



Valley Potters A00112659W ABN: 78 071 492 195



### WHAT'S NEW AT VALLEY POTTERS

#### Events

Valley Potters Catch up  
May 19th 2024

Annual exhibition - entries  
close soon

Botanic drawing workshop  
20th July

#### In this edition:

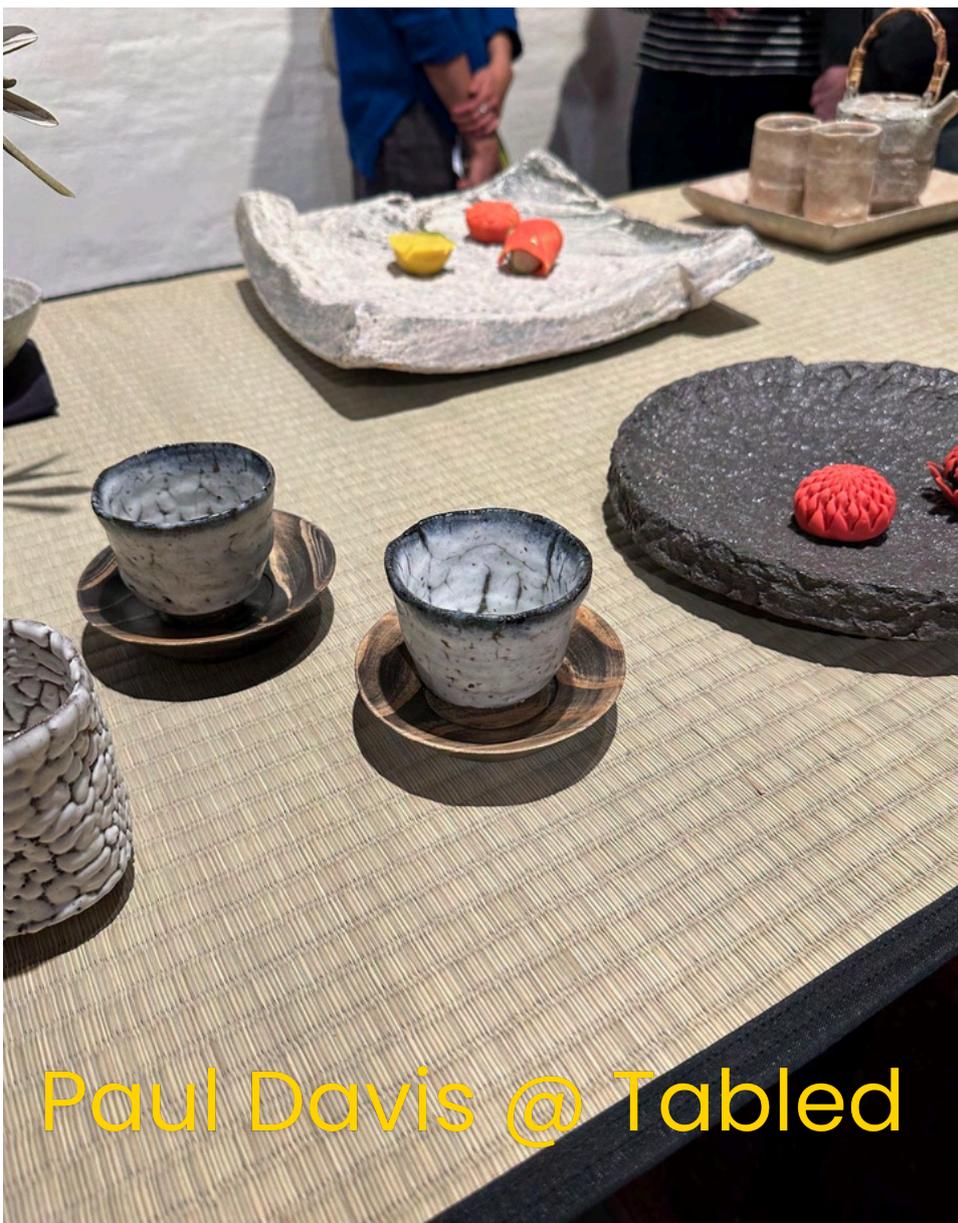
Presidents Report

Clay Catch Up

Mansfield Pottery Festival

Ted Secombe

Laura's Sth American travels



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

April 2024

Hello Everyone

It has been a very busy time with the first VPI Catch-Up on the 10th of February at Elnaz Nourizedah and her husband Bez's home, gallery and studio, a huge thank you to them both for having us all there and making us feel so welcome and at home. Our next Catch-Up will be on the 19th of May at Annie and Jeff's home in Toorak, I will be catching up with Danielle to sort out the details.

