



**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 2006**

The Australian Association of Glass Artists Limited
ABN 72 087 134 656
PO Box 4018
McKINNON, VIC, 3204
www.ausglass.org.au

AUSGLASS DIRECTORY

Ausglass Directors:

President/Chairperson: Maureen Williams, Vic president@ausglass.org.au
Vice-President: Simon Maberley, ACT vicepresident@ausglass.org.au
Treasurer: Damian Connellan, Vic treasurer@ausglass.org.au
Secretary: Ruth McCallum Howell, Vic secretary@ausglass.org.au
Director/Canberra
Conference Committee: Richard Whiteley, ACT
Director/Canberra
Conference Committee: Charles Higgins, ACT
Director/Canberra
Conference Committee: Kirstie Rea, ACT
Director/Newsletter Editor: Simon James, NSW newsletter@ausglass.org.au
Director: Anne Clifton, WA
Director: James Dodson, Tas

Other Office Bearers:

Website Managers: Arthur Sale, Tas
Julien Stannus, Vic
Minute Secretary: Ann Yule, Vic
Membership Secretary: Damian Connellan, Vic treasurer@ausglass.org.au
Public Officer: Damian Connellan, Vic treasurer@ausglass.org.au
Vicki Torr Memorial Fund
Executive Officer: Declan Somerville, SA
State Representative Liaison
Officer: Pauline North, WA

State Representatives:

Australian Capital Territory: Simon Maberley actrep@ausglass.org.au
New South Wales: Michelle Donde, Mark Elliott, nswrep@ausglass.org.au
Carmel Mollison
Northern Territory: Jon Firth ntrep@ausglass.org.au
Queensland: Terry Eager qldrep@ausglass.org.au
South Australia: Currently Vacant sarep@ausglass.org.au
Tasmania: James Dodson tasrep@ausglass.org.au
Victoria: Laura Healey vicrep@ausglass.org.au
Western Australia: Currently Vacant warep@ausglass.org.au

Registered Office: Level 5, 574 St Kilda Road, Melbourne, Victoria, 3004

Auditors: HLB Mann Judd (Incorporating DG Scott & Co)
GPO Box 216, Adelaide, SA, 5001

Bankers: Commonwealth Bank of Australia Limited

Ausglass Address: PO Box 4018 McKinnon, Victoria, 3204

Ausglass Website: www.ausglass.org.au

Australian Company Number: 087 134 656

Australian Business Number: 72 087 134 656

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2006 has been a year of achievement for Ausglass. I can only bless that I took on the Presidency with a strong Board with active and passionate new Directors and the stability, untiring work and dedication of our Treasurer, Damian Connellan. Each board member brings to Ausglass a different perspective and has taken up their role effortlessly and with a grace that can only be admired. We have been fortunate that Simon James, our Newsletter Editor, makes such a large commitment in bringing out the Newsletter every three months. His contribution to our financial position in arranging, gratis, our teleconferences is also acknowledged and appreciated.

We are now in a stronger financial position, and as such, Ausglass has had the opportunity to move forward and consolidate. Without a conference this year, it was envisaged that the Board would concentrate on strengthening management practices and implementing more effective ways to bring both existing and additional services to the members and put in place a structure to continue to do so. With the introduction of members@ausglass, communication from the Board to members and from members to members is now seamless. I hope members are finding it uncomplicated to use.

2006 was the year that we launched the Ausglass Forum, introduced the Vicki Torr Online Gallery Prize, completed a review of the Constitution and commenced planning for the 2008 Conference.

