

A TOUCH OF GLASS

Newsletter of the Creative Glass Guild of Queensland March 2017 Edition

President Lyndall reports on the year that was

2016 was my first year as President of the Creative Glass Guild and, wow, have I learnt a lot!

I learnt that the Brisbane City Council owns the land and the building, and, that, as lessees, we are required to undertake annual operational and structural maintenance as well as safety inspections.

I learnt that we need to demonstrate health and safety rigor, and carry adequate public liability and building insurance.

I learnt that, as an incorporated association, bound by Office of Fair Trading legislation, we are required, among other things, to demonstrate sound financial accountability.

I mention these, because it's worth knowing that it costs the Guild around \$18,000 annually to meet stakeholders' requirements. That's just to keep the doors open!

Improvements for 2016 were:

- Replacement of the retaining wall between the Guild and the Red Hill Community Sports Club, completed by the Brisbane City Council.



This smiling threesome are part of your 2017 Creative Glass Guild Committee (L to R): Lyndall Davies (President), Denise Brown (Secretary) and Christine Bell (Vice President). Not pictured are Suzanne O'Carroll (Treasurer) and Jim Reynolds (Committee member).

- Building Improvements, including external painting, under-building lighting and three new security windows downstairs.

- New procedures were introduced - a stock pricing model, kiln and sandblaster usage agreements and an incident recording form.

- Reports and audits completed - an asbestos audit, fire safety audit, kiln safety report, electrical safety report, annual thermoscan and the BCC condition audit report.

Our biggest achievement, though, was success in having our Brisbane City Council lease extended for another 4 years. What a relief!

None of these achievements would have occurred without the groundwork put in place by the committees of the past 5 years.

At the end of 2015, they left the Guild in a sound financial position which helped make last year so successful, and, despite increased spending, we continue to remain financially solvent.

Member Contributions

We hover around the 105 to 115 paid-up members at any one time. These members are a diverse group ranging from talented artists, to amateurs, like me, who just love making glass art and enjoy the camaraderie of the people, our most important asset.

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President's Report cont...

I want to thank those people who have assisted in running the Guild this past year. Apologies if I miss anyone:

- Denise, Jim, Ken and Tina for your contributions on the Management Committee.
- The Monday 'Guys' - Graham R, Grahame S, Jim, Ken, Ian and 'conscripts' for your ongoing maintenance works.
- Jim for your work in gaining the government grant for the kitchen renovations
- Ian, for a fantastic job as our newsletter and publicity officer.
- Sally, for your creative efforts which contribute to promoting our Exhibition and Facebook site.
- Our shop volunteers (so many of you) and course coordinators, Amy and yours truly – your efforts contribute hugely to achieving that necessary \$18K. Thank you all.
- Our other wonderful volunteer coordinators and exhibition volunteers who keep their designated activities ticking along. You know who you are! Thank you.
- Our tutors, who continue to inspire our students. Without you, how could we exist?

I especially want to thank three people who have put up with me during the 'year of my steep learning curve'.

Without your support I would have truly floundered. Thank you, Denise, Jim and Chris.

In closing, for 2017:

We have a government grant of \$22,500 to spend renovating our kitchen in order to make a multi-functional meeting and eating space.

The Guild will be closed during the renovations which are planned for the first three weeks of August.

Our Annual Exhibition will be held over the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd of July. The theme will be "Literature" - members may elect to choose a children's storybook character or something from the classics.

We have an international mosaic artist, John Sollinger, 'hiring' our facilities to run a 3 day workshop at the end of August/beginning September. It's already booked out.

Phew - another busy year ahead!

All the best, Lyndall

Cheryl goes koi for her mosaic bird bath



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Workshop/Sales:
Saturdays, 9.00am-12.00pm

General meetings: Bi-monthly on first Monday of the month at 7.00 pm
(Notice will be emailed to members).

Management Meetings: Alternate months or earlier if required

Ornamental koi fish swimming in a swirl of deep greens and blues are the central focus of a mosaic bird bath created by Guild member Cheryl Vaneyk.

The finished creation sits in her front garden and is a source of water for her pet cats, and the local birds and wildlife.

