



New Year Edition

March 2015

The (new) President reports

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 Workshop/Sales : Saturdays 9.00am to midday
 General Meeting: First Monday of the month at 7.30pm (except Public Holidays)

In preparation for my report, I needed to refresh my memory on what we have been up to over the past 12 months. I can't tell you how much I enjoyed looking back and how excited I am to be looking forward.

The Guild currently has 80 members in its vibrant community, and our ongoing success is due in no small way to the special people in our midst. I can't possibly mention them all, but to name a few...

Our Monday group are all round fantastic with maintenance, mowing etc around the place and planning for our July

Exhibition. Thanks to Graham Rampton, Jim Reynolds, Ken Ede, Grahame Sawyer, Ian Dymock and others.

Our tutors, who pass on their knowledge and love of glass arts. They keep our students coming back. Thanks to Barry Richters, Jenny Keys, Catherine Conaty, Vicki Beldan, Kate Ritchie and Catja White. A special mention for Catherine Conaty's mosaic initiative that will see the Guild balustrades looking far more colourful very soon.

Our Committee who kept things running. Thanks to Di Holland, Graeme Sawyer and Lyndall Davies.

Our Editor who does a tremendous job of the Newsletter. Thanks Ian Dymock.

Thanks to Kate Ritchie, who is our Librarian, does the stock sourcing and ordering and problem-solves many issues.

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Meet your 2015 CGG Committee
 Committee members elected at the 2015 AGM are pictured below: (from left) Di Holland (Vice President), Jim Reynolds (Treasurer), Lyndall Davies (Committee Member), Chris Bell (President). and Gaynor Hepenstall (Secretary).
 Congratulations and good luck to all.



Cont from page 1.....

Kate is making the move to Ulladulla shortly and will leave a big hole to fill.

And a final thank you to Lyndall Davies who has been responsible for dragging us slowly forward into the technology age with online class registrations and general updates to the website.

Highlights for 2014 are many:

- The completion and installation of the dragonfly window side panels. The whole window looks amazing.
- The installation of a new window facing the Bowls Club. It makes such a difference to the light in the workshop and the breeze through the window helps to keep us all cool.
- A financially successful Exhibition
- Ongoing support for classes and the introduction of new Workshops
- Donations from retiring glass workers which help to keep our glass racks full and keep our Mosaic classes in scrap glass for a very long time

The 2015 Exhibition

Looking forward in 2015 we have our Annual Exhibition to be held over the weekend of the 25th & 26th of July.

I am pleased to announce the theme for 2015's Special Theme Award is

'Light', in recognition of 2015 being "the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies".

This is a United Nations observance that aims to raise awareness of the achievements of light science and its applications, and its importance to humankind. I'm sure this will be a talking point around the Guild.

We are also running an Easter Bonnet competition, with entries due in by Monday 30th March.

Class bookings for Beginners classes are going very well and it seems that the new on-line booking form is partly responsible.

We will continue to review what changes we can make to our website. This year we hope to add on-line kiln bookings.

Susan Wechsler is coming

We would like to start approaching Glass Artists with a range of new skills and encourage them to come to the Guild to teach special workshops. I'm thrilled to advise that Susan Wechsler, a well known Mosaicist from the USA, has agreed to come to us in September 2016 to teach a 4 day and 1 day workshop.

Bookings for these special events will be open to Guild members first and

Are your dues due?

If your Glass Guild membership is due in January, February or March, it's time to pay your \$95 dues for the 2015 year.

Remember, we rely on your membership to keep the Guild ticking over, and maintaining high standards.

If you joined during the year, you should receive a reminder via email or post that your payment is due, in the month prior. If for some reason you do not receive a reminder, payment details are on the CGG website.

Guild membership brings many benefits, including use of our extensive library. Take a look sometime.

then to others if we needed to fill the class.

Maintenance is again going to be a focus of 2015. We want to ensure the building is in good shape. We hope to address issues with the drainage under the building this year, an exhaust fan for the bead-making room, and I feel it's time to start a serious discussion about ramp access to the workshop upstairs.

There is always a lot to do, but we will enjoy the journey along the way.

