IG Blind glass specifications are customised to meet individual design or thermal performance criteria

All IG Blinds systems are argon filled as standard with the option to upgrade to warm edge spacer technology

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Utilising the most advanced glass processing technology and rigorous quality control systems, the highly experienced team at AIG manufacture internal glazing systems to the highest possible standard.

Recognised as one of the most advanced integrated blind systems available, IG Blinds® offer an extensive range of products, designed to meet every need related to shading, colour selection, screening and advanced operating systems, including fully automated auto blinds, magnetic manual control blinds, battery remote control blinds and pleated sunblock blinds.
IG Blinds® are manufactured to meet the most stringent energy building regulations, for residential, commercial or public infrastructure, and feature the very latest technically advanced glazing systems. Guaranteeing year-round comfort and improved energy efficiency in all climates, IG Blinds® are available in either double or triple glazing and readily available for all projects and applications, including windows, doors, skylights, conservatories and facades.
Another year begins, and I am still wondering where 2017 went!
I hope all our members enjoyed a safe and relaxing break over the Christmas/New Year period, and I wish you all a successful 2018.

From an AGGA perspective, 2018 is shaping up as an exciting and defining year for our Association. There are many new opportunities to embrace over the next twelve months, as well as the continued focus on our Accredited Company Program/Master Glazier and the new AS 1288 training programs available this year.

Our National Office has two new faces this year – Julie Stevens in Admin Support and Dave Robertson promoting Member Services. Be sure to welcome them aboard if you get the opportunity. Will Walker has provided a more detailed summary of these changes to staff and training in his report below.

Please save the date for our 2018 Conference at Sanctuary Cove on the Gold Coast. Sponsorship opportunities are disappearing quickly, so make sure you contact Jane Docherty to reserve your package. If you have any suggestions for speakers or discussion topics, please contact Jane direct on jane@agga.asn.au

I look forward to working with our Board and our National Office over the next twelve months to ensure that as an organisation we continue to provide our members with valuable assistance across all aspects of our industry.

Since the last edition, the AGGA national office has seen major change. Service provision to members has been improved by the employment of two new staff.

Our new Admin Officer, Julie Stevens, has boosted our capacity to respond to enquiries and provide administrative support, while the new Member Services Officer, Dave Robertson, has been employed primarily to assist members in reaching Accredited Company status. Whatever pillar(s) you might still have outstanding – Safety, Technical, Compliance or Skills – Dave is the man to contact.

Remember, for those still accredited under the old state-based system, your accreditation will lapse on 30 June 2018. To retain Accredited Company status, you must complete all four pillars by that date.

The new AS 1288 Accredited training is due to be rolled out and will be available online shortly, making it easier to satisfy the technical pillar of the Accredited Company Program.

Specialty short courses will be rolled out soon for those members who require specific information on areas such as balustrades, pool fences, or shower screens, and a general glass induction will also be available for those new members of staff who have joined our industry.

This year is going to be a huge one in the development of AGGA and the industry. To ensure our services and programs are on target, we require feedback from members. I invite you to call or email at any time, and when issues are flagged by our Board, your feedback is welcomed and indeed critical.

Thanks for your continued support and ongoing commitment to further developing our trade and our industry.

Contributors
Photography: Brooke Miles
Photography, Fotogroup, Ian Wallace.

Glass & Glazing

President’s Update
Greg Hunt – President

CEO Update
Will Walker – CEO

Industry Events Calendar 2018

MARCH 2018
21–22 GLASSMAN LATIN AMERICA
Mexico

APRIL 2018
19–22 CHINA GLASS
Shanghai China

MAY 2018
28–31 MIR STEKLA
Moscow Russia

AUGUST 2018
29–31 GA18
Gold Coast Australia

OCTOBER 2018
23–26 GLASSTEC
Düsseldorf Germany

This month’s cover
Our cover features the award winning Dudley Denny City Library in Mackay. The G.James project team engineered and oversaw the dome installation, and their Brisbane glass processing facility manufactured each heat strengthened and laminated glazed panel. A remarkable job, and winner of the 2017 AGGA QLD Commercial Project Over $50K award.

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Specialists in all **Structural Toughened Laminates**

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Mr Peter den Boer, GWAWA
Mr Michael Kruger, AGGA Victoria

Multi-State Glass Processors
Mr Greg Hunt, G.James Glass & Aluminium (President)
Mr Adrian Crockett, Express Glass

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Jim’s Glass 08 7111 0000 AGGA SA 08 8346 6997
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Melbourne Safety Glass 03 9579 3844 Glass & Window Assoc’n WA

AGGA National Office are now able to respond to any member queries. Please call 03 8669 0170.

No responsibility is accepted by the AGGA for the accuracy of any statements or advice contained in the text or advertisements. Articles published within Glass Australia Magazine reflect the personal opinions of the author and not necessarily those of the AGGA. Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily endorsed by the publisher.

Editor’s Notes

Welcome to our February issue – the 90th edition of GA.

Our lead profile is North Queensland Glass – an impressive, young and dynamic glazing team working in absolute paradise. Their 2017 award-winning apprentice Thomas McGrath-Ashton impressed the AGGA team at the Queensland awards last year, and it is inspiring to learn more about the business.

Although I’m not completely convinced they’re working as hard as they claim – Airlie Beach, Hamilton Island … tough for some!

Again we feature two case studies, industry award winners and standout projects.

The dome installation at the Dudley Denny City Library in Mackay demonstrates exceptional skills by the local G.James glazing team and their manufacturing facility in Brisbane. There’s also Batman House, the award-winning project overlooking the Tamar River from Tasmanian glass processor Glass Supplies. This striking glass-encased residence is highly worthy of the extensive praise and interest it has generated.

This edition of GA is packed with information on new products and new appointments, as well as noting many important industry achievements.

We hope you enjoy the read, and welcome your feedback as always.

Jill
NFK is now supplying Forza G water filtration systems. These systems are a great addition to any glass processing business. Reduced water consumption, a smaller environmental footprint and improved machinery performance are just some of the advantages of installing a Forza G system. Various sizes and specs available to fit your needs. Contact us today to find a suitable system.

### TORNADO CT6M

**OPERATING FEATURES**
- Base centrifuge with possibility of extension to semi-automatic system
- Throughput of processed fluid: Liters/min 100 +/- 20%
- Solids holding capacity: Liters 11 (1-L = Kg 1,8)
  - Maximum size of particles input: mm 5
  - Size of particles separated to: 5 micron mm
  - Maximum process fluid temperature: 74° C

### TORNADO CST36M

**OPERATING FEATURES**
- Throughput of process fluid: Litres/min 600 +/- 20%
- Solids holding capacity: Litres 15 (L = kg 1,8)
  - Maximum size of particles input: mm 5
  - Particles separated to: 5 micron mm
  - Maximum process fluid temperature: 74° C

### TORNADO CST72A

**OPERATING FEATURES**
- Throughput of process fluid: Litres/min 1200 +/- 20%
- Solids holding capacity: Litre 15 (L = kg 1,8)
  - Maximum size of particles input: mm 5
  - Particles separated to: 5 micron mm
  - Maximum process fluid temperature: 74° C

Now proudly supplying Forza G water filtration systems. These systems are a great addition to any glass processing business. Reduced water consumption, a smaller environmental footprint and improved machinery performance are just some of the advantages of installing a Forza G system. Various sizes and specs available to fit your needs. Contact us today to find a suitable system.
Someone I knew was looking for a glazier in Airlie Beach, and I thought it would make a good six-month working holiday.
North Queensland Glass is one of Australia’s youngest and most dynamic glazing companies. Owners Mei and Trent Elson discuss their energetic ten-year-old company’s past, present and future.

A Sydney glazier born and bred, Trent made the decision to move north a decade ago. ‘I started out with a small contract business in Sydney,’ he begins. ‘Someone I knew was looking for a glazier in Airlie Beach, and I thought it would make a good six-month working holiday. Mei and I rented out our Sydney house and made the move, with no intention of staying.’

The environment suited the young couple well. ‘I worked for a local company for a year and a half,’ Trent remembers. ‘The kids loved it, so I took the opportunity to start a business from a 6x6m shed at home in Cannonvale. I took every job I could, including fiddly stuff like boat windows, pool fencing, balustrades, and other unconventional areas,’ Trent remembers. ‘We chased the market we wanted, and word of mouth steadily grew. The customers really appreciated us offering to do fiddly jobs – many I began serving during this time are still with us!’

‘As the company’s reputation spread, we soon began picking up good work on Hamilton Island and the mainland,’ Trent continues. ‘Before long, we were renting half a small Cannonvale factory to cope with the workload, then eventually rented the whole building.’

The GFC swept through the industry in short order, threatening to derail the couple’s plans. ‘The recession hit a week after we opened North Queensland Glass,’ says Trent. ‘Miners who take holidays at Hamilton Island were hit particularly hard by the GFC, so we really battled to keep things going.’

Yet they managed, with Mei getting on board full-time when the couple opened the Mission Beach shop in 2010. ‘When we first moved to Queensland, I was working with a wedding planner and doing Trent’s paperwork by night,’ she says. ‘When I decided to join the business, I taught myself every aspect of glazing by taking short courses at National Glass. It was a struggle working together at first when we were used to eight hours apart, but we made it work.’

Then Cyclone Yasi hit ... followed by Cyclone Louie.

It was all hands on deck. ‘Due to the complete destruction, we were staying in a tent,’ says Trent. ‘We only planned on staying in Mission Beach for the cyclone, but we ended up being there for four years. From the tent, we moved to a caravan, then to a shed out the back of a house. We finally rented a commercial factory there for four years, in addition to doing some insurance work in Bundaberg.’

When the couple opened yet another shop in Bowen, they soon realised that they had fallen into the trap of repeating the Sydney cycle. ‘We were travelling and working far too much,’ Trent says. ‘Even though the money was good and the work plentiful, we needed a change.’

This realisation prompted the couple to pursue full-time glazing work on Hamilton Island. Chipping away at that goal for two years, they were ultimately rewarded with a major contract for all glazing work on the island. Simplifying their lives by selling Mission Beach and shutting Bowen, the couple kept their base in Cannonvale while working full-time on Hamilton Island.

The island’s glazing market is highly rewarding. ‘Hamilton has 1500 permanent staff, with a 98% occupancy rate,’ says Mei. ‘The owners frequently upgrade facilities to maintain this percentage, providing us with more work. If a guest breaks a door, we glaze it straight away. We’ve often had to catch a plane home because we missed the last ferry!’

Working on the idyllic island brings significant challenges. ‘All glazing work has to stay well under the radar, to avoid disturbing the guests,’ Mei explains. ‘Everything has to be shipped over on barges and ferries, so logistics have to be right the first time.’

After looking far and wide, the couple hired staff from all around Australia, including Tasmania, Newcastle and Sydney. ‘We advertised Australia-wide, and they came all the way here to try out,’ Trent notes. These measures paid off – despite the location’s challenges, the loyal 10-person regular crew of North Queensland Glass have been...
working there for an average of eight years between them, and now the team has further grown to 23.

The strength of the team enables North Queensland Glass to service the mainland and the island simultaneously. ‘Having two crews enables us to shift from Hamilton to the mainland on short notice, with each team helping the other. We have no time for people who aren’t team players, because fostering teamwork is our mission statement,’ says Mei.

North Queensland Glass has also taken on two apprentices, both of whom are steadily building their skills across a range of areas. ‘One of these, Matt, is developing his expertise by specialising in fencing and balustrading,’ explains Mei. ‘The other, Tom, is just 21 – he’s a pro at setting up jobs on ferries and barges, a vital skill on Hamilton Island. He also recently received the AGGA Queensland Apprentice of the Year award, which is a superb achievement.’

The couple’s ceaseless quest for innovation has resulted in many firsts for North Queensland Glass. ‘We installed Australia’s first Alspec top-hung Hawksbury slider, after the latest cyclone damaged one in a Spanish villa on Hamilton Island,’ says Trent. ‘The new design’s increased strength provides further protection from future cyclones.’

