



Victorian Quilters Inc.

ABN: A0028438J

2021 Annual Report

Covers Period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021

For presentation to the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on

March 19th, 2022

At

One Church, Surrey Road, Blackburn, 3130

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President's Report

Another interesting year where we continued to be effected by the limitations caused by the COVID pandemic. During this past year either the Victorian or Commonwealth government made decisions limiting the activities of Victorian Quilters Inc and our Member Groups.

The committee evaluated the information available during 2021 and as a result we did not hold any gatherings or Very Snuggly Quilt making days during 2021, and our last Annual General Meeting was via Zoom. My thanks to the committee and the members for your support and understanding during these difficult and challenging times.

This pandemic has highlighted what many of us knew, that our stitching activities, either in small groups meeting in one another's home or at larger gatherings is important for us to maintain our mental wellbeing. Now that the restrictions are being lifted, we can resume these activities. For some of us, this may be daunting after being at home for so long, however, I am sure that over the next few months life will gradually get back to normal.

Our Member Groups have continued to stay in touch with their members using various methods that included, Zoom meetings, outdoor picnic meetings, social media and telephone calls. We should never underestimate the value that a phone call can make to someone, and I have appreciated the calls I received during the pandemic.

Our 2021 Quilt Showcase was a virtual quilt show that was well supported by members who entered over 100 quilts. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Zoom presentation and Victorian Quilters Inc. acknowledges the amazing sponsorship by our members, Member Groups and the businesses. In particular we thank BERNINA for their continued sponsorship and I am able to advise that this sponsorship agreement will continue for 2022.

All the sponsors are listed on the website, and if you click on the sponsors logo this will link to the sponsors website or contact details. We ask that where possible you support these businesses.

The last QuiltAustralia conference was held in April 2019 and during the past two years, the State and Territory Guilds have been in contact either by email or Zoom meetings as the need has arisen. A number of State and Territory Guilds no longer have a contract with Expertise Events and their annual quilt exhibitions will be held either independently or with other organisations.

In December 2021, Victorian Quilters Inc. signed a two year agreement with Expertise Events for 2022 & 2023 and our Annual Quilt Showcase will continue to be held in conjunction with the Craft & Quilt Fair, held in Melbourne each July.

A number of the current committee have indicated they wish to retire from the Committee in the next 12 months. As a result we are seeking members become part of the Committee. For any organisation continuity of knowledge is important, to ensure that we do not have a majority of new committee members at the same time. This is a great opportunity to contribute to your state patchwork and quilting guild and meet lots of talented and interesting people.

Linda Steele has not nominated for the committee, however, the good news is that Linda will continue to convene Quilt Showcase for us. We also need some active members to assist with the set up and take down of the quilt Exhibition. Are you able to assist?

Thank you to the committee who have freely given their time to Victorian Quilters Inc. since the last AGM. This has been a particularly challenging time where there has been more behind the scene work as no activities have been held since March 2020. I would also like to acknowledge the support provided by our families, this is an important ingredient that makes Victorian Quilters Inc. the vibrant organisation that it is.

I am looking forward to meeting with many of you at the Gathering on 19th March 2022 and at other gatherings planned for 2022.

Marie Lee
President

Secretary's Report

Another very quiet year due to COVID but an opportunity for committee members to work behind the scenes and focus on our social media presence and come up with alternative solutions as the challenges arose.

Lyn Cooper
Secretary

Membership

At the end of the 2020-2021 year Victorian Quilters has 498 members. This includes 93 Groups and 405 Individual members. We have welcomed 53 new members in this financial year.

It is also pleasing to note that a number of members, whose membership has lapsed, have re-joined Victorian Quilters Inc.. Membership records have been updated as required to ensure that the database is as accurate as possible.

Many members have embraced the online payment facility via the website and the majority of members paid their subscription in this way. EFT payments are also being used by members. The banking details are published in our newsletter.

Thank you to everyone for their assistance with membership.

Val Lewis
Membership Secretary

Group Insurance

Having taken over this position from someone who had been doing it for several years I found it quite intimidating. Suddenly there was group membership fees & insurance to be organised, and all to be done online for the first time. We pushed through getting the details set up on the website, thanks to Marita, and got the notification letters sent out to the groups, if a little late. With Covid lockdowns causing a few difficulties with mail sent to the P.O. Box, we

eventually got all the details from the groups by the closing date. Congratulations to all the groups for adapting to the new computerised system, we are also looking at expanding this by being able to make the payments online.

Sadly, there have been a couple of groups unable to continue due to the inability to get together over this difficult time. We have also welcomed a new group.

Membership certificates were forwarded as soon as payments were received and once the insurance was settled through our broker, we sent out the Certificate of Currency. Since then, we have also included the Certificate of Currency as accessible to groups through the membership logon on our website.

Due to the difficulties with restrictions on gatherings I have been unable to get to visit any groups but look forward to being able to assist you where I can.

Denise Longmire
Group Insurance Co-ordinator

Grants

We did not receive any applications for Grants during this financial year.

