



ASP NEWS September 2005

The Newsletter of the
Auckland Studio Potters
Society Inc.
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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 \$2 per hour
up to a maximum of
\$6.00 per day

Toby Stafford Workshop

We only have two places left in this upcoming workshop. This will be a hands-on throwing school, again limited to 12 because of the extra tuition involved. Toby's work is well known in Auckland and his glazes are very popular at the ASP - he's an experienced thrower, wood-firer and slab-builder, making gutsy pots that demand to be handled and used. This school is on the 8th and 9th of October (note that the Centre will be shut for casual use that weekend).



We need you!

It's time for another working bee to spruce the Centre up for spring. Mostly gardening and rubbish removal to our friendly and ever capacious tip across the road. So if you can assemble with various gardening implements on Sunday 25th September from 10am we can get stuck in and generate a huge pile of rubbish in time for the tip opening at 12 noon. We'll provide the usual and excellent tea, coffee and biscuits. It would be nice to see some new faces at the end of the rake this time around.



Toby Stafford

Jill Fanshawe Kato workshop/demonstration.

We have some dates – the weekend of the 19th and 20th and the following weekend of 26th and 27th November. We have also asked her to teach the following two programmes:

1. COLOUR IN CLAY - Agate and Japanese nerikomi methods using oxides and underglaze colours

2. TEXTURE IN CLAY - Students to bring in combustible materials to add to clay. We will search the studio and surroundings for natural textures then construct forms from the impressed clay.

In addition we will have a slide lecture or two – which we haven't figured when it will be but should know by the October newsletter.

SLIDE LECTURES

1. My own work and influences- Jill Fanshawe Kato (Potting in UK, Japan, nature and travel)

2. Pottery Travels in Rural Japan - A visit to contemporary Japanese potters in Okinawa, Onta, Hagi, Bizen and Tokoname, also Ryoji Koie who JFK worked with in Autumn 2004.

3. Contemporary Potters in Britain

The cost of this double workshop is \$120 for all four days or \$70 for one weekend or \$40 for one day (we really are trying to encourage you to come for all four days as it will be a brilliant and interesting workshop)

This is the big event for the ASP summer so don't miss out – book now to secure your spot.



Jill Fanshawe Kato

General news

Peter Lange



Received a very interesting cutting from Viet Nam News via ASP member Catherine Spence about the practice of “Consuming Clay: is the tradition of eating clay important cultural heritage, a secret health remedy, a growing trend or just plain dirty?” Seems a lot of people around the world eat clay for different reasons ... the Vietnamese have a TV cook who makes clay nuggets that sell like hot cakes. Mostly popular amongst pregnant women, it is known as geophagy - the practice of eating earthy substances. I've eaten a bit in my time by accident, and steak and chips will always take preference over GB2 on toast, but maybe you've got a favourite recipe or clay-eating story. Send it in.

One of our members, Shannon Boyd, is settling in to a new life on the island of Sulawesi. She is optimistic that she'll be able to make a few pots there, so we look forward to hearing about that. That's if she hasn't eaten all the clay first.

Our evening “Pots of Delight” was low-key and relaxed but very interesting - members brought along a range of their personal favourites and we had everything from William Morris to Denis O'Connor. Sonia Andrews was very entertaining with her stories of potting in Invercargill and Sydney in the 50s and there were interesting stories behind all of the pots ... many chosen not for their ceramic qualities but because of personal associations. We'll do it again from time to time, so keep an eye out and join in.

We are sorry to hear of the death of John Parker the tile-maker - having two potters of the same name was always a bit confusing (and of course there is the painter and the cricketer) but he worked in clay without needing the contact of other potters to any extent and carved himself a useful niche in the market, particularly at Pots of Ponsonby where his earthenware was always a popular seller. We send his friends and family our sympathy.

Thanks to so many of you for the good wishes and kind words I have received following a couple of important events in my life, the award of the Craft/Object fellowship, and more recently the death of my brother David. David was really pleased to hear

about the award and always asked after the various Centre folk he had got to know during his visits here. I'll miss him - his impromptu visits to the Centre were always a bit of a circus but I guess that's the way he was, and ironically he often came here to get away from his own personal circus; he promoted peace but he wasn't a naturally peaceful person.

