



Victorian Quilters Inc.

ABN: 22921820629

Incorporation Reg: A0028438J

2024 Annual Report

Covering Period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024

For presentation to the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on

November 23rd, 2024

at

Waverley Masonic Centre, 318/322 Stephenson Rd,

Mt Waverley, Vic.

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President's Report

I would like to thank all members of the Committee for their time and efforts during the past year. As President I have been supported by a great team of enthusiastic people on Committee. I have also enjoyed visiting member Groups, either as speaker or as a visitor to their events. It is a privilege to be able to be part of the many activities of members of Victorian Quilters Inc. As President I also represented Victorian Quilters Inc. at QuiltAustralia meetings. Held twice a year this is a meeting of all Presidents of State and Territories guilds.

The Committee welcomed Glenne Reid and Leonie Wolfe who joined as General Committee members at AGM 2023. During the year the Committee continued to meet regularly on Zoom, which was efficient and productive. Linda Steele, Showcase Convenor, also joined Committee meetings when Showcase 2024 was discussed.

The position of Vice President was vacant during the 2023-2024 year.

Jennifer Wain resigned as Treasurer at the end of the year. Jennifer has been an extremely capable and efficient Treasurer, and we thank her for her years of service to VicQuilters.

During 2024 Chris Serong retired as Quilt Archangel, responsible for coordinating our volunteers at AQC and Showcase. We are very appreciative of Chris's calm and confident organisational skills.

During 2023-24 the Appraisal sub-committee welcomed a new coordinator, Heather Shepherd working with Robyn Roberts & Yumi McKey.

Val Jackson has resigned as QuiltAustralia Coordinator after many years in this role. We thank her for her continued dedication to this role.

Significant decisions made by Committee 2023-2024:

VQ Gatherings door fee: VicQuilters will not keep the door fees for Gatherings held in 2025. While it is usual practice for VicQuilters to do so, any Group that hosts a Gathering in 2025 will be given the door entry fee. NOTE: VicQuilters do pay venue & speaker fee for a Gathering.

Group membership fee: The Committee will not propose any increase in Group membership fee. VicQuilters has funds on hand, Group insurance fee was increased for the coming year, Groups have generously supported Showcase 2024 and a large number of member Groups have under 25, or under 50 members.

Showcase 2024: There were no credit card/ EFTPOS fees charged on Showcase Entries.

Activities

In January 2024 all members of the Committee attended a productive planning day in which the current VicQuilters Policy & Procedures Handbook was reviewed. Committee members have continued to review policies during the year. Sections are shared with sub-committees as relevant.

Committee members attended three Gatherings hosted by member Groups and AGM Gathering hosted by VicQuilters. These Gatherings are a great opportunity to meet and greet with members.

VicQuilters was again pleased to work with Expertise Events at Australasian Quilt Convention, April 2024. VicQuilters volunteers are tutor's helpers and white glove helpers amongst the quilt displays during AQC. We were able to supply the volunteers needed for these roles. However, part of our arrangement is that VicQuilters also put up and take down the quilt displays organized by EE. Unfortunately, we had only a small group of volunteers present to do this in 2024. We will be reevaluating how we can comply with EE's requests to put up the quilt displays. It is important for members to know that because VicQuilters is part of AQC, we can have information tables, including raffle quilt, on display during AQC. This opportunity is invaluable to VicQuilters as a means of promoting membership and selling raffle tickets.

Showcase 2024 was a success for VicQuilters as we had a good number of entries, with many members and friends attending the Award Ceremony on the Wednesday. During the open days we noticed lots of people viewing the quilts and we made many contacts during the event. Thank you to all the volunteers who prepared and presented Showcase to the public. Thank you for all our sponsors, major and minor, who all made a valuable contribution to the success of Showcase. We continue to have confidence in our association with Expertise Events and look forward to participating in Melbourne Craft & Quilt Fair in September 2025.

