

This Weekend

The Chronicle

SIT BACK, RELAX AND ENJOY THE READ

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► Kathy and Geoff Adams have found a hobby that measures up as a business — quilting.
Photo: Dave McManis

Residents turn 'love' into business



THE saying goes you should earn your living doing something you love. Inside on page 3 journalist Alyssa Kimlin talks to Toowoomba business owners who have turned their hobbies into budding and flourishing businesses. And have found happiness in doing so.

Couple designs a successful quilt-making business

KATHY and Geoff Adams' work room looks comfortable enough to have a nap with quilts taking up most of the space, but there is no time for naps.

Mrs Adams has been a keen quilter for the past 20 years, but seven years ago she decided to turn her hobby into KoolKat Quilting. She said quilts could be quite bulky to complete on a sewing machine, so Mrs Adams took the

plunge and bought a long-arm quilting machine.

"The day I had it installed there was a knock at the door and a friend was standing there with five quilts for me to quilt," she said. "While I was still stammering that I hadn't yet learnt to use the machine, she said 'I know you'll do a good job, Kathy.'"

Now Mrs Adams and Mr Adams spend their days in a workshop and

design studio at the back of their home quilting masterpieces for a loyal band of customers.

They now have three machines — the original long-arm hand-operated quilting machine and two other computerised machines.

As well as machine quilting products made by customers from across Queensland, Mrs Adams has developed her own quilt designs

and has a quilt label-making service.

She spends much of her time in her newly converted studio, it was previously the couple's double garage, working on new designs. Mr Adams said the company has two distributors in the US and its designs are making in-roads in that market.

Mrs Adams said she first got into quilting because of the social

aspect of the craft.

"It is a really nice way of making friends," she said. Although it isn't a cheap hobby, one quilt can easily cost up to \$500 to make — including \$200 to \$300 on materials and between \$200 and \$300 for quilting.

For more information on KoolKat Quilting phone 4696 8746 or visit www.koolkatquilting.com