Denise Longmire
Grants Co-ordinator

Quilt Appraisals

The Appraisal team has accomplished the appraisal of 13 quilts in 2 in-person sessions and 4 Zoom sessions during the financial year between 1st Sep 2020 and 31st Aug 2021.

The appraisal team welcomed Megan Jenkinson as trainee during the year.. We thank all the members who have been part of the appraisal team during the past year. We also thank Lynette Blainey and Marilyn Davidson who have retired after a many years of service. As of Mar 2022, there are 12 qualified appraisers and 3 trainees in the team.

During lockdown and amid Covid restriction, Appraisal team held Zoom sessions, in these sessions all team members actively involved in reviewing and updating all appraisal programs and documents. Great appreciation to Robyn Roberts who did all documentation work and wrote a new Appraisal manual for the team.

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

I would like to thank appraisal team members for their valuable time and effort at each appraisal session, especially during the long period of the lockdown. The team is privileged to see many wonderful quilts from Victorian Quilters Inc. members and from the general public, who trust us to value their quilts. The Appraisers work as a cohesive team and take professional approach to the appraisal of every quilt. Their commitment to training and appraisal is more than evident.

Sugy Kim
Appraisal Coordinator

Quilt Stands

There has been no hiring of the quilt stands due to all exhibitions being cancelled as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions.

We thank the Sushames Family of ChemPak for their continued generosity in storing the trailer.

Denise Reynolds

Quilt Stand Hire

Quilt Showcase

The entries were submitted via the website for the first time this year and they were very slow to arrive. So much so, we didn't think we had enough for a show until the last minute. Entries were open for six weeks and at the 4-week mark, we only had 37 entries. A quarter of all the entries arrived on the last day before closing.

Trying to plan Showcase was made more difficult because Expertise Events were still hoping to have an in-person show, even though we didn't think it was possible. Finally, after three date changes, Expertise Events contacted us and said to go ahead with our plans for a virtual quilt show. Planning our virtual Show took months of preparation because we had to keep changing our dates, plans and ideas. Every date and venue change meant phone calls, meetings, emails contacting exhibitors, quilt collectors, Judges and volunteers with the revised plans.

We received 103 entries from 68 people. Although a much smaller show than usual, we think that this was an advantage because we were able to judge in one day and whilst complying with COVID rules and regulation. Unfortunately, four entries were withdrawn in the week before judging but everyone agrees that the quilts we received this year were of an exceptionally high standard.

It was a year of firsts with on-line entries, emailed entrant acceptances, a virtual Awards Presentation and Exhibition and three Victorian Judges because we could not guarantee that an interstate Judge could cross the border without quarantining.

Thank you to Marie Lee and Julie Adamson for their constant support this year, Marita Atkins who designed our on-line entry system and created our virtual Quilt Show exhibition and Janet O'Dell who photographed and designed the Power Point presentation for the awards. Thank you to the Quilt Collectors, Marie Lee, Jennifer Wain, Linda Crouch, Kaye Hardman, Judith Oke, Denise Longmire, Lyn Cooper, Mary Phillips, Wendy Blyth and Vicki Jenkin.

The quilt collectors plus Julie Adamson, Janet O'Dell, Sugy Kim, Jenny Gibson, Megan Jenkinson, Josephine Wain, Maureen Mackie and Shirley Lodington stayed for Judging Day and helped with photographing, sorting and organising the quilts. Thank you to Val Jackson who provided lunches for the Judges and Josephine Kelly who could not attend on Judging Day but had all the sponsorship, winner's certificates and envelopes prepared ahead of time for us to use.

Our three Judges, Margaret Parkinson, Chris Serong and Sue de Vanny worked very hard trying to choose winners in such a strong competition. Congratulations to all the prize winners

and to those who missed out this year, don't be too disappointed, all the quilts were prize worthy but of course we cannot give everyone a prize.

Our biggest congratulations go to Best of Show winner Gloria Loughman for her pictorial quilt Reflecting the Kimberley. I am sure that everyone will enjoy seeing the quilt on display at Showcase in 2022.

Finally, my biggest thank you goes to the sponsors who provided the wonderful prizes and members who entered a quilt this year. We were so grateful for the support in such a difficult time that we gave every entrant a VQ Quilt tote bag as a thank you present.

Linda Steele
Showcase Convenor

Sponsorship

Quilt Showcase

It was a quiet period for the Sponsorship team for period September 2020 – August 2021 as Quilt Showcase was postponed to December 2021.

One Step Further

Thank you to Brother Australia who are the major sponsor for One Step Further 2020. Their support and sponsorship for the program is greatly appreciated, especially at these challenging times.

Quilters entered for the 2020 One Step Further Exhibition were displayed at the Kyabram Town Hall from 1st October – 18th December 2021.

Josephine Kelly
Sponsorship Coordinator

One Step Further

Unfortunately no activity due to COVID during this year. The entries received for 2020 were displayed at Kyabram Town Hall Gallery during October & November 2021.

