

A Touch of Glass

Newsletter of The Creative Glass Guild of Qld October 2025 Edition

The President's Update

First and foremost, a big thank you to all those who volunteered their time and effort to make the 2025 Showcase another very successful event.

It was disappointing to miss it personally as it is always a highlight of the year.

To the Showcase sub-committee, led by Chris, what an incredible outcome that was built off your hard work and meticulous preparation. Take a moment to relax and enjoy the well-earned praise.

Cendrine and I have only just returned from a month away in Japan which was a great and very educational experience.

Cultural highlights

Despite a limited exploration of art throughout Japanese history, particularly during the power of the Shoguns, we enjoyed some amazing cultural aspects.

A definite highlight was the Music Forest Museum in Kawaguchiko, which houses an original Salvador Dali bronze statue of a "Rhinoceros Wearing Lace", the world's largest automatic music dance machine, and lo and behold, an original Tiffany Studios lamp.

Background business

The Management Committee has been focused on the Showcase over recent months, but in the background we have also completed the Financial Controls Policy, the Adopt an Equipment Register, and the Workplace, Health & Safety (WHS) policy.

In the coming weeks, we will be seeking volunteers to manage and maintain a piece of equipment over a 12-month period, and to fill a new position, being the Guild Safety Advisor.

Despite being relatively straightforward and easy, this role will be pivotal to meeting our WHS compliance and providing a safe and healthy environment for anyone who attends the Guild.

Sandblasting & etching course

Prior to departing on our trip to Japan, I had the pleasure of attending a trial sandblasting and etching course conducted by Warren. The revived course that Warren has put together is very professional and well-structured. It is fantastic that the Guild can offer this reinvigorated training back into the course calendar.

Well done Warren, for outstanding work.



Some of the Guild's Showcase team celebrate another successful event, which proved to be a great opportunity for members to display and sell their glass creations, and promote the Guild's unique products and services. Roll on November, 2026!

On 10 August, we conducted a staff training day. The purpose of the day was for tutors and key staff to come together and align our thoughts and ideas on key topics, including stock ordering, selling of stock, WHS, assessing competency, courses costings, and maintenance and equipment issues.

The session was very well received by all who attended and it is something that I will program into the calendar on a biannual basis to ensure synchronization across key staff continues.

New safety information

You should have all received the first of a regular WHS email designed to provide new safety information, or to refresh you in your own knowledge.

I urge you to have a quick read of the emails and not disregard the information; it might just make you think twice before performing something that could harm yourself or others.

Healthy course bookings

There is a continued high public interest in the courses that the Guild offers, and programmed courses are fully booked into the mid-term future. This is a good problem to have but it does come with its challenges.

Cont over page

President's Report

cont from page 1

One of the key tenets of our organisation is to pass on our knowledge and skills to others through our courses, to ensure our craft continues.

I thank you, Lyndall, for your contribution in this area amongst all the other areas that you provide your assistance in.

You have been the backbone of the courses coordination, costings and providing tutor assistance and information when needed.

It is fantastic that Beth has volunteered to take over as the new Course Coordinator and I look forward to working with you, Beth. Again, thank you Lyndall.

Kevin has been working hard to put together an application for works for a grass reinforced pad at the front of the Guild and for the installation of solar batteries.

It is my pleasure to announce that both have received support and approval from Council and we are proceeding with both initiatives. Kevin is leading both projects; a huge shout-out for your efforts here, Kevin.

I look forward to seeing you all on 13 October for our General Meeting. As always, take care and keep enjoying your craft.

Regards, Scott

Published by the Creative Glass Guild of Queensland

64 Fulcher Road, Red Hill Qld
PO Box 14, Ashgrove Qld 4060

General enquiries:
info@creativeglassguild.com.au

Course enquiries:
courses@creativeglassguild.com.au

T: (07) 3369 7322
(phone not always manned)

Website: 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

Showcase success story

We enjoyed another huge success with Showcase 2025, with takings exceeding \$25,000.

After costs, the Guild made a profit of \$3,482, sourced from Guild sales of fused Christmas decorations, cards and mosaic acrylic shapes, along with entry fees and sales commission.

Exhibitors were happy, too, with 846 items sold over the weekend.

