Cairns Potters Club Inc.

November 2026 Newsletter

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Abby Johandes

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Again, another busy month, with the opening of the club's 17th MELTING POT National Ceramics Exhibition (see page 3).

Ceramics must be very popular at the moment, as our membership has increased again and we now have 343 members. The club facilities are also being used by a lot more people, despite the repairs to the kitchen still being underway.

Our next big activity will be our annual Christmas Fair, which will take place on Saturday, 7 December, so hopefully you will have plenty of pots to sell there!

CLAY AND MATERIALS ORDER

The next order to Picasso's Ceramics will be sent at the end of November, so if there is anything you would like to order from them, please send your order to lone@tpg.com.au.

The club has just ordered another tonne of Walkers 10 and PB103, so hopefully that should cover our needs until next year.

Somebody ordered Walkers Superior Porcelain clay, but the order form has been misplaced. If this was you, please contact Lone on 4053 7508.

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!

Message from John Charlton:

Walkers supplies two forms of manganese oxide: Brickox and Brickmax.

Brickox is the black manganese dioxide that most potters would be familiar with. It contains 51–63% manganese, with significant iron and calcium impurities, typically around 10–15%.

Brickmax is a dark brown oxide and is up to 96% pure. It contains very little iron and approximately 69% manganese.

The information currently provided on the Walkers website is incorrect.

If a recipe calls for a specific amount of manganese, using the manganese percentage given by Walkers will result in weaker colours. Brickmax contains approximately 69.0% manganese, not 96.1% as claimed by Walkers. There are other effects due to the lower iron content as well, including slightly cleaner colours.

John

RSL Successful Grant Award Ceremony



Leigh Harder, Catherine Louison and Christina George attended a presentation at the Cairns RSL Club to receive the $6,000 grant awarded following Leigh Harder's successful grant application.

We are very grateful to the RSL Club for their generosity, support and recognition of our club through this generous grant.

The grant will be used to purchase new shelving and resources to assist our club members with their pottery and ceramic endeavours.

We are very grateful for their generous contribution towards improving our club facilities.

Cairns Potters Club Melting Pot National Ceramics Exhibition

10 Oct – 6 Dec 2026

The 76 artworks on display at the Cairns Art Gallery show the great diversity of what can be created using clay. If you would like to see the complete exhibition, you can view all the artworks, along with their titles and prices, on the club's website.

The official opening on Friday, 9 October went very well, with plenty of people attending.



Our Mayor, Amy Eden, officially opened the exhibition.



Lone White speaking on behalf of the Cairns Potters Club



Sponsor, Michael Healy handing out the award to Fiona Rainbird.



Visitors at the exhibition opening night.

PRIZE WINNERS –JUDGE: CHRIS HARFORD



1. Cairns Potters Club $2000 Open Award Non-Acquisitive

No 69 Caroline Walker-Grime "Creek Falling"

2. Reef Orthopaedic Clinic $2000 Award Acquisitive

No.45 Amanda McGahan "Travelling in Style"

3. Ray White Real Estate $1500 Award Acquisitive

No.57 Geoff Riley "Hope"

4. Ben and Judith Richards $1200 Award Non-Acquisitive

No.5 Mollie Bosworth "Silent Botanica"

5. Marion Ireland $1200 Award Acquisitive

No.43 Moo Mathews "Remembering to Breathe 2"

6. TAFE Queensland $1000 Award Acquisitive

No.73 Cecily Willis "Burnt Offering"

7. Michael Healy, Member for Cairns – $ 500 Award Non-Acquisitive

No.55 Fiona Rainbird “Muzza”

8. Matt Smith, Federal Member for Leichardt $500 Award Non-Acquisitive

No.20 Christina George “Patterns by the Sea”

9. The Australian Ceramics Association Voucher $150

No.23 Lene Kuhl Jakobsen “Tidal Edge”

