



Victorian Quilters Incorporated

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2017 Annual Report

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President's Report

What a busy 12 months it has been. Shortly after being elected as President I was contacted by an unknown person asking if we would have a Heritage Quilt display at a Mill in Smeaton. I contacted them for more information and they asked if Victorian Quilters would be interested in having a quilt display and demonstrations of quilt making. I contacted Janet O'Dell, our Quilt Historian, and Wendy Blyth, our committee member who organises demonstrations, to accompany me to Smeaton to meet Cheryl and Alan Just. The event would be known as the Mother's Day Heritage Quilt Show. It was such a success that there will be another quilt display on Mother's Day 2018 with the theme of *Quilts of the Goldfields* (see page 29 of Vic Quilter July 2017).

This project and all the other projects that Victorian Quilters are involved in they would not occur without the Committee and many Guild Members who assist so I would like to extend a thank you to you all for giving your time, for it is not always recognised that we are all volunteers.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances Fay Murphy, Mary Hitchens and Elizabeth MacDonald needed to resign from the Committee. I would like to extend our thanks to them for their many years of service to Victorian Quilters. We also sadly lost our vivacious past treasurer, Billie Jackson after a brave battle with cancer.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all Committee members and Sub Committee members who without their support and work we would not have achieved what we have over the past 12 months so thank you. A very special thank you to Robyn Cuthbertson who agreed to take on the task of the VQ magazine. Congratulations to those Member Groups who hosted our Gatherings., Thank you for your hard work to host our many members. It is very much appreciated.

To the Member Groups I visited at both their Quilt Exhibitions and at their meetings- thank you for your hospitality and making me feel most welcome in your community.

Following on from the Australian Council of Quilters in February it was agreed that all states and Territories would have a Workshop Coordinator to facilitate the dissemination of upcoming available tutors' information. The more who can share the better for quilting in Australia. Joanne Krause agreed to be our representative and attended the first national meeting during AQC.

As those of you who are familiar with both Facebook and Instagram know, we now have our own pages which members can use. Please see the Social Media Report for details.

I'm looking forward to another very productive year with you all.

Heather Shepherd

President

Secretary's Report

The role of Secretary has not changed in the collecting, distributing and recording of mail and taking Minutes of Committee Meetings. Our Committee meetings this year have been held at the IVALDA Masonic Centre in Ivanhoe. This year, again, has presented many challenges with our "back up" plans as Committee Members have faced various health challenges throughout the year. If you would like to be part of planning the future direction of Victorian Quilters as we enter our 25th year, then joining the committee is

not an onerous task when ALL positions are filled. It is important that all positions on the committee are filled to enable our programs to continue. I would like to thank all my fellow committee members for the friendship and fun while fulfilling our roles to make Victorian Quilters Inc. the best it can be.

Quilt Stands

The Quilt Stands continue to be hired out and the trailer is working well. During the year we have updated and replaced items. After 17 years since we purchased the quilt stands, I would like to retire from this position. If you have some spare space to accommodate the trailer, preferably under cover, it is not a time-consuming job to co-ordinate the bookings. Obviously finding suitable storage and a co-ordinator is pivotal to being able to continue hiring out the stands. I understand that at the end of an Exhibition we are all tired and just want to finish packing up. Thank you to all the Groups who take care to pack the trailer as requested and make my job of checking equipment, when returned, a lot easier. As you would understand, I am unable to repack rods on my own, so your attention to counting the items correctly is important, so that the next Group receives them packed correctly.

Denise Reynolds

Secretary

Travelling Suitcase

This year the Travelling Suitcase was made up of twelve quilts. These quilts were entrants in the Victorian Quilters Challenge at Quilt Showcase 2016, with the theme *Flora and Fauna*. They made a great display of different ideas and techniques. The Travelling Suitcase gives its viewers a chance to have another close look at these quilts, away from Showcase which is always a such busy time. So much to see and do at Showcase.

Once again, the Travelling Suitcase was well supported by members groups in Victoria and southern NSW. The case travelled as far afield as Hay. As luck would have it, the Murrumbidgee was in flood, but the Hay township was well above the flood level, so our quilts were safe and sound. Just a small adventure for the Case and its quilts. The Case also made numerous other stops in regional Victoria, Melbourne and surrounding areas.

Victorian Quilters are very grateful to our members who let us take their quilts on a twelve-month adventure. It is wonderful that our groups take advantage of this service provided by Victorian Quilters Inc.

