



KZNQG *News*

No 138—February 2024

From the Hot Seat



Happy Birthday KZNQG!

It is our 35th birthday this year and we couldn't be more excited about all that's happening this year. It is going to be a very busy quilting year, choc-a-block full of quilting excitement.

On International Quilting Day which will be celebrated on Saturday the 16th of March, we would love to see an explosion of quilting throughout KZN. We need the world to know that quilting is alive and well in our beautiful province, and we encourage guilds to present shows, exhibits and demonstrations (the chairladies know all about it).

The highlight of this year is undoubtedly our fabulous **Voices in Cloth International Quilt Festival** which will be held from the 4th to the 9th of July at Epworth College in Pietermaritzburg.

There are enough classes to sink a battleship, with something for everyone, and bucket-loads of fun and fellowship with all our quilting friends from far and wide. The tentmakers are coming from Cairo to teach us how they do their incredible works of art. And don't forget to bring everyone to see the Red Dress!

Please just book your spot so that you don't miss out. You can click on the link below to get you straight to the festival website to do your bookings.

<https://saquiltfest2024.co.za/south-african-international-quilt-festival-bookings>

There is also accommodation available at Epworth, which includes your linen! You will need to book really soon as the accommodation is selling really fast.

I hope to see you soon.

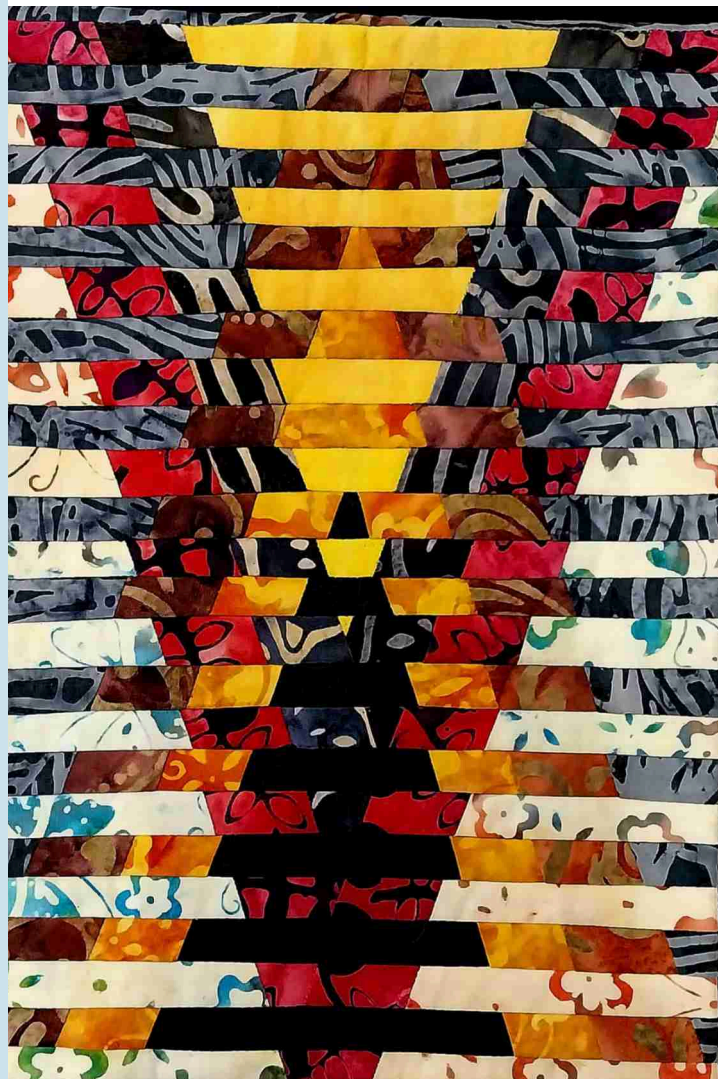
Yours in stitches

Sue

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice of the Annual General Meeting

In accordance with the Constitution, members
are hereby given due notice of the

KZNQG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held on Saturday 24 February 2024 at 12.15

Venue: Hillcrest Primary School, 17 Emoyeni Road, Hillcrest.

***Members are reminded that subscriptions
of R220 are due at or before the AGM***

Membership fees remain at R220/year and R240 for new members.
The extra R20 is a once off registration fee.

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Members who pay their subs before
20 Feb are eligible for one entry into
the draw for a ShZen gift to the value
of R250.

Bank details:

KwaZulu-Natal Quilters Guild
ABSA Hillcrest (Branch Code 632005)
Account number: 9314008325

Committee vacancies for 2024:

- ♦ Website management
- ♦ Youth programme

Please contact Sue
(ashsue@iafrica.com)

or Ruth (festfund2015@gmail.com)

or chat to one of the committee
members on Open Day!

