



## President's Report 8 April 2020

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Dear Quilters' Guild of South Australia members

I hope that this message finds you and your family all healthy and safe. These are certainly challenging times and I actually find myself not wanting to go out and having to focus on making sure that I don't break any of the new rules. There are definitely some situations where they are a little less easy to manage than others!

Some of you may have seen in the Vice Regal notes in Saturday's Advertiser that I had a lovely phone call from Mrs Le, who, as our patron, wished to touch base as to how Guild members were managing these challenging times. Like so many of the memes circulating Facebook she acknowledged that this was a perfect time for quilters to continue to produce the quilts that we love making, and that she's expecting quite a display at the next Festival of Quilts! On behalf of all of us I thanked her for her concern and for taking the time to stay in touch.

We have long speculated on the joys of having uninterrupted sewing and quilting time, but I don't think that any of us imagined that one day our reality would be having the time to quilt day after day, week after week. Quilters around the world are doing what quilters do best – sharing their expertise and design skills. Each day I try to watch at least one of my favourite quilters share a technique on their Facebook page or YouTube channel and I find that these keep me focused and motivated to extend my own skills. Now, more than ever before, being digitally connected through Facebook and other sharing apps is so important. For many it has become a lifeline during a time when they are feeling particularly isolated.

As I mentioned in my last message, we have a number of scheduled events coming up in the near future. I'm sure that you will understand that we still can't be completely definitive about what will happen, but we can advise you that our **Festival of Quilts**, scheduled for July, has been postponed to a date yet to be advised. This will be disappointing to all involved, but sadly is a reflection of the reality of life during a pandemic. **Festival of Quilts entries are on hold until further notice.** Kerry and her Quilt Encounter team are working on an alternative plan should Quilt Encounter need to be postponed and they will advise those of you who have registered of any changes should this need to happen.

We are in the process of modifying the format of our monthly IPatch digital newsletter to offer a range of articles to interest and inspire you. What we do need though, are articles from our members to include in the May edition. If you have an inspiring story to share, a poem, a quiz, whatever....please send it me at [president@saquilters.org.au](mailto:president@saquilters.org.au) so that we can make I-Patch as entertaining and informative as possible.

Last week was the closing date for Scholarship and Country Grant applications, but as the committee is unable to meet to discuss the applications, we will have to postpone the allocation of funding to a later date.



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During these difficult times it is important to support our independent quilt shops – we need to make sure that they are still there when we are once again free to go shopping at will. You can find a list of Guild members shops on the Guild web site at

<http://www.saquilters.org.au/member-shops.htm>

Please consider doing some online shopping – many of our shops are open for business to varying degrees and are happy to meet you at the door or kerb to hand over your goodies.

In the meantime, please stay healthy, keep in touch with loved ones and friends and look forward to when once again we can meet and share our day-to-day lives with each other. Your Patches newsletter should be in your mailbox very soon – I'd like to extend a huge thank you to Bron Atkinson for managing a far more complex distribution process than she normally would.

**Chris O'Brien**  
**President, QGSA**

**8<sup>th</sup> April 2020**