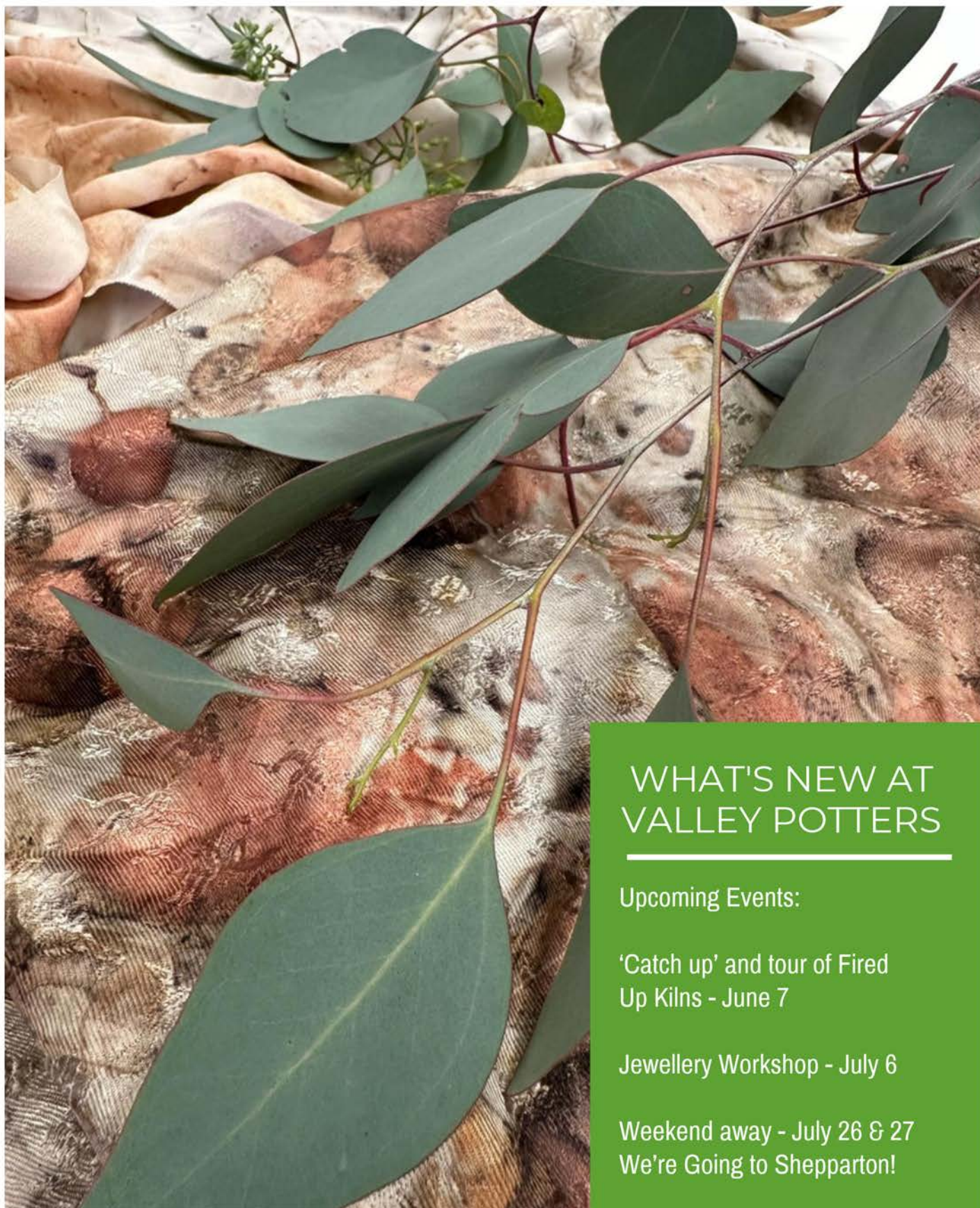




Valley Potters Inc.

Valley Potters A00112659W ABN: 78 071 492 195



WHAT'S NEW AT VALLEY POTTERS

Upcoming Events:

'Catch up' and tour of Fired
Up Kilns - June 7

Jewellery Workshop - July 6

Weekend away - July 26 & 27
We're Going to Shepparton!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

APRIL 2025

I hope you have had a great start to the year.

Your committee has been hard at work getting this year's events finalised.

