



Cairns Potters Club Inc.

October 2025 Newsletter

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Artwork by Tanya Shorey

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's been another busy month at the Club! Our membership has now grown to **235**, which is wonderful to see. Many of our new members are keen to join children's or adult classes, so we are currently looking for more potters who would like to share their skills by running classes at the clubhouse. If you're interested, please get in touch—we'd love to hear from you.

We are still waiting to hear the outcome of our grant application for the property extension and new kiln room. Fingers crossed we'll have good news to share soon.

The countdown to our **Christmas Fair** is on—it will be held on **Saturday 6 December**. This is always a very popular event with many visitors, so now is the perfect time to get busy in the studio and start making pots for the fair.

CLAY AND MATERIALS ORDER

Our latest order has just been placed with Picasso's Ceramics, and we expect delivery to the clubhouse in early October. Recently, we also received **one ton of Walkers 10 and PB103**, so if you're running low, we currently have a good range of clays available.

Clays and materials can be purchased at the clubhouse on **Saturday mornings between 9am and 11am**.

SHELVES AWARENESS!

Please make sure you're putting your ceramic work on the *right* shelf (not just the one closest to your arm's reach). Look for the labels under each shelf to know what goes where.

Here's the breakdown:

- **Drying shelves** – label your work clearly with your name and date. (Work in progress form)
- **Bisque firing shelves** – for bone dry greenware ready to be fired.
- **Glaze firing shelves** – for bisque pieces that are glazed and ready for their final firing
- **Collection shelves** – for picking up your finished bisque or glaze-fired work.

Thanks for keeping the club flowing smoothly!

Impressions in Clay: Creativity, Connection, and Dementia Awareness

As a recent graduate of the *Creative Arts and Health* diploma program at the University of Tasmania, I found one subject particularly inspiring—*Dementia and the Arts*. It highlighted the powerful role creativity can play in supporting mental wellbeing, and set in motion the idea for a clay-based community project in Cairns.



This idea grew into *Impressions in Clay*, a hands-on creative programme designed specifically for people living with dementia and their carers. With the support of the Cairns Potters Club, and thanks to a successful grant from Dementia Australia, the vision became a reality. Project partners included FNQ Dementia Alliance, Centacare FNQ, Cairns Carers Support Group, and the Friends of the Botanical Gardens.

To ensure the programme truly reflected the needs of participants, feedback was gathered from stakeholders, carers, and people living with dementia through presentations, free mini clay workshops, and consultation sessions. Based on this input, the programme was refined and launched at the Botanical Gardens Visitor Centre's Multi-Function Room.

Each session began with a short “show and tell” from a volunteer with the Friends of the Cairns Botanical Gardens, introducing a plant or tree from the Garden. These became the inspiration for the day’s clay activity. For many participants, it was their very first time working with clay—some were hesitant to begin, but quickly found comfort and enjoyment in the process. The sessions promoted a calm, relaxing atmosphere, elevating wellbeing and creating a sense of connection and community.



The series concluded with a *Showcase and Celebration*, where all creations were displayed in exhibition style. The participants seemed amazed and proud of what they had achieved. The event was well attended, bringing the wider community together to celebrate creativity and resilience.



As part of Dementia Action Week 2025, the artworks are being displayed in the glass cabinet of the Manunda Library until the 3rd October 2025.

Impressions in Clay not only highlights the talents of the participants but also raises awareness about dementia and the importance of inclusive creative opportunities, important for building healthier more connected communities.

More Info: Hedy Verhulst – verhulst@verhulst.com – 0428 883 121

WORKSHOP AT THE CLUB

Youth Handbuilding Workshop - November (date to be announced)

The Cairns Potter's Club welcomes youth ages 12-15 for an introduction to the wonderful world of handbuilding! With our Blue Card Certified instructor, parents are welcome to leave their children for the two hour workshop.

This opportunity will allow your children to learn the basics of working with clay, interact with peers with similar interests, all while making a masterpiece of their own to take home and share with their loved ones. Clay, tools and bisque firing are included in the price.

