



# Cairns Potters Club Inc.

## April 2025 Newsletter

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*Artwork by Leonie Ryan*

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Plenty of activities are planned for the rest of the year! First up is our members' RAKU DAY in April, followed by the Mother's Day Fair in May and the Cairns Show in July—so hopefully, everyone is busy making pots for these events.

The Management Committee is still hopeful that we can add an extension to the building sometime this year. However, we first need approval from the Cairns Regional Council, which involves plenty of negotiations and paperwork.

## AGM - March 15 2025

We had a very successful **Annual General Meeting** with **22 members in attendance**, where our **2025 committee** was confirmed (page 7). It's great to see so many committee members continuing in their roles.

We still need a maintenance officer—if you're interested, please let us know!

A big **thank you to Catherine Louison** for providing delicious and healthy refreshments.



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### President's Report

#### Annual General Meeting – Year Ending 31 December 2024

The **Cairns Potters Club** has been running for **over 50 years**, a great achievement for a **non-profit, volunteer-run** organisation. Despite increasing demands from governments, councils, and insurers, we continue to thrive thanks to the dedication of our members.

**2024 was a busy year.** Our membership **surpassed 200** for the first time, reflecting the growing popularity of pottery. In response, we're planning a **clubhouse expansion** to accommodate our **electric and glass kilns** and create a **dedicated space for clays and materials**. We are now seeking funding after securing council approvals.

Our **Christmas and Mother's Day Fairs** remain popular, with last year's **Christmas Fair generating over \$19,000** in sales—our best yet!

### **Key Activities in 2024:**

- **Pottery classes** (hand-building & wheel throwing)
- **Children's classes**
- **Wednesday Open Day**
- **Mother's Day & Christmas Fairs**
- **Cairns Show & Open Weekend**
- **Clay & materials orders** for members

Our biggest event, the **50th Jubilee National Ceramics Exhibition – MELTING POT 2024**, ran from **29 November to 12 January** at the **Court House Gallery**, featuring **79 ceramic works** from Cairns and across Australia. We also showcased **20 historic works** from the **City Collection** and sold **one-third of all exhibits**.

### **A Huge Thanks to Our Volunteers**

Special thanks to those who:

- Maintain our **website** and promote members' work
- Handle **kiln bookings** and firings
- Manage **clay & material sales**
- Maintain the **club's facilities**

With **plans for expansion already underway**, 2025 is shaping up to be another exciting year. **Thank you** to all our members, and especially to the **Management Committee**, for their dedication and hard work. Let's continue building a thriving club together!

**Lone White**  
**President**  
**March 2025**

## **CLAY AND MATERIALS ORDER**

The club intends to place another order with Picasso's Ceramics at the end of April. If you'd like to order clay or materials, please email your request to **[lone@tpg.com.au](mailto:lone@tpg.com.au)**.

## MEMBERS RAKU FIRING April 26 2025



A Raku firing day for members is planned for **Saturday, 26 April 2025**, starting at 10am and continuing until all pots are fired.

If you'd like to have pots bisque-fired for Raku day, please bring them to the clubhouse **before 23 April** and let **Nigel and Yasu** know they are for the Saturday firings. Each pot must be no larger than **approximately 20cm x 20cm**.

On **Wednesday, 23 April**, from noon onwards, we'll be making and sorting out Raku glazes. If you'd like to learn how to mix glazes, come along and lend a hand! Please let **Lone** know if you're able to participate in any of the

activities—call **4053 7508** or email **lone@tpg.com.au**.

If you plan to fire your own bisque pots, they must be **suitable for Raku firing**—a fast process where the kiln heats from room temperature to approximately **1000°C in under an hour**, after which the glowing pots are removed and placed in sawdust and paper for reduction or left to cool in oxidation. Ensure your pots have an **even thickness** to prevent them from exploding in the kiln.

Firing fees and glaze costs apply.

## MOTHERS DAY POTTERY FAIR - Sat 10 May 2025

Arrive early—**around 7 am**—to set up your table in a prime location. If you need a table for your display, please contact **Lone White** at **07 4053 7508** or **lone@tpg.com.au** to reserve one (**limited tables available**).

You're welcome to sell **items other than pottery**, such as glasswork, paintings, jewellery, plants, fruit, and more.

### Sales Requirements

To sell at the Fair, you'll need to bring a **sales sheet** with your name and contact details. Sales sheets can be:

- Collected from the clubhouse
- Requested to be sent to you
- Downloaded from our website



Ensure all items for sale have a **sticker** with the **price, item number, and your initials** as listed on your sales sheet. The club **retains a 20% commission** from all sales. Drop your **completed sales sheet** at the **Sales Table** upon arrival.

