

Friends in Stitches Feb, '24 Newsletter

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Hello Friends,

You have been much in my mind and I am pleased that at last, I am able to put fingers to keyboard and prepare a February Friends in Stitches Newsletter. We missed January. Meanwhile there has been quite a lot going on in the background which I am eager to share with you.

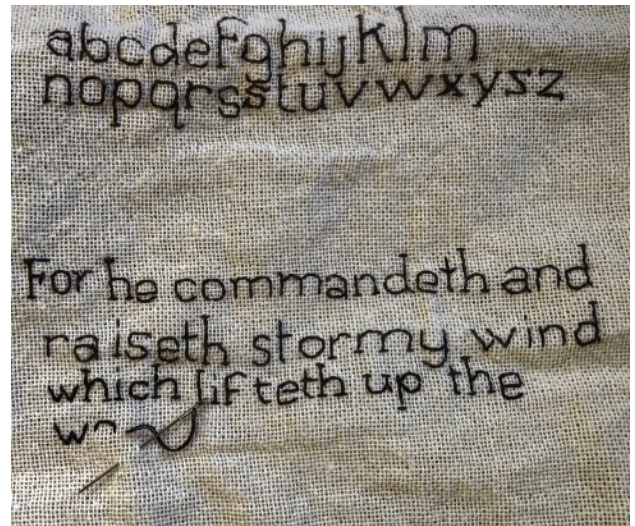
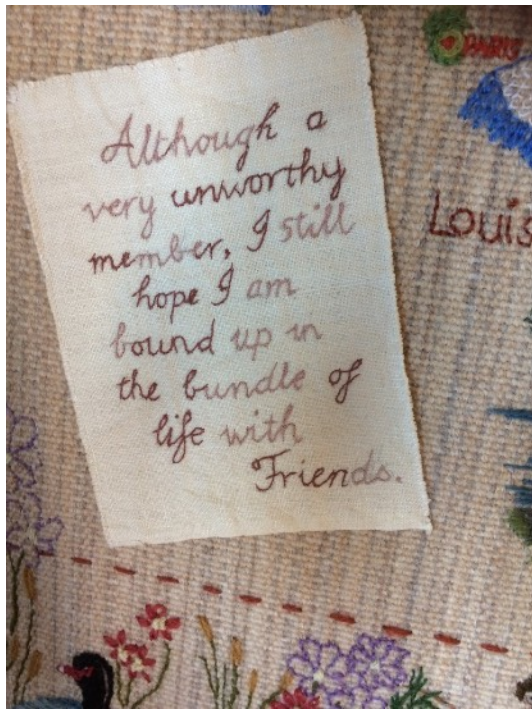
Being stuck

For one thing, the panel I was working on has been languishing, un-regarded, unloved and uncared for months, even, I hate to think, years! Finally I have picked up my needle and attached the work to the embroidery frame, hoping to make some progress before Yearly Meeting in July in Adelaide. I hope Tessa or one of the skilled Adelaide stitchers will be able to help me do the big lettering, which so far has eluded me.

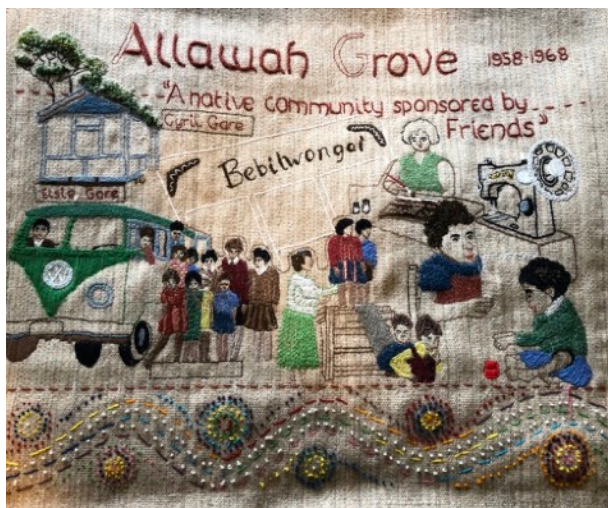
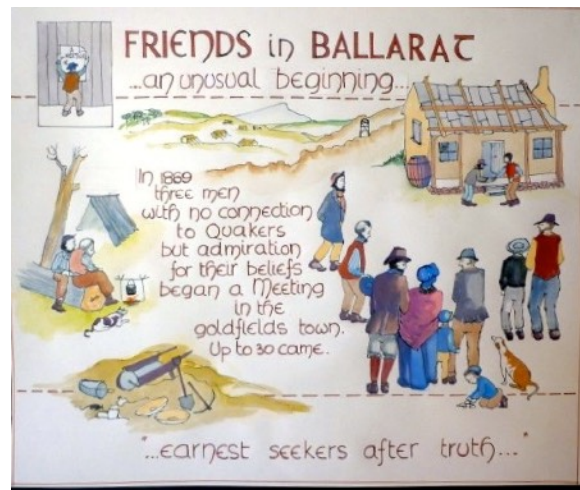


I have been stalled on Quakers at Sea because I needed a particular blue thread. The trouble is I have to sort out a lot of threads to find the exact number of the one I want and I am put off by this task!. But I had a shift in my thinking: if I don't want to do that bit, do another bit which I CAN do! Just get started any way I can!

