



LIFE MEMBERSHIP – ANNE MARIE SERRANO

Our first nominee for Life Membership tonight joined the Guild in November 2011 and very quickly became an active member when she joined the Festival of Quilts committee in 2012, a committee she is still part of today.

2015 saw her take over as Convenor of the Festival committee until 2018, during which time she led the committee and the Guild Executive through arguably the biggest upheaval of its life, when the Guild resumed running their own quilt show, as they had done in the past, before joining with Kym Jones Exhibitions.

I speak of course of Anne-Marie Serrano. We cannot underestimate Anne Marie's grit and determination to throw off what had been and embrace what could be.

As artistic director of FoQ her flair is evident each year with the theming and decorations and her professionalism has had a huge impact on the staging of Festival of Quilts. As convenor she developed detailed planning and procedure documents for all team members ensuring a seamless transition when personnel changed. Her catch phrase "I have an idea" has had the team in awe of what amazing plan she has come up with next.

Anne-Marie became an Ex-officio member of the Guild Executive committee in 2015 before becoming a full member and serving a five year term, holding the positions of Vice President and Group Liaison officer.

In 2018 she was responsible for the Guild's first ever digital, one page newsletter "I-Patch", the forerunner of the amazing publication it is today. She really brought us into the digital age.

As Group Liaison officer in 2019 she spent many hours organising a Leadership Conference for Guild members, to be held in November, which unfortunately did not go ahead because of bushfires that year and covid-19 the next. I think perhaps we need to revisit that event sometime in the future.

In 2019 Anne-Marie was convenor of a very successful Country Forum day when the theme was "Preserving the Past". There were many lovely quilts on display, interesting guest speakers and demonstrations, a day enjoyed by many.

2024 will be the Guild's 40th birthday and Anne-Marie is already thinking and planning things we can do to celebrate this milestone in the Guild's history.

Congratulations Anne Marie, truly a record of exceptional service to the Guild and a well deserved recipient of Life Membership of the Quilters' Guild of SA Inc.

**Heather Ford
President, SA Quilters
5 May 2022**