

Hi from our President

Here we are near the end of February and the studio is as busy as ever.

Firing

Our new firing squad headed up by Lyn and with a strong team behind her have been very busy with all your firings.

There have been a few issues with glazing, especially in the popular mid-fires.

You must have a minimum of 5mm clear of glaze at the base of your work.

An alternative is to have a cookie/biscuit under your work in case the glaze runs (see article on next page).

BVAC Pop-up 7-9 June 2024

WSC have booked 5 tables (the maximum) and will allocate spaces nearer to the event.

The **BVAC Art Expo** will be held at the Weller's Hill Arts Hub 20-21 July and will focus on giving visitors a hands-on experience. The wheel and hand-building will feature clay for the public to have a go with!

Under the supervision of Di Peach, we will help build a wonderful large sculpture piece outside the main building at the BVAC Hub - details to come.

The original WSC mission statement from 2005

"At one of our very first meetings in 2005 it was decided that all members of WSC should have experience in clay work. The reason for implementing this policy was that we didn't conduct classes and Mudlarks catered for beginners.

EKKA 2024

Some of our members took out major prizes in the EKKA 2023 and entries are now open for 2024 so why not enter your best piece/s this year?

Our Annual Exhibition

We have booked the Richard Randall Art Studio Gallery at Mt Coot-tha for 11-13 October 2024.

Linda and Helena will be our 2024 exhibition convenors with help from members along the way.

Start thinking about your work now and avoid the rush in November; this will save the firing squad from panicking as well!

Workshops and Studio

We are looking to approach an outside convenor/s to hold a workshop/s. This will be at quite an expense but spread over several members could be worthwhile.

Hand-building, sculpture, advanced decoration are all being considered.

Stay well, keep safe and pot on.

David

What have you been working on? Please send us a few words and photos!

contacts

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Cookie recipe

Cookies

Cookies are flat pieces of stoneware (ideally) clay that have been kiln washed on one side or simply left bare.

Up to now WSC has been making and using cookies but this is an extra expense to the group and time consuming. **It is recommended you supply your own cookie/s if you are concerned your glaze may run** - don't just 'cross your fingers' and hope it doesn't run!!!

Remember if your glaze runs and ruins the shelf you are responsible to replace the shelf, and they are not cheap!

Steps to avoid glaze running.

- Ask yourself, "Is the glaze too thick?" Shop-bought glaze such as Cesco clear can be watered down considerably and works well. Dipping glazes should be quite thin. For example most Mayco glazes tend not to run but you only need 2 coats or they can be too thick and will run.
- **Use a cookie if in doubt with a new glaze - especially home-made glaze.**
- Rub back your glaze to above 5mm of the base.
- Designing a foot ring/base into your work that doesn't need glaze will help.
- Make sure there is no glaze on the base - even underglazes can leave traces on the shelves!



This is an example of a cookie (biscuit)

The lid has been glazed to the base but rubbed subtly so as to reduce the chance of running and sticking. The body of the vessel has a foot ring to clear the shelf!

Note a slight texture on the cookie, which helps the glaze to release if it does run a little.



Horror of horrors!
Don't let this happen to your pieces or the WSC shelves.

Image from Facebook



Another use for old ceramic gear

Derek found a large green frog in his extruder!

Just minding its own business - makes a change from spiders and cockroaches!

Corinda Library display



Thanks to Linda for organising the display and to members who brought along work.

Gnomes with Gai and Lyn



Gai and Lyn, under the auspices of the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre, ran a day of Gnomeness for ages 12 to 17.

Work was carried out in the main hall as the studio is not a suitable place for a large group.

Gai and Lyn went to a lot of trouble setting up individual workstations with lots of equipment and samples.

The workshop was well attended and you can see some the work completed at the left.

Special thanks to Gai for the Gnome jokes and names on the day!

Kiln and wheel - to give away!



Electric kiln and some furniture.

An old wheel.

Both need work but may be an opportunity if you are keen!

Pick-up from Mt Gravatt East.

Email WSC if you are interested:

wscclayworkers@hotmail.com



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