



Inside this issue:

Year end roundup from President Chris 1

Christmas Party and stocktake time are coming 2

Catherine takes over mosaics mantle 3

Welcome to Loren's world 4

Mosaics shine in ancient cultures 5

Creative Glass Guild of Queensland

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Workshop/Sales : Saturdays 9am to midday

General Meeting: First Monday of the month at 7.30pm (except Public Holidays)

End-of-Year Issue

October 2013

Annual roundup from the President

Hi Everyone,

This is our last Newsletter of the Year. It's hard to believe it's time to start thinking about Christmas. It goes faster every year.

We've had a busy time since the Exhibition and time has flown.

There has been a big clean up under the Guild and we've hauled away almost a skip full of 'stuff'. It is certainly far more spacious now. Many thanks to Kate Ritchie, Vicki Beldan and the wonderful Monday group led by Grahame Rampton for helping to get this big job done.

Beadmakers rejoice!

The cleanup will give us enough space downstairs to set up the torches for beadmaking, so the gas bottles don't have to be hauled up and down the stairs. This has always been a major factor in stopping more people working on their skills in this art at the Guild.

We have an exciting new development for our budding beadmakers. The Guild will be holding a series of shorter practice sessions, in the downstairs workshop, for those who have done the Beadmaking course, to continue to build their skills.

This initiative is made possible with the assistance of Vicki Beldan, who will run these practice sessions.

Shorter workshops are also planned for our beadmakers.



As we put these into place, more information will be emailed out.

We are also hoping to introduce glass blowing, using a torch, as a class at the Guild. Details are still to be finalised but we are holding a demonstration of this art at a Members Day on Sunday 3rd Nov.

Looking forward to next year, don't forget to start work on your piece for the Special Theme award at the next Exhibition.

The theme for 2014 is *The Brisbane River*, which should conjure up all sorts of different ideas.

Reminders will start to go out in December for payment of membership fees for next year.

If you paid your membership fees in January 2013, they are due in January 2014. There is no change to the cost of \$95 for 12 months. Your fees go towards the heavy insurance costs we pay, along with rates, rent etc.

AGM 3rd March

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Monday 3rd March. As I have served 3 years as President, our constitution prevents me from serving again in 2014. Whilst I will be happy to stay on the Committee in another position, we will be looking for someone to fill the President's role. Please give it some thought. It is really a lot of fun and everyone is very supportive.

Don't forget our 2013 Christmas Party, annual Stocktake and our special farewell to Barbara Humphreys, in the form of a 'Picnic after Dark'. You will find dates and more information about these events inside.

Cheers Chris



Get ready for the Christmas Party!

Our annual Christmas Breakup is happening on Monday 2nd December at Newmarket Hotel, cnr Enoggera and Newmarket Roads, Newmarket, commencing at 6.30pm.

This is a great opportunity to celebrate the end of the year with your Glass Guild colleagues over a meal and a glass of wine. Come along – bring a partner, bring a friend!

We only receive one bill from the hotel for food, so bring some cash along to pay for your meal.

And remember, we encourage responsible alcohol consumption, so if you're thinking of drinking, don't think about driving.



Calling all volunteers for our January stocktake



One of the Guild's major exercises is our annual stocktake, which next year happens from Thursday 9th January to Saturday 11th January.

This is always a big job, so it would be appreciated if you would consider coming along to help. We will be taking an inventory of our glass and other assets, so while the work isn't too taxing, it's very important that we start off the new year on the right foot.

If you can help on one (or more) of the days, add your name to the Red Hill blackboard, or phone the Guild on 3369 7322 to let someone know - or leave a message.

Time to settle up!

It's the time of year to finalise your reckoning sheets. We don't want to carry any debts into the new year, so please settle up in 2013 if you owe any money on your reckoning sheet.

You can also take the opportunity to pay your 2014 membership Dues.

Members Day

We are holding a Members Day at the Guild on Sunday 3rd November from 9am to 4pm.

We have a mini mosaic workshop in the morning and a Beadmaking and Glassblowing demonstration in the afternoon. An email with all the details has been sent to Members, so come along and join the fun.

'Picnic After Dark' with Barbara

Our fabulous Mosaics Instructor, Barbara Humphreys, has decided to retire and will be handing over to Catherine Conaty in 2014. Barbara will not be lost to the Guild altogether. She will remain a member and be back to help with the Exhibition next year. To farewell Barbara, the Mosaics classes will be holding a 'Picnic after Dark', in the Guild backyard on Thursday 12th December starting at 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome. Please bring a plate of food to share. A fold-up chair would be a good idea too.

