



# A TOUCH OF GLASS

Newsletter of the Creative Glass Guild of Queensland December 2019 Edition

## Seasons Greetings!

**As the year is quickly coming to an end, it is timely for me to take a minute or two and reflect on the major achievements of the Creative Glass Guild for 2019.**

Rather than go into great detail, I thought I would highlight our main events and achievements over the past year.

### Practical improvements

First of all, we made a number of major improvements to our Red Hill premises.

As a priority, we replaced the roof, and at the same time, installed insulation, whirlybirds and awnings, all for an outlay of \$31,185.

The good news was that the roof structure was in a very sound condition.

While the roof was in the process of being replaced, an electrical upgrade of external lights was undertaken at a cost of \$1,500.

### Birthday celebrations

This year also witnessed the celebration of our 40th birthday and the unveiling of our mosaic wall "Branching Out" by BCC Councillor Peter Matic on June 30.

Accolades to Catherine Conaty, who did a fantastic job in designing the artwork and motivating members to be involved in creating and developing the mural.

### Our Glass Expo

Our annual exhibition at the Mt Coot-tha Gardens Auditorium in July was another great success.

President Kevin reflects on highlights of 2019 and what's in store for us in the New Year

The visit by Wesley Wong, international glass artist from the USA, was a highlight in August.

Those who attend the workshops enthused about the new techniques and other learnings gained from the sessions.



*Pictured getting into the Christmas spirit at Red Hill are cheerful Guild trio, Pela, Denis and Jenny, who are mentoring participants in the Christmas Tree workshops to create mini copperfoiled glass trees for table decorations.*

A formal review was undertaken this year to ensure the exhibition – or the Glass Expo as we called it this year – continues to deliver on our aims and requirements.

Not only do we want to create opportunities for the Guild to showcase members' work, but we also seek to improve experiences for those attending the exhibition in future years.

Special thanks to Lyndall Davies for her coordination of Wesley's visit and looking after him while he was in Brisbane.

### Future-proofing

Our inaugural Future Planning Sessions were well received by members.

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## President's Report (cont)

The planning sessions conducted by Jan Brimrose sharpened our focus on key areas of the Guild, including membership, the exhibition, marketing, building and grounds, operations and management.

Members who attended fully engaged with Jan, and ideas put forward created quite a bit of robust discussion.

### Using our strengths

The various courses and workshops we conducted during the year continued to be a great strength of the Guild and certainly helped to attract new members.

Our fabulous tutors, assistants and volunteers work extremely

hard to ensure positive experiences for attendees.

All members appreciate the expertise of the tutors and have endorsed fair reimbursement for their time in conducting the classes and workshops.

Our course coordinator Lyndall works extremely hard in liaising with tutors to organise classes.

It is an enormous task and we should all recognise the contribution that Lyndall makes in ensuring the classes are viable. 2020 classes will be on our website soon!

### To the members

Lastly, I must acknowledge our members. What a great bunch of people we are!

We could not function without enthusiastic, supportive, motivated, friendly members.

We are a non-profit organisation that relies on members to serve members. We are a Guild, a Creative Glass Guild that promotes teaching and learning of traditional and modern techniques.

Well done to everyone for their efforts and involvement this year.

We have some exciting plans and prospects pending in the new year, so watch this space!

On behalf of the Guild, may I wish you and yours a very happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

**Kevin Grace**

## 'Masters' of the universe

**Two long term Guild members and tutors have received the honour of being inducted as 'Guild Masters' for their exemplary contributions to the Creative Glass Guild over many years.**

Barbara Humphreys and Barry Richters were recognised for their contributions to furthering the objectives of the Guild through their tireless efforts as Guild tutors and mentors for a substantial period.

Both Barbara and Barry are proficient in various glass disciplines, although most recently, Barbara is known for sharing her knowledge of 'fusing & slumping' and kiln carving with hundreds of enthusiasts who have participated in her courses.

As the Guild's longest-serving member, Barry is well known for sharing his intimate knowledge of leadlighting, copperfoiling, lamp-making and sand engraving.

President Kevin Grace also acknowledged the long service and membership of Di Holland and Marianne McCairney, who both received Lifetime Membership Awards at the Guild's recent Christmas function.



