



Valley Potters Inc.

Valley Potters A00112659W ABN: 78 071 492 195



COMING UP AT VALLEY POTTERS

AGM at Your DNA Croydon Sep. 20th
Market at Cardinia Cultural Centre Sep. 27th

NEW MEMBERS

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

Barbara Magnay
Natasha Jansz
Natalie Heriot
Zoe Godfrey
Jennifer Foley(Burrows)
Elaheh Amini

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JUNE 2025

Hello Everyone

I hope you have had a great and productive Winter although it's difficult to get the motivation up to get into the studio when it's so cold, but how beautiful it is to see the wattle and blossom blooming and the bulbs flowering knowing that Spring is here.

We have had a busy few months with firstly the Pit Firing at the beautiful Gurdies, on a stunning sunny day. There were some amazing results as you will see in the write up.

The 2 Raku workshops will have been held by the time you read this, so we're all hoping for great weather for those two events.

Our AGM is on Saturday the 20th of September at Your DNA in Croydon. We have the always fun 'Quiz with Max' and a mini workshop on surface decoration. It's a fun day and a great way to meet lots of our members. We are looking for some people to join the committee and be part of the decision making for the group, bring new ideas and work with an experienced group. We have an opportunity to be part of the inaugural Cardinia Ceramics Market at the end of September. I hope you will join us and spread the word about it.

The End of Year/Christmas Party picnic is at Heidi in the beautiful sculpture park and gardens at the end of November. It is free to go through the gardens, but it does cost to enter the museum and house. We hope to see you there.

All the best for this busy time of year.
Alli

JOIN US FOR TACTILE

Tactile brings together members of Valley Potters, a collective of ceramic artists from across Victoria, united by a shared passion for clay and the handmade. This exhibition celebrates the physical and sensory connection between hand, material, and form – offering a rich exploration of texture, surface, and touch.

From smooth porcelain to rough stoneware, each piece speaks to the intimacy of the maker's process: a finger's pressure, a tool's mark, the trace of fire. Tactile invites viewers to engage with the subtle language of clay and to reflect on our human instinct to connect through touch.

In a world increasingly shaped by the digital and intangible, these works offer a grounding, physical experience. Tactile is a celebration of clay's enduring ability to speak through the body – raw, immediate, and deeply felt.

Entry form online:

<https://www.valleypotters.org.au/tactile-exhibition>

See award criteria here:

<https://www.valleypotters.org.au/exhibition-awards>



Valley Potters Inc.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION TACTILE

LADDER ART SPACE GALLERY

28th November - 20th December 2025

Entry fee \$70

Register at [valleypotters.org.au](https://www.valleypotters.org.au)

Registrations close 24th October

OPENING
28TH NOVEMBER 6 PM - 8 PM
Ladder Art Space Gallery
81 DENMARK ST, KEW

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

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
Diane Williams

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

6th and 13th - Raku workshops

20th - Valley Potters AGM at Your DNA,
Croydon 10:30 am

27th - Indoor Pottery Market at Cardinia
Cultural Centre. 10am - 3pm

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

8th and 9th - Australian Ceramics Open Studios
members.australianceramics.com/openstudios

23rd - Valley Potters End of Year Picnic at
Heide Gallery

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



20 SEPT 2025

A background image showing a person's hands working on a piece of pottery, with other pottery pieces visible in the foreground.

Time: 10:30 am
Location: Your DNA Creative Arts
1/51 Lusher Rd, Croydon

What to bring:
Bring a plate to share for lunch
and BYO brushes, sponges, tools and pot (if you want to)

VALLEY POTTERS AGM
TRIVIA QUIZ BY MAX CAMPBELL
SURFACE DECORATION WORKSHOP
WE WILL BE MAKING STAMPS AND
USING SHELLAC. CLAY SUPPLIED

AGM QUIZ & WORKSHOP

VALLEY POTTERS MEMBERS Weekend in Shepparton

By Marge Piper

We started out our weekend away this year at a popular local restaurant, catching up with fellow potters we may not have seen for a while and meeting new friends who joined us from the surrounding area.



