



# A TOUCH OF GLASS

Newsletter of the Creative Glass Guild of Queensland December 2021

## It's Christmas in Guildland!

### Season greetings to all.

Searching for inspiration for this newsletter, I reviewed our priorities from last year, and not surprisingly, they are very similar to the current year's goals – ie our management of COVID 19, our financial position and our planned building enhancements.

COVID has presented many challenges for us. Once again, we had to cancel our annual exhibition at Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens Auditorium.

### Our on-again, off-again world

Uncertainty regarding government mandates, on-again off-again lockdowns and slow vaccination rates played havoc with our planning for the Exhibition, as well as for courses, workshops and member days.

Despite this, we managed to stay open for most of the year, albeit in a limited capacity, with many of our meetings held via Zoom.

Classes started up again (with reduced numbers), member day attendances have steadily grown, most class bookings have been full, and waiting lists for next year's courses have been growing.

With the opening of State borders on 13<sup>th</sup> December, we will be guided by Government mandates regarding the Guild's responsibility to the safety of members, visitors and students.

When we reopen on 10<sup>th</sup> January, all members, visitors and course participants will be required to comply with public health vaccination requirements if they wish to visit the Guild or be involved in events such as the annual Exhibition.

### Finances are positive

Our financial position continues to be sound, despite one of our main revenue streams (the Exhibition) not being able to contribute.

As advised previously, we have successfully applied to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for around \$21,000 to replace the rotting stumps and



*Denis and Jenny get into the Christmas spirit in front of the Guild's Christmas tree at the popular Copperfoiled Christmas Tree Workshop. More photos on page 6.*

asbestos sheeting underneath the Guild.

Initial advice from the Benefit Fund is that we can still use the funds for our proposed major renovations being planned by the Brisbane City Council, but we will need to submit an amendment to the original application.

Also, we have been advised last week by Trevor Evans' Office (Federal Member for Brisbane) that our grant application for \$4,400 has been successful for the replacement of our sandblaster compressor.

### Renovations Update

Last year, there was debate whether to 'move or not to move' in order to provide enhanced facilities for members and students. The consensus was to stay at Red Hill.

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## President's Review

Cont from previous page

**After four drafts of plans spanning 2020/2021, we reached consensus from members who agreed on a plan to raise and move our Fulcher Road building.**

Plans were submitted to the Council seeking approval for an Application for Works at the Guild, based on architectural plans we had drawn up.

Concurrently, we commenced an application for a grant of up to \$200,000 through the Lord Mayor's 'Better Suburbs' Grants program.

Shortly after starting, the BCC informed us that they had already budgeted for the project, and would undertake renovations at the Guild in the 2021/2022 year that included raising the building and waterproofing the downstairs area.

### Wait for meet date

At this time, we are waiting on the Council for a meeting date to discuss engineering plans in further detail.

We have made it clear to the project supervisor that the Guild is prepared to act in partnership with the Council, and where necessary, to contribute a substantial amount of funds to ensure the best outcomes for the Guild, within our budget framework.

Indications from the Council suggest that from their viewpoint, the project will contain 'the bare essentials'.

So perhaps we need to lower our expectations of a 'Grand Design', and trust we will end up with something that is a considerable improvement on our existing premises.

Hopefully, we will have some plans to consider before the end of this year, when we will be able to bring members up to date.

Members continue to benefit from our newly-installed air conditioners, which have been well received during recent steamy, muggy days and nights.

The consensus is that it is well worth the small additional daily costs to our electricity bill - and when the sun is shining, we can operate the air conditioners at no charge due to our solar panels.

### Our Secretary/Bookkeeper

Our Guild secretary, Katrina, continues as our paid bookkeeper. Recent changes in Queensland protocols for non-profit organisations now require that any management committee members who are being paid an allowance must be approved by the membership.

Katrina's appointment will continue until the AGM in March 2022.

Our treasurer, Deb Pym, reports that so far, the Guild has saved over \$1,500 with Katrina in the bookkeeping role, compared to last year when we had an outside contractor in the position.

