

The start of another year...

We have been back in the studio for a month now and things are picking up. Our 2026 Exhibition - Visions in Clay 2026 - is only weeks away, so get potting!

Housekeeping

Work and clay on shelves

There is a box full of "old" stuff on the doomed shelf outside the kiln room - if any of this is yours, be quick before it is trashed!

2026 Events

Visions in Clay 2026

Our annual exhibition is on the Easter weekend 3-6 April, so you need to get working now.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday groups are working toward making pieces for the raffle.

2026 will be an exhibition only due to moving back to the Richard Randall Art Studio space. Which means having your best work on display with a couple of pieces in reserve if they sell.

There will be more details soon with application forms etc. Interest has been shown by over 30 members which is excellent.

Workshops for 2026

Keep your eyes and ears open for details of some exciting workshop opportunities this year!

Remember you have to be a financial member of Clayworkers to participate.

BVAC

The first Pop-Up will be 26-28 June 2026. An Open Weekend at the Hub and a further Pop-up are planned for later in the year.

2026 BVAC Arts Competition

Mon 2 Feb: Entries opened

Mon 9 Mar: Final deadline - submit entry form, image, statement and payment by 5:00pm

[Click here for more details](#)

See you in the studio soon!



Visions in Clay 2026

Western Suburbs Clayworkers Exhibition & Sale

 Richard Randall Art Studio, Mt Coot-tha, Botanic Gardens
April 3-6, Fri 12-4pm, Sat, Sun & Mon 9am-4pm
Join us Friday at 6pm for our opening
www.wsclayworkers.org.au - Supporting the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre

Made an interesting piece over the holidays? Send us photos and a few words to share ...

contacts

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Let's talk further about cookies

From the Redcliffe Potters' Potted News November 2025

Overview

In pottery, a "cookie" (or "kiln cookie") is a pre-fired, flat disc of clay that is placed under a ceramic piece before it goes into the kiln to protect the kiln shelf from glaze drips. These cookies catch any glaze that runs off the piece, preventing it from sticking to and damaging the kiln shelf, and can be reused.

They are a crucial tool for protecting both the shelf and the pottery itself from glaze mishaps during firing.

Function and purpose

Prevents shelf damage: The primary purpose is to act as a buffer between the pottery and the kiln shelf. If a glaze drips, it will stick to the cookie instead of fusing to the shelf.

Saves pottery pieces: By catching drips, the cookie can save the finished piece from being ruined or fused to the shelf.

Allows for easy cleanup: It is much easier to clean or replace a damaged cookie than to repair a damaged kiln shelf.

Enables testing: Cookies are particularly useful when testing new glazes, using glazes that are prone to dripping, or applying multiple layers of glaze.

Making and using cookies

- **Materials:** Cookies are typically made from high-fire clay like White Raku, often with added grog, for durability and to help prevent warping and cracking during firing.
- **Preparation:** The clay is rolled out to a consistent thickness (around 5-8mm), often using guides like wood pieces to ensure flatness. Cookie cutters can be used for shaping, and a light sprinkle of cornstarch can be used to prevent sticking.
- **Firing:** After being dried, the cookies are "bisque" fired (fired once) before they are ready for use. For extra protection, they can be coated with kiln wash after being bisque fired.
- **Reuse:** Cookies are reusable, although they should be discarded if they crack.

We hope you now understand the importance of using cookies. Cookies are consumables - you have to keep making an ample stock of them.

Cookies are necessities - they will be a part of your pottery tools. Make sure that you put an ID on the back of them so that when pieces are unloaded from a kiln they will be returned with your pieces.



Your story here!

We didn't receive any more contributions so ... we'd appreciate hearing about your latest pieces for the next newsletter. Send photo/s and text to wsclayworkers@hotmail.com

**BVAC 2026
ARTS
COMPETITION**

Open to All Mediums. All Levels. All Creators.

<https://www.bvac.org.au/bvac-2026-arts-competition>

Click on the link for more details



Brisbane Visual Arts Community

BVAC is proud to launch our inaugural open-entry competition and exhibition, inviting artists across Queensland to showcase their creativity and explore this year's theme:

"Open to Interpretation"

How you choose to interpret this theme is entirely up to you — we want to see your creative process come to life! Each entry will be accompanied by a short Artist Statement (150 words max) to be displayed alongside your work.

Whether you're an emerging artist or an experienced maker, we invite you to take part in this exciting showcase of local talent.

Packing your work for exhibitions

When you first see how Neil Estrick packs his pots for transport to art festivals, you might gasp, as I did!

But, in this excerpt from his video *Efficient Packing for Art Fairs*, Neil explains that he has never broken a pot using his "tumble-stacking" technique.

Best of all, he can fit way more pots in each bin, and it makes packing and unpacking go much more quickly! Brilliant! *Jennifer Poellot Harnetty, editor*

[https://ceramicartsnetwork.org/daily/article/a-super-smart-\(and-safe\)-way-to-transport-pots-to-art-fairs](https://ceramicartsnetwork.org/daily/article/a-super-smart-(and-safe)-way-to-transport-pots-to-art-fairs)



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The shop is open by appointment only, please contact me by text.

During the week the shop is open for appointments 10am to 5pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturdays.

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