Cheryl explains: "I thought it might be interesting for the cats to have some fish to stare at while they drank, but I don't think they are very impressed!"

Cheryl enrolled in the *Introduction to Mosaics* course two years ago, and says she has been hooked ever since.

"Before that, I did a short course in ceramic mosaics and worked on some large pots, but then noticed the classes being held at the Glass Guild, and was very impressed with the glass works displayed.

"I will be working on an old bird bath next, and will have a go at a scene with some turtles under water," says Cheryl.

Guild members trek the Murwillumbah Art Trail

An exhibition of contemporary art that showcases over 60 artists of the Tweed Valley and surrounds will this year feature two of the Guild's prominent south-of-the-border members, Ray Woods and Jenny Sayer.

Now in its third year, the Murwillumbah Art Trail will be held over a six day period from May 25 to 30, as the town and shops become the gallery, and visitors are invited to follow the exhibition trail as it weaves its way through the historic town.

Tweed Foodie Fest

As it grows increasingly popular, this year's event will include the 'Tweed Foodie Fest', a sumptuous celebration of local food and vibrant culture, to take place from 5pm to 11pm on Saturday 27th May.

This year's theme of *Past, Present, Future* invites artists to respond to the theme in relation to the region in which they live and work.

Artists Collective

Jenny Sayer and Ray Woods are members of the Glass Artists Collective of professional artists and students living in the Green Caldera of the Northern Rivers region of NSW. As a painter and glass mosaic artist living on



the Tweed, Jenny is captivated by the ever-changing views and is inspired by the moods of the Tweed River and its surrounds.

glass and the marvellous scope of expression that could be achieved through glass mosaic with various media combining with glass to

achieve beautiful combinations of colour, structure, dimension and texture.

Ray continues to work with all these media, being inspired by the natural beauty surrounding him and the creativity of fellow glass artists.

Make a diary note to visit the Murwillumbah Art Trail from May 25 to 30 inclusive, and support the wonderful work of two of our outstanding talented Guild members.



Pictured: mosaic masterpieces by (above) Jenny Sayer, glass mosaic/mixed media onto aluminium composite board, 50cm x 15cm and (below) Ray Woods, Rainforest Dreaming mosaic/kiln fired glass wrought iron table with fibre board base, 70cm

In the style of an impressionist artist, creating mosaics with a past, present and future, Jenny uses glass, natural materials and found objects in her work.

Passion for glass

Ray's passion for glass started 40 years ago when working on leadlight glass panels, moving to copper foil glass artwork, glass lampshades and light catching window hangings.

He then discovered the wonders of kiln-fired



Irene and friends Buddy-Up for beads

Beadmaking, aka lamp-working, tends to be a solitary pursuit. It is very popular worldwide, but at a local level, there doesn't seem to be that many beadmakers about. I am the only beadmaker in my circle of friends, and it is probably the same for most beadmakers.

Help is at hand. The Beadmaker 'Buddy Up' group will be a chance for Guild members who are lampworkers to get together every couple of months and share their experiences - both good and bad - and learn from each other in a casual, friendly and creative environment.



I cannot take any credit for having come up with the idea. It came from Vicki, the Guild's beadmaking tutor, who 'volunteered' me for the job of co-ordinator, a role I was more than happy to take on. The group is for beadmakers of all skills levels, from those who are new to it, those who are thinking about coming back to it, or those who have been at it for years.

Going with the flow

As the 'Buddy-Up' coordinator, I will map out a few things to get us started, but on the day, it will be very much 'go with the flow'. We might include 'show and tell' of such things as members' beads, new glass discoveries, favourite tools or what's new for lampworkers in the Guild's lending library.

The group will provide a chance for passing on tips, learning new skills

and problem solving. We might work at the torches to try out a new technique together, or a member might like to show us how they do something from pulling a stringer to making their favourite bead - or we might decide to spend some time making simple Bravery Beads.

Beadmaker Irene Krieger is the new coordinator for an innovative Guild activity group. Here's her story...

Anything will be possible at the Beadmaker 'Buddy Up'.

