



Cairns Potters Club Inc.

October 2026 Newsletter

ABN	60 623 179 734
Postal Address	PO Box 1470, Cairns QLD 4870
Clubhouse	28a Grove St Cairns 4870
Account	119552826 BSB: 633-000 Account Name: Cairns Potters Club Inc
President	Lone White / Phone contact 07 4053 7508
Email	cairnpottersclub1@gmail.com
Website	www.cairnpottersclub.com



Jacqi Thornborrow

Please note: Opinions expressed or advertisements displayed by contributors to this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor, Executive Officers or the Committee. Whilst every effort is made to publish accurate information, Cairns Potters Club inc. accepts no responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Never a dull moment at the club! The committee has been busy getting things ready for our **17th National Ceramics Exhibition, MELTING POT 2026**, which starts on 10 October and runs until 5 December at the Cairns Art Gallery (see page 3 and 4). We hope to see you at the official opening on **Friday 9 October at 6 pm**. Please note a RSVP is required, see Page 4.

For the moment, the clubhouse is getting repainted on the outside, and over the next two weeks our kitchen is also getting sorted out. You will still be able to use the clubhouse during this time. To renew our lease with Cairns Regional Council, we were asked to improve some of the facilities, which we hope to have finished in the next few weeks.

The club has also managed to secure a **\$6,000 grant** to put up more shelves and make more space in the clubhouse for members to leave their unfinished work before firing. We will let you know when this work is going to happen.

CLAY AND MATERIALS ORDER

LAST CHANCE to have your order included in the Cairns Potters Club order to Picasso's Ceramics, as the order will be sent on **2 October**. If you need to order any clay or materials, please send an email to **lone@tpg.com.au** by today at the latest.

The club has various types of Walkers clays for sale and will be receiving another order in a couple of weeks. So, if you need any clay, please call in at the clubhouse on **Wednesday or Saturday mornings between 9 am and 11 am**.

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.

Renewed members who may not be familiar with using the clubhouse are warmly encouraged to attend this session. Even if you simply have questions or need some guidance, please feel free to come along—we're happy to help!

KITCHEN RENOVATION / PAINTING EXTERIOR

As part of the Council's maintenance and renewal requirements, some work is currently being carried out around the clubhouse. You may have already noticed the tradies working both inside and outside the building.

The **kitchen renovations started on Monday 28 September** and are expected to take around two weeks. Unfortunately, this means the kitchen facilities will not be available during this time. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and really appreciate your understanding and patience while the renovations are underway.

The **exterior of the clubhouse will also be painted shortly**, so you may notice some additional activity around the building over the coming weeks. Thank you for your patience while we get these improvements completed.

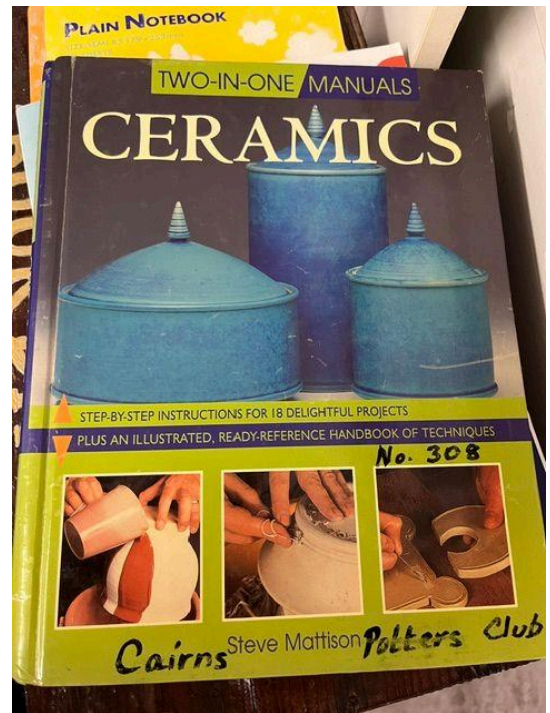
LIBRARY

Hello fellow potters, Jacqi here, your librarian. It's been encouraging that people are using the library and a few faces keep returning, which is great. Just a reminder that the library is open alternate Wednesday and Thursday over a fortnight to coincide with the community days. It has been more successful for library use this way. The library is open from 10am to 12noon. All returns can go in the drop box. Or renewed through me.

