



Valley Potters Inc.

Valley Potters A00112659W ABN: 78 071 492 195



WHAT'S NEW AT VALLEY POTTERS

Exhibitions

Herring Island
Exhibition
Warrandyte Expo

Workshops

Glenn England - Glaze
Workshop

Emma Parker -
Monoprinting
workshop

Events

Gulgong

Australian Ceramics
Triennale

WISHING ALL
VALLEY POTTERS A
FABULOUS 2022



END OF YEAR GET TOGETHER

A big thank you to Bernadette Skinner for again hosting the Valley Potters for our end of year get together. And another big thank you to Max Campbell for running the trivia competition. Max always puts in an amazing amount of effort to make the trivia questions fun and challenging. Max's favourite subject of Opera stumped many of us.

It was wonderful sitting amongst the old pear and apple trees, enjoying the sunshine, and chatting with Valley Potter founders and new members too.



Picnic in the orchard

NEW MEMBERS

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

Enrique Anderson
Ann Knights
Kathryn Young
Sarah Etherington
Linda Rudman
Tania Hungerford-Gerth

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AGM 2021

So 2021 didn't turn out quite like we were expecting ... postponed plans from 2020 rolled over to 2021, but yet again we have spent our time delaying events and transferring dates. We had lovely days mapped out with Raku, Pit firing, weekends away, as well as our Exhibitions. More broadly; Gulgong was postponed yet again, and many markets, exhibitions and Get Togethers discarded. Valley Potters' Committee have been in contact throughout the year keeping up with all the latest restrictions, attempting to make events happen, and generally keeping the ball rolling (although it has been quite flat lately).

Our End of year get together at Bernadette's orchard was a wonderful day and we thank her and her family for allowing us to Picnic there. There was food, raffles, a quiz, prizes lots of catching up ... so much more.

We will be having our first Committee meeting in January and hope it will be the start of a new year where we can finally come together and exchange ideas, learn, laugh, and get back to a New Normal. Plans are up and running for this year 2022, and beyond into 2023. Ideas are bouncing around for trips to Potter's studios, hands on workshops and lots of firings!

Please keep up on the website, Facebook, and our Newsletter for all the upcoming opportunities.

Your Pottery friend, Juliet

Moccha Diffusion

This unusual method of decoration creates beautiful Dendritic patterns that resemble trees and landscapes. It is best used over a white slip, using a common acid such as Apple Cider Vinegar. It is done over leather hard clay and can be left unglazed, though interiors would need to be glazed.

Moccha Method

First, dip, pour, or brush the leather-hard object with slip. While the surface is still wet, and before it has begun to lose its shine, the acid/colour mix is dripped or trailed into it. This is best done using a well-loaded brush held just touching the slip. If the viscosity of the slip and the acid/colour mix is right, the feathering pattern will take place naturally, as the acid eats a fern-like pathways through the slip, pulling the colorant with it.

The mixture used to form the patterns is called “mocha tea.” It originally was made by boiling tobacco leaves to form a thick sludge that was then thinned with water to a working consistency and mixed with colour. Nicotine solutions are a form of mild acid, and any form of mild acid will work, such as citric acid, lemon juice, coffee, wine or vinegar, particularly natural apple-cider vinegar.

The mix is made as a solution of acid mixed with colorant.

