

# A TOUCH OF GLASS

Newsletter of the Creative Glass Guild of Queensland March 2019 Edition

## The President's 2018 Report

**Having taken up the reins as Guild President in May 2018 in the absence of any nominations for President at the March 2018 AGM, I recognised the need to 'futureproof' the organisation.**

For this reason, I am particularly heartened by the preparedness of Guild members to step forward for 2019 management committee positions and for other roles.

### **Members our lifeblood**

As a member-based body, Guild members are the lifeblood of our organisation, firstly by providing a pool of volunteer resources to manage, operate and maintain Guild activities, and secondly by contributing to income through membership fees, which earned \$12,800 for Guild coffers in 2018.

With the addition of 20 new members, membership increased to 140 by the end of 2018, which I believe is a Guild record.

Fifteen of our members achieved the status of Lifetime Members, each with over 10 years of continuous membership.

Following the introduction of 3-month trial memberships in February 2018, 23 people took up the offer, of whom 15 have followed up with full annual memberships, while 5 are still trialling until March 2019.

The majority of members live in



**Pictured:** (L-R): Newly-elected Guild President, Kevin Grace, Immediate Past President, Jan Bimrose, and 2019 Treasurer, Katrina Jackson. Other Committee members elected at the 2019 AGM are Joyce Arnold (Vice President), Caroline Page (Secretary), and Jan Bimrose (Committee Member).

Brisbane and surrounds, but there are also members in the Sunshine Coast/Maleny and Toowoomba areas, as well as northern and southern New South Wales.

### **Our Tuition and Courses**

Tuition and courses fees contributed not only a healthy \$21,522 to our bank balance, but also provided immense satisfaction to attendees, through delivery of 53 courses and workshops to 257 participants, compared with 240 course enrolments in 2017.

A variety of courses and workshops was offered, covering bead-making, fusing and slumping, leadlight and

copperfoil, mosaics, and sand engraving and carving.

### **Expert instruction**

We are particularly grateful for the high levels of proficient instruction and encouragement by our inspirational group of tutors, who bring so much of their own expertise and enthusiasm to nurture new skills, to help improve techniques, and to inspire new levels of innovative design and proficiency in working with glass.

The smooth delivery could not have been achieved without the expert costing, scheduling and advertising of courses by our course coordinator.

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## President's Report

Cont from Page 1

We generated a total gross income of \$117,515, which yielded net earnings of \$22,166, compared with net earnings of \$20,252 in 2017.

This meant that by the end of 2018, we had attained a bank balance of \$102,946 - a healthy increase from the 2017 bank balance of \$65,836.

Along with this, we saw a 23 percent increase in total assets to \$147,920 at the end of 2018, compared with \$120,639 in 2017.

The strong financial standing of the Guild would be the envy of many not-for-profit incorporated associations.

### Our 2018 activities

The full range of our activities and achievements for 2018 is included in my complete President's Report, which is available on the Guild website.

However, I would like to especially acknowledge and thank those members who provided their time, expertise and assistance during 2018 to keep the Guild running - to provide learning opportunities, member

time and special activities, to achieve the revenue needed to support all activities, to promote Guild achievements, and to keep the premises spic and span.

Last, but certainly not least, I salute and thank our Management Committee members who attended to all the bigger-picture items as well as the administrative and governance duties.

I must acknowledge the huge contribution to the Management Committee of two members leaving the Committee at this AGM - Lyndall Davies and Denise Olsen. We salute you!

## Our new President

Hello, I was elected President at the recently held AGM. I have been a member of the Guild for a little over three years and have a strong interest in leadlighting and stained glass.

My interest started when I enrolled in the beginners lead lighting course a few years ago with tutor Jenny and then completed an intermediate class with Barry. I live within walking distance of the Guild, so it has been very easy to access the Guild for the evening classes and to work on my window projects. My wife Patricia has started to gain an appreciation of leadlighting/glass and is helpful in assisting with the design of my projects.

For the future I see myself following in the footsteps of the immediate past presidents Jan and Lyndall who have progressed the Guild in so many ways. Priorities and challenges for the Guild include remaining financially viable, communication with members and the greater public, providing a safe working environment given the age of the building and restricted head height on the ground floor and greater access to the Guild during weekends and school holiday periods. An immediate priority is actioning the successful grant application to the Brisbane City Council for the replacement of the roof and insulation at Red Hill.

I look forward to meeting you over the coming weeks and months.

