



ASP NEWS October 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

SPECIAL OFFER!

The Bruce Martin School is over-subscribed, but we have a special deal for those who couldn't get in!! He will give a slide show and a one hour demonstration of his basic handbuilding techniques just for you on the Saturday morning of the school. It will cost you \$15 and will last from 10am - 12.30pm. After that the full school students will stay for lunch and individual attention from Bruce for the rest of the weekend.

No booking, be there at 9.45am to pay - the lights will go out at 10.00am.
Saturday 16th October - \$15 - morning tea supplied.



President's Report

Wally Hirsh

Our annual exhibition, the 40th actually, is another boomer. A great crowd attended the opening and if you haven't been yet there is still plenty of time to pay a couple of visits. My thanks again to Jenny Williams (Exhibition coordinator) and Lee Le Grice (selector). They did a great job, as did the usual group of helpers. My thanks also to all those who submitted pots. The exhibition is rich in diversity and that is a true reflection of our membership. If you missed out this year, please make a note

now that you will be in the show in 2005.

Development work continues at the Centre and thanks are again due to those who turned up for the working bee last Sunday. It was a bit like hard labour and I discovered my limitations. However the courtyard and verandah around the house will soon be in pristine condition. All of these improvements are for the benefit of all of our members. Please give consideration to helping at a future working bee. There will be another one before the next big event ...our Big Clay Day Out ...and what an exciting event that promises to be.

The new kiln has been installed and the kiln shed is now very up to date. Yes, ASP is a happening place. Most classes are full, membership is growing and improvements to our facilities are continuous. Adele and I are off to England soon to take in two family weddings but we will be back for the Big Clay Day Out. See you there. So all that's left for you to do is note the dates of future events, schedule yourself for a working bee and keep on potting.

Double Whammy Weekend:

The Annual ASP Guy Fawkes Fire-Up is on again. Sunday November 7th at 6pm for a barbeque and social time followed by at least 2 of the following special firings:

1. The World's first Ice Kiln - still a few teething problems (the last company that tried it went into liquidation), but we are very confident that we'll get a result.

2. A Firing Cabinet kiln. Our old firing cabinet is too big for the office and it's already full of boring old bits of paper so it's practically begging to be fired.

3. Cameron Williams's Big Big Pot - we'll take this one seriously and build some sort of kiln around it.

Any one of these kilns is worth walking across hot coals for, so to have up to 3 at one venue is a major event. Bring your friends, family, fireworks, food - we'll have a BBQ here and some sausages and bread. The new deck should be in place by then and it will be a wonderful way to celebrate that - a baptism of fire.

The day before that (November 6th) sees another celebration....

"Ceramics Today - The Future Fired Forum" is an all-day function which includes debate, discussion and food. To quote the publicity:

"This forum will focus on areas of potential growth and development in New Zealand ceramics. Join seven specialists with diverse viewpoints in a constructive debate on the very latest ceramics issues. Featuring Philip Clarke, Moyra Elliott, Peter Lange, Gregor Kregar and others.

How is the institutional infrastructure for ceramics changing? How should ceramics be taught at tertiary level? What is happening in the contemporary ceramics scene in Europe and Asia? Is there room in industry for ceramics? What is the role of community-based groups?"

This Forum will be held at Lopdell House, Titirangi, from 10.30am - 4.30pm. Registration of \$25 (\$20 conc) includes refreshments and lunch. There will be plenty of opportunity for participants to have their say about the issues, and it will be a very interesting day.

General News:

Peter Lange



There's a lot of activity around the Centre in spite of it being officially on holiday. We're re-laying the terracotta tiles that have been given a hard life in our front courtyard. They are quite historic and are not really pavers; Brian Halstead knows their history and has used them back in the 60s for what they were designed for ... as part of a pre-stressed concrete beam system. So they are going to be laid in an area designated as vehicle-free, and a new separate drive will come right up to the deck. The deck itself is about to be rebuilt - it's been a bit of hazard lately with loose planks; carrying boards of wobbly pots along the deck in the dark has been a treacherous business. So with the new courtyard and deck and some built-in seats, the outdoor area will be much more pleasant to use.

Our new gas kiln is underway as I type. We received a grant from a licensing trust and so we've been able to replace our old faithful 20 cuft (6.5 hours on the dot each time like clockwork) which is degenerating inside and rusting outside. Our hot water reticulation system through the flue works like magic too, so now we can squeeze all of the gas out of the bottles. We're setting a similar system up on the gas/salt kiln.

Matt McLean and his Stokettes from the Diploma class fired the anagama kiln to 1260C over 36 or so hours, with good results - some very big pieces too, and lots of toasty flashing. They worked extremely hard and produced work which struck me as being way above the Diploma level, more like Doctor of Pottery stuff, but good on them; they will have had an experience that not many student potters get these days. Next year's Diploma class is shaping up with Renton Murray doing a salt-glaze module and I'll be doing a slipcasting module - the third module is not finalised but we have a few quality options to explore.

