



# Valley Potters Inc.

Valley Potters A00112659W ABN: 78 071 492 195

## WHAT'S NEW AT VALLEY POTTERS

### Upcoming Events

Valley Potters End of Year Picnic  
December 1st 2024

'Out of the Fire' Member Exhibition  
Opening reception 2pm Dec. 15th

In this edition:

Presidents Report

Past Events Round Up

Farewell to past members

### NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following  
new members to Valley Potters:

Jane Cocks  
Susan Durham  
Kate Stuart  
Michelle Benson  
Shona Truscott  
Samantha Tullberg  
Carol Hodgson  
Terry Attard  
Amber Godfrey  
Kate McCarthy  
Lisa. Frankland  
Nicole Tomlinson  
Lisa Skillern  
Jennifer Sheridan



# Turn Up the Heat

with Valley Potters

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2024

Hello Everyone

How can it be the end of the year already?! I'm not sure how this year has gone by so quickly.

We have had a jam-packed year of workshops, catch-ups and exhibitions. A huge thank you goes to the team on the committee who have worked so hard to make everything happen. Without everyone volunteering to take on the positions and working so hard none of the events would happen.

The Pit Firing, Raku and Botanical Drawing workshops were fantastic. The weekend away to Ballarat was wonderful. And I'm looking forward to the Christmas party.

Our Annual Exhibition at Healsville MEMO was sensational and we are very grateful to Ted and Anne Secombe for their time and effort in judging the works. Our next one is at Marysville in the MiRa Gallery. I hope you get to put some works and make it to the Opening of the exhibition.

We have some catch ups and fantastic workshops planned for 2025 so keep an eye on your email inbox.

On behalf of the Valley Potters Committee. We wish you all a safe and happy festive season and we will see you in 2025.

Alli

## upcoming **EXHIBITION**

'OUT OF THE FIRE'

Thank you to all the artists who are taking part in this years (unjudged) exhibition at MiRa in Marysville. Kathryn and I have had the privilege of seeing photos of the work that you have submitted and it looks amazing. We can't wait to see it in person.

We hope to see many of the artists, other financial members, their friends and families at the opening event on the 15th of December.

As always we encourage new members to enter their work in our exhibitions, we know it can be a little daunting but we love seeing new and a wide variety of work. Don't hesitate to contact Kathryn or myself if you have any questions we are here to help.

Bernadette and Kathryn  
[exhibitions@valleypotters.org.au](mailto:exhibitions@valleypotters.org.au)

The poster features a black background with a green leaf logo for Valley Potters Inc. at the top. The main title 'MEMBER EXHIBITION' is in large white letters, followed by 'OUT OF THE FIRE' and 'MiRa GALLERY' in smaller white letters. The dates 'Sunday 15th December 2024 - Monday 27th January 2025' are listed below. A registration notice 'Register at valleypotters.org.au' and 'Registrations close 22nd November' is in white text. The bottom section has a background image of pottery pieces in a fiery orange and yellow glow. The opening details 'OPENING SUN 15TH DECEMBER 2PM', 'MiRa Gallery', and 'MARYSVILLE' are in bold white text. The address 'GALLIPOLI PARK 11 MURCHISON STREET MARYSVILLE VIC 3779' is in small white text at the very bottom.

Valley Potters Inc.

### MEMBER EXHIBITION

### OUT OF THE FIRE

### MiRa GALLERY

Sunday 15th December 2024 - Monday 27th January 2025

Register at [valleypotters.org.au](http://valleypotters.org.au)  
Registrations close 22nd November

**OPENING**  
**SUN 15TH DECEMBER 2PM**  
**MiRa Gallery**  
**MARYSVILLE**

GALLIPOLI PARK  
11 MURCHISON STREET MARYSVILLE VIC 3779

## Meet your 2024/25 Committee

### **President**

Alli Duckworth  
alli@valleypotters.org.au

### **Vice President**

Karen Goldsmith

### **Secretary & Public Officer**

Laura Windmill  
laura@valleypotters.org.au

### **Treasurer**

Meg Ford  
meg@valleypotters.org.au

*Assistant Treasurer*  
Vacant

### **Property Officer**

Laura Windmill  
laura@valleypotters.org.au

### **Exhibitions Officer**

Bernadette Skinner  
bernadette@valleypotters.org.au

*Assistant Exhibitions Officers*  
Kate Young kate@valleypotters.org.au  
Juliet Widdows juliet@valleypotters.org.au

