



Victorian Quilters Inc.

ABN: A0028438J

2023 Annual Report

Covers Period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

For presentation to the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on

November 25th, 2023

At

Notting Hill Community Hall,
386 Ferntree Gully Road, Notting Hill

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President's Report

2022/23 has been a great year with member groups having exhibitions and events across Victoria, as everything has now returned to normal after the restrictions of the past few years.

Membership

This year some of our smaller groups have found it difficult to keep their members and several have had to close, however we have been pleased to welcome other new groups to Victorian Quilters Inc..

The committee has decided to create a Life Membership award, to recognize long-term members who have made significant contributions to Victorian Quilters Inc. We are pleased to be presenting four Life Memberships at this year's Annual Meeting.

Very Snuggly Quilts Auxiliary

The Victorian Quilters Very Snuggly Quilt Auxiliary, volunteer distribution team was finally able to return to the Royal Childrens Hospital, in December 2022, to again donate quilts to the children. This monthly activity results in up to 200 quilts being distributed every visit. Thank you so much to all the members and friends of Victorian Quilters Inc. who over the years have donated to the Very Snuggly Quilt program. All quilts are given anonymously, but they have a VSQ tag, so we can identify the giver. As this tag has details about the VSQ program, we often receive grateful thanks. If this program appeals to you, we are always looking for more volunteers.

Exhibitions.

Victorian Quilters Inc. are pleased to have continued our very important partnership with Expertise Events (EE) at our two major events this year.

Australasian Quilt Convention April 13-16, 2023. Victorian Quilters Inc. are the Guild partner for EE and we will continue this partnership next year. Thank you to all Victorian Quilters Inc. volunteers who helped stage the quilt exhibition by putting up and packing down quilt stands and quilts; being tutor helpers and doing white glove duty. AQC is an important opportunity for Victorian Quilters Inc. to raise our profile and promote our activities across the general craft and quilting community.

Victorian Quilters member quilt Showcase July 13-15, 2023, was held at the Melbourne Craft & Quilt Fair, again working with Expertise Events, who provide us with the exhibition space and are also our major sponsor. We also thank BERNINA for their support of Showcase. This exhibition is always a high-profile event, receiving Australian and international acclaim. Thank you to our team of volunteers who made this exhibition possible. We look forward to another successful Showcase in 2024.

Presidents e-newsletter - This year as President I have endeavoured to regularly email an e-newsletter to all members. The aim is to keep members informed of the President's activities, Victorian Quilters Inc. services and promote relevant coming events.

Thank you

We thank all our sponsors for their support during Showcase and elsewhere during the year. On behalf of Victorian Quilters Inc. I would like to make special acknowledgement of Expertise Events, our event partner and BERNINA, our major sponsor. All sponsors are listed on our member's map.

Thank you to all members who serve on the Committee and Sub-committees for giving your time and efforts towards making the activities of Victorian Quilters Inc. successful. With particular thanks

to the Committee members for their hard work during the last 12 months. Your efforts are much appreciated and were vital to the smooth running of Victorian Quilters Inc. and Showcase 2023.

To any retiring Committee members, we appreciate your contributions and wish you well. For continuing and any incoming Committee members, thank you for volunteering and I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Victorian Quilters Inc. is the flagship patchwork and quilting organisation in Victoria. To continue our success, we need interested members to join our team, to help Victorian Quilters Inc. go forward into the future. Please feel able to approach any committee member to talk about how you might contribute.

As President it has been my aim and my privilege to attend quite a few member groups events, representing Victorian Quilters Inc.. I have enjoyed meeting members and visiting various member businesses. Thank you for invitations received and I look forward to more such occasions next year.

Thank you all

Judith Oke

President

Secretary's Report

We continue to hold committee meetings by Zoom, which works well for the non-metropolitan committee members. We can now accept point of sale transactions for the raffle, addressing the situation of many show attendees who no longer carry cash. Most correspondence is now electronic and there has been a noticeable reduction in the paper mail and the number of cheques received over the year – again a sign of the times. After a tree change I am slowly getting around to the local country groups and thank them for their welcome.

