

A TOUCH OF GLASS

Newsletter of the Creative Glass Guild of Queensland July 2021 Edition

A message from the President

Hi everyone,

I trust you are all keeping your heads above water as we learn to manage our lives around COVID restrictions.

On the positive side, the various shutdowns have provided lots of spare time for some members to produce some special glass creations.

Also, we are now seeing a little light at the end of a long tunnel, and we are very pleased that our tutors are back in action, and most classes are reporting good participation rates by members and new starters alike.

Exhibition is GO

We are also pleased that our annual Exhibition is going ahead, albeit with a significant date change. There were too many unknowns for the proposed July weekend, so we have moved the event to the weekend of 23rd and 24th of October.

That gives us a bit more breathing space to ensure we conduct a COVID-Safe event.

All members who will be participating in organising and running the event from Thurs 21st October to Sunday 24th October will be fully briefed on keeping the Exhibition safe for everyone.

Membership down and up

Guild membership renewals have dropped significantly from last year's numbers. This was expected following our temporary



It's great to see most of the Guild's courses are back in action, with healthy bookings being received from people keen to learn new glass skills. Pictured is a recent fusing and slumping class, now being conducted under the expert eyes of tutors Kym Braithwaite (left) and Katrina Jackson (right).

shutdown, despite offering three months' moratorium on fees. The good news is we are gaining new members weekly, due to encouragement from our fantastic tutors and the quality of the courses they are conducting.

Renovation plans

Brisbane City Council has approved our plans for downstairs renovations of the Guild, including the removal of asbestos sheeting and replacing rotting stumps. This is obviously a specialised job, and we are hopeful that a grant application to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for \$21,500 will be forthcoming.

We are still waiting for a structural architect to approve our plans and issue the appropriate forms.

On the subject of grants, we have also applied for a Volunteer Grant of \$4,400 to replace the sand-blasting compressor, which has progressed to a second stage.

In the meantime, we have called for offers for our existing compressor. Interest, anyone?

Cont next page

STOP PRESS
Due to COVID constraints, our Exhibition has been moved to the weekend of 23rd and 24th October. More inside.

President's Report

cont from Page 1

Your Guild's Committee is actively seeking quotes for the approved installation of air conditioning of the upstairs Red Hill workroom and kitchen.

Approval to proceed has now been received from Brisbane City Council, so we look forward to a cooler Guild this summer.

Our decision to install air conditioning was enhanced by our vastly lower electricity bills since we installed solar panels.

Power costs down

For example, our most recent power bill for the past three months came in at \$14.28. As a comparison, the average cost of power was approximately \$650 for the same quarter over the past few years.

In further good news, the Guild Committee has decided to reduce the cost of using our kilns due to the cost savings of our solar panels.

We still are producing more power than we are using, so we are doing our bit to reduce carbon emissions. Obviously, we will continue to monitor our electricity usage, especially with the anticipated installation of air conditioning.

Land survey planned

Following a recent meeting with the new Brisbane Broncos CEO and Council representatives, Council has agreed to resurvey our land to incorporate the back section of our property previously held by the Broncos. This will give us greater flexibility to develop our site.

Although our lease ran out in November last year, we are confident that it will be renewed in time, following repeated assurances from Council that the lease will be extended.

This gives us some confidence that our plans and investment to improve the Guild will be supported, as we are considered by Council to be a strong and reliable tenant.

The leadlight window project is nearing completion, and it looks spectacular. All windows have been completed and five have been installed in the front of our Fulcher Road premises.

The three remaining windows will be on display at our annual Exhibition at Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens and installed shortly afterwards.

Our splashback for the Guild's kitchen is also taking shape beautifully. Look out for some completed sections and plans on display at the October Exhibition.

Exhibition date change

We apologise for the decision to move our *Glass in the Gardens Show & Sale* from July to the 23-24 October weekend.

I know this will inconvenience some of our exhibitors who have worked hard all year to ensure we have an excellent range of exhibits on display to show and sell. But it means the October event will be even better!