Victorian Quilters Inc. is an organisation that is run for the benefit of our individual and group members. Its aim is to promote patchwork & quilting across Victoria and riverland NSW. Thank you to Committee, all those who volunteer in sub-Committees and those who volunteer for AQC and Showcase and other activities, for your contribution to VicQuilters. VicQuilters cannot operate without the generosity of the many members who volunteer their time and energy in the various aspects of VicQuilters activities.

Judith Oke
President

Secretary's Report

We held 8 committee meetings by Zoom this year, moving to Monday evenings which enables non-metropolitan committee members to participate and free up weekend time.

Lots of communication avenues have been worked on behind the scenes and thanks go to Marita Atkins who provides technical expertise and prompt assistance when issues are identified.

Lyn Cooper
Secretary

Membership

As at 31 August 2024 Victorian Quilters had 469 members, consisting of 383 individual members and 86 groups. We have welcomed 42 new members this year.

Membership records have been updated as required to ensure that the database is as accurate as possible. Many members are embracing our subscription payment option. This facility is being utilised by new member applications and membership renewals.

Thank you to everyone for their assistance with membership.

Michelle Kelly

Membership Secretary

Grants

Grants are available to current Individual Members and Member Groups to further the education of quilt making throughout the state.

This year Committee approved a Grant of \$1000 to Waverley Patchworkers Inc., to support Waverley's organisation of a 2-day workshop, 15-16 May 2024, with international guest tutor, Charlotte Scott, from New Zealand.

Judith Oke & Michelle Kelly

Grants Co-ordinator

Group Insurance

Thank you to all the Groups that continue to support Victorian Quilters Inc. We currently have 86 member Groups. An anticipated 10% increase led to an increase in insurance fees. 74 member Groups and Victorian Quilters Inc. participate in the bulk Public & Products Liability Insurance offered to VicQuilters member Groups. The Certificate of Currency and insurance information is found on the website

Judith Oke

Insurance and Member Groups Coordinator

Quilt Appraisals

This last 12 months started rather isolating for the person who was asked to assist the previous appraisal Co-ordinator, then informed that they had resigned. Following discussion, it was proposed that Heather Shepherd would take on the role of Co-ordinator, Robyn Roberts would be the Policy & Manual update person and Yumi McKey would take on the role of Administer.

After approval from Victorian Quilters Inc., we looked for another venue that was well lit and not only had heating but also cooling. This venue was found in Thornbury at a much-reduced rent from \$160/per session to \$62/session to the guild.

We commenced the year with 2 trainees and have managed to increase our trainees to 5 but have finished the year with 1 graduating. Both Robyn Roberts and Heather Shepherd have also learnt Yumi McKey's roll so she has time on the tables to learn and, should she not be available, someone can fill in.

The number of appraisal sessions per year have increased from 4 to 7. The average number hours worked was 210 up from 130 with attendees also up from 31 to 61 which on percentage scale 55% to 71%. At the end of each session, we endeavour to have a discussion to keep the team members up to date and also to allows them to bring up any topics for discussion. This is working well according to our team members.

We have also been in discussion with an experienced long arm quilter, a machine embroiderer and an art quilter for our education sessions so we all keep up to date with methods, latest techniques etc. Both Robyn Roberts and Heather Shepherd have visited many Guilds to inform them about Quilt Appraisal, including offering 2 quilt Appraisals as prizes at Victorian Quilters Inc. annual quilt Showcase.

I wish to thank the team for all their hard work throughout the year, especially on Wednesday 13th November when we were requested to appraise the Australian Red Cross quilt collection which commenced at 9am (due to large number of items to be appraised – 38) and concluded at 5.30pm.