Deb had our reconciliation report endorsed by the Brisbane City Council for the grant received last year for the new windows, doors, and plumbing upgrades at the Guild.

As the end of year approaches, both Katrina and Deb will finalise any outstanding accounts and prepare for the end of year independent audit processes.

### Annual stocktake planned

The annual stocktake is booked and Denise and her band of merry helpers will be at the Guild in early January along with our auditor to oversee the stocktake.

For the past few years, the Guild's assets have been well over the \$100,000 mark which requires a more intensive examination of the accounts.

A detailed audit report will be presented to members at the AGM in March.

There was a good turnout at the annual Christmas party at the Guild on Sat 4<sup>th</sup> December.

Trying to avoid the heat and rain, a decision was made to have a brekky meet rather than in the afternoon. Fortunately, the grounds weren't too soggy after a string of storms the week prior.

Ian and Anne had the BBQ firing, John was minding the drinks counter, Chris and Denise had the glass sale well organised and the shade shelters provided by Cr Peter Matic, State local member Jonty Bush and Katrina kept the sun off our heads.

### Splashback Stage 1 launch

Peter Matic officially launched stage 1 of the kitchen splashback, so ably created by Chris and her willing assistants.

The glass sale did very well, and any glass left over was placed in the racks in the glass room.

Some of the larger sheets that didn't sell were cut to provide members with a chance to purchase smaller pieces at a smaller cost. Bargains still available!

On behalf of the management team, Merry Christmas and have a safe, joyful, peaceful time with family and friends.

### Best wishes, Kevin Grace

#### Published by the Creative Glass Guild of Queensland

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Website:  
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Workshop/Sales:  
Saturdays, 9.00am-12.00pm

General meetings: Bi-monthly on first Monday of the month at 7.00 pm  
(Notice will be emailed to members).

Management Meetings: Alternate months or earlier if required

# Breakfast breakup a winner

**It was great to see around 50 of our members at our annual Christmas get-together, on a glorious hot and sunny Saturday morning!**

Councillor Peter Matic came for a good look around, showing lots of interest in our creative works, our building, our renovation plans and our items for sale.

He did an official unveiling of our fabulously creative kitchen splashback, and acknowledged how important it is that we continue to create, and share our creative skills with others.

Irene, Vicki and Lenore had a beautiful display of items for sale.

Chris and Denise had a busy day selling glass, Christmas decorations, beaded garden stakes and handmade cards.

Ian, Anne, Kevin and John kept us fed and quenched our thirst under canopies provided by Katrina, Peter Matic and State Member, Jonty Bush – many thanks to everyone!

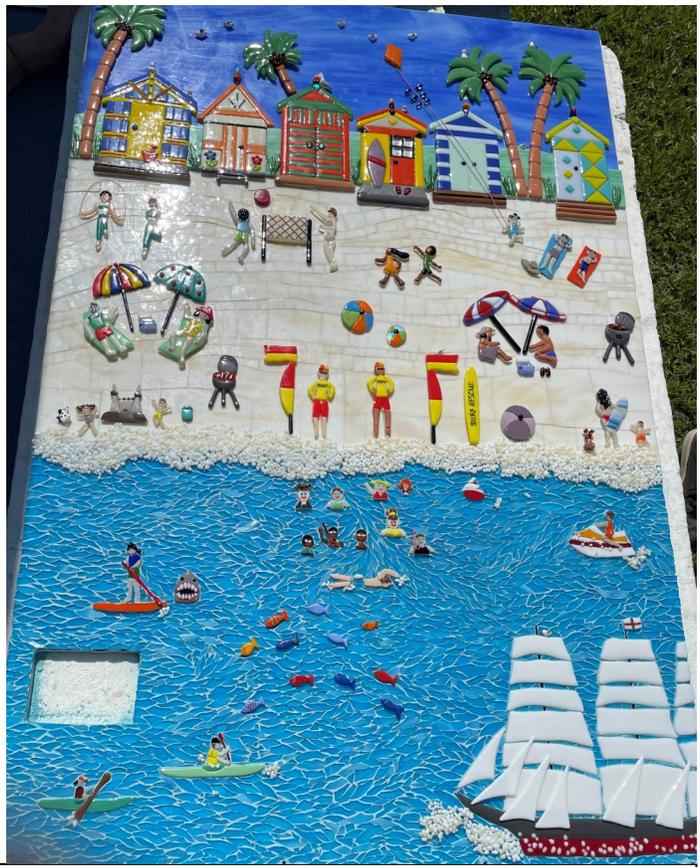
And our air conditioning took the warm edge off a busy day in the heat, with the added benefit of a visual feast of lamps, copperfoiled spinners and faces, mosaic creations and fused birdies, all made by our clever members this year.

