

A TOUCH OF GLASS

Newsletter of the Creative Glass Guild of Queensland September 2020 Edition

A word from the President

It's great to see the Guild up and running again, even if it is in a limited capacity. We are open for our Member Project days on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturday mornings. Check out the Guild's website for opening hours.

Of course, COVID protocols apply when visiting Red Hill, so please be sure to follow the steps required to keep yourself and your fellow members safe.

No courses for 2020

Because of Government restrictions, especially social distancing requirements, we don't envisage that any courses will resume in the current year.

Nevertheless, many of our members are creating some special pieces at home, and we feature a selection of these inside this edition.

Our finances have taken quite a hit due to COVID, compounded by a lack of income due to courses not running, which has flow-on effects to reduced glass sales.

We are survivors

Nevertheless, I can assure you that we will survive and thrive again, and we have sufficient financial reserves to cover our annual costs.

Our financial position has been assisted somewhat by a \$500 credit from Origin Energy to

reduce our power bill, along with reimbursement of our electricity and insurance for the first six months of this year through the BCC Lord Mayor's COVID-19 Assistance Program.

We have also been granted rent relief by the Council for the last six months of this year.

electricity account, so it will be interesting to compare our electricity bills over the next two years to see what savings are made. We had an unexpected cost during the pre-install due to the BCC requiring us to get a structural engineer to certify the roof is structurally sound. It is.



The Guild's leadlighters are being invited to create a series of windows for the front of our Red Hill premises to highlight the various styles of leadlighting. First off the production line is this Art Deco design created by Evert and President Kevin.

In the meantime, a solar installation has been successfully completed at the Guild, with a 9.96 kw system put on our roof. The solar panels, coupled with a SMA converter that can accommodate 3-phase power required at the Guild, should provide significant savings for us, while reducing our carbon footprint.

Over the past two years we have spent more than \$5000 on our

Also, we upgraded the meter box at the front of the Guild and had an Energex approved lock installed. However, the project still came in well under budget. We needed to complete the project by May 2021, so we are well ahead of the deadline.

A special mention goes to the Brisbane City Council Lord Mayor's Community Sustainability and Environment Grants Program for their \$8,300 grant that enabled us to proceed with this project.

In more good news, we have just been advised that our application for a grant through the Lord Mayor's COVID-19

Direct Assistance Program 2020-2021 has been approved to proceed.

This grant will subsidise some of our expenses between Jan 1 and June 30, 2020, and will provide funding for minor works projects, up to a total of \$10,000. In addition to the reimbursement of our electricity and insurance costs, we are seeking to upgrade several other items. **Cont next page**

More from the President

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The Council Grant will also be used to replace the Guild's upstairs doors, replace the old and degraded galvanised water pipes and subsidise the front window replacements.

Future Planning

Thank you to those members who were able to attend our Future Planning Session at the Guild on Saturday 5 September. We also received some constructive comments from members who were unable to show up in person.

Discussion centred around the proposal to move and/or renovate the Guild building, and a floor plan to suit the varied requirements of the Guild's activities. We will continue to liaise with the BCC, as our building belongs to the Council, and they have the final say into what we can and can't do with it.

We have received verbal approval from our neighbours - the Broncos and the Red Hill Community Sports Club - to arrange for our boundaries to be realigned to give us more space

to move. We are now seeking to have a surveyor draw up a suitable plan to confirm the boundary changes - hopefully with the Council to pick up the bill!

Because of the various bodies involved, the permits required, the numerous options being considered, and the added element of COVID-19, the process of renovating or moving is not going to happen quickly. Having said that, I am optimistic that it will happen at some stage!

Online proposal

Our Sept 5 meeting also discussed the proposal for a computerised Inventory Management and Point of Sale (POS) system, which is planned to save time for our volunteers, and money for the Guild.

There was a consensus from the meeting that we should proceed to the next stage of researching the Guild's specific needs, and identifying an online system and vendor that could deliver the best outcomes for the Guild based on value for money, flexibility and simplicity for its users.

Meanwhile, I encourage you to keep in touch, keep smiling and keep yourselves safe.

Regards, Kevin

Calling all leadlighters!

The Guild is calling for volunteers to assist in making leadlight panels for our front windows to highlight the various styles of lead lighting. The most popular styles during the past 150 years are:

Art deco, Victorian, American Victorian, Edwardian, Australian Federation, InterWar/Arts & Craft, Art Nouveau (Tiffany), Secessionist, Contemporary/architectural Sacred (Religious).

Looking for inspiration? Well known leadlight designers include: William Morris, Daniel Cottier, Louis Comfort Tiffany, Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Frank Lloyd Wright - this American architect was also a proponent and designer of stained glass.

If interested in assisting, contact Ian or Kevin.

Glass Sale: Sat 10 October

Make a diary date for our massive Glass Sale to be held from 11.00am to 3.00pm on Saturday 10th October in the Guild's backyard in Red Hill (all COVID-19 protocols will be in place!)

