

A TOUCH OF GLASS

Newsletter of the Creative Glass Guild of Queensland April 2020 Edition

A message from the President

Who would have thought that just a few short weeks ago, the world as we know it would be turned upside down, and the Guild's activities would be put on hold for the foreseeable future.

Obviously, the health and safety of our members and tutors come first, so we have taken action to close the Guild until further notice, postponing classes and suspending member days and shop days.

Our Exhibition cancelled

Further to this, Brisbane City Council have advised that bookings for the Mt Coot-tha Gardens Auditorium have been cancelled until the 31st of August 2020.

This means that our annual Exhibition planned for July has been cancelled.

After restrictions are lifted, we will review the situation to see if the Exhibition can go ahead in any form.

We will survive

I can assure you that the Guild will survive and thrive again following these troubling times.

We continue to hold a very healthy cash balance (\$113,444 at 31 Dec), which is particularly strong for a not-for-profit organisation such as ours.

This is an increase of 10 percent compared to 2018, and reinforces the fact that we have sufficient financial reserves to cover our annual costs.



Guild members elected a new Committee at the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 2nd March. They include (L-R): Kevin Grace (President), Jan Bimrose (Vice President), Debbie Pym (Treasurer) and Ian Dymock (Committee Member). Not pictured is Katrina Jackson (Treasurer). Coordinators were also nominated for various Guild responsibilities.

In addition, the Guild continues to hold an asset of \$44,456 in glass and related inventory.

Our strengths will endure

Our strengths lie in the fact that we are an incorporated organisation operating on land leased from the Brisbane City Council, so we have the added benefit of rates at Red Hill being subsidised by the BCC.

Furthermore, we embarked over the past year on a significant maintenance spend on our premises, including roof replacement, new window awnings, installation of a water bubbler, new taps, a new supply of fusing glass, and increased maintenance on the sandblaster and kilns. This minimizes any potential maintenance outlays for this year.

Our membership has peaked at a record 160 members, and without our motivated, engaged and active membership, we couldn't possibly achieve a viable Guild.

The Guild comprises a group of individuals drawn together by a passion for creating beautiful things in glass.

But we are also a family, and we are thinking of all of our members and their families who may be adversely affected by this unprecedented event, and encourage everyone to keep in touch with each other to help see us through the worst of this.

Please keep yourself safe in these uncertain times. We look forward to welcoming you back to the Guild as soon as possible.

Kevin Grace

Highlights of the 2020 AGM

The Guild's Annual General Meeting was held on Monday the 2nd of March. The following are some highlights:

"During 2019 the Guild remained in a strong financial position. The Management Committee ensured expenditure was within the guidelines set.

"Throughout the year, our members have attended general meetings, strategic planning meetings, celebrations and volunteering in various capacities.

"The list would be too long to acknowledge every member and their involvement. However, one member, Denise Olsen, works tirelessly for the Guild and I salute her.

"Discussions have been held with officers from BCC and The Red Hill Sports Cub examining possibilities of working cooperatively together to enhance facilities.

Raising the building

"Quotes have been obtained to raise the Guild building at the current location or to move it over to the vacant land next door. In either case, the idea is to completely refurbish and possibly extend the ground floor.

"At this time, the Management Committee has approval to pursue architectural plans for redevelopment, but we will need members' endorsement and

Brisbane City Council approvals before starting any planning redevelopment.

"The rotting stumps, some asbestos wall cladding, low ceiling height, uneven multiple levels and water leakage would be eliminated as part of any refurbishment.

"Our courses and workshops were well attended in 2019. We are greatly indebted to our tutors who successfully conduct these classes, often resulting in new memberships for the Guild. Course coordinator Lyndall Davies does a great job to keep course costs down to attract participants, cover costs and make a slight profit margin.

Planning for the future

"Jan Bimrose conducted several planning sessions over the last year aimed at ensuring the Guild's future sustainability. The sessions were well attended with interesting dialogue taking place. Suggestions regarding the annual Exhibition were well received and I look forward to see how the subcommittee implements recommendations.

"To cut administration time, it was decided to have one yearly payment in February for membership fees.

"During 2020, the website will be developed further to enhance members' and the public's engagement with Guild activities.

"2019 was also the 40th year of our Guild. We celebrated our birthday with the unveiling of a fantastic mural, which was developed and coordinated by mosaics tutor, Catherine Conaty.

"There were countless hours of members' time in designing and creating this work of art called *Branching Out*. It is a true reflection of Guild members' passion and commitment.

"Finally, let me assure you we will continue to grow the Guild for the benefit of all members."

Kevin Grace

Barry becomes a Guild Master

Long term Guild member Barry Richters has received the honour of being inducted as a 'Guild Master' at the Guild's recent AGM.

Barry was recognised for his contributions to furthering the objectives of the Guild through his tireless efforts as a Guild tutor and mentor over a substantial period.

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

President Kevin Grace

also acknowledged the contributions to the Guild of Barbara Humphreys, who was also invested as a 'Guild Master' for her many years of service



Barry Richters accepts his certificate nominating him as an official Guild Master for his outstanding efforts as a Guild tutor and mentor over many years.

as a tutor and mentor to Guild members. Barbara's expertise in fusing, slumping and kiln carving has been shared with hundreds of enthusiasts.