Heather Shepherd
Quilt Appraisal Co-ordinator
Qualified Judge
Victorian Quilter's Inc. Qualified Appraiser

Quilt Stands

We are indebted to and sincerely thank Noel & Sylvia Theodore for continuing to store the trailer in secure and protected premises in Romsey. Thank you to all the Groups who complete the Equipment Check List and re pack the trailer as requested to make the next Group's exhibition set up start on a positive note. The equipment is now only to be checked once a year at Showcase. Replacement bags for the stands are being arranged to ensure optimal safety and all hooks have been organised into containers or sets which should save time when setting up.

Unfortunately we encountered issues with the “*quiltstands*” email address. The initial contact for confirmation of dates has therefore been redirected to a private email address, followed by finalization (Agreement of Hire form) through the link included in the confirmation of dates email.

Lyn Cooper
Quilt Stand Hire

Quilt Showcase

We had another successful quilt show this year. Showcase 2024 which was held from Wednesday 24th July until Saturday 28th July.

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 display of prize-winning quilts from our Profile a Quilter, Eileen Campbell.

Australian Quilters Association Inc. (AQA) showcased the red and white quilts their members had made to celebrate their 40th birthday. We also displayed quilts that members of Bay Quilters Inc. made to celebrate their 30th birthday.

Thank you to our members who entered their quilts and congratulations to those who 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. This Exhibition is to display quilts recently completed by members and we want to encourage new quilters, who can sometimes be discouraged by the many complex quilts on display. We love to see a range of quilts and you never know which quilt may inspire someone to make their first quilt. Please consider entering your quilt in 2025.

There are many people to thank for ensuring that Quilt Showcase 2024 was a success:

- 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 Tania Tanti, Linda Crouch, Kaye Hardman, Judith Oke, Lyn Cooper, Margaret Parkinson, Carole Egan, Wendy Blyth, Val Jackson, Maureen Mackie and Marie Lee.
- Thank you to Marie Lee for organising sponsorship, so that as many entrants as possible received a prize in the show and to 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 on our show 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, Heather Connor 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 Anna Amory, who did a wonderful job of welcoming and

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

- The ladies and gentlemen 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.

This year our raffle quilt named 'Symmetry' was made by Wendy Blyth and quilted by Jenny Gibson. The winner of the quilt was Kelly Hamlyn-Harris and Betty Scott won the BERNINA 325 sewing machine.

172 quilts were entered and the most popular category was the Recycle Challenge with 17 quilts. This was an amazing effort considering that members were given little notice to make their quilts. Recycling of textiles is a very important issue and we will have the Recycle challenge again in 2025.

The Judges, Lee Vause, Vicki Jenkin and Heather Shepherd, reported that the standard of quilts was very high. They asked entrants to ensure the quilts entered have been carefully squared, blocked and that the bindings are full and neat.

On behalf of all members, we also extend congratulations to Linda Crouch for her spectacular Best of Show quilt, 'A Magical Winter Garden'.

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 can 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 and BERNINA Australia. Without the support of these two companies, we could not present the calibre of Quilt Showcase Exhibition each year. We thank them for their support and look forward to working with them with in the future.

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

On behalf of the members who entered a quilt into Quilt Showcase 2024, a huge thank you to our sponsors. We all know how difficult it is to make ends meet at this time and the generosity of businesses, Member Groups and individual members who supported us is very much appreciated. I acknowledge the time and effort Member Groups take to raise funds

necessary to support their Guild activities and the generosity to use some of this income to annually support Quilt Showcase is appreciated and not taken for granted.

Quilt Showcase is a judged Exhibition to display work recently completed by our members, from those who have completed their first quilt to those experienced and professional quilters. We all enjoy seeing the variety of quilts entered and it is nice to be able recognise the time and effort taken to complete the quilts entered to have a monetary component to the awards made. The categories are reviewed each year by the Showcase committee which includes reviewing other State and Territory Guilds Conditions of Entry and Categories.

Victorian Quilters is fortunate to have the support of Expertise Events, BERNINA Australia, Victorian Textiles and a number of other businesses that have a national profile. Please see the list below of all our sponsors for 2024. We ask that, if possible, you support our sponsors when seeking patchwork and quilting supplies. A number of patchwork and quilting shops have recently closed and without our support we may see more businesses close.