*Pictured: Barbara Humphreys with President Kevin (above) and below, Guild Master, Barry Richters*



## Did you know?

As a result of the traditional guild framework from the past, the emergence of universities at Bologna (established in 1088), Oxford (at least since 1096) and Paris (c.1150) originated from guilds of students or masters.

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Website:  
www.creativeglassguild.com.au

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

## Globetrotting odyssey for glass

**I'm always on the lookout for unique glass creations during my travels, and my recent trip to Canada and the USA was no exception.**

Our first stop was colourful Las Vegas, where the brilliance of glass artist Dale Chihuly was front and centre.

Chihuly is regarded by many as the 'Tiffany' of our day.

With fire, gravity, breath and centrifugal force, this accomplished master creates a kaleidoscope of colour and form.

### Layer upon layer

He uses repetition, accumulation and layering arrangements of modular and singular elements to create unparalleled visual effects.

Ian Dymock has been on the move again, and reports on some of his encounters with glass around the world. Here's his story...

Every day, an average of 15,000 to 20,000 people come to the Bellagio hotel-casino's lobby just to see the conservatory and Chihuly's sculpture.



*Looking more like a pirate than an accomplished glass artist, Dale Chihuly shows off 'Fiori di Como', his spectacular glass sculpture that hangs from the ceiling in the foyer of the Bellagio Hotel-Casino in Las Vegas.*

The ceiling of the lobby of the Bellagio Hotel is a case in point. It's very Las Vegas!

'Fiori di Como' is Chihuly's interpretation of Italian flowers in the spring.

It will make you want to sing and drink wine as two thousand glass flowers hover over your head as you await your hotel check-in experience.

The entire structure weighs over 18 tonnes, and is said to have cost \$10 million.

### Keeping it clean

And every morning between 2am and 5am, a team of eight to ten engineers cleans and maintains the iconic Las Vegas sculpture.

One can only imagine the time and effort that go into maintaining the complex chandeliers,



*Another Chihuly masterpiece—The Sun, a 2 tonne glass artwork fronting the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.*

gardens and ocean sculptures that make up Dale Chihuly's *Garden and Glass Exhibition*, one of the big drawcards at the Seattle Centre on the north-west coast of the US.

### Montreal magic

We caught up with Mr Chihuly's art again in Montreal.

The front steps of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts is the permanent home of Dale Chihuly's spectacular artwork, 'The Sun'.

The creation stands 5.5 metres tall, is made up of 1,573 individual hand blown glass pieces, and weighs 2 tonnes.

'The Sun' was first unveiled at the New York Botanical Garden in 2006, made its way to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts in 2013, then found a space in London's Berkeley Square.

When 'The Sun' left Montreal, the Museum started a public fundraising campaign to return it permanently.

The campaign enabled the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts to acquire Chihuly's dramatic blown-glass sculpture in 2016.

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## Ian's Glass Odyssey cont from Page 3

**If you're a fan of the works of Louis Comfort Tiffany, you'll be captivated by the creations you'll come across in every corner of the US.**

When I visited a small church in the pretty seaside town of Bar Harbour in Maine, for example, I was captivated by the 43 stained glass memorial windows created by an assortment of British, French and American artists.

Ten of the windows in St Saviour's Episcopal Church are attributed to Louis Tiffany, and feature Favrite glass, a technique with an iridescent effect which he patented in 1894.

### Tiffany lamp extravaganza

But the crème de la crème of Tiffany displays can be found in the New York Historical Society Museum located on the west side of Central Park.

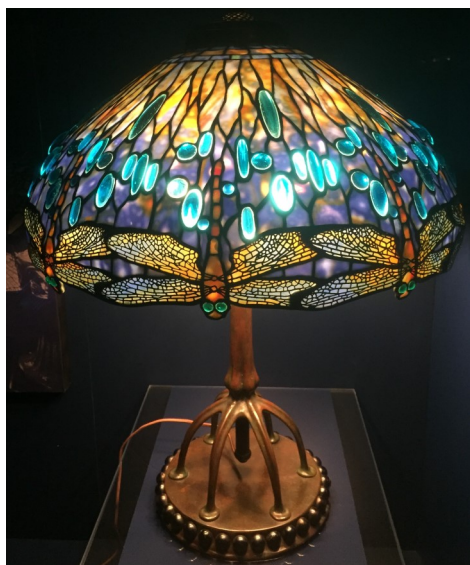
An extensive collection of Tiffany Studio Lamps (over 200!) donated by Austrian immigrant, Dr Egon Neustadt, takes up an entire floor of the Museum.

