

## Passion for glass stained in family's history



PAM CASELLAS

Kim Fitzpatrick's passion for stained glass is a family thing. It goes back three generations and more than a century travelling from Holland to Perth, to Canada and back again to a studio in North Fremantle where today the sunlight casts dancing shadows through pieces ranging from ecclesiastical to blazingly contemporary.

The family history is a long story but the short of it is this: In 1982 when Mr Fitzpatrick was living in Vancouver, just out of school and contemplating his future, he got a letter from his grandfather, second-generation glass man Carl Mynesbergen, who had come to Perth from Holland in 1952.

"Here's a one-way ticket to Perth," the letter said, and the chance to do an apprenticeship in stained glass and one day take over the family business. If it doesn't work out, you can pay your own fare back to Canada, he said, in a fine piece of coercion.

As it happened, Mr Fitzpatrick was planning a future in art of some kind, with the family's history in stained glass well known to him. So he came back to Perth, which he'd left at the age of six when his father died, and has been here ever since, building up a solid business that includes commissions and restorations.

He has major pieces featured in WA's Parliament House, has worked in Hong Kong, Singapore and Europe and has just dispatched two pieces, one traditional and the other contemporary, to Dubai for an international trade fair.

Stained glass, he says, has never



Sheer beauty: Stained glass window artist Kim Fitzpatrick in his workshop with a restored window from a church in Mukinbudin. Picture: Nic Ellis

waned in popularity. It can be used in any situation, any kind of home or building. Increasingly it is finding its way into modern and art deco architecture, as well as the more usual ecclesiastical and traditional settings.

Stained glass is a slow, exacting

but ultimately rewarding art form. "I get such satisfaction from my work. It allows me to design, to draw, to paint," said Mr Fitzpatrick, whose company, Tradition Stained Glass, will soon advertise for an apprentice and also needs a stained glass maker.

# Anti-smokes WA 'feared by tobacco companies'

CATHY O'LEARY  
MEDICAL EDITOR

A Curtin University investigation has revealed that WA has been closely monitored by the world's biggest tobacco companies for more than 50 years, with internal memos warning of the State's "alarming" anti-tobacco stance.

Under a document-searching research program, the university has found that US tobacco executives have been keeping a keen eye on changing WA governments and anti-tobacco lobbyists since the 1950s, worried that their efforts could "spread" to other States.

Internal memos between senior executives from companies including Philip Morris in the 1990s warned of WA "taking the lead" in considering measures such as bans on tobacco advertising and raising taxes on cigarettes.

The Curtin documents show Philip Morris funded Swedish scientist Ragnar Rylander to visit the University of WA on the premise of research, but he later supplied detailed reports about WA's anti-tobacco activities to company executives in New York.

Australian Medical Association WA president Gary Geelhoed, who will launch the report today, said the documents showed the lengths that tobacco

companies went to. "In many ways it shows WA has been a leader in tobacco control for many years, and although we still haven't gone as far as we would want and can't be complacent, we have come a lot way against a lot of industry resistance," he said.

"Smoking rates are down to about 14 per cent now but it's still the biggest preventable cause of death and suffering in our community.

"Cigarettes are still killing more people than road accidents, alcohol and suicide all thrown in together."

Curtin Professor of health policy Mike Daube said the documents confirmed what many had suspected about the massive tobacco industry. It was clear that politicians of all parties in WA had been lobbied intensely over many years.

"It was obviously watching our every move and saw WA as a key State nationally and internationally," he said. "It has been quite remarkable to see the way tobacco executives in New York and London were concerned that WA might start dominos falling across the nation."

Professor Daube said it was important that the community learnt lessons from the past. "This industry has not gone away and they will continue to monitor and lobby," he said.

## Slimming pill raises US alarm

ANDREW TILLET  
CANBERRA

A popular weight-loss pill will remain on Australian shelves despite the US drug watchdog announcing an investigation into reports that it may cause liver damage.

The US Food and Drug Administration launched the review into orlistat yesterday after 32 reports of patients taking the drug suffering liver problems, including six cases of liver failure, between 1999 and last year.

Orlistat is marketed as Xenical in Australia and is available by prescription and over-the-counter.

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