Regards, Kevin

Splendour of the glass on show

The beauty and splendour of glass were on show during May and June this year at Toowong and Arana Hills Libraries, who invited us to submit members' glass creations to showcase in their foyer display cabinets.

A larger display which includes hanging space is planned for Arana Hills Library in August following the Guild's Exhibition.

This is an excellent opportunity for the Guild to demonstrate what we do and promote our activities to the wider community.

Most Brisbane City Council libraries feature display cabinets in their foyers which they offer to non-profit organisations who wish to promote themselves.

Our display at Arana Hills library is pictured right.

We will be requesting more items for the August display, so if you would like to show off a special piece, please contact Katrina.



'Glass in the Gardens' in October

We have moved the dates of our 'Glass in the Gardens Show & Sale' to the weekend of October 23-24.

This has been necessary as a result of recent COVID restrictions and uncertainty around safety for visitors and members alike.

COVID threw a spanner in the works last year too, but this year we are planning to be back bigger and stronger than ever.

This can only happen if members exhibit their best work, and volunteer their services from 21-24 October to be part of the energetic team that organises and runs the event.

After a topsy-turvy couple of years, let's make our 2021 event special. With your help, we can look forward to an enjoyable and successful 'Glass in the Gardens Show & Sale' - now in October!



The Creative Glass Guild

Glass in the Gardens
Show & Sale



Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th October

9.00am - 4.00pm

Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium

Masking up with style



UK glass artist, Martin Cheek, has created some topical glass masks which he calls 'cheeky chin hammocks'. Martin specialises in fused glass mosaics incorporating handmade fusions. The masks, which feature different bird species in a fun way (eg a squabble of seagulls) are proving so popular, they've sold out!

A Touch of Glass is published by the Creative Glass Guild of Queensland

64 Fulcher Road, Red Hill Qld
PO Box 14, Ashgrove Qld 4060

General enquiries:
info@creativeglassguild.com.au

Course enquiries:
courses@creativeglassguild.com.au

T: (07) 3369 7322
(phone not always manned)

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

Ghost foliage turns grass to glass

I completed a Dennis Brady 'Ghost Foliage' webinar via Glass Patterns Quarterly and thought I'd try out his technique.

It's called 'Ghost Foliage' because Dennis's technique involves fusing fresh or dried plants into glass to create ghost-like images.

I picked a bunch of leaves fresh from the garden, cut some 6mm window glass and traced the glass shapes onto papyrus ceramic-fibre paper.

I laid out the leaves within the templated area so each leaf could be seen, placed the glass over the top, then it was into the kiln on a customised schedule and baked overnight.

Hopefully, the plants would burn out when fired and leave an indent and ash imprint on the glass.

The results were much better than I expected! Ferns worked exceptionally well, as did grevillea leaves, gumnuts, fennel and dill leaves - the finer the leaf the better.

The bottle brush flower stem also worked far better than anticipated. Thicker, broader leaves tend to burn away too much and the ash doesn't burn into the glass.

You can use art glass, float glass, clear glass or colours. You may even decide to try it with a little iridized glass. Now to experiment further...!

All the best, Katrina

The Ghost Foliage technique involves fusing plant material onto glass to immortalise your favourite fresh or dried plants. Pictured are (top) Katrina positions plants under glass, (centre) placing the piece in the kiln, and (below) the finished products - ghost-like images like fairy wings and gossamer lace on glass.



Viva Las Vegas, anyone?

A group of Guild members are interested in making plans to attend the Las Vegas Glass Expo and International Society of Glass Bead-makers in early April 2023 (in Las Vegas).