Our first stop on Saturday morning was the cozy new studio, workshop, and storefront of Nocturne Studios. Erin and Mel enjoyed the company of potters in Wangaratta but were eager for a similar community experience closer to home in Shepparton. They have only recently moved into this space, quickly making it their own with fresh coat of paint, interesting op shop finds and a selection of their own and friend's work on display. We could all tell that these women have a great love of pottery and a thirst for knowledge and experience. They have started offering a couple classes a week in handbuilding and they are planning on improving the space with better plumbing and their own kiln.



On to the next visual feast for the day was another gallery in town, Tank's Art Gallery. It was immediately evident that Tank is a great supporter of the art scene in Shepparton and encourages artists of many mediums. Not only were there ceramics on show, but paintings and metalwork as well.



Work by Marion Langford

Work by Kaye Poulton



Our private tour of Shepparton Art Museum was our next stop after a quick lunch. Valley Potters members had an interesting look at some of SAM's ceramics collection that was on display, as well as an overview of the permanent collection and hear about the ambitions of the museum to grow into an arts destination.



Belinda Fox



Sam Jinks



Kirsten Coelho



Gwyn Hanssen Pigott



Vipoo Srivilasa



Saturday's afternoon tea spot was the welcoming studio of Kaye Poulton. Kaye has many years of experience with pottery and her easy manner chatting to all of us about her craft and projects made for a very enjoyable afternoon. We were also treated to a throwing demonstration with a mix of commercial and local clay.



An unexpected invitation came from Kate and Bernadette's Air BnB's host, who is an avid collector of Australian pottery. We were welcomed into her home to appreciate her colourful display before heading to dinner.



Unfortunately the rain still succeeded in keeping us all in doors, but Barbara Magnay cheerfully welcomed us into her home for our final visit on Sunday morning. Barbara also demonstrated her pine needle weaving technique and happily answered questions about her materials and how to prepare them.



Thank you to Linda and the committee for planning the weekend. It's great to catch up with friends as well as meet artists and collectors from further away.



VALLEY POTTERS WORKSHOP

My Play with 'MAGIC DUST' for the recent Pit Firing

by Sharon Twining

I came across this enlightening article while preparing for the pit firing. It was from "Pottery Making Illustrated" Nov/Dec 2016. The article is titled 'Pit Firing -Colour Palette' by Eduardo Lazo. It is well worth a look.

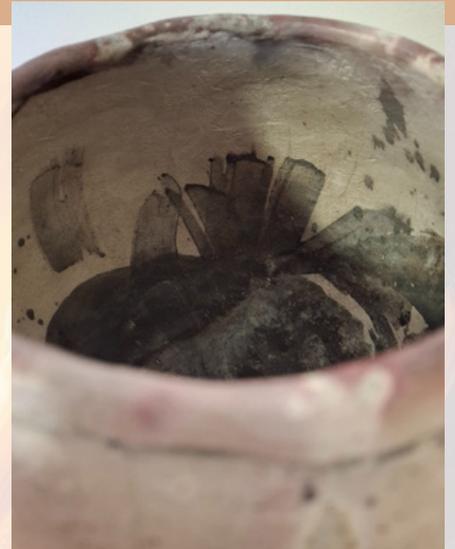
This article has the recipe for 'Magic Dust'. It suggests a mixture of one third copper carbonate to two thirds salt. Two cups of this can be sprinkled liberally on the combustibles in the pit with care taken not to get it directly on the ware. However, it can also be made into a solution with the addition of a very small amount of cobalt carbonate, that can be either sprayed or brushed onto ware before being bisqued. It can also be applied to the inside walls of a saggar.

I made up a mixture consisting of 20gms salt, 10 gms copper carbonate and 1.5 gms cobalt carbonate into 250 mls of water. (NB. My ratio calculations are most likely inaccurate as maths was never my strong point.) With this mixture I proceeded to spray one of my pots, and I brushed some onto the inside of another pot. These were bisqued and the results looked quite promising. I didn't photograph these pots before going into the pit but the results were very interesting; Strong blues and the mixture stuck very well.

