



A Touch of Glass

Newsletter of the Creative Glass Guild of Qld

December 2025 Edition

Seasons Greetings to everyone

First and foremost, I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a fantastic year ahead in 2026.

The Guild, as usual, has embraced this time of year. We have seen some pretty outrageous clothing worn by our members and students at some of our Christmas workshops and other activities. Well done.

As the year closes out, I have reflected on some of the achievements by our members and groups of members.

We have certainly had a busy year with another very successful Showcase, small building projects, bespoke courses, and even a new look for the front of the building.

Calling all volunteers

I want to encourage all members to participate though volunteering where you can. Without volunteers, the Guild would not be what it is.

The promotion of the Guild as a professional organisation made up of members that share the same passion is key to our success. Keep reaching out to those that you know and encourage them to sign up for a course.

Grand Masters reign

I had great pleasure in bestowing "Guild Master" upon Denise Olsen and Chris Bell at the Guild Christmas Party. Their individual and collaborative contributions over many years is beyond reproach and I thank you most sincerely. Also, thanks to Lyndall Davies for your notable contributions over such a long time.

Our final newsletter

Some of you may not be aware that this will be the last Newsletter for the Guild. As we move with the times, we will push our messaging and promote our art and news through more modern means.



*Hearty congratulations to Christine Bell and Denise Olsen, who were awarded **Guild Master** status earlier this month for their significant contributions and dedication to the Guild over many years. Well done, worthy recipients!*

To Ian Dymock, thank you for your many years as the Editor and the publishing of 59 newsletters dating from June 2011. A great effort.

Christmas is always a special time and I hope that you all get an opportunity to catch up with family and friends, enjoy a great meal and give yourselves a bit of a rest from the hum-drum of life.

Create a masterpeice

Of course, I hope you find the time to get stuck into a glass project and create something exquisite.

Thank you for your support throughout the year, keep safe over the Christmas and New Year holiday period, and I look forward to catching up with you all next year.

Regards Scott

Bumper Final Edition

The end of an era... and the start of another

After 14 years and 59 newsletters later, I'm hanging up the quill.

It has been an interesting journey, cataloguing the recent history of the Guild through our members and their stories—and there have been hundreds of them.

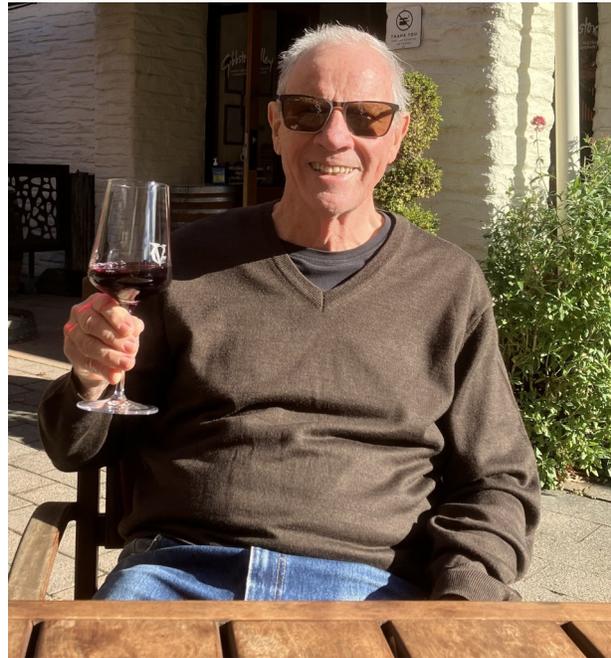
But it's time to call time on our newsletter, as people are increasingly sourcing their news and views from all over, mostly from social media.

So after this final edition, Guild news and events will be relayed via our website, our Facebook page, and our Instagram site. Along, of course, with our very newsy and topical emails from Secretary Katrina.

Please indulge me in this edition as I take a trip down memory lane, and relive some of the highlights (and lowlights?) of the past 14 years—events and occasions that have shaped the Guild as we know it today.

I thank members for their many and varied story contributions which have added colour and depth, and in particular Lyndall, who has helped me with researching our history.

Specifically, I thank our past (and current) Presidents, who have always been able to come up with a timely President's Report.



I'll finish with a quote from Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens' classic novella, 'A Christmas Carol':

I am light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am merry as a schoolboy, I am giddy as a drunken man. A Merry Christmas to everybody! A happy New Year to all the world!