**Kevin Grace, President 2019**



As a 'new kid on the block' President, I thank the Committee for bringing me up to speed, in undertaking all the onerous secretarial and financial obligations, and in providing leadership to the organisation.

I extend my very best wishes to incoming and continuing Management Committee members and look forward to working with you in looking after the best interests of the Guild and its members.

**Jan Bimrose, President 2018**

### 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

## Mosaic master to share skills at Guild

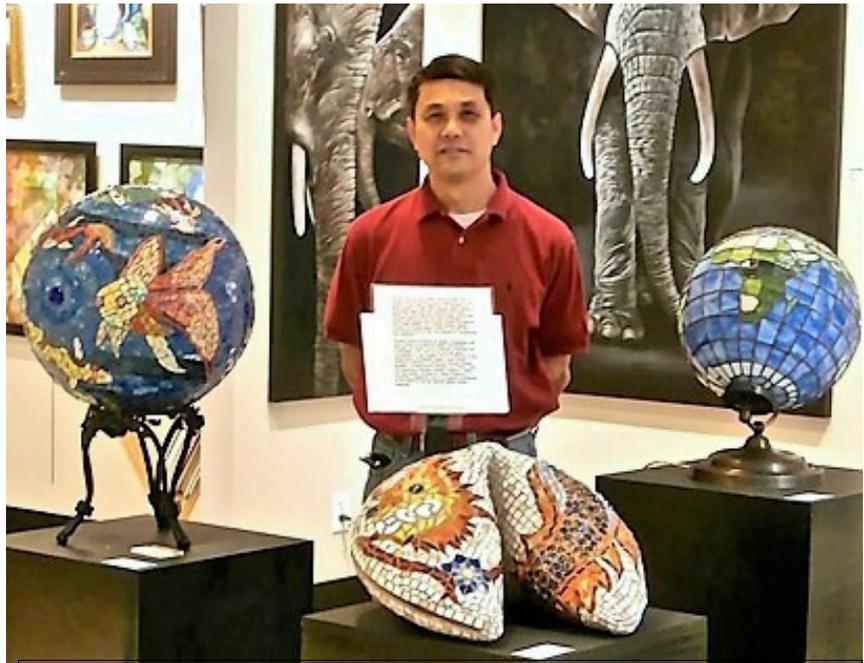
**Talented US glass artist, Wesley Wong, will conduct three unique classes when he visits Brisbane in August.**

While Wesley started his glass art journey in leadlighting in the early 80s, his 'creative juices' eventually led him into mosaics and fused glass.

His work features lots of vibrant colours and intricate patterns and has been exhibited in many glass and mosaic shows throughout the United States. His classes will be of interest to mosaicists and fusers alike.

Wesley will be conducting three classes for Guild members only:

- Two 2-Day Fused Glass Mosaics with Depth - Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 August OR Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 August  
Cost: \$500 including all materials



*Pictured (above) US glass artist, Wesley Wong, will appeal to mosaicists and fusers alike when he conducts three classes for Guild members in Brisbane in August this year. Below is an example of Wesley's colourful mosaics.*

- One 1 day Stand-up Critters - Friday 2 August  
Cost: \$250 including all materials. If you are interested in attending, email the Guild and let Lyndall Davies know what class/ classes you are interested in.



## From ho-hum to spectacular: the Driver difference

**Seven of our Guild members recently attended an intensive three day workshop at my studio in February with the renowned American mosaic artist Mary Driver.**

Entitled '*Getting the Light Right and Other Tips for Achieving Photo Realism in Mosaics*', Mary taught us a range of tips and ideas to transform mosaic landscapes, still life and portraits into eye-catching pieces that could be mistaken for a photograph or painting when viewed at a distance.

### Early work compared

During the course, we viewed a range of images of Mary's early work in comparison to her more recent pieces, and analysed the differences between a ho-hum mosaic and a spectacular one.

Mary showed us methods on how to approach and execute our pieces to improve outcomes, and guided us through the process. Participants worked on a range of images, including birds, boats, flowers, landscapes and human portraits.

### Concentration needed

We spent our days in deep concentration, as we made careful decisions about colour theory and placement of each piece of glass. No-one completed their piece by the end of the workshop (far too much detail to achieve in just three days!) but we have all been set on the path to enable us to do so.