We have already met in February, and though we were a small group, it was very pleasant to spend a few hours in the company of people with the same interest. I asked participants to bring along either their favourite lamp-working tool, or a household item that they had repurposed to become a lampwork tool.

While we were chatting, Vicki made each of us a very useful frit tray out of an empty soft drink can (pictured right). Great minds obviously think alike because my contribution was also frit related. You can see it in front of Vicki's frit tray.

Spoon fits the frit

It is a spoon I picked up on a QANTAS flight some years ago. Its small size makes it ideal for transferring the tiny amounts of frit that are required to decorate a bead.

We were able to help one member who had a problem with a necklace that just would not lie flat. Without realising there was such a thing, she had bought memory wire to string her beads onto. For those who haven't heard of memory wire, it is wire that is permanently coiled.

It comes in bracelet and necklace sizes. She might have gotten away with it if she had bought the necklace size, but there was no way she was ever going to straighten out the bracelet size. Easy when you know, but oh so annoying when you don't.

Morning tea was extra special because of some home baking and a delicious chocolate cake from an exclusive French bakery that Vicki treated us too. We took pity on other members who were at the Guild that morning, declaring them honorary beadmakers for the morning so they could share our morning tea.

The next Beadmaker 'Buddy Up' will take place on Saturday 1st April from 9.30am to 12 noon.

For Creative Glass Guild members, there is no cost for the Beadmaker 'Buddy-Up'. For those who are not members, it costs a nominal \$5. It would be nice if participants could bring a small plate of goodies to share for morning tea.



Please note that if we use the torches during a meeting, there may be a small charge to cover the cost of any gas we use on the day.

If you would like to attend the Beadmaker 'Buddy Up' on 1st April, please email the Guild on courses@creativeglassguild.com.au for preference, but emails to the normal Guild email address will also reach me. This will help with planning, but you are also welcome to just turn up on the day.

If you like the idea of the Beadmaker 'Buddy Up' in principle and would like to participate but can't commit to this date at the moment, please email the Guild to register your interest.

This is on an obligation-free basis but it will give us an idea of the level of interest in the group and enable us to contact you with dates for future Beadmaker Buddy Ups.

I would welcome any suggestions for activities etc at the Beadmaker Buddy Ups, and I look forward to meeting up with fellow beadmakers.

Irene Krieger

Mosaic devotees 'think beyond the square'

Up to 150 mosaic artists and enthusiasts from across Australia are expected to come together for the 2017 MAANZ Symposium, with the theme 'Think Beyond the Square'.

For 3½ days, mosaicists are treated to an exchange of ideas, networking, inspiration, learning, creating and sourcing new materials and suppliers.

The MAANZ Symposium is a biannual event, which this year will be held in Hobart from 17-21 August.

Keynote speaker will be Toyoharu Kii from Tokyo, Japan, who works mostly in marble and produces monochromatic works that display interesting textures and andamento.

Kii has been instrumental in the rise of interest in mosaics among Japanese artists and is at the



forefront of a new tradition in contemporary mosaic in Japan. Kii's work is said to be like a fingerprint; the work that comes from his hands is unique and highly creative.

Says Kii: "I make mural mosaics as a skin of architecture – a skin woven in marbles and smalts on the surface of the architectural space. So the texture has primary importance in my mosaic. The shadow and the density of tesserae carry my messages."

As well as plenary sessions, workshops and exhibitions, the Symposium schedule will include a silent auction of small works, brown bag exchange and many social events to meet and mingle with mosaicists from around Australia and the world.

A post-conference tour will also be organised for

Monday 21st August. Guild mosaicists interested in attending the Symposium and/or participating in the 30:30 'Think Beyond the Square' Exhibition can find further information on the MAANZ website, maanzt.org



Keynote speaker Japanese mosaicist Toyoharu Kii (above) and one of his contemporary works woven in marbles and smalts (below)



Skills workshop a must for keen mosaic-ers

As a special treat especially for the "mosaic-ers" or those aspiring to be, Catherine Conaty, our popular mosaic tutor, will be holding a Skills Development Workshop in the Guild's Red Hill premises at the end of March.

The workshop topic is *Choosing the Appropriate Adhesive and Substrate for a Quality Mosaic Project*.