Ian Dymock (Past) Editor

Date Claimer

Christmas Closure:

Tuesday 23rd December to Sunday 11th January 2026 (No personal work during this period please—we're stocktaking!)

Next General Meeting: TBA
(7.00pm Mondays on Zoom)

AGM: Saturday 7th March 2026
4.00pm—6.00pm at the Guild

Next Showcase: 14th & 15th
November 2026
Theme: 'A Sunburnt Christmas'

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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

Our Guild: here's a brief history

Long time Guild member and former tutor Barry Richters clocked up a remarkable 42 years with the Guild in July this year – this is his story about how it all came about:

“Recently when sorting out some old documents, I found my original receipt and my acceptance to the Beginners’ Leadlight Course, dated July 1983.

Classes were organised by Ithaca TAFE, and courses were held under the church hall in Oleander Drive, Ashgrove.

I remember completing my beginner’s panel, and it is interesting to note that we mixed our own putty, and we were not made aware of grinders until after we had completed our initial panel!

Confidence gained

During the next few years, I was introduced to copperfoil lamp-making, acid etching (a very dangerous pastime), sand blasting and slumping – and I gained confidence in all of these techniques as we progressed.

As the interest in leadlight etc grew, the Guild was able to become strong enough to stand alone, no longer needing to be attached to Ithaca TAFE (as I recall, the Government paperwork was huge and complicated!)

Move to Fulcher Road

I served on the Committee for seven years, holding various positions. In 1994, the Guild acquired the present clubhouse in Fulcher Road, and we made the big move into our new location.

Over the years, we experienced periods of high and low membership and have benefited from numerous artistic and talented people as members.

I have enjoyed immensely my 42 years in the Guild, and I have been excited about all the latest developments and future plans.”

Best regards, Barry



Pictured: The Guild’s progress through the ages. At the top, the Guild takes over the old Ithaca Scouts Hall in 1994, after moving from its original premises established in 1979 under the church hall in Oleander Drive, Ashgrove. The centre photo from June 2022 shows our premises raised and ready for a concrete slab to be poured underneath, and finally, our finished building resplendent with gardens and fresh new lawn today. How lucky are we!



Some of the Guild's longer-serving members recall with fondness a handful of members who made a significant contribution to the fabric of the Guild, and have since passed on.

We would like to acknowledge the parts played by (pictured from L to R above) the late Jim Reynolds, Dr Farouk Ameer and Graham Rampton.

Each was a mentor to many of our members over many years. Their wise counsel, positive demeanour and unfailing humour were sadly missed after their passing.

In addition to being masters at their glass crafts, they contributed significantly as volunteers in a variety of special ways. Lest we forget.

The COVID crisis: how we survived

Despite uncertainty over government mandates, on-again, off-again lockdowns and cancelled courses, the Guild managed to stay operational during the COVID crisis, albeit in a limited capacity.

Guild member Robyn Jones defied the pandemic blues by taking up some tricky beadmaking challenges.

This was her story back in Sept 2020.

"After I completed a beginner's bead-making 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

Persistence pays off

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.

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.

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.

From early 2020 to the end of 2021, the COVID pandemic played havoc with the Guild's day-to-day operations, along with forced cancellations of our annual Showcase.

But Guild members took it into their own hands to come up with some creative ideas to keep active during this challenging period.

Everyone from beginners to advanced lampworkers was welcome to join and participate. 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.

Practice makes perfect

I took the opportunity to practice, practice and practice. 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 did not 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.

Structural flowers challenge

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!

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

Oh, come all ye Christmas tree foilers

A group of copperfoil enthusiasts gathered together again this year to produce some glassy gift ideas.

Under the direction of tutor Jenny Keys, participants in the Copperfoiled Christmas Tree Workshop created self-standing Christmas tree table decorations—and dressed for the occasion, having heaps of fun along the way.



Lifetime Achievements

President Scott took the opportunity at our recent Christmas function to present five Lifetime Achievement Awards, in recognition and appreciation of members who have retained their Guild memberships for ten continuous years, and have demonstrated a dedication to the Guild and to their art.

Lifetime Award recipients were Ruth Johnstone, Denise Brown, Ann Bullen, Robyn Jones and Alexandra Winter.