This month I'd like to share a book that has garnered attention for its practical tips and intriguing project. In an easy to read lay out. It's available at the library if you'd like to read it.

Jacqi

Your Librarian



MELTING POT NATIONAL CERAMICS EXHIBITION 2026

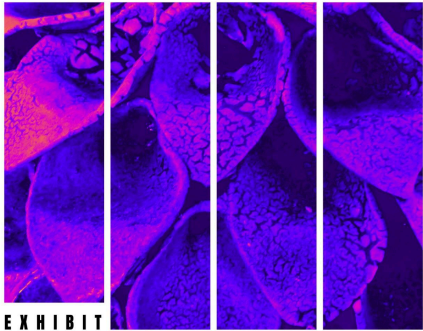
We would like to extend an invitation to all our members, along with their family and friends, to come along to the **official opening night on Friday 9 October** at the Cairns Art Gallery, **doors open at 5:30 pm** for a 6:00 pm start. Come and support our club members and enjoy an evening celebrating ceramics and the amazing variety of work in this year's **MELTING POT National Ceramics Exhibition 2026**. We hope to see you there!

Book your ticket here: [Exhibition Opening – Melting Pot 2026 - Event Booking - Cairns Art Gallery](#)

For those who have entered works in the exhibition, don't forget to deliver your entries to the Cairns Art Gallery on **Wednesday 7 October between 11 am and 4 pm**.

Please remember that the containers you deliver your works in must be taken home with you and brought back when you **collect your works on Monday 7 December between 11 am and 3 pm** (that is, if your work has not sold). If you are unable to deliver or collect your works on those days, please contact Lone White on lone@tpg.com or ph. 4053 7508 to make other arrangements.

10 OCT - 05 Dec 2026
Cairns Art Gallery



EXHIBIT

MELTING POT 2026

17th Biennial National Ceramics Exhibition
40 Abbott Street Cairns 4870 QLD

www.cairnspottersclub.com
PH: 07 4053 7508



Exhibition Opening – Melting Pot 2026

The Board of the Cairns Art Gallery and the Director, Angela Goddard, invite you to the opening of Cairns Potters Club Inc: [Melting Pot 2026 Ceramic Exhibition](#)



The Cairns Potters Club gratefully acknowledges the continued support of sponsors who kindly donate awards and prizes at the opening event of the exhibition.

Cairns Potters Club: *Melting Pot National Ceramics Exhibition* is proudly sponsored by:

Cairns Potters Club Inc
Reef Orthopaedic Clinic
Ray White
Marion Ireland
Qld TAFE Cairns
Matt Smith – Federal Member for Cairns
Michael Healy – Member for Cairns
The Australian Ceramics Association
Walkers Ceramics
Picasso's Ceramics

5.30pm: Doors open
Refreshments and bar open on the first floor
6.15pm: Speeches and awards announced
7.30pm: Event concludes

All welcome, RSVP essential for catering purposes
Refreshments and an EFTPOS bar will be available on the evening.

Book your ticket here:

<https://www.cairnsartgallery.com.au/whats-on/programs-events/MP2026.book>

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 bat-mate (blue) , a spray gun set, and some batts.**

As a volunteer-run club, we all share responsibility for looking after our tools, 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.

ATTENTION SPRAY GUN USERS

Please wear appropriate respiratory protection when using the spray gun and **clean it thoroughly after each use.** Don't forget to empty the bucket underneath.

There is a **small filter between the container and the spray gun.** Please make sure the filter is put back in place after cleaning.

CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS



CHRIS HARFORD | DEMO WORKSHOP

SAT 10 & SUN 11 OCT 2026
2-DAY PROGRAM | 9AM-4PM

VENUE | TAFE CAIRNS
\$140 PER PERSON
limited availability

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

Booking & Inquiry : cairnpottersclub1@gmail.com

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Day 1
Core Throwing Techniques
Chris will focus on the foundations of throwing, demonstrating the making of cylinders, mugs, bowls, plates and teapot forms. As well as the creation of bodies and lids, and the use of batts.

Day 2
Advanced Form & Finish
Chris will introduce more complex techniques such as throwing vases and bottles, pulling and attaching handles, crafting hand-built handles, trimming, fitting lids, working with chucks, and completing refined finishing work.

www.chrisharfordtableware.com

Special Workshop : Chris Harford Demo Workshop at TAFE FNQ CAMPUS

Chris Harford, the judge of the **MELTING POT 2026** exhibition, will be conducting a non-participation weekend workshop at TAFE on **Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 October.**

Chris has been here in Cairns before and ran a workshop which everyone found very informative. Participants learnt so much about wheel throwing in such a short time.

So, here is a great opportunity for you to attend, as there are still some places available. Just let our Secretary, **Yasu**, know and pay for the workshop. **See below for details.**

Date : 10 OCT & 11 OCT 9 am - 4 pm

Cost : \$140.00** per person for 2 days

Booking & Inquiry : cairnpottersclub1@gmail.com

Payment details:

Cairns Potters Club Inc.

BSB: 633-000 Account Number: 119552826

Description: Chris Hartford WS (If the sender is different from the participant, please put the participant's name in description) (**Non refundable after 10 Sep 2026)

School Holiday Children Workshops

Let's be creative!

Date 21 Sep (Mon) / 25 Sep (Fri) / 28 Sep (Mon) / 2 Oct (Fri)

Time 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Cost \$35.00 per child, per session (Include Clay and Bisque firing (Glaze firing extra))

Venue Cairns Potters Club 28A Grove St. Cairns

Limited spots available

Contact Catherine at cjmusso@bigpond.com / 0427 735 401



Intermediate Wheel Throwing Classes - Carole Lomax

Thursday evenings Next class: 4 November

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**
clomax54@gmail.com

A poster for 'Throwing off the Hump Intermediate classes'. It features a close-up photo of hands shaping a clay piece on a pottery wheel. The text on the poster includes: 'THURS. 6:00 - 8:00pm', '\$140 - 4 x consecutive weeks', '4 x places available', 'Expressions of Interest: Carole clomax54@gmail.com', a list of bullet points about learning techniques, and a note at the bottom: 'All students must be able to centre clay on the wheel and pull up a wall evenly to attend'.

Wheel throwing classes - Carolyn Brumby

Monday & Tuesday evenings

Next date: 16/11

This will be a 6 block course, both Monday and Tuesday nights at the pottery club for 5 consecutive sessions and glazing in my workshop for the 6th session . Cost \$330. This will be a 3 week course.

Please contact Carolyn for further details on the days of this course.

Contact Carolyn at: carolyn.brumby@gmail.com



**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 3250
CAROLYN.BRUMBY@GMAIL.COM

Ceramic classes - Paulina Tapia

Expressions of interest for 2027 classes are now open!



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



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, 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

If you're interested in learning ceramics in a relaxed, small-group setting, I'll be running both **Wheel Throwing** and **Handbuilding** classes next year.

WHEEL THROWING: A 6-week course designed for adult beginners, with no previous experience needed. We'll learn the basics of wheel throwing and build your confidence week by week, working towards creating your own functional pieces. The final session will cover glazing. **2.5-hour weekly classes · Maximum 6 students · \$330.** Clay and bisque firing included. Glaze firing costs are additional.

HANDBUILDING: 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, finishing with a glazing session. **6-week course · \$330.** Clay and bisque firing included. Additional clay, glazes and glaze firing are at an additional cost.

Dates for next year will be announced once they are confirmed.

If you're interested in joining a class, please email Paulina at paulinat.ceramics@gmail.com to register your interest. Spaces are limited, so get in touch to be notified when new class dates are available.

