

A TOUCH OF GLASS

Newsletter of the Creative Glass Guild of Queensland March 2024 Edition

Looking back - and looking forward

First of all, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Guild Committee for their contributions to keeping the Guild thriving.

To Vice President Kevin Grace, Secretary Katrina Jackson, Treasurer Deb Pym and Committee Member Annette McCann, I thank you.

To our tutors Jenny Keys, Dennis Reedy, Warren Collins, Kym Braithwaite, Katrina Jackson, Vicki Beldan and Catherine Conaty, thank you for continuing to inspire students and for giving them the love of glass art.

A special thank you

A special thanks to Catherine who is stepping away from her tutoring role after 10 years. She will be greatly missed. We have some new ideas for mosaic classes that we hope to implement soon.

To our volunteers who mow lawns, open the shop, give us a growing social media presence, publish our newsletter, maintain the library, assist with the annual Showcase, open for members' times, order stock, run the courses admin, look after our website and so many other things, thank you.

Your help keeps the Guild running like clockwork.

Our volunteers rule

As you know, the Guild runs mostly on voluntary effort. We could always use more help, so I want to ask you all to consider how you can volunteer, what you can offer. Your skills could be invaluable.

Both 2023 and 2024 have been busy with the following range of activities:

- Both upstairs and downstairs workshops running

The Guild's AGM was held on Monday 4th March, when outgoing President Chris Bell presented her annual report to members. Here, Chris highlights past events and future plans...



Incoming and outgoing: our newly-elected President, Scott McKeoch, with immediate past-President, Christine Bell (photo: Sally Jelbert)

classes at the same time on occasion.

- A new beadmaking studio, thanks to the efforts of Vicki and Lyndall who were ably assisted by a team of members. We are seeing an upturn in classes in this new space.

- Jenny and her crew have sanded down and refinished the workbenches upstairs.

- Dennis is redoing the light boxes to improve their functionality.

- The hanging of our Stage one of the kitchen splashback, and

- The building of custom furniture for the downstairs workshop.

We still have challenges ahead including how we could add a lift to the building to make both levels accessible to all. This is not a small undertaking and will require the Guild to apply for a grant to assist with funding. We will continue to tweak the workshop layouts to make sure we gain the most from our space.

Look out for wall-mounted TV screens in both workshops in

the near future. These will allow tutors to show clips from YouTube and elsewhere to their students—a valuable teaching resource.

We are also investigating some additional security measures including the installation of security cameras to try and keep the Guild as safe as possible.

I am stepping away from the Committee to focus on family and work, but I hope to be back in the future. Good luck to Scott and the new Committee.

Cheers Chris

2024 AGM Wrap-up

Many thanks to outgoing President Chris Bell and Vice President Kevin Grace for all their hard work over the past years. Both have been amazing contributors to the running of the Guild over several years and were instrumental in getting our renovation project underway, implemented and completed.

Welcome to incoming President Scott McKeoch, Vice President Annette Macan, Secretary Katrina Jackson, Treasurer Debbie Pym and Committee Member Sue Hutton. With a diversity of skill sets amongst the group, we believe the Guild is in for another great year.

Deb Pym alerted us to some financial changes coming in July 2024, with the Guild registering for GST. We have almost met the annual threshold of \$150,000 of earnings, and are now required to track and report our GST.

This will mean we will also have to start charging GST on items we sell and services we provide. We will look to minimise these increases for our members, and will let you know what's changing in due course.

We're small, but mighty effective

The Guild will also continue to undertake a full financial audit annually. Recent changes to the Incorporated Associations Act have altered the Guild to now be a 'small' association which requires only Financial Verification of our finances. This is a basic check by a financial professional to ensure the organisation keeps adequate financial records.

However, for peace of mind and the protection of everyone involved, we have determined that a full financial audit is preferred (ie a cross check of all transactions paid in and out by a qualified auditor).

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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

Thanks to all of our amazing volunteers who keep the Guild ticking along nicely. Without you we really are nothing.

Following our very successful 2023 Showcase, we will be considering how we can make the 2024 event even better.

And hopefully, we can fit in some glasswork projects in between!

**Best wishes,
Katrina Jackson
Secretary**

Meet your new Committee and Volunteer Coordinators

PRESIDENT -
Scott McKeoch

VICE PRESIDENT -
Annette Macan

SECRETARY -
Katrina Jackson

TREASURER - Debbie Pym

COMMITTEE MEMBER -
Sue Hutton

Course and Members' Activities Coordinators:
Lyndall Davies & Deb Gallon

Course Enrolments & Webmail Coordinator:
Robyn Jones

Showcase Coordinators:
Chris Bell & Deb Gallon

Librarian: Sue Gunter

Maintenance and Safety Coordinator: Ian Dymock

Membership Coordinator:
Katrina Jackson

Newsletter Editor / Marketing Officer:
Ian Dymock

Social Media Coordinator: Sally Jelbert

Stock Purchasing & Goods Receiving Officers: Denise Olsen & Chris Bell

Web Administrator:
Lyndall Davies

Website Editor: Cendrine McKeoch

Volunteer Coordinator:
April Avis

BVAC representative:
Vacant

MAANZ 2024 Symposium

The good news is the Mosaic Association of Australia & New Zealand (MAANZ) has announced it will be holding its 2024 Symposium in Geelong from 14 to 18 November.

