

QUILT ENCOUNTER 2023
10th to 15th SEPTEMBER 2023
STAMFORD GRAND HOTEL, GLENELG

The 31st annual Quilt Encounter was again held at the Stamford Grand Hotel in Glenelg from the 10th to the 15th September 2023. This is such a great location for our annual retreat with the spaces in the Conference area, the accommodation, accessibility to the Jetty Rd precinct and so close to the beach and jetty for our daily walks! Plus, the fabulous staff at the Grand are always available to help us out, every step of the way!

This year we had about 160 people in total – including participants, tutors and committee. The interstate contingent made up 42% of our participants and we had 32 “first-timers” to this nationally renowned quilting retreat.

Our tutors play such an important role for successful Quilt Encounters: our line-up this year was fabulous and we were able to present the program as listed in our brochure.

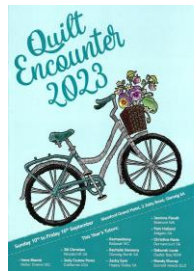
We were delighted to welcome Irene Blanck (VIC), Jill Christian (SA), Judy Coates-Perez (USA), Rachael Daisy (VIC), Rachelle Denny (SA), Jacky Eyre (SA), Jemima Flendt (WA), Pam Holland (SA), Christina Kazis and assistant Bernadette Spears (SA), Deborah Louie (NSW) and Mandy Murray (QLD). Their workshops provided a great mixture of various genres of quilting and were all very successful: we’ll be looking forward to some amazing “show & tell” at Quilt Encounter again next year!

The shops that joined us for our 31st 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 Barb (and assistant Pat) from Jack ‘N’ Jayde’s (Rostrevor) and Carol & Liz from Strath Sewing & Quilting (Strathalbyn) – we hope you ladies enjoyed your time at the Grand too and know that your sponsorship and support is an integral part of QE and was greatly appreciated by everyone attending.

Christina from Melann’s once again was able to provide the Bernina hire machines for the interstate participants who are unable to bring their own. This support is also a big part of successful Quilt Encounters – especially appreciated by our interstate ladies.

Bernina Australia are also major sponsors of Quilt Encounter and have been an important part of our event for the entire 31 years. This year we had the pleasure of hosting Glyn Singleton, Managing Director of Bernina Australia, from Sydney at the Grand Hotel. Glyn joined us for our event dinner on Wednesday evening, where we enjoyed a delicious meal in the Grand Promenade Restaurant. Our Major Prizes and the Raffle quilt draw also take place at this time. Glyn also spent some time visiting classes and catching up with our tutors too. It was great that he was able to be in Adelaide at this time, to attend and see how this renowned Australian retreat “works”! Sincere thanks to Bernina Australia - they have been very loyal supporters of Quilt Encounter!

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. Every participant receives an event “Goody Bag” and once again these were filled with various goods and discount vouchers etc. – always a nice surprise to see what is contained within this lovely bag! 😊 Quilt Encounter is known and appreciated by us all for the amazing sponsorship and support provided each year.



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This year our charity fundraising was focused on the Riverland regions of Sth Australia – after some difficult times for so many businesses, families and properties due to the flooding of the River Murray in the past 12 months. Ski For Life is an organisation that runs a water-skiing event annually from Murray Bridge to Renmark to support Mental Health in these regions. They also work closely with a suicide support group in these areas too – local volunteers working in their local communities providing a valuable service in times of need. The Grand Hotel provide support to our fundraising efforts as well by providing a “High Tea for 6”, which we raffle to add to our Raffle Quilt proceeds. Figures are nearly finalised and we expect to have nearly \$2,000 to donate to this great South Aussie organisation.

Cindy and Jane introduced a new game at morning and afternoon tea time with “Ring Toss” – we had reindeer “horns” for anyone who was brave enough to wear them! The challenge was then to toss the plastic rings onto the horns – some were successful and scored a few nice little prizes along the way. The photos tell the story – and the fun!!

Kirsten, our Conference Organiser, at the Stamford Grand, provided great support as we worked through the planning again this year. We tried a different plan for the lunch with a “buffet style” menu and this worked well – we have received lots of positive feedback and with a little more “fine-tuning” this should work well for the future too. 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. It was again this year a “live-in” event and works very well in this way – 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 –from the late-night sewing times, coffee/tea and food, plus learning some new techniques from great tutors and enjoying the wonderful location of the Stamford Grand Hotel in Glenelg. 😊

We look forward to seeing lots of you return for the fun again in 2024 – the dates will be the 15th to the 20th September.

The Quilt Encounter Committee.
