

A TOUCH OF GLASS

Newsletter of the Creative Glass Guild of Queensland March 2022 Edition

The President's 2021 roundup

This is my last President's report, as I complete three years as President and need to 'retire' as per the Guild's Constitution.

I have certainly enjoyed the challenges and the camaraderie of the role. The Committee this year, as in the past, has had an active role in further developing and improving the Creative Glass Guild's processes, such as communication, accountability, and big changes planned for our Red Hill facility.

The curse of Covid

COVID continued to disrupt our operations during the year. We had to postpone, then as COVID spread again, cancel our Exhibition which was rebranded as 'Glass in the Park' Show and Sale. This was the second year in a row we needed to cancel.

A date has been set for July of this year, but that might have to change given the proposed construction timetable.

(Late News: July Exhibition is now cancelled).

COVID disrupted our opening times, our classes and workshops, members joining, and glass sales which did result in a loss of revenue, but COVID has not significantly impacted our financial situation. We remain in a strong financial position for a small non-profit organisation.

The Guild's AGM was held on Saturday 6th March, when outgoing President, Kevin Grace, presented his final report to members. These are the highlights of the 2021 year.

Brisbane City Council assisted by reducing levies charged and reimbursement of some maintenance and refurbishment items.

COVID affected our interaction with each other by restricting our access to the Guild, social distancing and reduced members in classes, availability of tutors and the use of face masks.

Renovation plans

During the year, we continued to pursue our goal of either moving into a larger, more suitable venue or to redevelop the Guild.

Members overwhelmingly like the current location of the Guild here at Red Hill, so any proposed move would have to be in a super location, with no or low maintenance building costs, and with plenty of parking.

Nothing was or is available at this time. We revisited our original architect plans, and the management committee, with support from members, was intending to apply for a Brisbane Lord Mayor's building grant of \$200,000 and tackle the renovations ourselves.

Gambling Fund Grant

We had already successfully applied for a Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF) grant to remove asbestos and walls downstairs and replace rotting stumps.

As we were considering our plan of action for using the grant, BCC advised, after a site visit from an engineering firm, that they would undertake the proposed renovations at their cost.

It does appear our grant from GCBF can be used in relation to the redevelopment at the Guild, and we will need to amend our application to retain and use the grant of \$21,000.

Unfortunately, our original building plans which included expanding the downstairs floor space, were considered but rejected by BCC due to cost. However, I was informed by the Council in early March that our proposed building renovations remain on track despite the current flooding disaster that has affected so many households and businesses.

Cont next page

Highlights of 2021 Cont from Page 1

Our revised website which is still being refined will provide members and the public with a more accessible site for Guild activities, classes and workshops, and general information about the Guild.

Feedback from members regarding the improved website is very positive. Countless hours were spent refining our website and we owe a big thankyou to Ian Dymock for overseeing the developing website and to Lyndall Davies for her inputs and coordinating with the web designer.

Lease renewal

Our lease with the BCC has still not been renewed. We signed and submitted the documents in September 2020, so it has been 16 months since the lease lapsed.

It doesn't appear that they are in any hurry to commit to the lease, and I keep getting assurances that there is no problem.

Council has committed to redefining our land boundaries in line with the current fencing along the sides and back of our property.

As you may recall, the Broncos are the lease holders of most of the land behind the Guild and have agreed to surrender the land to the Guild. Again, no action has been taken by the BCC to date.

Our classes and workshops remain popular with members and the public with waiting lists for most classes. Our new course coordinator resigned shortly after the 2021 AGM and thankfully Lyndall Davies stepped in to save the disaster that could possibly have occurred.

Volunteers were called for, but the training required never gained traction and Lyndall continued to volunteer.

New volunteers needed

We need to have Guild members trained and willing to take over key areas of operations of the Guild to ensure seamless operation.

A positive this year has been that our general meetings, held via Zoom, consistently had a quorum. This ensured the management committee was held accountable to Guild members with the presentation of the Treasurer's financial reports.