As a result of the award I am taking a year off to make pieces at home - I expect that I will be at the Centre often, I'm going to keep teaching and perhaps help with the newsletter. The kilns here are far too attractive to be parted from. Renton Murray is taking over my place here and that change should be smooth - he has had a lot of experience with firing, a big part of the job, and the systems here for running the classes are not new to him, though he'll need a bit of help with the computer stuff which is already over my head. Duncan will be under a bit of pressure with the changes, so please take it easy on him, but we got him a new computer this week to keep him happy. Our website is a credit to him - take a look; and his own site is really smart too, there's a link to his one on ours.

The two hands-on workshops are full already - good news. Jill Fanshawe-Kato is finalising hers and we will let you know the details. I met her in Wales and she is a very interesting and accomplished potter with incredible decorating talent. John Dawson was taught by her too, and he recommended her to us a year ago.

Thanks to those who offered help for the Saturday duties - a newsletter request is too soft an approach for this sort of problem and a threatening email is much more effective. We have enough volunteers to take us through to February 2006, when we'll think up some new blackmail.

Duncan's off to cycle around the Southern Alps on a flash new bike. He will take my best wishes with him. Trian's off on a cycle jaunt in the South Island too! A collision is on the cards.

Talking about collisions - here's some good advice. Drive very carefully through the two intersections along Captain Springs Rd as you leave the Centre. Look left and right before you take off especially at night, because a lot of vehicles run the red light on Nielson St and Church St. Neil Grant, driving my car, got wiped out damaged his shoulder and wrote my car off, and last week Renton nearly got taken out by a fast truck. Ironically the intersection

that did for Neil is one of those featured in the “Intersection Collision” road safety ads on telly.

The Wednesday afternoon “ad hoc” sculpture class is building up a head of steam but there's room for more to come. It's a friendly and supportive atmosphere, there's always a spare spot at a work table and a cup of tea when you need it. Two dollars an hour, max \$6 starts 12.30pm. Good value.

See you at the Centre

Letter from Robin Briant our ASP representative in Sukhumi

Hi everyone, I am now into my 5th month here, so pretty much half way. The weather is a constant source of conversation – “orchin djarko” ... “very very hot”. And humid – around 100%. There was a welcome shower about 6am today which briefly cooled things off – during July there was a weekly heavy rain and thunder storm which was great for cooling, bad for putting mud into the sea and making it unswimmable and very dramatic. Lately we haven't even had that relief. The nights are awful – one is still pouring sweat at 10pm, and if the power goes off, as it frequently does, the lack of fan is very trying. Everything feels wet all the time; sometimes I have a vague olfactory sensation that I might even be starting to rot myself! Anyway, we are promised cooler nights come September, so that thought keeps me going.

I am having more computer problems. For the weekend I have borrowed the laptop of the HAP team (health access programme). They deliver healthcare (through a series of village

Continued on page 3

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Update on the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art in Biloxi, Mississippi

clinics and local doctors and nurses) to thousands of locals defined as vulnerable – very old and without family (lots killed or fled during the war), or widowed, disabled etc. More recently they have begun a pain management programme for people with cancer – not a proper palliative care programme as the local culture is strictly against telling the sufferers the truth about their disease. We have endless discussion and argument on this topic and the local staff are unmoved; and they assure us they reflect the population view. As I cannot have a discussion with the locals except through an interpreter, and my interpreter will not translate this topic for me, I cannot get closer to the truth than this at present. (She is so good at everything else I accept this refusal – none of the others in the team do much better anyway.) Anyway, we have a good supply of Tramadol and an opiate which I will not name here in case the KGB-equivalent is reading my mail – this drug and the programme are approved and indeed requested by the MOH, but having such a drug available in the country which is full of addicts of one sort or another, causes all sorts of anxiety. We can only treat patients who have a special form certifying they have cancer – presumably their families never let them read the form! Joyce the UK doctor who started here with me did not come back after her holiday! And then the local doctor employed in the Mobile Team was fired for fiddling the drug mentioned above.