Lyn Cooper

Secretary

Membership

By the end of the 2022-2023 year Victorian Quilters has 495 members. This includes 86 Groups and 409 Individual members. Our membership cohort has both a national and international base. We have welcomed 40 new members.

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

Many members have embraced our online payment facility via the website. This facility is being utilized by new member applications and membership renewals. EFT payments are also being used by members.

Thank you to everyone for their assistance with membership.

Val Lewis

Membership Secretary

Group Insurance and Member Group Liaison

We successfully changed to direct banking of group membership renewals this year which assisted with all going smoothly and all groups up to date and the insurance organised on time.

Membership certificates were sent with acknowledgement of receipt of payment and Certificate of Currency is now available through the website by logging on and printing it out.

Once again due to economic circumstances we have found there have been groups unable to continue and have had to close, this year there were three. On the other hand, there have been two new groups join. Currently there are 86 member groups

Many of the groups are now changing to a group email which makes it easier when information changes at the AGM.

Denise Longmire

Group Insurance Co-ordinator

Grants

No grant applications were received during this period.

Michelle Kelly

Grants Co-ordinator

Quilt Appraisals

Quilt Appraisals have continued during the year. Thank you to the Appraisal team.

Sugy Kim

Appraisal Coordinator

Quilt Stands

We are indebted to and sincerely thank Noel & Sylvia Theodore for continuing to store the trailer in Romsey. Bookings are slowly returning to 'normal' after the two-year break.

I understand that at the end of an Exhibition we are all tired and just want to finish packing up, however as I am no longer able to check the trailer on return or between hiring's, please ensure that it is packed correctly for the next Group. So, thank you to all the Groups who take care to pack the trailer as requested and make the next Group's exhibition set up start on a positive note. The equipment will now only be checked once a year at Showcase.

The new booking system through the website is working well. It is important to note, that the initial contact is for confirmation of dates and the finalization – Agreement of Hire form, is through the link that I include in the confirmation of dates email. The link for the Agreement of Hire is not able to be directly accessed through the website. Last year the stands were hired out 5 times to Groups.

Denise Reynolds

Quilt Stand Hire

Quilt Showcase

We had another successful quilt show this year. Expertise Events decided to hold the show on a Wednesday to Saturday for the first time. Visitor numbers seemed down on Wednesday so I am not sure if the public realised the change.

Members and visitors to the show enjoyed seeing the amazing quilts, catching up with friends, making new friends and shopping. As well as the quilts in our judged show, we had a wonderful range of traditional quilts on display from our Profile a Quilter, Mary Hitchens. In contrast to Mary's quilts, we displayed 20 quilts by the Melbourne Modern Quilt Guild. Jan Preston presented her Courage and Determination exhibition which told the touching story of her Father-in-law during World War 2, many tears were shed and many visitors recounted their own family stories.

Thank you to our members who entered their quilts and congratulations to those that won a prize. Please remember, that our show is more than winning a prize and we welcome all quilts into our show, especially those simple or beginner quilts. We want to encourage new quilters, who can sometimes be discouraged by so many excellent quilts, so please consider entering your quilt in 2024, your quilt is very welcome.

Thank you to the Quilt Collection volunteers, these ladies not only collect and transport your quilts, they also help with the putting up and taking down of the show, so their support is invaluable to Victorian Quilters. This year our collectors were Jennifer Wain, Linda Crouch, Kaye Hardman, Judith Oke, Denise Longmire, Lyn Cooper, Margaret Parkinson, Carole Egan, Wendy Blyth, Val Jackson, Maureen Mackie and Marie Lee.

