

# A TOUCH OF GLASS

Newsletter of the Creative Glass Guild of Queensland September 2019 Edition

## A word from President Kevin

Hi everyone,

We have been taking a well-earned breather recently, after the excitement of this year's Glass Expo, the official opening of the mosaic wall mural, and our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations.

But we're not resting on our laurels, and two strategic planning meetings for members held in August and September have revealed some exciting ideas for the future of the Guild.

Hosted by former Guild President, Jan Bimrose, our most recent get-together on 14 September raised the question of the Guild's strategic role for Guild members and the wider community.

### The Guild's key roles

Jan reiterated the purpose of the original Medieval Guilds: to provide a collaborative and secure forum to ensure continuity of one's skills, standards and traditions; to supervise apprenticeships; to stimulate teamwork in pursuit of each craft, and lastly to play a wider role in the community.

Our Guild is certainly following some of the traditions of yesteryear.

For me, the collaboration, the sharing of ideas, the opinions and advice that are freely available (just ask) and the feedback from



*Congratulations to Guild member, Catja White, who won the 'Best Themed Artwork' Award at the 2019 Glass Expo. Catja's inspiring piece, called 'New Beginnings', was created using a plaster cast of her face, covered in float glass and stained in green and gold leaf.*

members are invaluable in planning, designing, constructing and completing projects.

Furthermore, the generosity of members in donating surplus glass or materials back to the

Guild or directly to members is very special.

It is not unusual for former members or the public to contact the Guild to donate materials that are no longer required.

**Cont over page**

## President's Report (cont)

These donations are always greatly appreciated and are incorporated into the general stock that the Guild holds.

The sharing and caring atmosphere of the Guild lives on in former members!

Please continue to be aware of your personal safety while accessing the Guild - especially navigating the stairs when carrying your project or supplies, accessing downstairs with the low head height, using any tools, and following operating instructions of all electrical devices, especially the kilns.

The Guild will be open over the upcoming school holidays. Please refer to the calendar on the Guild's website for days and times.

If you're taking a spring break, enjoy yourselves, and come back to us safely, and full of creative ideas!

**All the best, Kevin Grace**

## Barry's birthday bash



*Long-serving Guild member, Barry Richters, was given the honour of cutting the Guild's 40th Anniversary cake on the occasion of the opening of the wall mosaic. Pictured here with President Kevin Grace, Barry has clocked up a remarkable 36 years as a member and tutor with the Guild, which commenced activities in 1979.*

## NEW FUSING GLASS CLASS ON OFFER

A new Intermediate Fusing and Slumping Course is being offered at the Guild on Sunday 20 October, 3 November and 17 November.

Classes will run from 9.30am to 4.30pm at a cost of \$55 per day (plus glass & kiln use).

Bring your own project, and come prepared with a plan/design to get creating. The Guild currently has the biggest range of fusing glass colours and a whole range of new slumping moulds, so it's a great time to continue your interest in fusing!

All materials can be purchased during the class, and kiln use will be charged separately as each person will have different requirements depending on their project.

Please note, you must have previously completed the Beginners Fusing and Slumping course to enrol in this Intermediate level course.

To book in, visit <http://creativeglassguild.com.au/classes/fusing-and-slumping/>

Courses have been separated so you can attend 1, 2, or 3 sessions.

Hope to see you there! **Katrina Jackson**

### Published by the Creative Glass Guild of Queensland

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[www.creativeglassguild.com.au](http://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

# Mosaic wall blossoms into life

Around 50 Guild members and friends gathered at Red Hill on 30 June to witness the unveiling of the Guild's new mosaic wall mural.

The wall dividing our Fulcher Road premises from the Broncos Leagues Club was somewhat of an eyesore, so Guild members set about turning it into a showcase for the Guild's glass-making activities.

The result is 'Branching Out', a colourful mural of intertwining branches, leaves and resident rainbow lorikeets, with each piece hand-made by a Guild member.

The mural came together over a six months period under the watchful eye of the project's designer and facilitator, Catherine Conaty – who is also the Creative Glass Guild's mosaics tutor.

"The project proved to be a wonderful experience for everyone involved," explained Catherine.

"We enjoyed excellent participation in the project, and the variety of leaves, branches and birds that members produced resulted in a mural blossoming with life and colour!"