VOLUNTEER



*It's not about having the time;
it's about having the heart!*

Open Day

24 February 2024 from 9 to 1
Hillcrest Primary School Hall
17 Emoyeni Drive, Hillcrest



Programme:

9.15 Love to Sew (kids activity) - Summer Picnic Placemat (*see details below)

9.30 Demo by Mary Chapman

10.30 Sumaiya Tayob—Intro to Foundation Paper Piecing (FPP)

11.30 Nicky Hunter-Smith—A 9-Patch Block with a Difference

12.00 AGM

12.15 Joy Clark—”One Stitch at a Time - Developing your own style”

(see more about Joy on her website at <https://joyclark.co.za/>)

Quilt Display: Quilts by Joy Clark

Voices in Cloth Quilt Festival Class Samples

Chairlady’s challenge (p. 27) A3 quilts

Visitor’s fee R60.

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KZNQG members free entrance.

Next Open Day: 25 May

Quilty Vendors to Shop from!

Tea/Coffee and Refreshments for sale @ The Steam Room



Love to Sew:

Summer Picnic Placemat

Children aged 7 to 13 welcome.

Only 4 places available (first come basis).

Cost—R75 (includes all materials).



SAQG News

SAQG Fees

Guilds are reminded that SAQG fees are due by 30 April 2024. The charge is R20 per member. Guilds can either pay this direct to SAQG or the money can be paid to KZNQG, who will then forward the fees to SAQG. Either way, Guilds must also add a list of the members for whom they are paying.

Guild fees to SAQG are only payable for people who are NOT members of KZNQG. KZNQG membership fees include SAQG membership.



Bank details for SAQG:

Name of account: SA Quilters Guild
ABSA Bank
Account number: 9033893214



South African Quilters' Guild

Categories and Rules for 2024 SAIQF Voices in Cloth

Quilt Entries close on 24 April 2024. Quilts to be handed in by 1 June 2024.

These are the links to detailed information for entering your quilts in the Voices in Cloth International Quilt Festival:

<https://saquiltfest2024.co.za/south-african-international-quilt-festival-competition-categories>

<https://saquiltfest2024.co.za/south-african-international-quilt-festival-competition-rules>

Get your quilt entries ready!



To bag or not to bag

After all the thought, love, time and hard work that you've put into making a brag-worthy quilt, please go one step further and make a beautiful, quilt friendly, show friendly bag for the quilt to go into.

Especially if you enter a quilt into a show/festival/exhibition, each entry should have its own neat, labelled bag, so that the precious quilt can be returned in good condition to its maker/owner.



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Festival News



Red and White Quilts: The Festival committee still requires about 20 more quilts which will be used on a central display. These will NOT be judged and do not need to be entered onto the show. Debbie Becker needs confirmation that your quilt will be made available for the festival.

For delivery details: Please contact Debbie Becker at treasurer@saquiltfest.co.za to arrange for a collection drop off point.

Love Quilts: Debbie Becker has e-mailed all chairladies in KZN requesting quilts for the Love Quilt project. The details about the drop off point were emailed end of January. Chairladies who have not received the email must please make contact with Debbie via email – treasurer@saquiltfest.co.za

Will your guild be a Sponsor? We still need sponsors (individuals, businesses or groups) for the following categories of the judged quilt exhibition. R6500 per category.

4b	WPM	Wall Quilts Art Pictorial (Masters):
5a	WAS	Wall Quilts Art Quilt (Standard):
5b	WAM	Wall Quilts Art Quilt (Masters):
6	WQO	Wall Quilts Open (Standard):
8	COL	Collaborative Quilts:
12	MIN	Miniature Quilts:



**Sponsor
a Prize!**

The Voices in Cloth Quilt Festival is hosted by the whole of KZNQAG and members are invited to participate by volunteering to help with all those little things that will make the Festival a wonderful experience for everyone.

Volunteers required in the following areas:

- ◆ Registration
- ◆ Packing goody bags
- ◆ Classroom assistants
- ◆ Exhibition Hall entry assistants
- ◆ Quilt hanging
- ◆ White glove duty
- ◆ House mothers and boarding house volunteers
- ◆ Chapel/ Red dress duty
- ◆ Setting up for functions

**Many hands make
light work!**



Please sign up at the Registration Table on our Open Day - 24 February.

Update on the Royal Show

Last year I told you all that there would not be a Royal Show this year because of the move to a new venue.

