

2026 PROGRAM

Festival of Fire & Clay

15 - 21 June 2026 | 10am - 4pm Daily

FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

A seven-day national gathering celebrating ceramic practice across multiple firing ranges. Set within Montsalvat's 92 year-old historic artists' community.

Featuring: firings, workshops, demonstrations, talks, exhibitions, and public engagement

DAILY PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Morning: Kiln firings, demonstrations, artist talks

Afternoon: Masterclasses, Discussion Panels, kiln firings

Evening: Site closed (except scheduled overnight firings)

Monday 15 June

10am: Registration & Welcome in The Barn Gallery

10am: Delegates Show set-up in The Wood Workshop

10-11am: ALCHEMY bump-in in The Residents Gallery with Anna Maas

11am: Welcome & Opening - CEO Matt Jones, Kevin White, Sergei Shatrov

12-2pm: ALCHEMY bump-in in the Residents Gallery with Anna Maas

1pm: Guest Artist Presentation (Upper Gallery)
Drawing in Clay: Story, Surface & the Human Hand - George McCauley
Introduced by Dr. Owen Rye

3-4pm: A Montsalvat Tour - an introduction, a story and tour around Montsalvat for attendees.

4pm: Montsalvat site officially closed

All Day: Anagama firing with Aaron Scythe, Ephemeral Kilns with Yuri Wiedenhofer

Tuesday 16 June

10am–4pm: Demonstration Workshops in The Barn Gallery - Dr Sandy Lockwood | Ted Secombe | George McCauley | Minna Graham | Greg Daly

10 - 1pm Guest Artist Presentation Greg Daly in The Glass Workshop
Alchemy of Lustre - Greg Daly

11am: Guest Artist Presentation in The Upper Gallery
Finding your voice in a world full of shouting - Sue Acheson
introduced by Kevin White

2:00pm: Panel in The Great Hall - "*Why Wood Firing Still Matters in a Digital Age*" | Dr Owen Rye, Dr Sandy Lockwood, Sue Acheson & Aaron Scythe introduced by Morag Fraser

4pm: Montsalvat site officially closed

All Day: Anagama continuing with Aaron Scythe
Ephemeral Kilns with Yuri Wiedenhofer

Wednesday 17 June

10am–4pm: Demonstration Workshops in The Barn Gallery - Ted Secombe | George McCauley | Dr. Sandy Lockwood | Minna Graham | Greg Daly

10-12pm: Understanding Tea + Making Better Tea Bowls with Veronica Taylor in The Glass Workshop

10-4pm: The White Cottage with Sue Acheson - Finding Your Voice
Workshop One-On-One workshops. Bookable online

12-1pm: Guest Artist Presentation in The Great Hall | A Journey with Clay, Fire and Salt by Dr Sandy Lockwood | Introduced by Gabie Mello

2pm: Guest Artist Presentation in The Great Hall | Shaped by Place:
Landscape, Clay & Form with Minna Graham, introduced by Wendy Hargreaves

4pm: Montsalvat site officially closed

All Day: Anagama continuing with Aaron Scythe
Ephemeral Kilns with Yuri Wiedenhofer

Thursday 18 June

10–4pm: Demonstration Workshops - Aaron Scythe | George McCauley | Minna Graham | John Daly

10-12pm: The Art of Curating - exhibition installation workshop with Anna Maas in The White Cottage

10am-late: Wood Salt Firing with Dr Sandy Lockwood & Sue Acheson

11am: Panel Discussion in The Great Hall “The Future of Clay: Materials, Technology & Sustainability” with David Walker CEO of Walker Ceramics, Ted Secombe, Dr Owen Rye, Greg Daly chaired by Kevin White

2pm: Panel in The Great Hall | Voices in Clay: Practice, Process & Presence with Minna Graham, Sue Acheson & Gabie Mello | introduced by Wendy Hargreaves

4pm: Montsalvat site officially closed

All Day: Salt firing (Dr Sandy Lockwood & Sue Acheson)
Ephemeral Kilns with Yuri Wiedenhofer

Friday 19 June

10–4pm: Presentation + Workshop in The White Cottage with David Pottinger. Presentation 10-11am introduced by Kevin White.

10-3pm: Workshop with Ted Secombe in The Barn Gallery

11-12pm: Presentation in The Great Hall - Making Your Living as an Artist with Deb Halpern introduced by Wendy Hargreaves

12-1:30pm: Guest Artist Presentation in The Great Hall | Lineage in Clay: From Koie and Goro to Now with Aaron Scythe introduced by Sergei Shatrov

4–5:30pm: ALCHEMY Exhibition Opening The Residents Gallery opened by Morag Fraser

5 - 9:30pm - Montsalvat Winter Solstice

All Day: Salt firing (Dr Sandy Lockwood & Sue Acheson)
Ephemeral Kilns with Yuri Wiedenhofer

Saturday 20 June

10am–4pm: Demonstration Workshops - Susan Robey (White Cottage) | George McCauley | Kevin White

10am-4pm: Hikedashi Raku Firing at Clay Talk with Aaron Scythe.
Free booking available online.