Also, the management committee could confidently action any outcomes that were decided at the meetings.

Tutors are stars

Like last year, I want to once again sincerely thank our tutors who do an outstanding job. The Guild makes a profit from our courses operated by our tutors.

The tutors do such a great job in their instruction, the course participants want to come back for more.

Most of our new members come from the classes. Without our exceptional tutors, we would become stagnant.

A big shout out and thank you to Ian our VP and newsletter editor, Katrina our secretary, Deb our treasurer, and Anne who ably represented our membership base.

My recommendations

Let's not underestimate the disruption and the efforts that will be required in decluttering, disposing, and retaining goods, materials and equipment located under the Guild, as well as shelves upstairs.

It ALL must go somewhere soon. My understanding is that everything below the floorboards will be removed. We will need an army of volunteers to safely pack what we need to keep—so please get ready to help when the time comes!

As a priority, discussion, decisions and agreement should be made regarding the layout of the new ground floor to optimise its use and value to Guild members.

**Thank you and best wishes,
Kevin Grace**

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

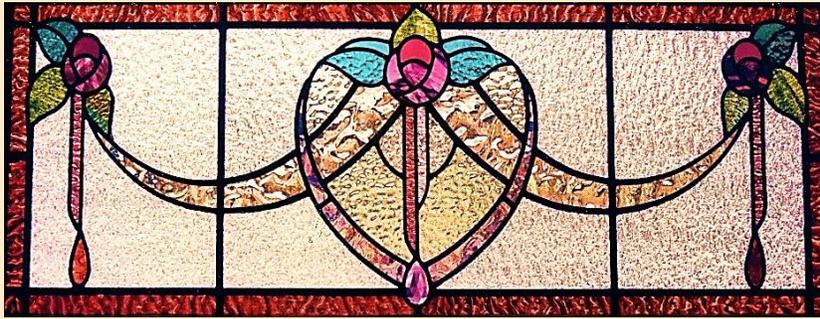
General meetings: Bi-monthly on first Monday of the month at 7.00 pm
(Notice will be emailed to members).

Management Meetings: Alternate months or earlier if required



Shelf Cleanout Alert!

A reminder that all areas of the Guild will be cleaned out in preparation for the renovation. If you have a project on a shelf at the Guild, ensure it has your name and a recent date on it, or it will be heading for the rubbish skip. Shelves should be checked by 30th March.



Members of the Creative Glass Guild of Queensland are cordially invited to the launch of a new book

“The Career and Selected Works of Queensland Artist-in-Glass Warwick Blair (1943-2002)”

by Brisbane historian Denzil Scrivens to be held at St John’s Cathedral, 405 Ann St Brisbane

3.00 pm, Sunday 3 April 2022

Thanks to a generous donation, this lavishly illustrated book will be available for purchase at the launch at a substantially reduced price of \$15.00

Free parking for the event is available in the northern precinct of the Cathedral accessible via Ann Street.

Proof of COVID vaccination or a registered medical exemption is required to attend the event.

To assist with catering for the event, please RSVP by emailing denzil.scrivens@bigpond.com

Diary Dates

- * Exhibition Show & Sale: Proposed 9-10 July dates have been cancelled. Waitlisted for Mt Coot-tha Auditorium cancellations in Oct/Nov.
- * BVAC and Home Show: BVAC has gallery space at the Home Show on 1-3 April. Members interested in participating should contact BVAC directly.
- * Guild is opening Monday nights for project work from Mon 28 March, 6pm to 9pm.
- * General meetings on Zoom: Mon 9 May, 4 July, 5 Sept, 7 Nov, 6 Feb 2023. AGM Sat 4 March 2023.