Thanks to everyone who attended and especially to those who helped out and made it a great social catch up and celebration of all the good things the Guild represents.

See you again next year!

***Pictured (top): the official splashback unveiling; (centre) John, Ian and Anne serve up brekky; and (below) Lenore shows off her wares.***





More photos from the Christmas Party: (above) Irene and Vicki had some beautiful glass jewellery on offer to visitors, and (right) the first panel of the Australia kitchen splashback, an aquatic wonderland of mosaic and fusing artistry.



We always knew glass enriched our lives, but now it's official!

The scientific, economic and cultural contributions of glass have been recognized by the United Nations, who have denoted 2022 as *The International Year of Glass*.

Glass supports many vital technologies, facilitates sustainability and a green world

and enriches our lives, yet its contribution often goes unnoticed.

To celebrate the International Year of Glass 2022, thousands of activities will be held throughout the world next year, including congresses and seminars, industrial fairs and glass schools. National organizations will focus on sharing best practice and providing a supportive environment.

An opening conference in Geneva will be followed by a Glass Congress in Berlin, a Glass Expo in China, plus glass art/history congresses in Egypt, the US and Europe.

## 'Ode to Bling' champions recycling

**The Reverse Garbage Project called for six Brisbane artists to artistically 'green' the facade of their workshop facilities using predominantly salvaged materials.**

Each artist was allocated a panel which is attached to a frame that sits in front of the building. I made my panel using 95% salvaged materials.

The substrate is a former visitor parking sign, made from aluminium composite, and secured with a recycled timber frame.

I have been collecting vintage window glass for years, so I had a ready supply of some lovely colours and textures. I also have a decent quantity of mirrors, thanks to kerbside collections.

To embellish the banksia flowers, I used laser cut acrylic offcuts that I bought from Reverse Garbage which give texture and bling.

I applied mirror coating spray to the flowers and some of the leaves to give extra glimmer.

*Pictured (right) Catherine with her recycled green panel, and (below) a closeup section showing the intricate banksia flowers and leaves.*



Guild mosaics tutor, Catherine Conaty, recently won a place in a Community Art Project devised by Reverse Garbage, a creative reuse centre dedicated to reducing waste and making a difference. Here's her story..

In fact, my name for the piece is 'Sparkletastic Ode to Bling'. It is very shiny!

Quite a few people have told me that they recognise some of the vintage window glass from homes that they have lived in.

I am delighted to have created a piece that evokes memories and connection for people, and to showcase what can be achieved sustainably.

Phase two of the project will see vines being grown over all of the panels, which will not only look amazing, but it will also serve to cool the premises.