At our yearly face-to-face meeting we undertook strategic planning, discussing the aims and objectives of the organisation and incorporating these into our draft constitution. Many people have been indispensable in developing the new constitution and I particularly would like to acknowledge Dianne Sisak and Rose Iannacone from Minter Ellison Lawyers who prepared the draft constitution and subsequent changes and the Ausglass members who reviewed the initial draft together with Damian Connellan who had the initiative for change and diligence in coordinating this achievement. The draft constitution together with a memorandum explaining the reasons for the review and what changes have been proposed have been up on the website for a little while now and I encourage members to review these. I also strongly encourage each of you to vote in favour of the adoption of the draft constitution at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The incentive for introducing the Vicki Torr Online Gallery Prize was to raise the profile of the Online Gallery and encourage students and emerging artists to increase their public profile by placing their work on the Ausglass On-line Gallery.

We also saw this as an opportunity to increase the numbers of Ausglass members displaying their work on the Ausglass On-line Gallery. We also took this opportunity to have a random image from the Online Gallery to be placed on the homepage every time the site is visited thus increasing the likelihood of Australian and overseas Galleries and collectors using the Ausglass site to keep abreast of contemporary glass in Australia and benefiting all members of Ausglass. These initiatives have resulted in a significant increase in the number of exhibitors in the Ausglass Online Gallery such that we now have more than 60 exhibitors. I encourage all other members to take advantage of the opportunity to exhibit through the Ausglass Online Gallery.

I would like to particularly thank Arthur Sale for his continuing work with the Website. We have asked much of Arthur this year with the introduction of members@ausglass, the Vicki Torr Online Gallery Prize and the establishment of the Ausglass Forum. Arthur's vigilance and guidance together with his computer expertise have enabled many of our changes to be realised.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge the State Representatives and Pauline North, State Representative Liaison Officer, all of whom endeavour to coordinate information and bring this to the Board and Members. I also thank them for their contributions to the Newsletter.

My deepest appreciation goes to Pauline North, Estelle Dean and Trudy Hardman for the organisation of the successful Flair 06 exhibition in Perth. This exhibition has raised the profile of contemporary glass in Western Australia and raised income for Ausglass.

All of this has only been achievable due to the efforts of the previous Board and untiring work of Janeen Toner who has seen Ausglass through a financially difficult period in previous years. I would like to express my respect and admiration for Janeen's effort. We now find ourselves in a strong financial position and having consolidated the basic functions of the organisation as well as the implementation of new services to members, we are now able to move forward. It is hoped that these initiatives will enable the organisation to grow and reflect the excellence of contemporary glass, both nationally and internationally.

We can now approach 2007 with confidence and increasing anticipation of the next conference, Open House, to be held in Canberra in late January 2008. We recently welcomed onto the Board, Richard Whiteley, Kirstie Rea and Charles Higgins who make up the committee that will take us to the next conference. Members should keep an eye on the website on which progress reports on the conference, its programs, demonstrators, lecturers and exhibitions will be provided. Updates will also be included in the quarterly newsletters. The initial draft program put forward by the Conference Committee is exciting and I trust that I will see many of you enjoying yourselves there.

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the year ended 31 October 2006 Ausglass generated a surplus of \$26,976 before transfer of investment income to the Vicki Torr Reserve of \$3,439. This continues the improvement achieved during the sixteen month period ended on 31 October 2005. The results for the current year can be compared to recent prior period results as follows:

	12 months 31 October 2006	16 months 31 October 2005	12 months 30 June 2004	12 months 30 June 2003	12 months 30 June 2002
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$26,976	\$33,307	\$(100)	\$(9,679)	\$(14,051)

Ausglass is now in its strongest financial position since it became an incorporated association in April 2000 and took over the assets of the then unincorporated association.

The fact that Ausglass has generated a surplus in a non-conference year is an achievement and the Boards of Directors in place during this year must be commended for this. The key factors contributing to the surplus for the current year were:

- A surplus of a little over \$5,000 was generated from the successful Flair 06 Members Exhibition held early in 2006. Pauline North and her team in Western Australia are to be congratulated on their effort. The success of Flair 06 is a demonstration of what can be achieved when a recurring event establishes its own momentum in the community;
- That expenditure not related to the exhibition and was able to be controlled and reduced from \$24,800 for the sixteen month period ended 31 October 2005 to \$9,800 for the year ended 31 October 2005;
- Offset by a fall in subscription income as membership fell from a peak of 418 at the time of the 2005 GAS Conference to a current membership of 293 reducing membership income by more than \$6,000.