Congratulations to all concerned!



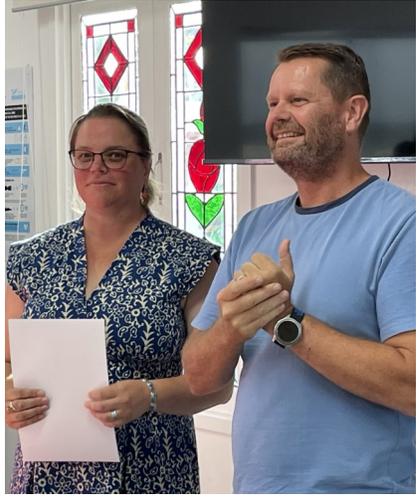
Pictured receiving her Lifetime Achievement Award is 10 years member Ruth Johnstone, with President Scott and Secretary Katrina looking on.

Christmas knees-up for Guild members



It's party time!

Around 40 members attended our annual Christmas get-together to celebrate the festive season on 6 December. The occasion was also marked by the presentation of Lifetime Membership Awards, along with Guild Master Awards to Christine Bell and Denise Olsen. Congratulations to all!



Animals announce the miracle of Christmas

One of the most fascinating visual interpretations of The Nativity of Christ can be found in a small Norman church dating back to 1170, and located near Oxford, England.

Despite the church's age, it features a modern leadlight window created in 1982 by English stained glass artist, John Piper. It was subsequently gifted to St Mary's Church near Oxford in 1995.

Although Nativity scenes have been depicted in churches for thousands of years, the artist's unique treatment does not show the traditional baby Jesus in a manger, but rather shows a cast of animals announcing his birth in Latin, their respective utterances echoing the natural sounds they make.

For example, "Ubi, ubi" sounds like the hooting of an owl, and "Christus natus est" has the same rhythm as "cocka-doodle-doo."

The conversation depicted on the window runs as follows:

Rooster: *Christus natus est* (Christ is born)
 Goose: *Quando? Quando?* (When? When?)
 Crow: *In hac nocte* (On this night)
 Owl: *Ubi? Ubi?* (Where? Where?)
 Lamb: *Bethlem! Bethlem!*

The theme of animals announcing the nativity dates back to the Middle Ages, to a legend that says that animals became articulate on Christmas Day.

Variations of this legend have been preserved in medieval carols written in Italian, Portuguese, French and English, and in wall paintings and woodcuts.

And according to the owl, the finished artwork is a real 'hoot'.



How green is our lawn!

After a couple of months of tender care, the Guild's front lawn is looking exceedingly healthy, thanks to some TLC from Kevin Grace.

Underneath all that grass are car tracks comprising interlocking plastic pavers which are designed to support regular vehicle traffic, and at the same time provide soil and turf stabilisation.

Now that access to next door's carpark has been restored, please remember to park facing the road, so as not to create reflections to the bowlers, who in fact own the piece of land we park on.



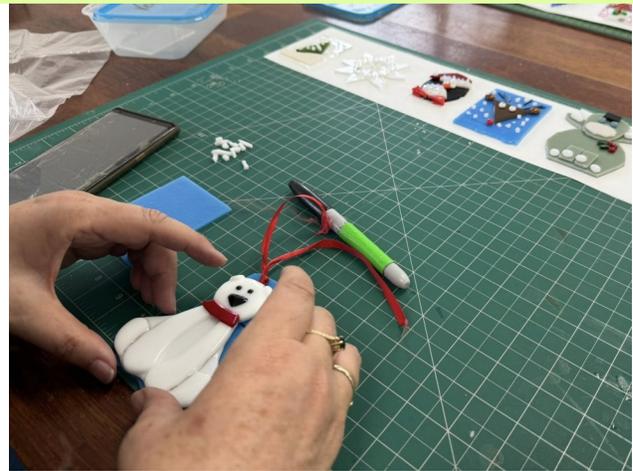
Pictured left are labourers Kevin and Ian supervising the new works, and (above) Kevin watering in the new turf.

'Tis the season to be decorative

Getting into the Christmas spirit with some glassy gift ideas, tutor Christine Bell hosted a **Fused Glass Christmas Decorations Workshop** for an enthusiastic group of devotees.

Participants chose from a number of themed designs to work on, or brought their own design ideas with them.

