

Final report from our outgoing president

The year is nearly over - time to reflect and celebrate our achievements.

2024 - the year that was!

BVAC pop-ups - WSC was well represented at the Brisbane Visual Arts community (BVAC) Pop-up-Shops at Mt Coot-tha. There are 2 of these events in the year.

BVAC Open Weekend - Another big weekend for WSC, we demonstrated and encouraged the public to have a go on the wheel and play with hand-building over the Saturday and Sunday.

Weekend workshops - Fun weekends for members with some great results not attainable any other way including the Kate French sculpture workshop.

The Firing Squad - A great deal and variety of work was processed for members of WSC and the Mudlarks group by our experienced crew: Lyn, Gai, assisted by Helena and Claude and others.

A HUGE thanks to them for all their work throughout the year!

October Exhibition, Visions in Clay - WSC held our annual exhibition at Mt Coot-tha in the Richard Randall Art studio Gallery, supporting SNC with our annual raffle - a very successful weekend!

Corinda and Fairfield library displays - Members had work on display in both libraries this year to showcase our work to the public and will continue in these venues in 2025.

Members' own exhibits during the year - Some of our members were also represented in other galleries and shows successfully, including the Ekka, throughout the year.

Thanks to the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre Management and Staff for their continuing support.

WSC AGM and Xmas Party

Even though the numbers were down this year we still had a lot of fun and were well fed with everyone's delicious contribution.

We welcomed our new president, Grizzly and Pam is our new secretary. Cam and David will continue with the treasury and David becomes vice president.

The **What Have You Done 2024** awards were made to our hard working, creative members - photos in the next pages.

Xmas BVAC pop-up

12-15 December 2024. The theme this year was STARS! Set up was on the Thursday morning; 6 tables were made available and all places were booked - see some of our work over page. This was another success for us considering the storm on the Saturday! Get ready now for next year.

Congratulations to members

Congratulations to Leila, Kelly, Natalie and Shona who have extended their passion for the clay this year by attending the excellent classes at BIA, Ray Cavill's Clay School and Mas & Miek.

Special congratulations to Kelly who also graduated with her Masters in Mental Health Therapy.

2025 - Celebrating 20 years of Western Suburbs Clayworkers

This will be a big year for us.

The Mt Coot-tha Auditorium has been booked for 19-21 September 2025. This will be a big event for us with a lot of space to fill.

If you have any ideas please let us know. Suggestions include demonstrations of wheel work and hand building, decorating etc.

We will all need to participate to make this a success.

*Wishing you
a very Merry Christmas*

**Stay well, keep safe
and pot on.**

David
Vice President



Made an interesting piece lately? Please send us photos and a few words ...

WSC at BVAC



The theme of the pop-up was "Stars"



A great range of pieces displayed at the BVAC Pop-Up that ran from 12 to 15 December in the Auditorium at Mt Coot-tha.

WSC What Have You Done 2024 winners

Handbuilt



Winner
Ana Maria Duque
**Lord Richard's
sweet dreams**



Grizzly Blair
Manta rays 2nd



Helena Mendes
Tiles 3rd

Wheel Thrown



Winner
Gai McDonald
**Raku Green
Glow**



Kathy Liang
Thrown Vase
2nd



David
Bartholomew
**BRT
Botanicals** 3rd

Congratulations to our 2024 winners.

See all the entrants at:

wsclayworkers.org.au/whyd2024.html

Nerikomi with Narumi Li at CAQ Thanks Judy for sharing this article



Narumi Li

In the wake of the sad news of the death of noted Australian ceramicist, Ann Mossman, Ceramic Arts Queensland received an offer from Narumi Li to present a memorial workshop in Nerikomi for her friend and mentor. Narumi asked for no payment but requested that participants' payments be directed to the "Foster a Potter" (FOPO) organisation that Ann supported. FOPO is a not-for-profit organisation which aims to support and fund ceramics students to work, learn and develop practical, technical and business skills alongside experienced ceramicists with the ultimate aim of setting up their own ceramics studio.

Nerikomi is a traditional Japanese pottery technique that involves combining different coloured clays to create patterns. The word "nerikomi" literally translates to "kneading", and Narumi showed much patience as she kneaded colour into the clay. The kneading does not resemble wedging of clay. It is done with the fingers and the process simply removes air from the clay with constant movement.

Narumi Li is a ceramic artist born in Japan. After moving to Australia, she took up pottery as a complete beginner in July 2016.

After learning the basics of clay in her pottery class for a few months, she found and taught herself Nerikomi. She began exhibiting her work within the first few years of her pottery experience and was encouraged as she won awards and gained pre-selection into various competitions. She lives in the beautiful Sunshine Coast hinterland of Queensland.