For me, the biggest take-away learning from the course was the

Guild mosaic tutor, Catherine Conaty, recently hosted US mosaics artist, Mary Driver, at a home workshop to create realistic mosaics from photographs. This is the result...



unappreciated role of light and shadow in a composition, which when mastered, opens the door to all kinds of artistic expression.

It was a wonderful experience to share with like-minded artists, and we all had a great time!

If you get the chance to take a workshop with a skilled visiting mosaic artist, then I thoroughly recommend it, as it can expand your thinking, and open up new pathways and methods for creating your art.

**Best wishes, Catherine**

*Pictured: (top) Catherine progresses her two mosaic portrait images from original drawings.*

*Above: Participants in the intensive three day workshop were (back row) Catherine Conaty, Ray Woods, Lyndall Davies with tutor Mary Driver. Front row: Kym Braithwaite, Suzi O'Carroll, Margaret Shaw and Deb Gallon.*

*Attendees were treated to some expert tips and ideas to help transform photographic images into spectacular mosaics.*

*More photos next page...*



Participants in Mary Driver's master class worked on a range of images, including birds, boats, flowers, landscapes and human portraits. These included (clockwise from above) Kym's pelican, Lyndall's gang-gang cockatoo (with tutor Mary), Deb's floral arrangement, Margaret's tawny frogmouth and Suzi's blue macaw.

Mary Driver pays specific attention to light and shadow in a composition to help students better understand how to achieve photo-realism in their mosaic works.



## Help wanted to finish our leafy mural



**Hopefully most of you have now seen the tree branch mural up on the wall at the Guild. Feedback has been excellent so far, but we still need to do a bit more work to get it finished, so we can host its 'Grand Unveiling'.**

I will be running a workshop to work on the finishing details on Sunday 31st March from 2pm.

We need to make a few more leaves to finish off some of the branches, plus work on a couple

of kookaburras that will be landing on the branch.

We also need to touch up the grouting in some parts on the wall, plus paint over all the screws.

If you are free, you are most welcome to drop in and lend a hand.

Thanks again to everyone who has assisted so far.

**Catherine Conaty**

## Grant gets cooler future for Guild

As one of my last actions as the outgoing President of the Glass Guild, I have enormous pleasure in announcing that we have been successful in securing a Brisbane City Council *Building Stronger Communities Grant* for replacement of our roof, replacement of ceiling insulation, installation of two whirlybirds, replacement of downpipes and installation of awnings.

We can at last move forward to make the Guild building more weatherproof, and to lower the summer temperatures within the building. Fantastic!

We will be starting as soon as possible, and we will try to minimise disruptions to the Guild's day-to-day activities. We'll keep you posted about how and when the timetable will be affected.

**Jan Bimrose, Outgoing President**

Is your project destined for the dustbin? Act now!

**Project storage is always a contentious issue at the Guild, and there are quite a few shelves with dust-covered projects on them.**

If you have items that belong to you in the workshop shelves, please put a piece of paper on the shelf with your name and the date so we know not to touch it.



If you can't get to the Guild but know you have projects occupying the shelves that you want to keep, please let me know (with details of what it is and where you left it).

**In April the shelves will be emptied and tidied and all unclaimed projects removed.**

Thanks for your help in creating more space for all members.

**Katrina Jackson, Treasurer**

# Fire & Ice on the high seas

**What a bonus! What could enhance a cruise to Antarctica by way of Argentina more than having a Hot Glass Blowing Workshop atop the ship - a whacky but fabulous idea.**

Originally the no-gas or open flame kilns and glory hole were designed for shipboard use and run by the Corning Museum staff for the Celebrity Cruise Company.

More recently the Hollywood Hot Shop has taken over (see photo below) contracting two glass

**Guild member and beadmaking tutor Vicki Beldan recently returned from a cruise to Antarctica - with a difference!  
Here's her story...**

blowers to work on each ship for around six months a year.

So, how about working with molten glass on a pitching ship?

This takes a glass blower's mastery of the medium to a whole new level. Keen passengers can sign up to help make a take-home glassy memento during days at sea, or watch any number of complex pieces demonstrated by the skilled technicians.

**Cheers, Vicki Beldan**



**Exhibition Diary Date:  
20th and 21st July**

Don't forget to diary date the Creative Glass Guild's Annual Exhibition at Mt Coot-tha Auditorium, which this year happens on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st July.

As always, there are two competitions at the Exhibition: one for the "People's Choice" Award and the other for "Best Themed Artwork". Each winner will receive a trophy, a Guild gift certificate, and lots of recognition in our newsletter and Facebook page.