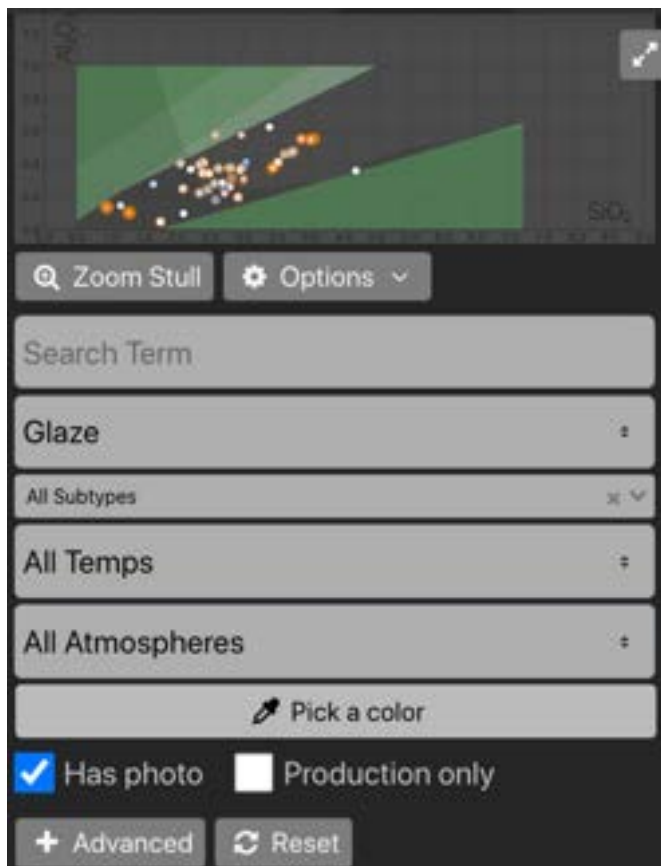


Need help with glaze chemistry?

Besides the myriad of glaze books on the market, here are a couple of online resources which you may find useful. They will help you to store and tweak your glaze recipes, research glaze materials and perhaps find new recipes.



[Glazy.org](https://glazy.org) is a free ceramics recipe library that allows anyone to add, browse, review and compare glaze & clay recipes. Glazy is an online glaze calculation software that promotes sharing recipes and test results so that potters can learn more about ceramic chemistry while verifying and improving results. Users post photos of their test tiles and recipes for others to try, or if you prefer, you can keep a private register of your own glazes.



Glazy.org offers multiple search criteria and all recipes are positioned on the Stull Chart as well as full chemical breakdown.



[Digitalfire.com](https://digitalfire.com) has been around since the 1980's. Tony Hanson shares his glaze knowledge, identifying and solving problems. There is an amazing reference library of articles that you can search - from the chemical breakdown of raw materials to why firing one cone lower may improve glaze results, to in-depth details about oxides.

Although there are tested recipes available on Digitalfire, it not really about trading recipes. Through the articles, they teach people to see glazes as oxide formulas. It is a fantastic resource library.

For those of you wanting to tweak glaze recipes, and use software to do so, they offer an online resource called <https://insight-live.com> (there is a fee for this service). Here you can create your own library of glaze recipes to research and alter.

A sample of the analysis provided from Insight-live.com.

You are able to adjust ingredients and determine the changes to the chemical analysis. [Note this can be done in Glazy too]

A screenshot of the Insight-Live software interface showing a detailed chemical analysis for a sample named "Willow Ash". The interface includes buttons for "Edit", "Del", "Report", and "Dup" at the top. The analysis is presented in a structured layout with tables for materials, additions, and chemical breakdown, along with summary statistics and ratios.

Willow Ash			
Code #	Batch #		
Auto-assign for	0		
Materials			
Pearl Ash	49.884		
Dolomite	13.498		
Whiting	6.807		
Bone Ash	21.714		
Silica	0.235		
Potash feldspar	6.474		
Additions			
*Iron	1.387		
Total: 98.61+1.39			
100	Batch Ticket		
Auto Unity • Formula + Analysis			
CaO	0.44	20.34%	Ratios
MgO	0.09	3.00%	
K ₂ O	0.46	35.59%	Si:Al: 6.3:1
(KNaO)	0.46		R ₂ O:RO:
P ₂ O ₅	0.08	9.33%	0.5:0.5
Al ₂ O ₃	0.01	1.20%	Expansion
SiO ₂	0.09	4.49%	20.4
			(Molar:19.0)
			LOI
			26.0

MEMBER PROFILE



@juliet_widdows



julietwiddowstudioceramics.com

MEET JULIET WIDDOWS VALLEY POTTERS PRESIDENT

How long have you been making pottery?

Since High School early 80's

How long have you been a member of Valley Potters?

14 years

Tell us about the type of work you make

Thrown functional water mainly, but have done Community murals hand built tiles etc.

Who is your favourite ceramic artist / potter and why?

Harold Hugan and Peter Rushforth were huge influences in my early days. I love their forms and glazes, inspired me to work hard at being a thrower.

What is one thing you would like to learn about pottery that you haven't yet discovered?

Practice with porcelain to make light , larger forms.

Do you have a favourite glaze recipe?