Well I was contacted by the General Manager Mr Terry Stachan to tell me that the Big Move has been delayed, and that there will be a much smaller show this year with limited exhibitors. He invited us to once again put up an exhibition. I thanked him and declined explaining that we had our International Festival in July and that we are concentrating on that. He wished us well and said he will definitely be visiting our Festival and also that we are on his list to once again exhibit our quilts in their new venue in future.

Thank you to all the ladies who regularly send quilts to be exhibited. Please remember to enter your quilts this year at our Festival.

Marline Turner



Calendar *Notices*

KZNQG Open Days 2024



- ⇒ 25 May
- ⇒ 24 August
- ⇒ 9 November



Newsletter contribution deadline dates

- 25 April**
- 25 July**
- 10 October**

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Other Important Dates 2024

- International Quilt Day — 16 March
- Quilt entries closing — 24 April
(Entries cost R200 per quilt)
- Last day to hand in quilts — 1 June
- Last day to book for functions — 15 June
- Next KZNQG Open Day — 25 May
- Voices in Cloth Festival — 4 to 9 July



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Modern *Quilting*

Modern quilting is a style of quilt making that has gained more and more recognition and momentum. But what is it? It can broadly be defined as a specific aesthetic and philosophy of quilting. Modern quilting themes and styles have appeared in quilting for centuries. Quilters have been conceptualizing modern design before modern design was even recognized. It took until the 2000s for the Modern quilting movement to start gaining traction and building a wider audience.

Today, at the heart of Modern quilting is innovation. The emphasis is on design and originality over replication and perfection of technique.

The Modern Quilt Guild outlines several characteristics often seen in Modern quilts. While these characteristics can be a common thread, the list is not comprehensive of every attribute in Modern quilting, nor is it a constraint to what can be in a Modern quilt.

- Bold use of colour
- High contrast and graphic areas of color
- Improvisational piecing
- Minimalism
- Maximalism
- Expansive negative space
- Alternate grid work
- Modern traditionalism



“Woman with Yellow Scarf” by Susan Wessels (39x80cm) 2014



“Blossoms” by Susan Wessels

In Modern Traditionalism, traditional patchwork quilt blocks, such as a log cabin block; and traditional styles, such as boro and kantha, are often reimaged using Modern quilting elements, such as asymmetry, colour, and scale. The same can be said of various themes that has appeared decades and centuries ago in quilts—these continue to evolve in Modern quilting today. Pictorial quilts and quilts featuring text tell the stories of what is happening or has happened within society, or one’s own life. These quilts, also referred to as social commentary quilts, are present in Modern, traditional, and art quilting styles. In a similar way, the utilization of recycled or upcycled materials, once done out of necessity, is more recently being used for broader environmental impact.

This creates an interesting bridge between generations of quilters. Many Modern quilters take the various themes, techniques, and materials of earlier generations and apply a modern interpretation to these to create their own unique quilts.

Some quilters yearn for a finite definition of a Modern quilt – and some rebel against the idea. Like other arts and crafts, quilting is a creative and subjective form of self-expression and so Modern quilting will always continue to evolve.

(Edited excerpt from:

<https://www.themodernquiltguild.com/2023/04/24/what-is-modern-quilting-2/>)



“Vulnerable” by Susan Wessels (38x20cm) 2012

Showcasing: *Susan Wessels*

“Making art is having a voice and using it.”

Tell us a little bit about your sewing/quilting journey?

I inherited my great grandmother’s hand sewing machine and a bag of her fabric remnants when I was four and a half years old, and I have been sewing ever since. For me quilting combined my two passions—art and sewing. It was bound to happen at some point.

In 2008, when I was 40, I did an Amafu challenge with a friend, Marietjie Nel, and in the process learnt the ins and outs particular to quilting. I usually just figure things out on my own, but it helped to know about ¼” seams and ironing seam allowances in one direction, as well as a few tricks to get the best results when sandwiching and binding a quilt.

When I realized that you could do anything you want, as long as it is sewn together, layered and stitched through, I was hooked. Traditional quilting, despite its charm, hadn’t drawn me in before then, because it felt ‘boxed’ to me. (Knowing almost nothing about quilting, that was my perception.)

At that stage I already owned a short arm Mega Quilter machine on a frame (a prize that I won in an international machine embroidery competition) which helped a lot! To me it feels more natural to use the machine as a drawing tool by moving the machine, than moving the fabric while the machine is stationary.

A whole new world had opened up for me. I experimented, tore strips of fabric, overlapping them, making units that could form part of bigger works. African Celebration was constructed in this way.

African Celebration



Cape Kaleidoscope

Wildflowers, the colours, patterns and shapes of the natural world, have always intrigued me, and I started building flower reproductions in fabric, using an improvisational approach. What fun! Cape Kaleidoscope happened.