Trent excels when he has the chance to use his impressive design abilities. ‘One notable project he designed was a set of four-metre-high bi-folds, including a 15-metre top hung sliding door which consist of two-metre-wide door leaves in 10.38mm glass for a single door panel in a C4 high-end wind category,’ Mei says proudly. ‘The design is incredibly elegant – we nearly broke our backs installing it, but you can open it with a finger. The door is top-hung, with incisions on the track’s bottom to make it glide. Because there was no die, we precision-cut all the panels by hand.’

These invaluable technical skills are a significant driver of product innovation. ‘At Alspec, they have a person designing products in real time as Trent describes them,’ Mei says. ‘Sales Manager Sean Russell makes
a prototype, Trent explains what should be changed, Alspec promptly does it, and the company starts stocking it within a month.’ Mei and Trent aren’t shy about their energetic business approach. ‘We’re young and enthusiastic, with a firm belief in listening to what the customer wants and finding a way to give it to them – even if we have to design it ourselves,’ says Trent.

As well as attending to customers’ needs, Trent and Mei ensure their staff have their priorities sorted. ‘We make sure our people can visit their families once a month, no matter how much we need them,’ Mei says. ‘In nearly 11 years, we’ve never had a single employee leave because they didn’t like the job.

Running the business enables the couple to play to each other’s strengths. ‘The business was built on our shoulders, with the winning combination of my HR background and Trent’s technical skills,’ says Mei.

Their dedication is well-recognised. ‘Three of our employees have said: “I feel like a first-year apprentice working at North Queensland Glass, as I learn so much each day!”,’ Mei concludes. This innovative duo is clearly determined to keep leading the way.
National Glass has always prided itself on being an innovative leader in the Australian glass industry. As we grew rapidly in the 1990s and 2000s, many of our competitors simply had to follow our lead to keep pace with our innovations.

National Glass pioneered overnight toughened glass supply in South East Queensland, as well as short lead times on high-end processed toughened glass. This revolutionised the local industry, changing it forever.

The early 2000s saw the proliferation of processing equipment and toughened furnaces in the marketplace, supported by an ever-increasing demand for frameless glazing. National Glass continued to excel in supplying these products; however, plans were already evolving to dramatically expand our range.

‘For National Glass, the answer lay in investing in a range of integrated new product lines that would lift our product offering to a new level,’ explains National Glass Group General Manager Matthew Churchill.

Designers and consumers are continuing to look for bigger, better, stronger and more visually appealing products. Glass industry suppliers at all levels interpret this as energy-efficient, frameless, acoustic and decorative products. The concept of glass as a product that simply ‘fills a hole in the wall’ is now a thing of the past.

‘Glass is increasingly looked on as a product that can deliver comfort, natural light, security relief from noise – and now, through products like our ImageTek™ range, glass can also create an individual bespoke appearance. Our plan was to ensure that we could return to being a “one-stop shop” for our customers by expanding and improving our product offering while retaining the ability to manufacture all products in-house,’ says Matthew.

Therefore, a large investment was made to manufacture custom-laminated Insulated Glass Units (IGUs) and digital printed glass products. We have already trademarked our digital printed range under the name ImageTek™.

This investment also involved a complete rebuild and ramping up of our glass handling, cutting, processing and toughening capabilities. A considerable investment has also been made in our despatch fleet.

In late 2016, National Glass commissioned its new manufacturing facility in Granite Street, Geebung, located at the rear of our existing Zillmere plant. We often joke to our clients that it is so big that it expands into the next suburb. Our customers have already reaped the benefits of our new product range, and we have teamed up with a range of clients to supply some exciting projects.

2. Eatons Hill Conference Centre – Eatons Hill, Brisbane – Glazed by Lifestyle Aluminium.

We saw a need to ‘do more with glass’

The project involved 9.52mm toughened laminate with SG41 high-performance PVB incorporating ImageTek™ digital printed glass.

> The Gold Coast Cultural Centre Amphitheatre forms part of the Landmark Gold Coast Cultural Precinct, which is being developed on 17 hectares over the next 15 years. ImageTek™ digital printed glass was supplied and installed as part of a large hangar door for the Amphitheatre. National Glass’s in-house Graphic Designer worked closely with the Glazing Contractor to ensure that each individual painted panel fitted to form the required design on the overall façade.

The project involved 9.52mm toughened laminate with SG41 high-performance PVB incorporating ImageTek™ digital printed glass.
The New Eatons Hill Conference Centre forms part of the Landmark Eatons Hill Hotel Complex, which has been developed by the Comiskey Group. The Eatons Hill Hotel has been inducted into the QHA Hall of Fame for winning Best Entertainment Venue three years running.

The client was trying to achieve a particular visual appearance with the conference centre façade involving a series of different tinted shades. This could not be achieved with a standard product while satisfying design requirements.

The result was a range of custom-manufactured toughened laminate panels, which gave the client the exact visual appearance they were looking for while satisfying all design and energy requirements.

The result is a visually stunning building with a unique appearance.

The JCU Townsville job came our way when the overseas manufacturer failed to deliver. This caused deadlines to be missed, resulting in budget blowouts for the project.

National Glass was able to rescue the project by supplying an equivalent product within a fast turnaround time.

Custom-made products, including 13.52mm toughened laminate, were manufactured at the National Glass Geebung complex; the National Glass Townsville branch coordinated the delivery and supplied a range of complementary glass products.

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These projects offer an example of how the new National Glass facility produces products that cater for our industry’s latest design requirements.
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Sanctuary Cove Resort on Queensland’s Gold Coast has been chosen as the inimitable venue for AGGA’s 2018 National Conference. Sanctuary Cove is ideally located to achieve a careful balance between seclusion and accessibility. The resort is positioned on the Gold Coast’s serene northern end, while remaining only a short drive to the Brisbane CBD.

The resort’s outstanding features include three championship golf courses and the Sanctuary Cove Golf & Country Club – so you can relax, soak up Queensland’s famed weather, and sink your final putt.

Sanctuary Cove’s luxury accommodation is famed for its beautifully appointed rooms and premium suites. Each room features a private balcony, postcard views, parquetry flooring and exquisite Queensland design. The rooms are situated within Sanctuary Cove’s Great House, modelled on the graceful elegance of a classic Queensland estate. Featuring a dramatic stained-glass window and grand staircase, the beautiful interior opens out onto the resort’s lush gardens. These are perfectly complemented by the surrounding natural beauty, including a stunning natural beach lagoon.

The world-class conference facilities nestled in this spectacular beachfront setting bolster Sanctuary Cove’s reputation as a glittering jewel in Queensland’s crown. The slogan ‘One day is never enough’ encapsulates this region’s appeal – with so much scope for entertainment and relaxation in one idyllic area, you’ll never want to leave. These enticing features, combined with the annual selection of AGGA-organised group events, make this an unmissable occasion. Avoid missing out by booking early – perhaps bring the family along for a mini-break.

The conference takes place from 29 - 31 August 2018 – so be sure to save the date to avoid disappointment. We look forward to seeing you at the AGGA National Conference in the idyllic surroundings of Queensland’s Gold Coast.

www.sanctuarycove.com
Despite some well-publicised challenges which include everything from ‘imminent’ environmental disasters, and a growing appetite for protectionism, to late-night twitter rants, the global economy beat the expectations of many in 2017. China was particularly kind to the Australian economy over the past 12 months. Thanks to a renewed agenda for construction-led growth, commodity prices have found some solid ground. After hitting a low point of around $50 per tonne earlier in the year, the price for iron ore is now sitting at around $75 per tonne.

This is a good thing considering as a nation we have bet the kids’ inheritance on expanding mine and export facilities in the hope of selling this stuff to Asia, at a profit. Speaking of the kids’ inheritance, housing construction has been the other standout in 2017. From a low of 145,000 in 2011–12, new housing commences have topped 200,000 for three years running, adding an extra one per cent to the size of the economy – supporting more than 100,000 extra jobs. This extra activity has also benefitted a bunch of other industries, both upstream (such as building product manufacturers) and downstream (such as furniture, whitegoods and electronics retailers).

The housing boom has also been great for State Government coffers, with stamp duties on residential property (in the eastern states at least) returning record revenues and supporting greater investment into major transport and utilities infrastructure projects. Elsewhere, given the three drivers of inflation risk – business pricing power, wage growth above productivity growth, and rising imports from a falling $A – are all in the slow lane, the likelihood that higher interest rates present a threat in 2018 has diminished considerably. Money is cheaper now than at any time since its creation about 3000 years ago. Other than making Australian households richer (the average household in Australia is now a millionaire), low interest rates have pushed up household debt in Australia to a point which is now more than 100 per cent of GDP – high when compared to an average of around 63 per cent of GDP in comparable developed countries.

‘If you owe your bank 100 pounds, you have a problem. But if you owe a million, it has.’ And Australia’s household debt obsession has become the RBA’s problem, which means even if the RBA would like interest rates to be higher, consideration must be given to what this might mean for the ability of households to meet their future debt obligations. Jobs growth was a thing of beauty in 2017. And the recent Australian Bureau of Statistics Labour Force Survey data shows much of this growth has been in full-time jobs.

Looking longer-term, this puts hope back into hope for higher future wages growth – and dare I say it, perhaps even higher inflation. Real GDP growth was recorded at 3 per cent over the year to September 2017, and 0.8 per cent in the September quarter. Better still, the outlook is for this growth to hang around for a few years longer. As Chart 1 shows, we are not out of the woods yet. The economy has been performing below average for years and a number of challenges, both domestic and from abroad, will need to be traversed before we can safely say we’re out of danger.

But overall, as long as China’s construction sector keeps pace, house prices and housing construction remain relatively robust, and if the men with bad hair and itchy trigger fingers keep it cool, we should be in for a prosperous period ahead.

The building and construction industry continues to be a bit of a mixed bag, with some sectors and locations performing better
than others. That said, the boom in the east coast housing markets and a moderation in the decline in resources construction activity was enough to put the construction industry into second place on the industry leader board – ahead of the mining sector in third place.

With work complete on the $64 billion Gorgon gas project (the biggest single construction project in Australia’s history) and the offshore platform of the $45 billion Ichthys LNG project finally making its way from South Korea in the last quarter of 2017, it is safe to say there will be little contribution from the LNG sector to the construction pipeline in the next 12 months.

Engineering construction is expected to moderate in 2017–18, and grow thereafter on the back of some big public spending commitments by the Federal and State Governments into major transport infrastructure projects. Additional stamp duty revenues generated during the housing boom and funds from asset recycling are being directed to fund major public road and rail projects – particularly in NSW and Victoria. Chart 2 shows the pipeline of major transport projects is only just starting to ramp up as several projects move beyond early stages of construction and closer to completion. Activity is expected to continue to rise through the year and peak in 2019/20 at a little over $16 billion. The challenge will be for governments to continue this investment into the future, so we can keep our growing cities and regions moving.
SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE.

Chevron is the Diamut solution for laminated glass. Grinding wheels designed for machining laminated glass on vertical and CNC machine.
Not only is this investment needed to support the expansion of productivity-enhancing infrastructure in our cities and regions, it also comes at an opportune time, providing a much-needed offset to the predicted moderation in residential construction over the next couple of years - a rather neat reversal of roles from the past few years, where it was the residential sector providing a buffer as mining investment cooled. Strong population growth, record low interest rates and high foreign demand have propped up the residential sector for a number of years. Low interest rates may hang around for a while longer, and population growth is showing no signs of slowing down any time soon. So while Master Builders’ forecasts show a softer period ahead, these fundamentals should mean the housing construction sector is in for a soft landing.

The overall picture for the residential sector, putting relative differences in markets by geography and sectors aside, is for modest growth in 2018. Dwelling commencements are expected to drop under 200,000 for the first time in three years, but only just. With commencements expected to be around 195,000, there is plenty of construction to be done. That said, it’s safe to say the peak in the housing construction boom is now behind us.

**Safety Matters**

**Side Load Grab Safety**
Another serious incident involving a side load grab late in 2017 must raise the flag to ensure that all your safety processes for similar equipment are in place, checked, monitored and reinforced.

