



Cairns Potters Club Inc.

August 2026 Newsletter

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Robyn Chantal Smith

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Cairns Potters Club is bursting at the seams! We now have around 300 members, which is fantastic, but it also means greater demand on our pottery firings. We will once again be seeking funding for an extension to the building to create more space for our electric kilns.

Our Open Weekend (see page 3) will also keep us busy, and I hope many of you will take part in the raku firing. It is always a great event and a wonderful opportunity to get involved.

The Cairns Regional Council has requested that we carry out some repairs to our building, along with renovations to the kitchen. The work should cause only minimal disruption if you are working at the clubhouse.

Our next major project is **MELTING POT 2026**, our National Ceramics Exhibition. Entry forms are now available to download from our website. Around the same time, we will also be hosting two workshops with well-known ceramic artists Chris Harford and his wife, Cathy Franzi (see page 4). If you are interested in attending, please let us know as soon as possible. Cathy Franzi's workshop is limited to just 10 participants, so places are expected to fill quickly.

// 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. //

CLAY AND MATERIALS ORDER

Another order of clay from Walkers Ceramics is on its way to Cairns, and we have just sent our July order to Picasso's Ceramics. As Picasso's orders include a wide range of materials and equipment, it usually takes a few weeks before everything arrives.

Our next order to Picasso's Ceramics will be placed at the end of August. If you would like to order anything, please email Lone at lone@tpg.com.au before then.

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.

LIBRARY

Hello fellow potters, your Librarian here. A few notices about the library.

Firstly please note the change in library open times. For a trial period the library will be open alternating Wednesday and Thursday, as these are community days. It will be open 10-12.

Secondly please find the drop box to return books borrowed when the library is not open.

Thirdly, please take advantage of the huge wealth of knowledge in the library. You can take several books for a month. There are skill improvement techniques and wider information in there. The journals are fantastic for a read too. Have a great time potting

Jacqi, your Librarian

OPEN WEEKEND 8th (Sat) & 9th (Sun) August

The Cairns Potters Club will open its doors to the public from **10.00 am to 2.00 pm** on both Saturday and Sunday. We invite the local community and visitors to come along, have a go at wheel throwing and hand building, explore our facilities, and purchase handmade pottery from our members.

What to expect:

- Play with clay
- Meet and socialise with creative people
- Learn more about the Cairns Potters Club
- Browse and buy handmade pottery
- On Sunday morning, visitors may also have the opportunity to take part in a raku firing.

Selling Your Work

Members wishing to display and sell their work during the Open Weekend should bring their pottery to the clubhouse on **Saturday 8 August at 8.30 am**. As space is limited, each potter will be allocated part of a table.

As usual, please complete your sales sheet and labels before delivery. We also ask everyone selling work to volunteer for at least a few hours during the weekend. We need members to welcome visitors and assist with hand building and wheel throwing activities. If you can spare a couple of hours, your help would be greatly appreciated.

Raku Preparation

On **Wednesday 5 August**, from **12 noon onwards**, we will be making and organising raku glazes. If you would like to learn more about glaze making, come along and lend a hand.

Please let Lone know if you can help with any of the activities above by calling **4053 7508** or emailing lone@tpg.com.au.

We hope you manage to get some of your raku pots bisque fired at the club on **Tuesday 4 August**.

Raku Firing Information

If you would like to fire your own bisque pots in the raku firing, please make sure they are suitable. Raku is a rapid firing process in our drum kiln, taking pots from room temperature to approximately **1000°C** in less than an hour. The kiln is then opened and the glowing pots are removed and either placed into sawdust and paper for reduction or left to cool in oxidation.

To reduce the risk of breakage, your pots should have an even wall thickness and must not exceed **25 × 25 cm** in size. A charge will apply for the glazes and firing of your work.



WORKSHOPS

Ceramic Surface – Textural Imagery Workshop with Cathy Franzi

The Cairns Potters Club is pleased to host Ceramic Surface – Textural Imagery, a one-day hands-on workshop with renowned ceramic artist Cathy Franzi.

Date: Thursday, 9 October 2026

Time: 9.00 am – 4.00 pm

Venue: Cairns Potters Club

Cost: \$120

This practical workshop will explore ways of creating rich, textured surfaces inspired by the natural environment. Places are limited, so be sure to register your interest early to secure a spot.