During that time, Glenda Kirkirides told me that if I ever had the chance to do a Nancy Crow workshop, I should. And it happened! In 2009 Nancy Crow came to South Africa. Twenty of us did a five-day course in the Drakensberg. I shall never forget that moment that I freehand cut a metre long cut, and another one, to produce a shape that was pinned to a design wall. It was like painting on a large canvas, but with fabric. Up to that point my cuts were small, my pieces were small. Nancy pushed me to go beyond those limits. I was ready for that. Quilting became the main medium that I expressed myself in for quite a few years. (Currently I spend about equal time painting and quilting.)

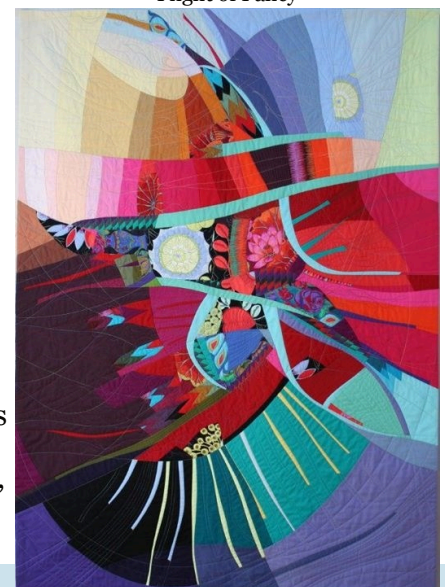
Flight of Fancy

Nancy Crow remains an inspiration to me, as well as Odette Tolksdorf. I saw Odette’s work at the 2008 National Quilt Festival and the modern feel and interesting shapes and colours resonated with me.

Why do you quilt, and what do you like most about quilting?

Like my other abstract art (I also love abstract painting), it allows me to express myself without inhibition. I put my heart on my sleeve, show my wildest dreams (Flight of Fancy), my fears, my struggles. It helps me process deep emotions. Making art is having a voice and using it.

Quilting as a medium suits me like a glove, because it has an expressive, free and unpredictable phase, but also a logical problem solving phase. It is like a puzzle one builds for oneself. The wilder the initial expression, the bigger the construction challenge. Although this is not the only way I work, I like the intrigue (the tension) of not knowing exactly what a quilt top will look like until it’s almost done. It keeps me interested in the process.



Showcasing: *Susan Wessels*

What prompts or drives you to make a new quilt?

Self expression. Experimentation, wanting to try new things. I love the creative process, nurturing a flow of ideas, transforming them into something that can stand on its own, that says something.

Tell us about the piecing and quilting process of the quilts you make?

My quilt tops are mainly machine pieced. The quilting varies, usually a combination of machine and hand quilting. The machine quilting happens on a normal domestic sewing machine, or on a short arm mega quilter, depending on the type of quilting I want to do. Straight lines are done on the DSM, flowy organic lines on the short arm. I have also occasionally used digitized machine embroidery as a technique. (The digitizing was also done by me.)

I do all my quilting myself. It is part of the creative process for me. It forms the subtext that supports what I was trying to say with the top. I also rarely have all of the quilting figured out before I start. Usually, I begin with what I do know I want to quilt, then put the work back on my design wall, decide on the next step, and so on. It is an iterative process, often a balancing act between practical and creative aspects.



Not now, please (miniature)

What size quilts do you like to make? At what stage do you decide on the final size of the quilt?



The smallest quilt I have made was a quilted 'pendant' for a friend (about 2.5cm x 3.5cm). The quilted works I wear as 'pendants' are the size of two to three matchboxes (Orange block series neck piece).

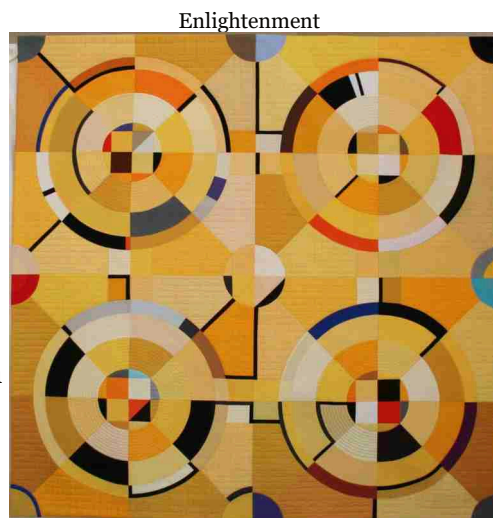
My smallest miniature (Not Now, Please) is 20cm x 20cm.

My largest quilts are about 2m x 2m or just over. And then everything inbetween.

I like the fact that a quilt can grow, and I often have no idea how big a work will be when I start working on it.

