



Friends in Stitches

The Australian Quaker Narrative Embroidery
Australian Quaker History in Crewel Embroidery

December 2021 Newsletter
CStitches@quakersaustralia.info

So much news!

First on top are 2022 calendars. I am happy to say that I just ordered another 25 copies, being completely bereft of them since visiting the post office on Monday. I was so pleased to hear on Tuesday that they had already been delivered in Adelaide and also relieved to get positive feed back from Charles Stevenson and Ann Rees. Charles says: 'It has arrived and already is hanging on my wall by the desk. What a tremendous job to have prepared it so very thoughtfully. You have my hearty congratulations.'



Postage has been challenging this year and I made the choice to send everything by Express Post. For people who ordered one calendar that makes the postage expensive but without that it was going to take over two weeks for the calendar to reach you. It seemed to me worth an extra \$4 to get it to you more quickly. I learned though that when I sent seven calendars to Ann Rees it only added to the cost of the calendar by \$2.30. So with that knowledge I rang around the wide, brown land and recruited 'agents' in the capital cities to receive 7 or 5 calendars and sell them on.

If you live in these cities you can buy calendars from the following dear Friends:

- Perth: Beth Harcourt, (beth62@inet.net.au)
- Adelaide: Ann Rees (annrees@chariot.net.au)
- Melbourne: Helen Bayes (helenbayes@me.com)
- Hobart: Sally McGushin (mcgushin@bigpond.com)
- Sydney: Weis Schuiringa (wieeschuiringa@hotmail.com)
- Canberra: Wilma Davidson (wilma2010@live.com.au)
- Brisbane: Saadia Thomson (rupertdwyer@hotmail.com)

If your town is not listed and you could volunteer to be an agent - looking at you, Darwin... please get in touch.

Ann Rees reports: 'Last year Adelaide Friends were disappointed that I had not ordered more.'

Do not be disappointed! You can order directly from me or the friendly Agents can also ask for more calendars. In fact, Helen wanted me to send her 20 but I only sent 7! If you want more, Helen, I can send more!

Making the calendar is very nerve wracking! I won't mention the mistakes, but I am aware of them. From year to year the website changes and also I forget things I learned a year ago. This year has been particularly stressful due to the issues with COVID delays. Also the calendars have been more expensive. Friends in Stitches will make a small profit but not as much as previously.

News of Friends

Mary Grbavac was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer some months ago. She is now in palliative care and we send her love and to her family and friends. The Brisbane Friends in Stitches were hoping to have the Kelvin Grove panel finished in her lifetime but this is looking unlikely. Meanwhile they have taken photographs of the work and Mary has seen these and is happy to know the work is in good hands and will proceed without her. Helen Webb writes 'I printed off the photos you sent and took them to Mary this morning - she was thrilled by them. She was able to chat for a while, but still very weak. She is happy that the rest of you are continuing with the stitching as before.'

Tessa Spratt fell over going up the steps after lunching in the garden. She has been in hospital now for over a week and is frustrated and annoyed, blaming herself for being unsteady on her feet. She will soon be back in the pool, swimming laps no doubt. I'm sure you join me in sending love to Tessa.



Carolyn Mason and Hilary Crawford working on the Kelvin Grove panel.



Carolyn examining the Backhouse and Walker panel.

Bridget Guest has retired after 27 years at the helm of the Kendal Quaker Tapestry. We wish her a very happy retirement and thank her for all her work. We are excited that the Dunera Boys is nearly finished and we await its arrival from the UK.

She writes:

Hi Sally

I hope all's well with you. I thought I would share this with you.

BBC Radio Cumbria. Following the press release about my retirement and the Hidden Gem accolade, Helen Millican from Radio Cumbria came to record an interview with me in the museum on Wednesday 10 November for her radio show on Monday 15th Nov 6pm and 10pm.

Janet was volunteering that day, we were putting the final touches to The Dunera Boys panel in the museum room so the interview began around the demonstration area.

You can listen to the programme via this BBC Sounds link from anywhere in the world, valid for about a month from 15 November: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09zpz5y>

Janet and I chat about the Australian tapestry between 6.30 and 7pm, the more general chat between 8 and 9pm. We chat about the Hidden Gem Accolade, my 27 years with the tapestry, the roof and much more.

Best wishes

Bridget

Broken Hill

Tessa and Sally attended a Zoom meeting with Broken Hill Community artists Susanne Jones and Catherine Farry. We are in the process of organising events in 2022, an exhibition, a workshop, a new Albert and Margaret Morris design. Susanne and Catherine were both excited by the idea of being involved in our project. It seems entirely appropriate that they should design this panel as they live in the Broken Hill landscape. We have our fingers crossed that travel to Broken Hill will be possible in 2022.