Chris Bell—the quiet achiever

Under the enthusiastic direction of Showcase co-ordinator, Chris Bell, Guild team members put in a great effort to make visitors welcome and ensure the success of this special event.

All in all, the Showcase proved to be an excellent promotional activity to take the Guild's name, products and reputation to the wider community.



Chris Bell (pictured above) has been coordinating the Guild's annual Showcase for around 10 years (maybe more, but who's counting?)

Her guiding hand has been evident in the smooth conduct of our annual event, and her calm demeanour has inspired the Showcase team to get on with it, with minimum fuss.

Chris was presented with a special gift in front of an appreciative Showcase team for a decade of dedication and enthusiasm - which included organising all those workshops producing hundreds of items for sale for Guild proceeds.

Chris is still going to be around, but will hand over the reins to a new Showcase coordinator for when it all happens again in 2026.

Next year's event takes place on the weekend of 14-15 November, and the theme is 'A Suburtn Christmas', so think about how you can contribute. More photos over page..



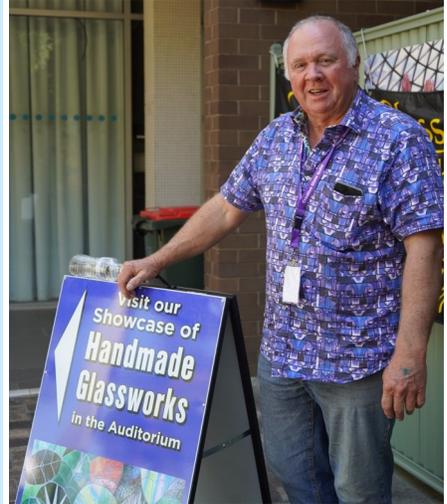
A great spirit of teamwork and camaraderie was in evidence wherever you looked at the 2025 Showcase. There were smiles all around as members welcomed visitors and shared their interest and expertise.





Everyone had a role at Showcase 2025, and visitors were quick to point out the welcoming atmosphere. Many thanks to all members (and partners) who contributed.

Again, special thanks to Sally Jelbert for her superb photos and great Instagram and Facebook postings to promote our Showcase.



Mosaic magic comes to Brisbane

Brisbane mosaicists will have the opportunity in 2026 to join a vibrant celebration of mosaic art, community, creativity and education, not to mention lots of fun!

The Mosaic Association of Australia and New Zealand (MAANZ) is hosting the International Mosaic Symposium in Brisbane next year from 8 to 11 October.

This is a fantastic opportunity to attend a world class mosaic event in your home town.

Guild member and mosaic master, Catherine Conaty, is coordinator for the event, which has a theme of *Fragments & Flow*. This describes the contrasts and connections inherent in mosaic practice, from fractured pieces to fluid forms, and from individual artistry to shared experience.

Attendees will join artists, educators, thinkers and mosaic lovers from around the world for four unforgettable days of learning, inspiration, social connection, and creative exploration.



Highlights Include a diverse lineup of inspiring international and Australian speakers and workshop presenters in mosaic and the arts.

A vendor marketplace will display tools, materials, adhesives, substrates, and more from specialist mosaic suppliers, including demonstrations.

Also on offer will be an exclusive pre-symposium mosaic workshop tour with international artists — a rare chance to learn from the best.

More details are available on the MAANZ website.

First aid comes first

The Guild has added some new first aid facilities in the interests of members' health and welfare.

In addition to the AED (defibrillator) downstairs, we have installed wall-mounted first aid kits and wall eyewash stations both downstairs and upstairs. These are in addition to the green portable first-aid kits.

Recording usage

When using contents from the first aid kits (other than a band-aid), please detail what you have used on the usage sheet located inside or underneath the kit. That way, we can ensure that we can restock items when necessary.

Your vision matters

A glass eye injury, especially when a fragment penetrates the eye, is a serious medical emergency.

It is crucial to seek immediate medical attention to prevent

further damage and potential vision loss.

Do not attempt to remove the object yourself, as this could cause more harm.

Immediate actions are:

1. Do not rub the eye
2. Flush the eye
3. Cover the eye
4. Seek immediate medical help

Wearing of eyewear

Wearing glasses, either safety or vision improvement, will help prevent injury to your eyes when working with glass.