Liz MacDonald

Challenge Coordinator

Appraisal Sub-Committee

The Appraisal (ex-Valuation) Team has accomplished the appraisal of 49 quilts in 6 appraisal sessions between September 2016 and July 2017 including the Showcase Challenge quilts that make the Travelling Suitcase Exhibition.

Jan Frazer retired from the team at the end of 2016. A great appreciation for her long years of service and valuable contribution. Julie Adamson started training to become a qualified appraiser and Sugy Kim has taken her former role as the new Appraisal Coordinator. Currently there are 11 qualified appraisers and 5 trainees in the team.

Appraisal Application forms can be downloaded directly from the website or can be posted on request. You can send an email to Sugy Kim (saravik@naver.com) for inquiries and booking confirmation for your quilt appraisal.

During Quilt Valuation Seminar held in Sydney in Feb 2017 where all States Appraisal Team representatives agreed that the term “Quilt Valuation” should be replaced with “Quilt Appraisal.” Therefore, all the forms and documents related to appraisal have been updated accordingly.

VQ appraisal team members had an educational session on Art Quilt Appraisal in June 2017. Canberra based Art quilters Trevor and Beth Reid were invited as tutors. They ran an educational session on Art Quilt Appraisal. Seven Art quilts were used for this appraisal study purpose. The session concluded very successfully and provided fundamental information on an Art Quilt Appraisal method.

I would like to thank the Appraisal Team members for their valuable time and effort at each Appraisal Session. The team is privileged to see many wonderful quilts from Victorian Quilters members and from other quilters, who trust us to value their quilts. The Appraisers work as a cohesive team and are professional in their approach to the appraisal of every quilt. Their commitment to training and appraisal is more than evident.

Sugy Kim

Appraisal Coordinator

Sponsorship

In my first year as Sponsorship coordinator I can honestly say it was a pleasure to work with a great team of people. This role has also given me the opportunity to meet new people and establish relationships with our generous sponsors and within the industry. A huge thank you Jan Preston who did a wonderful job handing over the role over the past 12 months. This has allowed for a seamless transition and continuity for our sponsors.

The Australasian Quilters' Convention (AQC) was a time to reconnect with sponsors from the previous year and meet and introduce new sponsors to Victorian Quilters Quilt Showcase. We were able to establish three new sponsors from this event.

Sponsorship is very much a team effort. I would like to acknowledge and take this opportunity to thank both Shirley Lodington and Marilyn Davidson. Both Shirley and Marilyn assist on judging days and with the set-up and administration over the 4 days at Quilt Showcase. Shirley also does a considerable amount of administration prior to Judging days to ensure all paperwork, certificates and labels are prepared for awards. This pre-preparation work ensures that we have a stress free two day at Judging and everything goes as planned for the Award Ceremony.

Considering the current economic climate for the industry, sponsorship values and numbers were down on the previous year. The decline in value and sponsor numbers is a trend that has been visibly declining for 3 years.

- Overall, there was a total of 77 sponsors that contributed to approx. 90 prizes. This was down on last year and 2015 (2016 = 78 sponsors, 2015 = 108 sponsors)
- **Bernina Australia** Sponsorship approx. value \$10,000
- Total value of Business sponsorships = \$21,950

- Total value of Financial Member Groups' Sponsorship = \$7,050

Given the decline in Sponsorship Values, prize values were reviewed, and it was decided that First Place and Runner Up prizes remained the same as previous years. In order to keep these values, the same, Highly Commended prizes decreased in value. All award winners were grateful for their prizes and it has been great to see so many thank you letters and posts on social media.

One Step Further: We have secured sponsorship from Brother Australia for the upcoming 2018 *One Step Further* Exhibition. Brother Australia have agreed to a three-year contract and they are very pleased to be re-establishing their relationship with Victorian Quilters Inc. They are also very focused on what they can do as an organisation to give back to the quilting community.

Brother Australia have been very generous in sponsoring a Scan and Cut as first prize for the AGM raffle. They have also sponsored a Scan and Cut to the Very Snuggly Quilt Program. We are very thankful for their support and generosity to VQ.

I will continue to work on the portfolio in the coming year and look forward to another successful Quilt Showcase in 2018.

Social Media

2017 has seen a change for Victorian Quilters Inc in the social media space.

