

## Celebrating Women in Glass at the National Art Glass Gallery

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery is hosting a celebration event for its two glass exhibitions; *Shattering the Glass Ceiling – Women Artists in the National Art Glass Collection* and Emma Varga: *Fire – Water – Life* on Saturday 17 February.

As part of the launch, there will be an artist talk from exhibiting artist Emma Varga and independent curator, writer and consultant Grace Cochrane AM.

*Shattering the Glass Ceiling* showcases the work of more than 20 women artists from the National Art Glass Collection, including Kate Baker, Clare Belfrage, Jessica Loughlin, Judi Elliott, Kathy Elliott and Nancy Yu.

It celebrates their exceptional practice, advanced technique, and contribution to Australian and international studio glass over the past two decades.

Also on display is *Fire – Water - Life* which showcases Emma Varga's career of more than 50 years as a glass artist, and her extraordinary passion for the environment.

Through her art practice Varga considers major global warming events such as bushfire, coral reef bleaching, and polar ice melts as a means to heighten our awareness of their devastating impact across the globe, as seen in a highlight installation of 50 glass cubes which reflect upon the natural world.

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery National Art Glass Collection assistant curator Michael Scarrone said it is great to have these two quality exhibitions.

"After working with Emma Varga over many years it is wonderful for the National Art Glass Gallery to celebrate her career of 50 years of glass making," said Mr Scarrone.

"*Shattering the Glass Ceiling* features glass works by exceptional women artists from the collection, and the celebration event will acknowledge their achievements."

Emma Varga: *Fire – Water – Life* is currently on exhibition at the National Art Glass Gallery until 17 March 2024.

*Shattering the Glass Ceiling – Women Artists in the National Art Glass Collection* will be open from 17 February to 15 June 2024.

Celebrating Women in Glass will be held at the National Art Glass Gallery on Saturday 17 February from 2pm.

This is a free event; however bookings are required, visit [waggaartgallery.com.au/whats-on](http://waggaartgallery.com.au/whats-on)

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**Media enquiries.**

If you would like to speak with a staff member, Emma Varga or Grace Cochrane please contact us via [media@wagga.nsw.gov.au](mailto:media@wagga.nsw.gov.au)

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**Program:**

Celebrating Women in Glass  
2pm – 4pm, Saturday 17 February  
National Art Glass Gallery  
Free event | Bookings essential via [www.waggaartgallery.com.au/whats-on](http://www.waggaartgallery.com.au/whats-on)

**Exhibitions – National Art Glass Gallery**

Emma Varga: *Fire – Water – Life*  
December 9 2023 – March 17 2024

*Shattering the Glass Ceiling* – Women Artists in the National Art Glass Collection  
February 17 – June 15 2024

**Image details (Images attached to email):**

Emma Varga *Revival 20-21-22* (2022) glass / pâte de verre, fused, slumped.  
Kathy Elliott *Blue Cast Glass Relief* (1993). Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by Joyce Kerfoot

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Contact 6926 9190 or [media@wagga.nsw.gov.au](mailto:media@wagga.nsw.gov.au)

## About Wagga Wagga City Council

Wagga Wagga City Council serves more than 68,000 residents across an area of 4825 square kilometres with an overall budget of more than \$236M.

The organisation manages more than \$2.48 billion in assets, including a 2300km road network, Wagga Wagga Airport, Livestock Marketing Centre and the Oasis Aquatic Centre.

Council also provides important community facilities such as Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga City Library, Museum of the Riverina and Civic Theatre, as well as maintaining countless parks, playgrounds and sporting facilities to ensure Wagga maintains its reputation as 'the City of Good Sports'.

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