Cheers, Chris

Let there be light

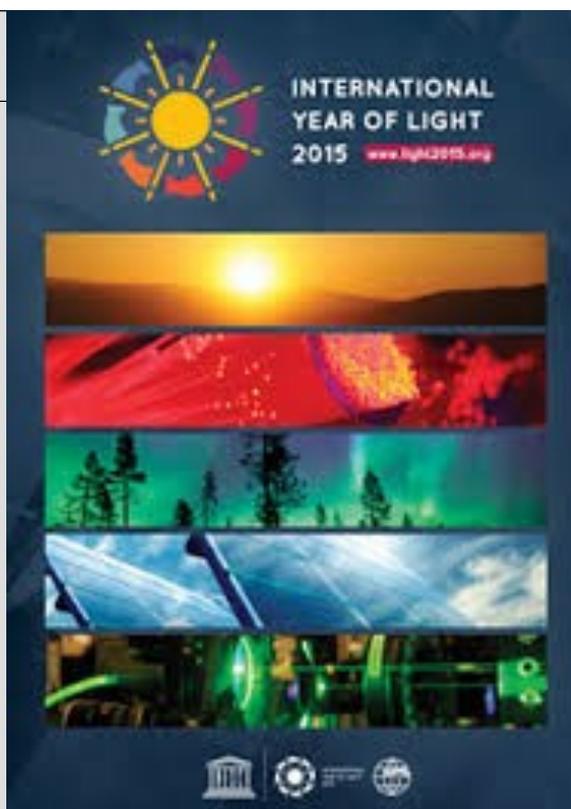
Each year, the United Nations observe an issue of international interest or concern with the aims of commemoration, promotion and mobilisation for action.

Taking the lead from the UN and other organisations around the world, we have decided to adopt 'Light' as the theme for the 2015 Glass Guild Exhibition competition.

Why light? Firstly, it's the source of illumination, warmth and comfort to us all.

But importantly, have you ever stepped back to look at your glass work and consider how important light is to its creation and display?

For example, stained glass windows and lamps require light to illuminate them. We need a light



source to cut glass over a pattern. Light reflects off mosaics and glass beads.

Perhaps without even knowing it, our creative processes draw on inspirational sources that have been influenced by light – a picture of a loved one that is the light of your life, a shaft of light through a darkened forest vista or the brilliant light and colour of fireworks.

So, what does light mean to you? Think about it. Then show us by creating a glass work for the Exhibition competition.

If you want to know more about the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies, you can find out about it at www.light2015.org.

See you in July at the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens.

Susan set to share her skills



We know it's still a long way off, but we're excited to share the news that much-in-demand US mosaics artist and tutor, Susan Wechsler, has agreed to conduct a workshop for the Guild here in Brisbane in September, 2016.

Susan Wechsler lives in Boulder, Colorado, and worked for many years as a costume designer for the New York City Theatre, various movies in LA and as a designer for Esprit in San Francisco.

Her experience as a costume designer taught her how to use colours, patterns and textures to develop a unique mosaic style, which she is keen to share in the many workshops she conducts in the USA and elsewhere in the world.

Susan will be teaching her 4 day Dress or Niche Workshop (US\$740) for a maximum of 12 students, and a 1 day Heart Workshop (US\$140) for a maximum of 15 students.

Further information and bookings will be available early next year.

Pictured (above left) : US mosaicist Susan Wechsler with a range of her distinctive mosaic works of art

Above: Susan's experience as a costume designer for the fashion and film industries is reflected in her range of colourful mosaic dresses.

Below: Her bold use of colour is evident in her selection of 'Desert Blooms' inspired by the outdoor scenery in her home State of Colorado, along with neighbouring Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.



No hysteria over Grahame's Wisteria

Having completed a lamp for my grand-daughter, Laylah, and at the request of my wife, Carole, I asked my daughter-in-law, Debra (Laylah's mother), to select a lamp from the WordenSystem website for me to make for her.

Was I stunned, because of its complexity and number of pieces, when she chose the Tiffany Wisteria Lamp!