It was a bit of a disappointment having both days of the Warrandyte Pottery Expo cancelled, the first time in 25 years, but it is certainly better to be safe than sorry. Stall holders were given a couple of options to have a stand at the Mini Expo in Warrandyte the following weekend held just behind the Lolly Shop and Warrandyte Pottery. Others were able to have a stand at the Montsalvat Market Day in early April. It's not the same but we are grateful for the opportunity to display and sell our work. Some of our members had a great weekend up at the Mansfield Pottery Festival with lots of great sales and a huge congratulations to Harry Kyriakou for winning the Poets of Pottery Exhibition with his beautiful work.

Our first workshop for the year was at Textile Art Community Art Space in Heidelberg West with Louise Muller and Sandy Dunn. We had a fantastic day doing Eco Printing on silk scarves.



The first Catch Up this year was at Formston Ceramics in Wonga Park. We had a great day, very relaxed, chatting and some of us got on the wheel for a play. Thanks to Kirsten for having us. Our next one will be in June.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of former member Merryn Auldish, she was also a former committee member. Merryn was the workshops officer when I first joined Valley Potters, we went to Castlemaine and because it was the first time I had been away since having my boys I was very nervous, but Merryn made sure I was okay. She was a very special lady.

Make sure you go through the calendar and put the dates in your diary for all the events coming up.

See you soon.

Alli

KEEP IT SOCIAL

We like to feature our member's achievements and their exhibitions on our Instagram and Facebook pages. On Instagram please add Valley Potters to the collaborate option and use #ValleyPotters when tagging the photo and in your hashtags. For Facebook use the share to Valley Potters link.

If you would like to work with our Social Media officer directly to upload content, you can send kate@valleypotters.org.au your artists bio, a photo of you in your studio or with your pots plus additional photos of your work and she'll do her best to profile you. We are also interested in featuring our sponsors so please share if you are happy with a recent purchase or experience with them.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Meet your 2024/25 Committee

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General Committee Members

Sharon Twining
Juliet Widdows
Diane Williams

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

6th - Catch Up at Fired Up Kilns

TBC - Online talk with Jackie Gasson,
Australian Ceramic Association Chairperson

JULY

6th - Ceramic jewellery workshop with
Juliet Widdows

26th -27th - Valley Potters Weekend Away in
Shepparton VIC

AUGUST

9th and 16th - Pit firing workshop

29th - 31st Spring Fever with the Suncoast
Clayworkers, Sunshine Coast QLD
suncoastclayworkers.org.au

SEPTEMBER

6th and 13th - Raku workshops

20th - Valley Potters AGM

OCTOBER

2nd - 5th Wedge 2025 - The Australian
Ceramics Triennale - Fremantle WA
australianceramicstriennale.com.au

NOVEMBER

26th Nov. to 20th Dec. - Valley Potters
Member's Exhibition at Ladder Gallery, Kew

VALLEY POTTERS MEMBERS

Catch Up at Formston Ceramics

By Alli Duckworth

Thanks to everyone who came along to our first Catch Up of the year at Formston Ceramics Studio in Wonga Park and thank you to Kirsten for allowing us to have the day with her.

We had a very relaxed day chatting and catching up with each other. A few new members popped in, which was wonderful. Some of us brought some clay and had a play on the wheels and did some hand building. And as usual we had a lovely lunch together.

Our next Catch up will be on the 7th of June at Fired Up Kilns in Heidelberg West.



Members Do Good

By Kathryn Young

A heartfelt thank you to the Valley Potters members who generously donated prescription and reading glasses for women in Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria.

In January 2025, 60 pairs of glasses were personally delivered into the hands of some of the poorest and most disadvantaged women in West Africa—and indeed, the world. They were received with overwhelming joy and disbelief, as access to glasses is a privilege reserved only for the wealthy in these regions.



VALLEY POTTERS WORKSHOP

Eco Dye Printing Workshop - March 22nd

By Adrienne Mann

Our first workshop for the year went extremely well. Our two Valley Potter members Sandy Dunne and Louise Mueller did a wonderful job instructing and guiding us through the fascinating eco dyeing process.

There was a lovely selection of flora, both indigenous and other species to choose from and different pots to put our work in to be steamed.



We were all very busy selecting leaves and placing them on the scarves to create our own designs, not really knowing at the end of the day what they were going to look like. I think that was half the fun of it, a definite surprise when you are unraveling your piece.



As usual we had a lot of yummy food to share, and lots of friendly chatter could be heard during the day. This is always a great way to make connections and new friends and enjoy each other's company. Roll on July, when we have our next one, which is making jewellery with clay.

MEMBER EXPERIENCE

Mansfield Pottery Festival: A Celebration of Craft and Community By Bernadette Skinner

This year's Mansfield Pottery Festival, held over the Labour Day weekend, was a joyful celebration of ceramic artistry, community, and creative exchange.

