



ASP NEWS October 2007

The Newsletter of the
Auckland Studio Potters
Society Inc.
ASP Centre
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Renton Murray
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Web: www.ceramics.co.nz

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 One for 2007

Jeff Shapiro at the ASP Centre

October 13th 10am - 4pm

A few of us had the pleasure of a taste of Jeff's approach to clay at the Museum lecture recently. This promises to be a wonderful school - his slide show was breath-taking; a procession of amazing pots, one after another with painterly surfaces, most effects courtesy of skilful wood-firing. He is best known for this work but is keen to talk to us about all aspects of pottery, so if you have any interest in top-level contemporary ceramics this is the workshop to get to.

This school is generously arranged for us by Lopdell House under the auspices of the Portage Award and we are able to keep the cost of it to a minimum because of that. We are asking for a donation of \$10 at the door. No bookings required - just turn up. Bring a shared lunch. Tell your friends.

Falling from the tree

"Come to my village, build yourself a house, a studio and kiln, find your way."

"These were the words spoken by Kabumoto Nobuo, my patron to be.

And this was the offer he made; to come and live under his auspices in the fishing village of Hamasaka on the Japan Sea Coast. For me, it was as if I had fallen down the rabbit hole into an enchanted land, and I was offered a charmed life as if from some Japanese historical novel. But it did not stay this way for long. I would be in for a rude awakening"

You'll have to come to the school to find out what happened next.

Perspective, Context, and Relativity

"I 'look' with the intent of perceiving the artistic elements of

what I am viewing rather than the intellectual dissection of information. To that end, I want to be moved and inspired, and respond to the potential of experiences I encounter.

I approach the process of making as a creative process giving myself the freedom to improvise, or run with an idea and see where it takes me, to keep the work alive and evolving. If I do not approach my work in this way, then the work stagnates and will precipitate the beginning of the end, which leads to a slow death.

I am interested in making my own work more fluid. This may be the result of softer clay, or more spontaneous forming techniques: less attention spent on technical perfection and more time spent on understanding the 'wholistic' approach to concept, material and process.

In the wood fire genre, the romanticism of the firing effects often dictates or overshadows the other aspects of the work. But actually, the material and forming process, as well as surface color and texture must be compatible. The firing alone cannot make up for weaknesses that may exist in either the clay character or forming process."

Guy Fawkes

This year we present a

WINE BOTTLE KILN

Meet at the Centre at 6.30pm on Sunday 4th November. We'll be firing a kiln made, in part, out of wine bottles. We'll provide sausages, bread and sauce. Bring your own special BBQ food, salads, drinks, fireworks.

Every year the kilns get more unlikely but this year we are going for function over form; it may end up not only looking spectacular but producing half-decent pots as well.

On the other hand they might be as bad as other years.



Barbara Hockenhill

Jean Greenhorn

It was such a pleasure watching Barbara create so many interesting pieces of handwork. She made everything with such ease and confidence - obviously many years of success and experience behind her.

Barbara first demonstrated making a decorative cylinder vase by initially making a pinch bowl and gradually shaping and pulling it up over a wooden rolling pin. Many of her pieces had a lovely texturized organic finish after the slabs were rolled over dry crushed clay. Creating a handmade teapot was no mean feat. She demonstrated work varying from small delicate pieces to much larger functional ware.

She was very generous sharing her knowledge and experience with us and coupled with her charm this was indeed a successful and happy workshop.

BCDO

This event is the Next Big Thing. It will be on Sunday 2nd December and we have been organising for a while now what we need now is names of ASP folk who want to have their work out for sale. We had a limit of 25 last year and they were all taken quite quickly, so best to get your name in soon. Sales were buoyant and we are confident they will be better this year.

The highlight will be our Grand Auction. Nearly 20 of our senior members have donated work for this and we'll be spreading the word around the art-buying auction set. The next newsletter will feature all the details of this big

day. The catapult is already built, there will be raku, lots of food, painted pots and lots more.

Library Notes

Judy Rae

A regular library user was devastated to find the page containing valuable recipes (majolica) ripped from one of our new books. Don't DO That!!! You can always make copies of useful pages in our office.

Thanks to the people who are returning books promptly.

We have been donated some new books recently as a result of a member's insurance settlement for water-damage; they are in pretty good shape and full of techniques and photographs. Only just published in the States.

Exhibition Update

Biggest problem here is the number of people who "forgot" about picking up their unsold pots from the gallery. Now Helen has a carful to deliver back to the Centre - reminds me of the year that Lee had to do the same annoying job and had her car stolen and torched with some of the pots still in it. Sort of poetic really.

Next year we'll have a \$150 delivery fee. If only.

TILE SCHOOL

with Tom Barter

Only 6 places left!!

