



President's Report 28 September 2020

Hello everyone and welcome

I feel like the weather extremes of this past week are simply an echo of the extremes that have characterised 2020. The weekend before last I put off planting my seedlings because it was too hot then within days it was snowing in South Australia! It has been a challenging year in so many ways, but I am beginning to perceive a greater sense of normality within the community and within my own family. We share a digital calendar on our phones - even my son and daughter-in-law in Canada - and the recent six-month pattern of empty weeks are gradually being filled with routine dentist visits, haircuts, school events and meetings. For me personally it has been the joy of adding such things as Exec Committee Retreat, Sit and Sew days (now twice a month!), book club and lunch dates with friends that have so lifted my spirits.

But it is one event in particular that brings joy to my heart and I hope to many others - Quilt Encounter is almost here! How lucky are we to be able to hold this event during a year in which so many other quilting events have had to be cancelled? Our luck comes down to one simple factor - the commitment and hard work of Kerryn and the Quilt Encounter Committee. Anna, Joyce, Ros, Margaret, Gina, Heather, Leanne and Julie - on behalf of the Guild and the 142 2020QE attendees, thank you all for the tremendous effort you have made in order to make this event happen. Re-scheduling, new venue, border closures, social distancing, COVID implications and hours and hours of liaising with hotel staff were involved along with a small measure of finger crossing. A huge thank you too to our Treasurer, Keith Holland, for his untiring support of Kerryn and financial wisdom throughout this process.

The other wonderful quilting event that is on at the moment is the War and Pieced exhibition of Annette Gero's breathtaking military fabric quilts at the David Roche Foundation in North Adelaide. The reports that I have heard have been highly complementary, indicating a not-to-be-missed event. Please check the brochure within this edition of I-Patch for further information about this exhibition.

Last month members of the Guild's Executive Committee gathered in Mannum to share some fun sewing times, to undertake the obligatory trip to Mallee Country Connection in Karoonda but most importantly to farewell Anne Marie Serrano from the committee and to welcome Monique Reed to the committee. During that weekend Monique shared with us a little of her life story and Kathy Rossini was quick to sign her up to write an article for us in I-Patch. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed listening to Monique. Monique, welcome to our Executive Committee! I already know that you are going to be a wonderful asset to the Guild.

Members of our Exec Committee are frequently being asked about when we plan to re-commence Guild meetings, so we thought it timely to explain the background to our decision making. The Burnside Council are allowing meetings of around 130 people, appropriately distanced, which we believe will use all the available space in the main hall. Because of COVID restrictions we cannot serve tea, coffee and biscuits so the kitchen wouldn't be available, nor would the library. This would theoretically leave the dining area available for a visiting shop, but we don't believe that we could satisfactorily manage social distancing requirements within that space. Additionally, all equipment and furniture used must be cleaned BOTH before and after the meeting. Cleaning around 250+ chairs is not a task that any of us would relish. So for now, Guild meetings are on hold. Unless government regulations change considerably (which is unlikely) we don't anticipate meeting until our May 2021 Annual General Meeting, which we legally must hold. We are canvassing ideas for a wonderfully fascinating/entertaining guest speaker for that night so if you are aware of a possible candidate please let us know.



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I understand that many of us miss the socialisation, the shopping opportunity and the shared experiences of Show and Tell and guest speakers at Guild meetings. In truth, we simply can't go back to what we once had, to what we valued so much. Hopefully things might change next year.....

In the meantime, I encourage you all to enjoy the friendship and inspiration within your local quilting group. If you don't regularly attend one perhaps this is the time to consider joining one. Our Events Team, who manage Sit and Sew days, have added a second one to each month so joining the lovely group of quilters who attend on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Vermont Uniting Church would be another option. It's a wonderfully relaxing day of stitching – hand or machine - and Show and Tell is always inspiring. Workshops are up and running again, thanks to Heather Ford's hard work, so please check out the Workshops page in I-Patch to see if there is a workshop that you might like to attend.

Finally, a huge and grateful thank you to all of the contributors, past and present, of I-Patch. We receive a lot of feedback each month and know that your stories are well and truly enjoyed by our members. It isn't the same as reading our hard copy Patches, but in this 'ever changing world in which we live in' most of us are comfortably adapting to reading a digital newsletter.

Wishing you all a happy and productive quilting month, and hopefully I'll catch up with some of you at Quilt Encounter.

Chris