



*Back into it! Tuesday evening students Coni and Charlotte hard at work. And yes, that is the Laguna black clay from Bot Pots Coni is throwing with - we will report back on some new clays next month...*

## Centre Report

Nadine Spalter

It's been nearly a month in my new role as Co-Director of ASP. I always knew there was a lot of work behind the scenes, but really I had no idea! Thankfully Toby seems to have infinite patience and a good dose of humour (or perhaps humouring me!). I couldn't ask to be working alongside a better Co-Director. Thanks to everyone at the centre for your understanding and patience as I (try) to fill Trien's boots - a mighty task, and each day my appreciation for what she managed to accomplish grows. The start of the year has seen classes full to bursting, and the bisque shed ... about to burst! We are clearing the middle section for this term's work; unfortunately the rest of the bisque ware is mixed together - old and new. A plea from Toby and myself: please pick up your pots. We will be clearing the left and right sections at the end of the term, and then trying to get some order into the bisque shed. Kiln bookings are on the rise, and if you book a kiln please be sure to pick up the new pamphlet for guidelines on booking kilns. In a nutshell: please book Monday/Wednesday/Friday as this is so much more efficient for running the

kilns through the week. Work should be loaded by midday, and then unloaded by 10am. As the Centre gets busier we will need to be really organised.

Jo Raill has given the library a spruce up and it's looking fresh and inviting. This is a brilliant resource for members, and we encourage you to use it.

Maak and Michelle Bow continue to do a wonderful job keeping our website and social media pages current and vibrant. Michelle recently put up videos of John Dawson's throwing demos (Wednesday class) and they've gone viral. If you don't know what that means, don't worry - it's a good thing, with over 100,000 views for some of these videos.

Finally thank you to all the lovely members who have made me feel so welcome, to the mystery towel washer, kiln unloader, dishwasher loader ... you all just go about helping out quietly but I am noticing and appreciating! And thanks to Tony Bacon who rode up on his white horse to save me from the demon computer the other day! I'm hoping to be up to speed soon, but so far am happy in my work and well, what more could I ask for?

## CALENDAR

*Please send calendar items to  
[suzy@dunser.com](mailto:suzy@dunser.com)*

### Onehunga Creative Arts Day (p2&3)

Saturday 4 March, 10am-twilight

**ASP RAKU FIRING 1:00-4:30pm - HELPERS STILL NEEDED!**

Please contact the office - 634 3622  
[www.ceramics.co.nz](http://www.ceramics.co.nz)

### Claybenders: Conversations in Clay

Until Saturday 4 March

Franklin Arts Centre, Pukekohe  
[facebook.com/FranklinArtsCentre](http://facebook.com/FranklinArtsCentre)

### Andy Kingston

Until Saturday 18 March

Masterworks Gallery, Newton  
[www.masterworksgallery.co.nz](http://www.masterworksgallery.co.nz)

### Shim and Lee - The Memorandum of Nature

Until Sunday 19 March

West Coast Gallery, Piha  
[www.westcoastgallery.co.nz](http://www.westcoastgallery.co.nz)

### Pottery Date Night ♥ (p2)

Wednesday 22 March 7pm

ASP Centre  
[www.ceramics.co.nz](http://www.ceramics.co.nz)

Farther afield... If you're in the Wellington area:

**James Greig: Defying Gravity** is on at the Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt until 12 Mar 2017.  
<http://dowse.org.nz>

Or Whanganui:

**Quartz Museum** is currently showing work by two current and one former (sadly) members of the ASP: Isobel Thom, Peter Lange, and Barry Brickell. Actually - make that four - despite living halfway across the North Island, Rick Rudd, founder of the museum, has been a member and active supporter of the ASP for many years. A selected retrospective of his work is one of the ongoing displays at the Quartz Museum, as is the New Zealand History Collection of the Rick Rudd Foundation, which comprises work of approximately 100 New Zealand studio potters from the early 20th Century until today.

## Centre Notices and Events

### Anagama vs Bourry Box

Suzy Dünser

Last month I asked if anyone was interested in being part of a working group to build an anagama kiln in Pukekohe, to would replace the one at the ASP that we are planning to take down to make more space behind the studio for raku firing and other activities. I also mentioned that an alternative use for the bricks would be to go towards building a new small bourry box wood kiln at the Centre.