Professional tile maker Tom Barter is taking a 4-afternoon beginners' class in tile making and setting at the ASP. In this class the students will learn three basic ways of making tiles from soft

clay. These include a press moulded tile, a carved tile and a hand-cut mosaic tile stepping-stone. The press tile uses a plaster mould to create multiple tiles that are the same. The carved tile allows for a simple one-off tile design, and the hand cut mosaic shows how to make a mosaic that is complex but has no broken tile or sharp edges. All techniques are simple but effective in making tiles for home or commercial use. The course will run on consecutive Sunday afternoons to give time to fire the tiles so the students have finished work at the end of the workshop. Students need to bring textured objects and carving tools to the first class.

Website: www.thomasbarter.com

Class limit is 14. \$120. 1pm - 5pm for each Sunday in November ... 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th.

Peter's Mumblings.

The shed builders Mike Donaldson and Tony Lowe have been here every day working away on our new tool shed. "Build first, design later!" is the cry and it has worked out OK. It looks nothing like the picture on the carton. It's a whole lot better in fact with more headroom and daylight, and their structural improvisation has resulted in a shed that will not collapse the first time someone hits a six over the wall.

It's amazing how generous our members are - we now have a whole army of folk happy to load and unload kilns, look after the garden, rebuild kilns, dig drains, get involved with the exhibition and make the Centre run well.

One of the most generous but unrecognised (mainly because it's his job to acknowledge others) is Michael our President, who spends a lot of his spare time at the Centre, mixing his own work with work that has to be done around the place, setting up office systems, making a fine pot of soup and generally making everyone welcome.

There are some who perhaps expect too much of the Centre - we do our best to get members' work through and need a little forbearance when pots are late or not up to expectations. In the end all we can do is fire the work to the best of our ability; we are after all not happy to see special pieces come to grief, but sometimes those special pieces are so special and difficult that it is probably best left to the artist to deal with the firing of them personally. I have just made twelve teapots in order to get two successful

Did you know Yvonne Rust



Could you help please?

Looking for contact from
anyone, friends, family, ex-pupils, and particularly working artists
who are willing to offer information towards

RESEARCH FOR A BOOK ABOUT YVONNE RUST

Please Email: yvonne.rust@ihug.co.nz
or Theresa Sjoquist PO Box 1717, Whangarei

results. I'll probably get one. Pottery is like that; macrame is knot.

No sign of the ratbag who threatened legal action this time last year over the Portage award, though I suppose there is still time for him or her to come out from under the leachate at the bottom of their pond. I suppose one should feel sorry for someone who harbours this sort of resentment. I suppose one should.

Our towel system in the women's toilet has become vexatious. Lois has been careful to wash and replace towels 4 times a week, but it seems that suddenly that is not enough for one or two of our members who would prefer 4 towels a day. So we are going to take out the towels and install a hot-air machine.

Apologies to those whose names started with M whose September newsletters got

WESTERN POTTERS SUPPLIES

FOR ALL MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

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

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quentin.w@ihug.co.nz

lost for a week or two.

The Centre will be closed on Saturday for the Judge's School. But you must come to that anyway.

Congratulations to Rachel Carter and her husband Terry on the birth of a son, James, 7lbs or so. Back on the wheel the next day. Not.

The Museum lecture series included a talk by a group called "Thinktank", a self-appointed group of European writers, curators and craftspeople who meet annually at a sponsored "conference" (for the 12 of them) and whose ambition is to raise the profile of the crafts in Europe. It may not be easy to get enough potters to form a thinktank - a drinktank perhaps.

The illustrated talk about the six potters who went to China with Moyra recently showed clearly the dynamic

approach by the Chinese to promoting international ceramics. Amazing stuff.

Arts Awards

Gael Baldock

Simon Leong is one step further to becoming a "Lange Clan Member" with his latest accomplishment. He has turned a group of what he keeps calling "ugly teapots" into a sculptural work by fusing them into a stack entitled "Fight For Life In Rough Seas". He won third prize at the Waitakere Arts & Waitakere Licensing Trust Art Awards on at Unitec in Henderson.

"Jessie & Jerome Giraffe" sold at the Mazda Art Awards and they are also featured in a half page photo with Gael

in the latest Metro magazine on opening night at the awards.

Renton Rambles On

[and on]

End of Term 3 comes as a bit of relief. Time to do some maintenance, tighten belts on wheels (again and again). We have a buying list for the old wheels longer than possible, some disappointments ahead I'm sorry to say. But they are at least simple to repair which is not the case with the flash low-level US wheels. Our broken one now awaits a new magic box to be sent out, expensive and annoying if you were a working potter (a rare beast nowadays).

