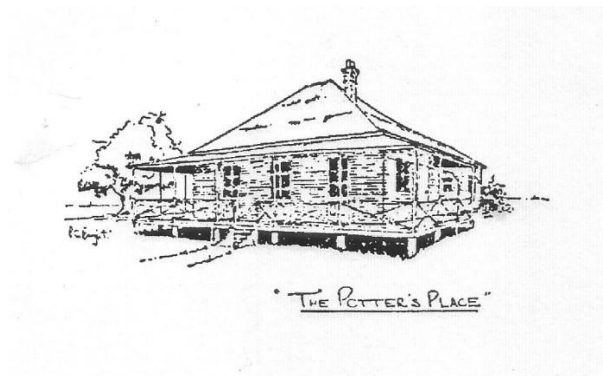




WARWICK POTTERS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 343 WARWICK QLD 4730

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2026

WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF POTTERY

On Monday 8th September a general meeting was scheduled to be held. Unfortunately we were unable to go ahead with this meeting due to the fact that we did not have enough members attend to make a quorum.

Please remember that without your input the club will not move forward. Your feedback, your comments, your ideas etc will help our group move forward together, then success takes care of itself. One team - one dream !!



PIT FIRING - REMINDER

Pit firing is happening this weekend. A notice is on the blackboard within the creative space at the potters house.

Everyone is welcome to come and just see the processes and final unveiling.

Please see Sue Creed for further information or assistance.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT GROUP

We have a lovely group of ladies coming to the club house to create their pieces. Anyone can come along and join them if this time suits. The more the merrier.

HOUSEKEEPING

A couple of housekeeping items -

Would members please clean the area when they have finished for the day, so that when others enter they have a clear run to get started. Also please check that the house, sheds have been locked.

In relation to the kilns. Please **do not open** a kiln until it is finished, ie the temp is 60 degrees or lower. The opening of the kiln too early can cause items to crack, maybe not immediately but later on also.

IDEA FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION

An idea "POTTERY BINGO" has been mooted which has merit. We could think about developing this event to host perhaps in November. Another avenue to raise funds for our club. Perhaps if successful we

could do away with the J&J markets. Idea only and in need of your feedback, your opinions, suggestions and perspectives. Input from you is imperative to evaluate whether we pursue this.

Please let Sue Creed, President, Jillian McCulloch, Treasurer, or Sandy Gordon, Secretary of your thoughts so we can present this at our next meeting.

PARTICIPATE

Closing soon - exhibition entries.

The Warwick Art Gallery's pARTICIPATE local artist exhibition and awards began in 2011 with the goal to offer local artists the opportunity to exhibit and receive recognition of their work alongside their Southern Downs peers. It provides local artists with a platform to exhibit in a professional gallery setting and acknowledges and awards excellence and contemporary regional stories.

Artists who live on the Southern Downs or within 75km of the Warwick CBD are invited to enter. TWO artworks per artist representing one of the following SEVEN media categories will be accepted for display: Drawing, Ceramics, Mixed Media, Painting, Printmaking, Sculpture, Textiles.

There will be four major prizes awarded.

Entry forms due 15 September.

CLAY

On the wall within the main area of the club house you will find lists of clays and midfire info etc.

Please have a look at what clays you may wish to use.

FEATURE POTTER - SIMON LOCKE

A little bit about me.

I began my pottery adventures in Warwick - I was born and raised in Warwick, and I am proud to say that it is the Warwick Potters Club that really sparked my love of ceramics. I can't remember the exact year that I first attended, but I did a number of winter workshops over the years and it got to the point where my friend and I were considered too old to attend the school holiday workshops for 'kids'. I have a number of my original pieces still - I have the boot pot plant, I still remember Helen Madsen guiding us through the making, I also recall going to her house to glaze some pieces and being in awe of her studio space out the back of the house. I have an '06' scratched into the boot but I am sure I attended in the years before that too.

I borrowed a wheel from Warwick High over one of the Christmas breaks, I didn't fire anything that I made and then I really didn't touch ceramics again until my first year of school teaching (2016) where I was posted to Bowen in North Qld. I quickly joined the potters club with a visual art teacher and I haven't stopped. I was in Bowen for 3 years before meeting my now husband, James. I transferred to Rockhampton, and then soon after transferred again to a small regional town closer to our cattle property.

We had an old garden shed behind the house, it was a permanent structure (not like one of those tin garden sheds that just blow away). It housed our dryer and an old chest freezer and our poddy calves would camp in there at night time. Ironically, there was an old pottery wheel in there, it had belonged to my husband's Aunty from many moons ago. I took that as a sign that I needed to renovate the space and make it into my own studio.

