

# A TOUCH OF GLASS

Newsletter of the Creative Glass Guild of Queensland June 2022 Edition

## The President's 2022 catchup

Hi everyone,

**I hope you are all finding time and places to keep up your Glass work whilst our exciting renovation project is underway.**

Please take a look at the ideas in this newsletter about how you can keep in contact with Guild friends and still be creative.

### Creative sessions

Also look out for an email coming from me. I will be running some creative sessions at my home for members. I'd love to see you. No experience is necessary.

Thanks to Brisbane City Council, we hope to have a new legal height workspace downstairs soon. We have been very fortunate that the previous Committee led by Kevin Grace were able to negotiate with Council for this work to be done.

### Options galore

The new space will give us options for classes and/or members' time to be conducted simultaneously.

The Renovation sub-committee has discussed class requirements with tutors and collated a list of ideas.

The Committee is now working through the finer details of what we can achieve with the space available.

Agreement has been reached to move classes for Leadlight/Copperfoil, Mosaics and Fusing/



*It's high and dry! Our Fulcher Road premises are raised and ready for a concrete slab to be poured downstairs to provide a practical flood-free work space. The rotting timber posts have been replaced by shiny steel ones, and the upstairs work area is supported by some solid steel beams.*

Slumping downstairs to a newly created workshop space.

To address safety concerns the glass racks will also make their way downstairs, eliminating most of the glass 'traffic' on the newly-installed stairs.

### New workbenches plus

We are also looking at new workbenches, tutors storage, beginners project shelving, power points, etc etc. There is still a lot to do.

Our class timetables are all on hold until we can be certain that we will have the new workshop space available.

We had hoped the Mt Coot-tha

Auditorium would have a cancellation in October/November so we could run our 'Glass in the Park' event there.

### One day market event

As this seems less likely to happen as time goes by, we are planning a one day Market Event at the Guild where members can sell to the public.

More information to follow soon on dates etc, so that you can get the event into your calendar.

In the meantime, we'll keep you informed of renovation progress, and encourage you to keep creating beautiful pieces!

**Cheers, Chris**

## Get motivated and keep up your glass skills

Even though the Guild is closed for renovations, there is still a lot to see and do for Guild members to stay in touch...

### Tamborine Glassblowing

17 Nicolet Drive North Tamborine - 0437115779

Book at [www.tamborineglassblowing.com.au](http://www.tamborineglassblowing.com.au)

Get a group of 3 together and carpool to Mt Tamborine. Two options are available but you will need to book for the following activities:



**Blown Glass Baubles** - a short 1-1.5 hour workshop (9am-10.30am) @ \$220.00. Make 1-2 baubles and collect them the next day or have them sent out. The time delay is to allow them to cool and anneal properly.

**Glass Blowing Workshop** - 6 hour workshop (9am – 3pm) @ \$299.00. Learn history, basic techniques with assistance and support to make 3 pieces.

Your first piece is an exercise to help you familiarise with the tools and how molten glass behaves etc, then you will make a cobalt bowl and a glass, in colours of your choice.

If you want to make more than a day trip there's plenty of accommodation options at Mt Tamborine.

### Day out to the Mt Tamborine Galleries

Get a group of friends together, carpool and get some artistic and foodie inspiration by visiting a number of galleries and the shops on Long Road. Here's a taster of what you could find:

Margaret Goldsmith's Studio & Art Gallery in Bateke Road – Paintings and fused glass.

Capanart Gallery in Long Road – painted artworks.

Jewellery, handcrafted artworks and other hidden gems await you.

Looking for activities during our reno? Deb Gallon, Lyndall Davies and members activities coordinators have come up with a few exciting suggestions.

### Reduce, reuse, recycle – find inspiration and supplies at Reverse Garbage

Closer to home, head with a group of friends to see what the treasure trove, Reverse Garbage, 20 Burke Street Woolloongabba has to offer. You might find just the thing for your next artistic endeavour. While you are there take the time to admire Catherine Conaty's beautiful mosaic piece.

