work is able to be sold through the Art Hall Shop.

Demonstrations times are available as well. If you would like to receive more information or be included on our Mailing List for the Art Awards Schedule please send your name and address details to: Robin Hill, Royal Easter Show, P O Box 260 14, Epsom.

### Green Gallery

'New Tableware' by Chris Weaver  
Opens 6 November to 28 November  
20 Cory Rd, Palm Beach, Waiheke  
Ph: 372 2891

### Pots of Ponsonby

Window displays: 'Gifts from Nature' by Carol Innes 24<sup>th</sup> October to 7<sup>th</sup> November  
Deb Addis 7<sup>th</sup> November to 21<sup>st</sup> November  
Leonie Clapham 21<sup>st</sup> November to 5<sup>th</sup> December

### Art by the Sea

'Colour, clay and Canvas' work by Brendan Adams and Lindsay Crooks. 6<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Nov  
30 King Edward Pde, Devonport.

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