

# A Touch of Glass

Newsletter of The Creative Glass Guild of Qld July 2025 Edition

## A word from President Scott

**It has been some time since I had the opportunity to sit down and write to all of you.**

Although it may seem like we have had a relatively quiet period over the last three months, a considerable amount of work has taken place in the background.

As always, I would like to put out a special thanks to those members who continually volunteer their time and effort in managing the Guild.

The incredible amount of dedication that our people show continues to surprise me. A lot is asked and even more is given. Well done.

### **Supply price increases**

We have received advice from our key suppliers, Hartley Williams, that price increases will be implemented from 1 July. This is due to increases in prices that they have experienced from overseas suppliers coupled with increases in the cost of shipping, labour and running costs—costs that Hartley Williams can no longer absorb. We can expect average increases of 6 to 7 percent on all products from 1 July.

Cendrine and I enjoyed a four-week holiday in the US in May. It was spectacular to say the least. While abroad, we had the opportunity to meet with the Sales Manager from Hollander West, a US stained glass distributor.

### **US account established**

Hollander West has a very large array of glass that exceeds that available at stores in Australia e.g. Youghioghney, Bullseye, Uroboros, and dichroic glass. We were able to establish an account for the Guild and negotiated a rate that is far better than retail.



Chris Bell shows off her amazing array of fused Australian flowers that she is preparing for the September 'Spring Carnival' Showcase. See how you can help, pages 2 & 3.

It has been great to see the Beginner Mosaic courses commence as well as some other bespoke courses conducted, such as Pal Tiya. Hopefully we will be able to commence some sandblasting and etching training in the coming months as well. Courses continue to be full or close to full which is good news for the Guild.

The Finance Policy, which is required under legislation, will be circulated for comment and will be subsequently voted upon (TBC) at the next General Meeting on Sat 19 July.

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## The President's Word

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**I plan to conduct a training day for all tutors and volunteers on Sunday 10 August. Its purpose will be to train and revise members on the processes and procedures associated with their tasks.**

The Draft Administration Policy has been put out to Guild ex-Presidents for comments and it is anticipated that this policy will be implemented by the end of July.

Work on the Workplace Health & Safety policy has already commenced and, in the near future, we will look at producing a friendly induction video so that new members and students will be more familiar with Guild facilities and basic safety information.

### Prepare for future events

There are a few key events happening in the near future. The Showcase planning is well on the way now and Chris Bell and her team are busy putting together mosaic garden decorations as well as volunteers creating a leadlight/copperfoil spring flower display.

With luck, I will have completed my Flowering Lotus lamp and will have it on display; no promises though.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 19 July for a social evening and to vote on a few key decisions.

Take care and keep enjoying your craft.

**Best wishes, Scott**



## Help us to be Showcase-ready

### Join our groups to make a splash at this year's Spring Carnival Showcase.

Drop in to the Guild on any Monday evening or on Sunday 13 July to help make items for the Guild to sell at the event.

We've cut some new and fun acrylic shapes to mosaic and use as decorations at the Showcase, just like the before and after examples pictured above.

Now we need your help to funky them up! Join us on Monday arvo's and get creative!

**Monday Makers:** Weekly from 4.00pm– 9.00pm (and it's free!)

**Sunday 13th July** from 9.00am to 3.00pm



**Spring has almost sprung, the birds are singing, the flowers are blooming, and our 2025 Showcase at Mt Coot-tha Gardens Auditorium is looming.**

Showcase co-ordinator Chris Bell is seeking help from members ready to spring into action to create the following items:

- Copperfoil/Leadlight Windows. I'm looking for more

volunteers to make a window panel.

- Garden Stakes (Glass on Acrylic)
- Copperfoil Flowers
- Spring Carnival Greeting Cards
- Festive Christmas Decorations
- Make your own glass-on-acrylic mosaic – flowers, leaves, birds, or butterflies – for a massive group display!

After the Showcase, you'll get to take your piece home.

