

A word from our president

Not a good month

A lot has happened in the last month!

The BVAC Pop-Up shop was cancelled, almost at the last moment.

A number of factors were responsible: Some groups chose to pull out due to COVID restrictions, partly because anyone over 70 was advised to remain at home; the restrictions in the Botanic Gardens were updated with mask wearing, social distancing etc. All-in-all the event was no longer viable.

As much as our members were disappointed, think of the effort the BVAC committee had put into organising and marketing the event! Quite a kick in the guts for all!

The kilns

We have had a major/minor disaster in the kiln at stoneware. The base of these 2 plates were claimed to be underglaze but were clearly glazed and stuck soundly to the shelf.

At a cost of \$160 to replace the shelf this could have been a bit of a calamity. With a bit of effort we managed to chip off most of the glaze and it will only cost a small amount to have the remaining bits ground off!



Raku Sundays

25 July Redcliffe

The proposed 4 July was postponed as Redcliffe Potters closed for the lockdown.

We are now booked for 25 July, again a Sunday. Limit is 2 to 3 pieces 10cm wide x 15cm high maximum size for now. Maybe throw in an extra just in case. You can glaze beforehand or on the day - no charge.

We plan to take the Sherwood bus to make a full day of it - leaving at 9:00am - stay tuned. Cost should be \$15 each.

The Square

We now have a 9" Lenovo Android tablet to operate the Square Reader. Bought originally for the pop-up shop but it will be useful for our exhibition etc. It is linked directly to our bank account for ease of use. We are gradually recording all participants' bank details for easy future payments.

Fairfield Library Exhibition

We have the whole month of October for a display in the library to highlight our group and what we do to the wider community. The photo below shows the limited cabinet space available.



Cheers, David
President
Western Suburbs Clayworkers

Stay well and busy

contacts

Western Suburbs Clayworkers
38 Thallon St Sherwood 4075
Email
wsclayworkers@hotmail.com

Newsletter
David Bartholomew
david@vcgraphics.com.au

Done anything interesting artistically lately? Let us know with a few words and photos

Here is some of our work that may have gone to the BVAC Market Pop-Up along with bits and pieces we have been working on.



Derek's (the man behind the mask with significant growth) ode to John Olsen in his Frog Pot - note the close-up of the technique



David's large bottle from his Botanicals series.

SES (School Earthenware Stoneware) with air brush, brushwork and sgraffito



Judy's horse

Hollow sculpture started from a mould. Made from BRS with coating (or 3-4) of terra sigillata. Bisque fired, then the mane and tail glazed ready for the lustre firing. Refired to earthenware. Lustre applied to glazed areas and refired to 720°C. Terra sigillata areas will finally be coated with Sure Seal (with porcelain impregnator). This tip comes from Ann and Gerry O'Connor.



Rachael's crazy little creatures



A sad tale

The handle on the plastic box broke as David was carrying his pieces!



Some of Ally's work

Cup with Moonstone and one big slug!

Sherwood Community Market



Sunday 11 July our members participated in the Sherwood Community Market.

A quiet day - everyone probably slept in after watching Ash Barty win!

We all had some sales, supported the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre and presented WSC to the public.



Gai is still trekking!



Gai and Cam at Nature's Window at Kalbarri

We exhausted our time exploring southern WA a couple of weeks ago. Dodging freezing weather fronts every week but still managing to explore everything we needed to. Some special unexpected times around the fire pit at Bunbury with new travel buddies, was a delightful break after trudging the National Parks' mountainous climbs that Cam relished with glory when he reached the top, while I walked slowly with heavy steps, exhausted!

Some of the highlights moving on from Bunbury were: Wave Rock, the Christmas shop at Toodyay, Kings Park in Perth (especially the Gallery), Rottne's quokkas (very cute), the rock lobster feast and the Pinnacles at Cervantes, and Kalbarri (incredible National Park walks). It was especially rewarding to have the opportunity to support the folk of Kalbarri after the dreaded cyclone Seroja damaged 70% of homes. All such memorable experiences.



These were my favourite pieces amongst a huge selection of excellent art at the Kings Park Gallery, Perth's Botanical Gardens. We couldn't afford any though!!!!

The sculpture is by Rodney Blumenfeld; the other three are by Dariya Gratt.

The Temperature to Bisque Fire Pottery – Different Stages of Bisque

Greenware undergoes a number of physical and chemical changes at different temperatures during a bisque fire. This is an overview of what happens at different temperatures.

Below 100°C

It's a good idea to hold your kiln for a few hours below the boiling point of water. This is known as candling. Even though your pottery may feel bone dry, it will still contain some moisture when it goes in the kiln.

This is known as mechanical water or free water. It is simply moisture that has not been able to evaporate thoroughly from the greenware. Your greenware will only dry out as far as the surrounding atmosphere allows. So, your greenware will dry out to match the moisture level in your pottery room.