The results after the pit firing were a little mixed. The spray marks very evident and were quite black with tiny flashes of red in some spots. The brushed areas that were inside one pot were also very black. I also brushed some of the 'magic dust' solution onto some parts of the pots but as far as I could tell it didn't result in any noticeable marks on the surface.

Overall, I was quite pleased with the results from this pit firing. Another article I found informative was from The Journal of Australian Ceramics Volume 56 No 2, July 2017.

It was a great day and I would like to thank Danielle's family for providing the venue for this experience. The photos are close ups of the spray and brush marks on my pots.



MEMBER EXPERIENCE

Cameron Williams -Throw Bigger!

By Juliet Widdows

I was fortunate to attend a two-day workshop hosted by Soul Clay Studio, and led by Cameron Williams. The Studio was in the beautiful coastal town of Gerringong, which is a picturesque place and so inspiring after a long drive through and over the mountains. Cameron is renowned for throwing massive pots and pieces for large hotels and commercial premises.



He began by demonstrating how he goes about centring 5 – 10 kilos of clay on very large bats. He was very clear on how to hold the fingers and palm of your hand in order to get the maximum lift. He encouraged us to use the flat palm of our left hand, pinch with your right hand as you pull up...and do this on the left side of your wheel! Then revert back to the right hand side and continue throwing in the usual way. Compress the rim after every lift...he uses the web between his fingers to compress. His way of working was considered and efficient, taking his time at each part of the construction, without labouring or wearing the clay out. He gave us all a handout that was beautifully drawn, a talented artist and potter.

After a morning of watching and note taking, we were able to have a go ourselves! Our first task was to throw a large cylinder, with as much clay as you felt comfortable with. I began with 4 kilos and surprised myself at how easily the clay moved up using his techniques. Everyone there was excited and able to create tall, wonderful cylinders. We shared a lunch, talking about all we had learned, where we came from and what our specialties were.

Lunch done and everyone was very keen to watch him demonstrate throwing large bowls. A slightly different way to pull up and out this time, and using a sponge to disperse the pressure. I spent my time throwing bowls, getting bigger and bigger each time, and cutting them in half to check the thickness.

Weary and muddy it was time to go home to the Caravan Park, stroll on the beach and have a lovely meal. Bright and early I set off for a day of throwing two piece pots, and stretching my centring skills. I took a couple of blocks of my own clay that was a bit groggier than the clay supplied. I felt it had more "tooth" and held up better to get a taller piece. I was pretty happy with the four pots I decided to keep- and had to pack them especially well, in order to get them home on the long drive back to Menzies Creek.



I was fairly wrapped up in my own attempts but eventually took the time to wander around and watch other people achieve amazing pots. There was an awful lot of recycling of clay, trying to throw bigger, thinner, taller, wider, better. The enthusiasm and excitement was contagious and the smiles on everyone's faces said it all.

I have been making pots for many years and am fairly confident on the wheel, but there is always an opportunity to learn something new and share skills. As there are very few TAFE or Ceramic courses, it is imperative that we share all the knowledge that we can, help each other and be encouraging for the younger potters coming up. As creative people we learn through trial and error and asking questions...let's keep asking!

Pakenham Indoor Ceramics Market

Spaces Still
Available

Sept 27th



Valley Potters Inc.

Artwork and photo credit Adam Cox

**Valley Potters are working with
Cardinia Shire to hold an Indoor
Pottery Market**

**Saturday 27 Sep. 2025
10am-3pm**

Held in conjunction with the
Robert Gordon Pottery 80th
Celebration Exhibition

[Apply here.](#)

Limited spots available!

Cardinia Cultural Centre - Pakenham

Cost: \$20 per table (supplied)

Suggested Potters Insurance:

duckforcover.com.au

Enquiries: Bernadette Skinner:
exhibitions@valleypotters.org.au

Clayshaper in Emerald By Sarah Etherington

I am fortunate to live in the beautiful, tree studded village of Emerald on the boundary of Emerald Lake Park. This year we purchased a purpose-built studio from Stilla and have erected this so that I can focus on my journey in ceramics and also have the ability to run small classes. My pottery studio, recently completed, marks an important step in the evolution of my ceramic practice. It has been a game changer having a dedicated space, out of the house, away from the interruptions and surrounded by forest, accompanied by the distant call of Puffing Billy's steam engine and it provides both the solitude and focus needed to expand my creative language. I have enough room for my slab roller that my husband built and I also have a small, separate kitchenette for tea and coffee. As I make most of my own glazes, it has plenty of shelf space purchased from Ikea.