Meet your new Committee & Volunteers

PRESIDENT - Chris Bell

VICE PRESIDENT - Kevin Grace

SECRETARY - Katrina Jackson

TREASURER - Debbie Pym

COMMITTEE MEMBER - Anne McCairney

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

Exhibition Coordinators: Denise Olsen & Chris Bell

Librarians: Sue Gunter and Jacque Belisle

Maintenance and Safety Coordinator: Evert van der Waal

Membership Coordinator- Katrina Jackson

Newsletter Editor and Marketing Officer: Ian Dymock

Volunteer Coordinators: Denise Olsen & April Avis

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

Web Administrator:- Lyndall Davies

Website Editors: Ian Dymock & Amy Seibold

Social Media Coordinator Sally Jelbert

Course Enrolments & Mailbox Officer: Vanessa Brugioni

BVAC representative: Denise Olsen

'Operation Renovation' Update

Planning is proceeding with 'Operation Renovation', a blueprint to raise our Fulcher Road premises to provide a flood-free workshop area on a concrete slab below our existing upper floor.

Once raised, the upper level will be supported by several large steel beams, optimising work space in the new lower floor.

What's included

The work to be undertaken on behalf of Brisbane City Council includes installation of a lower story slab and external paths, external painted weatherboard walls, internal fibre cement sheeting, electricity and lighting, a toilet for people with disabilities (PWD) and a double sink.

An access path will be constructed from a pedestrian entry from

Fulcher Road to the new front stairs. New side stairs and paths will also be included.

The Council is organising for a container to be positioned on the vacant lot next door, so that any materials that we need to keep, such as our kilns, can be safely stored.

Three potential contractors visited the Guild on 14 March with BCC representatives as part of the tendering process.

Tenders in by 30 March

Tenders need to be submitted by 30 March, and it's expected that a decision to proceed will be made by mid-April.

If things go according to plan, we envisage a May renovation kickoff, and hopefully completion by the end of June.

As you are aware, the downstairs area hides a mountain of 'junk' accumulated over many years, which will need to be disposed of.