The reason that operating cost has been able to be reduced in the current year is twofold:

- The increased use of the internet has enabled Ausglass to reduce cost and, at the same time, increase its efficiency in communicating with members. A significant reduction in the cost of printing and distributing the newsletter was also achieved as a result of sending out the newsletter electronically (our thanks to Simon James for the sterling effort he has put into getting the electronic newsletter out on a quarterly basis); and
- The access to a conference call facility has enabled Ausglass to significantly reduce the cost of Board meetings (once again our thanks to Simon James for organising this facility with AAPT).

Those of you who have visited the Ausglass home page recently will have noticed that Arthur Sale has made a number of changes that have helped significantly increase the traffic on the website. Recent innovations Include:

- The members@ausglass.org.au e-mail system that allows all members to seamlessly communicate with each other;
- The Forum which allows participants to exchange ideas and information and judging by the number of people visiting this section of the site it is gradually building momentum; and
- The Vicki Torr Online Gallery Prize for emerging artists which has helped increase the number of exhibitors in the Online Gallery from an historic average of 30 hardcore believers to 51 and growing.

Arthur deserves our appreciation for the effort he has made to expand and increase the relevance and usefulness of www.ausglass.org.au. These improvements are significantly increasing the amount of visits to the Ausglass website - please refer to the section on the website elsewhere in the Annual Report which demonstrates how website traffic is changing. Further changes and additions to the website are planned to increase its functionality and usefulness and members are encourage to visit the site and participate. Any suggestions of improvements or additional features are most welcome.

Given that having financial strength is a key to determining what Ausglass' can do for its members, it is important that Ausglass' financial base, as at 31 October 2006, be preserved and increased whenever possible. To this end it is the policy of the Board of Ausglass continues to be that the association should, at least, break even in non-conference years and that it should make a surplus in conference years. In the current year the cash reserves of Ausglass have been increased to \$87,000 which brings them into line, and in balance, with the Vicki Torr Fund balance of \$86,700.

That's it for this year. Ausglass has made further important steps forward during the current year resulting in it being in a more stable financial position and the Board is determined, with the help of members, to maintain this position.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT AUSGLASS

Ausglass' goals and objectives:

Our vision is to be recognised as the foremost body for the promotion of contemporary glass in Australia. We seek to achieve this by fostering effective communication between our members and interested parties.

Our Organisation's structure:

Ausglass (The Australian Association of Glass Artists) Limited is a public company limited by guarantee, which operates pursuant to its Constitution, Articles of Association and the Corporations Act 2001. Every member undertakes to contribute an amount to the company in the event that it is wound up and does not have sufficient funds to meet its debts and obligations. This guarantee is limited to \$10, and applies in the event that the company is wound up whilst he/she is a member or within one year of their membership ceasing. The company operates on a non-profit basis. This means that any profits, income or property of the company cannot be paid or distributed directly or indirectly to its members.

Volunteers Run Ausglass:

The company has a Board of volunteer directors who are elected by voting members, although the directors may appoint or co-opt other directors to the Board to fill vacancies that may occur. Elected directors are appointed for a three-year term. Co-opted directors serve until the next election but may offer themselves up for re-election. To ensure that new directors are brought onto the Board, at least three directors step down each year whilst the others remain to maintain the Board's experience and stability. The board meets at a face to face meeting, at least once a year, and monthly by Tele-conference during the rest of the year.

The Board of Directors is responsible for running Ausglass and appoints office bearers from its ranks.

Local contact with members is maintained through Volunteer State and Territory Representatives who are appointed by voting members for a period of two years. State and Territory Representatives are charged with the responsibility of implementing state/territory initiatives including activities such as member's meetings, workshops, exhibitions, etc.

