

# First Nations Glass Program

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Glaas Inc delivers a program of free glass workshops for First Nations artists, in various glass techniques including leadlighting, kiln formed glass, copperfoiling, stained glass painting and sandblasting.

The workshops are delivered by established glass artists and teachers including graduates of the Melbourne Polytechnic Courses. The program commenced in August 2022, continued through 2023 and again in 2024.

There has been a lack of qualification courses in glass available, particularly in techniques such as leadlight and stained glass, for many years. The Certificate III and IV courses established at Melbourne Polytechnic at Prahran in 2020 – with the guidance and assistance of GLAAS Inc – are creating a new generation of glass artists and makers in Australia. And while some wonderful First Nations artists have designed (and in some cases made) great works in glass, often these artworks are made by glass makers under direction from the artists. Not made by the artists themselves mainly due to the lack of training opportunities.

GLAAS Inc is giving First Nations artists the opportunity to learn glass techniques in order to create glass works with the benefit of understanding the many ways in which the material can be utilised. GLAAS Inc is excited to offer this opportunity for First Nations artists to use glass to express their creativity and bring their unique cultural influences to glass art works and to represent their culture in the Designed/Art Glass sector.

There are also many employment and commercial opportunities in the Designed Glazing sector.

Participants are invited to register their interest and can attend any number of workshops that they wish to. For those wanting to progress their work in glass, free studio time will be available. Glaas Inc held an exhibition of work created in the workshops at the Australian Centre for Glass Design at Melbourne Polytechnic in Prahran during NAIDOC Week in 2023; the 2024 exhibition will open as part of Melbourne Design Week 23.5.24 and run to NAIDOC Week finishing on 13.7.24.

There are currently spaces available in the program.

All enquiries please call or text Donna Kennedy 0407 002 834 or email [director@glaasinc.com.au](mailto:director@glaasinc.com.au)

Gayle Silveira has been with us since the start of the program and is very happy to continue to develop her leadlighting skills which she learned quite a few years ago.

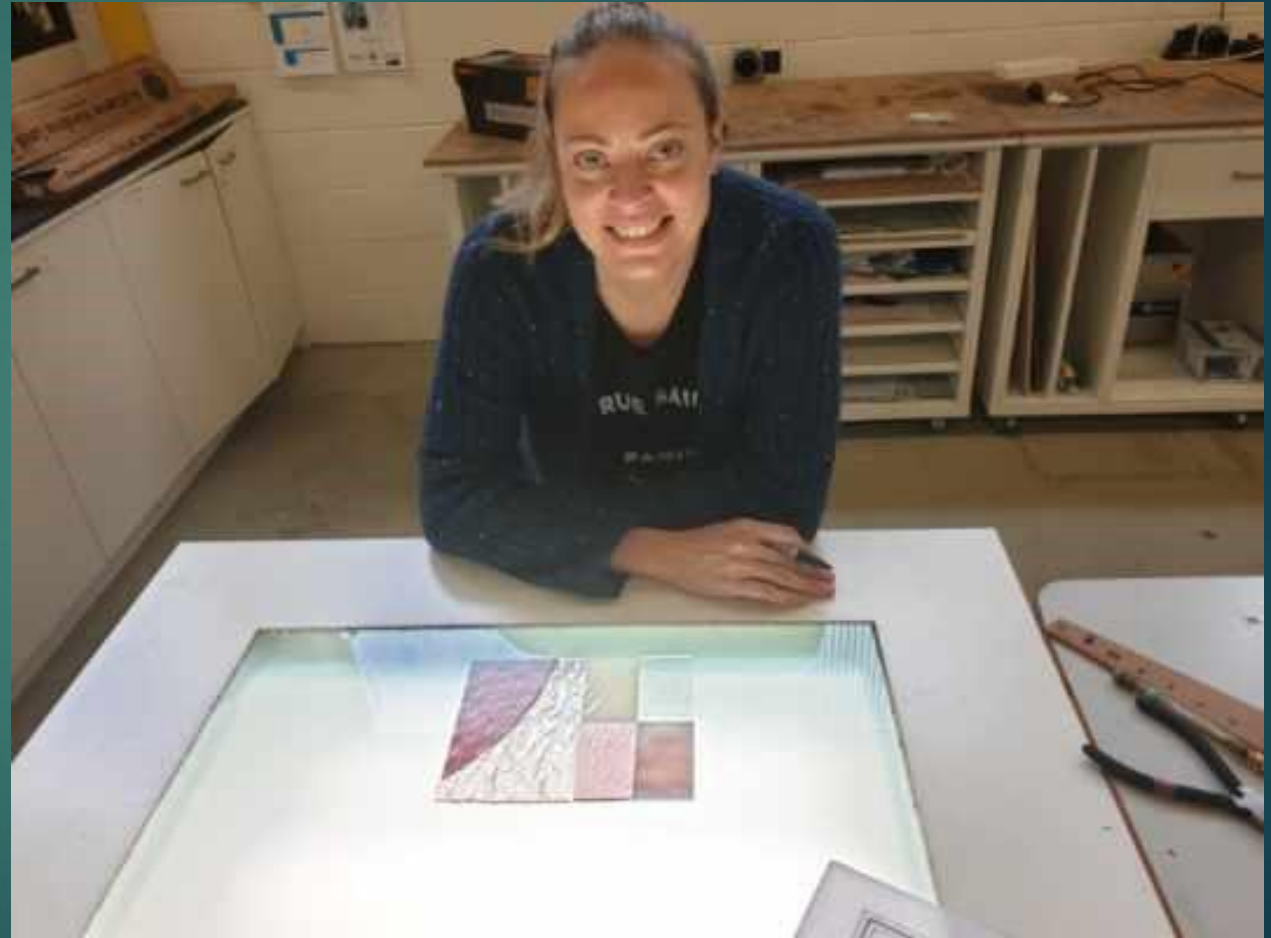
Gayle is also enjoying learning new glass skills and has a deep appreciation for glass. She exhibited a leadlight panel as part of the Koorie Heritage Trust Exhibition in 2023. Gayle has enrolled into the MP Certificate III course for 2024.



