



Friends in Stitches

The Australian Quaker Narrative Embroidery
Australian Quaker History in Crewel Embroidery

Friends in Stitches Newsletter, September, 24.

CStitches@quakersaustralia.info

Dear Friends.

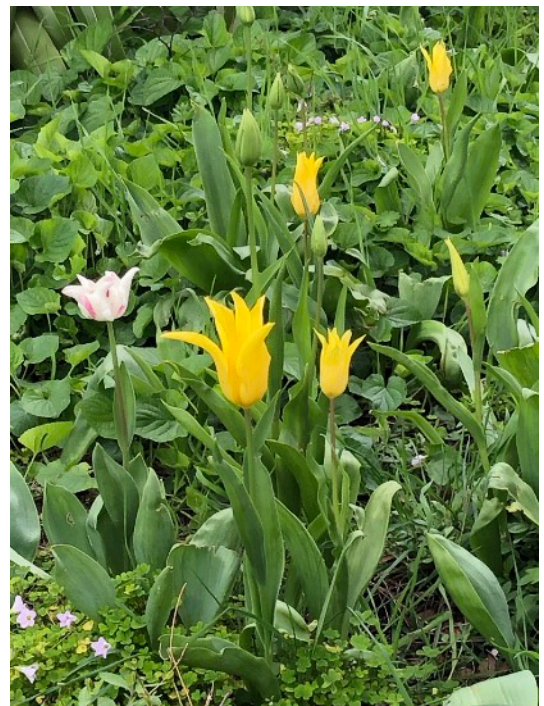
The last newsletter following Yearly Meeting led to a flurry of emails which I will share with you. There are quite a few new interested stitchers coming on board all over the wide brown land and I feel the need to travel to meet with friends and facilitate building the next generation of Friends in Stitches.

This has led to a lot of searching on my part. How can I possibly travel to WA, to Wollongong, to Mildura, all in the next few months? Previously I couldn't travel because I had to look after a sick husband. Now he has left me a large property and chooks. How can I go away, especially in summer when there's berry picking and tomato watering? It troubled me so much. I can see that the project needs someone to go to distant locations to run stitching sessions. I almost decided the next correct step was to lay down the co convenorship. By doing that someone else who was more able to travel could be revealed. But then I thought how sad I would feel if I missed out on the joy of going to those far away destinations and meeting those Friends and facilitating the growth of our wonderful art work. I still love being an unlikely co convenor of this committee.

Then at the darkest moment a ray of light shone on me. I had an idea. My sister lives in Sydney and she loves to visit me here. I am going to ask her if she could come down to hold the fort during the summer while I go off galavanting in the heat and dust. She will love to escape to Tasmania during the Sydney summer. She loves being at home alone and she loves pottering in my vast estate. She even enjoys cleaning. I am going to ask her tomorrow.

I asked her. She said Yes.

Sally O



Here are all the wonderful emails I received following the last newsletter. It really is a Newsletter when it is full of newsy letters from friends.

From Christina Stonessmith in Mandurah, WA.

What a wonderful newsletter. I loved to read the history of the panels and look forward to being able to contribute to the panels in the months and years ahead would love to be involved in this project.

I am completely new to the Quakers and I am attending the yearly meeting.

I was online at the yearly meeting so could not attend your session. I am based in Mandurah in Western Australia.

Would love your newsletter and information on how to get involved.

peace and friendship Christina



This is a picture of the famous Mandurah crab.

From Annette Herd in Broken Hill, NSW.

Dear Sally,

many thanks for the newsletter. Very interesting and a lovely segment about your Broken Hill visit.

You mention someone in Mildura who is interested in learning more about stitching. How about a meeting in Mildura instead of Ballarat? Then people from Broken Hill could attend as well as Mildura is only 3 hours drive away. Maybe the lady from Ballarat wouldn't mind coming to Mildura?

Anyway, I am off to Europe Monday week and will be back on 23 September in time for the September meeting at the end of that month.



Best wishes and keep warm,

Annette ☀️

This painting in in the Broken Hill art gallery. It is by local artist Florence May Harding, who was influenced by Albert Morris

From Ruth Haig & Bluey in Kyogle, NSW.