**Mark Your Calendars** – It's going to be Spectacular!

**Showcase 2025: Spring Carnival**

📅 Event Dates:

Set Up: Friday 26th September from 7.00am

\* Showcase Days: Saturday & Sunday, 27–28th September

\* Pack Down: Sunday 28th September from 3.00pm

**Donate Scrap Glass**

Got leftover coloured glass? We'd love to use it for our group mosaic projects to keep costs down.

A very special thank-you to Cheryl Van Eyk for her generous scrap glass donation.

You can help, too, by dropping off donations at the Guild marked: 'For Chris Bell' – and don't forget to include your name so we can thank you!

Let's make *Showcase 2025: Spring Carnival* a celebration of creativity, colour and community!

**Chris Bell**

**Native flowers blossom**

**A second series of Fused Australian Flowers Workshops held in June has proved to be a bloomin' winner!**

Conducted by tutor, Chris Bell, the 8 hour workshops are held over two consecutive Sundays, with participants producing an assortment of colourful designs.

**Intricate designs**

The intricate designs pictured on the right need a steady hand, combining the strengths of mosaics and fusing to produce some spectacular native flowers.

Keep a lookout on our website for future workshops – and be warned, they sell out fast!



# Stained glass techniques revealed

**I was recently in Belgium enjoying the weather, the people, the stained glass - and very much the chocolate!**

I spent some time wandering around the WW1 battlefields of northern France and Belgium, and along the way I checked out the stained glass in local cathedrals and memorials.

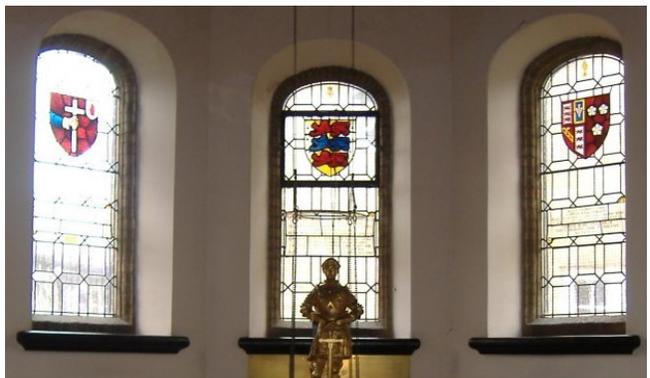
Some of the many spectacular windows I saw were at St Martin's Cathedral and St George's Memorial Church, both located in Ypres, Belgium.

## Ypres Cathedral rebuilt

The Cathedral was heavily damaged during WW1 battles in the region, and was rebuilt in pre-war Gothic style from 1922 to 1930. St Georges Church was completed by the British in 1929 to commemorate over 500,000 British and Commonwealth troops who had died in the three battles fought for the Ypres Salient. The Church features many plaques and memorials to army regiments and individuals.

## Techniques highlighted

I wanted to highlight the painting techniques in the memorial windows. Just using tracing black, the text has been done beautifully, probably the black letters first, then light stippling, then with a badger brush technique over all before removing the highlight outline.



Pictured: (top): St Martins Cathedral in Ypres was destroyed and rebuilt after WW1. Owen Ronalds' visit to the former battlefields revealed memorial windows (above and below left) in St Georges Church using special painting techniques. Of particular interest were windows incorporating hand-painted military and regimental insignia.

Other highlighted parts are the crown on one regimental insignia. There is linework and shading plus silverstaining and some small enamelled jewels, plus pearls all on one piece of glass.

This would take me many firings because I am no great artist. Good artists with just tracing black on clear glass can achieve much, and pearls better than on this example. Sometime this year, perhaps I can share my knowledge of these techniques with interested folk at the Guild?

**Kind regards, Owen Ronalds**

## New beadmaking tutors make their mark

**The Guild is excited to welcome two new Beadmaking tutors, Lenore Keogh and Wendy Mckean, to its ranks of talented art glass teachers.**

Both tutors are long time members of the Guild having been beginner students some years back. They have been working with the current tutor, Vicki Beldan, to deliver the 2 day Beginners Beadmaking Course and its extension sessions, and are now flying solo.

### Exceptional talent

Lenore is an exceptional beadmaker, quickly mastering any new technique. This talent has been recognised by experts on two occasions, with her work being chosen for exhibition in Venice alongside the world's best.