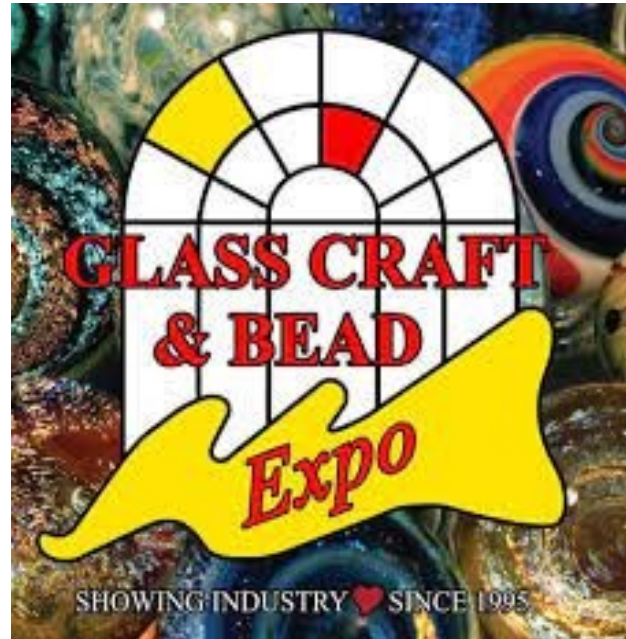
This usually runs for five days (Wed to Sun) and the trip could be extended to include some other enticing glass venues if everyone was interested.

I am thinking the Corning Museum of Glass in NY State, the Metropolitan Museum in New York and various glass sites in Seattle (for Chihuly, Pilchuck etc).

This note is just to gauge interest and we have to wait and see how the world recovers from COVID before we make any more plans.

If you are interested let Deb Gallon know on 0435 120831 E: theglasstraveller@gmail.com or Vicki Beldan on 0432 737442 E: vbeads1@hotmail.com

Cheers Deb Gallon



Glass and metal artists inspire at Aspire

I recently visited the Aspire Gallery in Kennedy Terrace, Red Hill, to see a collection by Emerald artists Michelle Gray and Raelene Bock.

Michelle uses a bead-making torch, and a small glass blowing setup to achieve magnificent flowers, gumnuts and sea shells.

The work was exquisite, and teamed beautifully with Raelene Bock's metalwork. Raelene is a recycled metal worker and painter, having worked in those and many other media for over fifteen years.

Michelle and Raelene have been collaborating in their art since 2016. Michelle is a glassblower, mostly working in framework glass over a mixed gas torch.

She learned many blowing and sculpting techniques from a num-



ber of world renowned glass artists over the last 20 years.

Together, the two artists combine their individual media to contrast the delicate nature of glass in its bright luminous colours, to the flexible nature and an infinite range of patinas in various recycled metals.

Their unique creations, often around botanical themes, demonstrate their adventure of experimenting and pushing the boundaries.

Regards, Katrina



Pictured (above): Two intricate glass and metal floral creations contrasting the delicacy of glass with the strength and flexibility of recycled metals. Below: The artists - Michelle Gray (left) and Raelene Bock



Fire & Vine: the journey of glass and wine

If we lived in a COVID-free world, and if you could travel to the USA, you could have taken in a wonderful glass exhibition at the famous Corning Glass Museum in New York State.

The exhibition, called *Fire and Vine: The Story of Glass and Wine*, opens at the Museum in July, exploring the many ways glass touches wine as it travels from the grape to the goblet.

The entwined histories of glass and wine extend back thousands of years, from lavish feasts of ancient Rome, to the polite society of Britain in the 1700s, to formal dinner parties of post-war America, and on to an essential experience within our contemporary food culture.

Strong & versatile

The strength and versatility of glass have played an important role in every step of wine's journey, from the production, distribution, sale, and ultimately the enjoyment of this intoxicating beverage.

A focal point of the exhibition will be a dense display of dozens of wine glasses from around the world, representing many styles and tastes, fit for a variety of occasions.

Pictured (top) is a kidney-shaped clear glass pitcher with a pouring lip at one side and cut glass star pattern on the bottom.

Pictured right: This Cameo glass fragment with Grape Harvest, 25 BCE–50 CE is probably from Italy. Cast or blown, it is made of carved cameo glass.



