



# ASP NEWS November 2007

The Newsletter of the  
Auckland Studio Potters  
Society Inc.  
ASP Centre  
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Renton Murray  
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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

## THE BIG CLAY DAY OUT

### December 2nd 10am - 3pm

The stallholders are all booked in - we may have one or two still available. Phone the Centre.

The foodies are gearing up - this year we have a new stall selling Asian food. Some of our Asian students have banded together and they will be providing their regional delicacies. Fantastic.

The sausages and the pizza and the morning teas will still be there. If any of you can find the time to make a cake for our morning tea stall we will be very grateful.

We'll be raku'ing, painting pots and giving folk a turn on the wheel. These are really hands-on activities and the public loves the experience.

Bring your family - there will be things for the kids to do - the lucky slippery dip (right up to the armpits in clay slip) and the catapult are popular.

It's all raising money for the ASP and a chance for the public to see what we do here. Not that we have a catapult out every day but it's just another way to have fun with clay.

There will be wonderful carol-singers at noon, the Cathedral choristers, and live music as well.

The range of pots available at the Pottery Sales area is huge - it's the perfect place to buy Christmas presents. 25 stalls with everything from a romatoff to a tagine.

We are organising a Prestige Lucky Dip - a more expensive version of the kid's one, without the slip so you won't get your Rolex dirty, and with extra special prizes of superior value.

And on top of all that this year we have .....

### THE GRAND AUCTION

### THE GRAND AUCTION

1.30pm on the same day at the Centre  
Here is the list of the potters who have donated work for this one-off auction ... this is the sort of quality line-up that doesn't come up very often these days. Bring your (rich) friends. There's a flyer with this newsletter.



Len Castle  
Andrew Van Der Putten  
Graeme Storm  
Rick Rudd  
Mike Donaldson  
Helen Yau  
Tui Morse  
John Parker  
Peter Collis  
Rod Davies  
Marilyn Wiseman  
Duncan Shearer  
Peter Lange  
Peter Shearer  
Lex Dawson  
Peter Stichbury  
Penny Ericson  
Graham Ambrose  
Barbara Skelton  
Ann Hudson  
Petra Molloy  
Sue Bridges  
Brian Halstead  
Elena Renker  
Renton Murray  
Alex Whyte

Look at our website [www.ceramics.co.nz](http://www.ceramics.co.nz) for excellent photographs of these pots. Spread the word by email to your friends. We need lots of people to be there on the day and look forward to a very successful fund-raiser. Our best potters have donated these works - that's a fantastic gesture.

### Subs

There is a subs renewal form enclosed with this newsletter. Please note that for about the sixth year in a row there has been NO increase in the fees! We have to thank the efficiency of the ASP Committee for that. We need to get your subs in as soon as possible and to make it easier this year we have included an option to pay by internet banking. Don't forget to add your name and "subs" as a banking reference.

## **Renton's ramblings:**

The month has been busy - always at this time of year the pace quickens. The Portage Award is on, the NZSP exhibition is on, the Diploma students have been assessed, lots of nail-biting and last minute firings. Our small trip to Driving Creek with Jeff Shapiro was good fun and his day at the ASP was great. I counted over forty students. Thankyou to the Portage Trust - having a potter from overseas is always interesting, and for me this one was fascinating. I couldn't stay the whole day which was annoying.

As I write the Guy Fawkes kiln is warming up. It looks like a cross between an old battleship and a pizza oven. I do feel it will be quite a while before we surpass the efforts of Duncan and his ladies of last year. But who knows - 24 melted wine bottles may be a whole new approach to recycled sculpture.

Congratulations to our Peter in celebrating the sale of two favourite brick and tile pieces to the Auckland Botanic Gardens. His lovely boat and the softly undulating lines of tent no 2 won't be coming home to Parker Rd - bugger.

BCDO out looms - less than a month away. See you then.

## **Duncan and Charade**

Hi all, we're spending the last night in Slovakia, about to head into Poland tomorrow. We spent today looking at one of the largest castles in Europe - it's one of the best I've ever seen; a large sprawling series of walls on a conical hill with beautiful autumn-coloured trees all around. We've been spending a little bit of time in the high Tatras - a pocket-sized clump of mountains that are up to 2650m high and full of yompers dressed in gortex and wielding German walking sticks.

Before that we hung out in Bratislava buying warm jackets and eating Chinese. The beer really is cheaper than water.