Tiffany's men designed most of the geometric patterns, while the girls excelled at naturalistic subjects such as florals. Male workers assembled all the lampshades, but the women were responsible for selecting the glass and colours. That makes sense!

### Where colour rules

Each piece was copper-foiled, soldered together over wooden molds, then immersed in an electroplating bath. For Louis C. Tiffany and his designers, colour reigned supreme over line and form.

If New York is on your bucket list, don't miss the Tiffany Collection at the New York Historical Society Museum – which incidentally houses many other fascinating artefacts marking the Big Apple's history.



*Pictured (clockwise from top):*

*1. Ian Dymock with some of the vast Tiffany lamp collection in New York, with chief designer Clara Driscoll in the background.*

*2. Some of the lamps reflect Middle Eastern and Islamic design elements*

*3. Men at Tiffany Studios created geometric pattern shades, while the women excelled at floral designs.*

*4. The incandescent light bulb developed by Thomas Edison in 1880 ushered in a new era of illumination for Tiffany lamps.*

*5. Dragonflies featured in the design of many Tiffany lampshades and bases.*



## Kim's workshops offer glassy treat

**Visiting Australia from Michigan, USA, Kim Fields is a superb glass artist producing beads and small sculpture in soft glass.**

We were able to participate in Kim's workshops, hosted by Jacquie Campbell's Glass Studio in Hurstbridge, Victoria, including one on making Floral Murrini Canes (attended by me), one on techniques for making floral beads called *The Garden Path* (attended by Vicki and me), and one on Sculptural Butterfly Beads.

### Floral Murrini Canes

Kim's murrini cane construction process involves building up multiple layers or bundles of glass for each separate component that will form the flower (e.g. stamen, petals) and constructing a final bundle to be pulled into a cane for use on the bead.

This method results in flowers with incredible amounts of fine detail.

To achieve this, Kim spends a lot of time looking at flowers and photos to identify their form, shapes and colours, and then plans and tests possible ways they can be deconstructed into components that can be replicated in glass.

### Tips galore

During demonstrations on constructing the canes for each flower component, Kim provided lots of tips around choice and layering of colour, use of transparent and opaque glass, selection and management of shapes.

Importantly, she also focuses on heat control that comes into creating the delicate components for each cane.

**Guild member Lenore Keough and beadmaking tutor Vicki Beldan experienced an exciting glassy treat during October. Here's Lenore's story...**

Kim taught students a number of techniques to master the formation of vines, leaves and flowers.

Kim's insights into making cane and laying down leaves and petals were inspiring. Both surface level (raised) and encased floral patterns were explored.

Both workshops included extremely helpful tips on bead construction, colour management, encasing, heat control, composition and a wide range of techniques for applying decoration - which Kim made to look easy, but Vicki and I agree will require perhaps a mite more practice.

However, Kim is a gifted and generous teacher, so just watch us go now!

**Best wishes, Lenore**



*Pictured (top): Kim's attention to fine detail is evident in this pretty bead, which Lenore couldn't resist purchasing.*

*Above: This minute floral work - also snapped up by Lenore - shows Kim's expertise in leaves and petals.*