In the absence of a single response in favour of building a new anagama kiln, we will go ahead with plan #2 - this still involves taking down the old anagama kiln, of course, and then the opportunity of a kiln-building workshop to construct the new kiln. We will organise times for those in the coming month, and let you know when they will be happening.

### CLASSIFIED

**FOR SALE:** Arcadia Kiln. 25cu.ft. Gas fired, 4 burners, front loading, good condition. Only 68 stoneware firings. Comes with Digital Pyrometer, stainless steel hood & chimney, 2 x 45kg gas tanks, kiln shelves & props. Price \$4500 all up. Enquiries & viewing welcome. Ph. 473-9210. Graeme Storm.

### Onehunga Creative Arts

Saturday 4 March

**\*\*Raku helpers still needed!\*\***

*"Onehunga town centre will become the showcase for art works by international and emerging artists, artstudents and designers at the Onehunga Creative Arts Day on Saturday 4 March, from 10.00am until twilight."*

The Onehunga Creative Arts day is a new initiative, which the ASP is happy to be a part of this year - it gives us a chance to go out and engage with our community in the heart of Onehunga. The fair runs from 10am until the evening. Our activity will be a raku firing, held from 1:00 - 4:30pm. **We still need some helpers for this!** No experience necessary - we will have experienced raku firers leading the activity - so if you have time to come out and lend a hand this Saturday, please let us know.

And thanks to everyone who cranked out all the shells for people to paint and fire! It's great that the ASP can be part of events like this, and it's possible because our members are willing to give their time and energy, as part of both the ASP and wider community. It's very much appreciated.

### NZPotters Update

The NZPotters Council has been looking for ways to increase their membership, not to mention their relevance to clay workers in New Zealand. Nicola Dench, the NZP President, came up to Auckland last year to discuss how the ASP saw the proposed changes. The ensuing discussion showed that there was a reasonably big discrepancy between our views and theirs... It would appear, though, that despite being an anomalous group (the ASP is larger and more independent than other pottery clubs around NZ), we were not the only ones who had suggestions different to what was being proposed. Elena Renker, the Regional Council Member for Auckland, reported back from the February NZP meeting:

"It has become clear that more consultation with the clubs is needed, so they are setting up something called a trello board. This is an internet site designed for the different clubs and also members to leave their opinion. Louis Kittleson is in charge of setting up the trello boards and the topics of discussion which we should hopefully get sometime next week. They want to get everything finalised in time for the AGM, which is at this stage planned for the 8th of June to coincide with the opening of the tableware exhibition in Wellington."

If you have any comments or suggestions about this, or anything relating to pottery in New Zealand on a national scale, please e-mail Elena: [erenker@gmx.net](mailto:erenker@gmx.net)



### ♥ Pottery Date Night ♥

Book a fun night out with your partner and make beautiful pottery together!

**Wednesday 22 March 7pm  
at Auckland Studio Potters**

\$ 120 per couple (member price)  
\$ 135 per couple (non-member)

Includes guidance in basic wheel throwing techniques from a pottery tutor, bubbles, nibbles, candlelight, music, and lots of fun.

To book email our office  
[asp@ceramics.co.nz](mailto:asp@ceramics.co.nz)  
or phone us on 634 3622



## Claybenders: Conversations in Clay

Margaret Bray

The Steel Gallery in the heart of Pukekohe is the location of the Claybenders latest exhibition. The Claybenders are an evolving group of ASP Diploma students and graduates. For this exhibition, they have each supplied a body of work to exhibit in the show, and it looks stunning - each displaying their own unique skills and talents, directions and firing preferences, to create a diverse array of sculptural objects and functional ware. The gallery is operated by the Auckland Council, who have offered this beautiful space at no charge, the sales with no commission, and support in many other ways; from the marketing and invitation production, to the curation and catering at the opening.



Gallery view

The opening was great, well attended, with council representatives keen to meet and talk over the exhibit. Community activities were also organised, and on Valentine's Day, Suzy and I demonstrated and encouraged the interested public of Pukekohe to have a throw on the

wheel. This was greatly enjoyed by the willing participants - all of whom had never thrown before and couldn't wait to have a go.

Thanks to those who have visited the exhibition - there's still time to get to see it if you are in the area. The exhibition runs till the 4th of March.



