



Cairns Potters Club Inc.

June 2026 Newsletter

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Nicole Elder

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been another busy month for the club, and July is shaping up to be even busier with the Cairns Show just around the corner. Once again, we will be looking after the Visual Arts section in conjunction with the Visual Arts Association (see page 3).

We have recently received notification from the Cairns Regional Council regarding the renewal of our lease. As part of this process, there is a considerable amount of maintenance and repair work that must be completed on the building. Under the terms of our lease agreement, these works need to be carried out by the end of August. This will keep us all busy over the coming months and will also involve a significant financial commitment from the club.

CLAY AND MATERIALS ORDER

The club has recently received a one-tonne delivery of clay from Walkers, mainly Walkers 10 and PB103. If you're running low on clay, drop into the clubhouse on Saturday mornings between 9am and 11am to purchase what you need.

Another order has also been placed with Picasso's Ceramics. We are hoping that, this time, the transport company will deliver it a little more promptly and that it won't take quite so long to reach the clubhouse.

If you would like to order clay, materials, or tools through the club's next order, please send your request to Lone at lone@tpg.com.au.

MOTHER'S DAY FAIR

The Cairns Potters Club held a very successful Mother's Day Fair on Saturday 9 May, from 8am to 2pm. Thirty-six potters displayed their work in stalls, showcasing a wide range of ceramic pieces, from small functional items through to larger sculptural works.

Wheel-throwing demonstrations and "play clay" activities for children were held throughout the day, adding to the lively atmosphere.

There was a steady flow of buyers throughout the event, and it turned out to be the club's most successful fair to date, with \$23,100 in ceramic sales over the six hours. Ceramics continue to be very popular in Cairns, and the club now has more than 250 members.

Thank you to all the stallholders for bringing their work, and to all members who helped with setting up and packing down, running the sales table, and supporting the children's activities. It was a real team effort, and the day would not have been possible without everyone's contribution.





Entries Open for the 2026 Cairns Show Visual Arts Competition

The Cairns Show Visual Arts Competition is back for 2026, celebrating creativity, imagination, and artistic talent from across Far North Queensland and beyond. From paintings and pottery to sculpture, mixed media, digital art, and junior artwork, there is a category for artists of all ages and experience levels.

With entry fees starting from just \$1 for junior sections and \$2.50 for open sections, the competition is an affordable and exciting opportunity for emerging and established artists to showcase their work during one of the region's biggest community events. Prize money, champion awards, and sashes are available across a range of categories.

The Visual Arts Hall will once again be filled with an incredible display of local talent, featuring everything from traditional paintings and drawings to unique sculptures, pottery, and contemporary works. Junior and Special Needs sections also provide young and emerging artists with the opportunity to proudly display their creativity to thousands of Cairns Show visitors.

Entries close at 4:00pm on Friday 19 June 2026, with exhibits to be delivered to the Visual Arts Hall on Wednesday 8 July 2026.

Whether you are a professional artist, hobby creator, student, or simply enjoy making art, we encourage everyone to get involved and be part of this colourful and inspiring Cairns Show tradition.

For schedules, categories, and entry information, visit the Cairns Show website or contact the Cairns Show Office.

The Visual Arts Association, together with the Cairns Potters Club, will once again be looking after and selling artworks during the three days of the Cairns Show. A roster will be in place for these shifts, and volunteers are warmly invited to participate.

If you would like to help out, please email Lone at lone@tpg.com.au. Each shift is three hours, running from 9am–12pm, 12pm–3pm, 3pm–6pm, and 6pm–9pm. Volunteers will receive a free Show entry pass for the day they are rostered on.

NEW MEMBERS INDUCTION SESSION

A new members induction session will be held every **Saturday from 9:00am to 11:00am**. Members who are coming in to purchase clay and require an induction can attend during this time. If you are a new member needing access to club facilities, please make use of this session.

FROM THE GLAZE ROOM

Hello everyone, when recently restocking a glaze, I noticed that there was quite a lot of sediment in the bottom of the bucket. It is important for the glaze to be the right consistency and colour that you mix all glazes very well. There should be no sediment left on the bottom and always mix each glaze with a clean instrument.

On another point, as some glazes are just a creamy white mix, please be diligent not to contaminate the bucket by accidentally pouring a glaze in the wrong bucket.