You are a member of Fibreworks and FACT. You also have a number of prize winning quilt entries at various South African Quilt Festivals. Do you participate in other exhibitions?

My quilt "Enlightenment" was part of the Circular Abstractions exhibition, curated by Nancy Crow. A beautiful high-quality catalogue was printed, and the exhibition (51 large works created by artists from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and the USA) travelled to various museums in the USA, among them The Muskegon Museum of Art, The Westmoreland Museum of American Art, The Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and the Schweinfurth Art Center.



Enlightenment



Freedom of Speech

I was also really happy to take part in an exhibition called Expressions in Equality, at the Visions Museum of Textile Art in San Diego, curated by Sheila Frampton Cooper. My work, Freedom of Speech, was sold. I sell my finished works in much the same way as I sell my oil paintings. Occasionally I also do commissions, both art and functional quilts.

Showcasing: *Susan Wessels*

What do you think is the future of quilting in the next few years in South Africa and the world?

One of the trends that I see, that will hopefully grow, is to make quilts from fabric that isn't new. It has always been a part of quilt making, but with more people worldwide becoming conscious of waste, and the textile industry being a significant contributor, the upcycling and re-utilizing of clothes and other used textiles is becoming increasingly popular.

I recently made a Memory quilt, using mostly my own old clothes, but also other pieces of fabric that have special meaning to me. The quilt became a way of telling part of my life story, but also gave clothes that I loved wearing a second life. I sleep under it, and it feels right.

Memory Quilt



See more of Susan's beautiful work on:

<https://www.facebook.com/susan.wessels.79?mibextid=ZbWKwL>



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I WILL NOT BUY ANY MORE FABRIC UNTIL I USE UP MY STASH I HAVE AT HOME," I SAID.

AND THEN I LAUGHED AND LAUGHED...

QUILTING

Guild News

Midlands Quilting Guild

THE OLDEST QUILTING GUILD IN SOUTH AFRICA

Established 1981



The Midlands Quilters Guild had an awesome year with many interesting events and speakers culminating with a delicious Christmas luncheon catered for by Margie Harel of The Fat Aubergine <https://www.facebook.com/p/The-Fat-Aubergine-100063523691972/>.

In 2023, members were especially delighted to meet master quilter Dewald Compion (<https://www.dewaldkwilts.com>) who gave an interesting talk and presentation about his quilting journey. He graciously consented to our Guild using his King Protea paper pieced block for the Chair Lady's challenge and also for our Guild's 2023 fund raising quilt that raised R21,700 for the Howick Community Medical Trust. The Trust invests their money wisely and only uses the interest to arrange medical interventions for those who cannot afford costly treatment.

Dewald also held local classes that were well attended by members, many of whom also completed his Spice Route quilt (Good Hope Quilters Guild mystery quilt 2023) and the Tides That Bind quilt.



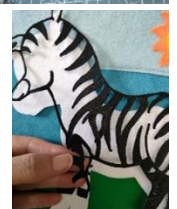
Our 2023 Chair Lady's challenge was won by Moira Ryder who was inducted into the SA Quilters Guild Hall of Fame in 2023 – we're so proud of her - <https://www.quiltsouthafrica.co.za/quilters-hall-of-fame>. Moira's appliqued King Protea framed by mini King Protea paper pieced blocks was inspiring – we are blessed to have such a mentor in our guild!

The Guild was very active with fund raising activities in 2023 – raising R10,000 for Festival funds, knitting 'knockers' and making bags for cancer patients at Grey's Hospital – an initiative of our outgoing Chairlady – Hayley Farrow-Woolridge, who has stepped down to concentrate on Festival commitments.

We eagerly await the 22nd SA International Quilt Festival to be held in Pietermaritzburg from 4 to 9 July 2024 – such an honour. We look forward to hosting you!



Embrace your creativity with our all inclusive 'sew-it-yourself' kits. Packages include all the material needed to complete the page, written instructions as well as passwords to "Howto"-pictures and videos on the www.creations4kids.co.za website.



Guild News

Pleasuretime Quilters

HAPPY NEW YEAR FELLOW QUILTERS

By now you've taken out your freshly oiled and cleaned machines after the Christmas break, have checked your stash and are raring to go. Minds are boggling with ideas, inspiration is drowning out all else...

To start off the year, our guild had a bumper first meeting. We had all been tasked with making a place mat depicting an idiom or saying to be donated to one of our frail cares. We had a competition to see who could correctly guess the most idioms.



Many of you know our special 89 year old, Elsie du Preez. She never gives up or is thwarted by hurdles! This beautiful quilt was made by her in her bedsit where space is minimal. She works on a tiny table which just fits her machine and creates space as she needs it. Where there's a will there's a way! The quilting was done by Twig.