Sue de Vanny
One Step Further

Gatherings

Once again, COVID intervened so the planned events did not go ahead as scheduled. Thank you to member groups who put their hands up as a Gathering host and we look forward to being able to return to our schedule in 2022.

Andrea Taylor

Vic Quilter Magazine

One of the aims of Victorian Quilters Inc. is to promote patchwork and quilting in Victoria. The magazine, together with, the website and social media , provides information to our members and sponsors.

During 2020 -2021 the magazine featured articles about many members, the techniques they use to create either a traditional quilt or a piece of textile art. The members who do not have access to the internet are decreasing and the magazine is an important reference for many. Many Member Groups keep the magazine in their libraries for access by their members.

During the past year we introduced a new feature *The Patchwork Track*. Each issue highlights a region of Victoria with details of the Member Groups, Professional Quilters, Teachers and businesses owned and operated by members. Members are using this feature to plan a stop whilst on either a day trip or longer holidays. *The Patchwork Track* has also contributed to an increase in our membership.

I am looking forward to including articles on Member Group activities when our lives return to normal.

Marie Lee
Editor

Website

I would like to acknowledge Marita Atkins contribution to maintaining the Victorian Quilters Inc. website during the past year. The website is an important link to both our members and the general public. It is my vision that this website will be the resource for patchwork and quilting activities both in Victoria and beyond.

The map on the home page which shows the location of Member Groups, Teachers, professional machine quilters and businesses owned and operated by members and has had in excess of 14,000 views. This map, and the associated Patchwork Track featuring a different part of Victoria in each edition of the magazine, has helped us increase our membership. The map also includes a link to the state and Territory Guilds that form QuiltAustralia.

The other enhancements to the website include a link to virtual quilt shows, a call for entries from Australian residents for contemporary and textile art exhibitions, and the facility for Member Groups and Members to advertise workshops and retreats they are organising. If you wish to have an event included there is provision to submit the details via the website.

The Membership register is now maintained via a program through the website, and as a result it is preferred that any changes to your contact details and payments are made via the website. If you have any suggestions about possible improvements to the website, please use the contact us email on the website.

Marie Lee

Judging Accreditation

The Judging Accreditation program was postponed COVID restrictions. The trainees were asked to continue researching and to keep abreast of the latest patchwork and quilting techniques and judging requirements. Although many quilt shows were cancelled during this time a number of virtual quilt shows were held.

Mary Hitchens & Margaret Parkinson
Judging Accreditation Coordinators

Quilt Study Group

Due to the seemingly endless pandemic restrictions there were no 'live' meetings. The repercussions of this are reflected in a general reluctance to attend large gatherings.

Members had to be content with articles written for the VQ magazine and there was good feedback from readers. Detailed photographs are interesting, but there is still nothing better than a personal and close-up inspection of textured surfaces. We were fortunate that the both the Geelong Wool Museum and the Lilydale Museum presented quilt exhibitions showing items from historic waggas to contemporary textile art.

Looking to the future for the quilt study group, there will be some necessary changes. The venue where we usually meet is to be sold, probably to developers and so we will need a new home. For me as coordinator, travel is back on the schedule and while this will be a source of original material for quilt study, it will affect both the timing and frequency of meetings.

Janet O'Dell

Quilt Study Group Co-ordinator

Very Snuggly Quilts - Hospital Coordinator

Another year has passed in these very interesting times that we live in. Since my last report we still haven't been able to visit the hospital making it 2 years in March, when we last handed out quilts.

Our team consisting of Anne Sushames, Bronwyn Inman, Elaine Hicks, Felicity Gilchrist, Josephine Kelly, Luise Carbone, Judy Malcolm, Robyn Rule and Marie Lee have been busy during this time completing modules that are now requirements of the hospital in preparation of our return. We bid farewell to Agnes Girdwood, Betty Scott, Kaye Hardman and Lorraine Hocking whose circumstances have changed during the pandemic. I sincerely thank these wonderful ladies for their time and effort that they contributed to our program.

During the year we did donate quilts to the Backpacks 4 Kids Vic charity enabling us to spread the good news of the work that ladies all over Victoria do during their daily life. Unfortunately it didn't make much of a dent in our storage facilities!!

Hopefully in the near future, we will return to the hospital and be able to distribute quilts to the children in the wards. This is what the ladies and myself have been missing the most.

Elaine Hicks

Coordinator, Very Snuggly Quilts Auxiliary (Royal Children's Hospital)

Very Snuggly Quilts – Quilt making

A huge thank you to everyone who used their time to create Very Snuggly Quilts during the COVID pandemic. We were lucky that we had a hobby or two and a good supply of fabric, wool and other items and were able to spend our days creatively whilst enforced to stay at home. I continue to receive completed quilts, quilt tops and fabric and

As Elaine has mentioned we have not been able to visit the Royal Children's Hospital for two years, however we have donated approximately 450 quilts to backpacks4vickids. This

organisation does a wonderful job in providing the basic items required by a child if they are in emergency out of home care.

Quilt making days are not being planned in the near future. I will re-evaluate the re-introduction of these days later in 2022

Marie Lee