Even where safe lift systems are fitted, it is imperative that staff are constantly reminded of the importance of never entering the danger zone, and are reminded to be aware of their workmates and how they’re positioned. A critical behaviour to encourage in your workers is speaking up when they recognise a dangerous situation, and praising them for it when they do.

**Safety Checks**
At the last AGGA Safety Sub-Committee meeting, it was unanimously agreed that as safety was such an overriding issue in the industry, a safety check of some sort should be a condition of joining the Association. This principle was agreed by the Board. The mechanism of the safety check has yet to be identified, but this is an important initiative which demonstrates the commitment of the Board and will result in an industry which is safer for workers.

**AS 1288**
Though normally the Standard is referred to in technical articles, I want to draw the connection here as to how it is implicated in safety also. Legislation requires that processes are in place to ensure the safety of workers and other persons is not compromised as a result of the work performed. The sorts of incidents which may result if the requirements of the Standard are not applied include:

- a child suffering serious lacerations when the lower panel of an internal glass door shattered (3mm float glass) when they walked into it
- an adult nearly falling from a second-storey window shattered after they bumped into it (again, 3mm float glass).

**For more information please contact**
Will Walker on 03 8669 0178 or email will@agga.asn.au
2017/2018 Master Glazier update

We finished 2017 with 106 glaziers on the Master/Certified Glazier program. Our aim for 2018 is to increase this to 300.

Online Application
A major step forward in 2018 will be the launch of an online, application process for the Master Glazier program. This will allow applicants to apply online, and will offer the ability to upload all relevant support documentation and payment. AGGA will then allocate reviewers who will review the application through an online portal and make their recommendations to AGGA. If successful, the applicant will be informed. This process is expected to speed up the completion of applications while allowing the applicant to apply at a time suitable to them.

A user’s guide will be available to guide applicants through the process and inform them as to what they need to prepare before applying. The online application is expected to be available from late March 2018. Watch this space for more details.

Marketing
In 2018 AGGA will produce two major marketing initiatives:

• Directly market to members to increase member participation into the program, while continuing to lift the profile of glaziers and encourage the growth of professionalism through continuous development.

• Directly market to non-members to include the full industry in this major initiative. We have had 11 non-members participate in the Master Glazier program, with 10 of them subsequently becoming State members of AGGA. We expect to see this trend continue with a wider and more focused marketing campaign.

An example of the quality of new members to the Master Glazier program is Andrew Synot from Wayne’s High Access (now a Victorian member).

‘I first heard of the Master Glazier program through a supplier who, was helping me with a license for a vacuum lifter. I hadn’t heard of it before, but was very interested in finding out what it took to become a Master or Certified Glazier. I contacted AGGA and spoke with Patrick Gavaghan; he was very helpful and said I should have a go at trying for my Certified Glazier Certificate. I put together a portfolio and had an interview, and was successful, I went to the AGGA office and met with Patrick, where I was awarded my Certificate (which I have shown to a lot of people).

After getting my certified award, I became very focused on obtaining my Master’s, which was something I was really striving toward. One of the problems I have faced is that people and clients don’t really understand what a Certified Glazier is, but everyone knows what a Master Tradesman is. I knuckled down and began doing courses to prove to AGGA how much it meant to me; I thought I would do one short course and one long course per year to make sure I continued with my professional development. I undertook Working At Heights and a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. For 2018, I have booked in for my Elevated Work Platforms and Certificate IV in Work, Health and Safety. I will also undertake my AS 1288 Standards Course through AGGA, which will take place on 8 February in Hobart. AGGA has conveniently put the training on the day after the England vs Australia T20 in Hobart (thanks guys).

‘Once Patrick called and told me I was successful in achieving Master Glazing status, I immediately rang my boss. Needless to say he was really happy, as we are the only company in Australia with a rope access Master Glazier. Since then, we have emailed all our existing clients and some potential new ones. The response has been terrific, and 2018 is already looking very busy.

‘Throughout this incredible journey, I have not been alone. In 2016 I spoke with my boss about putting on an apprentice to help me out a bit. We took on James, and he has been really great. Abseilers have to work in pairs, so it made sense to give someone the opportunity to become a qualified glazier while also getting his Level III IRATA.'
Whether you’ve chosen to upskill existing staff or take on a new worker, when you hire or sign up an apprentice, you’ll gain a keen worker who will learn your business your way.

Providing formal training is a great way to get the expertise your business needs, and can improve staff motivation and satisfaction by showing your employees you are willing to invest in their future.

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Our service includes:

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- **Financial Incentives**: We’ll check your eligibility for Government financial incentives and will be here to help you through the incentive claims process.
- **Training**: We can help you choose the right Registered Training Organisation to deliver off-the-job training.
- **Ongoing Support**: Our mentors offer personalised and confidential support to give your apprentice the best chance at remaining in employment and completing their training.
- **Easy Apprentice Management**: Keep on top of your apprentice’s progress and your incentive payments with our online employer portal (MAACO).

At MEGT, we understand your business needs. This is why we’re AGGA’s Apprenticeship Network Provider of choice and Australia’s only National Apprenticeship Network Provider.

Thinking of hiring or signing up a new apprentice?

In 2017 we had another interested party give us a call; we hired Anthony, and he has been very interested in the glazing side of rope access. We put him on as an apprentice also. Both James and Anthony attend trade school at Holmesglen in Chadstone. On the weekends, James works with a domestic glass company to get his skills up with the other aspects of glazing. They are both aware of the Master Glazier program and are looking forward to hopefully receiving this status in the future.

‘Being a member of AGGA has been great for our company. It has helped clients understand that we are not just a rope access company having a go at glazing. Once they see the AGGA logo and the Master Glazier ID card, they are confident in hiring us knowing that the job will get done safely and to Australian Standards.

‘I am really looking forward to see where 2018 takes me, and the company and I have already booked accommodation at the Intercontinental on the Gold Coast to attend AGGA’s National Conference, GA18.

‘If any glazier thinks they might be interested in rope access glazing, have a look at whaglass on Instagram to see some of the work we do.”

For information on the Master Glazier program contact Patrick Gavaghan, AGGA National Training Manager patrick@agga.asn.au or call 0401 555 656.

For more information visit www.megt.com.au or contact your local office on 13 MEGT (6348).
AGGA Training

Compliance and ongoing professional development is good for your business and the glass industry.

With rapid expansion, the glass and glazing industry faces a labyrinth of ongoing changes to regulation, new building materials and technology. Business owners and leaders now face the responsibility of ensuring their workforce is up-to-date with the ever-complex and changing regulations and new industry products and services.

The top five business benefits for the glass and glazing industry, and the reasons why online training and compliance are good for your business, are as follows:

1) Improves overall industry standards – Online training allows employees to refresh their skills and learn about new products and methods. In doing so, they are able to immediately retain and implement key learnings and knowledge, giving them the tools to be effective on the job. This has shown to lead to increased job satisfaction, productivity, staff retention and job safety.

2) Saves money – The cost of sending employees offsite or even hosting an internal workshop is more expensive than being able to provide the courses online.

3) Convenience – With 24/7 accessibility, online learning can take place anywhere, anytime and at the employee’s own pace. Employers can take advantage of downtime on project sites as a result of job delays, such as inclement weather.

4) Lower risk – Having employees trained and up-to-date means lower risk, reduced insurance costs, and reduced regulatory costs.

5) Variety of courses – With a plethora of courses from health and safety to business coaching, employers can allocate the relevant courses that are needed at that time as well as track and manage when courses are completed.

Online training also caters to a wide range of training needs and learning preferences. Renewing licenses and staying up-to-date with regulations should not be seen as a box-ticking exercise, but rather as an ongoing journey in an employee’s career.

(An AGGA Member RTO Partner)

Established in 2007, Pointsbuild Pty Ltd (www.pointsbuild.com.au) is a leader in the delivery of online education, training, professional development and related consulting services. At Pointsbuild, the training is tailored to suit individual state regulations, so that if your employees are working on multiple sites, they can learn the various requirements and differences per state.

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There is no doubt that running a Trade or Construction business can be hard work. Business owners and leaders are often faced with challenges surrounding cash flow, productivity, hiring, quoting and general business management. In June 2017, AGGA National Training Manager Patrick Gavaghan identified the need for business owners to have access to training and support and proactively engaged with PROTRADE United to give AGGA members access to street-smart business tools and information.

AGGA, in collaboration with PROTRADE United, provides members with complimentary Business Success Webinars and access to Business Innovation Workshops. Since September 2017, 34 AGGA members have engaged in these webinars and workshops across the country.

There has been a great response and positive feedback since this member benefit was released. AGGA member Lewis Thomas, Director of Abbey Aluminium, shared his thoughts:

‘PROTRADE United has assisted me to confront the key challenges in the business. It was refreshing to discuss with other like-minded business owners and recognise we experience similar business issues. I also felt the information delivered was very relevant to the trade and construction industry.’

With the business economy and innovative technology changing rapidly each year, now is the time to develop your business skills to be as strong as your trade skills. PROTRADE United will continue to support AGGA members in 2018 with access to relevant and practical webinars and business workshops.

For a schedule of events, please contact AGGA National Training Manager Patrick Gavaghan at patrick@agga.asn.au, or visit www.agga.org.au/training/protrade

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Glass and Glazing Qualification Review

In May 2017 the Furnishing Industry Reference Committee, along with AGGA National Training Manager Patrick Gavaghan, identified industry professionals and established the Glass and Glazing Technical Advisory Committee (GGTAC).

The aim of the GGTAC is to review Glass and Glazing industry qualifications, to ensure they meet industry’s expectations and that the required skills are being catered for.

The GGTAC is also looking at the content of units of competency to ensure:

- they reflected current and new materials being used in industry
- they reflected current work procedures
- the assessment requirements are rigorous enough to meet the expectation of industry.

The GGTAC’s work will, by June 2018, see the redrafted units incorporate some changes to support improved compliance with the Standards for Training Packages.

Many of these Standards relate to improving clarity about what is required and removing items that are guidance only. (There is potential for the inclusion of additional guidance information in companion volumes). This includes:

- reduction of duplication and changes to avoid repetition of essentially the same information in different parts of the units. For example, Performance Evidence requirements previously included standard foundation skills statements (i.e. identical across units) that were often simply a repeat of performance criteria – those generic statements have been removed. In most cases, foundation skills were already explicit in the performance criteria, and this will be checked again prior to finalisation
- ensuring the Performance Evidence is specific to the unit and focuses on volume and frequency of evidence needed to show competency
- removing the Range of Conditions, where most content did not meet the requirement for this field (i.e. it did not describe an essential operating condition), and using that information to provide more clarity around the scope of knowledge required by workers. The inclusion or removal of content such as detailed lists of tools and equipment has been based on advice from TACs
- strengthening the knowledge evidence requirements to provide more guidance around scope and depth of knowledge required
- streamlining of Assessment Conditions, including removal of blanket statements that did not always apply and guidance information about assessment methods, as this section needs to focus only on requirements.

By the time Draft 2 is released, the performance criteria in all units will also be changed from passive to active voice, reflecting current practice and improving readability.

Broader Consultation

The first draft of all units will be available to view on the IBSA website www.ibsa.org.au/sso-industries/furnishing/ from 29 January 2018 until Friday 17 February 2018 for all industry stakeholders to provide feedback.