We have launched a Facebook and an Instagram page for both Victorian Quilters Inc and our charity *Very Snuggly Quilt* Program. We are constantly receiving positive feedback on both social media pages. In fact, it has been very encouraging to see our members and others interact and network through our social media platforms.

In addition to social media we have also introduced a monthly e-newsletter. The newsletter has been introduced to complement our quarterly magazine. It is a great way to get information out to our members in between magazine publications. We too, have received great feedback from the newsletter.

Josephine Kelly

Sponsorship Coordinator

Quilt Showcase

What a wonderful week we have experienced at Quilt Showcase. We successfully managed to dodge the rain, get all the quilts to judging on time, a streamlined process saw judging finalised just after 3pm on the second day, new volunteers for building & hanging quilts, challenging last minute changes to the floor plans requiring some artistic reshuffling of the displays, then sharing the excitement of members receiving awards at Presentation Day. Many of the award winners were not only first-time winners but younger members as well as previous awards' recipients from previous annual shows.

The combination of colours, techniques, subjects & styles this year again surprised us. How much more can our creative members dream up in cloth & stitch? Entries included celebration & memorial quilts, recreations of antique quilts, innovative new designs, inspiring art quilts of all colours, group challenge results, workshop

creations of many designers & teachers, flowers, animals, & birds, bugs & beetles, & wonderful whole cloth quilts in vibrant colours for both fabric & stitch. A magic combination. Every quilt was a winner. Thank you for making it a great adventure.

The Judges, Karen Mersiades, Chris Jurd & Wendy Blyth reported, "It was a pleasure to assess the entries for Quilt Showcase 2017. The standard in all categories was very high, making it difficult to choose prize winners. It was also great to see so many innovative entries. Hand and machine quilting was well represented across the whole field. A colourful & diverse range of entries. It would be good to see more entries in the Junior categories. We would like to congratulate Best of Show winner for an outstanding quilt. It will be a fine representative for Victoria in the Bernina National Quilt Award. Many thanks to Victorian Quilters for their warm and generous hospitality."

On behalf of all members we also extend congratulations to Sugy Kim for her Best of Show spectacular quilt 'Colourful Retina'.

It is obviously a sign of economic or seasonal climate resulting in the lower activity of fewer entries to Quilt Showcase, but also the change in the way in which members entered with many of the long termers still there, some returning, but many more newer members taking the opportunity to experience seeing their quilt hanging, in a dedicated spot for it, & beside others at our premier event of the year. We congratulate all of them.

However, in saying this, a record number of art quilts (21) were realised. Variety in this section was amazing, in subject as well as technique. This required the art quilts to move off the walls back onto the metal frame stands giving most of them a complete space of their own.

An extra 3 x 3 metre floor space made available in the last few weeks of preparation, quickly required more quilts to find. Thank you to those who helped us at short notice.

It is always interesting to view the statistics of any event.

- 187 entries received – 1 withdrawn
- 2 Interstate Judges of renown, Karen Mersiades, Qld & Chris Jurd, NSW with our own Wendy Blyth completing the panel
- 23 Volunteers for judging days to support the 14 committee members
- 100 White Glove offers (but many offering more than 1 session &/or doing other volunteer tasks as well)
- 7 volunteer quilt collection ladies as well as 8 committee members
- 2 Profile Quilters with a total of 37 quilts
- 2 Profile Member Groups with 28 quilts
- 6 Member Long Arm Quilters
- 10 special technique quilts (9 patch)
- 30 AQC Challenges – Flora & Fauna
- 14 Kids Skills participants aged from 6 to 13 who made quilted placemats by hand
- Countless hands-on demo attendees
- Lots of new members
- Bags of Very Snuggly Quilts received, blocks & tops prepared for quilting, more bound & finished
- Raffle Winners Jan Frazer (Bernina machine) & Neroli Henderson (AusPina quilt)

Our most significant achievements are always the social connections we create, promote & enhance. Touching base with old friends, make the vital link of a name to a new face, but being able to assist anyone with a simple or complex question, or a link to a Group, is very rewarding. Our most asset is the volunteers who attend to the tasks that make the presentation look so professional & sophisticated. Unfortunately, some of these volunteers are experiencing strength & stamina challenges, so we need more able bodies to spread the work load. I know I said this last year, but can you help us. Every task is important, even a coffee run.

