



November 2021

South of the River Potters' Club Newsletter

COMING EVENTS:

- Club Christmas lunch – Saturday
December 11th 12.00
- Christmas Exhibition ('The Art of Giving') Atwell Gallery
December 17-23



Link to Club website

MCAA new website:
melvillearts.com.au

WIRELESS HILL MARKET DAY

The Club staged a great display of members' work at the recent City of Melville event at Wireless Hill. Timed to coordinate with the City of Melville Art Awards exhibition at Wireless Hill, the event also brought dozens of painters to the part for plein air painting. It was a hive of activity with painters all over the place capturing the landscape of the park and views of the river. Our stall was well patronised with lots of admiring comments and several members had good sales.



CLUB CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

The December meeting will be replaced, as usual, by our annual Christmas get-together on Saturday, December 11th at 12.00 on the verandah. More info soon about bringing a plate to share.

South of the River Potters' Club

Atwell House 586 Canning Highway Alfred Cove WA 6154 9330 2800

Postal Address: PO Box 27 Applecross WA 6953

BSB:306-070 A/C 4187263 ABN 42 626 130 408

sorpotters@hotmail.com Instagram: [southoftheriverpottersclub](https://www.instagram.com/southoftheriverpottersclub)

Facebook: [southernriverpotters](https://www.facebook.com/southernriverpotters)

Website: <http://sorpottersclub.com>

President – Jenny Rygiel 0451 119 242

Secretary – Chris Rogers 9453 1401

Treasurer – Peggy Stacy 9331 2507

KILNS

The new payment system for kiln firings is working very well. But a few members are currently not in credit, so if you think that might be you, it's easy to add a top-up via the dedicated kiln firing account:

a/c Name:- **Kiln Firing**

BSB 306-133

Account - 0293474

Please take care when leaving pots in the kiln shed for firing – make sure that you put them on the appropriate shelf for the temperature at which you wish them to be fired. If there is no space on that shelf, leave them nearby clearly labelled as to the required temperature. Graham does a wonderful job but he is not a mind reader! It is also essential to make sure that the bases of your pots are totally clear of glaze residue and if your glaze is likely to run, the pot should not be glazed all the way down to the base. If in doubt, check with someone rather than having your pot excluded from the firing. Remember that the kilns are a communal resource and we are all responsible for reducing the risk of damage, particularly to the shelves.

WOODFIRE WA

From Club member Robert Hawes:

Cher Shackleton's recent 6 day wood fire experience was a great success.

Around 20 participants with 40 to 50 pots each to fire went to Cher's family farm outside Capel during the last week in September to explore many ways to wood kiln fire pots. This was previously planned for July but had to be cancelled because of COVID. The options were to stay on site with a caravan or to get accommodation nearby with evening meals provided as part of the workshop. There was already a large salt kiln and a large wood fired kiln built on the premises. These two kilns were the first to be filled and fired with the premade pots. Overnight rosters were required to keep the kilns to temperature and I never quite appreciated how hungry the kilns were for wood to keep them fired all night and day.

Once these were going it was time to set up the quick firing drum kilns for fast glazing. Just to add to the wood used, Steve Mills supervised construction of a quick built brick kiln while others started on the large open pit firing which was built in a day.

All these kept the participants busy.... And this was then followed on the last day 3 Raku gas fired kilns.

Demonstrators for the week included:

BelaKotai who made huge turned and coiled pot in 4 hours....amazing!

Ted Secombe couldn't make it to Perth, so was skyped in to share his expertise.

Ian Dowling did a demonstration of turning and hand building tea pots

Stu Mackay worked tirelessly to run the drum kilns

Andrew Tremain did a demonstration showing his skill at the wheel.

Mary Wallace and Dan Webb showed us how set up the open pit firing, plus a session on decorating.

We all had varying levels of success as those familiar with Raku will understand.

Rumour has it that it could become an annual event...one which I will look forward to!



Setting up the pit firing



Cher and Andrew on night shift stoking the large kiln.



The salt fire kiln.



*Making and firing up the smaller 'quick built' kiln.
Good Job Harry!*



It is always exciting when the kilns are opened and the results enjoyed.

Thanks to Julian Bowron for use of the photographs.

HANDY HINTS

Thanks to Barbara Wheater for these hints:

When using the clay extruder, it will be much easier to clean out the equipment afterwards if you put your clay into a plastic bag before loading it into the extruder.

A great idea for a reusable sanding surface is to grab a pack of these mesh sanding sheets from the hardware store. They are washable and available in various 'grit' sizes.



CLUB T-SHIRTS

Club t-shirts are available in men's and women's sizes for \$25. Check with one of the committee members at the next meeting.



CLUB WEBSITE – MEMBERS' GALLERY – Reminder, Reminder.....

So far there has been no response to this offer of publicity for your pottery. It's your Club and this is one of the benefits of membership so why not take advantage of the opportunity! Don't forget that you can include links to your social media pages and websites – all for free!!

See details in the July and August Mudlarks (available on the website 'Downloads' page)

MCAA Secretary

The Melville Community Arts Association which manages the Atwell Gallery and Atwell House is in need of a Secretary for its Board of Management. The position has been filled by Judy Waugh who is moving interstate. If you are interested in finding out more, drop into the office and have a chat with Brenda.

Next Meeting:

**Christmas Function -
Saturday December 11th at 12 o'clock on
the verandah**