Meet the Guild's new mosaics tutor

Hi. My name is Catherine Conaty, and I would like to introduce myself as the new Mosaic teacher for the Creative Glass Guild.

I have been working with stained glass for over 15 years. I began all those years ago as a student at the Guild taking classes in beginners and intermediate leadlight (which I loved), but the moment I took a mosaic class I knew I had found my true passion!



What I love about mosaics is the limitless possibilities that it has to offer as an art form, while being sustainable and permanent. There is an endless source of designs, materials and substrates to choose from, and you are really only limited by your imagination.

I have been an active member of the Brisbane chapter of the Mosaic Association of Australia and New Zealand (MAANZ) for a number of years. I have participated in several gallery exhibitions here in Brisbane, and most recently in the national MAANZ 'Illuminate' exhibition in Melbourne.

I consider myself a lifetime mosaic student and I dedicate time to study the techniques of mosaic artists around the world. There is an amazing mosaic community out there, brought together by the internet, and it is lovely to be a part of it.



Catherine Conaty (pictured left) is our new Mosaics Tutor, who replaces our retiring Barbara Humphreys next year. These photos show some of the special glass mosaics creations which Catherine has produced over past years.



Vicki takes a leap into Loren's world

Intimidated... absolutely. Exhilarated... you bet. Here I was with my little bag of five years of mostly self learnt experience in bead making, taking a giant leap into a whole new glass world.

This was after seeing the almost nonchalant crafting of a most beautiful glass rose pendant and a blown sea shell, more real than the real thing, at the pre-class demo. Welcome to the world of Loren Stump.



Loren's introductory course – appropriately called *Loren 1* – was divided into three parts: Murrini, Sculptural Techniques and Encasement. According to the course outline, *Murrini* would result in a Franchini-style shaded face with a signature cane, *Sculptural Techniques* would examine several different methods for achieving human body and animal sculptural forms, and *Encasement* would involve assembling and arranging floral components to produce a small floral paperweight.

It was a glorious five days working and learning solidly from 10am until midnight, with a true master of the medium, with a class of 7 other glass devotees - well, addicts - a mixed bag of lamp workers, glass sculptors and a marble maker.

Loren (pictured above) made it seem effortless and I know that he managed to challenge even the most experienced in the class to new learnings and to achieve new skills.

We learned to make a murine face. How my poorly executed eye, nose and mouth components were ever going to be recognisable as human when put together, remains a miracle.

Guild member and bead maker Vicki Beldan recently joined a five day class with renowned stained glass artist, flameworker, tool and technique developer and teacher, Loren Stump, who was visiting Brisbane from his home base in California. Loren Stump has exhibited, demonstrated and lectured around the world. This is Vicki's experience...

This exercise did however teach valuable lessons and techniques in the art of murine crafting regardless of subject.

Loren did loads of other sculptural and bead demos and most of us made some seriously bad women's lower halves, and Ojime rats which my attempt had more resemblance to a frog than a rodent. Add historical and contemporary bits of glass information and really bad jokes, and you can see why these classes are gold.



The *piece de resistance* was, however, the making of mini flora and berries and their assembly into a paperweight - a prize, thanks to Loren's skill with great chunks of glass and superb flame, tool and kiln techniques, which we all took away to proudly show off.

Would I do a Loren class again. In a heartbeat. Well, perhaps after I have practised what was taught from the last one. That may take a few decades!

Vicki Belden



Pictured (clockwise from above): Vicki's mini-flora paperweight; Loren's sea shell; Vicki demonstrates beadmaking at the 2013 Glass Exhibition, and Loren's beautiful glass rose pendant.



Mosaics bring life to ancient cultures

I recently returned from a 25 day tour of the UK and Turkey, which included visits to the remnants of civilizations that stretch back some three thousand years.

That's remarkable in itself, but even more amazing is the fact that mosaics played a very important part in their various cultures.

In the ancient Turkish city of Gordion, for example, we saw floor mosaics dating back to 750 BC. Using natural pebbles of dark blue, dark red and white, artists from the Phrygian Kingdom arranged geometric motifs such as an hourglass, cross and rosette. Incidentally, Gordion is said to be the site where Alexander the Great cut the 'Gordian knot'.

The Romans also introduced exquisite mosaics in their domestic architecture and places of worship. The mosaic patterns we saw were quite detailed, often depicting historical or mythological scenes set in a wide geometric pattern.