Cone 6 aqua gloss glaze Oxidation

Soda Felspar	58
Whiting.	17
Silica.	14
Ball Clay	6
Zinc Oxide	5
Copper Carbonate	1



MEMBER PROFILE



@bernadette_skinner_

MEET BERNADETTE SKINNER EXHIBITIONS OFFICER

How long have you been making pottery?
3 years

How long have you been a member of Valley Potters?
2 years

Tell us about the type of work you make
Mostly wheel thrown, sculptural, Raku.
Some functional.

Who is your favourite ceramic artist / potter and why?

I don't know many-

Alistair Whyte - I did a 6 week class with and he gave me the confidence to make some bigger pieces.

Kevin Boyd- I have been greatly influenced by his Raku..

What is one thing you would like to learn about pottery that you haven't yet discovered?

Glaze science



Kevin Boyd and Bernadette the Earthy Delights Exhibition

WHAT'S ON

GLAZE WORKSHOP WITH GLENN ENGLAND



12 March 2022

10-3pm Japara House

\$70 members \$100 non-members

Spaces limited. Book on the website now



Yarra Valley Open Studios

19 & 20 March - Yarra Valley (artists in the Yarra Valley)

and

26 & 27 March - Upper Yarra (artists around Warburton Hwy)

details: <https://www.yava.org.au/openstudios>

WORKSHOP

MONOPRINTING WITH EMMA PARKER

SUNDAY 1 MAY, 10AM-3PM



**\$70 MEMBERS
\$100 NON-MEMBERS**

Japara House
54/58 Durham Rd, Kilsyth

Enquiries: email Jill
workshops@valleypotters.org.au

POTTERY EXPO

SAT 26 & SUN 27
FEBRUARY 2022

WARRANDYTE
ON THE RIVER BANK YARRA ST
10AM - 5.30PM

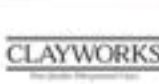
Clay Communities

AUSTRALIAN CONTEMPORARY STUDIO CERAMICS



IMAGE: ANN-MAREE GENTILE

WWW.POTTERYEXPO.COM



This project was supported by Manningham Council's Community Grant program.

So many Valley Potters have stands at this year's expo. Come along and support them.

Also our President, Juliet will present at the Tent talks.

Stand Member/s

5	Glenn England
9	Claysisters - Karen Goldsmith & Alli Duckworth
12	Valley Potters
24	Claire Sunderland
27	Laura Windmill & Juliet Widdows
36	Pauline Meade
38	Marlize Myburgh
62	Elnaz Nourizadeh

Visit Herring Island Summer Arts Festival 2022

Opening 12 February 12 - 2 pm

Dates: 12,13 | 19, 20 | 26, 27 February



Our visit with a legend

by Danielle Segal

During a recent road trip to Adelaide we had the privilege of spending time with the most energetic potter you will ever meet. Neville Salha and his wife Lynn graciously welcomed us into their home(s) not once, but twice on our trip and I thought I would share it with you. Shira Ash (fellow VP member) and our husbands shared this amazing experience.

Neville is 68 years young, and is a legend in every sense of the word. He has had an amazing career in ceramics and is such a generous person with his time and energy. He studied at the South Australian School of Art in the 70's. He has taught at South Australian Uni and at the Victorian College of the Arts, and most recently spent the last 16 years in Beirut teaching at the American University of Beirut. He ran the Meat Market in North Melbourne at a time when arts flourished (according to him it was the best time of his life), and he ran the Jam Factory in SA for four years.

He and Lynn have a passion for restoration. About 40 years ago a friend suggested he buy a dilapidated old Church in Dutton SA. For those of you who may not know, Dutton is a small town in the Barossa. They have painstakingly restored the church into a wonderful home and added an amazing studio which he was very happy to show us. Neville is very proud of the fact that he did the restoration himself, laying all the stonework, raising the ceiling and installing cedar beams befitting a church, and creating a sunken conversation pit where the alter once stood. The main room is adorned with Neville's pieces – many of which were black fired. Pieces of note were a very large urn built as a protest to war, covered in bandages, the Cocoon series, and the pots that commemorate life events, like the birth of his children.



Neville with is blackfired work



Neville with Cocoon Series also blackfired



Neville demonstrating how to use the stick wheel given to him by his mentor Milton Moon. And Neville and amongst work in his studio.