The mural was officially unveiled by local Councillor Peter Matic, who is also the Chair of Brisbane City Council's Community, Arts & Lifestyle Committee.

**Pictured** (right): Catherine Conaty puts the finishing touches to the colourful mural, and (below) an appreciative crowd inspects the finished mosaic.

## Branching Out

Official Mural  
Opening

30th June 2019



# Wesley shares his special talents

**The two courses offered by Wesley Wong - 'Dimensional Fusing with Stand-up Critters' and 'Fused Glass Mosaics with Depth' - were well received by those who participated.**

The levels of interest and enthusiasm are best summed up by the participants, who offered the following comments:

**Crazy Critters course:**

*Lyndall:* When I first saw Wesley's Critters and Fused Mosaics on Facebook, I wanted to learn his techniques. His classes did not disappoint – I loved them!

*Amy:* As are most classes, this one was very intense -- lots to get done in too little time! Also, if you weren't pretty good at cutting glass (accurately) your result was unlikely to be as good! It required precision cutting. (I didn't see results of others, so not sure how they came out). Really, the techniques are pretty simple, but the few 'tricks' we learned were worthwhile.

In August, talented US glass artist Wesley Wong was invited to teach three classes at the Creative Glass Guild. Some 26 glass enthusiasts attended the courses to experience the unique techniques in glass fusing developed and demonstrated worldwide by Wesley.

The more designs offered, the more complexity to class. Since many did the same design as I did, I felt my questions and needs were well met.

**Fused Glass Mosaics with Dimension course:**

*Gary:* It is always good to learn something new about glass, especially when it combines

fusing and mosaics. Two long days with lots of cutting and glueing and a great result at the end. Thanks for arranging Wesley's visit. Much learned.

*Chris:* Finally a way to combine my two loves, mosaics and fused glass. It was a long couple of days, but so much fun with like-minded people. I'm already using Wesley's techniques to make more fused mosaics.

*Ruth:* Good to have opportunity to spend 2 days with a group of friendly, busy women. It was interesting learning to create 3D pieces and I hope to use this knowledge in some of my future projects. I would want to thank the Guild members who organized this event.

*Deb:* Wonderful – just wonderful!

**More photos next page...**

*Below: Participants in Wesley Wong's 'Fused Glass Mosaics with Depth' course proudly display their completed creations.*





**More from the Wesley Wong workshops** (pictured clockwise from above): 1. Wesley places students' crazy critters in the kiln; 2. Wesley admires students' finished fused glass squares, which combine mosaics and fusing to produce a unique work of art; 3. The team who created 'crazy critters', which are free-standing fused glass animals, without using any molds. 4. Amy's elephant 'critter' was a popular choice of pattern.



# Glass Expo is a winner

**This year's Creative Glass Exhibition (the Glass Expo) again provided a wonderful showcase for the Guild's unique accomplishments.**

Activities were well coordinated by Denise Olsen and Chris Bell, and display items were professionally managed by Jan Bimrose.

Thanks to all of our members who undertook a myriad of tasks including planning, promoting, setting up, running and breaking down the event.

Net revenue of around \$7000 was raised from door takings, raffles and commissions, providing a welcome boost to the Guild's operating funds.



**Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st July  
9am - 4pm**

**Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium**

[www.creativeglassguild.com.au](http://www.creativeglassguild.com.au)

Special congratulations to our award winners – Ken Ede for his dragonfly window, which took out the People's Choice Award, and Catja White, who was awarded

'Best Themed Artwork' by judge Deb Gallon, along the theme 'Celebrate'.

A review of the event was included in the August *Future Directions* session, which revealed what went well, and what needs to be improved to streamline the event for future years.