The organisation does not employ any staff. It may from time to time, however, contract with consultants for various services.

THANKS TO

Thanks are given to former directors, office bearers and volunteers.

Thanks to the following directors who resigned from the Board during the current year: Janeen Toner, George Aslanis, Elizabeth Newman, Julie Parker, Laurie Young and Emma Borland. Our special thanks go to Janeen Toner who was not only president of Ausglass for three years but also tirelessly served on the Board for two three year terms.

Our thanks also to:

- The State and Territory Representatives: James Dodson, Michelle Donde, Terry Eager, Mark Elliott, Jon Firth, Laura Healey, Simon Maberley and Carmel Mollison;
- Pauline North for her work as State/territory Representative Liaison Officer;
- Arthur Sale and Julien Stannus for their work in supporting and upgrading the Ausglass Website;

- Pauline North, Estelle Dean and Trudy Hardman for the organisation of the successful Flair 06 exhibition in Perth;
- Pauline Delaney for being Ausglass2 moderator until its demise and Simon James and Anne Clifton for moderating the new Ausglass Forum;
- Declan Somerville for his assistance with the Vicki Torr Memorial Fund;
- Minter Ellison Lawyers for their assistance in drafting the new constitution to be placed before the members at the upcoming Annual General Meeting; and
- Simon James for editing the electronic newsletter.

These volunteers have assisted Ausglass throughout the year. Their time, like all members, is valuable. On behalf of members, Ausglass and the Directors again thank them for all their time and effort spent on duties that have assisted in the organisation of events and the running of Ausglass. Volunteer support from members is always needed and Ausglass encourages those volunteers mentioned above to continue with their efforts, as they are extremely valuable to Ausglass. Any member, person or organisation interested in contemporary glass who would like to assist in the advancement of Ausglass and its Objectives is encouraged to contact president@ausglass.org.au.

AUSGLASS ACTIVITIES FOR 2005-06

Significant Ausglass events and activities that occurred during the year ended 31 October 2006 included:

- The Flair 06 Exhibition that was held in Perth early in 2006;
- The establishment of the Vicki Torr Online Gallery Prize for emerging artists with the first prize to be awarded in early 2007;
- The publication of the newsletter in electronic format and successfully re-establishing its quarterly schedule with the appointment of Simon James as editor;
- The election of a new Board of Directors in March 2006 and the appointment of Maureen Williams as President;
- The completion of a successful financial year making it two years in succession;
- The review of, and drafting of, a new constitution by Minter Ellison Lawyers (which is expected to be voted on by members at the next Annual General Meeting);
- The establishment of a new e-mail communication system, members@ausglass.org.au, exclusively available to members;
- The setting up of the Ausglass Forum to enable the electronic sharing of ideas between parties interested in contemporary glass; and
- The ongoing upgrade of www.ausglass.org.au.

THE VICKI TORR MEMORIAL FUND

The Vicki Torr Memorial Fund was first established in 1993 as a memorial to Australian glass artist, Vicki Torr (1949-1992). Its purpose is to reflect the philosophies of Vicki's life and work, and to this end its stated aim is to encourage excellence in Australian studio glass through the awarding of the Vicki Torr Memorial Prize. Past recipients of the prize have been: Kirstie Ray 1999, Scott Chaseling 2001, Simon Butler 2003 and the 2005 joint recipients, Cobi Cockburn and Daniela Turrin.

During 2006 The Ausglass Directors in conjunction with the Executive Officer for the Fund, Declan Somerville, instituted a new prize, The Vicki Torr Online Gallery Prize for emerging glass artists who exhibit in the Ausglass Online Gallery. It is hoped that this prize will develop into a significant prize for emerging glass artists and will help the Ausglass Online Gallery become a significant space for promoting contemporary glass practitioners.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The Ausglass Honorary Life Membership Award was first instituted in 1999. It is awarded in recognition of an outstanding contribution to this organisation and/or, more generally, the field of contemporary studio glass. The recipient is selected by the Ausglass Board on the recommendation of its Honorary Life Membership Sub-Committee. The Committee makes its recommendations based on nominations received from members through a formal nomination process. Where an award is given it is announced at each biennial conference. Current Honorary Life Members are: Maureen Cahill, Anne Dybka and Judith Le Lievre.