The Season Of Ceramics (see flyer) is a concerted effort by a number of groups and galleries with an interest in clay to promote the ceramic arts for a specific time (mid September to early December) within Auckland, possibly on an annual basis depending on how this trial goes. We're involved; Lopdell House, Mairangi Arts Centre and many of our retail outlets are too. It is an ef-

fort to bring clay to the attention of Aucklanders and there is an extensive programme (some of it is in this newsletter) a lot of which will be of interest to our members. The Forum looks like a very interesting session and there are parties and exhibitions to beat the band. It would be good to see you at some of them.

We send our best wishes to Ennis Oliver - he's had a spell in hospital and we wish him a fast recovery. He was missed at the setting up of the exhibition; he's always been on hand to help out. We send sympathy and best wishes to our president Wally Hirsh whose mother passed away recently. On a happier note our members have had success in a couple of exhibitions: Ann Grantham won the main prize at the Lincoln Green Sculpture Award with a figurative piece, and Lang Ea got in to the final 30 of the Wallace Awards with one of her "Bombs" and that group of works will also exhibit at the Dowse. As well as that, Helen Clark came up to her and said complimentary things.

Luo Xiao Ping taught here a year or two back and he has sent his website for anyone interested in his latest work. It's www.xiaopingstudio.com. He has had the confusing honour of having one of his pieces bought and then presented to George W. Bush.

Look at our website if you get a chance - Duncan keeps it up to date in a very disciplined way. What it lacks is your input - we have space for members to have their own page: photos, sales, blurb but not many takers so far. There's a map to show the viewer where you are. We get many hits every day according to the spy satellites that know these things and a lot of contact with people all round the world.

There will be an anagama firing in December. Before that we'll need to cut and store wood, using our new chainsaw. Members interested in this amazing experience should contact the Centre and

put their names on the list. More details as time goes by.

The local kindergarten has sent us their old piano - all clubrooms need a piano. It's in need of a tune and a couple of strings - if anyone out there is a piano tuner or knows of one please get in touch. There is one person in every class who knows the first 2 bars of Fur Elise and all the rest know Chopsticks. It will be useful at the Big Clay Day Out when the Leach Boys perform.

Talking of music it's good to see Bob Dylan has his autobiography out - check it out in your local library, but you might have to look in the fiction section.

Have a good month.



Fire and Clay

Kathy Baird

Auckland Studio Potters 40th annual exhibition opened on Wednesday, September 22nd. The days before the opening were busy with members delivering their pots on the Sunday and the next two days devoted to selection and setting up. Stands were cleaned and paint produced for touching up the

nasty spots. Thoughts of painting the display stands with stripes were soon dismissed and the final result was a darkish grey providing a pleasant background for displaying the selected pieces. While some members were busy sorting out the shades of paint, and some strong individuals were hauling the large and very impressive sign into place, others started arranging the work of the two guest potters, Rod Davies and Toby Stafford. This was a wonderful opportunity to spend time becoming familiar with the forms and textures of their pieces as they were placed and replaced to create a pleasing cohesive display. Setting up the diverse group of pots from the members proved a greater challenge. However, on Wednesday evening we saw

Continued on page 3

that this challenge had been skillfully met.

A large crowd turned out on Wednesday evening for the official opening. As promised there was music, food, wine and, of course, lots of great company. After a few short speeches our selector, Lee Le Grice, presented the five merit awards. Lee spoke about her reasons for choosing these entries and how the pieces spoke to her in different ways. Congratulations to the merit award winners: Simon Leong, Gaeleen Morley, Anne Hudson, Heather Bell and Jeffie Mulder. We were all treated to a great variety of work, sculptural pieces, functional pots and everything in between. Like the potters who made them, some sat quietly waiting to be noticed, others shouted for attention and naturally there were those with a little attitude. Together they made a wonderful group, providing an overview of the variety of work produced by the members of Auckland Potters. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Glaze Workshop

Brian Gartside:

During my workshops at several New Zealand centres it was a pleasure to meet so many people who were willing and enthusiastic about building a huge amount of unique and new knowledge on the topic of ceramic glaze texture. The groups generated over 400 samples of usable textures. Eventually that will add up to 3,600 textures that I will have seen. I was able to photograph and document a few of my favourite results.

As I approach the end of the NZSP 2004 tour, I have accumulated quite a

huge amount of information that I want to work on in the next year. It is my intention to eventually archive some of this data to the NZSP web site for permanent reference. I will have to spend a great deal of time assembling the data I have, and make some sense of the randomness and create some order. I am especially interested in hearing from any one who continues to develop the ideas we started in the workshops and want to ask that you write to me at beegeee@xtra.co.nz for any of the following purposes:

1. you would like some more help or have more questions.
2. you have some specially interesting results.
3. you have some digital pictures to send of tests
4. you have some digital pictures of work that you have fired with some textures on.
5. you would like to be included on a list of people interested in receiving an occasional news sheet on progress with my own work on documenting and deciding how to present the results in a more permanently published form.

The New Zealand Ceramic Heritage Trust.