**Best wishes, Catherine**

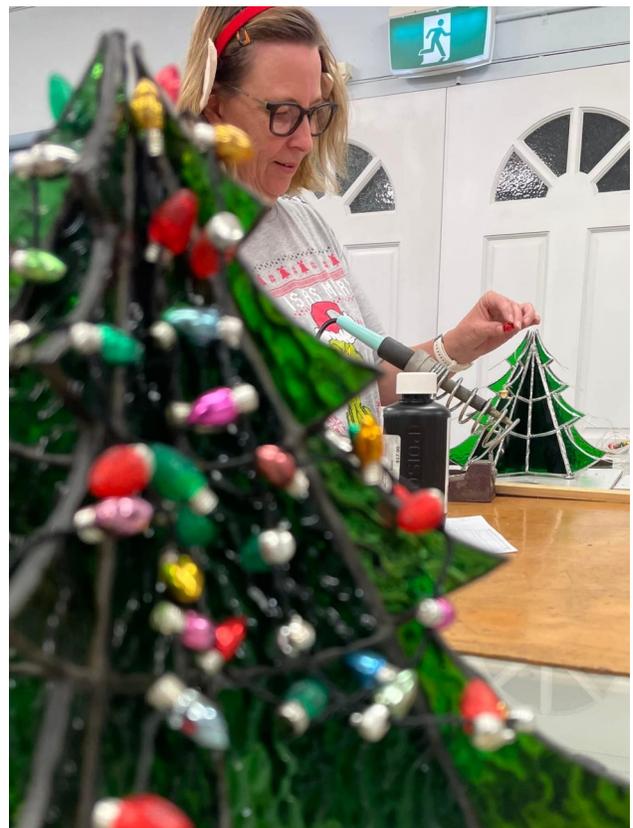
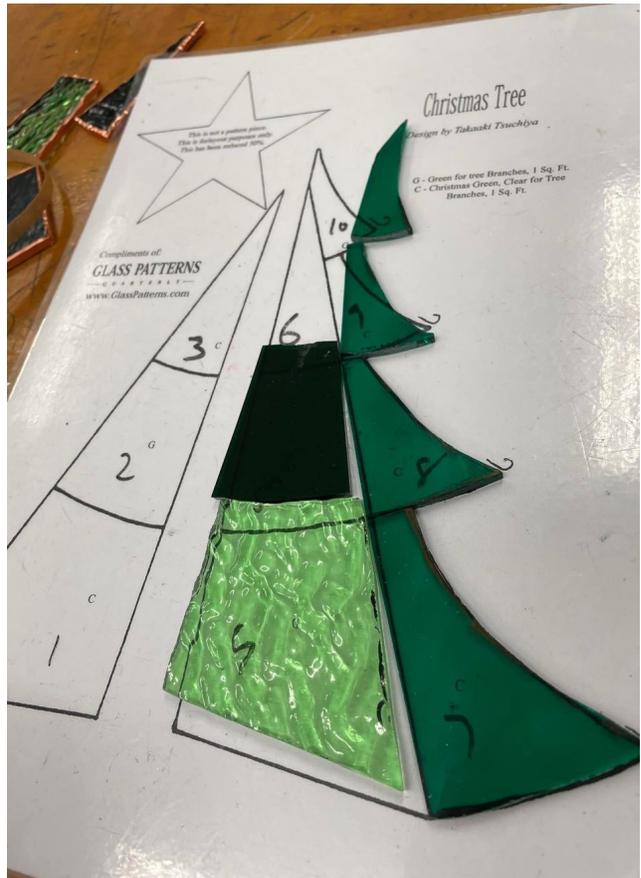


# Santa's helpers get down to business

It was a full house for this year's Copperfoiled Christmas Tree Workshop conducted under the watchful eye of Santa supervisor and tutor, Jenny Keys.

Participants produced a unique Christmas tree table decoration made from colourful art glass, complete with copperfoiled and soldered edges.