A dinkum Aussie splashback



Pending developments associated with the Coronavirus, we are about ready to proceed with our much anticipated Kitchen Splashback Project.

The aim is to enhance a section of the kitchen wall in our Red Hill premises in the best way we know how, using a stunning combination of fused glass and mosaics.

When finished, the splashback will be one metre high and over 2.5 metres long, wrapping behind the existing kitchen sink and microwave shelf areas.

Aussie beach theme

We have decided on an Australian beach theme, complete with beach huts, surf lifesavers and sandcastles (something similar to the rendition above, which gives you the general idea).

When we're ready to go, we would love members' participation in this project. To qualify for the workshops, you will need to have good glass cutting skills and can bring along your own glass scorer.

Workshops planned

We are limiting participants for the workshops to 12 members, so if you miss out on one, don't worry, because we will be holding more workshops as the project proceeds.

This will be a great opportunity to demonstrate the wonderful skills and expertise of Guild members, so keep a lookout for future announcements of when we will be proceeding, and get yourself involved.

Cheers, Chris, Catherine & Barbara

Meet your new Committee

Congratulations to the following members who have volunteered their services as Committee Members and key Co-ordinators for 2020:

PRESIDENT - Kevin Grace

VICE PRESIDENT - Jan Bimrose

SECRETARY - Katrina Jackson

TREASURER - Debbie Pym

COMMITTEE MEMBER - Ian Dymock

Course Coordinator: Lyndall Davies with assistance from Karen Smith and Robyn Jones

Exhibition Coordinator: Denise Olsen with sub-committee members Chris Bell, Claire Thompson and Sue Gunter

Librarian: Jenny Jones

Maintenance and Safety Coordinators: Evert van der Waal and John Doran

Members' Activity Coordinators: Denise Olsen and April Avis

Membership Coordinator- Katrina Jackson

Newsletter and Publicity Officer - Ian Dymock

Volunteer Roster Coordinator - April Avis

Stock and Inventory Coordinator - Denise Olsen

Website Coordinators - Lyndall Davies, Caroline Page and Sally Jelbert

Social Media and Marketing Coordinator - Sally Jelbert

Murwillumbah Arts Trail moves to November

Organisers of this year's Murwillumbah Arts Trail have announced that the event will now be held in November, from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd inclusive.

The event has been rescheduled from its original May dates as a result of the ongoing Coronavirus situation.

Coincides with Archibald Prize show

While the rescheduling will be disappointing news for many people, especially artists who have been preparing for the occasion, the event will now coincide with the Archibald Prize exhibition at the Tweed Regional Gallery, which should attract good crowds.

For three days, Murwillumbah will transform into an arts mecca, with exhibitions of contemporary art showcasing works from more than 90 of the region's artists.



Over the period, streets and shops are transformed into a gallery, and visitors are invited to follow the Exhibition trail as it weaves its way through the historic town.

Several Guild members are involved in helping to organise the event, and will be showcasing some of their unique glass creations.



Birds of a (leadlight) feather

Guild member Ken Ede has reproduced a very Australia scene featuring yellow-crested cockatoos and rainbow lorikeets in a striking leadlight panel.

The birds are based on a similar window at the Yatala pie shop off the M1 on the highway to the Gold Coast.

Yatala Pies has been a landmark in the Yatala area of Queensland for more than 130 years.

Many of us remember its humble beginnings as a small pie shop on the Pacific Highway, before the company relocated to larger, more modern premises when the highway was replaced by the Pacific Motorway.

The current premises is designed like an outback homestead, complete with verandas and – wait for it – a series of leadlight windows depicting Australian animals and birds.

So next time you're headed for the Gold Coast from Brisbane – or vice versa – call in and grab a famous Yatala pie, and check out the fantastic Australia windows—just like Ken did!

The Glass Traveller returns

I'm a self-confessed glass addict and travel addict.

The more I do with glass, the more I love it, and my addiction grows.

My journey started around three years ago when I tried glass mosaics and fell in love.

I went on to stained glass, glass fusing and now I'm right into kiln formed mosaics and glass painting.

Combining fusing and mosaics is also a passion, and I want to try lampworking and glass-blowing.

Passion for glass

I want to learn all of it, I'm so excited. My passion for glass gave my travels a new focus and while it sounds a bit clichéd, I started seeing the world in new colours and patterns.

The more I explored, the more artists and inspiration I found. I now have two passions - travelling and glass art.

And I find it rejuvenating, relaxing (most of the time) and therapeutic (breaking things, using glues etc).



These beautiful glass flowers are featured in the Morean Arts Centre, which is co-located with the Chihuly Collection in St Petersburg, Florida.

Guild member Deb Gallon has returned - safe and glassy-eyed - from a recent visit to the USA. This is her journey:

I have recently returned from a fantastic visit to the USA, the only downside being that I'm now in self isolation, due to be released to the real world (as it is) in a week or so.