Whatever you are doing at the Guild or at home, cutting, nipping, grinding, soldering, doing flamework or using chemicals, glasses are an essential item to help keep your eyesight safe.



Even if you are observing or are in close proximity of glass-work activities, the wearing of glasses is a mandatory requirement of the Guild.

Britain hosts festival of glass

If you're contemplating a trip to Britain any time soon, why not plan it around the 2026 International Festival of Glass, which happens in north-west England from August 27–31 next year.

This biannual festival celebrates all things glass with masterclasses and exhibitions, including the British Glass Biennale, among many other glass-related activities.

The Festival will be centred in the town of St Helens, halfway between Liverpool and Manchester, making it accessible for tourists and glass enthusiasts alike.

Glassmaking history

St Helens has a rich history in glassmaking, with early glassworks established in the late 17th century. The industry boomed in the 19th century, with the Pilkington company leading such innovation as the world's first continuous regenerative furnace and the revolutionary float glass process.

A visitor centre known as *The World of Glass* has been established in St Helens to promote the origins of glass, contemporary glassmaking, and features live glassblowing demonstrations.

The International Festival of Glass will bring together an international community of glass artists and enthusiasts, featuring high quality exhibitions, international masterclasses, as well as artists' presentations and demonstrations.

The flagship British Glass Biennale is now established as the largest show of contemporary glass in the UK.



Stella shines into the light with leadlight

Year 12 student, Stella McCathie, has produced an amazing leadlight piece with a little help from the Creative Glass Guild.

Stella used the Guild's workshop to complete her project, which was entitled 'Into the Light', portraying fungi releasing spores.

Stella is a student of the Queensland Academies Creative Industries (QACI), a selective entry independent state high school attracting a diverse range of students with shared attributes and interests.

Students study towards an [International Baccalaureate \(IB\) Diploma](#), an internationally recognised pre-university level qualification, enabling learners to work toward achievements based on merit in a non-competitive environment.

Well done, Stella!

Temporary closure of Guild driveway

The Guild driveway will be out of bounds for the next few weeks to accommodate some excavation and ground works.

This means that no vehicles will have access to the grassed parking lot next door until around mid-November.

From Monday 20 October, vehicles may be parked on the lawn behind the Guild and along the concrete driveway. However, this will be subject to contractors' requirements to store soil, turf etc.

The work involves excavating soil and gravel from the Guild driveway, then geohex pavers will be laid and filled with loam. After that, turf will be laid and watered for a period of three weeks until the lawn is established.

Parking is available at the Broncos from 10.00am daily for Broncos members (it's \$2 a year, or \$5 for 3 years – worth the investment!)



The 'before' photograph shows the site of proposed driveway works, which will extend around three weeks.

Alternatively, on-street parking if you're lucky or behind the bowls club if you enjoy a stroll. So a relative inconvenience for a few weeks, but the finished product will be well worth the wait!

Subiaco shines with leadlight splendour

Could the Perth suburb of Subiaco be home to one of the world's best collections of historic stained glass and leadlight?

Subiaco art collector, Thomas Murrell, thinks so, and is on a mission to document the stained glass and leadlight treasures preserved in the windows of homes across the suburb.

Historic Fairview House

Mr Murrell, who owns the historic *Fairview House* in Subiaco, said stained glass was the 'original form of street art', but had been historically overlooked and undervalued.

"Subiaco has one of the best preserved collections of stained glass and leadlight in the world and that is because of the gold boom," he said.

"During the gold boom of the 1890s, 1000 people a week

were coming through Perth to make their fortunes on the Kalgoorlie goldfields.

"There was a very intense period of building from the 1890s to the 1920s, and the people who were commissioning these homes wanted to express their middle class wealth through ornamentation."

Leadlights removed

Mr Murrell said when the nickel boom of the 1970s hit, many leadlights were removed from homes in favour of modern styles, with some buried in backyards, broken or melted down.

"Despite their visibility and beauty, the majority of leadlight is unsigned, so the stories and talents of their creators remain hidden to the general public," he said.

Pictured is one of the many leadlights adorning old Subiaco homes.