Kecskemet was great, the ceramic facilities are really good and it would be an awesome place to go and do a residency. Check out their website for details. They have a huge collection of amazing ceramics from 30 years of resident artists and we had a tour through all this with a large dready dog following us the whole time, the pots were on the floor and everywhere, and as the dog went past his coat dusted them.

Hi - Duncan away drinking. One of the guzs we met at Kecskemet told us a

funny story: Some potters having a few drinks over dinner in Kecskemet, mostly Hungarian, with an American husband and wife. One of the Hungarian guzs asked the Yank wife to give me your best pussy! pointing to his cheek. Pussy in Hungarian means kiss. They were suitably offended .. ha ha ha.

Running out of time, Charade

Hi All

We're in Luboradow, Poland, as part of a team of international and local potters at a symposium. We have 1 week to make pots, 2 days to dry them, 2 days to load a large anagama kiln and then about 7 days to fire it. We have over 3 tons of clay, a lovely but stiff-as-porcelain, a gritty stoneware (like SC50) and a really coarse high iron stoneware. The international potters here are: Robert Sanderson, Martin McWilliams, Nic Collins, SangWoo, Rebecca and us. Our studio is a large marquee out in the back blocks of Wroclaw, surrounded by trees and lakes. We are sleeping and eating in an old school house, luckily it is centrally heated and nice and cosy. The food is all catered for by a lovely local couple who killed 2 pigs a couple of months ago especially for us. So we have sausages for breakfast, lunch and dinner; Chris would love it here, every type of meat possible from a pig - and that's just breakfast - if you like potatoes it's also a culinary delight - but like Henry Ford and his colour choices for model Ts, you only get them mashed!

We have slide shows every night after dinner; Charade's was the quickest as she only had 5 photos. If you want to see what we're really up to (including the breakfasts), then check out this website which is updated daily with embarrassing photos.

[www.ceramic-center.eu](http://www.ceramic-center.eu)

## **2 Letters to the Editor!**

Sir,

As one of the defaulters unable to pick up my stuff from Mairangi - it's hardly my fault they weren't sold anyway - and with a bit of a defaulter's excuse being an overseas member, might I suggest that the next members' show be held downtown where I could pick them up more easily. Compendium is the major ceramics venue in Auckland nowadays, and, who knows, even the public might turn up.

Scorned of Waiheke

Dear Peter

Living down here in Nelson I always

enjoy receiving the ASP monthly news letter, it's good to catch up on all the news, and it's good to read about people that I know and meet through being an ASP member.

I can sympathize with the problem of people not collecting their pots after an exhibition has finished. When I was organizing the Franklin Arts Festival pottery exhibition, I had the same problem. So I inserted a new rule: that if pots weren't picked up the day the exhibition finished, they became the property of the Franklin Arts Festival. This solved the problem once and for all.

Adrian Bevis

## **Peter's Mumblings.**

The towel problems seem to have suddenly stopped and we're back to normal use again. Halleluyah!

Lois has a lot to deal with as Centre cleaner and (I hope she won't mind this bit) she is amazingly active, even though officially retired and at an age when most are putting their feet up. She never stops making ceramic work and always has bright and unusual ideas to follow up. So it's good to be able to help her by keeping the place tidy, putting all clay in the bath (not in the sinks!!) and not stressing her out about things like towels. She works very hard and is an equal and integral part of the Centre team. The San Francisco School of Art tried a social experiment years ago - paying all employees at the same rate of pay whether chief executive or cleaner based on the argument that everyone has only so many hours in their life-span and these hours should be given equal value. Not sure if the scheme is still going. Maybe they've now got 25 cleaners and they take it in turns to be chief executive and drawing tutors.

I was privileged to be asked to give a short speech at the launch of Peter Stichbury's book the other night at the Museum. I hadn't realised that I was going to be the only speaker apart from Peter so I focussed only on the special connection that we have with him at the ASP and didn't mention his work to any extent. Every day I go for a walk to the top of Mt Eden and that gives time to reflect on a random and unpredictable catalogue of topics - yesterday belonged to Peter. Often you judge someone else's work by comparing it to your own, the body of work you are most familiar with; certainly it is natural to compare your place in the scheme of things by using someone like Peter as a benchmark.

He and I have totally different approaches to clay. Peter has been a keen sailor and I think of him as the guy in the beautifully hand-crafted kauri clinker-built sailing dory holding a fair and true course straight down the harbour, every sheet and sail under control, enjoying the feel of the elements; the wind in the sails and the occasional swell.