Neville told us that '*making is like playing music, like finding your own notes on a guitar*'. He wonderfully danced around the studio with energy and joy, bringing smiles to our faces.

He talked about the calligraphic mark making, which is typical of much of his work, that forms the language of his pots. The mark making is influenced by both Arabic and Japanese, he makes the marks with movement from right to left reflecting Arabic language. Although they may look like lettering, the marks are not actually letters or words but a beautiful sense of them.

Neville spoke a lot about teaching. Not only does he love teaching, but he values learning from his students. He shared with us a fun story about when he first started teaching in Beirut he introduced himself whilst standing on his head, and challenged his students to do the same - all to break down barriers!



Beautiful Shino pots by the window



Neville talking about his gas kiln - marked with the year he built it





Neville's wife Lynn is a high school art teacher. Her corner of the studio building is filled with an amazing collection of vintage children's books and beautiful antique furniture including printer's shelves carefully transported to Dutton.

Lynn proudly showed us the wagga she has been working on in memory of her mother. Born out of necessity, the wagga is a particular kind of utilitarian quilt made in Australia. Traditionally consisting of multiple layers of jute (burlap) bags sewn together, they may also include calico sacks, recycled clothes, fabric scraps and old blankets. She has one that her mother made from family momentos including her father's old jumpers lovingly restored by Lynn.

Now Lynn is making a wagga to honour her mother.

Neville took us down to 'the cellar' - or at least that's what I call it, where he proudly houses a collection of his own work and pieces he has been acquired from other potters.



Lynn and Neville spend their lives between Dutton and Adelaide, where they are restoring the Q Theatre in Hastings street - another old church. They live upstairs, and are creating an amazing performance / entertainment / gallery space downstairs. Helping Neville fulfil his dream of making it a place where people can experience ceramics and food and music, creating a collaborative venue bringing food, art and music together. I can imagine Neville making pots and dancing whilst sharing the stage with musicians and other artists.

It's hard to capture what an impact meeting Neville and Lynn has had - their warmth and generosity abound. It was 2 days I will never forget.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT JAN 2022

Happy New Year and Welcome back to our regular members and our many new members...

Plans are in place to organise our excellent Hands On workshops this year, such as the Raku, Pit Firings, Weekend Away etc. The Committee is also working toward new Exhibitions in various venues, as well as looking forward to this year's Summer Arts Festival on Herring Island.

Our wonderful potters will be treated to various opportunities to be involved, meet fellow potters and enjoy finding new information and ideas. Fund raising to keep these events happening is required and so we will be offering Raffles, Prizes, Silent Auctions and some new ideas to help keep the prices down for our members. These are always a lot of fun and great goodies to be had.

If anyone has an idea for somewhere to visit- a Gallery, Studio or Event, then please share this with us via the website Newsletter or at meetings. We welcome any feedback and assistance.

Hoping this year sees us all together more often,

Juliet



All a potter wants for their birthday is: new kiln, a clean studio, a clean pottery wheel, new glazes, and a "ceramics assistant." Is that too much to ask for?



Chrysalis Pottery
someecards
user card

 Valley Potters Inc.
TURNS 50 IN 2028
**CAN YOU
HELP?**

Valley Potters 50th Anniversary

We are putting out a call to our members who are interested in joining the 50th Anniversary Exhibition Subcommittee.

We are looking for 6 to 8 members to be part of the organizing subcommittee for the 2028, 50th Anniversary Exhibition. It is only 6 years away and we want to start preparing. If you would like to be part of the team, please contact Alli at alli@valleypotters.org.au

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Valley Potters Inc.

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EXHIBITION?

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10-20 boxes \$200

Plus Bond Deposit

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get all the Terms and Conditions



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NEW DATES

**REGISTER
YOUR INTEREST
ON WEBSITE**

*JOIN US FOR A FABULOUS WEEKEND
AWAY IN GIPPSLAND
15TH - 16TH OCTOBER 2022*

VISIT WELL KNOWN POTTERS AND GALLERIES

ZAC CHARMERS

OWEN RYE

SUE ACHESON

ANNE-MARIE GENTILE

See website for more details and
registration form
valleypotters.org.au

Note that dates may change if Covid restrictions apply