



ASP NEWS September 2003

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

A few words from our Prez.

Wally Hirsh

I could be very brief this month and just say, "Lets do it" and sign off but I have never been able to say so little so let me expand on that. Our annual exhibition is less than a month away. We want it to be the biggest and best one ever. We want more members than ever before to enter pieces in this year's exhibition which is to be held again at the Mairangi Bay Arts Centre. We want to see our old potters...in experience that is, and our younger potters and our very young ones taking part. Please don't sit back and leave it to other people....just do it. If you have mislaid your entry form or didn't receive one just contact the Centre.

John Parker is to be our guest exhibitor and exhibition selector. With your help, he, and we, will make it a great show. Earlier this month we held two weekend workshops with Chris Weaver. He is a master potter and a very humble man. Those who took part (including yours truly) thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. The salt firing at the end was a big success and Chris's Exhibition at Masterworks Gallery at the Viaduct Basin was also a fine occasion. Some of Chris's work will feature big time in our auction on the Big Clay Day out. Talking of which, you should note that big event too because we need everyone to be involved. Mark it now: Sunday December the 7th.

It is good to have Peter back after his big trip to Turkey and Italy and we will shortly be farewelling Duncan on a trip to England, France and possibly India. Our Centre was discovered by an eminent Indian who was in New Zealand as



Chris Weaver

an observer at the recently held Pacific Forum. Things have flowed on from her two visits to ASP and it is just possible that our very own Duncan will be doing some workshop teaching in India. Pikes Point now, Peter in Turkey last month, Duncan in India etc in October.... thereafter it may be the world! I am pleased to say that the clay has not been as cold in the last few weeks as it was in the depth of winter so lets keep on potting.

Auckland Studio Potters Exhibition

Mairangi Arts Centre
September 18th - October 12th

Jenny Williams

Less than 2 weeks to go, as I write. So I hope that at this stage, unlike me, you actually know what you are going to enter. All members should have received an entry form with the last newsletter.

Receiving day is Sunday 14th September, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Late entries will not be accepted.

You may submit up to 4 entries. The first fee is \$10; 2nd, 3rd and 4th entries are \$5 each. Your entries may consist of one 'set' and one 'not for sale - NFS'.

In order to enter you must be a financial member of A.S.P. Subscription forms and entry forms are available at the Centre. So for those that have not yet paid their membership subs you have 2 options.

1) pay your subs at A.S.P. between now and the 12th September - \$25 for the rest of the year.

OR 2) pay on the day, at Mairangi Bay

Howard Williams will again be available to take slides of your work. Cost \$15 per slide - please nominate on the entry form which pieces you would like photographed.

The Exhibition Opening is at 7p.m. Wednesday the 17th of September 2003. Opening invitations are with this newsletter and it will be a great night with wonderful pots to view and buy, music, wine, and good company.

For those that haven't yet been to the Mairangi Arts Centre, it's easy to find head over the bridge, exit at the Constellation Drive, Home Zone exit, straight up to the lights at East Coast Bays Road, and turn left at the traffic lights. Stay in the right lane on East Coast Bays Rd and turn right at the next lights, at Hastings Rd (a very short distance, opposite McDonalds, well sign-posted) and continue down slowly, as it is a windy road, until you see the Mairangi Bay Arts Centre sign on your right. There's a car park in front; so parking shouldn't be a problem.

John Parker is our Selector and also our Guest Exhibitor. He is one of New Zealand's leading ceramicists, with a book published on him and his work, and many collectors actively seeking his pieces - this could be a good chance to buy one of John's beautiful pots.

It will be a good night for ASP members - our annual exhibition is one of the main features of our monthly events programme for the year.

So, good luck all. See you on the day.

General News:

Peter Lange



I'm back at the desk and it's quite enjoyable being stationary for a while. The cool weather is actually a relief as well after the excesses of the northern hemisphere. Also good to be back to discover a lot of stuff has happened – Matt McLean has built 4 handsome terracotta pillars at the entrance to the studio, and that's fantastic ... after all these years of good intentions, finally someone has taken it on. Another job that has been forever put aside has also been attacked and completed – Lee Le Grice and Christine Lloyd have archived a large box of photographs that has filled to the top over the years and now we have two more fat albums full of interesting snaps for people to peruse. Thanks to Matt, Lee and Christine. The roof is half painted, the wax-booth half built, and the resident's studio has new tenants, with lots of mysterious activity, muffled conversations and strange objects glimpsed as you pass the crack in the door.

The fact that a couple of things are only half-finished, and others need to be done, means that it is probably a good time to organise our annual working bee. We've set aside the morning of Sunday the 12th October 9am – 1pm as a time for the Centre, inside and out, to be tidied up and made ready for our Big Clay Day Out. We'll let you know more details in the next newsletter but please note it now.

Books seem to keep disappearing – went to consult "The Art of Firing" by Nils Lou yesterday only to find it not there and no record of it being borrowed. We love adding books to the library but it's disheartening when they go missing. Perhaps one of you will read this and recall what happened to it.