GLAZE TALK

I am offering another free glaze talk on Sunday 21st , 3-4pm. This is for members who have not attended previous sessions. As Yasu is away, you can register with me. Up to 25 people can attend.

carolyn.brumby@gmail.com

Warmly, Carolyn

LIBRARY

Hello my fellow potters, your Librarian here.

Firstly sorry the library has been unavailable to you all these past months. I became very ill in March, out of the blue and ended up in hospital, for a very traumatic week. As I recovered from it we went on holiday to England for some serious get away time. I visited Gladstone. Which was fabulous. I am tip top and dandy again now and intend to open the Library again starting Wednesday June 3rd. Once again apologies.

See you at the Potting Club,

Jacqi, your Librarian.

RETURN OF BORROWED ITEMS

A friendly reminder to members to **please return any club items you may have borrowed**. At the moment, we are still missing a few items, including thermocouples, **a spray gun bottle, and some batts**.

As a volunteer-run club, we all share responsibility for looking after our equipment and facilities so everyone can continue to enjoy and benefit from them. If you have any borrowed items at home, please return them to the clubhouse as soon as possible—no questions asked. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

RICHARD RICKERT'S WORKSHOP - 31 MAY



The Advanced Pottery Workshop on Sunday, 31 May, was led by Richard Rickett, a highly experienced potter and an excellent teacher. Throughout the day, we worked on our individual pieces while Richard provided one-to-one guidance and tuition.

I learned several simple adjustments to my throwing technique, and the difference in my results was remarkable. For the first time, I was able to successfully throw a 2 kg block of clay, whereas previously I had been struggling to improve my wheel-throwing skills.

It was an extremely worthwhile and enjoyable day. Richard's teaching style was clear, encouraging, and highly effective, and I'm sure everyone benefited from the experience.

I would encourage potters of all levels, from complete beginners to advanced practitioners, to attend the workshops offered at the CPC. There is always something new to learn, and every session provides valuable insights that help improve our skills.

Many thanks to Richard for a fantastic workshop.

Catherine Louison

CLASSES AT THE CLUB

6 Week wheel throwing workshop - Carolyn Brumby

Monday & Tuesday evenings

Next start date: 13th or 14th July.

Learn the age-old technique of forming pots on the wheel with Carolyn Brumby in this relaxed and hands-on 6-week course.

Each week (2.5-hour class), you'll build your skills — whether you're just starting out or want to take your technique to the next level. In week 6, you'll also be introduced to the glazing process to finish off your beautiful creations. Limited places available.

Contact Carolyn at: carolyn.brumby@gmail.com

A poster for a pottery workshop. It features a green and white color scheme. At the top, it says "WORKSHOP WHEEL THROWING with Carolyn Brumby". Below this, it lists the details: "6 WEEK WORKSHOP", "6PM - 8:30PM", and "Cairns Potters Club: 28A Grove St. Cairns North." There is a small photo of Carolyn Brumby working on a pottery wheel. At the bottom, it says "WORKSHOP OUTLINE: For Beginners to Advanced / 6 Weeks Duration / Max. No. 5 Students / Includes 1 Bag of clay, Starter Tool Kit & bisque firing (glazes and glaze firing additional cost)". The price is listed as "\$330 per person". At the very bottom, it says "PH: 04 1879 3260" and "CAROLYN BRUMBY@GMAIL.COM".

Wheel throwing classes - *Paulina Tapia*

Next class available: August 19

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. Glaze firing and cost will be discussed in class.

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 wheelthrowing in a relaxed environment.

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

Contact:
paulinat.ceramics@gmail.com

6 CONSECUTIVE CLASSES ON
Wednesday evenings 6:00 - 8:30 pm

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!