Thelma Austin was part of the Koorie Heritage Trust 'Blak Designers' Program in 2022.

There are videos on the Koorie Heritage Trust website – one of Thelma making a series of beautiful crowns – her work as part of the 'Layers of Blak' exhibition.

We are sure Thelma will be making equally beautiful glass works too.



# GLAAS<sub>INC.</sub>



Teacher Andy Crewes (Centre) teaching at one of the leadlight workshops – the workshops are held in the Designed Glazing studio at Melbourne Polytechnic in Prahran which was re-fitted as a simulated work environment for the Certificate courses. It is an excellent facility with four kilns available to the students.

Workshop participants Saturday  
6 April 2024 under the guidance  
of teacher Lesley Salter



Workshop glass pieces produced  
Saturday 6 April 2024 under the  
guidance of mentor Rickie Martin



## Rickie Martin Leadlight 2022

Rickie said when he posted this on his Instagram: "To acknowledge where I stand on this Continent (Naarm). Really thought my first project would be ideal to make Bungil the creator!"

After first coming to the workshop program in 2022, Rickie completed the MSF30422 Cert III Glass & Glazing (Designed Glazing stream) at Melbourne Polytechnic in 2023; and is enrolled in the MSF40422 Cert IV qualification in 2024.

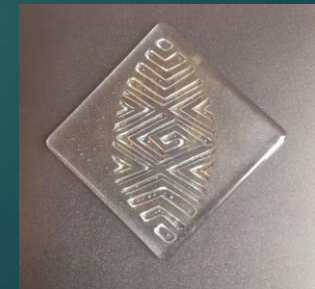
Rickie has been awarded the inaugural GLAAS First Nations Residency in 2024 with the support of Melbourne Polytechnic, the City of Stonnington and ADFAS Yarra.





## Commercial opportunities

The program is not just about the personal fulfilment and benefit of creativity, it is about learning skills which lead to employment/self employment and income streams. Glaas Inc is currently working with Rickie Martin to design a range of giftware to stock in our glass gallery; and also assisting Rickie to offer his work for sale at other appropriate outlets and exhibition opportunities.





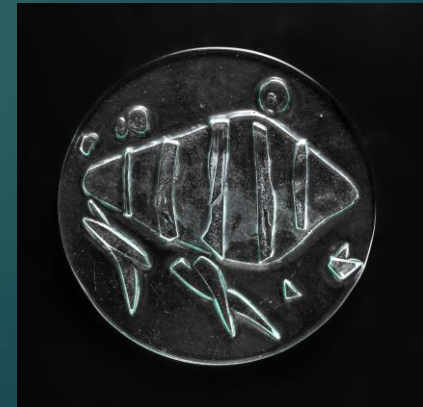
**GLAAS** INC.

COLOUR OF TIME:  
**OUR CULTURE THROUGH GLASS**

Exhibition 3 – 22 July including  
**NAIDOC Week 2023**

Images:  
Top Rickie Gugumah Martin  
Bottom Shea Oberleuter

## Glass work by Gayle Silveira



## Glass work by Rickie Martin