Home visiting is always fascinating in these different communities; a few people live reasonably comfortably, but the majority are in very straitened circumstances and their access to other health care is very limited. Unfortunately most people live in the large blocks of apartments built during the Soviet era – mostly about 10 floors high. As the lower floors were nearly all damaged severely during the war and haven't been fixed, the majority of habitation is on the 6th floor or above, and of course the lifts have long since ceased to function. So one of the requirements for the Mobile Team is the ability to climb stairs all day! We have recently had an increase in social life – in fact the last 2 weekends were entirely taken up with outside activities....This letter goes on in similarly interesting vein. Email us for more.

From Marjie Gowdy, the museum's executive director: Unfortunately, I don't know very much. We are trying to find out if the library building is still standing solid; I am trying to reach Judy Steckler and other board members including Jerry O'Keefe, Paula April, Jim Brashier and Lyle Page (through this email). I was in the storm but my son was able to get us out to Tallahassee Tuesday night.

I do believe the pots may be okay. I know that a casino is sitting on top of part of the new museum, and that the Reed House is gone, as are the homes of many of our staff members and board members, and we are all so very, very sorry about this. I also believe in the spirit of the people of the Coast and that we will all rebuild, though it may take time and tears for awhile. We are all courageous, and we will all survive!

I am going to try my darndest to get back to Biloxi by the end of next week. Holly Zinner, director of operations, is in town (Ocean Springs) at the home of Earl Denham and is going by to check on the buildings as she can. Any information will be most appreciated! Remember: George's Ohr's studio burned to the ground in 1894. He not only rebuilt but after that made the finest pottery ever made by the hands of man! My prayers go out to everyone and their families. We will lock arms and get through this together. Many thanks, many thanks to you and good luck.

BILOXI, Miss. - (KRT) - World-renowned architect Frank Gehry told the Gulf Coast Saturday that he will help it rebuild. Gehry, who is in Japan, said that while he is currently more concerned for the people than the buildings, he "would be in the fight to rebuild the city with you." The partially completed Ohr-O'Keefe Museum structures on Biloxi's East Beach Boulevard seem to have been harder hit by the Grand Casino barge that landed on one of them than by Hurricane Katrina. At least physically.

A Biloxi police officer said the site on east U. S. 90 had sustained a lot of damage, but hopefully could be salvaged. That about sums it up. The Pleasant Reed house house, built around 1887 by the son of a freed

slave and preserved, moved and restored as a component of the new Ohr museum, is obliterated. Only a brick chimney is identifiable. One has to know where the house was to realize it is gone. The gracefully curving beams of the pods for the George Ohr Gallery are flattened and twisted.

Still standing and seemingly unscathed is the partially constructed Center for Ceramics at the northwest corner of the site. Its steeply angled aluminum-colored roof panels were designed to look as they do, just a bit cock-eyed, like George Ohr's pots. Structurally, the partially built Exhibitions Gallery looks sound, though stripped of its exterior materials. The casino barge that floated, washed or was blown onto the property is on top of where the historic Tullis-Toledano Manor on the east side of the museum stood and it now abuts what's left of the museum's Gallery of African American Art, which is the Southern most structure.

The \$30 million museum complex was to have five Gehry-built structures connected by walkways and was scheduled to open in July 2006. Hopes were it would attract international cultural tourism due to the combined effect of Gehry's fame and the Coast's burgeoning role as an entertainment mecca. While checking out the museum, we were told its staff members were all safe, though we could not reach them. One has a house just north of the museum on a street where every house is gone.