Cairns Potters club 28A Grove Street Cairns

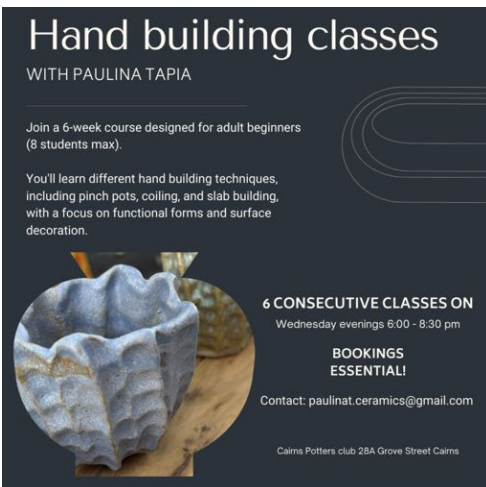
Handbuilding classes - *Paulina Tapia*

Next class: Mid September

Come and enjoy the calm pace of hand building. In these sessions you'll learn the fundamentals of handbuilding, including pinch pots, coiling, and slab building, with a focus on functional forms and surface decoration. We'll explore texture, carving, and slip decoration. In the last session we will focus on glazing so you can take home your final pieces.

Clay and bisque firing included. Additional clay can be purchased from the Potters Club. Glazes, and glaze firing are at an additional cost and will be discussed during class. Price \$330.

Contact Paulina at: paulinat.ceramics@gmail.com



Hand building classes

WITH PAULINA TAPIA

Join a 6-week course designed for adult beginners (8 students max).

You'll learn different hand building techniques, including pinch pots, coiling, and slab building, with a focus on functional forms and surface decoration.

6 CONSECUTIVE CLASSES ON
Wednesday evenings 6:00 - 8:30 pm

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!

Contact: paulinat.ceramics@gmail.com

Cairns Potters club 28A Grove Street Cairns

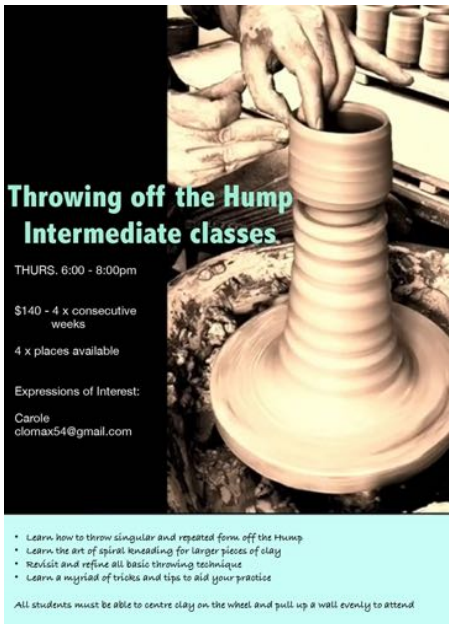
Intermediate Wheel Throwing Classes - *Carole Lomax (Members Only)*

These intermediate wheel throwing classes offer an opportunity to deepen your relationship with the clay and refine the quiet skills that come with practice. The start date will be confirmed once sufficient expressions of interest have been received.

The focus will be on advanced throwing techniques, including throwing off the hump for both individual pieces and repeated forms. You'll also learn spiral kneading for preparing larger amounts of clay, and revisit essential forms with fresh attention—refining movement, control, and consistency at the wheel.

Classes are offered in 4-week blocks, with 2-hour sessions at a total cost of \$140. A minimum of four participants is required for the class to run, with a maximum of six participants, allowing for thoughtful, personalised guidance. Participants should already be confident in centering and raising clay. Please bring your own clay and tools. If you're interested, please send your expression of interest to:

Carole Lomax 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 form off the hump.
- Learn the art of spiral kneading for larger pieces of clay
- Revisit and refine all basic throwing technique
- 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

CLUBHOUSE CALENDAR

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

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

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
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Glaze Officer:	Carolyn Brumby	0418793260	carolyn.brumby@gmail.com
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Website Manager:	Leigh Harder	0401520413	leighharder07@gmail.com
General Committee Members: Neil King and Masae Igawishi (Social firing team), Carole Lomax.			

Nicole Elder

I've always had an interest in arts and crafts, dating back to my school days. In 2019, while looking for a creative outlet and some "me time," I enrolled in a beginner's wheel-throwing class at TAFE—and I've been hooked ever since. I went on to complete an intermediate course and a ceramics skill set, both of which were incredibly valuable learning experiences. These days, I enjoy creating a wide variety of pieces, predominantly working on the wheel. I'm especially drawn to making functional ware and experimenting with layered glazes.

I love the individuality of handmade ceramics—no two pieces are ever quite the same. There's always something new to learn, and I'm excited to continue exploring new techniques and growing my skills.



Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/nicole_elder