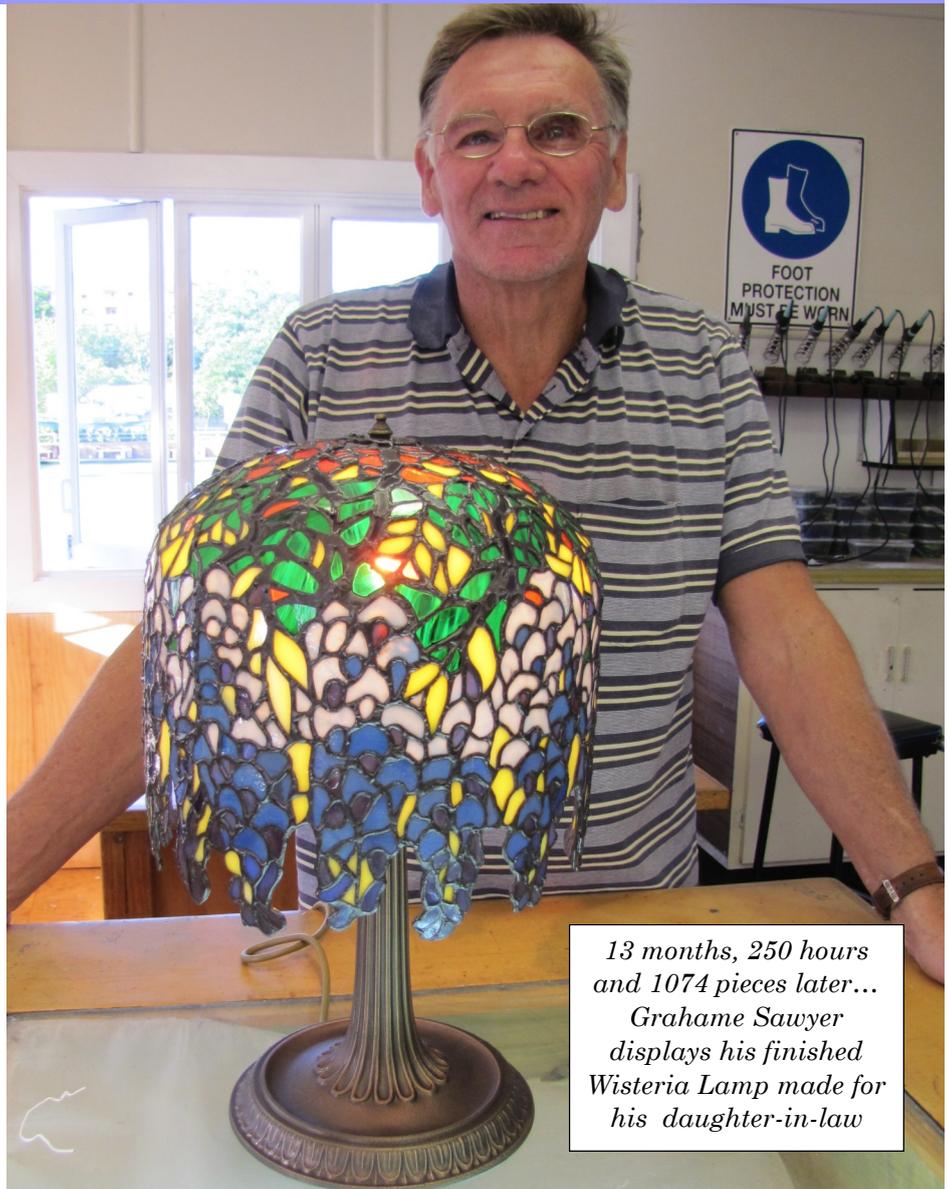
Though a so-called 'Miniature Wisteria' at 10 inches (25cm) in diameter, and about 9-1/2 inches tall, the lamp consisted of a mind-blowing 1074 pieces.

What's more, the photo she selected showed the wisteria lamp with yellow, orange and red leaves as well as the traditional green leaves and blue and mauve flowers. I had not seen this before and could not find it in the on-line catalogue until Debra pointed it out to me.

To simplify the process, I ordered the lamp pattern and a form from Worden and about two weeks later all arrived in the post.

The next step was to emulate the colours in the photo Debra had selected, excluding any red. She specifically did not want any red. So I generated my own coloured pattern. In parallel with this, I looked for and selected glass from the stock at the Guild.

Two blue panes of glass I particularly liked and chose were only 30 x 30 cm square and on enquiry to Hartley-Williams, I was told they were a discontinued pattern and no longer in stock. With insufficient blue glass for the flower buds, I trawled the Guild racks to select a complementary mauve glass of sufficient quantity to complete the lamp.



*13 months, 250 hours
and 1074 pieces later...
Grahame Sawyer
displays his finished
Wisteria Lamp made for
his daughter-in-law*

With sufficient glass, I commenced work in September 2013 on cutting and grinding pieces to match the Worden pattern. Working only on Mondays as part of the Guild Monday Group, I cut the last piece in August 2014. After sorting pieces, I commenced final grinding to fit to the form, copper foiling and tack soldering together onto the form.