The beachfront home of the museum's benefactor, Jerry O'Keefe, located a couple blocks west of the museum, is also gone, although the two-story columns at its entrance remain. On Saturday, O'Keefe, who is staying at a motel in Mobile, drove slowly by the front entrance of the current museum building on G. E. Ohr street, looking for damage. "We're only looking forward, not backward." Based on debris piled at the building's entrances, it appears it has not been entered since the storm. O'Keefe said he had shipped his personal collection of Ohr art elsewhere. What's unknown to date is the status of all the Ohr pottery that was on display at the museum.

classified

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

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exhibitions

ObjectSpace:

"Limelight" 20 August to 17 September
In his first Auckland show Wellington based greenstone carver Joe Sheehan is putting greenstone, making and cultural issues into the 'limelight'. The limelight cast by these superbly carved greenstone works address issues of commercialism and spirituality and challenge us to rethink the 'default position' in relation to how we think about and look at greenstone carving. Ranging from jewellery to sculptural works these works speak to contemporary cultural and social contexts in terms of form and process.

"Thrift to Fantasy" 6 September to 22 October

Rosemary McLeod's book Thrift to Fantasy: Home Textile Crafts of the 1930s-1950s which celebrates domestic handcraft and the spirit of 'making do' has been a 2005 best seller. A selection of Rosemary's own collection of tea cosies made from materials ranging from wool to kangaroo skin features in the vault.

Bruce Martin:

"Retrospective" pieces from decades of anagama firings. Hastings Exhibition Centre opening 5.30 p.m. on 16th September 2005.

Masterworks Gallery - Viaduct"

"Curve" cast glass by Christine Cathie until

17th September 2005A at Masterworks Gallery Viaduct - 95 Customs Street W. Ph: 09 357 6693

Masterworks Gallery - Ponsonby:

"Provisions & Preserves" Brian Staite until 16 September 2005

Brian Staite has worked in Antarctica for 11 summers and 1 winter, running the survival training school, as deep field leader and field support officer. He has a bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Otago Polytechnic where he majored in ceramics. He owns Atelier studio ceramics in Christchurch.

This current work gains its form from boxes and cans of food left outside the huts of Scott and Shackleton on Ross Island and its surface from events of the 14 months he spent there on his last trip; Ed Hillary's phone call at mid winter, George Bush's invasion of Iraq, and Colin McCahan's command "we must preserve something". Function not intended.

Anna Bibby Gallery:

Judy Darragh: "Weeping Works" and Patrick Pound: "little remains" until 24th September 2004. 2 Morgan St, Newmarket.

Pots of Ponsonby:

To Sept 11th: Peter (ceramics) and Julie (glass) Collis.

From Jenny Williams

Round 3 done now and Jenny is out waiting for her immune system to drop - this should take a week then back we go for more blood and platelets. This round has been much less aggravating than round 1 and 2, they have also changed Jenny's chemo drugs as to stop the effect on her heart. Off to dinner tonight, then play it by ear for the next week. One last round in the next month. Jenny is holding up very well. Trust you are all well, and again thank you for your kind words, gifts and thoughts. Arohanui. Raymond, Jenny and the kids.

September 11 - 25: "For the Birds" - new window exhibition by Nicky Jolly. Hanging bird nests featuring pieces made in clay and paper Mache wall pieces. 298 Ponsonby Rd

Eighth Manukau Vessel and Sculpture Exhibition:

Entries and entry forms to be delivered to Nathan Homestead on 27th October 2005. Forms available from Vic Leilua, Nathan Homestead, 70 Hill Rd, Manurewa. Phone 2670180. Premier award: \$2,500, 2nd prize: \$1,000, 3rd: \$750. Selector: Brett Graham.

The Big Clay Day Out

Just a helpful and friendly reminder about this years event. We've scheduled it for Sunday 4th December. Next months newsletter will contain more information.

The NZSP is looking for an Auckland Rep for their Council:

Someone to maintain contact with Auckland members, drag a bit of fundraising out of them, tell NZSP Council what Auckland members think/want/do, and, once on Council to be their own person and help make the decisions. Two 2-day meetings (free trips!) a year: April where the Convention is, September where the executive is. File a six monthly report on regional goings on for each meeting. Need to be comfortable with e-mail. Most pressing needs - to raise a few hundred dollars in Auckland to get the Auckland marks up on the web and to encourage a bit of collectivity among Auckland NZSP members (without of course siphoning off any dollars or collectivity from ASP). Email Jim Pollard urgently: j.pollard@netaccess.co.nz

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