It was great to have a packed house for the slide show on Turkey and Europe this month – we try to organise a members' night each month and that level of support is very gratifying. This month of course we have our annual Exhibition at Mairangi Bay and there are details of that in this newsletter. Everyone is welcome to come to the opening – exhibitors, students, members of the public. It's a good chance to see the work of Auckland's best potters, and also a good chance to buy these special pieces. See you there

on Wednesday evening 17th September.

The Bronze Class is full up – if you are interested in another one later let us know and we'll try to twist Frank's armature.

Our Annual Winter School was a delight with Chris Weaver entrancing 25 or so members with his skill and craftsmanship. The kiln firing was a success; once the cones exploded we were forced to fire on our wits and debate the temperature endlessly. By the time we'd finished arguing, the test rings (the two that survived) were looking great and the rugby was imminent anyway so the decision to turn it off was an easy one. We now look forward to firing the kiln as a soda-only option – it's much less smoky and the results are expected to be softer and more subtle. Next year we are looking forward to a Big Overseas Name for our Winter School. So far we have had Janet De Boos (still waiting for her follow-up notes after 2 years!!), Morgen Hall (Wales) and now Chris Weaver; a pretty good start. We are hoping that this annual event will become an ASP tradition.

Chris Weaver Workshop:

Kathy Baird

The first weekend of the Chris Weaver workshop started with slides

showing his earlier work and progressing to his more recent pieces. The rest of the weekend was spent watching as Chris threw, altered, and put together the various components of his pots. He also gave an insight into the way he worked and developed new ideas.

Chris works with great attention to detail. Many of his recent pots are thrown as closed forms. They are then opened and manipulated giving a more organic shape. He uses so little water while throwing that he could probably throw in a suit and tie, although I doubt he would want to. The sides of the pots are altered immediately and various signature lines are added to different parts of the pot giving continuity to the finished piece. While working on new ideas he spends time "playing". Taking a form he allows himself time to explore all its possibilities. Some ideas come from happy accidents.

The second weekend saw a group of around 20 enthusiastic potters lining up with pots ready to be sprayed and loaded into the salt kiln. By 1.00pm the kiln was loaded and the burners lit. The pizza oven was also fired up and Duncan entertained as celebrity chef while we waited to add the salt and soda to the kiln. By 6.30pm the temperature was high enough to begin salting and the merits of salt and soda were discussed. This time we used a combination of the two.

Back on Sunday for some more demonstrations and the opening of the kiln. As expected there was a mixture of results with some gems but no great disasters in spite of the cone pack exploding early in the firing. We ended our weekend attempting to make some tools from various bits of wood. All Chris's tools are handmade and he has been making some superb handles for his teapots and other forms. Chris very generously gave all the participants a small cup that he had made and fired during the workshop. This is a pleasure to use and a reminder of a standard to aim for.



Cutting the sides of the teapot

From Linda in France:

Here all is good. Bryce is in Belgrade this week, visiting his daughter Emma.

We're stacking the kiln, filled about 30 m3 by now, and realizing that we have plenty of pots, we'll have to make a selection, which is very good, of course.

We also work on the website at the moment, trying to give it a face-lift, translate as much as possible in English and put in some more images. Maybe it could interest people down your way, even for later, to come and spend some time working, firing and exposing in France...? The site is www.patrimoinepotier.com

Coming out of winter won't be too bad, today in St Amand we have 40 degrees in the shade, the only comfortable place to be is in the workshop or the kiln, it's been an amazing summer.

Pens – well I can confirm four members read and responded to the newsletter. Only four members came bearing pens, so a special thank you goes out to those thoughtful and well-read members.



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MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30 am-5pm



Linda throwing 20kg

These off Potters.org

I've said it before and I'll say it again "I've never seen a crack I didn't like." I just refired two pots in our gas kiln from the throat arch of our wood kiln. These two pots got wood thrown on them and they were buried in coals during the firing and for days after. The colour on them is to die for. Yes, they cracked where the wood hit them, they are my best pots from the firing. Are they for sale. Yes - reluctantly. Yes because I need the money, yes because I love the surface and yes I am a crack addict. Cheers, Tony

Here's an exercise to see if you will be a successful kick-wheel thrower: Sit down. Get comfortable.

Start to move your right foot in clockwise circles. While doing that, draw a big "6" in the air with your right hand. What direction is your foot moving in now?

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Potters Map

We have been given a grant from the Auckland City Council to develop our website further. The idea is to include an online map of Auckland highlighting points of interest to potters or those interested in pottery. So some of the categories of interesting things to see are, of course, potters and their studios. What we require are expressions of interest from members who would like to list their location on this map. The information that each potter can have is roughly what would fit on an A4 page. This can include pictures, links, biographical stuff and your entire life history even (in very small type). It is acting as part promotional, part sale tool and part general interest. There is a cost, from now until the end of 2004, of \$25. When updating your info or pictures, no charge will be made if it is a simple change – we would have to charge for a complete redo of a page.