10. Walkers Ceramics Voucher $100

No.17 Carol Forster Reef Memories

11. Picasso’s Ceramics Voucher $50

No.75 Marion Wolfs “Luna”

12. Picasso’s Ceramics Voucher $50

No. 76 Group of 6 Artists (Ilona Born, Collis Chinsee, Catherine Louison, Di. Sant, Sylvia Watts & Lone White) “Turtle”

Highly Commended No. 37 Giuliano Lovato “11:11”

Highly Commended No. 31 Margaret Lilley “Metamorphosis 2”

Highly Commended No. 47 Stefany Moran “Three Brothers”

Volunteers at the Cairns Art Gallery.

Volunteers Needed – MELTING POT Exhibition

The club is looking for volunteers to help hand out catalogues during the MELTING POT exhibition at the Cairns Art Gallery.

If you can spare just one or two hours, your help would be greatly appreciated. You don’t need to commit to a full shift, and any time you can offer will make a difference. It’s also a great opportunity to promote your own artwork currently on display and encourage potential sales.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Yasu with your name, preferred date(s) and available time(s), so a roster can be prepared in advance and shared with the gallery staff.

Please remember the gallery requirements:

- Members must wear their Club badge while volunteering.
- Catalogues must be handed out in person and taken away at the end of each shift. No catalogues are to be left in the exhibition space.
- All sales enquiries must be directed to the Club’s contact details. Sales cannot take place on the gallery premises.
- Members should not approach Front of House (FOH) staff regarding exhibition matters. Any questions or concerns should be directed to the gallery contact by email.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered and helped support the Club and the MELTING POT exhibition. Every little bit of help makes a difference!

Cathy Franzi Workshop



1-day hands-on workshop Thursday 9 October 2026

Cathy Franzi held a one-day workshop at the Potters Club in early October, giving members the opportunity to explore a range of techniques for creating texture and imagery on clay surfaces.

Cathy has extensive experience in ceramics and has developed a distinctive approach to surface decoration, drawing inspiration from Australian flora and her long-standing interest in the natural environment. During the workshop, participants explored techniques including carving, sgraffito, incising, impressing, slip and ink inlay, stencilling, water erosion, sponge stamping and slip trailing.

It was an absolute privilege to see Cathy's work up close and learn from her in such a hands-on workshop. Participants had the opportunity to experiment with different approaches to mark-making and composition while developing their own ideas on the clay surface.





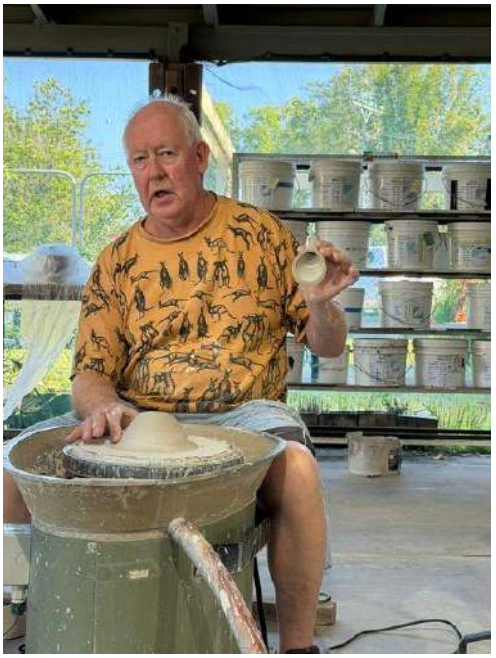








Chris Harford Workshop.



2-day Demonstration Workshop 10-11 October 2026

Those who attended Chris Harford's two-day workshop at TAFE had the opportunity to see his work and gain an insight into his ceramic practice.

Over the two days, Chris demonstrated a range of techniques, including wheel throwing, trimming and refining the pieces he made. He also shared many details about his own making process, giving participants a closer look at how he approaches his work from initial throwing through to construction and finishing. He spoke about his extensive experience working with restaurants, how he has set up and organised his own studio, and the knowledge he has developed through many years of practice.