The theme this year is 'Love', so you have a broad range of design possibilities - perhaps a depiction of your favourite person, or animal, or song— anything that depicts the love of your life!

Put on your thinking cap, and start planning your 'Love' project in time for judging.

## Tuseet's bird joins flighty mosaic flock

One of our members, Tuseet Kaur, has created a bird mosaic on mesh which has flown to Germany to be part of a very special installation involving mosaic artists from around the world.

The project is called *Vogeltreppe*, and is being run by the celebrated Chilean artist Isidora Paz Lopez, and will be installed over two levels in a public space in Pirmasens, Germany.

Fifty-two mosaic artists from 22 countries have travelled to Germany to work on the project during February and March this year, with hundreds of birds sent in from around the world by artists to be added as part of the installation.

Tuseet chose to create an Indian Myna bird, which reminds her of her childhood in India.

We look forward to seeing the completed artwork!



Hundreds of mosaic birds from around the world are being assembled as part of a spectacular mosaic installation in Germany. This will include the contribution on an Indian Myna bird (above) created by Guild member, Tuseet Kaur. Contributions of birds by other international artists are shown on the left.

## Ken's kaleidoscopes

Guild member Ken Ede has created a series of kaleidoscopes, some shaped as biplanes, from some original plans donated by the family of a past member, the late Dr Farook Ameer. All of the glass components are copperfoiled, including the mirrored internal sections, which reflect light onto the glass.



# You're invited to a studio visit

**Guild member and fusing extraordinaire, Sylvia Free, has kindly offered Guild members an opportunity to visit her home studio at Meringandan West, near Highfields, Toowoomba.**

We will be visiting on Sunday 26 May, when we will take a bus to meet at Sylvia's at 10.30am.

We'll have a garden stroll and studio tour, then enjoy a fingerfood lunch provided by Sylvia and her husband Carl.

While we are in the neighbourhood, we will visit the Highfields Village Green which is home to the MET Galleries (where Sylvia sells some of her work),



Pictured: Award-winning glass artist, Sylvia Free will host a studio visit

Chocolate Cottage, and Quilters Angel patchwork shop.

In the mid-2000s, Sylvia dabbled in glass bead art and her passion for the medium sparked an interest in the art of kiln-fired glass art.

Each piece she creates presents a spectrum of colours and her forms are reflective, refractive, iridescent, and brilliant.

One of Sylvia's special pieces, 'Jar of Hearts', won the Theme Award for 'Poetry & Song' at the Guild's 2018 Exhibition.

If you are keen to join us please email Katrina ASAP at [info@creativeglassguild.com.au](mailto:info@creativeglassguild.com.au)

## Save your scraps!

**This is a message for all our glass artists who may throw away small offcuts of their coloured glass into the rubbish bin!**

Instead, please consider donating them to Guild members who can use them in their mosaics.

Sometimes we only need a tiny little bit of a particular colour for a project. We can make use of even the smallest shards of glass to create mosaics, so it's nice to know that the glass still has a useful life and nothing is wasted.

There is no such thing as too small - the glass can also be used to make frit!

At the Guild, there is now a clearly labelled container (conveniently located next to the bin in the main workroom) where you can put your unwanted scraps.

If you could please put the glass into ziplock bags (which are provided inside the container), then we can easily access the glass sorted by colour.

Thank you in advance for your donations.



## Pop in to the Pop Up

Do you need a gift for Mother's Day? Is it time for you to shop at a creative market? Come along to the Brisbane Visual Art Community (BVAC) Market on 27 & 28 April at the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium.

The Guild will have three tables of our members' work for sale - so please come along and support us!

If you would like to sell your work at the market, a 20% commission applies to sales, and exhibitors are required to set up displays on Friday 26 April, mind the display over the weekend, and perform a couple of tasks for BVAC such as greeting visitors, selling raffle tickets, and wrapping sold items.

The pop-up is BVAC's main fund raiser - all monies go back to improving facilities.



## Around the Guild

Here's a snapshot of what's been going down recently at the Guild with workshops, classes and plenty of socialising (clockwise from above):

1. Ray focuses for the Mary Driver workshop
2. Adrienne with her beginner's bird mosaic
3. Katrina's striking blue lotus stepping stone
4. Priscilla presents her fancy floral mosaic
5. Kevin's 500+ piece art deco windows