Other information included on the map are things like galleries, historical sites, organisations, points of pottery interest, etc. The look of the site is being designed now and we will have an example to show interested members in another couple of weeks. So please contact the Centre if you're interested (you may even win a free pen!).



ASP New Members

Welcome to:

Susan Louie,
Mariana Xavier,
Pete Anderson,
Caroline Isichei,
Madeleine Harkema

classified

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

Wanted:

Work with potter – helping around the studio, preferably waged, Brazilian graduate in ceramics, good English. Phone Mariana 5290526

For Sale:

Leach wheel fully restored, \$195 Phone Colleen 4128009

Work Wanted:

Mariana is a Brazilian ceramics graduate and is looking for work, preferably waged but not necessarily. Ph: 529 0526, 021 124 2526

Electricians:

Electricall Ltd are experienced in kiln installations. They have installed our Centre kilns and do a great job. Phone 6365031.

Material Suppliers:

Imported Australian Clay and Ceramic Supplies: Southern Ice porcelain clay and slip, White Diamond clay etc. frits, glazes, raw materials, stains, tools. Phone/fax for price list from Jan at 09 235 6283, or email at creativejoystudio@xtra.co.nz."

events

Workshop:

Papakura Potters are holding a workshop with Peter Collis – "Big Pots and Lustres" 4th-5th October at the Club Rooms (Old Central School) \$40 for the weekend (lustres extra) bring your own bisqued pots, shared lunch. Phone Ian 2369240 or 2766178.

Working Bee

12th October, 9am-1pm - your chance to make an impact at the Centre. Tool and equipment list in the next newsletter.

The Pottery Expo

www.potteryexpo.com
The Pottery Expo@ Warrandyte
Sat 28 and Sun 29 Feb 2004

The Pottery Expo aims to promote high quality, innovative ceramics by Australian and NZ studio ceramic artists. In February 2004 the Expo will be held on the river bank at Warrandyte for the fourth year.

At the Expo, there will be demonstrations of pottery making techniques, clay activities for the public, music and food. TAFE Colleges will be represented, Clayworks will have clay, glaze information and books. A dinner for potters and friends will be organised for Saturday night and accommodation can be arranged.

The fee for a stand [approx 3m x 3m] is \$150. You will need to bring your own stand and shade.

To apply to participate in the event, you are invited to submit:

Photos and/or slides representative of work intended for the Expo.

Description of your work.

Current C.V.

Photo or diagram of stand intended for the Expo.

Address, phone number and email.

Please send your application for the Pottery Expo@Warrandyte by Monday 6 October.

The selection committee will comprise 2 ceramic artists, a ceramic educator and gallery director. Selection will be based on quality, technical ability, innovation and thematic presentation. A policy of one stand/one ceramic artist has been adopted.

The Expo highlights quality and individuality. In presenting a wide variety of selected functional and non-functional ceramics for sale, it provides an opportunity for the public to meet and talk with the ceramic artists. The Expo is based on the concept of the Potters Markets in France, which encourage good ceramics, good food, good music, a beautiful setting and great ambience.

For further details check the website: www.potteryexpo.com

Send applications and enquiries to:

Jane Annois

P.O. Box 38

Warrandyte 3113

Ph: 9844 2337

Email: jannois@bigpond.com

exhibitions

Pots of Ponsonby

Peter Cramond, new paintings & sculptures. Opens on 31st August, runs until 21st September.

The Portage Ceramic Awards

Are coming up. This has turned into the premier competition/exhibition in New Zealand. It is prestigious to gain acceptance and remarkable if you win. For more information or for an entry form contact Lopdell House on 817 8087. Remember, the slide deadline is the 8th September.

Ardor Gallery of Contemporary Art:

We have plans to develop the back-space of the gallery (the old Parnell bakery) into an exhibition space for ceramics, pottery and glassware.

We plan to hold an exhibition of pottery by Bruce and Estelle Martin in November 2003, and other exhibitions will follow.

For further enquiries, please contact the gallery.

Kind regards, Emma Louise Weston

"Art In Action":

Michael Park School are holding a grand event for all the family - workshops, demonstrations, exhibitions from 9.30am - 4pm on 13th September at 55 Amy St Ellerslie. Check their website: www.artiststrail.co.nz or phone Robin Treadwell at 5253402. This event replaces the former "Artist's Trail" and is designed to present a range of work all at one venue - \$15 for a family, \$10 per adult.

Auckland Museum

Gold and Sacrifice - Treasures of Ancient Peru: On display until 28th September. A supernatural tale of the Incas and their ancestors is now open at Auckland Museum. The show unearths the might and mystery of one of the world's great lost civilisations. It's worth going to see the pots in this exhibition.

And of course there's our own ASP Exhibition "Fire and Clay" at Mairangi Arts Centre, until 12th October.

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