Can you guess the idiom depicted here?

We hope you are all busy on your pieces for festival. See you soon.

Love Sally Harley



Imagine being the lucky person who will be gifted this magnificent quilt. Well done Elsie, of course you won VIEWER'S CHOICE.



Sheffield Nite Owls

And so we are off on another year with now only 11 months left! This is going to be my year of getting some UFO's finished, gifted, and out of my sewing room.



Last year ended for us in December, with a demo from Tanya on a scalloped edge, a wave edge, and a flanged edge binding. The demo was followed by a Christmas lunch, with Biryani made by Shobha and delicious deserts provided by Sylvia and Eugene. Sadly I missed it all due to car problems on the way back from a holiday. Hoping to see the new knowledge used in some quilts this year! We have a wealth of knowledge and experience in our small group, so every 3

months someone in the group is asked to prepare a demo/workshop for the group. It is amazing what different skills are being shared.

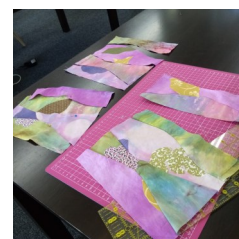
In January we had to say goodbye to Rosa who has relocated to Howick. We are going to miss all her creativity, and I'm sure our loss will be a midlands group's gain. Then we welcomed back Yvie, who has now discharged her Granny duties and is able to join us again.



Sue's whack-and-stack

Our January project was a free cutting whack-and-stack project—stitching and cutting again to make a cushion that we will then cover with many of the stitches on our sewing machines. A 'no rules' project and I'm looking forward to seeing all the different results at our February meeting.

So festival is going to be here before we know it. I have 2 classes booked, and hoping to book a third in February, making sure I leave myself plenty of time just to wander and visit the exhibitions and vendors. Do I need more fabric? No! Will I add to my stash? - of course I will!



Yvie's whack-and-stack in progress

Happy quilting
Sue Freckleton

Guild News

Tollgate Quilters Guild

Here is a quick review of our past year at Tollgate Quilters Guild.



Crazy Patch on Cat Shape, then stitched to bag—
Beth Barkus

We have regular meeting demonstrations which has been quite varied and interesting, always with the idea of inspiring and challenging our members to try new techniques and extend themselves. The demonstrations were things like: Bento/Origami Bag, SAQG Block (SA Flag), French Roses, Bits of Bling, Red and White Sheep, Blanket Pin Leaf Brooch and Crazy Patch.

Tollgate members have hearts of gold and have donated household items to Headway, Natal, for them to sell it in their shop, and also donated Christmas bags and food for 24 children at the Hope House down the South Coast. We have also made a number of contributions to the upcoming National Quilt Festival: 723 covered A5 books for the Festival goodie bags and R 5000 to sponsor the “Best Use of Colour” prize category of the Voices in Cloth Quilt Festival.

Now to some of the Quilting activities and events: we have finished our “Love Quilts”, some members took part in our Roosting Robin (Round Robin but the quilt stays with you), we had a wonderful picnic in the Botanic Gardens to celebrate International Quilt Day, entered some quilts in the Royal Show, made and worn “Crowns” to celebrate the coronation of King Charles, attended “Quilt in Clarens” (lots of fun but quite cold), had a very successful Quilt Display at St. James Church – we filled the whole church with the most wonderful variety of quilts, attended “Spring is Sprung” Quilt Retreat at Izotsha and entered quilts into the competition and we are now making a red and white Group Quilt for display at Festival.



So, as you can see from all of the above Tollgate quilters have many and varied interests, but it is not only quilting that holds us together—it is the wonderful friendships that are the glue.

Happy Quilting in 2024.
See you all at the Festival.
Beth Barkus

Children from Hope House with their Christmas Bags with Carol Tebbutt (Right back) who delivered all the goodies.



Phil Fisher doing her demonstration – “Bits of Bling”.

Meander Quilters Guild

We are still meeting at the Café Classic in Howick on the last Thursday afternoon of every month and enjoying our quilting challenges. Our numbers are still low at approx. 10 regulars.



Last year we were set a challenge to make up a quilt using the suggested block design that was presented every month by our Chairlady, Janet Waring, with the centre block being the quilter’s own choice. Everyone enjoyed exploring different techniques and having to wander beyond their ‘preferred quilting zone’. With the increased cost of fabrics, most of us made use of our existing stash, which in most cases is probably plenty anyway!

We are all looking forward to the Festival and will try to tempt some new members during the year.



Guild News

Underberg Country Quilters

The perfect closer for our 2023 programme, our November 2023 Christmas lunch, was a classic country feast. Taryn and Murray Turner hosted us at their family farm, providing a roast leg of lamb as the centrepiece to a bring and share menu and the festival brochure (which no one had seen) made a welcome table gift.