*Pictured (clockwise from below):*

1. Ken Ede with his award-winning dragonfly window
2. Entries for 'Celebration' - which was this year's theme for the Best Themed Artwork Award
3. Ken Ede's 'fascinating faces' created interest at Expo
4. Working hard at Expo 2019 - Catherine, Jan and Margaret





**More from Glass Expo 2019 (clockwise from above):**

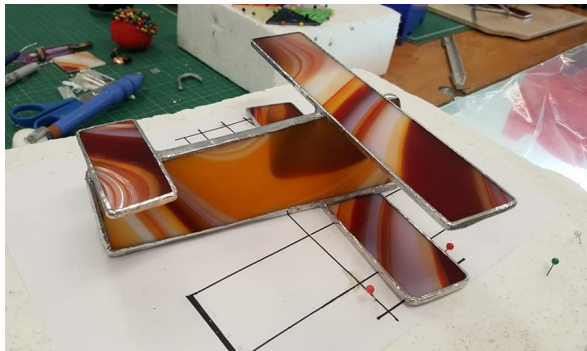
- 1. Vicki, Gim See, Lyndall and Irene are ready for action;
- 2. Ken, Ian, Grahame and Evert team up for the leadlight demonstrations;
- 3. Chris presents Denise with her giraffe gift;
- 4. 'Celebrate' was the theme of this year's Best Themed Artwork Award;
- 5. Ray with his best Keith Richards impression;
- 6. Catja prepares to look after customers on her jewellery stand



## Ken's kaleidoscopes take off

Some Guild members have a nifty Christmas gift available after completing the Copperfoiled Kaleidoscope Course coordinated by tutor Ken Ede.

The kaleidoscopes, which come in standard or biplane designs, are made from coloured glass using the copperfoiling technique. The aeroplanes have propellers which, when rotated, cast light to reflect in ever-changing swirls of patterns and colours.

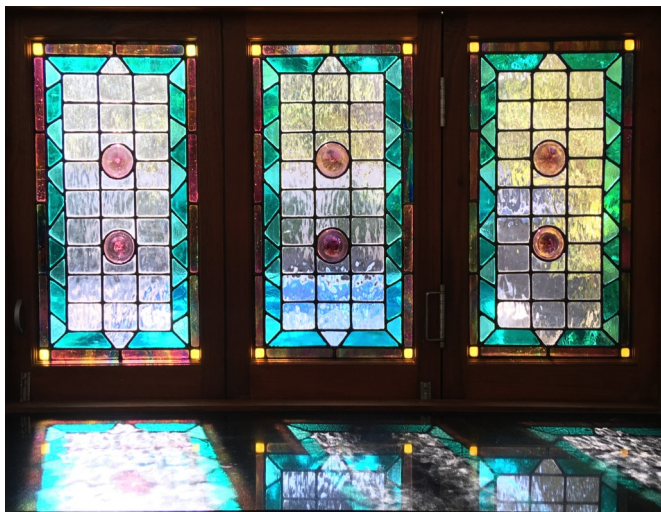


*Pictured: The workshop involved cutting and copperfoiling the frame pieces for the biplanes, then assembling the pieces into a working kaleidoscope, complete with a rotating multi-coloured propeller.*



## Kevin's kitchen magic

Guild President, Kevin Grace, has been working hard to enhance his kitchen area at home with the addition of these three leadlight windows which feature striking green borders, set off by brown roundels. Kevin is pictured completing the final window, with the help of 'sidewalk supervisor' Evert van der Waal.





# Mosaics provides a healing journey

**Since my childhood, I have been fascinated by coloured glass.**

My earliest recognition of this wonder was a pink glass vase of my Nana's. I wondered how they made it pink. Was it the same way my Nana turned her home-made lemonade pink for me?

Even now, I keep flowers in coloured vases, drink my morning juice in blue or green glasses and wine from a red glass.

I'm not a religious person, but have always adored the stained glass windows in churches. Just this week I popped into St Stephens while I was in the city to look at them in awe.

## Love of mosaics

Last year, I told my older sister of my enduring love of mosaics. She showed me some work of a friend in South Australia.

"Why don't you join a class?" she said. So I googled 'Mosaic Classes in Brisbane' and lo and behold, there was one within blocks of my home in Ashgrove! I signed up for a Beginners' class and have never looked back.

The same day I received an email inviting me to a mosaics exhibition at the Noel Miller Gallery in Paddington. That's synchronicity!

## In the right place

From the very first class, I knew I was in the right place.

I have studied many things (mainly at university) but Catherine is the best teacher I've ever had. She is so knowledgeable, supportive and inspiring.

After completing the Beginners' class, we students start to develop our own strengths and styles. Mine are three dimensional: from my Nana's old

cast-iron kettle to watering cans and plant pots - then a small wooden caravan.

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Shelley Wood's fascination with glass has found 'the right place' at the Creative Glass Guild. This is her story...