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Current issues being discussed by the TAC members include:

1. Qualifications – Restructure of packaging rules to better reflect industry needs and expectations:
   - MSFGG30413 Certificate III in Glass and Glazing
   - MSFGG40413 Certificate IV in Glass and Glazing

2. Units of Competency:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing Unit Code</th>
<th>Existing Unit Title</th>
<th>Action for Draft 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GLASS HANDLING AND STORAGE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSFGG2002</td>
<td>Use, handle and store glass and glazing products and consumables</td>
<td>Not updated – content to be merged into other units based on initial analysis and TAC advice (to be actioned)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSFGG2006</td>
<td>Move single glass sheets by mechanical means</td>
<td>Updated based on initial analysis questions and TAC advice and these two units merged – now called Move glass sheets by mechanical means</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSFGG3001</td>
<td>Store and handle glass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FABRICATION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSFGG2009</td>
<td>Fabricate and assemble frames</td>
<td>Updated – feedback suggests this is a double-up for glaziers – potential to make this unit just ‘assemble’ – as TAC has identified that there are job roles where people just assemble?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSFGG3020</td>
<td>Use static machines for aluminium and unplasticised polyvinyl chloride (uPVC) fabrication</td>
<td>Updated – see unit for questions. In particular, there is a question about the relationship of this unit to fabricate and assemble frames. Would you be assessing the same skills?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSFGG2010</td>
<td>Fabricate and install insect and security screens</td>
<td>These units split into fabrication and installation to create two new units – these are initial drafts to be built on: Fabricate residential glazing products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSFGG3015</td>
<td>Fabricate and install shower screens and wardrobe doors</td>
<td>Install residential glazing products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSFGG3016</td>
<td>Fabricate and install residential windows and doors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSFGG3021</td>
<td>Prepare and install mirrors and glass splashbacks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSFGG3017</td>
<td>Fabricate and install commercial glazing</td>
<td>These units split into fabrication and installation to create two new units – these are initial drafts to be built on: Fabricate commercial glazing products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSFGG3018</td>
<td>Prepare and install architectural engineered glazing</td>
<td>Install commercial glazing products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Install structural glazing products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Are skills different around fabrication for commercial/structural or could structural be part of Fabricate commercial glazing products? And include structural in the title?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESIGNED GLASS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSFSL3001</td>
<td>Apply product and material knowledge to leadlight and stained glass operations</td>
<td>Partially updated – see unit. Analysis suggests there is nothing in this unit that is not covered elsewhere – question posed in Draft 1. Proposed for removal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSFSL3003</td>
<td>Fabricate and install residential leadlight and stained glass windows and doors</td>
<td>Proposed for removal based on TAC input</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOOLS UNIT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSFGG2001</td>
<td>Use glass and glazing sector hand and power tools</td>
<td>All content is found and assessed in other units – proposed for removal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The glass industry has been fortunate to have the coordination of the GGTAC review process managed by Gary Dunshea, Industry Manager IBSA. Gary’s deep understanding of Training Package requirements, and his many years working with the glass industry, has been the driver ensuring the success of the review to date.

If you have any questions or require further information please contact Patrick Gavaghan, AGGA National Training Manager at patrick@agga.asn.au or call 0401 555 656.
Glaston RC350 enables move to bigger glass sizes

Peterlee Glass expands – a celebration of 40 years of success

"Although October 2017 officially marked our 40th birthday, we’ve been celebrating throughout the entire year with a significant investment in new machinery that will help us continue to grow and thrive in the architectural glass sector. At the end of summer, we started up our new Glaston RC350 tempering furnace that allows us to deliver larger oversized glass and a wider portfolio of coated glass to better serve our customers," says Graeme Hawes, Managing Director of Peterlee Glass Company Ltd., Peterlee, County Durham, UK.

Founded in 1977, near the Durham Heritage Coast, Peterlee Glass (PLG) has grown from a local glass glazing service to a specialist in providing architectural glass products for retail and domestic use. The company has extended its reach from the village of Peterlee to customers nationwide.

Now after four decades of success, the company decided to increase production and boost sales by moving to a new factory and investing in specialized processing equipment, including Glaston’s RC350 flat tempering glass line. Other new equipment includes a vertical CNC station along with cutting and washing machinery. The new machines will enable PLG to offer oversized glass – to drive new sales growth, streamline production, improve productivity and reduce lead time.

**SMOOTH INSTALLATION**
For Graeme Hawes, this was his first time buying a furnace from Glaston.

"During the first week in June, the containers started to arrive at our new 60,000 ft² facility. The assembly proceeded very smoothly, without any issues. The Glaston UK team of five persons got on with the work, requiring very little of our involvement during the process. This was especially helpful, since we could then continue to focus on running our business as usual," says Graeme.

When it was time for commissioning, a Glaston UK engineer took care of that part. "We appreciated the fact that the assembly and commissioning phases were handled professionally by local Glaston people. We had no barriers in communicating and all went very well," Graeme explains.

**PRODUCTION SPEEDS UP**
The final acceptance took place on August 4. In Graeme’s opinion, the furnace started running quality glass right away.

"Our new Glaston furnace is much bigger than what we had before. So, production is going through much quicker. I’m really happy about that!" he says.

**EXTRA TRAINING FOR OPERATORS**
Training, too, proceeded without any issues. The operators received a first training session when the Glaston RC350 started up. After four weeks, the Glaston training team came back to PLG to give additional training.
"It was a good opportunity to help answer additional questions, once our operators had had the chance to try out the furnace on their own for some time," Graeme says. "The furnace is very different from what our operators are used to running. But the RC350 is easy to control. And the software and controls are very self-explanatory."

**LIVING UP TO EXPECTATIONS**

"Yes – this is exactly what I was expecting from a Glaston furnace," Graeme says. "The performance of our new RC350 is excellent."

He goes on to state that one of the first pieces that they ran through the line was a big sheet that measured 5 x 2.2 m with a thickness of 19 mm.

"It came out absolutely perfect!" he says, confident that PLG can now produce the oversized glass sheets and toughened coated glass requested by their customers.

"We’ve already been able to win new customers because of the glass sizes we’re now able to process," says Graeme with satisfaction.

**CELEBRATION CONTINUES**

To show off their new investment, Graeme and his team have been busy inviting customers to come and visit – to see the actual machinery running at the new factory. At the same time, they’ve been calling on new customers to let them know about PLG’s expanded capabilities in architectural glass.

He goes on to say: "Our celebration doesn’t end after this milestone year. We’ll be able to continue with high spirits for quite some time, processing larger glass sheets, boosting our production and providing high-quality service to our customers across a more diverse product range."

"We’re looking forward to growing our offering and breaking into new markets with our highly specialized glass products!"

"Our new Glaston furnace is much bigger than what we had before. So, production is going through much quicker. I’m really happy about that!"

— Graeme Hawes, Managing Director of Peterlee Glass Company Ltd.

"During the first week in June, the containers started to arrive at our new 60,000 ft² facility. The assembly proceeded very smoothly, without any issues. The Glaston UK team of five persons got on with the work, requiring very little of our involvement during the process. This was especially helpful, since we could then continue to focus on running our business as usual."
A Space for Contemplation – Dudley Denny City Library, Mackay

G.James Windows & Doors recently completed work on an expansive glazed dome for the Dudley Denny City Library in Mackay, Queensland. Already known by its appreciative audience simply as ‘The Dome’, the project has swiftly won pride of place in the public’s heart.

G.James’ exceptional work has been widely acknowledged, both by its many visitors and industry recognition, having been the winner of the prestigious 2017 AGGA QLD Commercial Project Over $50K award.

The G.James project team of Scott Harris and Neville Donald, detail some of the major challenges involved in the project, including the bold move to open up the existing library space. ‘The dome was an entirely new structure constructed to replace an existing one,’ Scott says. ‘The library’s ground floor originally featured a Perspex dome; we took the replacement to the next level by extending it right up to the building’s roofline.’

G.James’ early planning on the project called for close consultation with Council. ‘They had drafted an idea of the dome they wanted,’ says Scott. ‘We took this back to our in-house engineers and draftspeople, who then commenced undertaking the extensive drafting and engineering requirements. After everything had been drawn up exactly as specified and approved, we proceeded to construction.’

Completing the dome within the existing public building involved significant engineering challenges. ‘The new dome is constructed of clear heat-strengthened laminated glazed panels – the top half being 25.52mm in thickness, and the bottom half 21.52mm,’ Neville notes. ‘The glazed dome is situated in the heart of the library on the first floor, directly over a void looking down onto the shopping arcade below.

‘To ensure that the dome fitted with absolute precision on the site, there was no room for error with our calculations, and our engineering also extended to include the structure of the existing building. The first floor area needed to be surveyed extensively to ensure its structural integrity would not be compromised and that it could hold the increased weight of the new glazed dome.

‘Our engineers, in consultation with the steel fabricator and builder, determined the exact positioning of the dome’s central ring in relation to the roof above,’ Scott says. ‘The entire dome was designed and put into production from the resultant CAD drawings prepared by G.James, which included the floor, the centre ring and roof brackets which hold the glass, and each of the different-sized glazing panels.

‘Before any of the glass was installed, the builder had to pre-load the centre ring that formed the base of the dome, which was strapped to the lower ground shopping arcade floor,’ Neville continues. ‘This provided the correct daylight opening so that the glass in the top half would fit correctly, as the ring was expected to move due to the sheer weight of glass once it was in position.’

Preparing the site for construction was onerous. ‘Working on a restricted site with the bottom level open to the public caused access issues, which we remedied by creating a fenced-off area with trolleys and a spider crane at the top to lift up the glass with mechanical suckers,’ Neville recalls.

> Text by Tim Roberts, Photography courtesy of G.James
Before any of the glass was installed, the builder had to pre-load the centre ring that formed the base of the dome, which was strapped to the lower ground shopping arcade floor.
The spider crane used during construction had to be agile and responsive to the site’s challenges. ‘Our main issue was obtaining a crane sufficiently small and flexible enough for our purpose and the site restrictions,’ Scott explains.

‘Lifting the glass with the library’s sloping roof created another challenge, because the roofline fell lower on the side where we were able to get the crane in,’ says Neville. ‘To gain a purchase, the crane operators made a small “knuckle” which allowed the glass to be lifted up to that height. (At one point, the top of the ceiling one metre outside the dome’s centre is actually lower than the top of the dome.)’

‘We had a sizeable team carefully guide the glass into each space and tap it into the opening very slowly. Once the crane was inside the library, it carried glazed panels and equipment through the gaps in the glass. The crane table went right down through the dome to the bottom floor, picked up each piece of glass and lifted it.’

Close collaboration of the team and every possible resource was called on for this to happen. ‘As well as a crane operator and a rigger/spotter, we had two glaziers in a scissor lift down in the shopping arcade, extending inside the dome to position each panel as it was lifted. Another two glaziers were positioned in the shopping arcade below, manoeuvring each panel to be lifted by the crane, says Neville.’

To hold the dome’s glazing in place, brackets were machined individually to different profiles from single blocks of aluminium manufactured by G.James. Similarly, the glazing itself is highly specialised. ‘The “lean” on the dome required each pane of glass to be of a particular size and shape, making the finished structure resemble a massive jigsaw puzzle that had to be assembled onsite. Fortunately, the CAD drawings made it relatively straightforward to assemble all the components,’ Neville remembers.

The specifications of the glazing are daunting. ‘With absolute precision required, it took approximately one week for a fitter to install every bracket,’ Neville states. ‘There are 48 pieces of glass to be fitted, each weighing in the vicinity of 170 to 180kg – 24 on the top of the dome and 24 at the bottom, each of which was CAD-cut and numbered. These comprise the completed dome of approximately 5m high and 9m wide, which now forms the library’s centrepiece.’

During installation of the glazing, the top panes were loaded first in a staggered formation. ‘This allowed the strapping to be removed later, and ensured the weight was distributed correctly across the span of the ring,’ Neville points out. ‘Releasing the pre-tension of that centre ring was a dramatic moment, because everything had to stay in place afterwards.’

Calling all this a logistical headache would be an understatement. ‘It took approximately two days to lift the top half of the dome into position, due to having to move the crane to lift these panes in the required order,’ Neville remembers. ‘Another day and a half was then needed to glaze the bottom half, which didn’t have to be installed in a particular sequence. Finally, it took approximately two full days to seal the butt joints, with one fitter working inside the dome and another outside.’

Queensland’s dramatic weather conditions made the dome’s specifications particularly challenging. ‘We had to allow for 40mm of lift with the roof in a worst-case scenario in the event of a cyclone, to enable the roof to expand if necessary,’ Scott says. ‘Although the dome is inside the building, it is pressurised to allow for expansion of the roof.’

The response from the public and visitors to the shopping centre and library has been enormously gratifying. ‘The project was featured in the Master Builders Awards, won the AGGA State Awards in 2017, and is now a prominent feature in the city’s architecture,’ Neville reflects. ‘It was a privilege to do something so out of the ordinary. This was definitely a high-blood-pressure challenge, and one of the most difficult projects I’ve worked on in 30 years – but we were all high-fiving at the end!’