The weekend began with the opening of the stunning exhibition "*The Poets of Pottery*" on Friday evening—a beautifully curated showcase exploring the expressive and poetic nature of ceramics. Featuring work from potters across the region and beyond, the exhibition was a true highlight. Congratulations to Harry Kyriakou, who received the Exhibition Award for his exceptional piece that captivated both judges and viewers alike.

Saturday's Market and Expo brought Main Street to life beneath the beautiful canopy of trees, creating a relaxed and inviting atmosphere for potters and visitors alike. I had the pleasure of once again sharing a stand with my dear friend and fellow potter Kathryn Young—our third year doing so. The market was buzzing all day with locals and visitors exploring the diverse array of ceramic art on display—from functional ware to sculptural pieces, each with its own story and soul. It was a fantastic opportunity for artists to connect with their audience and for the public to support the handmade and the heartfelt.

Adding further depth to the festival, there was a workshop and artist talk by visiting ceramicist Fleur Schell, whose playful and imaginative work brought fresh inspiration to everyone who attended. Wendy Jagger also gave a thoughtful and insightful artist talk, sharing her experiences and reflections on her ceramic practice, which was greatly appreciated by fellow makers and enthusiasts.

The Mansfield Pottery Festival continues to grow each year, offering not just a platform for showcasing talent, but a place for learning, sharing, and celebrating our shared passion. We're already looking forward to what next year will bring!



Valley Potters member, Harry Kyriakou accepting the Exhibition award for his Moon Jar



The Poets of Pottery exhibition opening



John Paul Unger



Anne Sfetkidis



Margaret Pearse



Bernadette Skinner wins the Main Street pottery throwdown!

Vale Merryn Auldish

Valley Potter Member

By Claire Johnson

Merryn passed away unexpectedly in early February. Like so many, I was shocked and greatly saddened reading this news on a Facebook post but not in the least surprised by the multitude of people expressing how Merryn had helped them when they were in need. She was an exceptional person. A former nurse, she was known for her warmth, kindness and dedication, particularly in promoting inclusivity and supporting the community. Her most recent employment was with Caladenia Dementia Care and she was a proud foster carer of two young children and 'Aaji' to her beloved grandson.



Much was made of her achievements at her memorial service and rightly so. It was however the creative side of Merryn that I knew best. We met when we were both students at Chisolm Tafe studying the diploma of arts (Ceramics) in the mid-90s. At the time she was making functional work and developing a rich black glaze breaking to electric blue. Like many students, upon graduating Merryn became a member of the Valley Potters and also served on the committee for several years. She joined Stonehouse in Warrandyte and held an exhibition of sculptural work that featured one of her great loves, wombats. I'm sure it was their dogged determination that she admired and which was also one her great strengths. She also volunteered her time helping Damian Thomas and Kevin Somerfield teaching pottery to students with acquired brain injuries at Potters Cottage.

As time passed her work in community services took her away from pottery and so she lent me her pottery equipment, helping me set up my teaching studio and supporting me immensely with her faith in my abilities. Over the years she managed to introduce a wide variety of arts to many of the people she worked with in the community. She, like most of us, understood how beneficial it can be. We shared advice on varying art projects, her helping me with grants applications and me firing work for her community art projects or sharing opinions on each other's latest creations through social media.

Most of all Merryn was always there for me with a cup of tea and a comforting smile, she would listen patiently and without judgment. I will miss her greatly as I'm sure will so so many others. She is survived by her only son Xan Auldish and grandson Tanvir.

KNOW YOUR STUFF

Valley Potters Memorial Awards

By Laura Windmill

New members to the Valley Potters may not know the history behind some of the awards that are given out at our annual exhibitions. Along with Functional, Sculptural and Thrown categories, there are also two memorial awards given in honour of pivotal Valley Potters members.

Ruth Petersen Award sponsored by Colin Petersen

Ruth was well known for her beautiful frog decorated pots, not just throughout the pottery world, but also by the public, many who were avid collectors of her work. She had been an active member of Valley Potters for many years and a former committee treasurer. Her illness did not stop her attending workshops or events, and she continued to pot as much as she could. A founding member of The Studio @ Flinders she was passionate in promoting all things ceramic as well as other mediums.

Ruth passed away in 2017 and many of us still miss her contribution to our group. It is a lovely gesture by Ruth's husband Colin to sponsor an annual award in Ruth's name.

Ruth Petersen, as an artist, was open to innovative ideas. She was prepared to challenge her skills and explore new ways of expressing her creative abilities to see where they would take her. This award is to be presented to an artist with a similar approach to their work.