There are a number of people who assisted me both before and at Showcase, however, I would like to say a special thank you to Shirley Loddington and Heather Bonney for their assistance.

Principal Sponsor	Expertise Events
Major Sponsor	BERNINA Australia
Platinum Sponsor	Victorian Textiles

Gold Sponsors	
Bellarine Sewing Centre	Yazzii International
Patchworkers & Quilters Guild of Victoria Inc.	A & R Secondhand Dealers
Millrose Quilting and Gallery	Accuquilt
Bendigo & District Quilters Inc.	The Melbourne Modern Quilt Guild Inc.
Murray River Quilters Inc.	Mainly Sewing
Wendy Blyth	Janet O'Dell

Silver Sponsors	
The Australian Quilters Association Inc.	The Applique Guild of Australia Inc.
Bay Quilters Inc.	Catharinas Vintage Stitches
Freebird Quilting	Just Patchwork
Maree St Clair Quilts	Mornington Peninsula Patchworkers Inc.
Palm Beach Quilting	Scissorman
Seabreeze Quilters	Skellywags Sewing School
Stawell Quilters Inc	Wangaratta Centre Quilters Inc
Waverley Patchworkers Inc.	

Bronze Sponsors	
Alexandra Quilters Inc.	Anonymous Victorian Quilter Inc. Member
Bacchus Marsh Friendship Quilters	Bittern by the Bug
Blue Willow	Can Do Books
Cobram Quilters	Club Craft Quarters
Cutting Cloth	Deniliquilters & Friends Inc.
Elm Grove Patchwork	Essendon Quilters Inc
Geelong Patchwork & Quilters Guild Inc.	Goulburn Valley Quilters Inc.
Heights Sewing Centre	Keep Quilting
Kerang Quilters	Kilmore Quilters Inc.
Marg Lowe Designs	Seachange Quilters
Serenity Glen Patchworx	Shepparton Sewing Centre

Sunnyside Cottage, Apollo Bay	The Quilt Shop
The Quilters' Patch	The Sewing Bee Café
These Clever Hands	Treehouse Textiles
Wabi Sabi	Wonderfil Speciality Threads

Marie Lee OAM
Sponsorship Coordinator

One Step Further

This year was spent planning for our next exhibition, to be held at The Old Auction House in Kyneton from 19 September to 14 October 2024. At the date of closing, we have 31 entries. I look forward to providing a detailed report at the conclusion of the next financial year.

Leslie Edwards
One Step Further

Gatherings

We aim to have 4 Gatherings a year which we try to coincide with the 4 seasons. These days are a great way to promote your club to the community and to share what you do with others, as well as be entertained by speakers, raise money for your club and support the local quilt shops too!

Thank you to the groups who volunteered to host a Gathering in the past year. So many groups were in catch up mode for exhibitions and Quilt-ins after our long lockdowns, so we appreciate it was hard to fit in a Gathering as well.

We attempt to have one Gathering each year hosted by a country group to include participation by non-metropolitan members.

In 2023- 2024 the following gatherings were held:

Spring Gathering and AGM 25 November 2023 - VicQuilters
 Summer Gathering 18 March 2024 – Seabreeze Quilters
 Autumn Gathering 4 May 2024 – Wangaratta Centre Quilters Inc with the assistance of Saturday Quilters and Dorcas Quilters.
 No winter Gathering was held as no hosting group was available.

We are looking to 2025 with optimism and with many thanks to Waverley and Seachange who are already booked for summer and winter.

Please if you have not hosted a gathering for some time, or not at all, we would love to hear from you. Every assistance required will be given by Vic Quilters committee to make your day a great success

Andrea Taylor
Gatherings coordinator

Vic Quilter Magazine

Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, the magazine has not been printed as regularly as we would have liked in 2024. There have been regular email newsletters to the members to ensure that Member Group activities have been advertised and the website has details of current events.