12-1pm: Presentation in The Great Hall - Dr Owen Rye Building Your Own Woodkiln introduced by George MacCauley

2-3pm: Panel in the Great Hall
Teaching Fire & Building Kiln Communities with Dr Owen Rye, Dr Sandy Lockwood, Jack Lätti, Rob Barron & George McCauley chaired & introduced by Sergei Shatrov

4pm: Montsalvat site officially closed

All Day: Ephemeral Kilns with Yuri Wiedenhofer

Sunday 21 June

10 -1pm: Kiln Openings (Anagama, Salt)

1-2pm: Closing Gathering & Thank you in The Barn Gallery
Dr Owen Rye, Dr Sandy Lockwood, Anna Maas, George McCauley, David Walker with Morag Fraser, Kevin White & Sergei Shatrov

4–6pm: ALCHEMY Exhibition bump-out | The Delegates Show bump-out

6pm: Festival close



EXHIBITIONS

Guest Artist Exhibition
Residents Gallery — All Week

Delegates Exhibition & Sales
Woodworkshop — Friday to Sunday

VENUE

Montsalvat
7 Hillcrest Avenue, Eltham
VIC 3095
montsalvat.com.au
(03) 9439 7712

FIRING SUBMISSION OPTIONS FOR ANAGAMA & SALT

Each ticket holder may submit one bisque-fired stoneware piece for the Anagama firing and/or one for the Salt firing

All submissions must be delivered by Friday 5 June 2026

Address: 7 Hillcrest Ave, Eltham VIC 3095

LABELING

Anagama — “Clay Talk – Anagama Firing”

Salt — “Clay Talk – Salt Firing”

SIZE & PACKING REQUIREMENTS

- All works must fit within a standard shoe box
- One shoe box per ticket holder
- Oversized works will not be accepted
- Sender accepts the risks associated sending bisque ware in the post. Please package carefully.

ENQUIRIES

fireandclay@montsalvat.com.au

TERMS & CONDITIONS

The Fire & Clay Festival is presented and organised by Montsalvat.

These Terms and Conditions apply to all bookings, ticket types, workshops, demonstrations, talks, firings, and associated activities forming part of the Fire & Clay Festival.

BOOKINGS & PAYMENTS

Full payment is required at the time of booking to secure participation. All bookings must be made via the official portal:

montsalvat.com.au/program/fire-clay

Places are limited and cannot be held without payment. Confirmation of booking serves as proof of registration.

ACCESS & PARTICIPATION

Festival activities take place across designated art spaces, kilns, and outdoor areas within Montsalvat. Access to restricted areas is limited to registered participants, presenters, and authorised personnel. Participants must follow all instructions provided regarding entry, safety, and site access. Information and arrival details will be supplied after booking.

REFUNDS, TRANSFERS & NON-ATTENDANCE

Refunds are not provided for change of mind after booking. Please ensure you can attend all scheduled dates prior to registering. Transfer of a booking to another participant may be considered subject to approval and may incur an administration fee.

Requests for refunds made prior to festival commencement may be considered at Montsalvat's discretion and, if approved, will incur a 4% administration fee.

Festival sessions cannot be rescheduled or repeated. No refunds or credits are issued for missed sessions or non-attendance.

ILLNESS

If you are unable to attend due to illness, please notify us as soon as possible via fireandclay@montsalvat.com.au. Tickets are non-refundable in the case of illness; however, a transfer to another participant may be arranged, subject to approval.

Program Changes & Event Cancellation

Montsalvat reserves the right to modify any aspect of the festival where reasonably necessary, including changes to presenters, programme content, schedules, venues, demonstrations, or advertised activities.

The festival program is subject to change without notice.

Montsalvat is not liable for any loss, cost, or disappointment resulting from changes required due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control, including but not limited to presenter illness, travel disruption, material or equipment failure, weather conditions, safety requirements, force majeure events, or insufficient enrolments.

If a session or the festival is cancelled by Montsalvat, participants will be notified as soon as practicable and offered either a pro-rata refund or a credit for a future Montsalvat or Clay Talk program. This constitutes the full extent of liability. No compensation will be provided for associated expenses such as travel or accommodation.

Safety, Conduct & Participant Risk Acknowledgement

Festival activities may involve exposure to heat, open flame, kilns, tools, equipment, smoke, uneven surfaces, and outdoor conditions. By attending, participants acknowledge these inherent risks and agree to follow all safety instructions provided by staff, technicians, and presenters.

Closed footwear and appropriate clothing are required in working areas. Participants accept responsibility for their own safety and personal property while onsite.

Montsalvat reserves the right to refuse entry or remove any participant whose behaviour compromises safety, disrupts others, or damages property. No refund will be issued in such cases.

Photography & Documentation

Photography or video recording may occur during the festival for documentation and promotional purposes. Attendance constitutes consent unless written notice is provided in advance.

Contact

For enquiries or requests:

fireandclay@montsalvat.com.au