My sincere thanks to Mary Hitchens for her knowledge, experience & planning skills she has generously shared with me personally for the past 14 years, as well as all those who have been on committee over 10 earlier years. We welcome Linda Steele to our Exhibitions Sub-Committee. A partnership we feel will see the continued professional profile of VQ. I look forward to working with Linda for next year, then handing over to focus on sourcing & handing over to a new coordinator for One Step Further.

My congratulations to Josephine Kelly for her enthusiastic energy to the Sponsorship Portfolio. This is a vital part of exhibitions / competitions that requires a delicate balance of pleading, promotion & just plain luck. It is also a task that requires a lot of attention to details. I leave further comment regarding sponsorship to Josephine's Report.

Lastly, but by far not the least, is our continued partnership with Expertise Events & Bernina Australia. Without the support of these two companies we could not present the calibre of exhibition that we do. The association is not only a business one but has extended to a mutual personal association. Moving forward we see no adverse change for either parties.

Forward Planning – 2018 is VQ's 25th year A milestone to be celebrated

- The general Challenge Category for Showcase will drop with a Special Challenge "Celebrating 25" as a stand-alone activity for individual members
- Group Member Challenge – 'Who we are & Where we live'.

Both 1 metre square. Start your planning & designing now.

Full details in the *Vic Quilter* magazine when sponsors are confirmed.

Profile Quilters Julie Adamson & Linden Lancaster are confirmed. Our much-anticipated raffle quilt will be a spectacular collaboration by Margret McDonald & Susan Campbell.

One Step Further

As this Art Quilt exhibition is now on a 2-year rotation with the next presentation at the end of 2018, the only reporting here is the request for a new co-ordinator. Further information is obtainable by contacting with Margaret Parkinson at whilom@tpg.com.au

Margaret Parkinson & Mary Hitchens

Quilt Showcase Coordinators

Membership

By the end of the 2016-2017-year Victorian Quilters has 519 members. This includes 90 Groups and 429 Individual Members. We have welcomed 47 new members, and this includes 5 new groups. Membership records have been updated as required to ensure that the database is as accurate as possible. Our special membership package promoted at AQC (Australasian Quilters' Convention) and Showcase, is very popular and continues to attract several new memberships.

Membership payments have also been updated. Members are now able to renew subscriptions by Electronic Transfer and the details have been published in our newsletter and membership renewal form. I have enjoyed attending Gatherings and Exhibitions and being able to meet with existing and new mem-

bers.

Thank you to everyone for their assistance with membership.

Val Lewis

Membership Secretary

Teacher Accreditation

Generally, Teacher Accreditation is a very quiet area of Vic Quilters, which is a shame because it can help teachers gain more teaching positions. When you become accredited your name and teaching techniques are published on our website and in our magazine. When we receive enquires from people wanting to know who can teach in their area, it is helpful if we can look up the details and pass this information on to them. We currently have 2 ladies working on their Teacher Accreditation. I would like to have a few more in the future.

Wendy Blyth

Teacher Accreditation Coordinator

Gatherings

The Gatherings held this past year by our host groups in conjunction with Victorian Quilters Inc. have been very well attended and enjoyed by all.

- Victorian Quilters Inc. hosted the **Winter Gathering** on 13th August 2016 which included the Annual General Meeting and was held at the Ivalda Masonic Centre. Our guest speaker was Wendy Whellum from South Australia who shared her love of antique quilts with us.
- The **Spring Gathering** was hosted on the 12th November 2016 at the Mulgrave Community Centre by Waverley Patchworkers Inc. as part of their 35th birthday celebrations. Anna Farago was our guest speaker.
- For the **Summer Gathering** on the 18th March 2017 we travelled to the town of Hopetoun in the north west of the State where we were hosted by the Hopetoun Patchwork Group Inc. Our speakers on the day were Alice Gove and Lyn McKinnon.
- Our **Autumn Gathering** was held on the 20th May 2017 at the Sherbrooke Family and Children's Centre, Upwey. Our host group, Lyrebird Quilters were celebrating their 15th birthday and we were treated to two speakers, Katie Sommerville and Eileen Campbell.

We sincerely thank our host groups and look forward to the continued support of our Member Groups, as without them, we would not be able to make our way around the State sharing the passion we all enjoy. In 2018 we will be visiting Mornington, Hamilton and Deniliquin. If your group would like to host a Gathering, we would love to hear from you.

Lola Petschauer

Gatherings and Groups Coordinator

Publications & Publicity

This year has seen the publication of four magazines as well as the Annual General Report. Fay Murphy stepped down as team leader during the year. Many thanks to her for all her hard work in this role. I began in the role in April, which explains the somewhat belated April edition.

