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CULTURAL MOMENT FOR MAY 9TH CELEBRATES THE FOUR CORNERS QUILTERS' GUILD

Creativity in part, is fueled by a drive to explore something new. It draws us towards the next big project idea, which can keep us from finishing those already underway. It's a common phenomenon in most creative pursuits. The Four Corners Quilters' Guild, based in Mount Forest, was established in 1998. For the members, one of the most enjoyable aspects of quilting is embracing what's new. New techniques are made possible by new tools, new fabrics inspire new projects, and new shops require exploration.

Quilters share a creative spirit. To get a measure of it in our own guild, an informal online survey was conducted in January 2022. As the pandemic took hold of our second winter, many quilters had the opportunity to enjoy time in their sewing spaces. The survey encouraged us to go through existing projects, revisit the motivation to start them and consider why some may remain unfinished. From the respondents, we learned that we have a good balance of beginner and seasoned quilters, ranging from 5 to more than 40 years of experience. Collectively, we represent around 650 quilting years and have completed an estimated 1500 quilts. That's over 50 finished quilts per person. Since roughly half of our members completed the survey, we might reasonably double that estimate to 3000 finished quilts made by all guild members over their quilting careers. Of course, each quilter may have a unique personal view of what constitutes a 'finished quilt'!!



We also identified an estimated 300 quilts in the works. Multiple projects underway at the same time is not uncommon and could be deemed an inevitable by-product of the drive to create however we discovered that 13% of those unfinished projects have been sitting for more than a decade. A handful of members are quite proficient at completing what they've started, but in general, the longer we've been quilting, the longer the 'unfinished' list tends to become. After all, the most exciting project is always the next new one.

The number one reason given for any particular project to remain unfinished is *"I've lost interest, motivation, or just don't like it anymore"*. The survey confirmed that enjoyment from quilt-making comes from all aspects start to finish, with emphasis on seeing what certain pattern and fabric combinations and design choices can do. There is also great satisfaction in seeing the quilts find a good home. It seems that for many of us, quilting is at least as much about the process as the product.

While the survey was just for fun, it reinforced a strong drive to create and enthusiasm for learning. We're certain the responses were conservative, both in terms of estimated quilts completed and those still underway, but the message is that there is a lot of quilt-making going on in this community and a determination to keep going. The Four Corners Quilters' Guild looks forward to celebrating its 25th anniversary next year. New members and guests are always welcome. Find us on Facebook, or for more information contact 4cornersquiltersguild@gmail.com.

Submitted by Linda Hruska, Wellington North Cultural Roundtable