We have 217 pieces of excess glass to clear from our stocks, including 185 pieces of mosaic/leadlight/copperfoil glass of all sizes, along with 32 pieces of fusing and slumping glass.

In addition, there are 33 bags of Dichroic glass, 18 mandrels and 8 bags of beadmaking rods. All pieces have been priced to clear, and it's first in, best dressed! Our effpos facilities are available on the day.

There are sure to be some hidden treasures amongst this lot, so make sure you make it down to the Guild to check out the bargains.

Due to COVID restrictions, we can only permit so many people in the backyard at any one time, so please be patient if you need to wait before you buy!

A Touch of Glass
is published by the
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of Queensland

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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 mem-
bers).

Management Meetings: Alternate
months or earlier if required

Catherine creates 'pandemic paranoia'

Guild mosaics tutor, Catherine Conaty, has contributed to a quirky exhibition in Brisbane which addressed the global COVID-19 pandemic experience.

The exhibition, which ran during August at the Artisan Art Gallery, was called '*AboutFace*', taking inspiration from that very public symbol of the pandemic – the face mask.

Artisan invited the international craft and design community to make, remodel, rework, embellish and redecorate the mask as a creative reflection of the current global experience.

Catherine added "The images have been catalogued by the State Library as part of a 'pandemic' record. The exhibition is now finished, but it was wonderful to be a part of it!"



Pictured above: If the pandemic isn't scary enough, Guild mosaicist Catherine Conaty has had a little COVID fun by creating these two mosaic face masks entitled 'What lies above' and 'What lies beneath'. The masks featured in a Brisbane exhibition called 'AboutFace' at the Artisan Art Gallery.

Chris lights up

My family's motto this year has been "*Fix it up, Wear it out, Make do or Do without*".

So I decided to fix our old worn out light shades in the stairwell and give them a spruce up.

This is the result—five colourful cone-shaped lampshades at differing heights.

I used a special glue called Nano470 which is a really strong decorative glass adhesive. Catherine Conarty gave me that great tip.

Warm regards, Chris Scherer



Pandemic persistence pays off

After I completed a beginner's beadmaking class with Vicki Beldan in 2018, I continued to practice fortnightly at the Guild, once a fortnight on my day off work.

I then completed an intermediate course, and continued to practice. Beadmaking certainly does not come naturally to me, I find it a real challenge, but I persisted.

During the 2019 Christmas break, I was fortunate with the help of friends to set myself up to undertake beadmaking at home in my garage.



One of the fun challenges for Robyn was producing these encased flowers, which she had been trying to master for the previous six months.

Shortly after, the pandemic hit, and I was quite concerned about my mental health, being stuck at home on my own. Fortunately, I was lucky enough to be able to work from home, and I decided that this was an opportunity to focus and practice my beadmaking skills.

Fun challenges online

I joined the 'Beginning Lampwork Fun Challenges' on Facebook, a supportive international forum for beginners and hobbyists to participate in fun monthly challenges to hone specific basic skills. Everyone from beginners to advanced lampworkers is welcome to join and participate.

Guild member Robyn Jones has defied the pandemic blues by taking on some tricky beadmaking challenges. Here's her story..

The first month I enjoyed everybody's pictures of the work they had done. The second month was creating encased flowers, something I had been trying to master for the past six months. I took the opportunity to practice, practice and practice.



These structured flowers were the result of Robyn being prepared to 'give it a go'. Her persistence won her prize of the month!

My beads were not very good, although others were posting photos that were similar to mine. I had improved somewhat by the end of the month, although I didn't think they were good enough to enter the challenge.

By the end of the month I had improved, although still not great. I was brave enough to

post some photos, in the hope of some positive criticism, and I obtained a great deal of encouragement from others.

The following month's challenge was structural flowers, but I didn't think I would have any hope of completing these. I was still trying to make decent shaped beads let alone trying anything I had never done before.

I watched the videos over and over, and thought I had nothing to lose. It was all about learning after all, so I gave it a crack.

Winners are grinners

At the end of the month I thought, why not, there are worse beads than mine out there. So I entered the challenge, and lo and behold I was a winner! Perhaps it was more of a raffle than judged on skill, so I had to check three times, to make sure I had actually won.

The *Lampwork etsy store* based in Belgium had donated a prize of 'petal mashers'. I don't have many tools other than the basics, so I was ecstatic.

Jana, the store owner, said that it may take many weeks due to postage being so slow. It took twenty three days for my prize to arrive. I feel so lucky and blessed.

So, there has been some benefit with the pandemic. It has given me more time to practice and it just shows that it never hurts to give it a go.



Best wishes, Robyn Jones

Diane's practice makes perfect

The Australiana window pictured below is the first one that I have actually installed since doing my Beginner's Course in Leadlighting.