### **Workshops Officer**

Adrienne Mann  
Adrienne@valleypotters.org.au

*Assistant Workshops Officers*  
Linda Moore linda@valleypotters.org.au  
2nd Assistant: Karen Goldsmith

### **Social Media**

Kathryn Young  
kate@valleypotters.org.au  
Assistant: Vacant

### **Newsletter Officer**

Marge Piper  
marge@valleypotters.org.au

### **Website Administrator**

Danielle Segal  
danielle@valleypotters.org.au

### **General Committee Members**

Sharon Twining  
Juliet Widdows  
Dianne Williams

## LET'S TALK SOCIAL MEDIA

**Valley Potters Facebook** is a great place to share all things art related and we welcome contributions and shared content. If you come across an art article or video, we'd love you to share it with our Facebook community.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1543631742601786>

**Valley Potters Instagram** showcases our members and their work. We would like to see more content from our members. Send [kate@valleypotters.org.au](mailto: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.

To engage with Valley Potters Instagram using the #valleypottersinc means your post is sent as a private message that only the social media team can view. For your post to be added to VP Instagram you need to click on the photo and tag @ValleyPottersInc.

<https://www.instagram.com/valleypottersinc/>

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



## VALLEY POTTERS MEMBERS

# Ballarat Weekend Away, October 25th - 27th

By Adrienne Mann

In October we had a very successful weekend away in Ballarat organized by one of our committee members, Linda Moore.

There was a very busy and interesting schedule, visiting 5 different potters' studios, and a guided tour around the Ballarat Art Gallery.

Everything worked out well for us, the reception we got from the artists, restaurant choices and the weather were all excellent. It was a wonderful weekend by all accounts and a chance to connect with each other and get insights into how other artist work.

I think we all came back inspired and ready to churn out some more work. I'm looking forward to next year!



A very informative tour at the Ballarat Art Gallery and some cheeky ceramics by artist, Sassy Park.

We had a wonderful time at the very bubbly, Steph Wallace's studio. She shared stories of her innovative processes and creative journey.



Next, Jan Alexander welcomed us to her beautiful garden and studio. We were also surprised by two Federation Uni staff from the ceramics department ; Koji Hoashi and Claire Blake.



Last stop for Saturday was Peter Pilven's home and studio where we were privileged to view his collection of pottery.



Sunday morning we explored Ruby Pilven's spacious gallery and studio, leaving many of us with potters envy!



And last stop before heading back to Melbourne was the charming Barry Wemyss at Red Echidna Studio.

A well planned, extremely enjoyable weekend full of conversation and lasting connections in our potting community.

# Raku Workshops, September 8th and 15th

By Marge Piper

The nerves and excitement that always comes with trying something out of your normal practice were definitely with me the morning I pulled up to Laura's place in Healesville to experience my first raku firing. No matter what the outcome, I was determined to simply enjoy the process and not second guess my work and abilities.

I listened, with a group of other eager Valley Potters members, as Laura explained some of the glazes available and then we all got to work deciding what to paint, pour or dip our creations in. All the while keeping in mind that with raku, best to expect the unexpected!

Our pots were prewarmed in the gas fire kiln and then the burners were lit in the raku kilns and the drama began. Although it took a while for the first few loads to get to temperature, soon the three kilns were being loaded and unloaded at a rapid pace. There was work of all shapes and sizes from those present and loading the kilns was a game of Tetris at times. Once the work was heated and glowing orange, they were removed and placed in metal bins filled with newspaper. The flames started immediately and then the lid was placed on the bin and the fire robbed of oxygen, helping the glazes create those magical, surprising colours. At first I wasn't sure if I wanted to don the welders gloves and large tongs but I went for it and was rewarded with a real sense of achievement and some fantastic looking pots to take home and admire.

Thank you to Laura and the other raku veterans that made these workshops a huge success.



# Pit Firing, The Gurdies

## August 3rd

By Juliet Widows

It was a chilly August morning when a group of diehard Valley Potters gathered together on a farm in The Gurdies to dig a big hole and burn pots.

Laura gave her talk about how to pack the pots, what may happen, expectations are to be put aside as the firing is so unpredictable. With tables set up, we began by dousing our pots with seaweed, copper, salts, anything that came to hand, excitedly discussing what wonders would emerge from the flames. Beautifully burnished pots were carefully laid in the pit by Linda with lots of encouragement and suggestions from everyone. Sawdust lined the pit and was sprinkled around the nestling pots, followed by Copper Carbonate, Rock Salt, Iron Sulphate and nicely foil wrapped pieces too. Twigs were laid at each end as a combustion point, followed by more wood, fence palings, and fire lighters to set it off. Chicken wire was laid half way through to stop larger chunks of wood dropping onto the pots. A cover of corrugated iron helped to keep the smoky goodness around the pots and create nice, black carbonising on the surfaces of the pots.