CLUBHOUSE CALENDAR

October Clubhouse Calendar						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00 -12:00 Members Catch Up	2 09:00-12:00 School holiday program	3
4	5 16:00-17:30 Montly meeting 18:00-20:30 Carolyn's class	6 9:00 -16:00 Private event 18:00-20:30 Carolyn's class	7 9:00 -12:00 Members Catch Up 11:00-16:00 Drop off artworks - Cairns Art Gallery 18:00-20:30 Paulina's class	8 09:00-16:00 Cathy Franzi's workshop	9 18:00 Melting Pot opening - Cairns Art Gallery	10 Chris Harford's workshop (TAFE)
11 Chris Harford's workshop (TAFE)	12 18:00-20:30 Carolyn's class	13 9:00 -16:00 Private event 18:00-20:30 Carolyn's class	14 9:00 -12:00 Members Catch Up 18:00-20:30 Paulina's class	15 9:00 -12:00 Members Catch Up	16	17
18	19 18:00-20:30 Carolyn's class	20 9:00 -16:00 Private event 18:00-20:30 Carolyn's class	21 9:00 -12:00 Members Catch Up 18:00-20:30 Paulina's class	22 9:00 -12:00 Members Catch Up	23	24
25	26 18:00-20:30 Carolyn's class	27 9:00 -16:00 Private event 18:00-20:30 Carolyn's class	28 9:00 -12:00 Members Catch Up 18:00-20:30 Paulina's class	29 9:00 -12:00 Members Catch Up	30	31

CLUB MEMBERS REGULAR CATCH-UPS EVERY WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY!

Let's catch up! Join us on Wednesdays and Thursdays 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
Vice President:	Catherine Louison	0427735401	cjmusso@bigpond.com
Secretary:	Yasu Mackenzie	0415445636	cairnspottersclub1@gmail.com
Minute Secretary:	Christina George	0740532240	chrisg34@bigpond.net.au
Treasurer:	Mark Davis	0418155106	paladin_67@hotmail.com
Glaze Officer:	Carolyn Brumby	0418793260	carolyn.brumby@gmail.com
Clay Officer:	Di Sant	0419657553	disantart@gmail.com
Kiln Booking Officer:	Nigel Perera	0409459013	(Please Text for booking)
Maintenance Officer:	Garry Sanders	04 5930 5439	garrysanders16@gmail.com
Librarian:	Jacqi Thornborrow	0421954946	stormypud@gmail.com
Newsletter Officer:	Paulina Tapia	0475725686	paulina.tcab@gmail.com
Publicity Officer:	Samantha Lam	0406780967	sammart852@gmail.com
Website Manager:	Leigh Harder	0401520413	leighharder07@gmail.com
General Committee Members:	Neil King and Masae Igawishi (Social firing team), Carole Lomax, Hedy Verhlst		

Jacqi Thornborrow

Hello fellow potters, I'm Jacqi. I've been a potter on and off for 15 years. It started because I wanted to do something as a family with my daughter and husband. We embarked on a fantastic course at Hungry Creek in New Zealand. As most of us know, life gets in the way and potting did not carry on until I moved to Cairns, where I took a refresher course. Joining the Cairns pottery Club was my biggest joy, as I can learn with and share ideas with likeminded people.

My creativity has flown this past 2 years, if I need or want something and I can make it, I will. I hand build and turn happily in both areas. I love the learning of new techniques and implementing them into my work. Each piece I work on has its own flavour, depending on what technique or project I have been working on. I am influenced by no real set area and tend to build and throw as I feel, with no restraints.

I have a large collection of Christmas trees as I wanted to create a thrown closed cone shape. My garden has a totem pole because I want to hand build orbs and create folded work. Sculpting rabbits became an obsession for a while and I have a lovely collection of rabbits. I have always loved burnishing, and I experimented with it and how glaze works over it, creating some beautiful small bowls that adorn my house. The best potting for me is an experiment and the joy of the results. I look forward to many years of experimentation, continued learning and joy in potting.