I started working on it in about September last year so it's taken me a long time!

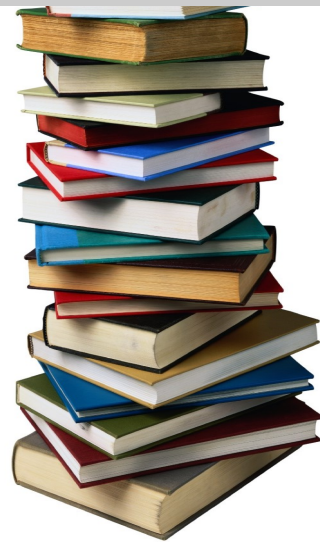
I wanted to practice, so my sister said she'd be happy to let me practice on a window for her kitchen.

She wanted something Australian so we settled on rainbow lorikeets and I drew up a design. She then said she'd love a possum peeking out so I added that in too.

It was a really challenging piece for me to do - especially the possum - but I loved it and it felt wonderful to have it finished.

I finally installed it in her kitchen and we can't wait to see the morning light painting vivid colours across my sister's kitchen.

Diane Holland



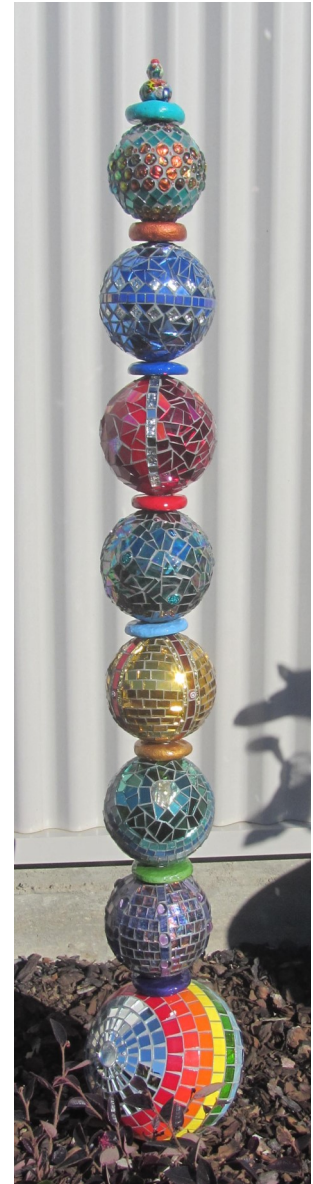
**Books, books, books!
Do you have any
Guild library books
that have overstayed
their welcome?
Please check your
shelves and return
any Guild books you
have finished with.**





The pandemic may have dampened our lives, but not our enthusiasm! There's plenty happening on the home front, as you can see by these impressive pieces created at home by our members.

Pictured (clockwise from above): Ruth displays her large Water Lily mosaic which will adorn her outdoor area; Barbara's colourful totem of mosaiced Styrofoam balls catches the sun in her garden; Barbara has also created these two beautiful fused & slumped platters; Cherie's dainty glass floral slipper could have come straight out of a Cinderella fairy tale.





Other activities by Guild members include (clockwise from above):

- 1. Lenore has made these striking hollow glass beads with shards, plus spacer beads, on a sterling silver neckwire, as an item for fund raising;*
- 2. John has hibernated, but is staying productive with a proliferation of copperfoiled lamps and candle-holders;*
- 3. Ian is working on an Art-deco style leadlight skylight for his kitchen, as well as dressing up his letterbox with a new mosaic street number;*
- 4. Katrina has been practicing her new copperfoiling skills with these attractive sun-catchers*





After hibernating for a time during the COVID-19 shutdown, Ken is back at the Guild, producing some more of his collection of copperfoiled ladies' faces. Using scrap glass, Ken experiments with different glass textures and colours to produce his bevy of beauties, created in the Cubist style. Lips, eyelids, neck bands etc are often added later with acrylic paints as a finishing touch.



We may not be able to fly around the world any more, but this edition of 'A Touch of Glass' takes you to some of the world's most significant glass wonders of the world.

1. Chicago's Tiffany glass dome is unquestionably one of the most spectacular ceilings in the Windy City—and perhaps the world. At around 12 metres in diameter, the colourful dome comprises around 30,000 individual pieces of glass, with each piece shaped like a fish scale.

2. The Avery Coonley Playhouse in Riverside, Illinois, features windows designed by American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. This design may have been inspired by a parade; the coloured glass simulates a haphazard, yet controlled, arrangement of balloons, confetti and flags.

3. The Chapelle du Rosaire de Vence (Chapel of the Rosary) is a small Catholic chapel located in the town of Vence on the French Riviera. Amid the stark white expanses of the small Dominican chapel, artist Henri Matisse's three sets of stained-glass windows are ablaze with the colours of the south of France: sunny yellow, deep green and the bright blues of the Mediterranean Sea.