Contact Stefany directly at: artofstefmoran@gmail.com

CAIRNS POTTERS CLUB

Youth Handbuilding Workshop *With Stefany Moran*

Cost: \$60 Per Child
1 KG of clay,
and bisque firing included

Where: Cairns Potters Club
28A Grove St,
Parramatta Park QLD 4870

Ages: TBA
Ages: 10-15 years old
Number of slots available: 6

Email: artofstefmoran@gmail.com
Phone: 0403 883 381

Give your child the chance to create
their own ceramic piece that will last a lifetime

CLASSES AT THE CLUB

Advanced Wheel Throwing Classes with Carole Lomax (Members Only) Thursday evenings: 18:00-20:00 (Tentative starting date to be advised)

This intimate 4-week course is based on the technique of 'Throwing off the Hump'.

Ideal for repetition throwing, small pieces and multi-part pieces. The course will revisit and hone basic skills, the foundation of all your throwing, and you will learn new skills to add to your practice. If you are interested, have clay and enthusiasm.

Contact Carole directly at: clomax54@gmail.com

Throwing off the Hump
Intermediate classes.

THURS. 6:00 - 8:00pm
\$140 - 4 x consecutive weeks
4 x places available

Expressions of Interest:
Carole clomax54@gmail.com

• Learn how to throw singular and repeated forms off the hump
• Learn the art of spiral banding for larger pieces of clay
• Revise and refine all basic throwing techniques
• Learn a myriad of tricks and tips to aid your practice

All students must be able to centre clay on the wheel and pull up a wall evenly to attend

Wheel Throwing Classes with Paulina Tapia

Wednesday evenings: 18:00-20:30 (October - full)

Discover the art of wheel throwing in a relaxed, small group setting (max 6 students). This 6-week course is designed for adult beginners – no experience needed, just a willingness to get your hands dirty! Each week, we'll cover the basics and build your confidence using the pottery wheel (2.5-hour class per week). In the final session, we'll go through the glazing process so you can finish and take home your pieces.

The full course is \$330, which includes clay and a bisque firing.

Contact Paulina at: paulinat.ceramics@gmail.com

BEGINNERS —

Wheel throwing class
WITH PAULINA TAPIA

Join a 6-week course designed for adult beginners (6 students max).

You'll learn the basics of wheel throwing in a relaxed environment.

Price \$330
Tools, clay and first bisque firing included.

Contact:
paulinat.ceramics@gmail.com or 0475 725686

6 CONSECUTIVE CLASSES ON
Tuesday mornings 9:30 - 12:00 pm
or
Wednesday evenings 6:00 - 8:30 pm

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!
Cairns Potters Club 28A Grove Street Cairns

CLUB MEMBERS REGULAR CATCH-UPS **EVERY WEDNESDAY**

Let's catch up! Join us on Wednesdays from 9:00 AM to 12:00 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

October Clubhouse Calendar						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 -12:00 Members Catch Up	2	3	4
5	6 16:00-17:30 Monthly meeting	7	8 9:00 -12:00 Members Catch Up	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 9:00 -12:00 Members Catch Up	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 9:00 -12:00 Members Catch Up	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 9:00 -12:00 Members Catch Up	30	31	
			18:00-20:30 Paulina's Class			

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
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Glaze Officer:	Carolyn Brumby	0418793260	carolyn.brumby@gmail.com
Committee Members:	Carole Lomax, Hedy Verhulst and Samallie Kasirye.		

Tanya Shorey

With my kids finishing school three years ago, it was time for me to find a hobby. With no experience and after dabbling with a few different crafts, I stumbled across a four week wheel throwing workshop with the wonderful Kylie Cooper (Stick in the Mud) and haven't looked back. Fortnightly studio time turned into weekly sessions and last Christmas, a second hand wheel found a new home at my little farm in Mareeba.

My pottery style seems to be with decorative functional forms and I'm finding my grooves with sgraffito. I love finding new shapes and playful variations on common pottery pieces like small chip dip bowls and berry bowls.

I'm constantly inspired by the incredible artists and love seeing the different ways clay can be shaped, decorated and used.

In the near future, I'm working on the courage to buy a kiln and sell my items at the next potters fair. In the meantime, my pieces are clogging up the CPC shelves - special thanks to the amazing volunteers at CPC who provide generous space and firing services.

Contact Tanya on 0418871417 if you'd like to be in touch.





from

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