The result was a sparkling array of decorations which, after firing, the group was able to take home along with the “bibs and bobs” to decorate them.



Glass etching made easy

Guild tutor, Warren Collins, has completed another **Beginners' Sandblasting & Etching** course, teaching students how to etch simple shapes, text or designs onto glass surfaces.

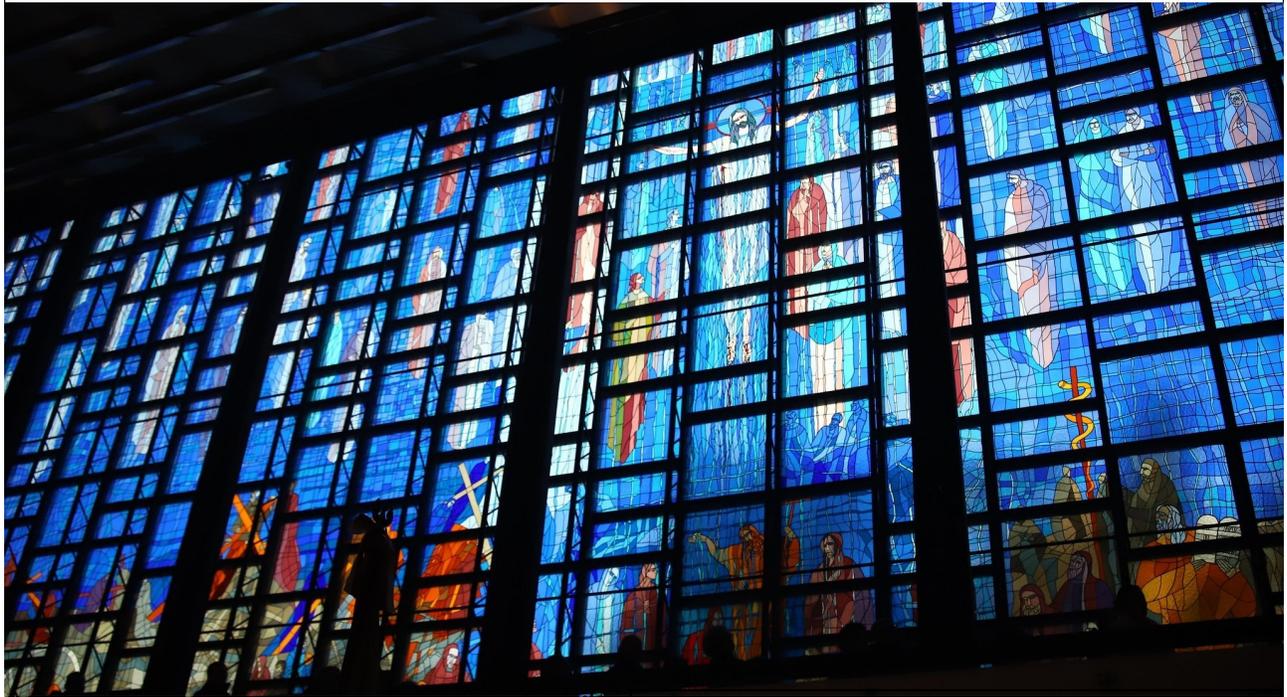
Participants learnt how to prepare glass, safely use and care for the sandblaster and air compressor, and apply a simple stencil using resist vinyl.

At the end of the course, students came away with the skills and knowledge to incorporate sandblasting into many different facets of the glass arts.

Finally, they were happy to take home a unique etched bottle, along with other test pieces created in the course.



Is this the world's biggest stained glass window?



They do things BIG in Krakow, Poland, including a claim to the world's largest monumental stained glass window in a single installation.

Measuring a massive 426 square metres, it was consecrated in 2024 at the Church of Jesus the Good Shepherd, depicting biblical scenes with a resurrected Jesus as its centrepiece.

Basketball court size

Designed by renowned Polish sculptor and illustrator, Wincenty Kućma, the stained glass window consists of 27 vertical sections that cover the size of an average basketball court, making it a significant modern addition to Krakow's rich stained glass tradition.