We've made a few changes to the style of the magazine, moving to full colour in the July magazine, with a slightly more modern look. The full colour allows us much more freedom in layout, while also being able to fulfil advertisers' requests. The extra cost is minimal.

Unfortunately, I'm unable to get around to quilting events very much, so if there's anybody who's interested in going around to exhibitions, taking photos and writing up short articles for the magazine, please get in contact. In the meanwhile, I'd encourage all Guilds to send in a few photos and a couple of paragraphs themselves, so we can include their events.

Many thanks to all who've assisted me as I find my feet in this position.

Robyn Cuthbertson

Publications & Publicity Coordinator

Australia's Biggest Quilting Bee (ABQB)

As ABMT coordinator, I have tried a different approach this year to reach out to all Guilds. This was through the Vic Quilters magazine. Response has been slow but significant!

Donations to the Cancer Council are as follows.

Blue Gum Quilters...\$703

Bay Quilters...\$1570

AQA.... \$2000

Cobram Quilters...\$87

Waverley Patchworkers

Kristen Black

Geelong Patchwork and Quilting Group... \$845.10

I feel there may have been several guilds who have raised money from a BMT but have not had their monies accredited to Vic Quilters.

The fundraising officer for the Cancer Council, Scott Harrison (95146649) has been my contact. Having further discussion with him re the recording of amounts from the various guilds, the easiest route seems to be direct banking. ANZ, BSB 013128, Acc no. 837725513, ref no. 3224862.

The following is an excerpt from a recently received email.....*the Cancer Council wish to sincerely thank all guilds...who supported Cancer Council Victoria's fight against cancer by hosting a morning tea and donating generously. Examples of how this money will make a difference in the fight against cancer include:*

- *funding some of Victoria's brightest researchers and their cutting edge projects each year to help detect, treat and beat cancer.*
- *important prevention programs like PapScreen Victoria, Quit and SunSmart to make sure people have all the information they need to cut their risk of cancer.*
- *staffing Cancer Councils support and information line 131120 with experienced cancer nurses who are*

*there to assist all people affected by cancer.
Thank you to everyone for your wonderful support.*

Kaye Hardman

Victorian Quilters ABQB Representative

Quilt Study Group

- **September 2016:** due to the major exhibition of Australian quilts at the National Gallery of Victoria there was not a formal meeting. Members met at various times at the NGV to view the exhibition, to attend the *Unstitching Quilts Symposium* and to hear talks by invited guests on various aspects of the exhibits.
- **December 2016:** Report on the American Quilt Study Group Seminar held in Phoenix Arizona; Christmas Lunch at Como House.
- **30 April 2017:** Report on the *Williamsburg Seminar* and exhibition of *Printed Textiles*
- **25 June 2017:** Report on the *African-American Exhibition* at Williamsburg, plus Quilt Study Rretreat in Temecula USA and *Mennonite Quilting* in eastern Canada.

All meetings include an in-depth session viewing quilts.

We look forward to our first overseas excursion, to New Zealand from 5-11 September.

New Zealand has a treasury of quilts in museum collections, some circa late 1700s and brought with migrants in the early days of colonisation, and others made there during the 1800s. We will visit selected museums in the North Island by prior arrangement.

National Quilt Register

The newly re-developed National Quilt Register website in beta version was launched at the National Wool Museum on Wednesday 14th June. This is a significant national cultural heritage resource for Australia and it is exciting to see it go live. Thanks are due to the NWM team and the “extraordinary volunteers” (Janet O’Dell, Pam Hammer and Prue Townley) who brought this program to life.

The NQR team have been working on the website at the NWM since March. We have an allocated office space on the top floor with a small computer network courtesy of Geelong Council. The team is working through the original records and checking them for accuracy. Additions to the NQR are welcome; any quilt held in Australia may be added regardless of origin. The team reserves the right to accept or reject any application.

Interested quilters are invited to visit the new website and leave feedback.

The website is due to be hard launched on Friday 8 September at the opening of ART QUILT AUSTRALIA 2017 at the Queen Victoria Art Gallery, Launceston, Tasmania; this will be followed by another launch at the Geelong Quilt Show in late November.