If your kiln goes above the temperature of boiling water, this free water will turn to steam. As it turns to steam it expands rapidly and can cause your pottery to crack or explode in the kiln.

The way to avoid this is to candle your kiln by holding the temperature below boiling point. This allows the mechanical water to evaporate out of the clay so the clay is absolutely dry.

How long to candle your ware is another question. Some potters will candle overnight. This raises the issue of whether you are happy to leave your kiln unattended when it is on.

If you have an electric kiln, you can check moisture levels by holding a mirror to the top peephole. The mirror will fog up if moisture is still escaping from the pottery and leaving the kiln.

232°C

At around 450F, organic matter or carbon-based compounds in the clay body will start to burn away.

350°C

Magnesium carbonate oxidizes to form magnesium oxide.

450-550°C

Clay also contains water that is chemically bonded to the clay particles. In order for the clay to become ceramic, this needs to be driven out of the greenware. This process occurs around 842 -1022F.

600°C

Once the temperature in the kiln goes above 1112F, Sulfur compounds will burn out of the clay. It is the burning off of sulfur in a bisque fire that creates that eggy smell you will notice.

840°C

Calcium carbonate decomposes.

870°C

Sintering is the process whereby greenware clay becomes ceramic. Gradually the clay particles move closer together and become denser. The clay shrinks and becomes hard ceramic that is no longer soluble in water. Sintering occurs as the sulfur compounds and carbonates are burned out and decompose.

Why are These Temperatures Important in Bisque Firing?

Some of the reasons for bisque firing clay are to:

- > Get rid of mechanical and chemical water in the clay
- > Burn out carbonaceous materials
- > Densify the clay through sintering

Each of these processes makes the clay more suitable for glazing. As such, it's important that they are achieved in the bisque firing process.

Bisque firing successfully requires that the temperature increases slowly enough for the processes to occur. And also, that the right temperature is achieved so that the greenware has been sufficiently processed.

So, successful bisque firing isn't just about the temperature reached, it is also about how fast you fire. In general, it is accepted that it is best to bisque fire slowly. This is particularly the case for the early part of the fire when the mechanical water is being driven out. Whatever temperature you are bisque firing to, it's recommended that you go slow.

The full story is here:

https://thepotterywheel.com/what-is-the-right-temperature-to-bisque-fire-pottery/?fbclid=IwAR2EnAG9XNI-G6UYbh1d55taBh90X8_12u4x-uh9h6l8cBWkegBWC2v9FK0



Some of David's experiences with not quite dry pots!



[Contact Us](#) [Login](#) [Check Out](#) [My Account](#)

Pottery Supplies Online

For all your ceramic needs.....
Call +61 07 3368 2877

[Shop](#) [Firing Service](#) [About Us](#) [Glazes Colour Charts](#) [Technical Information](#) [Location](#) [What's New](#)

Search

Search

Pottery Supplies

Like 267

Shopping Cart

YOUR CART

Empty Cart

[GO TO CHECKOUT](#)

Categories

- Bisqueware (12)
- Books (26)
- Casting Slip (11)
- Clay (37)
- Clear Glaze (26)
- Electric Kilns (235)
- Engobe & Slips (3)
- Equipment (28)
- Frit (36)
- Glaze (3)

Pottery Supplies Online. For all your ceramic needs....

Bisqueware

Books

Casting Slip

Clay

Clear Glaze

Engobe & Slips

The Sunshine Coast's Pottery and Ceramic Supplies Specialists

The Clay Shed

2/24 Hi-Tech Drive KUNDA PARK Ph 07 5476 5977
www.clayshed.com.au

- Pottery Supplies •
- Clay
- Glazes
- Tools
- Brushes
- Firing Service
- Studio Equipment for Hire
- Refractory Materials •

2/24 Hi-Tech Drive KUNDA PARK QLD 4556

Ph 07 5476 5977 | Fax 07 5476 6061 | Email clayshed@clayshed.com.au

Trading Hours Mon-Thur 8:30am-5pm | Fri 8:30am-1:30pm | Sat 8:30am-12pm
Closed Sundays & Public Holidays

Find us on Facebook



Picasso's Ceramics - for all your ceramics, pottery, and sculpting supplies.

41B Tallebudgera Creek Rd, West Burleigh Q 4219 (take Exit 89 off the M1)
Ph: 07 5535 2449

Facebook: Picasso's Ceramics

Instagram: @picassosceramics

We stock a large variety of products from the following websites.
If we don't have it we will order it in for you.

www.walkerceramics.com.au

www.venco.com.au

www.keaneceramics.com.au

www.kilns.com.au

www.clayworksaustralia.com.au

www.ilovetocreate.com

www.maycocolors.com



Pack and send Pottery Supply Shop

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.

Orders can be delivered.

ipswichpotterysupplies@gmail.com

www.ipswichpotterysupplies.net

<https://www.facebook.com/IpswichPotterySupplies/>

Mobile 0420239537 all texts will be answered quickly