This imaginative renovation of Mackay’s library has resulted in a light-filled and unforgettable reading space for all to enjoy.
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Batman House, a striking glass-encased residence in Tasmania’s north, demonstrates glazing’s capacity to enhance vibrant living spaces with strong links to their natural surroundings.

The structure of Batman House is wrapped in performance double-glazing, with framing a combination of Architectural Window Systems (AWS) Magnum and Elevate. According to the architect, choosing a supplier for the window frames was a ‘no-brainer’. Praising the ability to mix and match window suites within this custom-built project, the architect contacted Michael Dalton, Manager of Glass Supplies and the Tasmanian fabricator for AWS.

As Michael explains, each element of the glazing for this ambitious project was carefully chosen. ‘Batman House contains a wide mix of residential and commercial glazing,’ he says. ‘This includes a range of IGUs, coupled with ComfortPlus™ low-E ranging from 6.38mm to 10.38mm for the single-glazed applications and Viridian translucent glazing in the bathrooms for privacy. The high proportion of onsite glazing was made necessary by the sheer size of the windows.

‘Low-E glass was used for the small highlight windows, which were too delicate to take double glazing. These were glazed in a channel fixed to the steelwork, as the owners wanted a minimalistic look with little of the framing visible,’ Michael points out.

The IGUs and low-E glass were chosen for their thermal properties. ‘Due to the vast area of glazing in Batman House, minimising heat loss and gain was essential,’ Michael says. ‘This region in Tasmania experiences a wide fluctuation in temperatures, ranging from around -3°C in winter to the mid-30s in summer, so achieving stability in this area was a key challenge.’
Low-E glass was used for the small highlight windows, which were too delicate to take double glazing.
The picturesque site provided the motivation to push window sizes to their limit. ‘The north-facing aspect was built to take advantage of the sun, in combination with the view of the Tamar River and the surroundings,’ says Michael. ‘One aim was to capture available daylight during months with little sun. The glazing allows the owners to capture the precious available light for most of the day.’

Batman House is equally notable for its environmentally sustainable concepts. As the house utilises the properties of passive solar design created by facing the axis of the residence north towards Batman Bridge, the structure’s high thermal mass provides a huge advantage. Batman House features insulated slab floors as an energy-saving measure, tempered by a visual lightness making the building seem as if it’s floating on air.

This environmentally conscious design played a further role in Batman House’s ability to combine impressive energy efficiency with a high degree of light transmission. These are essential assets in a building with a memorable natural outlook, with the openness to sunlight cutting energy use by reducing artificial lighting.

The house’s aesthetics are intense and unmistakable. A range of finishes and materials grace Batman House throughout, with the sleek exterior merging brightly coloured planes and glazed sheets with prominent steel supporting cables. Notable features include a glass-walled bathroom and master bedroom with views onto the property, small decorative corner windows, and a streamlined home office bathed in natural light.

Close attention was also paid to the selection of the fittings and hardware. The interior includes locally made custom furniture and exposed aggregate stacked blockwork, complemented by 424 CentreGLAZE™ windows, 704 SlideMASTER™ doors, and framing by AWS.

Another of Batman House’s notable features is the glass-encased kitchen and adjacent dining room, offering the closest possible experience to cooking and dining within nature. ‘The dining room and kitchen area projects outwards toward the lounge,’ Michael observes. ‘This leads onto a deck with a stacking door and those oversized windows on either side, yielding enviable views of the Tamar River spanned by Batman Bridge.’

This level of innovation carries right through to the external features. Many elements of Batman House’s construction are a one-off, designed in response to the exquisite setting, built on a difficult site with poor bearings for the foundation, the building is unique in its lack of traditional double-storey foundation walls and footings. To remedy this, columns were used to support the entire structure.

The arresting exterior, with its cable-supported structure and strikingly positioned living area, vividly echoes the project’s visual inspiration, Batman Bridge. The suspended slab on which the house rests is covered in slate tiles. Minimalist gardens and surrounding stone-paved water features, drawing on motifs of Japanese design, complement this elegant selection of materials.

The AGGA judging panel, when reviewing Batman House, complimented the builder and designer’s skills, praising the ‘great use of solar passive’ principles and ‘exceptionally clean’ finish. The judges also noted the building’s ability to utilise technically difficult materials to the residents’ advantage.

Effortlessly combining sustainability, spectacle and sumptuousness, Batman House defines a balanced architectural style that exists in harmony with its beautiful surroundings.
Perfect glass handling solutions for on-site

**Nomad 400**
- Lifting capacity up to 400kg
- Rotates lites up to 4500mm
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- Precise adjustments for glazing

**Options include:**
- All terrain wheels and Outrigger legs
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![Nomad 400](image)


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![Vector 800](image)


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The new OKTOPUS ERGO-SPRINT 200 Vacuum Lifter was custom designed for vertically handling and rotating oversized glass panels or window systems up to 5 metres in length and to 200 kg in weight. Packed with safety features, the new OKTOPUS ERGO-SPRINT 200 is specifically designed to enable glass processors to lift 3.6 metre long glass panels to a height of 900mm, safely position onto a work bench or processing area and then rotate, with full load control and operation from ground level.

The controls and display elements feature ergonomic design principals for ease of use, to move and to rotate the load single-handedly. The height adjustable control is powered by a small electric gear motor and provides up to 1200mm vertical adjustment.

Special features:
- 415 volt or pneumatic power
- 360 degree powered rotation via electric gear motor
- “Blow-off” function for quick release from glass
- 2 x 300mm diameter suction cups
- Telescopic extendable suction frame from 1400 to 2600mm

"The introduction of a new OKTOPUS Ergo-Sprint 200 vacuum glass lifter at our Seven Hills facility has had a huge impact. This particular 415 volt powered vacuum lifter was developed in partnership between DecoGlaze™ and Oktopus Australia Pty. Ltd and has revolutionised our safe handling of large glass panels."

Mr Adam McCrory, CEO of DecoGlaze™
1st Glass is a high-end boutique glass company catering to all aspects of the frameless safety glass industry. A major supplier of the widest range of glass products to the Queensland market; the team at 1st Glass prides itself on being leaders in service and quality and holds a reputation for delivering orders on time, in full and to exacting customer requirements. To service their clients in Queensland and more recently, around Australia; 1st Glass has invested in an Intermac Master 38.2 CNC machine, the first such model in Australia.

Peter and Jane Condon started out as Euroglass 28 years ago with a second-hand Mitsubishi van selling Queensland’s first frameless glass shower screens. In 2005 they opened their ‘state of the art’ processing facility in Hemmant, Brisbane. Peter says “Our business really took off and since then our growth has been steady.” An investment of almost two million dollars of high tech machinery has been followed over the years by regular investments of new technology. Peter looks to Intermac for their demanding glass processing needs. “Our Master 38.3 CNC machine is very user-friendly, very accurate and allows us to control our quality, accuracy and delivery times,” said Peter.

In 2010 1st Glass was formed and the two companies now complement each other to provide a complete glass service for both commercial and residential clients. Their work includes the Brisbane Square near the casino; the Pullman Ibis and even the glass news desk at Channel 9 Queensland. Peter said they take on a wide range of complex, custom work and deliver Australia-wide. “We manage our costs tightly so we can be very cost-competitive. The Master Series was our best solution for overcoming new challenges and boosting our competitiveness. It’s as fast as our water-jet machine; is able to do multiple jobs in the one cycle and will both cut and polish the glass in the one program. We can now confidently schedule small or large batches and can set a competitive delivery date.”

“Our glass is being used for frameless shower screens; glass balustrades; bi-fold glass; pool fencing and windows and many custom applications in 4mm to 19mm glass,” says Peter. “The industry can be difficult with some slow and busy times so we need equipment that can respond quickly to the demands of our customers. Our new Intermac machine gives us control over our product and with the right business philosophy and the right people we can continue to grow as we innovate,” he says.

1st Glass prides itself in being big enough to handle almost anything but small enough to make one piece of glass. The Master 38.3 horizontal CNC is unique to the water-jet cutter in that it is capable of producing highly polished mirrored finished edges to any shaped pieces. When their customers require precision glass panels 1st Glass have the capability to meet their highest possible standards. “The Master series are strong performers” says Peter. “We’ve had a Master 33 for about twelve years now and it’s been so good we’ve spent a bit of money on it to keep it going for at least another five; pretty amazing for any CNC machine. Our customers make our business so we need to be efficient while providing the quality service they demand. We have a saying ‘Quality is never an accident; it is the result of intelligent effort’ and our experience, our people and our Intermac technology all come together to give us the intelligent effort we need to support our consistently high degree of professionalism and a hassle free experience for our customers.”
Saflex® Q enhanced acoustic PVB interlayers

Creating serenity is a sound decision.

As modern design trends emphasize liberal use of glazing, it’s good to know you can design to mitigate sound transmission—even through large expanses of glass. Saflex® Q acoustic PVB interlayers provide superior noise reduction for architectural glazing, enabling architects and builders to create inviting spaces with greater acoustic comfort.

For proven sound-dampening performance, Saflex uses a three-layer construction designed to decouple and disseminate sound waves. This patented system can result in noise reduction up to 10 decibels, reducing perceived noise by up to 50%.

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- Hotels/condominiums/neighborhoods

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Biesse Group to Launch New Oceania Campus

First it was Charlotte, then Pesaro, Dubai and now Sydney, Australia. Biesse Group will open their fourth Campus with their upcoming move to their new purpose-built 5,000 square metre ‘Oceania’ facility at Wetherill Park in March.

The new complex is more than just another showroom; it’s a new customer-focused facility, specifically designed to enhance every client’s experience.

The new Biesse Group Campus will be equipped with classrooms for training, a dedicated software space, and a fully operational showroom, service and spare parts area. This will allow Intermac the opportunity to offer a comprehensive sales and service experience for their customers, designed to meet every possible need.

‘This new campus gives something back to the industry in Australia that has given so much to us. We never forget what came before, and we never forget our customers. When I have a meeting I always leave an empty seat reserved for the most important person in the room – our customer, even if he or she cannot join us,’ says Federico Broccoli, Sales and Subsidiaries Division Director for the Biesse Group.

The new Campus is designed to host customer demonstrations, in-house events like the popular ‘Inside Intermac’ workshops, together with our regular educational and training events. We will also make the Biesse Campus available for industry use.

‘We are investing heavily in expanding our services to our customers; this is a key priority for Intermac, leaders in innovation and technology, customer support, and software. Every decision and initiative we undertake is to directly influence our customers and make their life easier,’ says Franco Angelotti, Sales Director, Glass and Stone Division, Biesse Group.
Industry News

Australian Glass Group Expand even further into TAS

AGG has built a loyal Tasmanian customer base over recent years, initially supplying the Tasmania glass industry from its Victoria manufacturing plant in Knoxfield.

Tasmania has always been considered an important regional market to AGG, due to the state’s increasing demand for performance glazing systems, including IGUs.

AGG’s commitment to the region was formalized with the appointment of Simon Hind as General Manager AGG Tasmania in 2016. Simon has enjoyed a lengthy career in the Tasmanian glass processing industry, for many years working with the Southern Glass group. ‘Having a local manager that wants to go the extra mile for his customers and drive what you need to get done on a daily basis is considered really important in a local operation,’ says Brendan Simpson, CEO of AGG.

AGG has more recently established a new manufacturing facility in Rokeby, in the state’s south, which is now fully operational. AGG Tasmania will now offer processed toughened glass for mirrors, splashbacks, balustrading and shower screens, also supplying a complete range of IGUs for the Tasmanian residential and commercial markets. AGG will also continue to offer SKYGLASS and custom laminating solutions.

‘AGG recognise the importance of their most valuable resource – great people, and their impact on delivering a consistent and quality customer experience,’ says Brendan. ‘AGG started recruiting and employing in Tasmania last year, and will continue as it builds its local capability to produce the sales that are currently sourced from Victoria.