*Below: Lenore and Vicki participated in 'The Garden Path' workshop.*

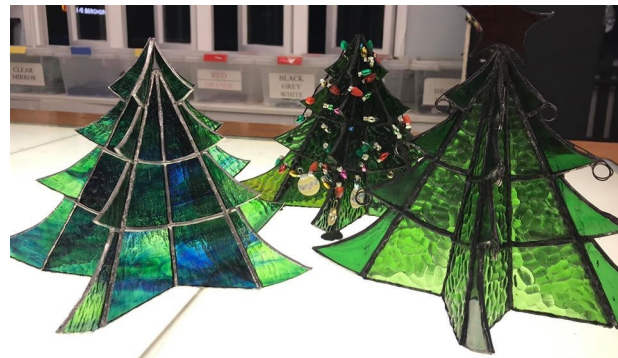
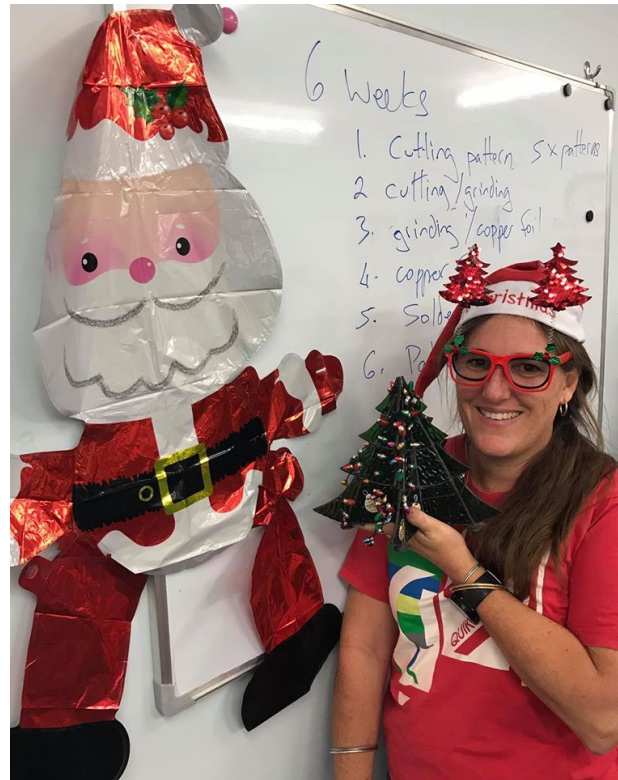


## Christmas elves get down to business

It's all a flurry in Santa's workshop with Jenny Keys coordinating a Christmas tree workshop for a bunch of festive groupies.

Friends and family will admire the unique Christmas tree table decorations created by workshop participants. Made from colourful art glass with edges copperfoiled and soldered, the mini Christmas trees - some topped with stars and others adorned with trinkets - are able to stand unsupported on a flat surface.

To decorate the trees, Chris Bell is running a fused glass Christmas decoration workshop. The busy participants (pictured below) were provided with a number of Christmas themed designs to work on, or could choose their own to produce about 8 to 10 decorations each to take home.





**The Creative Glass Guild workshops have been buzzing over the past two months, with course participants completing their projects, and other members producing some fantastic 2019 creations.**

Pictured from the top (L-R) are:  
 1. The 'group of five' ladies show off their final 'fusing & slumping' course creations;  
 2. Annette with her cool mosaic turtle platter;  
 3. Judy with her striking geometric plate design;  
 4. Suzy with her spectacular, colourful mosaic lorikeet;  
 5. Jenny with her 'bird of paradise' design in vivid blue;  
 6. Kaz with her delicious apple platter, alongside the Guild's mosaics tutor, Catherine Conaty.



Around 50 Glass Guild members and friends celebrated the Festive Season in style at the Guild's annual Christmas get-together held at Red Hill on the 8th of December.

Partygoers enjoyed drinks, food and fine company before the Guild takes its traditional summer break from Sunday 22nd December to Sunday 12th January inclusive.

Merry Christmas one and all!





# Join a Mauro masterclass

**Glass enthusiasts will be gathering again in February next year to celebrate the *Festival of Glass* held on Victoria's beautiful Bellarine Peninsula.**

The annual festival showcases glass through art, craft and industry, and in 2020 will feature internationally renowned Venetian master glass artist and sculptor, Mauro Bonaventura.

## Life size images

Mauro is best known for his spectacular life-sized woven glass art human figures, stunning glass spheres and beautifully elegant solid figurines of horses and human figures (pictured right).

Mauro's workshop at the 2020 Festival of Glass - *'Pushing the Boundaries'* - offers glass artists in Australia with a unique opportunity to engage and learn from the Master.

For further information and bookings, go to:  
[www.festivalofglass.net.au](http://www.festivalofglass.net.au)



## Diary Dates

**Closing Day  
(last Shop Day)  
Sat 21 December  
2019**

**Holiday Close  
22 Dec - 12 Jan**

**Opening Day  
Mon 13 January  
2020**



Wishing all  
our members,  
friends and  
Guild family a  
very enjoyable  
Christmas and  
a fantastic  
2020