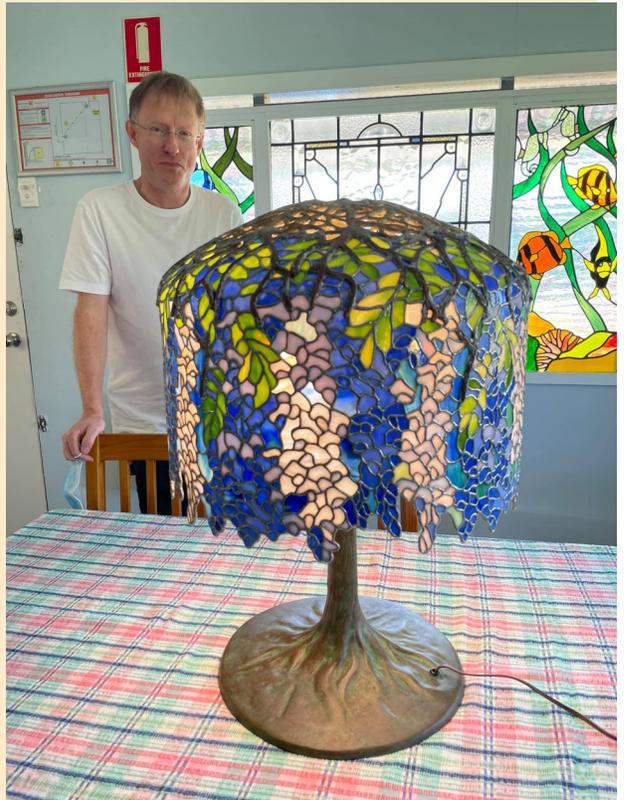
On completion, the trees are able to stand un-supported on a flat surface—perfect to set off your Yuletide decorations.





In an end-of-year flurry, courses are completed, workshops wind up and projects are proudly displayed. Pictured clockwise from above:

1. The fruits of Chris's Christmas decorations workshop, ready to adorn the tree;
2. Denis's incredible Tiffany Wisteria lamp, a once-in-a-lifetime project taking over 18 months
3. Another beautiful lamp on its way from Jenny's copperfoil lampmaking course;
4. Participants in the year's final beginners' leadlighting and copperfoiling course;
5. Every student puts their spin on the design for the final 2021 fusing and slumping class—the result is some stunning creations!



## When leadlight came to the Outback



**The small outback Queensland town of Injune may seem like an unlikely venue for a leadlighting and copperfoiling workshop, but it happened in September this year - thanks to the efforts of Guild members Ken Ede, Gael Levy and Grahame Sawyer.**

Gael initiated the weekend class following contact from her brother Dion, a Queensland policeman currently stationed at Roma, and only having recently relocated from Injune where he had spent several years and got to know most Injune residents.

### **Men's Shed to the rescue**

Dion had been in discussion with Mike Caffery, an active member of the newly established Injune and District Men's Shed, who was keen to organise skills

development workshops utilising the Injune Men's Shed facilities.

Ken Ede stepped up, and Gael and Grahame volunteered to assist. They based the course on a successful format Ken and Grahame developed over a long weekend in Charleville in 2018 at the Charleville Community Centre.

### **The class of 14**

Fourteen 'locals' participated in the course, coming from Injune and surrounds, and as far away as Roma (90km south) and places in between - a good rollup considering Injune's permanent population is less than 500!

All enthusiastically engaged in learning leadlighting - even the black, messy part of puttying! And all but two decided to have

a go at copperfoiling. And all did very well, considering the limited time available over just two days, taking home some colourful pieces to show family and friends.

The Men's Shed facilities were excellent for demonstrating the skills required, and the visitors were treated to traditional outback hospitality over their two days and three nights' stay.