I am the prat on the jet-ski, zig-zagging, doing doughnuts, falling off, endangering others, kind of going in the same direction as Peter but unable to just relax and enjoy a consistent course. I guess we're both heading for the same place, but I do tend to look with envy at the pleasure he is getting from that consistency and control, as I surface gasping for air once again.

We used to have seconds days at the Albany shop twice a year. Most of us would turn up with a bootful; Barry Hockenull set the record with a trailer load once. Peter brought pots in only once as I recall - two pots had stuck together. There may be a lot of secret hard fill in his drive but I doubt it.

Get out and buy his book – it is an excellent publication based around his fine recent retrospective exhibition at the Auckland Museum. Call in to the Centre on a Thursday morning and get him to sign it for you. It has been beautifully designed by Hannah Kerr, one of his Thursday students, and his close and warm connection with the ASP shines through in the book. A fitting tribute to one of New Zealand's best craftspeople.

Another book has been launched recently as well – NZ Potters' Marks, a catalogue of hundreds of marks from the last 50 years or so, which started life 20 years ago and finally got to press last month after a lot of hard work by various members of the NZSP executive. It is very comprehensive; marks have been

collected from every source. People have already used it, and it works – even if it meant finding out in one case that her treasured Len Castle pot was in fact made by some other L.C. She is trying her best to still like it. Another confirmed a beautiful small bowl she had bought from an opshop for \$3.99 as being Len Castle from the 50s. There are some omissions and I am sure that will be rectified in the next edition as the concept proves to be a useful one. The graphics will need to be improved for the next edition as well. Many are hardly recognisable as the real thing, being transformed from gutsy interesting impressions to hand-screwed line drawings. More photos may be a way to deal with this, but it may be a useful task for someone with design skills to take on before the next edition. Any offers? The NZSP committee has enough to do without me landing any more on them.

I am already regarded as being a bit grumpy when I objected to their demand that entrants in their excellent exhibition had to sign a disclaimer against damage to the work while at Webbs Gallery. Peter Oxborough and I many years ago agreed that we would boycott galleries that did not insure the work while it was on display for sale. It is simply unacceptable for any gallery which is taking up to 50% of the sale price to not insure work. That is their part of the deal. It is on their premises. Do they expect us to provide wrapping paper as well? Come in and wrap it for them? We at the ASP insure our members' work as a courtesy while it is at the Mairangi Arts Centre because they do not have adequate cover. That is a disgraceful situation and one I hope is reviewed soon. Anyway the upshot of my protest movement was that someone found out that Webbs were in fact insured and the extra paperwork was unnecessary after all. Turns out that I was

the only one who caused a fuss.

But it was a prestigious and strong exhibition anyway and a lot of credit must go to Margaret Bell and Howard Williams and the NZSP for the work they put in. Webbs have threatened from time to time to get involved with the promotion of studio pottery in Auckland; perhaps this will be the start of a regular arrangement.

See you at the BCDO. The catapult has been recalibrated. In our favour.

## In Memory Of Paul Tobin

Stewart Newby

I first met Paul when he was a 13 year old student at Glenfield College. I helped run a boys' club for young men who needed a bit of extra support. We provided an opportunity for young men to learn to surf and sail most weekends. These were both activities that Paul developed a life long interest in. At College he had a Science teacher who taught him to pot – one Chester Nealie.

Paul ended up shifting down to Driving Creek with Barry before setting up a small pottery in Colville. He also worked on and off with Warren Tippett who had also established a pottery in Colville. For a while they both came to Auckland and lived on Jeff Scholes's pottery on Te Atatu Ridge at Bethells. They built a wonderful Dutch oven wood kiln there. I ended up buying this pottery from Jeff and living there for 20 years. I kept in touch with Paul on and off over the years. He made wonderful pots. I especially liked his salt glazed plates with sailing motifs on them. He used to sail his pots up to Auckland to sell. He loved sailing but the pride of his life was his daughter Esther.

I knew Paul as a gentle, reflective person, a bit of a drifter really. When I reflect on my own experience of Paul I think of wood firing, a truck, a yacht, bamboo, the Colville Stream, sunshine and good waves. Good memories.

Thank you Paul.

## Housekeeping stuff

1. The new wheels have arrived!
2. We have a new digital projector!
3. We are not able to loan our plinths out to anyone anymore. They are getting tired and so are we. It's a bit of a mission to take them in and out of storage, and we would prefer to keep them just for ourselves.
4. Apologies for the dearth of pictures in this newsletter - lots next month.