### Open House / Coffee Chats

We know that you don't always want to make beautiful art, sometimes you just want to talk about it and many other things. Part of being in the Guild is the social element. If you are comfortable to do so – why not open your house for a coffee chat with other Guild members, or, just invite a few friends around for a chat.

### Any other ideas?

Please let us know via email  
[courses@creativeglassguild.com.au](mailto:courses@creativeglassguild.com.au)

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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 members).

Management Meetings: Alternate months or earlier if required

## Message from Mary

**These are two of my recent fused glass projects. The murrine in the white dish is from Tabitha's glass emporium in Croatia.**

If any members are interested, they can contact them at <https://www.tabithasglassemporium.com>

Also do any Guild members buy frit (or interested in buying) from Val Cox in the USA?

She sells a great variety of coloured frit. Her website is [valcox.com](http://valcox.com) and she ships to Australia. If anyone would like to put an order in I'm happy to co-ordinate the order and share freight costs.

I'm also wondering if anyone would like to share a market stall with me? If anyone is keen, my email address is [maryberkermans@gmail.com](mailto:maryberkermans@gmail.com)

I probably don't have enough items to fill a stall so happy to share with someone.

**Regards, Mary Berkelmans**



## Wonders of Ancient Egypt

**It is believed that the Egyptians were among the first to use glass in their art and culture.**

As far back as 2500 BC, amulets and solid glass beads were made in Mesopotamia. About 1000 years later, the Egyptians began making glass from a mixture of silica-sand, lime and soda.

### Glass under cooking pots

One theory is that some Phoenician traders cooked their meals on the beach and natron in the fire left glass under the cooled pots the next day. Whether this is true or not, the Egyptians were inspired to make glass over open fires, then kilns.

In the Old and Middle Kingdoms, glass jewellery, amulets, little animal figures, mosaic stones and similar artifacts were produced.

### First glass vessels

But the first glass vessels were not made until the reign of Tuthmosis I in the New Kingdom, an innovation that probably came to Egyptians following their expansion into the Middle East.

The predominant colour of glass in Egypt's early history was pale blue, then they started experimenting with very bright colours for which they became renowned.

Egypt exported cylinder beads, faience, scarabs, vessels and glass ingots across the Mediterranean.

Beside amulets, beads and inlays, attempts were made to use glass in more ambitious projects. In Ancient Egypt, for example, glass was made by a method of core-forming and cold cutting.

### Glass blowing techniques

However, core-forming, which was an important glass making technique developed in Egypt, was abandoned due to the introduction of glass blowing techniques during the Roman Era.





## Irene has a 'make-it-happen' moment

**During all the 'will it happen/ won't it happen/when will it happen' period of uncertainty with proposed renovations, Covid stoppages etc, I was working on an unusual project.**

With the help of YouTube and a FaceBook help group, I taught myself to write a glass-related website—and made it happen!

### One tutorial ahead

I swear I had a stomach ache for most of the three months it took, and most of the time I was just one YouTube tutorial ahead of what I was doing, but I am pretty pleased with the results.

What makes my site a little different is that on it I am exchanging glass-related tutorials for a donation to cancer research at the RBWH where my husband was treated - specifically early detection by a simple spit test which is ready to go to trial (terms and conditions apply).

### Annealing made easy

As well as beadmaking tutorials, I have a tutorial which explains the process of annealing in everyday terms, and step by step instructions for creating an adjustable necklace using sliding knots.

As long as the cord can fit through the hanging loop or hole, any pendant or bead, self made or purchased, can be hung off this necklace.

I am about to add another general tutorial for wire wrapping a bead, again bought or self made, to elevate it to something special.

Please visit my website, [beads4research.com](http://beads4research.com) for full details of the tutorials, to learn about

the spit trial and to read about the ground-breaking discoveries that have been made at the RBWH.