Janet O'Dell

Quilt Study Convenor

Australian Council of Quilters

In February 2017 the following delegates attended the Annual Conference in Sydney hosted by Quilt New South Wales: Margaret Parkinson, Mary Hitchens (both voting delegates), Janet O'Dell and Heather Shepherd. All other States and Territories were represented.

The Conference started off with a 1 day Seminar on Quilt Valuation attended by representatives from all States and Territories. The day concluded with the passing of the First National Standard Agreement which includes changing the name from Valuers to Appraiser. To achieve this the following issues were discussed:

- process and documentation
- Calculations for material costs, degree of difficulty, commercial quilting cost
- Information from quilt maker regarding design, construction method & materials used
- Certificates written with similar information
- All Appraisers to sign confidentiality agreement.
- Application forms to have similar data collection to assist the Appraiser
- Ideally 3 Appraisers, but 1 not appropriate
- Working party set up Training for Appraisers:
 - 6 - 10 training sessions per Appraiser
 - 3 years' service back to the Guild
- All appraisals to be conducted under the State or Territory banner
- The Appraisers to keep themselves up to date both nationally or internationally Other issues discussed at the conference:
 - Report regarding Appraisal Seminar & results
- Lengthy discussions regarding Event Management agreements
- Bernina Australia agreement & their support of Best of Australia also discussed followed by visit from Mr Greg Alexander
- Discussion about Barbara Meredith Trust managed by Gold Coast Guild - from this discussion came the agreement that all State & Territory Guilds have a Workshop Co-ordinator and they pass on information to each other about any international Tutor or renowned Australian Tutor who will be conducting workshops.
- Lengthy discussion about the future of the Quilt Australian Council and in particular about use of members funds - conclusion being that Council be held every second year in Melbourne following AQC. VQ has offered assistance in form of administrative support only.
- Discussion that the President, Exhibition Co-ordinator, Appraisers & Teacher Accreditation Co-ordinator emails are working well.

Margaret Parkinson

Quilt Australia Coordinator

Grants/Scholarship

This year a grant of \$1,700 was allocated to the members of Victorian Quilters Inc. to assist with the organising of the Heritage Quilt display at Anderson's Mill in Smeaton. This two day event consisted of an amazing display of heritage quilts from the early 1800's along with hand quilting demonstrations and a selection of quilting retailers.

Submissions for Grants/Scholarships close on 15th October of each year.

Frances Toscano

Grants/Scholarship Coordinator

Very Snuggly Quilts

What another fabulous year, the generosity of patchworkers and quilters throughout Australia continues to amaze me, you are the people who make this program the success that it is.

Without the support of those who donate completed quilts, fabric, piece quilt tops, quilt the quilts, sew the binding or the person who comes to a quilt making day and looks after the morning tea and lunch and reminds us to take a break from stitching every now and then. Your contribution, no matter how small plays a vital role in creating these quilts.

During the past year, via the Wrapped in Love Auxiliary, we have gifted 2,023 quilts to children who have a chronic, life threatening illness and are patients at the Royal Children's Hospital. The team that visits the hospital each month do a fabulous job, with many travelling from regional Victoria into the city especially for this day. Some days it can be very stressful visiting extremely ill children and seeing how worried their parents are, however, the gift of a quilt can generally bring a smile to both the parent & the child. The reaction is generally one of disbelief that some-one will take the time to create a beautiful quilt and then give it to a stranger.

The list of sponsors, groups and people who have contributed to this program during the past 12 months are included separately in the Annual Report. Please accept my apologies if I have missed including your name, it was not intentional.

We receive many donations of fabric, from shops, distributors and individuals. Donated fabric forms the basis for many of our quilts and I really like to be able to use all the fabric we receive. Fabric that is not suitable for quilting is distributed to a variety of places including community centres, pre-schools, kindergartens, primary & secondary schools. These organisations are always pleased to receive this fabric and the Community Centres on the Mornington Peninsula are creating Boomerang Bags with the view that we will be plastic bag free in the near future.

A special thank you to Victorian Textiles for providing Matilda's Own batting for many of these quilts since 2005. Please remember to support the businesses who sponsor the program, as this is the only way we have of thanking them. Their sponsorship also makes it possible for us to concentrate on making quilts and not having to raise funds to purchase batting, fabric, thread etc.

We have held many quilt making days in Victoria and southern New South Wales, including Good Friday at the Keysborough Bowling Club, a quilt making day at the Royal Children's Hospital as well as demonstrating patchwork and quilting at Quilting Exhibitions and Community Festivals. A number of these days are now either yearly or biennial events and the quilt making days in the Mornington Peninsula Libraries have been a success.