I hope everyone had a great time at Warrantdyte and those who also did Mansfield. It's a big effort to do one let alone both. Congratulations to Bernadette who also won the Northcote Pottery Throwdown.

The felting workshop with textile artist Elizabeth Armstrong on the 23rd of March was a success. We filled all available spots, and everyone had a great time. We are also looking forward to the Botanical Art workshop, and the annual Pit firing and Raku workshops dates are locked in. Thanks to Adrienne for organizing these. Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to help.

Our Annual Exhibition is to be held at MEMO Healesville in July this year and there are many exciting things to go along with that. The forms are out and there's always a huge amount of work involved with the exhibitions. After many years of talking about it there is now a draft of the criteria for the awards.

It will be great to have a discussion and finalize it ready for our 2024 Annual Exhibition. Thanks to Bernadette and Kathryn for organizing this, you are a brilliant team, and we really appreciate all you have done to make it happen. Please let us know if there is anything that we can help with.

Our Acquisition collection is now being housed temporarily at Bernadette's and we are selling off the cabinets the collection was housed in. If anyone is interested in purchasing the wooden cabinet which is on wheels and very easy to move around, please contact me. The other one got damaged in transit, but the glass is in good condition so if anyone is interested in taking it, please let me know. I have yet to get photos of the things and put them up for sale.

A big welcome to our new members and especially to our new Newsletter Editor Yasmin who has jumped into the position with enthusiasm. We have a few people who have put their hands up so I hope we can have an editorial team to help spread the load. I will chat with Yasmin and Danielle to see if this could work.

Thank you also to those who replied to our letter requesting help, we appreciate your time and effort.

As always, a big thank you to you all.

Alli

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to Valley Potters:

Kimbrell Altman  
Louise McLennan  
Niki Connely  
Yasmin Bushby  
Julia Franz  
Corina Horstra  
Georgina Waldron  
Vicky Lynagh  
Caroline Finkelde

## Meet your 2023/24 Committee

### **President**

Alli Duckworth  
alli@valleypotters.org.au

### **Vice President**

Karen Goldsmith

### **Secretary & Public Officer**

Laura Windmill  
laura@valleypotters.org.au

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meg@valleypotters.org.au

### **Assistant Treasurer**

Vacant

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laura@valleypotters.org.au

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### **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**

Yasmin Bushby

### **Website Administrator**

Danielle Segal  
danielle@valleypotters.org.au

### **General Committee Members**

Sharon Twining  
Jill Anderson



What a fantastic opportunity to visit the Manly Gallery where Tabled and Held exhibitions are simultaneously being presented along with two other very special ceramics exhibitions. If you are in Sydney in the next few months a visit to the Manly gallery is a must!



Danielle Segal, Pauline Meade and Clare Unger, with Clare's work at Tabled.



Pauline Meade with her piece at Held

# What happened at the last catchup in Feb?

By Alli Duckworth



Huge thanks go to Elnaz Nourizadeh and her husband Bez for hosting us for our first VPI Catch Up for 2024.

We had a wonderful time at Eli's home/gallery/studio, Mesopotamia Art Space. The weather was perfect to be out and about in Coburg North on the 11th of February. Eli and Bez's home is a small shop space on Newlands Road, which they generously share with artists by partitioning the kitchen/dining room off creating a perfect space for an artist to exhibit their work in the front of the shop.

Eli showed us her latest work and her studio out the back in the old brick shed. Eli's domestic ware has a fun Mid Century feel to it and has some beautiful colour and brushwork. There is a myriad of glazes, in so many colours lining the shelves.