On this panel there is going to be an inserted Biblical quote, stitched on calico or linen and then sewed onto the wool. This is done in the Elenor Clifton panel where Tricia Woods has stitched the words of a letter in cursive script onto another cloth



and sewed it onto the panel. I have been inspired by that. Isn't it wonderful how she has reproduced the fading ink. So I am practising my biblical quote. It is good to feel motivated again and to be making small progress. I practised the alphabet to get me going!



This is not the only unfinished panel, disregarded and unattended, sitting neglected in a Friend's house in Australia. What about *Walking in the Light, Ballarat Friends, Kiama* and *Allowah Grove*, to name only the ones which are designed and begun?

Sometimes we get stuck. For me, it was lack of a colour. And then, other embroidery projects got my attention.

How good it is though to hold the problem in the Light, find solutions and get back to it.

Sometimes the people who started the panel can't continue it. For health reasons usually. Then we need Friends to back them up and continue their work. This isn't easy. In the case of *Allowah Grove* the original design has been lost. It is hard to pick up someone else's work when you don't know what was in their mind. If you like a challenge and want to help, consider finishing one of these panels. Ballarat Friends has really good designs and would not be too hard for someone to pick up. Think about it, Friend.

Calendars

Meanwhile we have sold all the calendars and some friends even missed out by not ordering in time. We had good sales in Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania. But no calendars were sold in NSW. Every year, around now, I wonder if I am going to continue to make calendars. A lot of people no longer use them, we get sent them for free from organisations we support and so....do Friends want this to continue? I am looking for feed back.

I did get some excellent feedback from someone in my meeting who had noticed Send a Card to a Friend Day and done it!. Now she has established a new correspondence with that Friend. Definitely a good news story!

And here is wonderful feed back from Ann Rees which came in December:

'Tomorrow at the close of MfW at North Adelaide, I intend to show the 2024 calendar to the Meeting and to draw their attention in particular to the July and December photos. Both of these are from the Ashby panel, but in particular, I am delighted to see that the Banksia Ashbyi is featured. Milli Stein was the person who stitched the banksias so beautifully, and she is expected to attend Meeting tomorrow. When she did the work, Milli had sight in one eye only, and had lived with that reduced vision for several, or maybe many years. The sight in her good eye is failing rapidly now and she lives in a nursing home, as she has some mobility problems as well. Now aged 89, her brain functions well for most of the time, with an occasional memory hiccup, and she frequently nods off in Meeting. Many Friends do not know what a keen stitcher she was, and have not seen her freestyle embroideries which used to be in her house.'

Wonderful work Milli. I love that banksia!

Hilary Crawfoot in Queensland writes:

'I am thrilled with the calendar and will treasure it beyond 2024.'



Meanwhile on the Exhibition Front!

NSW Friends, particularly Jacque Schultze, Mary Jane Hogan and Wies Schuringa, have been applying to places to hold exhibitions. We are very excited to tell you that in April the NSW Parliamentary Library will host an exhibition of all the panels. Stay tuned for the details of the opening.

They have applied to the Gosford Regional Art Gallery for an exhibition in 2025. This is a big gallery. If we can pull it off, it would be fabulous. We have to pay them but we decided it was money well spent. We have applied for a three week exhibition.

67 metre embroidery about oil!

Jenni Bond ,(TRM) sent this amazing link from her daughter: The Black Gold Tapestry . Sandra M Sawatzky has made a 21st century work of art relating the saga of oil, global societal change, and energy transition through the power and beauty of 67 metres of hand embroidery. Imagine doing a 67metre embroidery! Look at it here.

https://www.theblackgoldtapestry.com/?fbclid=IwAR1pGbyid_8f7EA7p9to_Lz-iSUEpeu7mZahrk16Smras5d-Mm6sfm2jnww



A Century of Quilts in Canberra

The Raja Quilt will be exhibited in March as part of *A Century of Quilts* at the National Gallery in Canberra. Christine Larkin from CRM alerted us to it in January and we corresponded with the curator of the exhibition in an effort to have our Raja



Quilt embroidery exhibited as an add on to this. It was designed and stitched by two Canberra artists, Catherine Dabron and Wilma Davidson.

Simeran Maxwell , the curator, said all the quilts being exhibited are part of the National Gallery's collection so we could not be included. Also the planning was already too advanced. She added,

There has been a lot of interest in the Rajah quilt and we will hopefully be doing some specific talks and events related to this work specifically. I will forward your information to both our communications and marketing team

and our public programmes team for their reference.

And From the QA Coordinator

Dear FIS,

I just discovered this YouTube channel and it has a lovely recent video on George Fox and the history of early Quakers as told through tapestry
[Quaker Tapestry Museum - YouTube](#)

Have you seen it yourself before?

I am forwarding this on to you in case there is any interest in anything here, especially [National Needlework Archive - NNA - Needlework, Tapestry, Textiles](#)

In friendship,

David Tehr (QA Coordinator)

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Many thanks David! It's good to know we are in your thoughts.

I'll catch up again in March, with details about the Sydney exhibition.

Sally O'Wheel.

Your Friend in Stitches.