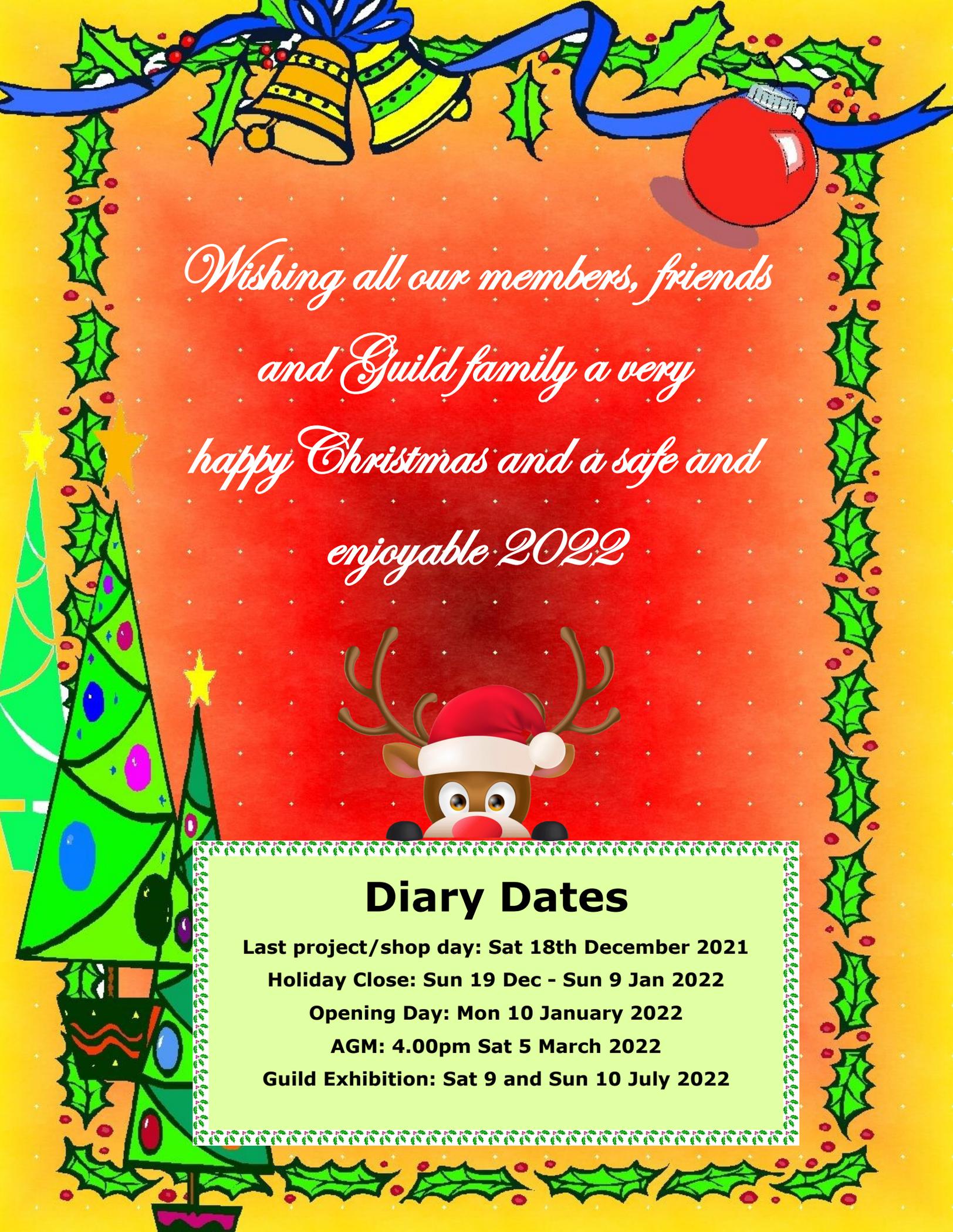
Perhaps the most arduous part was the journey up and back - 9 hours one way, and 8 hours back, with minimal stops - all up, a long and exhausting four very fulfilling and enjoyable days.

***Pictured above are Grahame, Gael and Ken (right) with Injune course participants.***



Our mosaicists have been weaving their mosaic magic all year with spectacular results such as Chris's vest of many colours, to stunning spheres and flowers and birds of a feather. Well done to all our mosaic specialists and our new starters, who are quickly showing their expertise and versatility under the expert eye of our talented tutor, Catherine Conaty.





*Wishing all our members, friends  
and Guild family a very  
happy Christmas and a safe and  
enjoyable 2022*



## **Diary Dates**

**Last project/shop day: Sat 18th December 2021**

**Holiday Close: Sun 19 Dec - Sun 9 Jan 2022**

**Opening Day: Mon 10 January 2022**

**AGM: 4.00pm Sat 5 March 2022**

**Guild Exhibition: Sat 9 and Sun 10 July 2022**