Once a month an Artist Gathering is held at Mesopotamia Art Space, to talk about their work and life influences. Everyone is welcome to come, listen and join in.

We also were lucky to have David, Eli and Bez's neighbour from 2 shops down the road tell us about Fly Little Bird Gallery and Fly Little Bird Podcast. David interviews artists for the podcast which is videoed in the gallery space. Eli was featured back in January.

Mesopotamia Art Space and Fly Little Bird Gallery have formed a symbiotic relationship where they will have artists who share a passion or work to go over the two galleries. It's great to see how the two businesses can support each other.

The other artistic passion for David is his black and white photography. He does digital photography for products such as Eli's pots and artwork etc. but, his love is taking the shot with his SLR camera and printing his vision in the darkroom. Occasionally, if he wants colour in the shot he will hand colour the photograph.



After a beautiful lunch provided by everyone, we were treated to a presentation by Elnaz about her life and work. Eli started her love of clay when she was about 12yo. having classes with one of the only women ceramicists in Iran and has continued that love of the medium ever since. Her sculptures are dynamic and have a life of their own. Emigrating to Australia from Iran would have been such a huge move, away from family and friends and yet Eli has a beautiful way of bringing people together and making connections within the community, which is so important as artists can feel isolated in their own practice and especially when you move to a foreign country without anyone.

We are so grateful to Eli and Bez for having us, please check out the links for the podcast and both Galleries below and thanks to everyone who came along on the day, it was great seeing you all.

## REGISTER FOR THE NEXT CATCH UP

**JOIN US FOR  
THE NEXT VALLEY POTTERS  
CATCH UP**

**MEET  
CONNECT  
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS  
SEE ART COLLECTION**

**MEMBERS ONLY (FREE EVENT)  
19TH MAY 10:30AM - 3:00PM  
HOME OF ANN AND JEFF BROWN  
ADDRESS PROVIDED WHEN YOU REGISTER**

*Places  
Limited*

We have to limit the numbers for this catch up so don't miss out!

[REGISTER  
HERE](#)



# Felting workshop with Elizabeth Armstrong

By Karen Goldsmith

In March we held our first workshop for the year. We all grabbed a tea or coffee as Elizabeth Armstrong explained what we would be learning throughout the day. We found her to be very warm, giving, and informative in sharing her love of felting. She runs workshops around Australia and had been invited to South Korea to run some there as well. She has also worked with schools to organize installations.

We started by selecting the skein of merino wool which Elizabeth had hand dyed in assorted colors. We placed a small felt square which can be sourced from a place called silk sational in NSW. This was then placed onto a large draw liner bought from Ikea. Our next step was to pull a small length from the skein and with our hands apart we would tear this into smaller pieces choosing different colors as we worked from top to bottom making our way across the batt placing the wool down. At this stage it was important to have good coverage of the fleece. We were then shown how to make different patterns using fine lengths of the fleece, you can also use other natural fibers such as cotton or silk.

I think at this stage it was great to stop for lunch and as usual there was a lot of delicious food to have, and we were lucky the weather was lovely so we could eat outside and get to know each other better.

After lunch, the next step was to place a flywire or screen netting over our layout, and with a tub of soap solution which was made from water and soap flakes, starting in the middle we placed the solution onto our layout.



Using a circular movement with our hand covering the whole layout we were aiming to wet the base layer. We were then able to remove the netting and roll up our work still on the liner and place this onto a towel and roll this up as well. We then had to start rolling our work back and forward applying even pressure about 200 times one way then another 200 in the opposite direction, we did about 800 altogether. WHAT A GOOD WORKOUT!

We then removed the felt from the towel and liner and placed the felt so the back was up then rolled it into a log and rolled it for about 2 minutes. This is important as it is a hardening process for the wool. The next step was a lot of fun as we gathered our work up and started throwing it onto the mat for about 40 counts. Using luke warm water we then washed our pieces out. As the backing shrinks it takes everything with it and the shrinkage rate is about 30%.

After we all had washed our pieces, it was interesting to lay them out together and see all the beautiful colors and styles everyone had chosen. Some were going to be made into wall hangings, cushions, or bags and some were going to have other embellishments attached. It was a wonderful day and lots of fun.

Thanks everyone!