Pictured L-R: Deb Gallon, with artist & teacher extraordinaire Mark Hufford, Melody, Linda and Chris. Deb picked up some innovative new techniques and product uses in a course run by Mark at his home studio in Buda, Texas.

I've met some wonderful people and aspiring artists along the way and I've been impressed by their generosity to share hints, tips and knowledge.

To develop my skills and techniques, I was fortunate to complete two workshops with Mark Hufford in Buda, Texas, which were amazing.

Talented artist & teacher

Mark is a very talented artist and an excellent teacher (patient too!) who specialises in fused glass enamels painting.

His unique method of teaching is not to simply arm students with

technical skills, but also to guide his students to see the world through brand new eyes.

Learning his techniques and use of products has opened up another creative glass outlet for me.

In the current world lockdown, travel is a no-go and workshops are pretty much non-existent, so the next best thing is to have great go-to-guides like Mark Hufford's book, *'The Art of Fused Glass Enamel Painting'*.

Mark's creative book

I managed to bring back a few copies, so if you are interested in

buying one (freight free), take a look on my Facebook page - *Deb Gallon - The Glass Traveller*.

Buying the book also entitles you to access Mark's private Facebook group where he provides additional hints and tips.

Another highlight of my USA meanderings was a visit to the *Imagine Museum* in St Petersburg, Florida.

This special museum is home to more than 500 pieces of American Studio Glass, representing some 55 artists over 55 years.

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The Glass Traveller

Imagine Museum’s amazing collection presents major works of American and International art created by founding, leading, current and emerging artists working in the field of studio glass.

I also made a quick visit to AAE Glass in Cape Coral in Florida. I would love to have a workshop facility like that....lots of space and natural light.

Fun workshops

Back home, I am scheduled to run three fun workshops at the Creative Glass Guild – *Mudding & Floral Initials, Butterfly Fusion (using Mud and Enamels)* and *Create Your Own Glass with Enamels*.

The workshops are currently scheduled for May, June, August and October, but these dates will obviously be dictated by further developments in the ongoing Coronavirus saga. Watch this space!

Our priority will be to keep all participants safe, so any updates will be posted on the Creative Glass Guild website.

If by honestly and genuinely sharing my experiences I get to inspire someone to try something new in glass art or perhaps to support an artist I’ve found, then I reckon it’s all been worthwhile.

Deb Gallon



Pictured, clockwise from top: 1. The Imagine Museum in St Petersburg, Florida, is home to 500 pieces of American Studio Glass; 2. The AAE Glass Store and Studio in Cape Coral, Florida, is an enormous family owned and operated fused glass art supplier and education centre; 3. Coloured glass balls in lifeboats—one of the spectacular exhibits in the Chihuly Collection in St Petersburg; 4. Deb Gallon’s ABI artwork, using MUD and enamel in a kiln-fired piece dedicated to her one year old granddaughter; 5. Collage of MUD and enamel examples from Deb (the butterfly) and Margot Clark, aka The Grand Mudder, who created the initial ‘M’ and floral arrangements.



Brad's very pleasant pheasant

After a two year break from the fusing and slumping courses I did with Barbara, I decided it was time to hit the glass cutters and grozing pliers again and make something.

I had in mind a fused and slumped plate, similar colours to the bamboo plate I had already made, so I had purchased some of the base glass for this already.



Over the next few months I added pieces of various glass for my design, and then promptly lost interest, or got busy, or whatever happens in life, and ran out of time to go any further.



Pictured: (Top) The original drawing on which Brad based his bird.

(Above): The creation starts to come together as the various intricate pieces are cut and positioned to fit.

(Below): The very pleasant pheasant, complete with colourful plumage



That's when I saw the intermediate fusing and slumping workshops come up, and because I'd only done some basic work, and generally lacked the confidence to do it on my own, these offered the perfect solution for me, and made me get to the Glass Guild every few weekends to do my work. This worked well !

Making a smooth fit

Many hours were spent finalising the design, sourcing the right colours, and finely cutting the glass and carefully grinding and polishing pieces to fit together smoothly.

I based the design on an original drawing I sourced, and was especially attracted to the brilliant colours of this spectacular bird.

I had many small and intricate pieces, all needing careful washing after the final shaping had been undertaken. Then finally I pieced together the jig-saw and fixed it into place with glue. This was all to be well worth the effort.

I chose to put the clear fusing glass on top, as I preferred the look that this gave when the other glass pieces sunk into it, and produced a more 3D effect with some shadowing.

Practical methods used

A few of the methods I used for my piece were:

1. To use some fine frit I had made to fill small gaps around the eye area of the bird. These melted and fused well, with no noticeable gaps in the final glass work
2. A layer of translucent green glass over golden dichroic glass to give a metallic hue to the bird's green mantle feathers
3. Stringers carefully curved to follow the neckline, giving a laced and scalloped effect
4. Stringers used for the legs, and dipped in darker powder for the feet.

Overall, the result was a very pleasing and colourful platter that I am very fond of.

One could say, a very pleasant pheasant! Now... what's next?

Best wishes, Brad