I also have a single phase, front-loading electric kiln; the decision of where to place it took a while. It is actually located up at my house in the carport. As we are on an acre, I decided I needed the kiln near me so I can check it when it is running overnight. Trust me when I say that it is black at night time up here and the wild life make weird noises!!

I am also excited to say that I have registered to open the studio this year for the Australian Ceramics Open Studio 2025, just to be able to share my space and to meet fellow potters. I would love it if you came to visit.



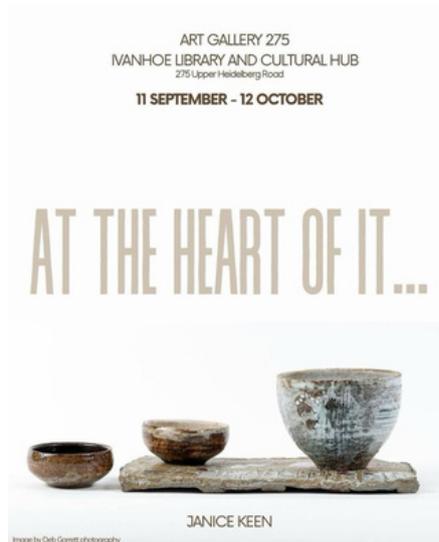
OPPORTUNITIES & CLASSIFIEDS

OPPORTUNITIES

FIRING SERVICE

Diane Stirling: Electric
Firing: bisque and glaze at
1220 Price: \$12 per kilo
Location: Healesville
Contact: 0400145093

MEMBER'S EXHIBITIONS



EXHIBITION
SEPTEMBER 20 -
OCTOBER 5

MACE, 145 HIGH STREET
MANSFIELD

11AM - 3PM DAILY

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

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

Contemporary Small Sculpture Award
28th Aug - 10th October

Congratulations to finalist Marlize Myburgh

*Congratulation to Ann Knights and
Marlize Myburgh for being finalists in
the Klytie Pate award!*

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"It's brilliant! The firing ramp is very accurate, and the insulation is mind-blowing".

Keith Brymer Jones

Master potter, head judge of "The Great Pottery Throw Down", UK.



Pottery equipment | Clay | Glazes | Classes

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★★★★★
4.9 star Google Rating





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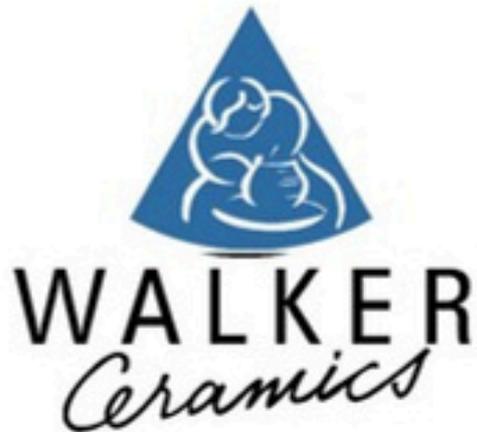
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*Celebrating 140 years of service to the
Ceramics community of Australia*

Come and join the celebrations!

- Free Goodie Bag for the first 200 people through the NEW front door

- Grab a chance to win a Greg Daly Plate valued at \$350 in our Lucky Door Prize draw
(Kindly donated by Greg Daly)



- Demonstrations during the day with your chance to add to the Handle Tree with Kevin Boyd and Bec Withington
 - Free Barista made coffees all day
 - Lucky Dips and random Spot Prizes
- Free face painting, balloon animals, clay play and colouring for the kids
- Gold Coin Sausage Sizzle and Drinks stand with all proceeds going to support Cancer Research

Saturday September 13th

9am – 3pm

5 McLellan St, Bayswater, Vic.