



The 29<sup>th</sup> annual Quilt Encounter was again held at the Stamford Grand Hotel in Glenelg from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> September. This year saw 139 participants, with most of these coming from South Australia, but we also welcomed 16 from the Northern Territory, 2 from Western Australia and 2 from North Queensland.

Unfortunately, so many of our interstate ladies cancelled due to the volatile Covid situation and State border restrictions. The New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and Victorian ladies just could not get across the State border – disappointing as just a couple of months earlier things were looking very promising for interstate travel. The tight South Australian border closures also involved all of our eastern states' tutors - also very disappointing!

All of these cancellations then created some “juggling” to maintain what workshops we could and create a couple of extra classes to accommodate those ladies who were attending Quilt Encounter. Thus, we were able to add an extra 2-day Mystery workshop with Faye Packham and Lessa Siegele and Kathy Horton ran an extra two days of the Posh Snowball class. With large numbers in Mandy Murray's three classes, Zoom sessions were a good option to handle these – this worked very well, with the assistance of the “Tech” people at the Stamford Grand. Gina Burgess also stepped in to help out at very short notice and was able to take Deborah Louie's Bouquet of Flowers 2-day workshop. Huge “thanks” to Deb for sharing this workshop with Gina, so that we could continue that class.

Then our local tutors, Rachele Denny, Jacky Eyre, Pam Holland and Penny Vanderwal happily took on some “extras” in their workshops too. We are all very grateful to every one of these fabulous tutors for their support in enabling our participants to pursue the creative stitching that is an integral part of Quilt Encounter. Jen Kingwell's “The Avenue” class went ahead with a couple of experienced helpers – this kept 21 ladies happily progressing their work with this lovely hand stitched design. The Committee would also like to acknowledge and thank all of the participants who had their classes changed around at short notice. We understand that having purchased supplies and “prepped” for workshops that we could no longer run, it was quite an adjustment to then re-organize for alternative classes. These ladies all adapted and understood this “juggling game” was the only option to keep the event going so that they were able to enjoy their time at the Stamford Grand, with the fun and camaraderie that is Quilt Encounter.

Our two South Australian Scholarship ladies were able to join us this year too. Margie from Kangaroo Island and Janelle from Lobethal enjoyed their first experiences of QE after enduring extremely tough times in the aftermath of our January 2020 fires. The companionship of like-minded ladies and their stay at the Grand for some “me” time was appreciated – their smiles said it all!

The shops that joined us at the Stamford Grand again provided beautiful displays with plenty of choice for participants to purchase for their classes or to add to their “stash”. Huge thanks to Kim from Kornacraft and Lyn from Quilters Quarters – your sponsorship and support was greatly appreciated.

Otto from Otto & Penny’s Sewing Centre again supplied Bernina Machines for our interstate ladies to use for their classes. The sponsorship and massive support Otto provides to Quilt Encounter every year is amazing – we are very grateful.

Bernina Australia also provided substantial sponsorship to assist with the costs incurred with our tutors - again, year after year and very much appreciated.

This year we were able to hold a Dinner Night on the Thursday evening with delicious food and present our Major Prize Draws, along with our Raffle Quilt draw, the Grand Hotel High Tea Raffle draw and other Raffles and Prizes. So many delighted ladies were the recipients and again, we say how much everyone appreciates the amazing sponsorship and support provided to our annual Quilt Encounter event.

Unfortunately, we were not able to hold Visitor’s Day again this year - with Covid regulations, this was not possible. We hope this can return to QE in 2022.

Kirsten, our Conference Organiser at the Stamford Grand, provided great support as we worked through the planning and changes that were needed again this year. Huge thanks to Kirsten and all the amazing staff at the Stamford Grand Hotel – they do an enormous amount to ensure that Quilt Encounter runs smoothly – all very professional and attentive to our needs.

Next year will be the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Quilt Encounter – so some special celebrations will be in order. Dates booked at the Stamford Grand are from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September, when we hope ALL of our interstate ladies will be able to join us. We anticipate the 2022 Brochure will be posted out in April and this hardworking committee have already commenced some initial planning for this occasion.

**Kerryn Brand, Heather Bolt, Joyce Chapman, Ros Holmes, Sonia Holton, Gena Martin, Anna Rackham, Marg Sampson, Julie Sutton and Leanne Wagner.**

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