THE AUSGLASS NEWSLETTER

Ausglass produces a quarterly electronic newsletter for its members and this is the major vehicle for the organisation to communicate with its members. Contributions to, and the editing of, the newsletter is provided totally by volunteers but support from members is still needed. All articles, photos and reports that may be of interest to other members can be sent to: newsletter@ausglass.com.au

THE AUSGLASS WEBSITE AND MEMBERS@ E-MAIL GROUP

The Ausglass Website has become an important vehicle for Ausglass to communicate with its members and the general public and to assist Ausglass in meeting its objectives. The Website currently incorporates:

- A brief history of Ausglass and a copy of its constitution;
- Copies of recent newsletters and recent annual reports;
- The Ausglass Online Gallery;
- The members@ausglass.org.au communication system;
- The Ausglass Forum, a discussion group open to anyone interested in contemporary glass;
- Details of recent and upcoming conferences; and
- Membership information.

The Ausglass Online Gallery is open to all contemporary glass artists (other than affiliated members) who pay the appropriate annual subscription fee. Details of how to exhibit in the gallery are to be found at www.ausglass.org.au. Since the establishment of the Vicki Torr Online Gallery Prize the number of exhibitors in the gallery has reached 58 and continues to grow.

Through the generous efforts of Arthur Sale the Website continues to improve and provide better information and services to members.

Ausglass now has a new e-mail group, members@ausglass.org.au, which enables all members who have provided their e-mail address to the membership secretary to communicate with other Ausglass members provided that they follow the instructions contained on the Ausglass Website. This new communication system replaced the previous group e-mail network, ausglass2.

STATE AND TERRITORY ACTIVITIES

The State and Territory representatives have been charged by the Board with the task of identifying and coordinating member activities on a state by state basis. As part of this mandate, State and Territory Representatives endeavour to ensure that at least four state meetings take place each year. All State members are invited to attend. These meetings provide a forum for discussion of organisation or industry specific issues, and are usually accompanied by presentations on current topics by a member or industry professional.

In order to ensure that issues discussed and raised by members at state level are effectively communicated to the national body, the board has accepted Pauline North's offer to continue as the State/territory Representative Liaison Officer. This allows an efficient channel of communication between the states/territories, and provides the Board with feedback and specific state input to national directives.

Apart from general meetings, State and Territory representatives are also encouraged to discuss other initiatives with the membership. Initiatives such as the Western Australian based Flair exhibition will continue, but initiatives can only continue with the support of the membership.