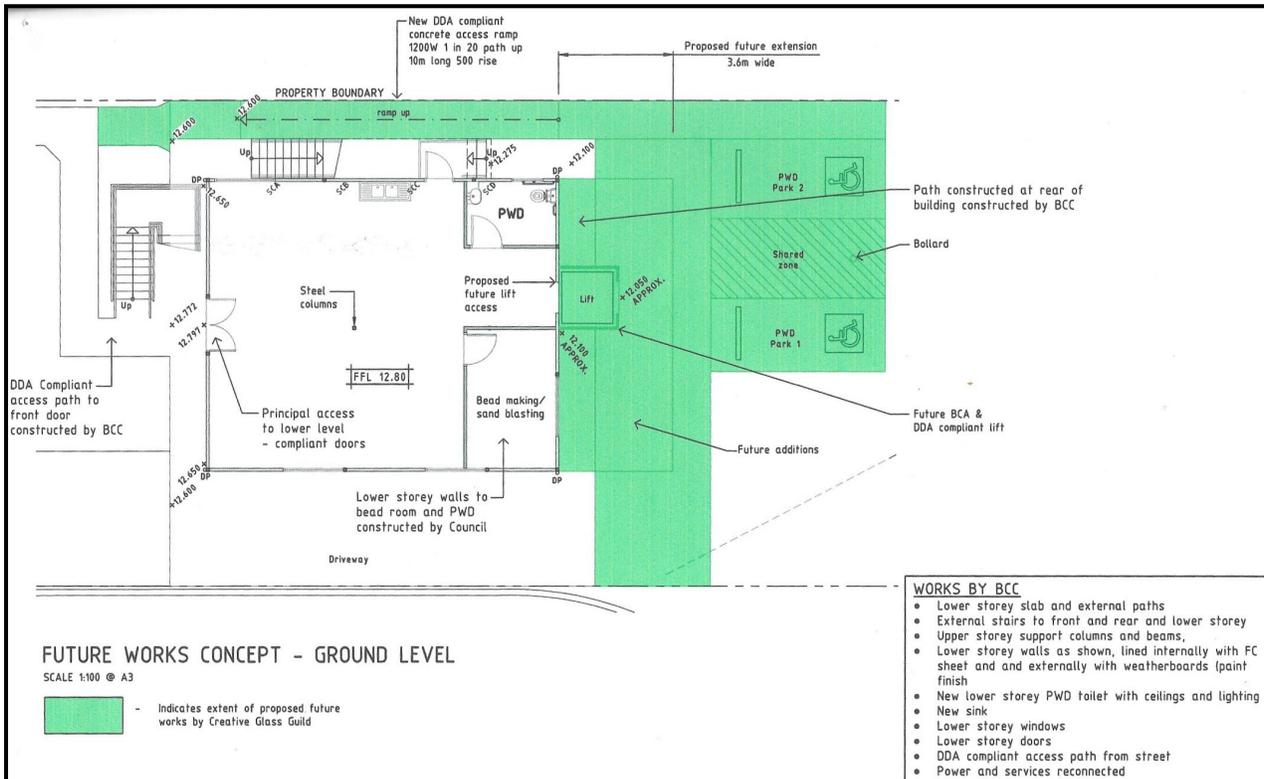
Working bee planned

We plan to hire a rubbish skip, and a working bee will be organised for members to help in the big cleanup. Watch this space!

In preparation for the renovation, all areas of the Guild will be having a massive cleanout, including the upstairs shelving.

If you have an unfinished project, or a project in progress at the Guild, please ensure it has your name and a recent date on it, so we know to leave it alone. Otherwise, it may disappear very soon!

Please check the shelves by 30 March to secure your project/s.



This preliminary plan of the lower ground floor renovation shows the concrete slab area (in white), which includes the PWD toilet, potential beadmaking room (to be confirmed), front access through double doors at ground level, a double sink and new stairways. The driveway will be widened, and a new pathway constructed on the southern side. The area indicated in green is a potential future Stage Two, to include a rear extension, a lift for people with disabilities, and provision for several carparks.

Glass artist's legacy recorded

A remarkable legacy of stained glass in and around Brisbane has been recorded in a book to be launched in April by Brisbane historian, Denzil Scrivens.

The book covers the career of Brisbane glass artist Warwick Blair (1943-2002), a pioneer in the revival of Queensland's stained glass industry in the 1980s and 1990s.

The Millennium Window

His most famous window is a powerful abstract work known as the *Millennium Window* which dominates the interior of St John's Cathedral in Brisbane and which was unveiled by the Queen in 2002, just three weeks before Blair's untimely death.

Warwick Blair tirelessly produced thousands of works, not only at St John's but also in school libraries and chapels, hospitals and shopping centres, university colleges and private homes, cafes and parish churches.

Art nouveau style

His early windows reflect his strong attachment to the traditional *Art Nouveau* style of



window design with its sensuous lines and flowing curves, and also to the Australian *Federation* style with its geometric lines and characteristic depictions of Australian fauna and flora.

Towards the end of his career, working from designs by Queensland artists like Jennifer Andrews and Scott Maxwell, Blair turned his formidable talents to the fashioning of *avant garde* works with a distinctly abstract character.

Avant garde works

These works, including the *Millennium Window* at St John's, the *Creativity* and *Metamorphosis* Windows at Brisbane Girls Grammar School, and the chapel window at the Wesley Hospital, count among his most successful creations.