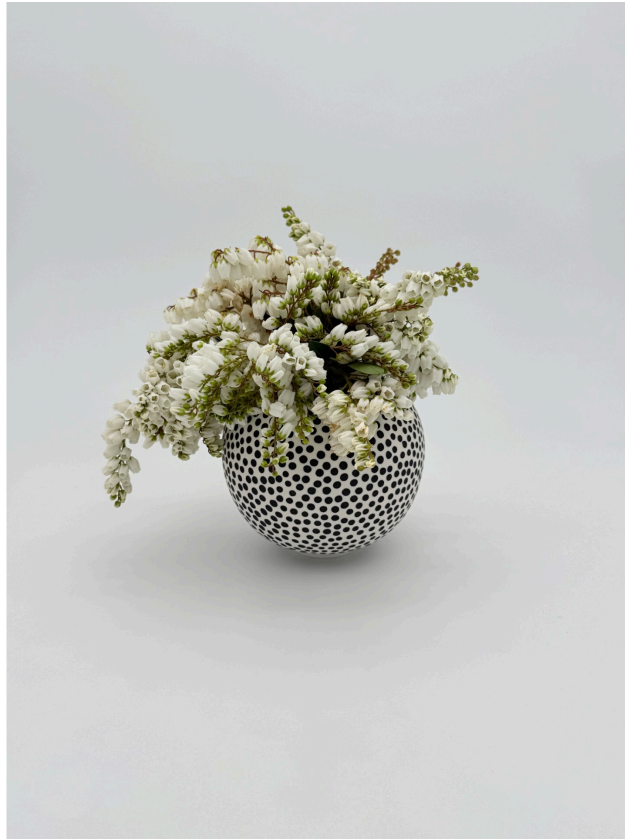
I've now been a fully fledged, professional potter for I'm going to say 7 years. I began seeking out professional development in wheel throwing and surface decoration and have been honing my skills over the years. I started delivering wheel throwing workshops a few years back as well as more casual decorative workshops at the Rockhampton Art Gallery in Central Queensland. At the end of 2025 I took the leap to leave my career in education to pursue a career in ceramics and I am so incredibly glad I did.

I have been a finalist in a number of awards, including the Ceramic Arts Queensland Silicious Awards for ceramic excellence in 2024, I also won the Brigalow Art Festival with one of my spherical vessels in 2024. Most recently, my work was selected as a finalist in the Stanthorpe Art Prize and also in the Australian Ceramics Exhibition, Continuum, at the Noosa Regional Art Gallery.

I really love ceramics; there is just something about the potters wheel that is so addictive. I love the symmetry, the movement, the force and the complete transformation that clay undergoes. I am sure that everyone would agree that pottery is never ending, there is so much to learn, many mistakes to be made, many kiln disasters to weather, but as your skills and knowledge grow, and the mistakes lessen (they'll never go away), you really can find such pleasure in creating pieces that will be used in peoples homes and everyday lives - that's what I love the most. That the pieces I create are going to find homes where new memories will be created and shared. That inspires me.

Speaking of inspiration, my husband, James, and I are incredibly fortunate to have a cattle property 'Lily Creek' in Central Queensland, about 2 hours west of Rockhampton. James grew up at 'Lily Creek', and it is just such a great lifestyle. I have taken a lot of inspiration from our surroundings, and it has filtered through my work. I have always been drawn to patterns, lines, spots. They are literally everywhere. The design that really launched 'Simon the Potter' was inspired by our backyard Guinea Fowl - although after many years, they had to go. Such noisy and disruptive creatures haha. I often find inspiration from my childhood, memories with grandparents and siblings, favourite snacks (hence the Iced VoVo designs) and from things as simple as the orange tree in the back yard. I have often felt pressure to always be creating 'new' designs but recently I've been able to settle and sit with designs - why rush them? I would encourage all ceramic artists to sit with their thoughts and ideas, don't rush them.





WARWICK RODEO MARKETS

Our last market for the year will be held on Saturday 26th October in Leslie Park..

Sue Creed will organise the market, so for further information please contact our President Sue.

CHRISTMAS GATHERING FOR THE YEAR 2026

As we move closer to the festive season it is time to think about holding a Christmas gathering for our members to close the 2026 year and start afresh in 2027 with the cohesive thought of why we are together - for the love of pottery.

So thinking caps on as to Date? Venue? Style? Any feedback would be wonderful so we can schedule this festive event.

At our next meeting we can throw around ideas so everyone can be involved

NEXT MEETING IS TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER

AT 5.30PM