## WESTERN POTTERS SUPPLIES

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- enamels

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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:

Someone to paint and fire names on 6" square biscuited tiles - need to have a fine calligraphic hand and a kiln.

"We are looking for someone who can paint names on the tiles and fire them.

I'll explain the purpose of it: we are in the process of founding a Dutch Museum Centre in Foxton and as a fundraiser we thought we could sell tiles with donors' names to display in the museum once it is finished. My idea is to have the name written in blue so the tile resembles a blue Delftware tile." Contact Yolande:

yvandewetering@rmpkf.co.nz

### Wanted:

Joanna Trezise is curating an exhibition on the New Vision Gallery to take place at Auckland's Gus Fisher Gallery early next year. The exhibition will be an overview of those years the gallery was owned and directed by Kees and Tine Hos (1965 - 1976) and Joanna is trying to locate pottery that was exhibited at New Vision during this period. If any of you have work purchased from New Vision prior to 1976 in your collection and might be willing to loan it for the exhibition Joanna would love to hear from you. Please phone her on 021-142-5235 or email jbtrezise@hotmail.com

## exhibitions

### Pots of Ponsonby:

"Mirrors etc" New work using Paua from Helen Cardow until 17th Nov.

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MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30 am-5pm

"Brave New Jewellery" Ceramic work  
by Sanae Shirai 18th Nov - 2nd Dec

### ObjectSpace

Homeliness: 13 Oct - 10 Nov

The Inside Story: 13 Oct - 10 Nov

### Signal Gallery

717 Swanson Rd.

'Slacker' by Gareth Williams until 17 Nov. To "slake" - to disintegrate by combining with water (Concise Oxford Dictionary).

Gareth Williams is looking at the processes of corrosion and decay but in fact these new sculptures of his are growing and changing by the addition of metal and crystalline salts.

### Wellington Potters

This year's Wellington Potters Assn annual exhibition "Ceramicus 07" is now on-line at [nzpotters.com](http://nzpotters.com).

Look for a link on [nzpotters.com](http://nzpotters.com) home page.

### Diploma Course:

The year is almost done and assessment time is here; lots of kilns firing and a few last-minute experiments throwing caution and salt smoke to the winds. We have only two places left for the course next year - it looks like one of our best years yet. Look at this line-up:

1. Andrew Van Der Putten - throwing and firing.
2. Toby Twiss - figurative sculpture
3. Marilyn Wiseman - throwing and slab-building.

On top of that there will be space in other weekly classes plus the delights of the other on-line courses: glaze technology, drawing and art history.

It's a great group, meeting once a week at the Centre and being pushed headlong down unexpected clay roads.

Get in touch now - don't miss out!!

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## President's Report

Michael Billington

Please excuse the brevity of this report as I will be compiling a more comprehensive report for the final newsletter of the year in December.

I would like remind all ASP members and friends that our annual Big Clay Day out is coming up on the 2nd of December and by popular demand there WILL be an auction this year. The auction will differ from past ones because it will be a much more substantial auction whereby pots donated by our most experienced and well known potters will be up for auction. This event will be well advertised and you will soon be able to check out the pots for auction on our website or at ASP. If you know of people who are collectors of pottery and who would like an opportunity to bid on some high calibre work please let them know the details.

Please feel free to contact ASP if you would like more detailed information.

If you wish to sell some of your pots on the Big Clay Day out please make sure you have made a booking at ASP to be assured of reserved sales table space.

## Botanic Gardens visit

Peter Lange

There is an exhibition of sculpture at the Auckland Botanic Gardens over the summer: the "Stoneleigh Sculpture in the Gardens Exhibition". It has opened already, and in spite of meagre publicity, it is a substantial show of 30 of the country's top sculptors and offers a pleasant hour's walk. I am happy to take an informal wander around with a group of ASP folk on Sunday 18th at 2pm. There are cafe facilities, and a lot of flowers and trees to see as well.

The work I submitted, "Campsite", has been purchased by the Friends of the Gardens for their permanent collection. That is a real honour for me and also for the medium of clay - it's not often seen in public places.

Their website is:

[www.aucklandbotanicgardens.co.nz](http://www.aucklandbotanicgardens.co.nz)  
Follow the link to the Stoneleigh exhibition.

The winner was Barry Lett with a wonderful scoria dog.

Just turn up on the day at 2pm. It's very easy to get to - turn off at the Hill Rd exit at Manurewa and it is just there on your left as you come off the m'way. I'll be in the foyer or nearby. Bring a picnic if you want.