Dear Sally,

It was great to read the Friends in Stitches. On my way home from 2017 YM in Adelaide, I caught the bus to BH & then the train to Sydney. I spent two wonderful days in Broken Hill. As a Quaker from Wahroonga, who had known Margaret & Barbara Briggs at Sydney Uni I knew of the Morrises & BH. Margaret & Barbara's mother was sister to Margaret Morris. Their mother used to organise a wonderful Fete at Wahroonga Meeting House for QSA along with an Art & Craft show in the Meeting House, organised by Edith Croaker & others. Hanna Lemberg would create one of her petit- point tapestries for sale for QSA. Cathy Davies would probably remember.

Marceline Minani got in touch with me at the time of YM as I'd been mentioned in Documents in Advance. We had met in 2012 at Silver Wattle when she & her husband Samuel, both of whom had only been in Australia 2 years were there for "Where is the Light Leading Friends." Marceline & I had a wonderful talk on the phone after she wrote to me. It is wonderful that she will be involved in Friends in Stitches.

Much love,
Ruth Haig & Bluey..

It was quite thrilling to also be remembered at YM with a card, which Rowe instigated, with about 50 names of those I have known. It has been a privilege being part of the Australian & World Wide Religious Family of Friends.

Love ,
Ruth & Bluey

below: Kyogle from Google images.



From Audrey Wilson in Wollongong.

Dear Sally, How lovely to read of all the embroidery being worked on and completed. Our Kiama panel was one of the early ones to start . Over the years many of us are no longer here and others circumstances have made continuing to work on our panel impossible. Kind Friends have taken it and contributed further to our initial efforts. I was the first to get it set up and started with Cathy's assistance after the initial instruction given by the uk Friends. If possible I would be grateful to see a picture of the Kiama panel as it is now.

We have temporarily had to cease face to face Meetings in Kiama but it would be lovely to have a picture of it now. I am not a good embroider although I did my best on the initial effort

Every one involved has done a wonderful job and congratulations to you all for your wonderful results.
Audrey Wilson



Dear Audrey, Thank you for this lovely letter. Can I put it in the newsletter?

I'm not sure if this photo from 2020 represents the current state of play, and unfortunately it's only a snap shot of a piece of it. I will trawl through my photos and see if I can find something later. Moira Darling who lives in central Victoria took it on but she has now laid it down. I know Tessa would be thrilled to see it completed.

I don't know about your assessment: 'I am not a good embroiderer'! Many Friends say this about their skills but it turns out that this kind of embroidery is pretty easy for many of us who don't claim to have any skill! Sure there are talented embroiderers like Cathy Davies, Robin Sinclair and members of the Embroiderers' Guilds but many of us just puddle along the best we can. I include myself in this number. I am a member of the Devonport Embroiderers' Guild and I see very skilled embroiderers in that group. I see that my skills fall short of theirs. But that's not what this project is about. I do encourage

you to think about reclaiming this work. You had the initial vision. Someone could come and visit you to give you a hand. I am just thinking about my Xmas plans and wondering if Sydney is on my agenda, in which case I could visit Kiama if that would help get you started.

love to you, Sally O

Dear Sally, I see from the photo of our tapestry that even its subject has been changed. It is now about the visit to Kiama in the 1800s. I think this is better. The original Headings have been removed from the item which probably means that my effort was unacceptable. I am not precious about this but the original was drawn by an artist. I actually think the visit of Backhouse to Kiama is a better and more appropriate topic so all is well. I knit and sew a lot but am not an embroiderer and am sure I have forgotten the crewel system.

I will try to finish it but definitely will need help. I can travel to someone nearby if there is a railway or can have a visitor with some time. I envisage concentrated work to get it finished. Any suggestions? I gave all my yarns back and have no idea where my notes from the original course are I used to go to Cathie's home, as was each week to work on it which was a very pleasant experience. Any suggestions acceptable. Let's DO IT! Audrey W

From Jen Hurley in Wagga Wagga.

I've been meaning to write for a while but prompted now by the horrendous weather in Tassie. I hope you and those you love are high and dry and keeping well. I came back from Adelaide with terrible flu that would not go away. I hope you didn't do the same.