Wendy has found her passion in sculptural form, making beautiful tiny glass versions of Australian birdlife and other critters.

Both tutors have been regu-



Buddyup members in the Guild's Beadmaking studio. *Clockwise from left:* Vicki, Irene, Robyn, Wendy and Lenore. The latter two have joined the ranks of Guild tutors for the Beadmakers Beginners course, and are now flying solo following some initial direction by master tutor, Vicki Beldan.

larly attending the Guild's *Beadmakers Buddyup* Group which meets approximately monthly to endlessly discuss glass beadmaking, show progress or otherwise of members' work and eat lots of baked goods.

Thanks also to Robyn Jones who behind the scenes assists

in coordinating not just Beadmaking enrolments, but the other Guild classes on offer, and has also been volunteering in this capacity for years. Thanks also to Lyndall, Cendrine and others who do all the web work and publishing of information for our classes.

**Best wishes, Vicki Beldan**

### Beadmaking Buddyup advice & support group

The Beadmaking Buddyup group has become a great support and source of experienced advice for those attending. The group meeting dates are located in the Beadmaking tab of the Guild's website, and are free and open to both members and non-members.

Thanks must go to Irene Kruger for coordinating these meetups and their content for years now.

We do ask you to nominate your attendance as you would for enrolling in a class.



At the last meet up, Wendy demonstrated a new implosion bead technique which had us all intrigued - with the help of our new Oxygen Concentrator (thanks Committee),

Members of the Beadmaking Buddyup Group regularly donate their beads to *Bravery Beads*, a worldwide initiative that provides beads to children undergoing hospital treatment.

# Birds and butterflies shape up

**Three successful workshops were held in May/June to demonstrate and learn the art of 3D sculpting using Pal Tiya.**

Visiting tutor, Cheryl Hann-Woodlock, conducted three one-day workshops, guiding students with step-by-step instructions on how to use this unique substrate material.

Pal Tiya sculpts like clay, but is harder than concrete, making it perfect for outdoors and mosaic applications.

Keep a lookout for more planned workshops in the future.

Pictured right and below are Pal Tiya substrates and finished mosaic creations. The material can be shaped into various sculptures using an aluminium foil base.



### Alfoil to glass - Making the Butterfly



New 1-day workshop with Hann-Made Studios to be held in Brisbane.



## ‘Cracked’ podcast starts glass conversations

**If you are partial to podcasts, it’s worth catching up with ‘Cracked with Chevonne Ariss’, a stained glass podcast that takes a deep dive with today’s biggest names in modern stained glass from around the world.**

Artists have a frank and honest conversation with Chevonne about their style, legacy, their losses and wins, their journey into becoming a small business owner, and how they didn’t lose their minds getting there.

Five seasons and over 60 episodes are now available via all streaming platforms (only the first season is currently available on Youtube.)

Chevonne is an accomplished stained glass artist in her own right. In addition to installing large-scale works in many US homes and businesses, she has created around 120 stained glass works depicting the moons of Jupiter and Saturn.

To see more of Chevonne Ariss’ work, or the artists on her *Cracked* podcast, her Instagram is [@runaglassworks](#), and her website is [runaglassworks.com](#)



Pictured (above): Podcaster Chevonne Ariss and (right) one of the podcaster’s large scale leadlight panels ready to be installed in a home or business.



## Modern miracles in stained glass

**I am always on the lookout for unique uses of decorative art in my travels, and I wasn't disappointed when I came across these impressive works in Zurich, Switzerland.**

At the Fraumünster Church in Zurich, glass artist Marc Chagall created in 1970 a multi-faceted stained glass window series that is extremely colourful and expressive.

The highly spiritual work comprises five narrow, 50 square metre glass windows that were crafted in collaboration with a traditional glass painting studio in Reims, France.

Eight years later, Chagall added the rose window in the Church transept that depicts the stages of Genesis, and in the centre, Noah's Ark.

### Sigmar Polke masterpieces

Also in Zurich, glass artist Sigmar Polke created a series of 12 very different windows for the Grossmünster Cathedral, which were completed in 2009.