Tesserae spelt wealth

The Romans used tiny coloured stones, or tesserae, to produce floor mosaics as a statement of their wealth and importance. In the UK city of Bath (known to the Romans as Aquae Sulis), we saw a typical floor mosaic from a private Roman house dating back to the 3rd-4th century AD. Mosaics featured strongly in the Roman Baths themselves, where hot water bubbles up from a geological fault under the city of Bath at a rate of 1.17 million litres a day.

Another example of mosaics being used to demonstrate



wealth and power was observed in the ancient Turkish city of Ephesus, which under Emperor Augustus became the capital of proconsular Asia from the year 27 BC.



A striking mosaic footpath still exists alongside a boulevard of terrace houses in Ephesus, showing how the wealthy lived and boasted of their wealth during Roman times.

Mosaics, along with stained glass, also feature significantly in the various grand mosques of Turkey. The famous Sultan Ahmed Mosque in Istanbul, better known as the Blue Mosque, features more than 20,000 handmade ceramic tiles in more than 50 different tulip designs.

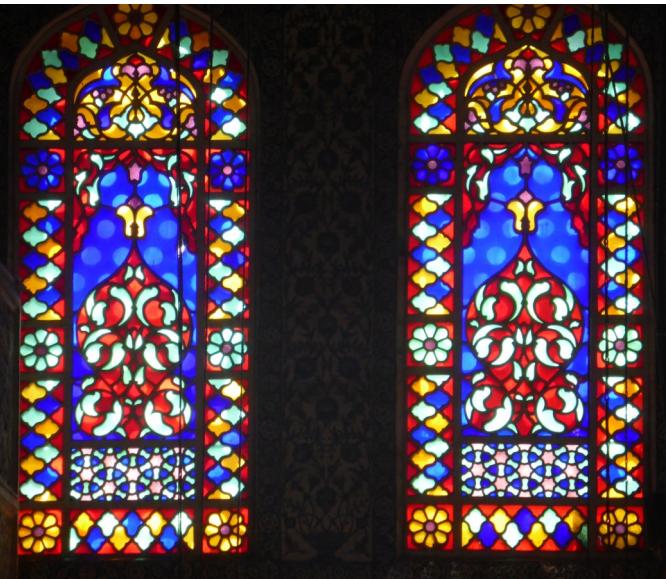
The upper levels of the mosque are dominated by 200 stained glass windows with intricate designs that optimise the use of natural light.

The coloured glass for the windows was a gift to the sultan by the Signoria of Venice. Unfortunately, most of the original stained glass windows have been replaced over the 400 year history of the Blue Mosque by more modern glass which has little or no artistic merit. The stained glass windows in the majority of Turkey's mosques were created by Venetian artisans rather than Turkish craftsmen, who specialised in ceramics, mosaics and calligraphy. Amongst the spectacular decorations featured in the Blue Mosque are verses from the Koran by Seyyid Kasim Gubari, regarded as the greatest calligrapher of his time.

If you have not visited Turkey, put it on your bucket list – it's a fascinating country with friendly people, historic sites and lots of natural wonders.

Ian Dymock

Pictured: the spectacular vaulted ceiling of Istanbul's Blue Mosque (above); two of the 200 stained glass windows in the Blue Mosque (below) a mosaic floor from a Roman house depicting sea serpents (below left) and a heart-shaped section of a Roman mosaic footpath in the ancient Turkish city of Ephesus (below far right).

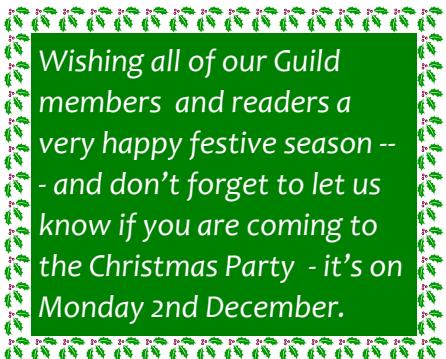


Oh, you beautiful dolls...



The Mosaics class recently made Kokeshi Doll fridge magnets under the instruction of our new Tutor, Catherine Conaty. We learned the technique of using decorative paper under glass, to get a unique design. We also tried out MAC glue, which was new to us all and the Guild now has for sale. A great time was had by all and the results look great.

Cheers Chris



Christmas Decorations Workshop: We still have vacancies for the two day workshop to make your own Christmas decorations—on Sat 9th Nov and Sat 16th Nov. Max 8 students. Cost \$100. Book now.