Quilt making days are a great way of sharing /learning a new skill or technique, catching up with old friends or making a new friendship. If you were one of the brave people who came to a quilt making day on their own, a big thank you and we hope you will be able to join us on another quilt making day. We encourage people from the local community to call in and join us for a cuppa and see what we are doing. Very Snuggly Quilts now has a Facebook page, so please like & follow us, this will let you know of any activities. We are also planning to have a regular newsletter via email.

This week we are preparing for Showcase where Bernina is once again providing machines, Horn is providing a sewing cabinet & cutting table for our use and many volunteers will give their time by demonstrating how we make a quilt.

Very Snuggly Quilts are a gift to each child and is how we can show the children and their families that we, the community, are thinking of them during what is a very difficult time. In some instances the child and parent are in Melbourne many miles from home or even from interstate or overseas and the child may be spending an extended time in hospital. I cannot imagine what it would be like to be in this situation. Once again, my thanks to everyone who has continued to make this program so successful, without your valuable contributions it would not be possible to visit the hospital each month.

Marie Lee

Very Snuggly Quilts Quiltmaking Coordinator

Wrapped in Love Auxiliary

During this past year, there has been a number of changes to our team of volunteers. Our existing team consists of Agnes Girdwood, Ann Flower, Anne Sushames, Betty Scott, Bronwyn Inman, Elaine Hicks, Josephine Kelly, Judie Bainbridge, Lyn Weeks and Marie Lee. Early this year we welcomed Judy Malcolm who delivered the quilts and Robyn Rule onto the team.

April saw Lyn handover the Coordinator duties to myself as Lyn felt she was ready to step back after doing the job for the past few years. Lyn will act as an emergency if and when needed. Thank you Lyn very much for all the work you have done and for your assistance in helping me to fill your boots!

In May, we were lucky to be distributing quilts during the week that the hospital was celebrating Volunteer Week. Lovely little cakes and small bottles of water were set out on the table to be enjoyed.

Sadly, Judie Bainbridge resigned due to work commitments in June and I am in the process of recruiting some new volunteers. Thank you Judie for your commitment over these past 31/2 years. Josephine Kelly will now undertake bringing the quilts to the hospital every month with Marie Lee and Judy Malcolm acting as emergencies.

We continue to receive beautiful letters of thanks from families, often arriving by email before we have made it home ourselves.

Thank you to each volunteer for their continued commitment and especially Marie who is appreciated by us all.

Elaine Hicks

Coordinator, Wrapped in Love Auxiliary (Royal Children's Hospital)

Very Snuggly Quilts Major Sponsors

Expertise Events *Space for demonstrating quilt making during Quilt & Craft Fair*
Bernina Australia Pty Ltd
Demonstration machines for use during the Quilt & Craft Fair
Victorian Textiles *Matilda's Own Wadding, fabric & templates*
Westalee Design *Rulers and templates*
Horn *Cabinet sponsorship during the Quilt & Craft fair*
Accuquilt *Loan of Go Big*
Heights Sewing Centre *Loan of Bernina Sewing Machines*
Brother *ScanNCut*
Janome *Quilting baby quilts*
Kids Quilts *Patchwork Patterns*
Faye Packham *Louisa's Star Quilt Pattern*
Stockdale & Leggo *Rye Photo*

Storage space:

Victorian Quilters Inc
Rosebud Mini-Warehousing Pty Ltd
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Serenity Glen
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Periwinkle Patchwork
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Katie's Stitch by Stitch

The following organisations provided facilities for quilt making days or quilt demonstrations:

Mornington Peninsula Shire
Keysborough Bowling Club
Hastings Community Centre
Sorrento Community Centre
Westernport Festival
Westernport Craft Exhibition
Royal Children's Hospital Foundation & Auxiliary Office
Everything Patchwork & Quilting, Gembrook

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Bacchus March Friendship Group	Kaniva Windmill Quilters
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Blue Gum Quilters	Yarra Valley Patchwork & Quilters Guild Victoria
Cobram Quilters Club	Pelican Quilters
Cohuna Country Quilters	Phillip Island Quilters
Cohuna Patchwork Group	Regent Street Stitchers
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CWA Geelong Region	Sorrento Community Centre
CWA Werribee	Strawberry Patches
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