One outstanding feature of his group of seven Romanesque windows shows luminous mosaics of thinly-sliced agate, to produce pulsating blocks of back-lit displays.

By cutting the semi-precious stone into thin slices, light is allowed to pass through them and give them the appearance of brightly glowing walls.

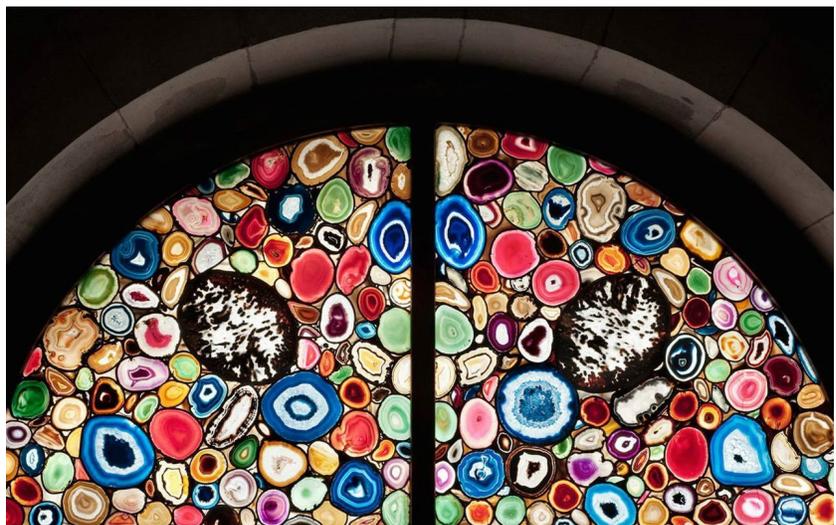
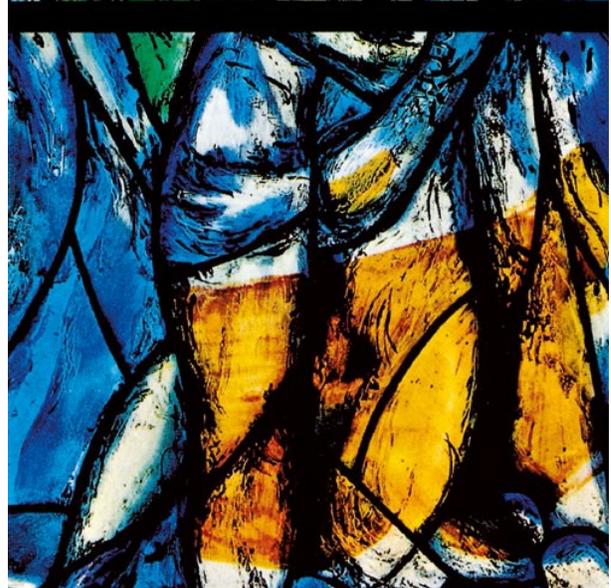
Sigmar Polke has been called 'the alchemist of art', for many of his images do not conform to the conventional making of stained glass.

I have been lucky to witness a lot of spectacular glass installations in my travels, but these modern glass masterpieces were truly inspirational.

### Best wishes, Ian Dymock

Pictured: (above right): One of Marc Chagall's magnificent stained glass windows, crafted in collaboration with a traditional glass painting studio in Reims, France.

Right: Glass artist Sigmar Polke created these windows using thinly-sliced agate, giving them the appearance of brightly glowing walls.



# Defibrillator is ready to rescue

**The Guild has acquired and installed a St Johns Defibrillator in the event of an emergency. It is located by the front door on the lower floor of the Guild.**

The defibrillator is designed for rapid response, analysing a patient's heart rhythm in seconds, and delivering a customised shock, but only if and when needed.

### User-paced voice prompts

A user-paced voice prompts guide rescuers step-by-step, ensuring they complete each critical task before moving on to the next one.

Integrated CPR instruction promotes optimal technique, providing confidence to trained responders and first time users.

Demonstrations and training sessions will be organised for any members interested in learning how to use the equipment.