Since ancient times, mosaics have been created on all kinds of surfaces, using many different fixatives. Choosing the appropriate glue or adhesive and substrate (base) for a lasting mosaic can be quite confusing.

This workshop explains the properties of different adhesives and substrates, their advantages and limitations. You will learn the most appropriate products to use for a variety of applications including indoor and outdoor use.

Students will test out the properties of



the different adhesives, and create take-home sample boards for future reference.

To kick these off, the first workshop is planned for:

- 29 March Wednesday – 6.30pm to 9.30pm – 1 night (OR)
- 30 March Thursday – 10:00am to 1:00 pm – 1 day

The workshop is being held twice in order to cater for our evening or daytime students. While experience with mosaics would be an advantage, it is not essential.

COST: \$35.00 for members which includes all materials.

To enrol in the workshop, head to <http://creativeglassguild.com.au/classes/mosaics/> where you can enrol online. Payment can be made by secure bank transfer, the details for which are within the enrolment form.

Get ready for the 2017 Guild Exhibition

Don't forget to diary date the Creative Glass Guild's Annual Exhibition at Mt Coot-tha Gardens, which this year happens on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd July.

As always, there are two competitions at the Exhibition: one for the "People's Choice" Award and the other for "Best Themed Artwork". Each winner will receive a trophy, a Guild gift certificate, and lots of recognition in our newsletter and Facebook page.

The theme this year is 'Literature', so you have a broad range of design possibilities – perhaps a depiction of your favourite literary landscape, a portrait of a character or author, a scene from a fairy tale... and many others that I'm sure you will surprise and delight us with!

Have you created something unique during the past year or so?



It may be a mosaic, a kiln fired piece, leadlight, copperfoil or sandblasted creation.

We are told that some newer members feel their creations are not up to the standard of those who have been with the Guild for a long time. This is simply not true!

We have seen the work you have done on Facebook and been told by tutors about how quickly you have learnt. We would love to have your pieces exhibited.

Visitors love to see something fresh and it is great marketing for the Guild. Please consider exhibiting this year.

I look forward to working with everyone towards a fantastic 2017 Creative Glass Exhibition!

Amy Seibold
Exhibition Coordinator

Tips and techniques for cutting glass

1. Before you start cutting glass, make sure the glass is clean. Wash it with warm, soapy water if it is very dirty. Otherwise, a squirt of Windex and a paper towel will work. Dirty glass will dull your cutting wheel very quickly.
2. If you are able, stand up to cut glass. The movement of your body and your shoulder will give you better control over the cutter. Don't stand so close to the cutting table that you don't have room to move. Stand with your legs slightly apart so that you have good balance and are able to move your body as you are cutting the glass.
3. You can push or pull your glass cutter - it doesn't matter which way you do it. You may find some cuts easier to do one way and some the other. Get comfortable cutting glass in one direction first. When that way is second nature to you, learn how to cut it in the other direction.
4. Find a way that is comfortable for you to hold your glass cutter. There are no rules for holding a cutter when you are cutting glass, there are only rules on how the cutter must set on the glass. The rules are:
 - (a) The cutter wheel must be absolutely perpendicular to the glass, it cannot lean to the left or right, this includes going around curves; remember only motorbikes lean into curves.
 - (b) You must be able to see the cutter wheel and the line you are cutting along, at all times.
 - (c) Always maintain the same cutting pressure, right to the very edge of the glass.

Pay before you play

If you're intending to enrol in a course with the Guild, a new policy applies to booking and paying for courses.

A 'Pay Before You Play' policy means members will be responsible for enrolling and paying for the course in advance of attendance.

This will save course coordinators spending many hours juggling enrolments and chasing payments to ensure the viability of running a course or because members have not paid.

Course coordinators will no longer take 'expressions of interest' with promise to pay, nor will members be chased for payment.

If the minimum number of confirmed (ie. paid) enrolments is not reached three days before commencement of a course, the course will be cancelled.

You will be consulted if this occurs, to ask if you would prefer a refund, or hold as credit any monies paid until the next available course.

We know that members will appreciate the new policy is in the best interests of the Guild, course coordinators, tutors and our membership.