While you don't have to stay with your work the entire time, being present can help promote your items. **All sales must be processed at the Sales Table.** If you have time, consider **lending a hand** there.

### Pack Down & Volunteering

The Fair **concludes at 2:00 pm**, so please **collect any unsold items** and help clean up the grounds.

Even if you're not selling, we encourage you to **come along and help for a few hours**—it's a great way to connect with fellow potters and stay involved in club activities.

We also **need volunteers throughout the day** to assist with **clay play for children**.

## IMPRESSIONS IN CLAY: A Community Clay Project for People Living with Dementia and their Carers



*Impressions in Clay* is a six-week workshop series for people living with dementia and their carers, offering an opportunity to create and connect through clay. Funded by Dementia Australia, this project is delivered by Hedy Verhulst, a qualified Community Arts Facilitator for Wellbeing and Ceramic Artist, in collaboration with the Cairns Potters Club and supported by the Friends of the Cairns Botanical Gardens.

Workshops are held on Fridays during May and June (2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> of May – 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2025) from 9:30 to 11:30 AM in the Multi-Function Room at the Botanical Garden's Visitor's Centre. Participants will explore botanical-inspired designs using simple tools and techniques for different skill levels, in a small, supportive group of 10. Morning tea is included, and the program is free for participants.

The series culminates in a celebration and showcase of participants' creations on Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of June, followed by a visually documented display during Dementia Awareness Week 2025.

### Reservations are essential.

Single or Multiple Workshops

For more information or to book your place contact Hedy:  
0428 883 121 / [verhulstshedy@gmail.com](mailto:verhulstshedy@gmail.com)

## CLASSES AT THE CLUB

### **Expression of Interest: Advanced Wheel Throwing Classes with Carole Lomax**

Next class starts Thursday, 22 May, 10:30am to 12:30pm.

This class focuses on advanced techniques, including throwing off the hump for both individual pieces and repetition production. Spiral kneading for large amounts of clay will also be taught, and basic forms will be revisited to refine and enhance throwing techniques.

Classes will be offered in 4-week blocks at a cost of **\$140**. Participants must provide their own clay and tools. Each session will run for **2 hours**, with only **4 places available** to ensure personalised guidance.

Participants must already be proficient in centring and raising clay.

If you're interested, please send your expression of interest to: **Carole Lomax [clomax54@gmail.com](mailto:clomax54@gmail.com)**



## ADULTS AND CHILDRENS CLASSES

Would you be interested in teaching pottery classes for adults or children at the clubhouse?

We currently have a shortage of teachers and a high demand from both adults and children eager to learn pottery. Classes can be held on weekends or during the week, either during the day or in the evening—except for Wednesday mornings or 3rd Sunday monthly from 10 am - 4 pm, which are open days.

If you're interested, please email Lone at **[lone@tpg.com.au](mailto:lone@tpg.com.au)** or call **4053 7508**, and she'll explain what's involved.

## CLUB MEMBERS REGULAR CATCH-UPS

### **WEDNESDAYS AND THIRD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

Let's catch up! Join us on Wednesdays from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, and on the third Sunday of each month from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. It's free! This is a great opportunity to gather, share skills and knowledge, or just enjoy the company of fellow potters.

Connect with other potters, share the joy of pottery making, and foster a sense of community within the club.

# CLUBHOUSE CALENDAR

Member Catch-up

Booked for class or workshop

April Clubhouse Calendar						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:00 -12:00 Members Catch Up	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 9:00 -12:00 Members Catch Up	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 9:00 -12:00 Members Catch Up	17	18	19
20 10:00 -16:00 Members Catch Up	21	22	23 9:00 -12:00 Members Catch Up 12 pm - Raku glaze mixing	24	25	26 10 am - Raku Firing
27	28	29	30 9:00 -12:00 Members Catch Up	31		

WHEN YOU COME TO THE CLUBHOUSE YOU MUST BOTH SIGN IN AND OUT IN THE BOOK NEXT TO THE ENTRANCE – STUDENTS ATTENDING CLASSES MUST ALSO HAVE THEIR NAMES ENTERED IN THE BOOK – THE TEACHERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT. IT IS AN INSURANCE REQUIREMENT.