Lisbeth Duncan Award (formerly Acquisition Award)

- Criteria: Most outstanding work in exhibition. Not limited to form or function.
- Consideration: Demonstrating skill and a clear direction. A fully resolved piece with a confident grasp of the medium.

Lisbeth Duncan was a student at Chisholm College in the 1990's and through her involvement with the college became an active member of the Valley Potters. Work commitments led to the Duncan's relocating to Germany, but Lisbeth continued to maintain her links with the Valley Potters whilst overseas. Upon her return, she renewed her contact with the college and returned to upgrade her qualifications. After serious complications with a shoulder operation Lisbeth was confined to a nursing home and no longer able to pursue her passion for potting. Peter, her husband kindly donated Lisbeth's equipment, tools, books and materials to the Valley Potters and Chisholm College. The proceeds of the sale of equipment and materials are used for a perpetual prize in Lisbeth's name in the Valley Potters annual exhibition. Sadly, in October 2009 Lisbeth passed away after a long period of incapacitation

This award befits Lisbeth's commitment to her craft, the college and the Valley Potters.

I attended Chisholm College with both these lovely ladies, brilliant potters and wonderful friends. It was as a privilege to be friends with both and a lovely way to remember each of them.

IDEAS FOR OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY?

Our 50th Anniversary is coming up in **2028**.

If you have ideas on how to make this a special celebration for all Valley Potters Members, email Alli at alli@valleypotters.org.au

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

This is your community newsletter and your community wants to hear from you! If you have an interesting experience, specialised knowledge or just a fun pottery anecdote, please consider contributing to the newsletter.

Send your articles and photos to marge@valleypotters.org.au

OPPORTUNITIES & CLASSIFIEDS



www.toorakvillage.com.au/sculpture/call-for-entries



deakin.snapforms.com.au/form/2025-deakin-university-contemporary-small-sculpture-award-entry-form



www.artsmansfield.com.au/event-details/klytie-pate-ceramics-award-and-exhibition-2025

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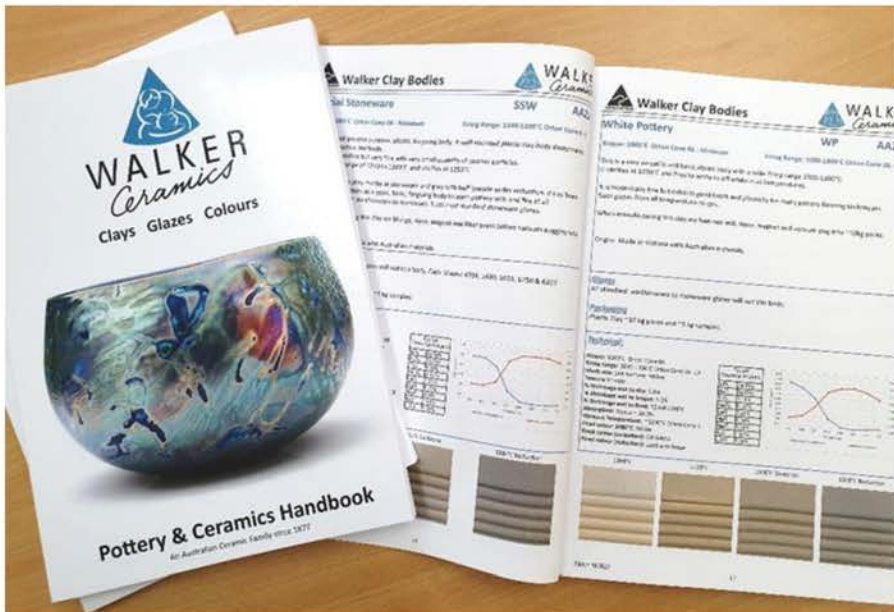
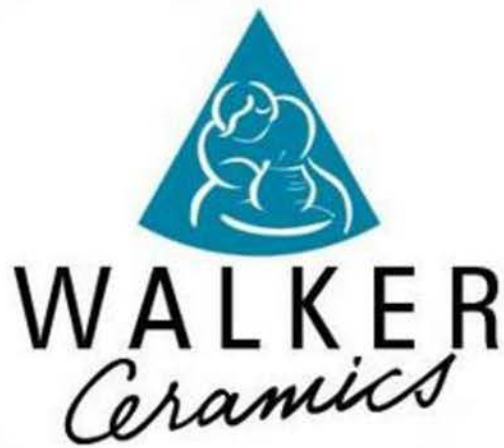


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