Our AGM (23 January) got 2024 off to a flying start with record attendance and detailed discussion about the way forward. Thanks were shared all round, specially to our outgoing chairlady, Rosemarie Kriel, who has done a sterling job, first as secretary and then (for four years) chairlady. Pauline Adam has served as treasurer since the group was founded more than 20 years ago.

Our youngest member, Taryn, accepted nomination as our new chairlady and Libby Streatfield took over from Pauline.

In line with the consensus, Taryn's vision for the future involves abbreviating our formal proceedings and sharing skills while sewing together at every meeting. A block-of-the-month project is in the offing.

Show-and-tell session will receive extra attention as part of skill-sharing:



- Show-stopper at this past quarter's show-and-tell sessions was absolute beginner Libby's first go at patchwork: a b-i-g beautiful bed quilt composed of tiny patches (started in a "beerbox" workshop with Doortjie Gersbach).

- Everyone was awe-struck by Pauline's exquisite response to the yo-yo tree workshop. Barbara Rice did a richly festive version and then repeated the yo-yo cluster on Christmas cushions.

- Taryn wowed us with her big modern star quilt and Penny Bailey brought along her completed mystery quilt in lovely blues and wheaten shades.

- Tina Bell's grand-daughters live in Italy where a mythical broomstick ouma shows up on 6 January every year to reward good children. Tina showed us the cute stocking she has made for the little girls.



There were no workshopped pumpkin pincushions to show as these were all offered for sale at the Pevensy charity fête.

We are busy raffling our latest charity quilt and our 'Love Quilt' for festival is good to go.

Catherine Knox has sent in a piece for John Cole-Morgan's 100 Voices collection.

Several of our members are working on Diana Vandeyar's 'Shine' mystery quilt for GHQG. The 20 members of Catherine and Joy Clarke's 'Shine' WhatsApp group have set a cracking pace: tackling each Friday's instructions immediately and

sharing pictures from their homebases in the UK, Zimbabwe, Australia, the Eastern Cape and KZN.

The Underberg Country Quilters' group meets every fourth Tuesday at the Mountainairs Clubhouse in Underberg. Visitors are welcome.



Quilters by the Sea



We are excited to welcome 3 new members in our group this year. We had our first meeting in January and started with machine piecing a 9 patch block. These blocks have been put together and completed for the Little Love Quilt project. We have completed 4 quilts so far.

Debbie Becker



Michelle with one of the little quilts of love

Guild News

Village Grassroots Quilting Guild

Village Grassroots Guild started the year off on the trot! We had a wonderful 1st meeting, there was a creative buzz in the air from our enthusiastic attendees. We celebrated Joey Dickson who turned 90 and is still sewing!

Our show and tell slot was chock-a-block with work done over the Christmas holidays, as well as the love quilts being gathered by Magda Lombard for recording and eventual delivery for the Festival in July. Sue Cameron entertained and educated us, as only Sue can, with a talk on “How to get over the fear of getting out of the traditional box” and showed us some of her amazing work. We all went home with a lot of food for thought.



Jenni helping Lyn show off the leaves project where she enjoyed playing with techniques and embellishments.

Jenny made this quilt for her grandchild in the UK



Magda shows one of the many love quilts



Marline's recently made scrap quilt



Jill with her not so recently made quilt which she kindly donated as a love quilt

Sew Wot

After a very slow end to 2023 we all welcomed 2024 with batteries recharged to get quilting again. Some members had challenges last year with bad falls, serious accidents and health problems.



Colleen's beautiful paper pieced quilt – collaborated and quilted with May-Gene

We had a very quiet November meeting with only 4 members present. We all worked on current projects and of course solved all the problems of the world!! WoW!! Did we enjoy that Lemon Meringue Pie all to ourselves!! Our Christmas lunch for our December meeting was also very quiet due to a few members not being able to attend.

In January we made up for those quiet times with plenty of chatter and a super show and tell. We also had a show and tell of our really super Charity Love Quilts.



May-Gene and her
BIG BALL!!

We all took our projects that we are working on and showed off our UFO's with great promises to get them finished. We had all made Little Love Quilts which we handed to May-Gene. Some ladies helped to sew on the labels. May-Gene showed us her fabric ball which she will be turning into a mat. A really beautiful paper pieced collaborative quilt was finished by Colleen with assistance from May-Gene. Maria showed her wonderful Hawaiian Quilt inspired by Tiiu Simpson when she came to share her wonderful trip with us.