Karen Goldsmith





Valley Potters Inc.

# ANNUAL EXHIBITION

## SHAPING EARTH

**5 JULY - 25 AUGUST**

OPENING SAT 6TH JULY

**THE MEMO GALLERY  
HEALESVILLE**



Ann Knights Vessel - Lisbeth Duncan Award 2023

### EXHIBIT WITH US

All financial members  
are invited to enter  
work in our annual  
exhibition

**\$60 ENTRY FEE**

**ENTRIES CLOSE  
13TH MAY**

SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS  
[valleypotters.org.au](http://valleypotters.org.au)



**ENTRIES  
CLOSING SOON**



This year the annual exhibition *Shaping Earth* will be judged by Master Potter Ted Secombe, a world-renowned potter well known to many Valley Potters.

### A bit about Ted

Yarra Valley local, Ted Secombe is regarded as one of Australia's most significant and accomplished ceramic artists and sculptors. Ted's practice has focused on artworks in the decorative area where he creates pieces of the highest quality and beauty.

His career has spanned over 40 years, exhibiting in many International, solo and group exhibitions across Asia, Europe, UK, NZ and the USA. He has also held over 30 solo exhibitions within Australia.

Ted is recognised as a member of the International Academy of Ceramics. His artworks are represented in Australia's foremost public collections including the National Gallery of Australia. His artworks have also been acquired for inclusion in 40 public collections worldwide and are held in corporate collections including Etihad Towers Abu Dhabi, Ritz Carlton Singapore and Conrad Hilton Singapore.



# South American travels

By Laura Windmill

Over our summer I had the great privilege to travel to Antartica, Argentina and Chile.

Antartica was like visiting another world, stunning scenery, whales, birds, penguins, seals, the list goes on.

Towering cliffs, helicopter rides over glaciers and colours so clear and crisp it was a visual explosion to my eyes. We were lucky to be a select group to walk on the sea ice and enjoy beautiful weather for most of our entire trip. Not much “pottery” to be found in this region, but plenty of inspiration.

We moved on to Argentina, namely Patagonia and this was an amazing area to visit. Rugged mountains, glaciers, wide flat plains and lakes so blue the colours look like they are photoshopped. The blue is due to the suspension of glacial ground rock in the water, often referred to as glacial flour or silt. We visited ancient prehistoric caves in both Chile and Argentina. The textures in some of these areas would look fabulous translated onto clay.

Of course, I discovered some pottery but due to weight restrictions with internal flights I was only able to buy small items. I purchased a gorgeous little teacup in Punta Walichu, Argentina, where there is an important archeological site in the caves there. We were also lucky to have an armadillo cross our path. Also, in the nearby town of El Calafate I purchase a gorgeous little pot with a traditional Argentinian design. The sights we saw in this region were breathtaking, towering glacial mountains, beautiful lakes and amazing wildlife.

We moved over the border again to Chile and spent time in the Torres des Paine National Park with more amazing scenery. The wind in Patagonia is fierce and trees down south are often called flat trees, google them and you will understand why.



Patagonian red porcelain jug



Bariloche Ceramica Majolica Dish

Our last stop in Argentina was a town called Bariloche, one of our members Helen Trudinger suggested I check out the pottery there. Driving there the area got seedier and seedier and we finally found it.

Pottery was founded in 1948, making ceramic stoves and functional ware. It now employs 10 staff and, like many businesses, was hard hit by the pandemic and some staff lost their jobs. No tourists and few orders meant the shopfront in the main part of town was closed, but they are now slowly bouncing back.

The “Rizza” range which they refer to as red porcelain is made from Patagonian raw materials. The designs are based on traditional Patagonian designs. Clays are sourced from Rio Negro, Chubut, Neuquen and Santa Cruz,

All work is unique, the decorative motives are completely freehand without tracing. Work is fired between 1000 and 1300 degrees. Some works are decorated in classic Majolica designs.