Thank you to Marie Lee for organising sponsorship, so as many entrants as possible could receive a prize in the show and Shirley Lodington who created all the certificates and sponsor cards and prize notifications. Thank you to Anna Amory who helped process the entries this year and Jennifer Wain who created the artist statement cards. Showcase is a massive undertaking every year and it is not until you become involved that you realise all the work that goes on behind the scenes. The committee work very hard to put our show on every year but we would welcome more help from members, even a small job means that it takes the pressure off somebody else.

Lyn Cooper organised the raffle tickets, Jennifer Wain looked after our finances, Michael Thornton did our PowerPoint Display at the opening and President Judith Oke and past President Marie Lee are constantly working in the background and are always a reliable help to make our show run smoothly.

Our Arc Angel was Chris Serong, helped by Anna Amory. Thank you to them both for keeping those white gloves clean and welcoming our many white glove volunteers.

Thanks to the ladies and gentlemen, Kaye Hardman, Denise Reynolds, Val Jackson, Lyn Cooper, Denise Reynolds, Margaret Parkinson, Sue and Carl de Vanny, Linda Crouch, Jenny Gibson, Megan Jenkinson, Michelle Kelly who helped put up the quilt stands and/ or helped with judging day by sorting, managing the quilts for the judges to view and then hanging them and taking down the show. Their support is invaluable.

Thank you also to the white glove volunteers who keep those quilts safe and help visitors with their enquiries.

This year our raffle quilt, Positivity was made by members of the Melbourne Modern Quilt Guild. The winner of the quilt was Judy Dillon and Patti Ritchie won the BERNINA sewing machine

This year we had 162 entries and the most popular category was again the Mainly Pieced section, it seems that everyone loves piecing and traditional quilts are just as popular as ever in Victoria

The Judges, Rachelle Denny from South Australia and Jenny Bacon and Robyn Roberts reported that the standard of quilts was very high.

On behalf of all members, we also extend congratulations to Mariya Waters for her spectacular Best of Show quilt, Floral Symphony no. 2.

Our most valuable asset are 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. We need more able bodies to spread the work load. If you are able to help us with setting up the show, packing up the show or volunteering while the show is in progress by doing white glove duty, please contact us. Many hands make light work. Once again, I thank everyone who has helped with Showcase this year, your support is invaluable.

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.

Thank you to everyone for the support that I have received over the past few years, I have loved getting to know so many Vic Quilter members.

Linda Steele
Showcase Convenor

Sponsorship

Quilt Showcase

We would like to thank all our sponsors for their ongoing support of Quilt Showcase in 2023.

Josephine Kelly / Marie Lee
Sponsorship Coordinator

One Step Further

October-November 2022

We were able to hang 60 entries at the Kyabram Town Hall in October 2022. The quilts looked great and we had a lovely opening catered by the Town Hall.

Unfortunately, this coincided with the floods and relentless rain. This meant that fewer people than hoped were able to make it through the water to come see the quilts. 2024 will see the exhibition move a bit closer to Melbourne. We have booked the Old Auction House Gallery in Kyneton.

Leslie Edwards

One Step Further

Gatherings

Gatherings are an important way that members and committee can build our patchwork and quilting community. In 2022/23 they were hosted by the following member groups

Spring & AGM 2022 – The Patchwork Gallery Quilt Group, held in Lower Plenty

Summer 2023 –Patchworkers and Quilters Guild, held in Waverley

Autumn 2023 – Seabreeze Quilters Inc., held in Altona.

Winter 2023 – Essendon Quilters Inc., held in Moonee Ponds

Andrea Taylor

Gatherings

Vic Quilter Magazine

Unfortunately, unforeseen circumstances meant we were unable to publish the October 2022 issue of VicQuilters magazine and the January 2023 magazine (2 issues in 12 months were not published). Our Editor followed up with all sponsors to ensure attention was paid to our commitments to them.

Marie Lee

Editor

Website

We see the Victorian Quilters Inc. website as an information resource for members and interested public. As such we aim to continually improve its content. Our website members map has had increasing usage and is an important information and promotional tool for members, member groups and member businesses. We thank Marita Atkins for her enthusiastic support as website manager.