Caroline Cannon sewing labels on Little Love quilts



Maria's Hawaiin inspired quilts



Guild News

Queensburgh Quilters

It's been a while since I wrote of any news from Queensburgh Quilters for the newsletter, actually since April last year, so I will do a little catch up!

We made a floral Friendship Quilt for our member, Rachael, reflecting her love of gardening. Sadly, she has now relocated to England and we miss her at our meetings. At least she has a special quilt that has been made to remember us all, especially if she feels a little homesick.



Beth's Round Robin

Leanne's Round Robin



In July we entered our Round Robin quilts at the Royal Show where Leanne and Beth both won prizes with their quilts.

All six of us attended the Spring has Sprung weekend at Skogheim, Izotsha in September where we had the most quilts pro rata on show for such a small guild! Beth's "Folia" Round Robin and Leanne's Spring has Sprung entry both won prizes. All of our Round Robin quilts were on show as well as that of Joy Jukes, whose rounds were done lovingly by her dear friend, Magda after Joy passed away before the quilts were completed.

We have all been working on a group quilt as you go Red and White quilt for the Festival which has been a lot of fun. We have also been busy with our little Page 27 chairlady's challenge pieces and the 100 Voices in Cloth miniatures. Leanne travelled to Italy in September, where she visited the Liberty of London fabric printing factory which was an incredible experience. I was lucky enough to visit my son in London at the same time and drooled over the beautiful fabrics at the gorgeous Liberty store in Regent Street!

MayGene's request for Little Quilts of Love got us thinking about this very sad and special need and we have been making these simple little quilts for her to pass on to those who distribute them and will continue to do so.

Magda's Round Robin



Lorette's Round Robin



We met at a local coffee shop for "Koffie and Koek" early in December, grateful for the past year and looking forward to 2024 and our very exciting "Voices in Cloth" Festival which lies ahead.

Lorette Kerr

Hayfields Quilting Guild

At our first meeting of the year the Hayfields Guild members were very happy to see each other after the long Christmas break. We meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 2pm.



As we have at every meeting, there was a show and tell. Among others,

Marline showed us the scrap quilt she made, as well as a beautiful mosaic crochet blanket.



EPP made by Andrea Webster. Started during covid and now ready to be quilted.



Sue did the demo, showing the ladies how to make a woven look pattern block from squares and rectangles. We all enjoyed the fun, friendship and a wonderful tea.

Guild News

Kloof Country Quilters Guild



Love Quilt

KCQG has not actually had a meeting since the beginning of November as the hall at Kloof Baptist Church is not available to us due to ballet exams being held there. It was a little daunting at the time to think that was our last meeting of 2023, but we had a great meeting with a lovely turnout from members.

We did a Christmas themed meeting, everyone being encouraged to dress in red/green/white with Christmas hats, etc. It was such a fun morning. We had our usual raffle, but also a Christmas hamper raffle made up by the committee. The lucky winner was Judy Guildford who was extremely happy to win the hamper. We also played Quilting Bingo with prizes for the winners, which was great fun. The vendors at the meeting played Bingo with us. These were: Jill—jewellery, Sylvia—fragrances; Bessie—miniature succulents (which were outstanding).

During the year we have supported the Jess Foord Foundation, which helps rape victims, adults and sadly, children too. The response has been wonderful with lots of much needed goodies donated to the Foundation. We hope to continue with this worthy cause during 2024.

We have had quite a few workshops too: a simple Cathedral Window and a Jacob's ladder block, to name a few. We have found these workshops to be so enjoyable as not only do we learn new sewing/quilting techniques, but great fellowship is had too.



Jacob's ladder block

There is much to look forward to in 2024 with the Festival coming up. Our grateful thanks to all who are working hard to make it the success it is going to be.

Cottage Patch

It's the start of another year and I know the quilting ladies are keen to get started with meetings and workshops.



Chairlady Adri with the happy staff wearing their quilts.

A very enjoyable Year End Function was held in December in the form of a bring and share. The staff of the Church Hall we were having our meetings at were presented with a quilt each. They were absolutely delighted with their gifts and immediately donned the quilts.

Marthie Maritz from Helpende Hand was presented with bags and other items to be given to Kuswag schoolgirls.

Some of our members are taking part in the GHQG Mystery Quilt "Let it Shine" and are all enjoying the process and eagerly awaiting the final result.

We unfortunately had to leave our current venue where meetings were held, but a lovely new venue at the Good Shepherd Church has been found and our first meeting of the year will be held there. One of our members very kindly has secured a rotary blade sharpener for the club for which the ladies are very grateful. There will be considerable blade sharpening done at the meeting.

It promises to be an exciting year with many new skills to be learned.

Guilds *List*

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**Please feel free to contact guild chairladies
for more info on when and where they
meet.**

New members are always welcome!