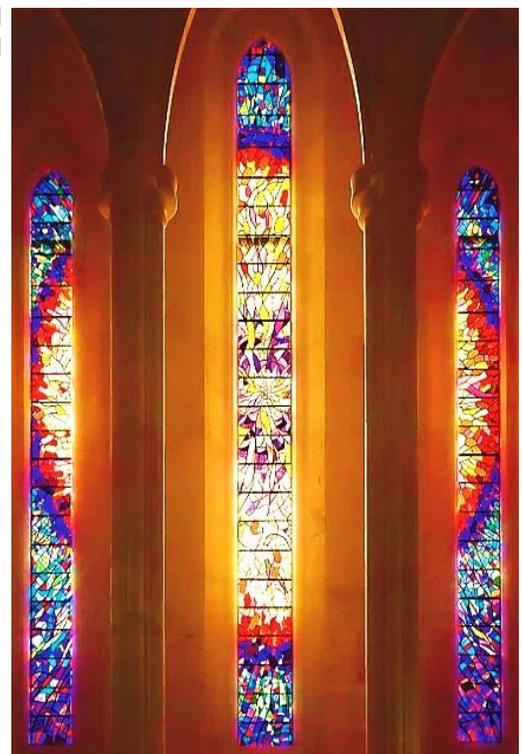
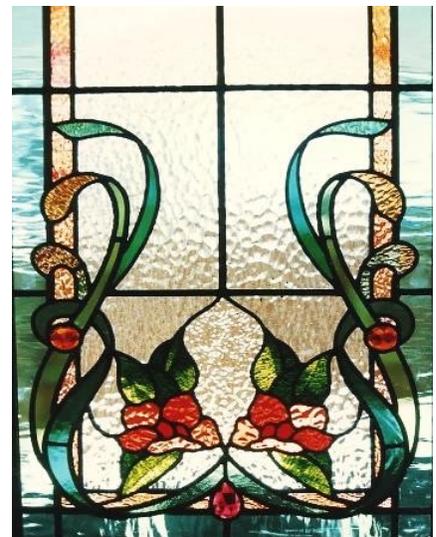
They reflect his extraordinary passion for glass and his special ability to create windows that relied less on painted effects and more on the intrinsic qualities of antique, patterned and textured glass, of which he had an unrivalled collection in Queensland.



Special invitation

Guild members are invited to the launch of Denzil Scrivens's book at 3.00pm on Sunday 3 April at St John's Cathedral, 405 Ann Street, Brisbane.

Pictured below is a selection of Warwick Blair's remarkable portfolio of stained glass which covers a variety of styles and demonstrates his incredible passion for glass and its intrinsic qualities.



Tani shares her smalti passion

Eight enthusiastic Guild members recently shared a passion for glass smalti with mosaic artist and tutor, Tani Bates.

Smalti is traditional hand-cut mosaic glass that has a different look and feel from moulded tile. It is ideal for reproducing antique mosaic art or making modern interpretations of classical designs.

Smalti tesserae

It is produced by melting glass at high temperatures and adding oxides to produce colour. Once it has cooled, it is cut into smaller pieces called tesserae.

Tani conducted a two day workshop at the Guild to share the art of smalti in a fun, relaxed atmosphere, teaching the techniques in her dynamic style.

Participants were able to choose from three basic designs to complete a 15x15cm mosaic using glass smalti with its rich colours and strong textural quality and surface variations.

The workshop included substrate preparation, cutting and shaping smalti, keystoneing, basic andamento and fundamentals of background work.

Techniques shared

Through the workshop, Cairns-based Tani Bates was able to share her artistic talent and professional expertise with Guild members, utilising the unique, handmade nature of smalti glass. Fantastic!

Pictured below are a beaming smalti class, showing off their finished pieces, with tutor and smalti queen, Tani Bates looking on, and one of the finished designs demonstrating the classic rich colours and variations of smalti.





Around the Guild
(clockwise from top left)

- Catherine admires Kaz's latest feathered mosaic creation.
- Robyn's colourful fun-filled balloon platter catches the sun.
- This attractive window was created by adhering vintage glass-ware to an old window (Pip Courtney from ABC Landline saw it in an old farmhouse).
- Mosaic student Chris made this sparkly garden stake from materials collected from Reverse Garbage Qld.
- Catherine's delightful fern garden shimmers in the sunlight.
- Stella's intricate poppy tray is reminiscent of Roman tesserae.