Gallery manager Nansi Thompson has a go, with Margaret guiding

## Diploma News

Suzy Dünser

This is not my first time writing the Diploma update - but this time I'm writing from the perspective of a tutor rather than a student.

I'm teaching the first module this year, a throwing and wood-firing class, and it's interesting to see what's changed since I completed the course in 2011. More students are taking the course full time, and the ASP's Wednesday morning specialist classes (introduced since I finished) offer a great option for their second studio. Visual diaries are encouraged to have a digital component along with drawings and taking notes - many of the students include videos, and keep their photos on their laptops etc rather than laboriously printing them out and pasting them into sketchbooks. The course also includes an online research component now, new since I took it - there is a series of exercises on Moodle to supplement the studio modules. There had been some confusion about how these were meant to fit in with the students' other work,

as the module subjects didn't always match up to the order of the exercises. Fortunately Rob Cloughley, the Director of the programme in Otago, came up last week and went over this and other aspects of the programme with the students. This direct contact is something we didn't get much of back in the day, and is very welcome. I will leave it to the students to tell you what they think of the module we're doing this term - my aim is to get them throwing with confidence, so that the wheel becomes another tool to achieve whatever they conceive of in their ceramic work, and to give them the chance to experience the elemental joy (and hard work!) of getting up close and personal with the firing process.

Two things the ASP still offers their Diploma students, uniquely in New Zealand, are excellent facilities with multiple firing options, and an unsurpassed variety of talented and experienced tutors - I feel privileged to be part of this programme again, in this way.

ALL WELCOME  
10am - twilight

**ONEHUNGA**

**CREATIVE ARTS**

SATURDAY  
4 MARCH

**DAY**

Max Gimblett

Creative art forms and activities in the Onehunga town centre include: painting, ceramics, raku kiln firing, screen printing, light sculpture, textile art, live electronica (sound art), maker spaces, design, live music, children's art space, electronic wearable art, documentary film, digital arts, student art projects, object making, weaving, contemporary Māori and Pacific art forms, street art and more.



USA 41, 1960, glazed stoneware and epoxy paint.

## Peter Voulkos at MAD, NY

Peter Lange

I came back from a spur-of-the-moment two week trip to New York in January with my head spinning from day after day of galleries that became a seamless and, a fortnight later, confusing excursion past acres of amazing art, craft and sculpture. The icing on the cake was provided by the people and the buildings and the vitality of the city. So in writing something relevant for the ASP I had trouble differentiating between a lot of memorable shows. The obvious one was a retrospective of Peter Voulkos's work at the Museum of Art and Design, MAD (there are so many places like this in NY they must have trouble finding enough names and acronyms for themselves, like the People's Front of Judea) - "Voulkos - The Breakthrough Years". This from the catalogue:

"While trained as a traditional potter, Voulkos defied mid-century craft dictums of proper technique and form to completely reinvent his medium. He combined wheel throwing with slab building, traditional glazes with epoxy paint, figuration with abstraction, and made huge ceramic structures with complex internal engineering." Well, I guess that kind of describes his ability to throw the rulebook out the window and punch clay around like a demented caveman trying to house-train a mammoth. Those who were lucky enough to catch him in Rotorua all those years ago will recall this raw energy - not always easy to watch, edge of your seat stuff, but very rewarding to experience. He unfettered himself early on in his career, in the 1950s, and spearheaded a movement in clay that blossomed in California in parallel with East Coast abstract impressionist painters like Pollock

and de Kooning. Gestural and energetic works that hit you right in the guts. What a treat to see up close some of his more colourful pieces too; a lot of his major works are very elemental with sometimes a metallic sheen from oxides and firing, so it was great to be able to walk around, touch and photograph these comparatively joyful works. Along with "The Book of Mormon", the political marches and the footsteps of Bob Dylan, this exhibition was a memorable New York experience.

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Opening Hours  
Monday - Thursday:  
12.30pm - 5.30pm  
Friday: 12.30pm - 4pm  
Saturday: 10am - 4pm  
\$3 per hour (includes after class time)  
up to a maximum of \$9 per session  
Centre Directors:  
Nadine Spalter and Toby Twiss  
Phone 09 634 3622  
NEWSLETTER  
Editor: Suzy Dünser, 021 383 932  
Please send copy or photographs to  
suzy@dunser.com

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