At a secondary fire, small pots were heated then pulled out to have honey and horsehair dropped onto the hot surface, creating wispy tendrils over the surfaces.

And being a Valley Potters event, we all brought a feast of epic proportions to share at lunchtime. It was a very welcoming and fun day, with many special pieces pulled from the fire the next weekend. Always a worthwhile day, with connections to fellow pyromaniacs- sorry; potters!

Start potting and be ready for next year!



## ANNUAL EXHIBITION & CERAMICS MARKET

# 'Shaping Earth' at The Memo, Healesville

By Bernadette Skinner

We had a annual exhibition at The Memo Gallery in Healesville that was judged by Ted Secombe. 24 Valley Potter artists exhibited 92 stunning pieces. The exhibit ran from Friday 5th July - Sunday 25th August and was well attended by the public.

A big thank you to all of our sponsors, artists and the Gallery for their continued support.

### Shaping Earth Award winners August 2024



Lisbeth Duncan Award  
sponsored by Fired Up Kilns –  
Ann Knights "Terrain"



Ruth Petersen Award sponsored  
by the Petersen Family –  
Danielle Segal "Echoes of Dusk"



Functional Award sponsored by  
Northcote Pottery –  
Jill Anderson  
"Pair of Wall Vases"



Sculptural Award sponsored by  
Walker Ceramics –  
Glenn England "Seed Pods"



Thrown Award sponsored by  
Australian Pottery Supplies –  
Juliet Widdows "Blizzard"

In conjunction with the exhibition we were able to offer an indoor Ceramic Market on Sunday the 7th of July where 20 Valley Potters had their work on offer. It was a lovely atmosphere and wonderful to see everyone's work, have a chance to socialise and help each other set up and pack up their stalls. A steady crowd came through the market and The Memo were very accommodating hosts.

# Vale Yvonne Strik and Kerrie Lightbody

By Laura Windmill

Sadly, Valley Potters has lost two long term members in recent months.

## Yvonne Strik

Yvonne Strik was a Life Member and was one of the founding members of the group. Yvonne was well known for her textured "Australiana" styled vessels. Although labelled "Australiana", Yvonne's work was hardly kitsch. The colours and textures in her work were always reminiscent of the Australian Outback. Her work won the Acquisition Award in 1994. Declining eyesight led to Yvonne having to scale back her ceramic endeavors, although Yvonne did try to attend workshops and AGMs.

## Kerrie Lightbody

Kerrie studied at Chisholm TAFE in the early 1990's and was known for her intricate porcelain slipcast vessels. These vessels were often pierced with tiny holes. Kerrie's work also was awarded the Acquisition price twice. Kerrie also served on the Valley Potters Committee and was our president also.

Both ladies were talented potters with their own very individual styles. Condolences to their families and friends.



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# What's coming up

## DECEMBER

End of Year Picnic  
Sunday 1st December  
Westerfold Ridge Picnic Area  
12pm - Bring a seat, a plate to share and  
a wrapped gift

'Out of the Fire' Exhibition Opening  
Sunday 15th December, 2pm  
MiRa Gallery Marysville

## FEBRUARY

Warrandyte Pottery Expo  
22nd and 23rd February

## MARCH

Mansfield Pottery Festival  
8th and 9th March

## COMING IN 2025

Fabric dyeing and jewellery making  
workshops, catch-ups and more!

**A VERY MERRY  
CHRISTMAS TO  
ALL VALLEY  
POTTER MEMBERS!**

**AND BEST WISHES  
FOR PERFECT  
FIRINGS IN 2025!**



### VALLEY POTTERS APRON \$40.00



This lovely practical apron is a fundraiser for the Valley Potters. It is beautifully embroidered with our logo. Money raised will help keep our costs down and make you look fabulous.

Made with polyester/cotton blend. One size.

[CLICK HERE](#)

### IDEAS FOR OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY?

We are looking for 6 to 8 members to be part of the organising subcommittee for the 50th Anniversary Exhibition that will happen in **2028**.

If you would like to part of the team, email Alli at [alli@valleypotters.org.au](mailto:alli@valleypotters.org.au)

### WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

NEWSLETTER contributions are always welcome. Please send photos and articles to [marge@valleypotters.org.au](mailto:marge@valleypotters.org.au)

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