Metro Glass NZ has been a great supporter of AGG’s local expansion into Tasmania, committing capital to the very latest technology in cutting, furnacing machinery and an IGU line.

For further information, contact Simon Hind on 03 6247 1625 or tasorders@agg.com.au

Landson Glass Recognised in NSW SafeWork Awards

AGGA wishes to congratulate Landson Glass, a finalist in the NSW SafeWork Awards 2017, in the category of ‘Best solution to an identified workplace health and safety issue for small business’.

Landson Glass harnessed their team’s many years of experience and expertise to highlight and solve an important safety issue for the industry. This related to a structural weakness of endcaps and cases, regarding the potential for the endcap to fail.

To address this hazard, Landson Glass developed a solution, engineering a certified steel endcap for transport and storage of volume glass. This steel endcap solution was judged by NSW SafeWork and deemed to be superior to the glass industry’s previous timber endcap offer. They did this by replacing the plywood with steel, a far stronger and more durable solution. This improvement to the original design has significantly enhanced the product’s level of safety, significantly reducing the risk of crushing due to the endcap’s increased strength.

To Landson Glass’s credit, this key initiative has significantly heightened workplace safety related to glass handling and transportation.

For further information, contact Simon Hind on 03 6247 1625 or tasorders@agg.com.au
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Fast, Faster, SprintCut

LiSEC set itself a goal to develop the most efficient cutting table ever produced for the flat glass industry – introducing SprintCut! SprintCut is LiSEC’s new high-performance fully automated cutting table, featuring an innovative design and state-of-the-art motive power engineering.

**Linear Motive Power Engineering is the Secret of Success**

With linear motive power engineering and the integrated measuring system, the new SprintCut ensures maximum cutting speed and outstanding dynamics. The maximum acceleration is approx. 16 m/s² and the maximum speed 310 m/min.

The linear drive has few moving parts, which means the mechanical wear is lower, resulting in longer maintenance intervals and lower downtime costs.

The exceptionally high acceleration and accuracy of the cutting head has a maximum offset of 0.1 mm.

The in-built intelligent control, allows the maximum speed to be reached as quickly as possible.

Through design innovation the noise emissions have been reduced significantly and overall operation of the machine has been optimized, another important feature for every operator and machine operating company.

The new LiSEC SprintCut sets the industry benchmark even higher with both price and performance.

Sprint-Cut is especially designed for customers with highly automated production lines in multiple-shift operation - up to 20% shorter cycle times can be gained.


---

**Measuring System Ensures the Necessary Precision**

The operation of the cutting table is made easier by an even higher degree of automation and new electronic controls. The cutting pressure control, grinding pressure control, the monitoring of the consumption of cutting oil and cutting wheel wear are automated, and as a preventive measure, the control system indicates pending replacements or fillings, thereby significantly reducing unplanned downtimes.

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**MIX**  
**LAMICUT**

**Quality and sturdy construction ensure maximum precision and minimum cutting tolerances in the base CUT cutting machine.**

Loading is performed manually, with each stock sheet positioned to align with reference marks. On initiating cutting, the machine automatically detects the glass sheet’s position to undertake absolute precise cutting.

**base** **MIX**

**System for Manual Sealing of IG Units Using 1- or 2-component sealants**

The base MIX pump and metering system designed for the manual application of one- or two-component sealants, features static precision mixers to ensure optimal mixing of materials. The extended sealing bracket allows for smooth sealing of all sized glass units, and the engineering and design ensures its suitability for use of all well known sealant compounds.

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**base** **LAMICUT**

**AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY**

**Laminate Glass Cutting Machine**

The base LAMICUT features a fully automatic cutting process and is available in four configurations (SOLO, FreeFall, TILT & CombiCut), each configuring a laminated glass cutting bridge, and a positioning section with retractable glass positioning stops and tilting arms. A laser positioning device for shape cutting is available in all standard units.
Dennis Horne Launches EQUIPMAC Finance and Leasing

Long-term Finance Consultant to the glass industry Dennis Horne has recently changed company name, to EQUIPMAC Finance and Leasing. He is expanding on his services to the industry to offer more specialist lenders providing Lo Doc Equipment, Vehicle Funding and Unsecured Working Capital providers.

Dennis and his team understand the glass market and the equipment investment necessary to maintain sustained growth. EQUIPMAC is closely aligned with Credit Analysts who understand the need for investment in specialised equipment and technologies in glass processing facilities and the improved efficiencies and profits to be gained. ‘It is a major concern that major banks are still grabbing additional collateral to support equipment purchases, and this is where we pride ourselves in making sure the equipment being funded is the collateral – not other security,’ says Dennis Horne, Managing Director of EQUIPMAC. ‘Our offerings will continue to provide finance for machinery and vehicle purchases (new and used), unsecured letters of credit to import machinery, commercial mortgages to purchase factories, insurance premium funding, and unsecured short term loans to fund machinery purchase deposits, import stock or fund major customer orders on terms up to 12 months and in most cases redraw is available based on performance.’

‘Vehicle Finance comprises about 25% of our turnover, and the myriad of offerings such as point of sale convenience at allegedly low interest rates quite often have a sting in the tail – “where is the pea under the cup” is alive and well,’ says Dennis. ‘EQUIPMAC also offer Insurance Premium Funding in a market riddled with confusion over the interest rate – most often quoted on a flat rate as opposed to effective rate with the same monthly payment; however, two different interest rates and all quite legal,’ said Dennis. ‘The only thing that really matters is the monthly payment and fees.’

All funding is subject to credit assessment and approval.

The experienced team at EQUIPMAC will continue to offer the same exceptionally high level of service, and as usual is very happy to provide professional advice and quotations when you next require equipment finance, mortgage, insurance premium, funding and short term loans.

For further information, contact Dennis Horne on 0408 310 374 or email dennis@equipmac.com.au

a·cu·men
/əˈkyʊmən, ˈækəmən/ noun
the ability to make good judgments and quick decisions, typically in a particular domain. “business acumen”

Synonyms: astuteness, acuity, sharpness, understanding, cleverness, brains, smartness, judgment, awareness, sense.

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AGGA Glazing Compliance Certificates are now available in the form of duplicate books from the AGGA office, providing Accredited Company member customers with valuable assurance of the standard of glazing works undertaken on each job.

The certificate verifies that the job has been undertaken in accordance with Australian Standards, stating that works were undertaken by an AGGA Accredited Company member, guaranteeing technical expertise and confirming provision of a warranty on their work. The certificate also confirms that the glazing business follows safety practices, hold appropriate insurances, and are subject to auditing by the AGGA.

These certificates can be filled out onsite and given to the customers, with the copy retained for your records.

The certificates are available in various quantities to accommodate every size of glazing business.

For further information or to order certificates, call the AGGA on 03 8669 0170 or email agga@agga.asn.au

New AGGA Appointments

To expand member services nationally, AGGA are pleased to announce two new appointments – the position of AGGA Administrative Officer and AGGA Member Services Officer.

> David Robertson

AGGA’s new Member Services Officer is David Robertson. Dave is the primary point of contact for the AGGA Accredited Company Program, guiding members through the application process and assisting more members in achieving Accredited Company status. This support role will encourage and support members’ efforts to achieve compliance in each of the four ACP pillars. Dave has a long association with the glass industry, including delivering technical training and developing safety programs.

AGGA is very lucky to have secured someone with Dave’s depth of experience for this critical role in driving the Accredited Company Program.

Contact Dave on david@agga.asn.au or 0439 970 160

> Julie Stevens

Julie Stevens has been appointed to the role of AGGA Administrative Officer and will be responsible for delivering all secretariat services on behalf of all AGGA State Associations and National Office.

This appointment has been established to improve and expand on member services, to effect a speedier and more efficient response to member queries and offer general administration support services as required. Julie will be the direct point of contact for all member enquiries, providing general advice to new members, managing membership renewals and also being responsible for all general communication with all State Committee members. Julie joins the AGGA team in a full-time role, bringing with her many years of experience in general administration and customer service roles.

Contact Julie on julie@agga.asn.au or 03 8669 0178

On behalf of all members, AGGA extends a warm welcome to Julie and Dave.
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Simply brilliant – brilliantly simple: topDRILL M - RX.

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Ian Hughes Joins The Edge Glass

Ian Hughes has joined the The Edge Glass team in Geelong in the role of Senior Account Manager, responsible for sales and customer liaison.

‘With nearly 20 years’ experience in the glass and glazing industry, Ian is a welcome addition to our sales team,’ says Steve Ketzer, Sales & Marketing Manager, The Edge Glass.

‘Ian is highly respected within the industry, having worked with many of Melbourne’s leading glazing business to help them deliver on their projects.’

Ian commenced his career in glass with FGI (formerly Alternative Glass), working with them for more than 10 years in a sales role.

He has also worked with Precision Shower Screens and Robes in business development roles, and for seven years with Viridian as a Commercial Account Manager.

‘With Ian’s knowledge and expertise of processed glass, he is a valuable extension to our Geelong team,’ says Steve. ‘His territory will include Melbourne metro and regional Victoria, introducing our glass business and expanding capabilities to the glass and glazing industry across Victoria.’

John Collie Joins the Baron Forge Group

John Collie joins Baron Forge with his appointment as Glass Divisional Manager, which includes The Edge Glass in Geelong and their shower screen manufacturing factory in Brooklyn. John will also take on the role of strategic sales and marketing for The Group.

John joins the Baron Forge group from Viridian CSR, having spent over 17 years in the glass, glazing and construction industries.

He has held various roles within the construction industry as a carpenter, in operations, contract management, key account and sales management, general management and business acquisitions.

John has also completed Master’s level education in both Economics and Science.

John brings a wealth of experience with his extracurricular activities, as guest lecturer at Swinburne University and his many valued contributions as an Executive Committee member of the AGGA at the state level in both NSW and Victoria over the last decade.

Queensland’s Sanctuary Cove to host GA18, AGGA’s National Conference

AGC’s coated glass keeps evolving

Thanks to the right combination of solar and thermal performances, AGC’s coated glass has made it possible to combine creativity, aesthetics and façade technology while addressing today’s environmental constraints.

It is now time we bought you even more! AGC’s main focus is always to provide you the best coated glass possible, totally understanding your present needs and anticipating your future ones.

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As residential and commercial design priorities evolve to favour more light-filled, healthy spaces, there is an increasing demand for a more expansive use of glass in both commercial and residential projects.

The increased use of glass in design is not only changing Australian design aesthetics - it is also driving new thinking in terms of building performance and energy efficiency; and in turn, regulatory requirements such as the recent changes to the BASIX rating in New South Wales.

The challenge for specifiers, glass manufacturers and processors is to choose glass that helps deliver energy-efficient buildings with beautiful light-filled spaces and ambient internal temperatures, without compromising the design team’s vision.

Viridian’s hard coat low-E range of products has been developed to keep pace with the demands of the built environment. Viridian is continually evolving this range to provide the industry with flexible glass solutions that meet the energy, aesthetic and performance requirements of differing project briefs.

To stay ahead of the curve, Viridian regularly updates its product selection, and recently extended its ComfortPlus™ range to include a Light Grey and Bronze tone and its EnergyTech™ range to include 8mm Clear, 12.4mm Clear and 6mm SuperClear.

Through the expansion of these ranges, Viridian is further supporting the manufacturing, building and design community with innovative glass solutions that will help them bring the projects of today and tomorrow’s landscapes to life.

For further information about Viridian’s product range, please speak with your representative or visit viridianglass.com

Bystronic glass handling equipment guarantee a flexible and economic use for all sheet and flat glass processing sectors. Try glass handling with minimum physical effort required by the operator. Choose the most appropriate vacuum generation product for your individual needs. Get more information and find your personal consultant by visiting www.bystronic-glass.com/handling
Landson Glass, a long established and highly trusted glass importer, has been servicing the glass and glazing industries in Australia and New Zealand for over 15 years. We take pride in our capacity to deliver high-volume, customised Stock Products or Custom Architectural Products to suit the most demanding applications and energy efficiency requirements, all in strict compliance with Australian, New Zealand and international Quality Assurance benchmarks.

