

What's it all about Alfie?!

With cyclone Alfred coming, the studio was closed for nearly a week and the monthly meeting was cancelled. We came in just before the event and placed everything in the studio up on blocks and generally out of the way of any storm ingress. Fortunately we suffered no damage though some water was evident in the studio, especially the wheel room, well after the event.

Coming in 2025:

2025 - Celebrating 20 years of Western Suburbs Clayworkers

This will be an important 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.

Helena has already set up the ground work for a successful exhibition.

Don't leave it too late to present your best work!

BVAC events

June is our first pop-up for the year.

We have our usual 5 tables booked. Hope you are able to attend and participate.

The BVAC Art Expo will be the next BVAC event. In 2024 we demonstrated wheel and hand building and invited the public to participate and hope to do the same this year. We have also proposed that WSC take care of catering for the weekend!

The **Xmas pop-up** will be held in November.

SNC Hobby Expo

We are pleased to announce that the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre Hobbies & Interests Expo will be held on Saturday 5 April from 1.00pm to 4.00pm.

This is a great opportunity to demonstrate our skills to the public.

Ekka Entries

The entries for the Ekka are open! Work is not usually due for presentation until late July; get busy now!

CAQ 16-25 March

The Siliceous Awards in March at the Brisbane Institute of Art (BIA) at Windsor with entries from throughout Australia.

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

David

Vice President



The Siliceous Award for Ceramic Excellence 2025

The Siliceous Award for Ceramic Excellence is a recognition and celebration of artistic excellence and innovation in ceramics. Since its establishment in 2015, the Siliceous Award has grown in profile and now receives local, national, and international media coverage. It attracts a high standard of entries from both full-time career artists and enthusiasts from around Australia. The [...]

16 - 25 MAR
ALL DAY
Brisbane Institute of Art
41 Grafton Street, Windsor, QLD, 4030

Art from our 2018, 19 and 20 Exhibitions!



Western Suburbs Clayworkers
WSC present our 2018 Exhibition
13-14 October 9am to 4pm
in the Richard Randall Studio
at the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens.
Original works for sale by local artisans
Proudly supported by BVAC



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

contacts

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The pointy end of my wheel

Recent descriptions of issues with my wheel usually end with "it's probably something I'm doing". It's random and usually after longer sessions (which are infrequent).

My right hand man short circuited Claude's suggestion to test electrics, ground off rusted screws and horror of horrors it was a rubber mosh pit party in there.

Rubber confetti all around the walls and in the engine.

Photos after he vacuumed.

Welcoming suggestions other than trip to Clay shed or letting my handy man with no wheel fixing experience have at it.

Natalie Oldham



A day in my studio

Throwing and trimming

A variety of clays are thrown depending on the mood of the day.

There are 2 buckets beside the wheel - one with clean water and the second to clean up tools etc at the end of the day. A smaller container is on the wheel for throwing.

A fresh block of clay is a delight whereas recycled clay is more frugal. Though I have noticed some bought clay can be unworkable - hard to even cut with a wire let alone wedge/knead for throwing - and needs a lot of processing to use - boo!

I throw on bats on pads of clay. At the end of the session this pad is then wedged and thrown as a small bud vase - they make good kiln fillers! Time is always made to clean up the wheel and tools after every session

Pieces are thrown on one day and then left to dry overnight. In really wet weather - hear that Alfie! - it can take days to be sufficiently leather hard to trim.

Decorating

I like to decorate on bone dry clay.

For a clay that is not white I apply multiple thin layers of white slip (JB1) that helps to show colours/glazes work at their best.

Base decorating is generally with fine brushwork. I use a mixture of iron and cobalt with brushing medium and water.

The base art can then be coloured using stains - either brushed or airbrushed. It works like watercolour - transparent and mixable.



Recycling

Any clay left over from a day's throwing is immediately recycled. I have a plastic crate with a constant supply of ends! As all clays used are suitable for mid-fire there is no issue with firing the recycled clay to cone 6.

I use an old piece of heavy cotton cloth to line a plaster mould (the cloth prevents the clay coming in contact with the plaster) to recycle over a couple of days.

Glazing and firing

All pieces are first bisqued, when absolutely dry, to cone 06.

Glazing will take up a whole session - 1.5 to 2 hours!

As most of my work is decorated I usually only need a clear glaze. A Cesco/Walkers clear with a wide range from earthenware to mid-fire is ideal. It always needs to be sieved beforehand and watered down before use. It can be watered down so that when you dip in a finger it is just coated with glaze. It then tends to dry very quickly when brushed on allowing for 3 layers in quick succession.



Special glazes such as Mayco are used sparingly as a feature - sometimes leaving the fired clay bare and just glazing the top!

Most work now is mid-fired - cheaper than stoneware and more resilient than earthenware.

David Bartholomew

Seen on eBay



Pottery wheel and tools

Who needs skill when you can buy a pottery wheel with centring and shaping tools!

PS not recommended to WSC members



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

3/7 Villiers Drive Currumbin Waters Ph: 07 5535 2449

Facebook: Picasso's Ceramics • **Instagram:** @picassosceramics

Webpage: <https://picassosceramics.com.au>

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.keaneceramics.com.au

www.clayworksaustralia.com.au

www.maycocolors.com

www.venco.com.au

www.kilns.com.au

www.ilovetocreate.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

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Mobile 0420239537 all texts will be answered quickly