



QUILT ENCOUNTER 2022

The 30 annual Quilt Encounter was held at the Stamford Grand Hotel in Glenelg from the 18th to the 24th September. This special anniversary year included an extra day of classes and saw record numbers for our annual retreat here in Adelaide. We had 225 people in total – including participants, tutors and committee. Finally, after the difficult restrictions of Covid in the past couple of years, we were able to welcome back our regulars from all around the country. Approximately 40% of our participants were from interstate and our total numbers included 39 “first-timers” to this nationally renowned quilting retreat.

Our tutors play such an important role for successful Quilt Encounters and our line up this year was fabulous – with all interstate borders open, we were able to present the program as listed in our brochure.

We were delighted to welcome Jen Kingwell (Vic), Deborah Louie (NSW) and Michelle Marvig (NSW) - after 2 years of cancellations for them, along with Gloria Loughman (Vic), Jane McDonald (NSW) and Kathryn Trippett (NSW). Our South Australian tutors were Gina Burgess, Jill Christian, Rachele Denny, Julie Haddrick, Pam Holland, Heather Hopkins, Faye Packham, Anna Rackham and Lessa Siegele. Their workshops were all very successful, with extra numbers and some crowded classrooms, we are very grateful for their commitment to the participants to achieve such great results.

There were 2 Lessa Siegele Scholarship winners again this year, who both thoroughly enjoyed their QE experience. We had Michael Barton from Adelaide and Lesley Bray from Clare – both contribute enormously in their own communities and to our fellow quilters as well. The companionship of like-minded sewers and their stay at the Stamford Grand Hotel for some “me” time was a well-deserved reward and very much appreciated – their smiles said it all!

The shops that joined us for our 30th Anniversary year both provided beautiful displays with plenty of choice for participants to purchase for their classes or to add to their “stash”! Huge thanks to Penny from PennyLane Quilts (Victor Harbor) and Lyn from Riverlea Cottage Quilts (Hyde Park) – your sponsorship and support is an integral part QE and was greatly appreciated by everyone attending.

Christina from Melann’s has taken on the large task of providing the Bernina hire machines for the interstate participants who are unable to bring their own. We welcome Christina to our Quilt Encounter event team and to the Bernina family.

Otto from Otto & Pennys Sewing Centre also supported our event again (despite the retirement plan!) supplying a Bernina loan machine for Deborah Louie to use for demonstrating in her classroom. Thanks so much Otto.

Bernina Australia also provided additional support this year to recognize our special anniversary year. We were able to include the Bernina Logo on the beautiful “goody bags” that we have made each year, along with their regular contribution which helps with our interstate tutors’ airfare costs. Sincere thanks to Bernina Australia – they have been loyal sponsors of Quilt Encounter for the entire 30 years!



QUILT ENCOUNTER 2022

This year we held our Dinner Night on the Thursday evening with a delicious meal and also conducted our Major Prize Draw, along with our Raffle Quilt draw, the Grand Hotel High Tea Raffle draw and various other Raffles and Prizes. We celebrated the anniversary and acknowledged the huge support from some of our long-term sponsorship contributors. We had a special presentation for Otto, whose massive commitment over the 30 years was recognised. Guild President Heather Ford also spoke and thanked all involved for their commitment to this great annual retreat here in SA.

There are so many generous sponsors - they were all identified and thanked too for their continued support as many delighted ladies were the recipients of these prizes. Quilt Encounter is known and appreciated by us all for the amazing sponsorship and support provided each year.

At lunchtime on Wednesday, whilst Lessa Siegele and Faye Packham were available (again teaching another of their “famous” Mystery Quilt Classes!), we asked them to cut our beautifully decorated celebration cake. Lessa was also able to “Cut the Ribbon” to officially open Quilt Encounter 2022 on Sunday Opening Night. As the Convenor of the original QE event, held in Victor Harbor, it is fabulous that she is able to share this occasion with us, all these years later.

This year our charity fundraising was directed to the Breast Care Support Group on Eyre Peninsula. With nearly \$3,000 raised to purchase some additional equipment to share across this large area of our state – we know that will be very much appreciated. We gave participants the opportunity of participating in a challenge to acknowledge our Anniversary - pay a \$5.00 entry fee and to decorate a bra, to support our worthy cause. The entries were varied and amazing – certainly getting lots of attention from our participants and the Hotel staff alike!

Unfortunately, we were not able to hold Visitor’s Day again this year - with just so many people already in the Conference area and Covid 19 still looming in the community, this was just not possible. We hope this can return to QE in 2023.

Kimberley, our Conference Organiser, at the Stamford Grand, provided great support as we worked through the planning and changes with additional numbers and special celebrations that were arranged this year. Huge thanks to Kimberley 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 Quilt Encounter will return to a 5-day event with Opening Night on Sunday and 5 days of workshops – participant numbers will also be back to normal in order that we do not overcrowd the classrooms. It shall also remain as a “live-in” event next year too – having day participants creates considerable additional work for this volunteer committee. It is a very special time for the comradery and fun that we all share and enjoy – learning some new techniques from great tutors and enjoying the Stamford Grand Hotel and the Jetty Road experience, all on the beachfront! 😊

The Quilt Encounter Committee.