<https://www.cathyfranzi.com/>



Throwing Skills Demonstration Workshop with Chris Harford

The Cairns Potters Club is pleased to present a two-day **Throwing Skills Demonstration Workshop** with renowned ceramic artist **Chris Harford**.

Dates: Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 October 2026

Time: 9.00 am – 4.00 pm

Venue: TAFE Cairns

Cost: To be confirmed

Over two days, Chris will share his knowledge and experience through demonstrations covering a wide range of throwing techniques and functional forms.



Day 1

Chris will focus on the foundations of throwing, demonstrating the making of cylinders, mugs, bowls, plates and teapot forms, including the creation of bodies and lids, as well as the use of batts.

Day 2

The second day will explore more advanced techniques, including the making of vases and bottles, pulling and attaching handles, hand-built handles, trimming, fitting lids, the use of chucks, and finishing work.

This workshop will be a great opportunity for potters to refine their skills, learn new techniques, and gain insight into Chris Harford's approach to making functional ceramic forms.

<https://www.chrisharfordtableware.com/>

CLASSES AT THE CLUB

6 Week wheel throwing workshop - Carolyn Brumby

Monday & Tuesday evenings

Next start date: 5th and 6th October.

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 'Workshop Wheel Throwing' with Carolyn Brumby. It features images of pottery and a person working on a wheel. The text includes the workshop title, dates, time, location, and a price of \$330 per person.

**WORKSHOP
WHEEL
THROWING**
with Carolyn Brumby

6 WEEK WORKSHOP
6PM - 8:30PM
Cairns Potters Club: 28A
Grove St. Cairns North.

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)

\$330 per person

PH: 04 1879 3260
CAROLYN.BRUMBY@GMAIL.COM

Intermediate Wheel Throwing Classes - Carole Lomax

This is a time to refine your throwing techniques.

Learning to throw off the hump allows a freedom to play with form and analyse your throwing. Spiral kneading allows you to easily prepare larger quantities of clay for the wheel.

We will revisit basic forms with attention to good technique that allows for both repetition and experimentation. There are so many small and seemingly insignificant concerns that will assist your practice and personal approach.

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, this allows for individual attention.

Participants should already be confident in centering and raising clay walls. You are required to bring your own clay of choice and tools.

If you're interested, please send your expression of interest to

Carole Lomax at: clomax54@gmail.com

A poster for 'Throwing off the Hump Intermediate classes'. It features a close-up image of hands throwing a pot on a wheel. The text includes the class title, time, cost, and contact information.

**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

Wheel throwing classes - *Paulina Tapia*

Next class available: October 7th

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

The flyer features a dark blue header with white text. Below the header is a photo of Paulina Tapia smiling in a pottery studio. To the left of the photo is a close-up of a hand-thrown bowl. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with white text on a dark background.

Handbuilding classes - *Paulina Tapia*

Next class: October

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

The flyer has a dark blue background with white text. It features a photo of a hand-built ceramic bowl with a textured surface. The layout is clean and professional, with a focus on the course details and contact information.

CLUBHOUSE CALENDAR

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

CLUB MEMBERS REGULAR CATCH-UPS **EVERY WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY Morning!**

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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Minute Secretary:	Christina George	0740532240	chrisg34@bigpond.net.au
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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, Hedy Verlust.			

Robyn Chantal Smith

I moved to Cairns four years ago from Sydney following the COVID lockdowns so I could be reacquainted with my grandchildren. In Sydney I was a successful figurative sculptor, exhibiting and selling my bronze pieces in galleries, something I hoped to continue doing from Cairns, unfortunately this was not to be as I could not find a local foundry to continue with my bronze work and so my journey began at the Cairns Potters Club.

Initially I started with paper clay which allowed me to continue with the female form without the use of armature, but really struggled with the process. This led to a collaboration with an experienced potter who threw bowls and I added female forms to them, something a little more successful.

However this year I started hand building organic bowls representing nature, using BRT Clay and found that I really loved the texture of this clay and the process. I find myself now experimenting with different glazes and finishes, something that allows me to continue to grow and enjoy my time both at the club and in beautiful Cairns which has now become my home.

Instagram, Facebook: @robbychantal



