

Pottery

Keeping Traditional Methods Alive

Clay - white ball clay sourced locally from Otago. Oamaru Whitestone is crushed & used as a temper to stabilize the clay. It adds strength, reduces shrinking, cracking & reduces thermal shock in the firing process

Build & Shape - hand-built using coil & scrape techniques, then smoothed and shaped using tools such as paddles, gourds and deer-ribs

Burnish - local Kakanui river stones are used to compact the clay and give it a sheen

Dry - pots are left for weeks, if not months, to dry thoroughly

Decorate - a slip may be applied and natural manganese for black or other natural materials for colour, using a brush made from yukka leaves

Fire - open pit-fire to temperatures around 800 celcius

This pottery is decorative only. In the firing process, it may not reach high enough temperature to vitrify, meaning it may be porous