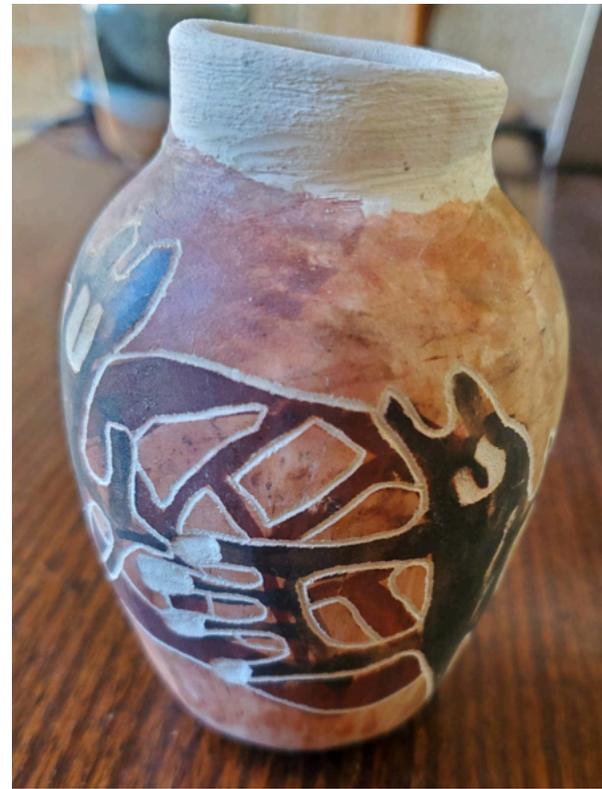
The salesperson we spoke to was one of the designers and owners who learnt his skills from his father and grandfather. Although his English and my Spanish was limited, we understood each other with the help of Google Translator. When paying for my purchases, we asked if he would accept US dollars as he offered a discount for cash. \$40 discount, proves cash is king, especially in Argentina where inflation is out of control. He was happy, I was happy and husband even happier.

There is a great video on their website showing how decorations are done:

**[ceramica-bariloche.com/tradition](http://ceramica-bariloche.com/tradition)**

After leaving Bariloche, we went back to Santiago Chile for the last 5 days of our trip. Visits to wineries, Valpariso and Inca Lake in the Andes were on the agenda.

It was the most amazing six weeks away with such contrasts in the areas we visited. I am so fortunate to have been able to visit such great countries.



El Calafate pot



Punta Walichu teacup

# Next Workshop - Botanical Drawing



Join Valley Potters for a fabulous workshop learning the basics of botanical drawing.

The workshop will be taken by Bronwyn Ward and held in the beautiful Alowyn Gardens in Yarra Glen.

Bronwyn is an internationally exhibited visual artist. Her work aims to imitate the beauty and wonder that can happen close to a death, and she explores many different mediums and techniques to express this. As an artist in residence on a palliative ward she has experienced the power of human to human connection and the role art plays in facilitating much needed conversations and expressions of love and gratitude.

Bronwyn has had work acquired by Bendigo Bank and has exhibited widely, including at the Hong Kong Design Institute, The Royal Academy of the West of England and Red Earth Gallery Melbourne.

Bronwyn is an experienced Artist Mentor, Arts Project Manager and Grants Officer supporting Artists and arts organisations in professional development, project planning and grant writing.

There are only 12 places available for the workshop so book in quickly. Members only at this stage.

Workshop includes:  
All materials  
Gourmet grazing lunchbox  
Tea/coffee  
Entry to the gardens



*Places Limited*

**JOIN THE VALLEY POTTERS FOR A BOTANICAL DRAWING WORKSHOP**

With Botanic Artist, Bronwyn Ward  
at Alowyn Gardens in Yarra Glen

Date: 20 July, 2024  
Time: 9am-1pm  
Cost: \$140

Includes:  
All materials  
Gourmet grazing lunchbox  
Tea/coffee  
Entry to the gardens

**BOOK HERE**

[www.bronwynward.com.au](http://www.bronwynward.com.au)



**Book here at Trybooking:**  
**<https://www.trybooking.com/CQYIF>**

# Event invite: Feeling the Unknown

Elnaz Nourizadeh



## *Feeling the Unknown*

**Elnaz Nourizadeh**

17 May - 8 Jun 2024

Closing at 3 pm on June 8th

### **OPENING RECEPTION**

**Friday 17 May, 6:30-8:30 pm**

Join us for drinks and meet the artist



Exhibition info

81 Denmark Street, Kew VIC 3101

GALLERY HOURS (During Exhibitions) Tue–Fri 12–6pm, Sat 11am–6pm, Closed on Public Holidays  
(03) 9852 8772 info@ladderartspace.com.au ladderartspace.com.au



In my sculptures, I blend abstract and figurative shapes to express personal or social experiences and emotions that can't always be expressed in words. Many of these emotions are complex mixtures of different elements and feelings triggered by things happening inside and outside of us.