Approximately thirty interested ceramicists turned up at the Brisbane Visual Arts Community Hub in suburban Tarragindi to discover Narumi's secrets for creating her beautiful works in Nerikomi. First impressions suggested that Nerikomi was not given to making large, gestural

pieces as one table held the clay, stains, and moulds. And so, we began.

Narumi stressed from the beginning of the workshop that organisation is key to successful work in Nerikomi. Her designs are carefully worked out on paper, and she writes out each step that she will have to take to bring the design to a successful conclusion.

Her workspace has all the tools she will need including two spray bottles for her workspace: one mists and moistens the clay with plain water while the

other, in a different coloured bottle, contains water and vinegar and is used later when joining the clay pieces together.

To recreate colours in future work, both clay and colourants need to be accurately weighed, and these measurements recorded. Narumi uses a small set of electronic scales that weigh in grams and milligrams. The maximum concentration of colour that she uses is 4%. For her demonstration, Narumi weighed out 100 grams of white porcelain clay. She then measured out 4 grams of body stain. For measuring out the body stain, Narumi used a tiny doll's plastic teaspoon. For mixing the stain to a paste with water before adding to the clay, she used an eyedropper to add water and a paper cupcake shell for mixing.

The stain is added to the white clay (Narumi uses white porcelain paper clay but advised that any light clay that you are comfortable using is fine). The clay is flattened slightly, and the stain is added. The clay is kneaded in the hand. Use the clay to wipe out as much of the stain as possible from the cupcake shell and continue kneading. When mixing is complete, Narumi wraps her clay in gladwrap, places it in a zip-lock bag, and then puts it inside a plastic food container to ensure it doesn't dry out at all.

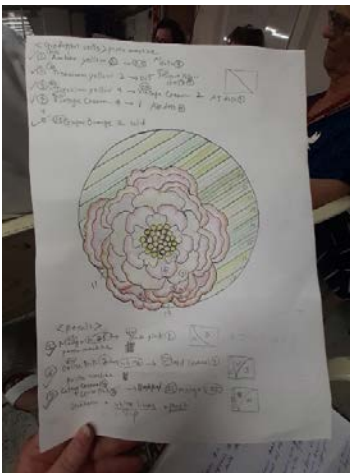
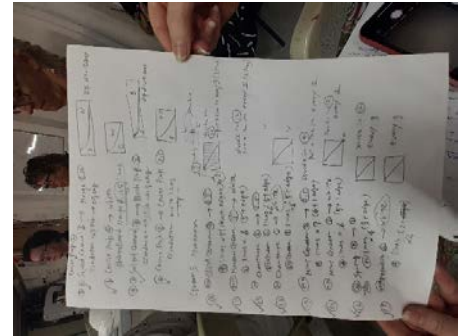
After measuring out 100 grams of white clay, Narumi proceeded to create colour gradations in the clay. This process requires precision. The two balls of clay are formed into rectangular blocks and then cut into matching triangles. A new rectangle is made by combining one triangle of white clay with one of green clay. This rectangle is divided into 12 portions and sliced carefully to prevent stretching the clay. Two sections remain pure white or green, while the others progressively mix from almost pure colour to only slightly coloured.

The next step requires a pasta maker to create a Skinner blend of coloured clay. For details on how to blend the clay using a pasta maker, check out this blog by American polymer clay artist Sandra Callander

<https://bysandracallander.blog/skinner-blend/>

Following this stage, Narumi detailed the planning process, with all steps being numbered, documented, and followed. She emphasized that successful Nerikomi requires thorough planning and a design worthy of completion in Nerikomi. In the next stage of the workshop, Narumi showed how a Nerikomi piece is assembled.

Continued on next page ...



... Nerikomi continued

In the photograph on the preceding page, small clay squares are being meticulously assembled on a piece of poplin. At this stage, the joins are still visible. A vinegar water solution is sprayed to facilitate the joining of the blocks.

Narumi proceeds with the process by joining and compressing the clay using first her fingers, followed by gentle pounding with a small sandbag. Lastly, she uses sweeping movements with two separate metal kidney tools – the first has fine serrations and the second is smooth.

The concluding step of the workshop involved draping the completed slab onto a former. It is essential to note that more compression, even at this stage, remains crucial, as any weaknesses will be revealed during the firing process.

What a wonderful workshop and a moving tribute from one voyager to another on the beautiful path of Nerikomi.

Ann Mossman vessel

This piece is by Ann Mossman and shows Nerikomi when larger blocks of colour are used.



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