It was a very informative workshop, with plenty of practical ideas and techniques for participants to take back to their own practice.





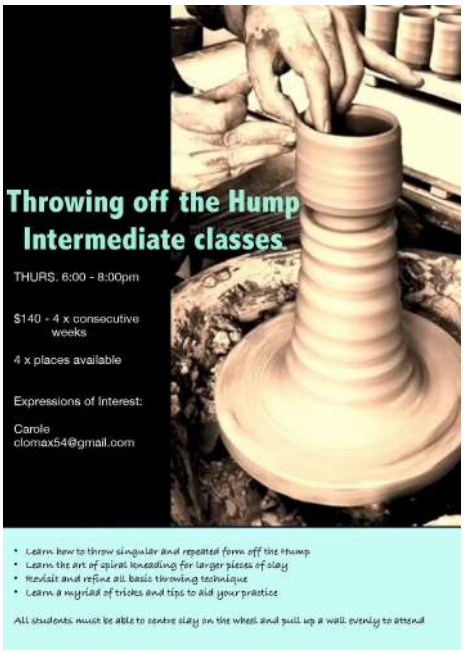




CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS Cairns Potters Club Inc.

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**

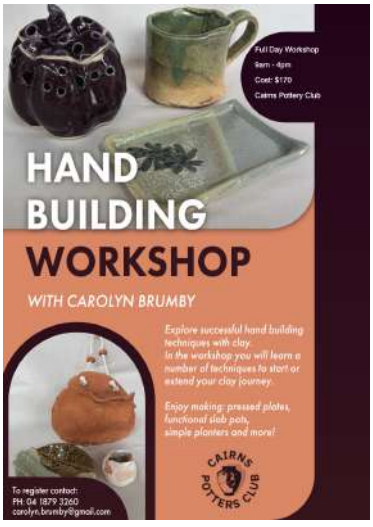
Wheel throwing classes and handbuilding workshop - *Carolyn Brumby*

Expressions of interest for 2027



Wheelthrowing: 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.



Hand Building Workshop: Discover the joys of making pots with a variety of successful techniques. You will be working with various clays and learn what is the best fit of the clay body for each project. Explore the process of making functional as well as decorative pieces. How to pattern to add texture and depth, what is sgraffito, and tips to join and shape. These skills will provide a grounding for your independent works in clay. It is suitable for beginners but also will cater for clay artists to extend their skills.

Contact Carolyn at: **carolyn.brumby@gmail.com**

Ceramic classes - *Paulina Tapia*

Expressions of interest for 2027 classes are now open!





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

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

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

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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 Verhulst		

Meet the Artist – Abby Johandes



Hi lovely peeps!

My name is Abby, and I'm originally from a small town called Rockford, Michigan, but now call Cairns home! I work as a scuba instructor on the Great Barrier Reef, and when I'm not underwater, you'll usually find me covered in clay at Cairns Potters Club.

My love for art started young, thanks to my wonderfully eccentric Aunt Regina, who ran her own art studio. Growing up, I spent hours creating alongside her, making all sorts of things with absolutely no fear of getting it wrong. She was a glass fusion artist, but luckily for me, she had a couple of kilns that could fire all my little hand-built pottery creations! Between her creativity and my supportive parents, I grew up believing I could make just about anything.

These days, I spend as much time as I can at the pottery club, experimenting with different forms, textures, and surface design through underglazes. A lot of my inspiration comes from the ocean and all the weird and wonderful creatures I encounter while diving. I love making functional pottery with a bit of personality, because I think everyday objects should be just as fun as they are useful!

I'm so grateful to be part of such a wonderful community of potters here in Cairns and can't wait to see what comes out of the kiln next!
















CAIRNS
POTTERS CLUB