Remember, it could be your life, or the life of one of your glass colleagues, that can be saved.



## Using Ai to cut corners

**We can never envisage a day when Artificial Intelligence (Ai) takes over from human creative roles, but used wisely, Ai could cut a few corners for glass artists.**

For example, Ai could be used to generate stained glass patterns and designs, allowing artists and hobbyists to create unique artwork without extensive design skills.

Ai tools can generate stained glass images from text prompts or by transforming existing photos into a stained glass style. This technology is simplifying the design process, making it easier for anyone to experiment with stained glass art.

Here are a few suggestions how Ai can be used in the glass arts:

### Generating Patterns:

Ai can create original stained glass patterns from text descriptions or by analysing uploaded images.

### Transforming Images:

Ai algorithms can convert photographs or other

images into a stained glass effect, allowing users to visualize how a design would look in glass.

### Exploring Styles:

Ai tools can be used to experiment with different stained glass styles, from traditional to modern, and to explore various colour palettes and design elements.

### Creating Unique Designs:

Ai can help artists and designers develop unique and intricate stained glass patterns that might be difficult or time-consuming to create manually.

### Accessibility:

Ai tools make stained glass design more accessible to people without specialized design skills.

### Efficiency:

Ai can significantly speed up the design process, allowing artists to quickly iterate on ideas and create multiple variations.

### Creativity:

Ai can inspire new design possibilities and help artists explore styles and techniques they might not have considered before.

# Around the Guild

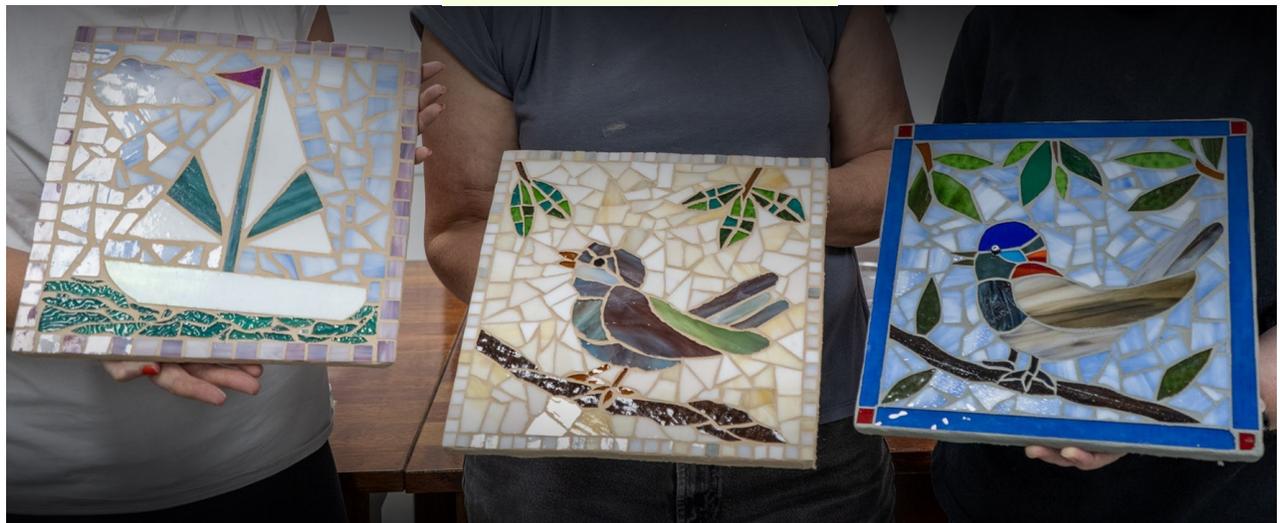


**PAL TIYA Workshop**  
Creating the form  
With foil

It's all GO at the Guild, with courses and workshops filling up fast. Outside of organised activities, members are doing their own thing on members' days in our well-equipped workshops. Hopefully we will see some of these amazing creations on display at September's Spring Carnival Showcase!



**PAL TIYA workshop**  
Creating the form  
with foil



**PAL TIYA Workshop**

Creating the foil  
armature to make the  
butterfly