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LiSEC believe they have revolutionised logistical handling of Insulating Glass Units (IGUs) with their sophisticated new handling system. This logistics solution consisting of a gantry crane facility (UTS-B) and a mobile buffer unit (MEB-B), has been designed to improve quality, save time and valuable resources.

The automatic gantry crane is designed for un-stacking and rotating newly sealed IGUs, (including those with thermoplastic spacers), and the mobile buffer unit is designed for manual or automatic loading, curing and transporting IGUs.

The glass units are sent out in the direction of the line and rotated from horizontal to upright position before being sorted into the mobile buffer system (MEB-B). The mobile buffer unit serves for manual or automatic unloading, curing and transporting of IGUs.

The production flow is significantly improved by automatic unloading and sorting. IGU’s are removed from the suction plate and secured to the transport rack without the need for compression. The individually adjustable spacer brackets ensure consistent high quality.

The transport of IGUs in an upright position saves space, and the option to manually unload in any order ensures flexibility. The MEB-B can always be optimally loaded, with each transporting up to 18 filled or 36 empty MEB-Bs.

Curing, without re-sorting, directly onsite provides further savings, and the innovative tracking system with the option to code by customer simplifies logistical handling, provides transparency and saves time.

The entire modular system can be adapted to the customer's space requirements and is compatible with almost all current LiSEC lines.

For further information contact Lee Thurbon 02 9485 8900.
The Building Products Innovation Council (BPIC) is the peak national body representing Australia’s building products manufacturers. BPIC’s membership directly employs approximately 200,600 Australians with more than 470,000 employed indirectly. Their collective industries are worth in the order of $54bn annually to the Australian, economy.

The Council’s prime objective is to provide unified and coordinated representation of the building products industry to Government and regulators while providing a forum for discussion and information sharing between product sectors.

BPIC’s mission is to promote the innovative use of building products within a nationally consistent regulatory environment.

As the Executive Officer, I work to fulfill this mission by sourcing and delivering practical and current industry information to regulators on behalf of BPIC member organisations. This industry-wide approach to advocacy helps to ensure that governments and regulators understand the key issues affecting Australia’s building product manufacturing industry. The last two years have been particularly busy with the development of substantial submissions on behalf of our member organisations, including AGGA, to:

- Building Ministers Forum Expert Assessment Consultation (Assessment of the Effectiveness of Compliance and Enforcement Systems for Building and Construction Industry across Australia)

- QLD NCBP Chain of Responsibility Amendment Bill Consultation
- Commonwealth Procurement Framework Inquiry
- Victorian Cladding Taskforce Consultation
- NSW Cladding Taskforce Consultation
- QLD Building Plan Consultation
- Senate Inquiry into Non-Conforming Building Products

But our work doesn’t stop there. We’ve also been doing our best to help industry cope with and manage important regulatory changes in Queensland and changes to the National Construction Code Evidence of Suitability requirements. This has taken the form of the development of three new industry guides:

- Construction Product Conformance Data Guide: Industry Associations
- Construction Product Conformance Data Guide: Manufacturers and Suppliers
- Substitution of Construction Products Guide

And if that wasn’t proactive enough, BPIC is hosting a two-day Building Regulatory Reform Summit in February 2018, where we will be bringing together over 50 of Australia’s leaders and strategists in building control to identify opportunities and weaknesses in the current building regulatory framework.

Why are we doing all this? Over the last decade, there has been deterioration in the integrity of the building supply chain due to a combination of factors. These include:

- The ease of purchasing online has brought into the market a plethora of products from both domestic and international sources. However, many buyers do not have the knowledge to ensure products they purchase are ‘fit-for-purpose’.
- The onus of compliance falling heavily on the shoulders of building certifiers who are often ill-equipped or lack the necessary training to identify all of the technical compliance requirements for all of the products and materials in a building.
- A rapidly growing number of suppliers and buyers using code and verification weaknesses (either unwittingly or deliberately) to substitute or provide substandard products.

- The desire by some developers, builders and key purchasing decision-makers to reduce construction costs may also conflict with their obligation to deliver compliant and safe buildings.
- A greatly reduced level of oversight of the construction process by skilled, experienced and independent regulatory authorities to ensure good results.
- Lack of strong and meaningful penalties for those who knowingly use and/or specify non-comforming building products or engage in non-compliant building activity.

Each of these issues on its own, is cause for concern. But combined, they have created an impoverished building control system that has had a significant adverse affect on Australia’s building products manufacturing industry, especially the glass and glazing industry.

Successive governments have wound back on policing their own building regulations, leading to unsafe, unhealthy and poor-quality buildings. Without the proactive industry advocacy work by organisations like BPIC and its vibrant member base, the situation would undoubtedly be far worse.

Through BPIC membership, industry organisations like AGGA are able to gain wide support for their position, leverage the technical/regulatory expertise of other product sector players and gain a seat at the table through BPIC’s involvement with the Building Codes Committee, Building Ministers Forum – Senior Officers Group, Standards Australia, the Federal Department of Industry and each state and territory building regulator.

For further information on BPIC contact eo@bpic.asn.au
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AGGA to Exhibit at DesignBUILD 2017

To further heighten awareness of the glazing industry, AGGA will be exhibiting at DesignBUILD 2017 in Melbourne on 3–5 May. DesignBUILD is the only dedicated trade show to bring together architects, building professionals, contractors, and designers, together with manufacturers, suppliers and service providers who work across the residential and commercial industry sectors for three days of networking and gathering of information. AGGA invites you to visit them and support their attendance.

For further information, log on to wwwdesignbuild.com.au

DecoGlaze™ Takes Steps to Improve Workplace Safety

Leading splash-back manufacturer, NSW based DecoGlaze™, have recently introduced new lifting technology to improve workplace safety and overall operating efficiencies.

‘The weight and increased size of the splash-backs being specified have continued to increase in recent years, as has the volumes we manufacture,’ said Adam McCrory, CEO DecoGlaze™.

‘The increasing popularity of oversized glass splashbacks in residential housing and apartment dwellings has introduced new challenges for our production and management teams – primarily to ensure the safety of our staff, but also the safe handling of oversized glass panels required in the various stages of production. On commissioning the Oktopus Ergo-Sprint 200 vacuum lifter, recently supplied by Oktopus Australia, we are now able to easily move and rotate glass panels that are up to 3.6 metres in length safely and efficiently. We also now have the ability to handle long and heavy glass panels single-handedly, improving efficiencies and minimising risks associated with manual handling,’ says Adam.

The height adjustable relocatable control panel enables DecoGlaze™ to lift and then rotate the long panel from horizontal to vertical plane from the ground with ease. The chain hoist controls are incorporated into the control panel, enabling ease of operation and the powered 360-degree rotating vacuum head safely moves the panel in a controlled and precise manner.

For more information contact Oktopus Australia on their website: www.oktopus.com.au
Heart disease is the single leading cause of death in Australia – claiming the life of one Australian every 27 minutes. The average 40-year-old Australian man has a one in two chance of developing heart disease, with women of the same age having a one in three chance. But, it’s mostly preventable. So, what is heart disease and what can you do to prevent it?

What is Heart Disease?
Heart disease is an umbrella term for a range of conditions that affect your heart. Diseases under the heart disease umbrella include blood vessel diseases, such as coronary artery disease; heart rhythm problems (arrhythmias); and heart defects you’re born with (congenital heart defects). There are two major forms of heart disease – heart attack and angina. Heart disease is the most common form of cardiovascular disease (CVD), which refers to all diseases and conditions involving the heart and blood vessels, including stroke.

Isn’t Heart Disease a Man’s Problem?
No! While men are at a higher risk of heart disease, it is a misconception that it is a man’s problem. Heart disease affects two out of three families in Australia and it does not discriminate – affecting men and women, young and old. It is often perceived as a ‘man’s disease’, yet in Australia, heart disease kills three times as many women as breast cancer, claiming the life of 24 women every day – that’s one woman every hour of every day. As you get older, your risk of heart disease increases; however, it is largely preventable.

What causes Heart Disease?
There is no single thing that causes heart disease, but there are risk factors that increase your chance of developing it. These include risk factors that you can change, such as:
- smoking – both active smoking and being exposed to second-hand smoke
- having high cholesterol
- having high blood pressure
- being physically inactive
- being overweight
- having depression, being socially isolated, and having a lack of quality social support.

There are some risk factors that you can’t change, such as increasing age, being male and having a family history of heart disease. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are also at increased risk of heart disease.

How can I Prevent Heart Disease?
Everyone can do something to help prevent themselves getting heart disease. Even people who already have heart disease or who have had a heart event can take steps to improve their heart health and reduce their risk of further problems. Here are some ways to protect your heart from heart disease.

Have a Heart Health Check
Understanding your risk by seeing your GP or health professional for a heart health check is your first step to helping avoid heart disease. A heart health check involves checking your blood pressure, cholesterol and weight and having a conversation about your lifestyle such as what your diet is like, how active you are and your smoking status. It will also help if you know your family history.

Be Smoke-free
Smoking is very bad for your heart. It greatly increases the risk of a heart attack, other types of heart disease and stroke. In fact, smokers are four times more likely to die from heart disease than non-smokers. Quitting smoking is the most important way to lower your risk of heart problems. Breathing other people’s smoke is also harmful to you.

Enjoy Healthy Eating
Healthy eating and drinking is an important part of looking after your health and reducing your risk of heart problems. Make plant-based foods the main part of each meal. Include vegetables, wholegrains, fruit, nuts and seeds every day. Choose wholegrain breads and breakfast cereals and try to include legumes and pulses in at least two meals a week.

Choose Healthier Fats
Fats are an important part of a healthy and balanced diet. You shouldn’t try to exclude them, but choosing the healthier unsaturated fats instead of saturated and trans fats will reduce your risk of heart disease. Choose from a variety of vegetable and seed oils when you are cooking and use margarines made from canola, sunflower or olive oil.

Reduce your Salt Intake
Salt is essential for life, but Australians are consuming far too much. Consuming too much salt comes with an increased risk of high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease, including heart attack, stroke and blood vessel disease.
Salt is made up of sodium and chloride and it’s the sodium in salt that can be bad for your heart and your health. The average Australian should aim to consume less than 6 grams of salt (2400 mg of sodium) a day – or around 1 teaspoon. Don’t be fooled by your tastebuds – check the labels. When you’re looking at the sodium content on food labels, look for foods with less than 400mg of sodium. The best choices are those with less than 120mg of sodium per 100g.

**Save your Heart, Use Your Feet**
At any age, physical activity provides a range of health benefits. The simple act of walking for 30 minutes a day or more can reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease by as much as half. Include at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity such as brisk walking on most, if not all, days of the week.

**Know your Numbers**
Close to six million adult Australians have high blood pressure – that’s 34% of our adult population.

High blood pressure is the leading risk factor for heart disease. In fact, almost 50% of heart disease deaths in Australia are attributable to high blood pressure.

High blood pressure is often called the ‘silent killer’ because there are no obvious signs or symptoms, which means having a heart attack or stroke could be your first sign. When it comes to blood pressure, know your numbers. All Australians aged 18 years and over should have their blood pressure measured by a health professional regularly or at least every two years. This can be done as part of a regular checkup with your GP.

For more information or support, contact the free Heart Foundation Helpline on 13 11 12 or visit the Heart Foundation website (www.heartfoundation.org.au)
Driving demand for quality IGU’s in Australia

Continuing on from the successful launch of IGMAP in 2016/17, we are now turning our attention to driving awareness and understanding of quality IGU’s with end customers. In 2018 IGMA will be communicating directly with end users informing them of the benefits of IGU’s as well as pointing out the difference between a quality IGU and poorly made IGU. The campaign has been specifically designed to inform and inspire IGU purchase and will use media such as social media, digital display, targeted advertising and PR. We will also be updating the website to be more engaging and informative resource for members and end customers.

Our campaign commences in February and will continue until June 2018, keep an eye out for our advertising across Facebook, Twitter, digital display channels and selected magazines.

For more information about the campaign or to become an IGMA member please email agga@agga.asn.au or call on 03 8669 0170
Bavelloni Launch New Vertical Drilling and Milling

Bavelloni have recently launched their new VDM 1636 CN, high-performance NC vertical drilling and milling machine, further expanding on their wide range of innovative glass processing machinery.