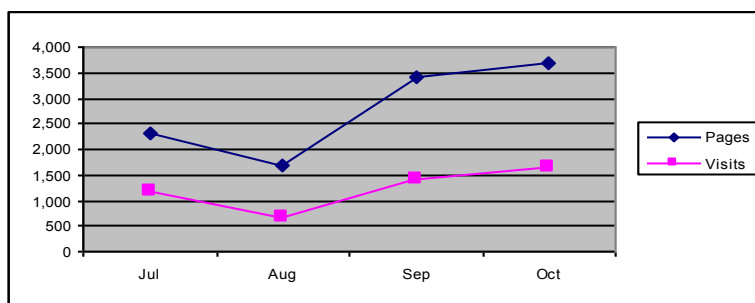
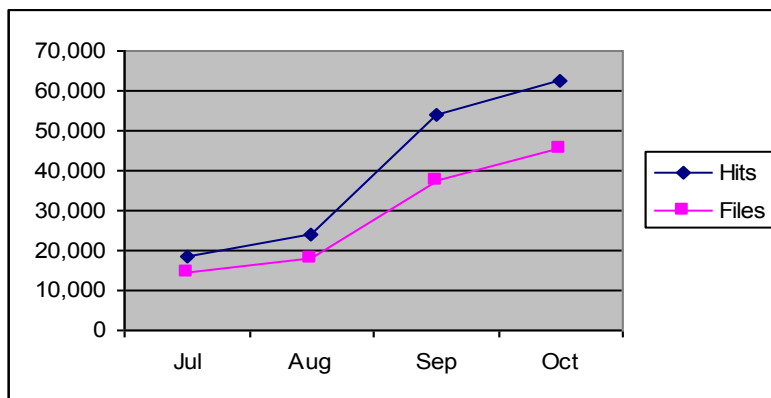
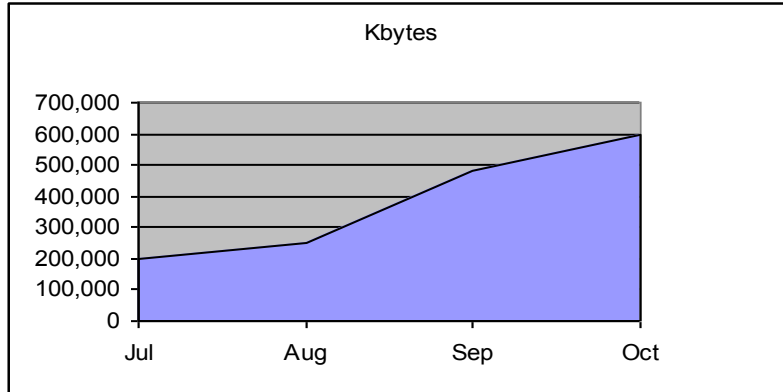
THE AUSGLASS CONFERENCE

In 2004 a call for interest in hosting the 2008 Ausglass conference was directed to State and Territory Representatives. Canberra, ACT was selected as the host city with the conference to coincide with the opening of the Canberra Glass Works in January 2008.

A Canberra Conference Committee has been established and planning is well under way for this conference. Details of the conference can be found on the Ausglass Website.

AUSGLASS WEBSITE TRAFFIC

Since the middle of the year Ausglass, with significant input and site development by Arthur Sale has been progressively upgrading our homepage. The graphs below show the impact that this has had on traffic on the Ausglass Website.



The increase in traffic over the four months ended 31 October 2006 is indicative of the increased awareness of the Ausglass site and, in particular, is a result of:

- The increasing number of members who are exhibiting in the Online Gallery;
- The traffic being generated by the Forum; and
- The increased awareness of the site brought about by the members@ausglass.org.au communication system.

The average time spent on the website by each visitor is three and a half minutes with nearly 7% of all visitors spending 15 minutes or more on the site and 1% spending more than an hour on the site. The major area of interest is viewing of members' artwork in the Online Gallery and participating in the Forum. Both

areas can be expected to generate increasing traffic as members and the general public become more aware of their existence.

64% of visits in the period to 31 October 2006 came from bookmarks and direct input of the Ausglass' address, 29% were generated by search engines and 7% of visits came from other websites that have a link to the Ausglass homepage.

Interestingly a number of Ausglass members were included in the top 10 key phrase and key word searches of the Ausglass website. These members were Scott Chaseling, Richard Clements, Cobi Cockburn and Brenda Page and demonstrate the potential for a member to increase their online profile by exhibiting in the Ausglass Online Gallery.

More enhancements are expected to be made to the Ausglass webpage with the aim of increasing traffic on the website, increasing awareness of Ausglass itself and increasing the awareness of the general public of members who exhibit in the Ausglass Online Gallery. This plan will be greatly enhanced if more members take up their right to exhibit in the gallery and if members actively participate in the Forum so please make sure that you don't miss out and get involved.