

July 2023

Australia Yearly Meeting.

On Wednesday 5th July, **Friends in Stitches** enjoyed a , “Share and Tell” at Australia Yearly Meeting, 10 Friends joined the Zoom meeting **coming from all across Australia including East Arnhem Land**. Looking at the website, we shared news of the progress of various panels, including those that are temporarily stuck), and plans for new designs, including one depicting the history of Devonshire Street Meeting house in Sydney. Everyone was enthusiastic about the *Yearly Meeting During Covid* panel. We hope this panel, made up of individual embroideries depicting Australian Quakers on a Zoom screen, will take off this year.

Later in the week Friends gathering for Yearly Meeting heard of the plans for Yearly Meeting 2024 to be held in Adelaide from 6-12 July next year. This would be our first face to face YM since 2019, and will also include virtual participation for those unable to travel to South Australia. It would be wonderful if we could arrange to show the panels in Adelaide during AYM.

Tessa Spratt, Sally O’Wheel, Margaret Bywater





FIS panels in New South Wales

Previously it was quite inexpensive to send cases of panels around the Australia between Regional meetings for exhibitions, around the Australia. However this has changed. It now costs over \$400 just for one case. Given this expense, the Committee think, since all the panels are currently in NSW, this is an opportune time to organise as many events as possible during the remainder of 2023.

We will be in touch with all the contacts of NSW Worshipping groups and meetings to discuss the possibilities for visiting them during 2023. We will ask Friends to consider if there is a venue in their area where the panels could be exhibited? Would Friends like to meet with us to explain more about the project? Teach the basic stitches? Discuss possible ideas for new panels they might like to contribute? Would there be an embroidery group or arts group in their area that might also be interested?

The Kendal Quaker Tapestry project, the inspiration for the Australian Embroidery Project, was originally conceived as a way to bring together older and newer Friends. Older friends may be isolated and unable to attend Meetings but have rich knowledge of Quaker stories. Younger Friends and new Friends may also be isolated. Many do not know the Quaker stories and are not integrated into the community, but they may be keen to learn and looking for ways to be involved. In addition to the panels themselves, we have presentation of 57 slides, images and details of the panels beautifully prepared by Jacque Schultz. This can be used in association with an exhibition, or for publicity.

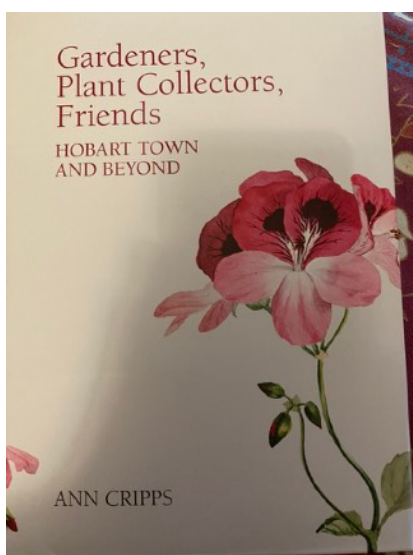
It's your turn NSW! Please take full advantage of the panels being in your state. This as an outreach opportunity. Please talk to your meeting about how you might proceed. We would like to visit and support you.



Beautiful table cover embroidered by Catherine Augusta Mitchell (1812-1899). [Photo] Margaret Bywater at TMAG, May 2023.

Born in Cornwall in 1812, Catherine Augusta Mitchell lived at Lisdillon near Swansea, Tasmania from 1839-1899. An example of her delicate embroidery on black cotton, includes representations more than 20 plants indigenous to the east coast of Tasmania. The work now belongs to Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and is featured in a book recently published in Hobart.

Further details in : *Gardeners, plant collectors, Friends: Hobart Town and beyond/Ann Cripps*. Hobart, Fullers Publishing, 2022.



This book is a fascinating and carefully researched work, the stories of gardeners and plant collectors among the early settlers in in Van Diemen's land (now Tasmania). Ann Cripps has woven together the stories of 25 men and women, including Quakers James Backhouse, and his son James, George Washington Walker, Sarah Walker, Frederick Mackie, William Curtis, and John Fothergill.

An Interesting example of another community tapestry project:



The Last Invasion Tapestry commemorates the invasion by a French force in 1797.

The landing took place at Carreg Wasted, near Fishguard in Pembrokeshire, Wales.



Last Invasion Tapestry was the cooperative work of 77 people. The finished work, 30.4 metres long and 53 centimetres deep, is housed in a special gallery on the first floor of the Fishguard Hall. The exhibition is open to the public.

Here is part of the FIS report to Yearly meeting detailing achievements of the past 12 months

More from Yearly Meeting :

ACHIEVEMENTS/ACTIVITIES/EVENTS August 2022 to

- New Co-Convenor: Margaret Bywater. Started Jan '23.
- La Trobe, Tasmania, Exhibition. Very successful and viewed by many Embroiderers in Northern Tas, including stitchers from Launceston.
- Wahroonga Meeting Exhibition of 10 panels. This coincided with an Open House weekend and resulted in lots of activity in NSW. Sale of merchandise.
- Central Coast NSW Exhibition, coordinated by Lisa Wriley.
- Planning and research to create a 'Devonshire Street' Panel, in its 120 year anniversary.
- Projected Exhibition of all panels near Grafton, NSW.
- 'Dunera boys' completed in the UK and arrived in Australia in March.
- 'Kelven Grove' panel Qld, well underway and nearly finished.
- 'Allowa Grove' panel sent to Sally Gare, (Herzfeld) in WA to complete.
- New stitchers in Tas, working on the 'Quakers at Sea' panel. Helen Wells, with Quaker heritage, President Devonport Embroiderers' Guild, is working on the design of a panel about the Wells family.
- Calendars sold and distributed around the land. None sold in WA or VIC but leftovers sent as complimentary copies to small meetings in all states.
- Ellen sent 'Ballarat' panel back as she was unable to continue. Looking for stitchers to complete this.

Good News from Queensland stitchers :

We were delighted to learn in May that the Kelvin Grove Arboretum panel has been completed. Brisbane Friends in Stitches are composing an article to tell the story of this panel and it will be ready for the next newsletter. We can't wait! They have already mounted it. Gillian Ridsdale used her textile conservation skills, avoiding the use of velcro. Perhaps she can write about that too! They intend to present the panel at the Kelvin Grove Meeting House on Sunday the 16th of July. Stay tuned for further news of this panel.

Happy Stitching Friends