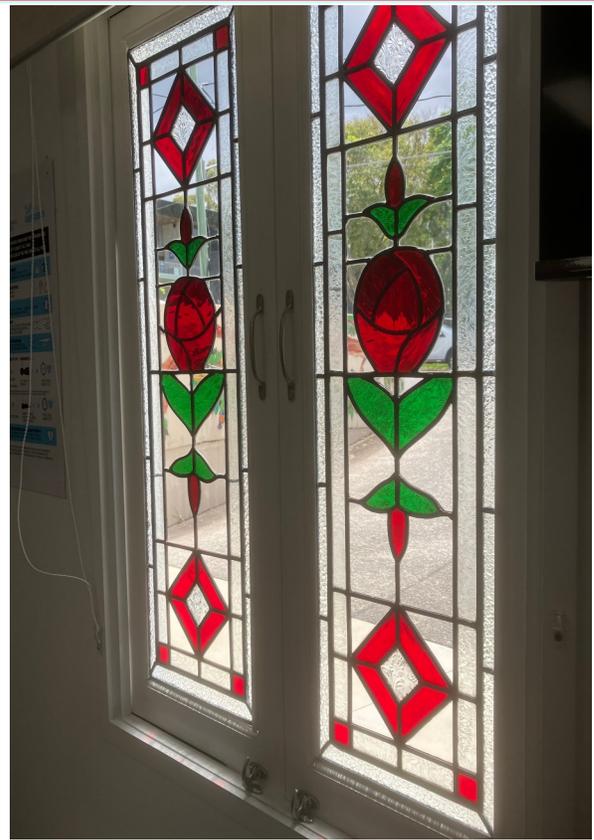
Kraków is already home to renowned examples of stained glass, including the famous *God the Father – Arise* work by Stanisław Wyspiański in the Church of St. Francis of Assisi. The city also hosts a stained glass museum dedicated to the history of the art form.

World's tallest stained glass

The record for the world's tallest stained glass piece was held by the Ramada Hotel in Dubai. Measuring 41 metres high by 9 metres wide, the artwork was unfortunately dismantled when the hotel was pulled down. It remains in storage for a revival at some future date.

Pictured above is the basketball court-sized stained glass window claimed to be the world's largest. A smaller segment is shown below, along with what was the world's tallest stained glass installation.





Around the Guild

Things have quietened down for the Christmas break, but we can reveal a few things are still happening as members finish off their projects. Pictured (clockwise from top left) are

1. Evert completing his intricate copperfoiled lamp,
2. Our new leadlight front windows downstairs, courtesy of a donation and some tweaking from Ian,
3. Kevin's art deco style window, the second to be installed in his Napier NZ house,
4. Michelle participating in the Copperfoiled Christmas Tree Workshop, and
5. Members preparing for the Fused Glass Christmas Decorations Workshop. Enjoy your break!



Living piece of art lives again

Boasting more than 80 panes of stained glass, Thomas Murrell's gracious *Fairview House* in the Perth suburb of Subiaco glistens with colour when lights are turned on at night, enabling passers-by to enjoy the beauty of its ornate glass panels.

Fairview House was built in 1915 by John Kennedy, a Scottish immigrant and engineer who viewed his home as a 'trophy house'.

The engineer expressed his middle-class prosperity through stained glass, which was prevalent in the Perth suburb in the early 20th century.

Superb collection

The home features one of Subiaco's finest collections of stained glass, including antique and modern panes added during the home's renovation.

Original glass panels in the front door are decorated with Scottish-inspired motifs of roses and irises, while in the grand living room, a large daybed is framed by a magnificent stained glass bay window.

Made by Montgomery and Grimbley in the late 19th century, the seven-pane window was salvaged from a home in Perth's up-market Peppermint Grove.

Hand-painted glass panel

Other additions to *Fairview* include a striking 1880s hand-painted glass panel from renowned Sydney studio Falconer and Ashwin, and a piece by Perth stained glass artist Kim Fitzpatrick that includes elements of Thomas Murrell's family emblem and motto.

"The beauty of glass is that it's like a living piece of art because of the direction of the light and the refraction – it really is stunning," says Mr Murrell.



Pictured (above) Art collector and owner of Fairview House, Thomas Murrell, with some of the spectacular stained glass panels which feature in the home.

Pictured left is art restorer Kim Fitzpatrick who was commissioned to restore many of the older leadlight panels in the 1915 house.



*Wishing all our
members, friends and
Guild family a very
merry Christmas and
a safe and enjoyable
2026*