*Shelley Wood has taken to the glass arts like a dragonfly to water. Pictured below is her first attempt at mosaics—using various media.*



**Shelley's Journey (cont)**

The choice of substrate and design possibilities are limited only by our imaginations. While predominantly glass, I like to incorporate pieces of jewellery, buttons and resin flowers in my pieces – just like in the watering can in the photo!

Unlike many of my fellow students, precision glass cutting is not my forte, so I lean towards free-style, organic designs.

**Crazy for crazy pave**

I love crazy pave! It is so forgiving.

These days I can often be seen sitting on the back porch wearing safety goggles, with a bucket between my legs and wheeled nippers in my hand.

The living room coffee table regularly dons a newspaper tablecloth to protect it from glue and the other makings of the latest project.

I've made a string of birthday gifts and am now planning for Xmas.



**Healing benefits**

The Guild has been so beneficial to me beyond the creativity. I have endured a five-year struggle with declining health which resulted in loss of work productivity, social activities and quality of life.

Taking up mosaics has given me not only a new hobby, but a new sense of purpose. The mindfulness of mosaics is also therapeutic. It helps me to relax and to quiet my over-thinking mind.

The Guild offers the opportunity to meet other people with a shared passion. It provides social interaction, camaraderie and always something to look forward to.

We support each other, share ideas and our latest 'finds'. Many fellow students agree that Thursday mornings are our favourite time of the week.

What next? I'm looking forward to October for my fourth Intermediate class. I think I'll try my hand at wooden planter boxes next.

Thank you so much to Catherine and Lyndall for their support-and the small army of volunteers who have kept the Guild going for 40 years.

**Best wishes, Shelley Wood**



Mosaics tutor Catherine proudly shows off the work of two of her students - Kaz (above) with cup, saucer and plate, and Christine (right) with a quirky serving tray. Tea and hamburgers, anyone?



# Strategic planning shows the way

The Creative Glass Guild has conducted two strategic planning sessions with members in August and September in an endeavour to 'future-proof' the organisation.

The sessions have focussed on the 'pillars' that need to be nurtured for the Guild to not only survive, but to strengthen, expand and prosper into the future.

## People: our primary pillar

Our primary pillar is our band of volunteers without whom the Guild would not keep ticking over. But the Guild needs sound financial foundations for the volunteers to be able to continue their much-valued efforts.

The three key pillars providing strong financial foundations for the Guild are the 'income earners' - Membership, Education and the Annual Exhibition.

These three pillars also deliver many of the other functions of the Guild, such as social interaction, source of inspiration for new projects, access to



resources, and maintenance of a 'learning environment'.

The August planning session examined our annual Exhibition, and the key reasons for its existence.

## Exhibition drivers

The three reasons to conduct the Exhibition were identified as:

1. To showcase the work of the Guild, especially classes and workshops which promote glass arts to the broader community;

2. To showcase and/or sell the glass creations of members, and  
3. To generate income to support Guild maintenance and operations.

The September planning session examined our education program, and how it related to the aims and aspirations of the original trade Guilds.

The discussion aimed to identify the strengths and weaknesses of our current education program.

For example, what do we want the education program to include?

What do we want the education program to be achieving?

Is the education program part of a wider learning environment?

What are our goals and objectives for the education program?

How will we achieve those goals and objectives?

Food for thought!

**All the best, Jan Bimrose**

## Diary Dates

- Next General Meeting: 7pm Monday 4 November
- Next Strategic Planning Session for all members: 7pm Friday 22 November
- BVAC Pop-Up Shop: Sat 30 Nov & Sun 1 Dec
- Glass Guild Christmas get-together at Red Hill: 3pm Sunday 8 December
- Closing day (and last shop): Sat 21 December
- Stocktake at Red Hill: 6-10 January 2020 (TBC)
- Guild re-opens (1st shop day) Mon 13 January

## Catherine's cool show-stopper



Congrats to Catherine Conaty, who took out 1st Prize in the mosaics category of the Fine Arts Awards at the Brisbane RNA Show. Called 'Coolum Serenity', the artwork features an ocean of tiny shards of blue glass in different colour graduations, fitted tightly together so no grout was needed. The foam is crash (windscreens) glass painted white, then broken up into small pieces, while sand, small stones and pieces of shellgrit from the beach made up the beach and foreshore.