## Committee Members

President:	Lone White	0740537508	lone@tpg.com.au
Vice President:	Catherine Louison	0427735401	cjmusso@bigpond.com
Secretary:	Yasu Mackenzie	0415445636	cairnspottersclub1@gmail.com
Minute Secretary & Librarian:	Christina George	0740532240	chrisg34@bigpond.net.au
Treasurer:	Mark Davis	0418155106	paladin_67@hotmail.com
Kiln Booking Officer:	Nigel Perera	0409459013	(Please Text for booking)
Website Manager:	Gabrielle Cooney	0418708068	info@justpurple.com.au
Newsletter Officer:	Paulina Tapia	0475725686	paulina.tcab@gmail.com
Publicity Officer:	Samantha Lam	0406780967	sammart852@gmail.com
Maintenance Officer:	—		
Clay Officer:	Di Sant	0419657553	disantart@gmail.com
Glaze Officer:	Samallie Kasirye	0478801305	dunkasi@bigpond.com
Committee Members:	Carole Lomax, Hedy Verhulst, Carolyn Brumby, Nicole Pan, Stefany Moran		

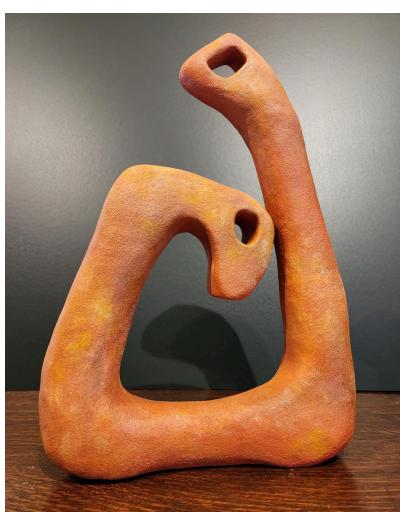
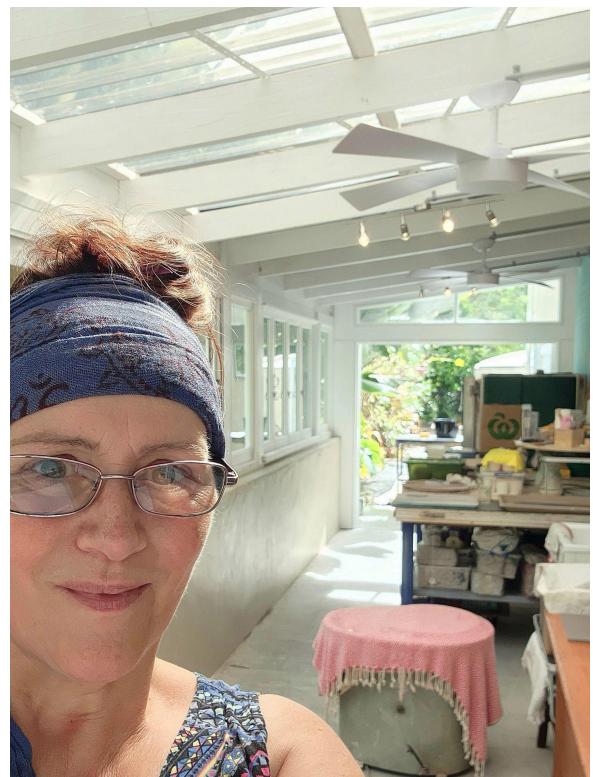
## Leonie Ryan

Leonie Ryan was born in Melbourne, Australia in 1965. At age six she moved with family to Gippsland, Victoria. Growing up in a rural area her life was occupied with explorations of the surrounding countryside. Over thirty years Ryan has worked across a vast range of disciplines including ceramics, sculpture, sensory art, installation art, photography, performance and exhibited in multiple group and solo exhibitions. In 2016 she completed Master of Fine Art, between 2008 to 2014 was awarded Bachelor of Visual Art and Design, Master of Visual Art from Monash University and a Diploma of Visual Art and Design. Throughout May and June this year, Ryan has been invited to Vallauris Artist Residency in France, as one of six international artists to produce a ceramic project to exhibit.

In 2019 Ryans art practice shifted to explore sensorial art on a more personal level, with a clear focus back on ceramics. The versatility and yielding nature of clay opens a plethora of sensorial modalities, such as, touch, smell, sound, weight, temperature, movement and transformation. Between the handling of clay and ceramic processes, a rhythm occurs connecting mind, body and soul. Ryan creates her distinctive artistic language through processes of abstraction and inspired by the material qualities and smooth geometry of Mid-Century Modern Art and Furniture.

Enjoying the benefits and flexibility of firing sculpture and occasionally domestic ware, in either her electric or gas kilns, Ryan is also delighted about making a Raku kiln which is near to completion. From May to November Ryans ceramic practice is based at her studio in Shannonvale near Port Douglas. For the rest of the year her ceramic practice is based at her studio in Gippsland.

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





from

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**Website** <https://cairnspottersclub.com>