The bad news is as of 23 February 2024, registrations are sold out. There is, however, a waitlist available, and interested parties are encouraged to register their interest in attending.

The theme of this year's event is 'Time & Materiality', based on the premise that there is no right or wrong way to express the concept of Time in a mosaic. This freedom of interpretation is an important part of being an artist. And it extends also to Materiality, the other half of the Symposium theme.

The Symposium will feature plenary sessions with an inspiring mix of Australian and international speakers, a Vendors' market, and a Salon and Quiz Night.



We showcase at Broncos FanFest

Our southern neighbours, the Broncos Rugby League Club, invited the Guild to participate in their annual FanFest, held on Sunday 11 February.

Katrina organised a marquee to display a selection of the Guild's wares on the Broncos oval, which was manned by several volunteer members. There was also a display of members' creations and demonstrations at our downstairs workshop.

Realistically, the hundreds of Broncos fans who attended the Open Day were probably more interested in meeting their rugby league heroes and grabbing their autographs.

However, the occasion did give us the opportunity to showcase our unique activities to a new audience, some of whom may just sign up for a glass course!



Hammered and smashed

Swiss visual artist Simon Berger has made a name for himself for pioneering art made by breaking glass with a hammer.

Reminiscent of sculptural techniques, a hammer is used to imprint the highlighted facial features into a sheet of safety glass.

An initially transparent support of the image, the pane of glass, becomes partially opaque. The controlled shattering of the glass creates fractures which are subject to the material's physical laws.

However, instead of collapsing into itself, the safety glass keeps the shards in place. These artworks fascinate by juxtaposing strength with fragility.

A pioneer of this technique, Berger's broken pieces evoke his fascination for faces, especially the structure of women's faces.

Through this method, the incidence of light is reflected by the fragments and cracks within the glass, making the artworks' surface gleam and glisten, and depending on the illumination, it seems as if the portraits themselves are glowing.

"Human faces have always fascinated me", explained Simon. "On safety glass, these motifs come into their own and allow beauty to emerge."

Pictured (from top): 1. Simon uses his hammer to smashing effect; 2. One of Simon's many female faces, entitled "Morphogenesis" at the Sculpture Garden Biennale in Geneva; and 3. Berger's portrait of a male face.



Beadmakers share & inspire

The International Society of Glass Beadmakers is pressing ahead with planning for its 2024 annual conference known as "The Gathering".

But this year, ISGB organisers have decided to conduct the gathering online, bringing together thousands of members of an international community of glass bead artists and enthusiasts.

With the theme "Flourish", the event will feature a full line up of diverse presentations, workshops and social activities to excite and inspire the community of flame workers worldwide

The online get-together, scheduled for 7-9 June 2024, will be of interest to all beadmakers, gallery owners, collectors, technical vendors and suppliers.

Through the power of the internet, participants will also be updated on new equipment, tools, supplies, and glass. Registration is open to all; however being a member of the ISGB gives you the opportunity for early registration.

Interested beadmakers should contact the ISGB on their website or email isgbgathering.org for more information.



A magnificent memorial mosaic

Our mosaics maestro, Catherine Conaty, was front and centre in January to share her insights into a magnificent memorial mosaic.

The Don Ross mosaic inside the World War II Gallery at Anzac Square & Memorial Galleries was commissioned as a memorial to the sacrifices made by men and women in World War II.

Over 140,000 small enamelled glass tiles were used in its creation.

Catherine discussed the creation, construction, reallocation and preservation of this astonishing artwork to an interested audience.

The work is rarely available



for public showing, and remains an important part of Anzac Square's history.

The artwork is revealed annually to coincide with the artist's birthday in January.

The Don Ross Mosaic is testimony to the artist's extraordinary commitment, creativity, ambition and passion, and represents one of the superb examples of Don Ross's body of work.

It's early in the year, but Guild members are back into it with a vengeance!

Two wonderful examples of our people's creativity are (right) this amazing and beautifully framed mosaic by Priscilla, entitled '*Seeds of Hope*'.

Illustrated below, Aimee hand drew the designs for her four leadlight panels, each of which depicts an example of marine life. She has combined the four individual panels into a unique and stunning window which showcases her creativity and craftsmanship.





Also pictured hard at work (clockwise from above): Beginner mosaicists Sophie and Leanne show off their finished pieces; Elaine has framed her leadlight rainbow lorikeet in a soft natural setting; Evert drew up plans for a colourful copperfoiled rooster, and Stella completed and framed this exquisite mosaic, adding contrast with four different colours of grout... just in time for International Women's Day!