**Best wishes,  
Irene Krieger**



*Pictured above is a selection of beads produced by Irene as part of her beadmaking tutorial. Below, Irene set up a sales display at last year's brekky breakup, with all proceeds going to RBWH research.*







'Operation Renovation' is on schedule to provide the Guild with flood-free floor space under our Red Hill premises. These pictures show progress to date. Clockwise from top left are the original building with sides and interior walls removed; the building is raised with temporary timber supports; the timber supports are replaced with steel posts; workmen install steel support beams; and finally, the old concrete floor has been removed and replaced with an innovative polystyrene foam base, ready for the concrete slab to be poured. We are hopeful of a mid-August move-in, when it will be all hands on deck. Watch this space!





## 'Hanging by a Thread' honours Afghan culture

**A number of our Glass Guild mosaicists have joined glass artists from across the world to create a significant textile inspired scarf mosaic.**

The long mosaic is designed to raise awareness of the plight of Afghan women and girls beyond the country's borders.

Deprived of education and work, Afghan women face many forms of violence, with their human dignity 'hanging by a thread' – which is the theme of this inspirational project.

### Many ethnic groups

Afghanistan is a diverse country with over fourteen ethnic groups who each have their own traditional dresses, which are beautiful and colourful.

They feature intricate patterns, rich colours, golden embroidery emblematic of Afghan culture.



An international collective of mosaicists was invited to draw inspiration from the colours, patterns and textures of these stunning traditional Afghan dresses to create a long scarf to honour Afghan culture.

All of the mosaics are 25cmx10cm in size, using smalti, stained glass, recycled glass or fused glass as the base materials.

### Catherine is coordinator

Guild mosaic tutor, Catherine Conaty, is coordinating the Queensland contributions to the

scarf, including pieces from Guild members.

If you are interested in checking out the various contributions from Queensland, the pieces will go on display during September (and perhaps October) at the Brisbane City Square Library.

### Official launch

Catherine is organising an official launch of the project at an event at the library at 10.30am on Saturday 3rd September. All members who have contributed pieces to the project are welcome to attend.

*Pictured below are mosaic pieces (before grouting) contributed to the 'Hanging by a Thread' project by Guild members. The colours and patterns used are typical of those used in traditional Afghan dresses.*



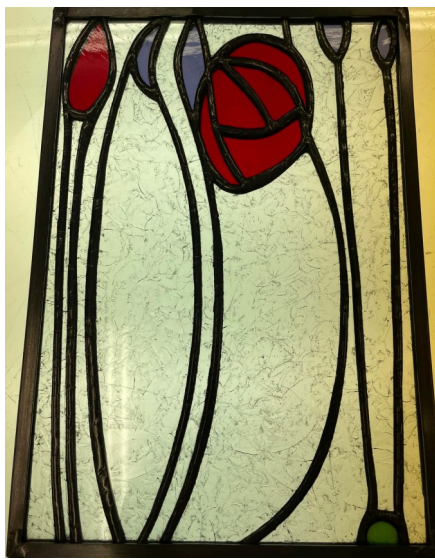




We may be in renovation recess, but there are still plenty of things happening in the glass world. There was quite a rush to finish projects before we closed the Guild's doors for Project Renovation, including (clockwise from top left): Karen's innovative copperfoiled terrarium; Denise's quirky lady with parrot mosaic, a Guild members' day out visiting Toowoomba creative outlets, and Amanda's iconic Brooklyn Bridge mosaic, complete with cables. Well done, everyone!







Other Guild members have been keeping their hand in during our reno pause. Pictured (clockwise from top left) are: Jan with her rose leadlight in the style of Charles Rennie Mackintosh; Lorraine with her sailboat mosaic; Lorraine Hibbert's barn mosaic; Stella's stunning rose vase mosaic; and April creating her 'lady with rapturous hair' copperfoil piece.