The Barbara Hockenhull demonstration day went really well. There were nearly 30 very happy watchers, amazed at how quickly Barbara can work (and talk) and how free she was with all her ideas and tips. I didn't do very well in bringing the day to an end but we all really enjoyed having you Barbara. Thank you.

But a sombre note to finish the Barbara day on was that our ex-secretary Leslie Houghton was cleaned up by a Red Light Runner as she was leaving. Thank heavens she is fine (but bruised); her car was written off...please watch those lights at Captain Springs Road and Neilson St. I have had many near misses myself after night class.

The new tool shed is almost finished, very sturdy and very shiny - many thanks to the labourers Mike and Tony - they are the Marx Bothers shed building team. Can't quite work out who is Groucho or Chico, I believe I'm Harpo. Peter is probably Karl.

We have a busy remainder of the year looming. Four tile-making workshops, places still available. The Portage Award evening, Portage Judge to Driving Creek Pottery, Portage Judge day at ASP and also the Portage Judge's talk evening at the Museum. The BIG CLAY DAY OUT approaches and of course Term 4 to kick off. It's not all tea drinking at the ASP although it seems like it some days.

ASP Cookbook

Thanks to those who have sent in their favourite recipes. Send in more please - it will probably not make your Xmas stocking this year but we are keen to get a useful publication out very soon. A pottery connection would be good if that is possible.

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Write for more details to:



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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

Small electric kiln, preferably Cobcraft. Phone Edeltraud 4835533

Information wanted

Has anyone got any information about a pottery conference held in the 60s in a town called Tring in the UK. It may have featured in UK ceramics magazines at the time. Please phone P. Yates, 8272063

New Pottery Centre:

I am opening up a pottery studio in a prime location in Botany South, opposite the big orange Mega Mitre 10 Store. The studio is modern, clean, bright and safe. It is fully equipped with modern wheels, roller table, electric and gas kilns etc. The facilities will be open 7 days a week and can be rented by both professional and hobby potters, sculptors and artists. There is a show room in the front for selling pottery and art work made either on or off site. Also on sale is a selection of clays and pottery tools.

I supply "Shimpo" pottery equipment at very competitive prices. I am very keen on promoting pottery, especially Asian style pottery, in the South Auckland area and would love to hear from any one who would like to be involved in helping out.

Contact Richard Rushton
(Bot Pots) Bishop Dunn Place, East Tamaki, Auckland, Ph 271 2626 or email: botpots@xtra.co.nz

For Sale

For the month of October 2007 I am offering three boxes x48 for the price of

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MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30 am-5pm

One of the crowd favourites at the ASP show
"The Owl and the Pussycat"
by Lois and Rhonda Jameson



two of Bisquit tiles, 154mmx154mmx5 mm, either A1 or wall grade. A1 \$1,10 each, wall grade 95c.

John Lawrence: rosevilla@actrix.co.nz

For Sale

Mini-bricks. A box of 50 bricks \$40. Handmade at Driving Creek Coromandel. Email: railway@drivingcreek.co.nz

exhibitions

Pots of Ponsonby:

"Birds and Grasses"
Ceramic forms of Leonie Clapham
7th October until 21st October 2007
"Mirrors Etc" - New Paua work from Helen Cardow: 21st October until 4th November 2007

Potters' Marks

Marks of New Zealand Potters
A Comprehensive Directory 2007
Published by NZ Potters Inc
Exhibition of Contemporary Ceramics and "Marks of New Zealand Potters"

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Book.

Opening and book launch Oct 26th 5.30pm. Exhibition can be viewed from 27th Oct - 2nd November. Webb's Galleries, 18 Manukau Rd, Newmarket.

Celebrity Potters Auction

Wally Hirsh has put a lot of effort into collecting pots from some of Auckland's top potters for this fund-raising event at the Big Clay Day Out on December 2nd. Names like Len Castle, Peter Collis, Merilyn Wiseman. Bring your cheque books and your wealthy friends.

ObjectSpace and Masterworks

Make sure you pop in from time to time. Always interesting.

Compendium

Cone City Clay Oct 9th - 20th. NZSP Annual exhibition. 5 Lorne St, Auckland. Many of our members have work in this prestigious exhibition in this newly refurbished space.

Duncan and Charade

Last heard of in Hungary, waiting for the ceramic centre at Kiskemet to open. Duncan had been quite sick with a throat infection and not able to talk for a couple of weeks. In Eastern Europe you can buy antibiotics over the counter so he's been dealing with it himself. They are on their way to Poland to a wood-firers' event, then to Norway to stay with Linda Lid, an ex-ASP student, camping all the time and getting colder day by day. Eventually heading to India (maybe) for three months. So, who knows, they might be back by the end of the year or in the New Year.