Marie Lee OAM
Editor

Biggest Morning Tea

We thank all Groups that hold BMT and donate individually to the Cancer Council. However, if Groups were to donate through VicQuilters and the total donations raised were over \$5000 VicQuilters could then nominate a particular cause to the Cancer Council. This is something for Groups to think about next year.

We thank the following member Groups that when holding their Biggest Morning Tea/Quilting Bee this year decided to donate the fund through VicQuilters. There was a

total of \$2,727.00 donated in VicQuilters name.

Victorian Quilters
Australia's Biggest Morning Tea/Quilt Bee 2024

Group/Guild	Amount raised \$	Date deposited	Event held
Aust Quilters Association	1,287.00	23/6/2024	6/5/2024
Bay Quilters	650.00	12/6/2024	May-24
Cobram & District Quilters	290.00		Apr-24
Phillip Island Patchworkers	500.00	5/6/2024	May-24
	\$2,727.00		

Fiona Harrison,
Coordinator ABMT@victorianquilters.org

Very Snuggly Quilts

The team of volunteers continues to visit the Royal Children's Hospital each month. We have now been visiting the hospital for 25 years and during this time have donated in excess of 20,000 quilts. These quilts have a value in excess of \$4 million dollars.

Thank you to the generosity of so many people we are able to continue this valuable work. The quilts make a huge difference to the children and their families as well as lifting the spirits of all the staff. There is a real buzz at the hospital the day the "Quilt Ladies" visit.

Josephine Kelly coordinates the distribution of quilts and you may deliver completed quilts to her at a mutually agreed 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.

During the past year fabric has been passed onto other Auxiliaries as well as organisations that make items for a range of 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.

This year Victorian Quilters assisted the Auxiliary and Foundation by proving a raffle quilt to raise funds for the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Nursing Development Scholarship which offers a unique opportunity for an outstanding nurse at The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) to

further develop their career and change the future of paediatric healthcare. To date, 15 incredible nurses have been supported through the scholarship, which is made possible thanks to the RCH Auxiliaries.

We have also provided other quilts to Auxiliaries to assist them to raise much needed funds for equipment and research. My thanks to the generous Victorian Quilters Members for their generosity in making these quilts available.

Please direct any enquiries relating to donations of completed quilts and fabric to Marie Lee OAM.

Marie Lee OAM

VSQ Co-ordinator

0403 790 390

marie.lee6@bigpond.com

Website

VicQuilters has continued to improve and add to our website. This year we revised the COMMUNITY page, adding a new page: 'Sewing for a Cause', which has links to organisations where people can have opportunities to sew for others.

CONTACT US page was revised to add topic options for people enquiring, that allow enquiries to be directed to the appropriate Committee member.

Marita Atkins has continued to provide invaluable support to the Committee with her maintenance and development of our website. This year we have purchased an updated form-building software that Marita has used to improve our various interactive online forms. We appreciate members using these forms as they eliminate many of the time-consuming aspects of collecting information.

We will continue to review our website with a view to improvement.

Judith Oke

Website Co-ordinator

Social media

Social media is a very immediate way of finding out what is on and promoting what is to come. VicQuilters use social media to primarily promote group member events and business members activities but do also include other textile related events of interest to our members. Our followers are gradually increasing as people find our information relevant. All members are invited to follow Victorian Quilters on Instagram and Facebook and tell their friends about our social media.

Instagram: victorianquilteraus : 18 Nov 2024 = 1345 followers, increase of 178. Victorian Quilters Inc. promoting the art of patchwork & quilting. Enquiries: info@victorianquilters.org #victorianquiltersaus

Facebook - Victorian Quilters Inc. Aus: 18 Nov 2024 2.1K followers, increase of .2K.

Victorian Quilters has a Social Media Policy that guides our activities. Committee members post on Facebook and Instagram.

Judith Oke

Social Media Co-ordinator