Howard Williams

An update on the proposed National Ceramics Museum in Clark House, Hobsonville, Waitakere City. The NZRAF will probably relinquish ownership of Clark House in about three years' time, even before they vacate Whenuapai airbase. Upon their vacating, the house should be offered back to the original Clark family owners, the head of which, Sir Tom Clark, is our museum

trust's patron. Both he and the Waitakere City Council are determined to see our proposed ceramics museum go ahead. Our advocates are the mayor, Bob Harvey and the council's arts officer, Naomi McCleary.

This will be a bigger venture than we first thought, as the museum will eventually cover the heavy clay industry (Crown Lynn, Ceramco, Amalgamated Brick and Tile Co, L G Carder etc) as well as the history of our studio pottery/ceramics. This means a fully professional museum staff and heaps of funding. Our trust will be an advisory body for the scheme on behalf of studio potters.

We are already accepting historic pots, machinery, books, magazines, photographs, slides, oral histories and other pertinent artefacts for eventual housing in the museum and are presently drawing up legal papers whereby such can be left to the trust in people's wills. Several people have already indicated their own collections of pottery will be left to us and of course we are calling for more contributions, including financial bequests.

A wonderful first major acquisition for this; the Fletcher Challenge Arts Trust has just gifted (they will retain ownership) the full collection of 21 years of the international Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award winners' works to the Waitakere City Council on the understanding they will be placed into the custodianship of our Clark House National Ceramics Museum Trust.

The New Zealand Ceramic Heritage Trust: Howard Williams, Chair, Pamela Elliott, Secretary/Treasurer. Members: Barry Brickell, Wailin Elliott, Dr Denis Hanna, Stan Jenkins, Duncan Shearer, Bryce Stevens.

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All phone numbers in these sections are in the Auckland free-calling area unless an area code is explicitly stated.

For sale:

Peter Stichbury DVDs as shown at the Auckland Museum during his recent exhibition. Ph: 2668072

Home and studio in Glen Eden. Gorgeous north-facing cottage-style 2 bdrm home with large light warm studio and gallery space. Includes 10cuft Elecfurn kiln and kiln furniture in excellent condition. Phone Catharine 8185858.

Slip-casting moulds (100). Decorative pieces, good order, from \$5 to \$20. Phone Helen 8361653.

Ron Sang has produced a book on the painter Michael Smither of similar high quality to his book on Len Castle. Orders taken at ronsang@ronsangpublications.co.nz for pre-publication price of \$120.

Elecfurn 4 cuft top-loader kiln with programmer. \$2000. Phone Diane Edwards at 6210051.

Leach kick wheel, needs some work. \$100. Phone Kath on 09 4259538

To rent:

Studio space to rent in Mt Wellington. Access to electric kilns, slab roller and wheel. \$100 per week for 500 sqft. Call Tom at 52893232 or 021 416438.

ASP New Members

Welcome to:

Martin Browne
Joan Buchanan
Fiona Lander
Evie Codman
Jennie Taris
Sandy Stonham

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events

Season of Ceramics:

Features a number of events over the next couple of months including:

The Portage Ceramics Award: 14th October - 5th December.

"Ceramics Today" Forum (see page 1) Slide Talk and Ceramics "Party": at the ASP Centre with Nicole McLaren and Brian Staite, potters from Dunedin. 7.30pm 19th November. Pencil this in.

Royal Easter Show:

Ceramics are going to be included in 2005. If you are interested in more information write to: Robin Hill, Royal Easter Show, P O Box 26014, Epsom.

Ceramic Tile workshop with Brian Gartside

1pm 27 Jan - 1pm 30 Jan 2005

A 4-day Summer workshop in the Waitakere Ranges. An opportunity for a clay experience in Aio Wira's bush environment. Decorative and visual workshop in clay, glaze, colour, design skills and firing. Hand made, flat-relief, and commercial tile firings. Special sessions on developing visual skills transferred to clay surfaces.

\$350 includes accommodation and meals. Phone Brian 09 2382393.

exhibitions

Mairangi Arts Centre

Our own ASP Exhibition. Open every day 9.30am-4pm except Sunday 1.30pm-4pm, until 17th October. A huge variety of work from our members, and a good selection to buy from.

Fisher Gallery:

Gregor Kregar: "I Appear and Disappear" Until 10th November. Fantastic installation of 24 ceramic figures decreasing in scale from life-size down.

Pots of Ponsonby:

Origami by Johnathan Baxter 10th - 24th October. Paper folding outside the square.

objectspace:

"engage" 1-27 October

engage is a new experimental furniture design installation by Tim Wigmore. The works, made of laminated bamboo and shredded recycled car tyres and their names - Push around, Push through, Roll up, Step over and Walk through - suggest how they might be engaged with.

"Zipper" 1-26 October - a work by Grant Thompson that he began making in 2003 with a large quantity of zippers. Visitors are very welcome to zip and unzip and zip and unzip.

"The Jar Known as Pinchmetight" October to mid November. An installation of shards by Denis O'Connor from pots that he made in the 1970s.

Masterworks

Viaduct Gallery: Richard Parker Oct 6 - 23rd, Ponsonby: Rick Rudd Oct 20 - Nov 7 2004, Preview Tuesday October 19th, 5.30pm

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