One of the things I wanted to talk about with you is in your capacity as an historian with the tapestry project. We have an embryonic plan for an art and craft fundraiser here in Wagga Wagga some time next year. We are thinking about selling art, lithographs and crafts with a percentage going to QSA. There might be raffles and auctions depending on the quality and quantity of work. One of our ideas is to have a display of some of the tapestries as a focus with particular emphasis on scenes that may be relevant to regions and Riverina. Dunera springs to mind. Do you think it might be possible to arrange a loan of some of the pieces? I have no idea where they are held and who is the main custodian, hence my turning to you.



Google image of Wagga Wagga

Well spring has well and truly started here with warm and balmy days, blossom, pollen and the odd blowfly. I suspect this summer will be a scorcher as it's quite early for such warmth. I hope you are safe and warm and that spring is not too far away for you. I somehow think it's later in Tassie. Anyways, take great care with the weather!

In Friendship, Jens Hurley 🕊️

Ballarat Panel goes to Adelaide

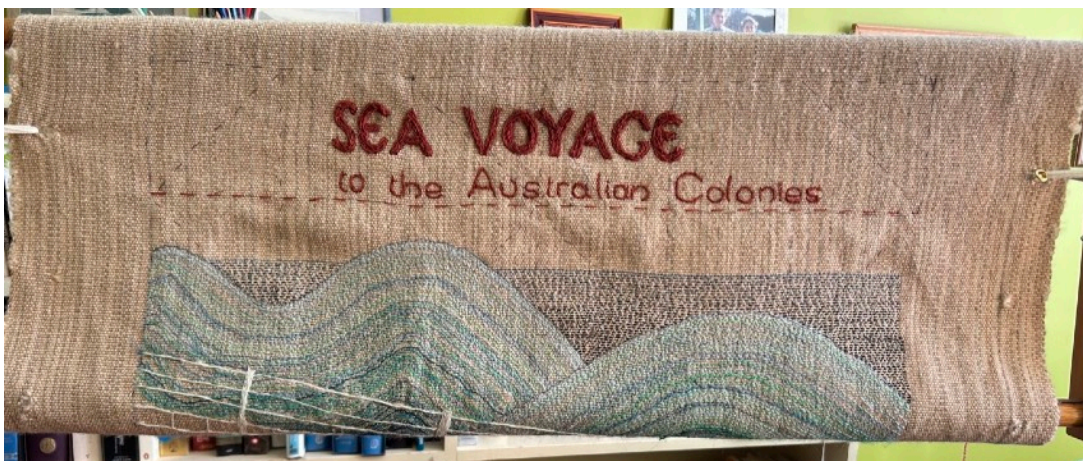
It was with great pleasure that the Ballarat panel was posted off to Margaret Philp who is an experienced Adelaide embroiderer. Tessa sent her the cartoons and Robin Sinclair is on stand-by to help if needed. Good luck and happy stitching, Margaret.

The Quaker Stitch

The most recent communication I have had has been on the phone with Robyn Dillon from Broken Hill who had some questions arising from their recent August FIS meeting for Stitching. The Quaker stitch is used for the lettering. It can be used for other stitching but all lettering is done in this stitch. The Kendal *Guide to Stitching* has instructions about the stitches used, including the Quaker stitch. We in Australia are a bit more relaxed than the Brits and we are not proscriptive of any stitches.

Meeting for Stitching in Deloraine

Welcome to another new stitcher, Chel Bardell who has recently started attending the meeting in Deloraine. She is very interested in being involved in Friends in stitches and has been given the job of drawing and stitching a shy albatross.



This panel commemorates the courage of the 19th Century Friends who voyaged to Australia in very uncomfortable and dangerous conditions and left amazing accounts in their journals. There will be albatross flying about. Tara Ulbrich, another member of my meeting has been making a practice piece of a woman, Elizabeth Wells, sitting in a deck chair. I am almost ready to pass this on and we will start holding Meetings for Stitching before Meeting for Worship on some Sunday soon.

From Jacqui Schultz : War & Peace, exhibition in Newcastle

Dear Friends,

This FB post is from Timeless Textiles Gallery in Newcastle NSW, from their current exhibition. It made me think of you all.

I hope you can open the FB link. If not let me know.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/Pctcw6NuY1ZeRRVZ/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

In peace,

Jacque

#exhibition #artquilt



War and Peace
Alicia Merrett (UK)

Joining Threads : SAQA at Timeless Textiles