In this series, I explore how well we understand ourselves and our emotions and how courageous we are to delve into our inner selves to uncover mysterious aspects of our character. When we do this, we may experience various feelings and see how they manifest.

Throughout this series, I focus on emotional comprehension and infuse each piece with a sense of poetry using a symbolic sign of a dove.

**Location:** Ladder Art Space, Kew, Victoria

**Contact:** [Elnazartworks@gmail.com](mailto:Elnazartworks@gmail.com)

**Gallery website for the exhibition**

<https://ladderartspace.com.au/exhibitions/feeling-the-unknown-elnaz-nourizadeh/>

**Artist website:** [www.elnaz.melbourne](http://www.elnaz.melbourne)

**DO YOU HAVE AN EXHIBITION THAT YOU  
WOULD LIKE US TO SHARE?**

Contact [yasmin@valleypotters.org.au](mailto:yasmin@valleypotters.org.au) with all the details including the invitation and we will advertise it for you in the newsletter.

# Mansfield Pottery Festival

Saturday of the Labour Day weekend in March

This is the second year for this wonderful ceramic festival that is held in the treed parkland in the middle of the Maroondah Highway. Also included was the “Poets of Pottery” exhibition Friday to Sunday.

The following Valley Potter’s members all had stalls and enjoyed the extremely well-organised, busy festival.

Ian Hodge <https://www.instagram.com/ianhodge.ceramics>

Amanda Hunt <http://teenyradish.com.au>

Ann Knights [https://instagram.com/@ann\\_knights\\_ceramics](https://instagram.com/@ann_knights_ceramics)

Raelene Morley [https://instagram.com/raelene\\_morley](https://instagram.com/raelene_morley)

Lize Myburgh <https://instagram.com/lizeceramics>

Marlize Myburgh <https://instagram.com/marl1ze>

Bernadette Skinner [https://www.instagram.com/bernadette\\_skinner](https://www.instagram.com/bernadette_skinner)

Kathryn Young [https://instagram.com/kate\\_young\\_ceramic\\_artist](https://instagram.com/kate_young_ceramic_artist)

Special thanks to Mansfield And District Potters (Mad) for organising this great weekend

<https://madpotters.org.au>



Bernadette Skinner



Marlize Myburgh



Ann Knights



Ian Hodge

## **HEARD ABOUT THE MARKET?**

**20 Valley Potters have signed up to participate in the Ceramics Market being run in conjunction with the Shaping Earth Exhibition at Memo Gallery in July.**

**Why not make a weekend of it and stay in Healesville to support them?**

**Exhibition opening 6th July**

**Market 7th July**

# LET'S TALK SOCIAL MEDIA



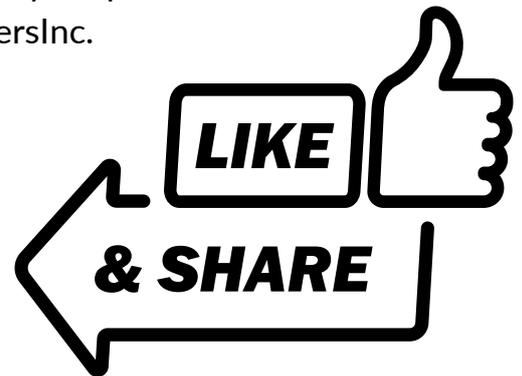
Valley Potters Facebook is a great place to share all things art related and we welcome contributions and shared content. If you come across an art article or video, we'd love you to share it with our Facebook community.

<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.

