



## President's Report 8 February 2021



**Hello everyone and welcome!**

What a beautiful, mild summer it has been, although our family did have one rather anguished evening with bags packed ready in case the Cherry Gardens fire changed direction. How lucky were we, though, to have such a deluge of rain to significantly impact on that fire?

After many months of discussion, last week the Guild's Executive Committee was finally able to host our first Guild meeting in 11 months. It was a wonderful celebration of being able to be together once again. 126 enthusiastic quilters joined us for an evening of sharing and inspiration. With COVID19 regulations in mind we implemented some significant changes to our regular meeting organisation. The Hall area was set up almost entirely as seating so as to ensure social distancing and the shop was set up where we might normally have the library. This worked really well, with a dedicated entrance and exit facilitating a safe and efficient shopping experience. A report of the meeting will be found in the next edition of I-Patch, along with photos from the night.

Being February, one of the four months of the year in which we host a daytime Guild meeting, we will be hosting our next meeting on Wednesday afternoon, 17<sup>th</sup> February. So that we can control numbers attending, entry will be by (free) ticket only. For details on how to easily access a ticket, please use this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/qgsa-members-february-day-meeting-tickets-135304494385>

Many of you would have known Margaret Russell – a long term member of the Guild, as well as a long-standing member of the Quilt Encounter Committee. Sadly, Margaret passed away last week. What an amazing woman she was – many of us fondly remember her wicked sense of humour. It has been comforting to share our stories and personal experiences with Margaret over the years that we knew her so well. Two years ago we organised a Special Exhibition within Festival of Quilts, featuring the many quilts that Margaret had made. We extend our deepest sympathies to Margaret's family at this difficult time.

One of the most significant announcements at last week's Guild meeting was that, after considerable discussion, the Executive Committee has decided to discontinue the publication of our printed newsletter, Patches. It wasn't a decision made lightly, but the reality of COVID saw the introduction of a new look I-Patch and the acknowledgement that its monthly production ensures that information and news is much more current than Patches was able to be. Clearly, too, there are considerable cost savings as the costs of production, printing and postage for Patches were ever increasing and advertising income diminishing. The Communications Team will investigate the feasibility of producing an annual edition of Patches, along the lines of 'The Year That Was'.

Next week sees our twice monthly Sit and Sew days starting up again. It's a wonderfully friendly and sharing group, so if you've ever considered coming along to share the day with us, this would be a great time. We already know that we will have some new faces joining us and we will make sure to catch up with everyone's new year projects. The hall at the Vermont Uniting Church is well set up for both machine and hand sewing, so bring along a project and move it a little closer towards being finished! Please remember to bring your own food and drinks for the day, although we will have an urn set up.

Our annual Festival of Quilts will be held over the last weekend of April, and we are really hoping for an amazing display of quilts. We know that a considerable number were made during 2020 – many of them were brought to our Guild meeting for Show and Tell. Please do consider entering your quilts for it will have been nearly two years since our last Festival and we'd like it to be a wonderfully inspiring experience for all.

**Chris**

**President/QGSA  
8<sup>th</sup> February 2021**