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**Your one-stop Retailer for Glass products, tools, grouts and adhesives**

**Open for in-house Visits by arrangement**

**Weekend Workshops**

## Greetings all!

2022 is proving to be a busy time, but a bit different to 2021. As soon as COVID restrictions on office working, travel and mask-wearing started to lift, Australia has been hit by dreadful floods. Railways have washed away, roads have disappeared, and too many loved ones lost. The only positive I can see is that the bushfire season was generally, non-existent.

The Litokol StyleGrout Tech has been extremely popular. Litokol is a company with an wonderful suite of products, and I am very proud to be able to bring their amazing products to you. The Translucent Epoxy Grout continues to sell well, and there is increasing interest in it world-wide.

## Weekend Workshops

I am creating a series of 4-hour workshops, to be run on Saturday afternoons (or other times by arrangement). These are not full courses designed to teach mosaics - I consider them to be "whistle-wetters" or a look at a simple technique. They are primarily aimed at people with little or no mosaic experience, who may just want to dip their toes in to see if they like it, or those considering a move to stained glass mosaics. All attendees will receive a set of technical notes about mosaics in general. At the completion of each workshop they will take home a completed piece. In some cases, if grouting hasn't been done, I will demonstrate how to grout, and supply enough grout for them to be completed at home.

Should I have to cancel, I will issue a full refund. If an attendee cancels more than 5 days prior to the event, I will refund total cost (less Eventbrite fees - \$7.50 per ticket). If cancellation is within 5 days of the course, I will refund 50% course cost (less fees). I am fully insured.



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I have arranged my first workshop for the weekend after ANZAC Day, and it has sold out. I hope to offer courses most Saturday afternoons, and will schedule more after this first course, so I can update with any lessons learned during it. They will be small class sizes, as my space is limited. More workshops will be coming (as and when I think of them).

I'm currently working on a number of sample pieces. Bookings are via Eventbrite. I will put up a link and a schedule on the web-site in the next couple of weeks.

Workshop subjects I have been planning so far include: Solar Lantern - First one sold out, but more to come; Mosaic Pots; Crash Glass - Framed Mixed Media; Mosaic pendants; Stained Glass on Slate; Glass brick light; Hanging light bottles; Stained Glass Flowers; Sun-catchers; and Night lights.

I'm always looking for more ideas. Depending on the success of these, I am considering a series of longer term lessons later in the year.

## Apoxie Sculpt & Clay

I am excited to be able to offer a range of products from AVES Studio in the US. Apoxie Sculpt is a well-known modelling clay often used in mosaics as a sculptural adhesive. Great for working with fine beads - just lay down a string of the product, and push your beads or other treasures into it. After 24 hours it cures like a rock! I have the white and black in 2 sizes (1/4lb = 113grams, 1LB = 454grams). It is a 2-part mix, and Peter Twining has a video on Treasury Road about using it. I also have a number of Neutral Colour Kits (total weigh 184 grams), which contain 4 neutral colours (white, black, silver-grey and brown), for those whose want to try it out.

I've got some Apoxie Clay as well. This is more clay-like rather than putty, and is excellent for moulding bespoke inclusions for using in your works.

As both are air-dry products, you don't need a kiln. Apoxie Sculpt and Apoxie Clay can also be used outside. You can also colour them - AVES recommend a tiny amount of Oil Paint.

Both the Apoxie Sculpt and Apoxie Clay work well with my new mini-spatulas. These are a great little trio of tools to add to your tool belt.

The range includes the AVES Safety Solvent. At first glance, this seems very expensive, but you use such a very little bit, the bottle should last for years. Use it to polish up your work when you finish - remove finger and glove marks. An added bonus is that it will clean up any residue from the Litokol Epoxy Grouts. It gives a great finishing shine to ALL your mosaics - and just a drop will do.

## New Releases:

I will be scheduling minor product releases on a approximate monthly cycle. These could include enhancements or additions to current ranges, or other products, such as the AVES suite. As previously advised, my major releases will be scaled back to roughly 4 per year.

My first minor release was the AVES products. Next major release is being planned for late May. Stay tuned!!

## In conclusion:

Once again, I am blown away by the wonderful support I continue to receive from my clients. You are a truly awe-inspiring bunch! As always, if you have any questions, queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

I am trying to arrange a supplier visit sometime in May, so may be out of action for a week or so. Talk about a kid in a candy shop - glass, glass and more glass (and a few tools) - so excited!! I will advise when then are finalised.

Till next time, stay safe,

*Ali*



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