As I keep a reasonably comprehensive log of my time spent, I was able to deduce that if I only spent Mondays on the lamp it would take at least another 12 months to complete. I decided to target completion for Xmas

2014 and so supplemented Mondays at the Guild with workdays at home in the garage. Assembly of the total lamp was achieved in early December and completion in mid-December 2014 with the help and guidance of Graham Rampton.

After 13 months and 250 hours of finger numbing work, the Wisteria lamp was finally finished and ready for Xmas gift giving. Needless to say it was very well received by Debra and everyone else who has seen it has also offered praise. I am pleased with the outcome but I doubt I will ever make a second.

Grahame

'Bravery Beads' - a cause worth beading for

Have you passed by the poster at the Guild depicting a bald child holding up a long string of beads?

It's all about 'Bravery Beads', a program run by the charity 'Cure Our Kids', to which the Guild contributes some of the 750 beads the group requires each year.

'Cure Our Kids' is a not-for-profit charity dedicated to supporting families of children admitted to the Oncology Unit at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney, which treats approximately 250 kids each year.

Although 'Cure Our Kids' is currently based at Westmead only, they are hoping to extend the program to other hospitals and other States in the near future.

To reward kids for their immense courage as they undergo treatment, 'Cure Our Kids' provides an innovative concept - *Bravery Beads*.

Each time a child undergoes a particular treatment, test or procedure, they are presented with an additional bead to add to their collection. While small commercial beads mark the most frequent events, like finger pricks and blood transfusions, handmade lampwork beads mark important procedures and events.

Beads are also given to kids who can't go home on their birthdays or at other times of celebration.

Each bead is a milestone – a chance to smile – unique to a particular procedure or stage of treatment. Each child's 'bead story' is a uniquely personal collection representing their journey through their condition and the milestones that they have achieved along the way.

It's something they can compare with other kids in hospital, and share with their family and friends.



Guild Members donate handmade glass beads, usually critters or character beads (see below) that would appeal to kids, or funds with which to buy glass to make the beads. In addition, Guild members who have done the 'Basic Skills' Level 2 class are invited from time to time to a free tutorial to learn to make beads suitable for donation.

The next such class is to be held on Tuesday 14 April, 2015. Bookings will be taken for this class after 14 March. If you are interested in assisting with this program, please speak to Vicki Beldan, Guild Bead Making Tutor (0432 737 442).



SIGN OF THE TIMES

Check out our new sign at the Guild. It's designed to grab the attention of passers-by, alerting them to the wonderful world of the creative glass arts. Together with our new dragonfly windows, the sign should create lots of interest.



Invitation to advertise

The Guild has decided to accept advertisements in this Newsletter and the CGG website.

Advertisements should be of relevance to products and services related to the creation of glass art—namely, leadlighting, fusing & slumping, copperfoiling, traditional stained glass, mosaics, sand engraving, lamp-making and bead-making.

Full details, including advertising rates and sizes, are shown on the CGG website:

www.creativeglassguild.com.au

Requests for advertising are to be submitted to the Guild

Committee at
creativeglassguild@gmail.com



EASTER BONNET COMPETITION

You still have time to create your Easter Bonnet masterpiece before the closing date of Monday 30th March. Get involved by creating a bonnet in any of the glass disciplines. Perhaps the bonnets shown here will inspire you to get going!



It's on again, and three Guild members are making a contribution to the 2015 community 'quilt' organised by the International Association of Stained Glass Lamp Artists, based in Washington State, USA.

Guild members stuck on spider's web



Kate Ritchie, Graham Rampton, and Barry Richters have all prepared very different quilt squares to contribute to the 40 or so squares that will make up the finished glass quilt.

The pattern for the 2015 quilt is based on a spider's

web to celebrate the delicate, patterned cobwebs produced by the humble spider.

Finished quilts are donated to charities, while some remain at the ASGLA headquarters on permanent display.



A bird in the hand...

When Guild member Ian Dymock made a blue wren sun catcher for his wife Jenny for Christmas, little did he know that it was the start of something big.

When Jenny's mahjong group met at home early in the New Year, the orders started rolling in.

To add a unique touch, the birds sit on a genuine eucalypt twig which has been dipped in varnish.

Ian is currently on his sixth wren, and has now ruled a line across the order book!

However, for the price of a bottle of wine for each wren made, it has certainly helped to stock the cellar.