Officially launched to the global market at Vitrum 2017, the VDM 1636 CN is a valuable addition to the most advanced automated manufacturing facilities to perform the most complex drilling and/or milling cycles.

The vertical system allows for easier glass handling and optimised water collection and the compact footprint is another important feature. Operation is easily managed from one single workstation to execute all tasks (milling, drilling and countersinking).

‘This new technology has been designed to meet the demands of every sized glass processing business and is fast developing a reputation as being very user-friendly,’ says Garry Kilkenny, Managing Director of GMI, Bavelloni’s Australian representative. ‘The control device features the latest-generation NUM NC with the convenience of a PC working in Windows® (Microsoft) environment. Operation is a breeze – it provides greater flexibility and it’s affordable.’

Additional features include a double drilling head (1+1 opposing spindles), each with a rotating tool storage (8+8 positions). The VDM 1636 CN also features the most advanced technical solutions such as ball bearings, brushless motors, and oversized spindles to ensure accuracy and speed.

‘The innovative design of the VDM 1636 CN improves operating efficiencies and delivers superior grinding quality and higher grinding speed,’ says Garry.

‘The many features and functionality, makes it the ideal choice for those processors manufacturing doors, shower screens and splashbacks.’

For further information, call Garry Kilkenny on 0418 990 969

Bavelloni Launch New Vertical Drilling and Milling
VERTICAL EVOLUTION

A range of solutions based on a revolutionary piece handling concept. Smart machines that let even less experienced operators start producing straight away.
Industry News

Registration Now Open —
AGGA Tasmania Conference & Awards Night, 2 March 2018

Established as the premier event for the glass and glazing industry in Tasmania, the AGGA Tasmania Conference will be hosted at the Hobart Function and Conference Centre on Friday 2 March 2018. The event has again attracted a selection of quality speakers from within and beyond the glazing industry, addressing issues such as business improvement, technical developments and staff management. The line-up of speakers is assured to provide registrants from all areas of business with information to stimulate and inspire.

During conference session breaks, attendees will have the opportunity to speak with suppliers who have sponsored the event and participate in the trade show.

The Conference will conclude with the annual AGGA Tasmania Awards Night which will be held at the Hobart Function and Conference Centre.

For those who wish to attend the Award Night Gala Dinner and/or the Industry Conference and who wish to book accommodation, the Somerset Apartments and the Quest Waterfront Apartments are offering accommodation options at a special price for registrants.

The full conference program including further details can be found at www.agga.org.au

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I’d like to welcome everyone back to 2018 and wish them all the best for the New Year on behalf of the newly elected committee of AGGA Victoria.

Our first step has been to develop a strategy that modernises the association and sets it up for a sustainable future, to add value for all our members for many years to come.

Changes at AGGA Victoria
It is in this light that we are pleased to announce that we have access to a National Member services person, Dave Robertson. This role is dedicated to be ‘the feet on the ground’ to assist our members in understanding and implementing the Accredited Company Program (ACP).

In addition, the administration and financial reporting of the Association has now been centralised to the AGGA National office. With a friendly team and local Gardenvale office, they are only an email, phone call or visit away for all your Victorian Association queries.

Regional Training
We are keen to get more happening outside of the Metro area, and have several AS 1288 training courses planned for 2018 starting in Wangaratta, Morwell and Bendigo.

First Event of the Year
With the balmy evenings set to continue, the AGGA Victoria Lawn Bowls will be held on Friday 2 March. This is a great opportunity to have some fun while networking in a casual environment.

Finally, it’s important that our committee is reflective of the diverse businesses that exist in the industry, so if you’d like to be involved in shaping the future direction of the association, please contact us on victoria@agga.asn.au
We held our final committee meeting for 2017 at Newstead Brew House at Milton. This was a thank you Christmas meeting to the Committee for giving their time and expertise to the AGGA Queensland during the past year. We held our Annual General Meeting on 13 September and was very pleased to be re-elected as President with Ian Simeon Vice President, Bruce Loomes Secretary and the following committee persons: Tony Stav, Gary Aspden, John Koklas, Donna Playford, Peter Condon, Daniel Myles, Philip Norman, Thomas Vaughan and Paul Bullock. This is a very strong committee with many years of valuable knowledge to continue leading AGGA Queensland in the years to come.

We held our final Golf Day with our new major sponsor Auto Ingress at Gainsborough Greens Golf Club on 6 October. The winning team was John Koklas, Tony Evans, Mark Nash and Peter Nash. Thank you to Auto Ingress and our hole sponsors 1st Glass, Scratchless Glass, Suburban Glass and JH Glass Innovations.

Our Social Chairman, Phil Norman, announced that the date and venues for 2018 are: Dorma Group, 16 March at Keperra Country Golf Club, National Glass, 15 June at North Lakes Resort Golf Club and Auto Ingress, 12 October at Gainsborough Greens Golf Club.

We had a very successful industry led Safety Workshop on 12 October at TAFE Queensland SkillsTech, with over 80 attendees to hear several speakers discuss the theme for 2017, ‘Cuts and Lacerations’. The 2018 safety work shop is already in the planning.

At our committee meeting on 6 December, Donna Playford announced that she is taking 12 months’ leave from TAFE Queensland SkillsTech to enter the private sector in a training position. The Chairman moved a vote of thanks to Donna for her many years’ contribution to the AGGA Queensland and wished her all the success in her new role. Donna is anticipating a return to TAFE Queensland SkillsTech.

May I wish all members of AGGA Queensland a fabulous year ahead in 2018.
GWAWA State Report

The market continues to remain plateaued with some green shoots showing in the residential space. Members continue to try and obtain a share of a depleted market where we are seeing pricing bargained, and discounting is evident.

Meetings
Key priority for the State Committee is the promotion of the Accredited Company Program and working with all our provisional Accredited Companies, supporting them to attain accreditation on each of the four pillars.

We held our AGM after the Golf Day in October and are pleased to report that most committee members had elected to be re-nominated for a new elected term. We welcome three new committee members in Tony Symes from Britone, James Whitehouse from Capral and Daniel Gaunt from GlassCo Metro.

Events
Our annual Golf Day held on 20 October was an annual success. It was a warm afternoon with 120 players and 23 sponsors.

Our next planned formal event is a joint forum with the AWA to be held as an afternoon event on Friday 11 May 2018.

Social
Our Year End Sundowner was hosted at the superb waterfront venue Raffles on Friday 19 January. Magnificent weather, great venue and even better company guaranteed the evening was another GWAWA successful social event.

Training
AS 1288 Accredited training is scheduled for Thursdays 8 March, 3 May and 14 June 2018. Please consider booking in for this training to comply with the Technical pillar of the Accredited Company Program.

Apprentices
GWAWA have partnered with Group Training Organisation ATC Midwest to develop a pool of apprentices and assist GWAWA members to manage apprentices and strengthen the glazing industry with quality apprenticeship management. For those that have an interest, please contact our office.

Accredited Company Program
There has been interesting member response to the take-up of glaziers registering in the Master Glaziers program with several registered and more in the process of doing so. We encourage you to take the opportunity to tap into the GWAWA sponsoring your registration fee.

We encourage all provisional accredited members to work toward completion of their four pillars by 30 June 2018.

Will Walker, our AGGA Safety Support, remains available to any members who wish to seek assistance in safety issues and support in their Safety Management Systems. Patrick Gavaghan, the AGGA Training Manager, is also available to assist any members in registering for either the Certified or Master Glazier.

Membership – New Members
• Solid Windows

Brad Draper, Walsh’s Glass has recently been appointed IGMA Chair - GWAWA wish to acknowledge his valuable contribution.

AGGA SA State Report

Happy New Year! For many members the year finished on a high, with work volumes healthy and an early start to the Christmas rush.

It was saddening to learn of the demise of Reliable Glass, who went into liquidation early December. Reliable Glass delivered a number of high-profile projects across Adelaide, and news of their liquidation was certainly a surprise. This should serve as a timely reminder to us all to monitor our cashflows, be aware of the contracts we enter into, and always be vigilant in monitoring our businesses.

Congratulation to our latest Fully Accredited Companies, Mount Glass & Glazing and Jim’s Glass (South Australia). Time is running out to complete the requirements of the pillars and we are here to help!

As we enter 2018 we will be running further AS 1288 Accredited workshops, and we have a spectacular Gala Dinner planned for 15 June.

The closing date for submissions for our industry awards is Tuesday 1 May, which includes the Best Use of Glass for both Commercial and Domestic Applications as well as the Glass Industry Person of the Year Award, Women In Glass Award and Apprentice of the Year Award. Start compiling your projects and put in your nominations!

Please be aware that the next General Meeting and AGM is being held on 21 March at the North Adelaide Golf Club.

Wishing you all a prosperous 2018.
AGGA NSW State Report

> Adrian Grocott, President

NSWAGGA held its annual Golf Day followed by our AGM on Friday 27 October.
The event was held in conjunction with the Prostate Cancer Foundation, and was incredibly well supported by members and sponsors on the day.
We had 70 golfers who raised $1500 for this worthy cause.
The NSWAGGA committee was re-elected during the AGM and we had a new nomination in Simon Ianni of Elegant IG, who was also elected.
A warm welcome to Simon, who I’m certain will be a great addition to the team.
This year our long-standing committee member, Michael Pascoe of G.James, has decided to step down.
Michael has been involved with the committee for over 13 years and has made an outstanding contribution.
The Executive Committee and its members extend their gratitude for his valuable service over this time.
Our annual awards night this year will be held on Friday 1 June. The event was HUGE last year, with three winners going on to win the National AGGA awards.

NSWAGGA Committee 2018
President – Adrian Grocott, Express Glass
Vice President – Deb Deeth, Greater Glass
Treasurer – Dave Burley, Glass 24/7
Joe Finn, Bent & Curved Glass
Ted Oberg, Sydney Glass
Mark Nicholls, TAFE NSW
Jason Hedges, Deco Glaze
Peter Richards, Viridian
Simon Ianni, Elegant I.G.

AGGA Tasmania State Report

> Michael Dalton, President

2018 is looking to be another exciting and challenging year both at state and a national level.
We are finalising arrangements for our States Conference and Awards evening which will be held on Friday 2 March in Hobart. As always it is an opportunity to showcase the many quality projects undertaken by members, and gives an opportunity for suppliers and industry to socialise in a relaxed atmosphere while recognising the work of members and is shaping up to be a terrific day/night for all who attend.
Will Walker and I met with the state Minister for Building and Construction, the Hon Guy Barnett, in November, continuing the positive relationship with the Association established by former President John Gofton.

These talks were very productive, with the Minister continuing to provide support for the Accredited Company Program as well as our industry in general.
While in Tassie Will visited some local members promoting both the ACP and Master Glazier Program, which was very productive and informative.
A number of member employees attended a AS 1288 Training Workshop in the north of the state in November. The training was well-delivered and very informative I urge everyone who has not yet participated to do so. Another will be held in Hobart on Thursday 8 February for members in the southern region.

2018 will also see the centralising of the State Secretariat roles to be undertaken by AGGA. Whilst this is a positive move for our associations I would like to take the opportunity to thank Katharine Overton for her contribution to AGGA Tasmania over the past year. Katharine has been pivotal in organising our past and forthcoming conference as well as General Secretariat duties for the Association, Katharine will hopefully still provide special event management such as our conference for AGGA TAS.
INCREASING PROFITS FOR GLASS MANUFACTURERS & GLAZIERS

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SPIL Glass Software manages our state-of-the-art in-house glass and porcelain manufacturing, which means we now offer an unparalleled range of bespoke products that form a strong competitive advantage.

We have scaled effectively and efficiently from a busy small business to an industry leader by having transparency on all aspects of our business and production processes.

Today, we are Perth’s largest manufacturer of glass splashbacks and have now expanded into large format porcelain tiles without the need for further software investment.

We recommend contacting SPIL Software and discussing ways to increase your profits!

Peter Best and Brendan Antrobus
Joint Managing Directors
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