



Dr Marc Grunseit's comments on *Australian Handyman Magazine's Reader Project: Restore Leadlight Windows*

I have two things to say about the Article on restoring leadlights yourself at home.

The first is "**don't**". Old leadlights are generally covered in oxidised lead dust and thus the most dangerous sort of lead to handle. They need to be carefully cleaned in a manner which protects the panel from damage and simultaneously protects the environment and user. Handling lead should only be done in a specialised workshop dedicated to that purpose. It should only be done by people who know how to do it without poisoning themselves and spreading the toxic lead dust onto their clothes, their skin and into their lungs and gut. It should never be done at home where anybody, including children or pregnant women may be contaminated.

The second calls to mind a Monty Python sketch about how to play the flute. The instructions were to blow in one end and move your fingers over the holes. **Magazine instructions on how to perform leadlight repairs to people who have never done it before are about as useful.** There are many little important pieces of information that only expert tuition and experience can inform.

I am generally a great fan of DIY but there are just some things that are best left to professionals and this is one of them.

2013 Volcano Art Prize (VAP) Entry. Title: **Lead in the Grass. Lead-Safety Message: Leadlighting can be made lead-safely in a properly equipped workshop.** Artist/Photographer: Prof Stuart Hill. Description of Work: Digital image.
<http://volcanoartprize.com/portfolio-item/lead-in-the-grass/>