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/>



# # HASHTAGS

You need to think who you are trying to reach. e.g. if you hashtag #clay #potters #stoneware you are "preaching to the converted" - other potters. If you use e.g. #interiorstyling #countryhomes, you are reaching the general public who may like your work!

Use different hashtags for each post so you reach different markets. You can use up to 30 hashtags. However, so it doesn't clutter your page with too many words or look too salesy you can add the hashtags as a comment under the post or use this type of layout:

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

[#artformyhome](#) [#affordableartmelbourne](#) etc



## What's coming up

### MAY

Catch up

### JUNE

Botanical Art Workshop

### JULY

Membership Renewal  
Catch Up  
Annual Exhibition

### AUGUST

Pit Firing

### SEPTEMBER

Raku Workshops x 2

### OCTOBER

AGM  
Weekend Away

### DECEMBER

Exhibition at MiRA Gallery Marysville  
End of Year Picnic

**MEMBERSHIP  
RENEWAL  
1ST JULY**

 Valley Potters Inc.

**BECOME A  
MEMBER**

**JOIN UP OR  
RENEW TODAY  
JUST \$55**



**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](#)

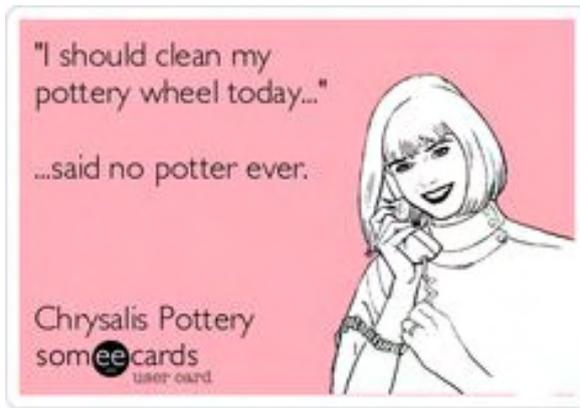
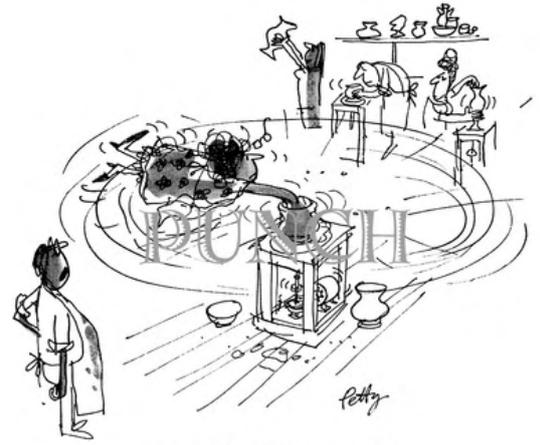
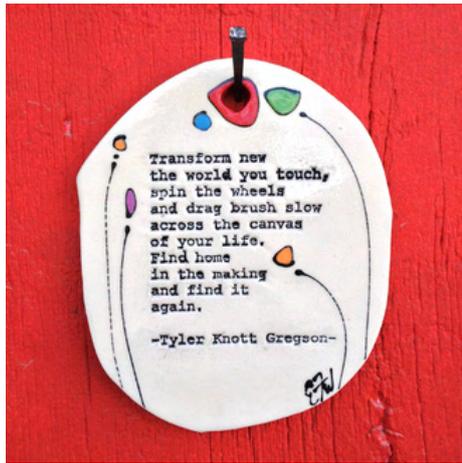
**WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?**

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

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For no reason at all ....



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- ◆ Top loading
- ◆ Low weight, relatively easy to move
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## Sustainable and easy to use

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- ◆ Hinges fitted with springs for easy opening and closing of the lid



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excluding delivery

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Max. temperature: 1300 °C

## Flexi-Frame



Unique sturdy frame with dual heights (10 cm higher or lower)  
Fitted with castors for easy movement



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[www.firedupkilns.com.au](http://www.firedupkilns.com.au)



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- Consistent firing
- Wifi controller available
- High insulation to cut energy costs

## KILNcare



*"I have to say  
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and the insulation  
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*-Keith Brymer Jones  
Head Judge Great  
Pottery Throw Down UK*

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  - ❖ Complete reference for technical information ❖
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