Say it with flowers

My sister-in-law turned 80 this year, and my brother asked me to make her a lamp to mark the occasion.

I specialise in lamps that feature flowers, and have made quite a few along floral designs.

As my sister-in-law is partial to roses, I used roses as my theme, and assembled it using leftover glass on the same polystyrene mould I had made for an earlier lamp.

I had to create my own rose pattern, but I made some segments a little too large to fit the curvature of the form.

I'll know better next time, but even so, it seems to have finished up OK.

It has been an on-off project over more than a year. Thankfully, COVID shutdowns prevented me from travelling to Newcastle to deliver the gift, and this gave more time to complete the project as the 80th birth date was in April!

Regards, Grahame Sawyer



Glass through the ages on our doorstep

Did you know that a significant collection of stained glass and artworks dating from the Middle Ages to the early 20th century is sitting on our doorstep?

The Abbey Museum, near Caboolture, houses more than 4,000 items spanning 500,000 years of history, including many pieces from the Medieval and Renaissance periods.

Collection on air

The Museum's stained glass collection was recently highlighted in an on-air interview by ABC Radio's Steve Austin with Abbey senior curator, Michael Strong.

If you're looking for something to entertain the kids some time, check out the quirky Abbey Museum near Caboolture.

While admitting he previously had little interest in the history of stained glass, Steve commented on how engaging and interesting he found Michael's stories as he explained the history of origin of

the windows in the Abbey Museum collection.

Holiday visit

If you would like to see the wonderful glass in the Abbey Museum's collection, including a number of pieces originally from Winchester Cathedral in the UK, tours are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11.00am or by appointment.

Unfortunately, the annual Medieval Festival and Family Fun Day which were scheduled for early July have been cancelled due to the most recent Covid lockdown.

It's recommended that you contact the Abbey Museum to ensure they're receiving visitors on the day you wish to visit.

abbeymuseum.com.au



ABC Radio presenter, Steve Austin (centre) learned all about antique glass in an interview with Abbey Museum's senior curator, Michael Strong, and director Edith Cluffe.

Diary Dates

General Meetings:
Mon 12th July (Zoom)
Mon 6th September
Mon 1st November

Leadlight windows project completed July

Arana Hills Library display- August

Shop volunteers are back in August

Glass in the Gardens Show & Sale:

Sat 23 - Sun 24 October

AGM: Sat 5th March 2022



Splashback looks nautical but nice

Work is progressing feverishly on the new kitchen splashback, following a series of workshops to complete the first section of the project, ready to display at this year's Exhibition.

Using a combination of fused glass and mosaic elements, the Australian beach scene is taking shape, complete with colourful bathing boxes, tall ship and sea and land creatures.

On completion, the splashback will measure 2.5 metres long by 1 metre high, wrapping around the areas behind the kitchen sink and microwave.

The beach theme will complement the current underwater leadlight windows facing the kitchen.

Pictured (top): Chris and Lyndall plot the positions of sea creatures. Bottom: Bathing boxes take pride of place.



Blown glass beauty at Land Street Gallery

You may have seen our invitation to attend the glass exhibit at Land St Gallery Toowong last month. If you managed to get there, you would have seen the beautifully created blown glass pieces of six talented Brisbane glass artists.

Learning about how they use engraving to highlight the layered colours with the glass was something new and exciting. I can't wait to try! All the best, Katrina



Pictured: These exquisite blown glass pieces were part of the collection of contemporary Brisbane-made glass art which were on show at Toowong's Land Street Gallery during May and June. Some pieces feature engraving to highlight layered colours.



Guild members and tutors have been very busy lately. Pictured (clockwise from top left): Chris Scherer's exquisite jewellery; Jenny and some of her leadlight class newbies; Jenny shows off her Charles Rennie Mackintosh style window; Kaz and Catherine make beautiful music; Vicki shows how it's done in a recent bead-making course; new front windows from Ian and Ken; pretty floral mosaic vase and flowers from Marianne.