Judith Oke

Very Snuggly Quilts

We have returned to a post COVID world, and some things have returned to back to normal, although we have changed in many ways. COVID gave us the time to reflect on how and why we did many things, and many have chosen to do things a little differently.

Josephine Kelly coordinates the distribution of quilts and you may deliver completed quilts to her at a mutually agreeable time. Please remember that Josephine has a full-time job and we need to work in with her schedule.

Elaine Hicks continues to coordinate the volunteers who deliver the quilts to the hospital. We are very privileged to be able to enter the wards and there are agreed protocols that cover the legal requirements of delivering quilts to children who have chronic illnesses and special needs.

Marie Lee OAM will continue to answer enquiries relating to donations of completed quilts and fabric and then distributing items / fabric onto other charitable organisations. We have amassed a considerable amount of fabric and have sorted and sold some fabric during the year. The money raised has contributed to paying for storage of the quilts and fabric. Recently I have been approaching local Guilds to take donations.

During COVID we donated quilts to BackPacks4VicKids and I know many of you have also made donations to this organisation. As we have many quilts in storage, I have been suggesting that instead of making quilts you may like to make Santa Sacks for BackPacks.

There are so many quilters that enjoy piecing quilts but due to a number of factors are unable to quilt these quilts so I will be seeking quilters. We have many quilts in storage and we will let you know when we need more quilts. At this time I will not be recommencing quilt making days - yes I will miss the happy times spent with you.

We recommenced visiting the RCH in December 2022 and everyone is pleased to see the Quilt Ladies back and making the children smile when they receive a quilt. The quilts also lift the spirits of the staff and visitors at the hospital. This program is only possible due to the many generous quilters who freely give their time and fabric to creating wonderful bright quilts. Never underestimate the difference each quilt makes to the child and their families.

Exford Primary School

You will remember the horrific accident that involved the school bus carrying student's home from the Exford Primary School earlier this year.

The first people at the accident scene included the Principal, teachers and volunteer first responders, some of whom worked at the school. The impact this accident had on the school community was huge. There are nearly 400 students and approximately 60 of these students, from every class in the school, were on the bus. A number of children were admitted to the Royal Children's Hospital and in the normal course of events, these children would have received a quilt.

After a committee discussion it was decided that Victorian Quilters Inc. would donate a quilt to every child at the school. It did not seem fair to only give the children on the bus a quilt when their class mates had been so traumatised by the accident. President Judith Oke, Elaine Hicks, Kaye Schonewille and I visited the school and delivered the quilts.

The Principal wrote *"Thank you and your wonderful team of quilters for the generous and kind donation of quilts for our kids. I've looked at some of the photos and the delight on their faces says it all! These quilts will bring such comfort and I'm sure will have pride of place in their homes".*

A parent wrote: *"My kids just recently received your wonderful artwork at Exford Primary School. They were so happy and couldn't stop exploring every tiny detail on their unique gifts They now constantly play with the quilts and wrap themselves in them every other moment. The creativity, love and skills behind these items are so amazing! Thank you so much for these wonderful gifts!"*

Thank you for your continued support of the Very Snuggly Quilt Program, your generosity is very much appreciated by the children, their families and the staff at the Royal Children's Office and also those connected with the Exford Primary School.

Marie Lee OAM

Social media

Victorian Quilters Inc. continue to make small advances in social media. Our followers are gradually increasing. All members are invited to follow Victorian Quilters on Instagram and Facebook.

Instagram – victorianquilteraus : 1,167 followers (3/10/2023)

Victorian Quilters Inc. promoting the art of patchwork & quilting. Enquiries:
info@victorianquilters.org #victorianquiltersaus

Facebook - Victorian Quilters Inc. Aus: 1.9K followers (3/10/2023)

Judith Oke

