



## Iron Smelting Workshop

An intensive 2 (+1) day iron smelting workshop going back to first principles to transform iron ore rock into workable metallic iron.

### About the event

**An intensive two-day iron smelting workshop going back to first principles to transform iron ore rock into workable metallic iron.**

A workshop ideal for those happy to get a bit grubby engaging with raw materials, earth, fire and air to enact the amazing transformation of raw iron ore into one of the building blocks of the modern world - iron.

#### **DAY 1: Saturday 21 June 2025, 8am - 4pm**

Working with other participants, you will be guided in lighting and carefully managing the clay smelting furnace. A careful balancing of the science and art of managing the health of the furnace and ongoing additions of charcoal and iron ore.

After about 5 hours of burn time you will dismantle your furnace to access the sponge like iron 'bloom' that you have guided into being.

#### **DAY 2: Sun 22 June 2025, 8am – 4pm**

You will use the forge to refine your bloom with high heat and hammering. As the iron bloom is refined it will form a distinct grain pattern as it bonds together becoming denser and purer as it is worked into your own section of wrought iron forged with sweat and patience. By the afternoon there should be time to forge this special piece of iron into a simple design of your choice.

**Optional extra day building clay furnaces: Sun 15th June 2025, 8am – 4pm (the weekend before)**

To start at beginning you are welcome to come the week before to get your hands dirty mixing clay and grass to form into tubular

furnaces. These furnaces will slowly dry ready for use the following weekend. If you would like to take part in the furnace building please let Will know in advance.

#### **Workshop Includes:**

- ü Take home the iron you produce
- ü All materials and fuels
- ü Use of forge/tools and equipment
- ü PPE supplied – gloves, glasses, ear protection (you may also bring your own).
- ü Tuition and practical notes
- ü Lunch supplied each day – fresh salad rolls or similar from local bakery.

#### **Please note:**

- Wear closed in shoes, durable long pants and long sleeve shirt that can get a bit grubby
- Bring a water bottle .
- A reasonable level of health and fitness is needed as you will be doing physical activity in a hot environment.
- Familiarity with basic blacksmithing skills is preferred.
- Women are encouraged to participate.

### Key workshop details

**Dates:** Sat 21st – Sun 22nd, June 2025, 8-4 each day. Optional extra day Sunday 15th to help build smelting furnaces

**Location:** 664 Elderslie Rd Branxton NSW 2335.

**Cost:** \$1200 inc. GST (email Will direct to avoid website platform fees, [will.maguire@hotmail.com](mailto:will.maguire@hotmail.com))

Bookings through

[www.willblacksmith.com.au/event-list](http://www.willblacksmith.com.au/event-list)

Only 6 spots in total.

## **Workshop Lead:**

### **Robbie Alderson**

The young and experienced Robbie will be the workshop lead in this discovery of material. Robbie runs Organic Iron Studio in the central highlands of Victoria which specialises in sculptural and architectural ironwork.

Robbie's connection with the materials of his metal art practice began early. As a child he collected rocks of varying forms of iron ore from places he travelled, eventually building a bloomery furnace at home to smelt them down into iron. This very first bloom was refined through forging and transformed into, objects such as jewellery and sculpture that provide an enduring connection to memory and place.

This long standing and deep interest in the transformation of stone into forgeable blooms has resulted in an ongoing practice of smelting iron blooms to produce recognisably very special and unique iron and steel.

Instagram: [@organic\\_iron\\_studio](https://www.instagram.com/organic_iron_studio)

### **Will Maguire**

The smelting will be held at Will's workshop and he will support Robbie in the smelting process. Will is an experienced blacksmith with over 20 years' experience working on an intimate and monumental scale. His work is deeply embedded in understanding iron in active and relational ways that bring new ways of seeing to materials. Examples of his work can be found in permanent collections across Australia, internationally and in many private and corporate collections.

[www.willblacksmith.com.au](http://www.willblacksmith.com.au)

Instagram: [@maguirewill](https://www.instagram.com/maguirewill)

## **Accommodation info**

The Hunter Valley is host to many accommodation options from the Pub and Motel in Branxton and many higher end B&B style options in the nearby Pokolbin vineyard area.

Basic camping is available very nearby at '[Camp on Hunter](#)' on the banks of the Hunter River for \$30 per night.

**All information and bookings available on the website**

**[www.willblacksmith.com.au](http://www.willblacksmith.com.au) under *events*, or email Will directly at**

**[will.maguire@hotmail.com](mailto:will.maguire@hotmail.com)**