

# Friends in Stitches

The Australian Quaker Narrative Embroidery  
Australian Quaker History in Crewel Embroidery

Friends in Stitches Newsletter,, March 2024.

Dear Friends here is another newsletter, not long after the February Newsletter. You need to know this information!

## Exhibition News!

### THE AUSTRALIAN QUAKER NARRATIVE EMBROIDERY PROJECT

The story of Australian Quakers told through stitch

3-26 April 2024  
Fountain Court, Parliament House  
Macquarie Street, Sydney  
Monday – Friday, 9am-5pm

A unique exhibition of embroidered panels from Australian Quakers 'Friends in Stitches'.

<https://www.quakersaustralia.info/Stitches>



Explore the Australian Quaker Narrative Embroidery Project, a collection of embroidered panels telling the story of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia, through stitch.

The panels depict the history of Quakers in Australia from Sydney Parkinson on the ship Endeavour in 1770 to the present.

The panels have been designed and stitched by different groups and individuals from Quaker Meetings around Australia, with some contributions by members of community embroidery groups.

The year 2024 marks the 400th anniversary of the birth of George Fox, one of the founders of Quakerism in Britain.

The exhibition is a celebration of the significant work of Quakers in Australia in social issues, as well as marking George Fox's anniversary.

This exhibition is being hosted at NSW Parliament by Alex Greenwich MP, the Member for Sydney.



<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/visit/events/Pages/Australian-Quaker-Narrative-Embroidery.aspx>

## From Mary Jane Hogan and Jacque Schultze

There will be an exhibition of the Australian Quaker Narrative Embroidery panels in the Fountain Court at NSW State Parliament House in April 2024. The Fountain Court is a great space on the entrance level of Parliament House in Macquarie Street, Sydney, with natural light as well as specific lighting for exhibitions. The Fountain Court is not only close to where everyone enters the building but the North Wall, where our panels will be hung, must be passed many times each day by anyone working in the building, which means many people will see the tapestries every day, both parliamentary staff and visitors.

An exhibition in Parliament House must be hosted by an MP, in our case Alex Greenwich MP (Independent), the member for Sydney; the Devonshire Street Meeting House is in his electorate. The exhibition will effectively run from 3 to 26 April 2024, Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm (not public holidays). There will be an official opening on Thursday 4 April at 12 noon. (On 2 and 28<sup>th</sup> April we will be installing and dismantling the exhibition.)

Due to reasons of space, we can only show 22 of the current 25 panels, but they will have enormous exposure, which, as Margaret Bywater pointed out, is a 'wonderful Outreach opportunity for Quakers Australia, and especially for Friends in Stitches'.

For more information, go to: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/visit/events/Pages/Australian-Quaker-Narrative-Embroidery.aspx>

A great way to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of George Fox!

Mary Jane Hogan  
Jacque Schultze

Since this Mary Jane and Jacque have been busy preparing for the exhibition. Mary Jane wrote:

*'I picked up the DLs today and they look great. The rest of the material is at the printers, and should be ready shortly. The wall labels need the most time as the adhesive paper needs to*

*dry before being applied to the foam board. I also have perspex brochure holders and the velcro hooks to attach the wall labels and poster to the wall - they are very specific about how things must be done!*

*We are having a workshop tomorrow Tuesday to make all the panels ready, including attaching d-rings to the backs. I have attached d-rings to two of them, and it seems to work well.*

*I have submitted a run sheet to Alex Greenwich's office,*

Margaret Bywater, Cathy Davies, Sally O'Wheel and Tessa Spratt will all be at the opening with bells on!

Rajah Quilt.

Meanwhile in Canberra the NGA is holding an exhibition of their quilt collection, including the Rajah Quilt. From their Facebook Page:

A Century of Quilts is now open, this exhibition showcases an often-overlooked art form made almost exclusively by women.

Included in the exhibition is the National Gallery's most requested work of art: The Rajah quilt 1841. The Rajah Quilt is a testament to hope and collective endeavor. Comprising 2,815 pieces, this textile masterpiece showcases the diverse skills of at least 15 convict women known for their tailoring or needlework. This quilt, now part of Australia's national heritage, symbolizes the extraordinary accomplishment of creating beauty and unity under the most dire circumstances.

A Century of Quilts, free with gallery ticket

| <https://nga.gov.au/exhibitions/a-century-of-quilts/>

[#NationalGalleryAU](#) [#ACenturyofQuilts](#)



It has been pointed out that this is not strictly true. We understand that many of the convict women involved had little experience with stitching. It was a Community Arts Project, just like our FIS project.



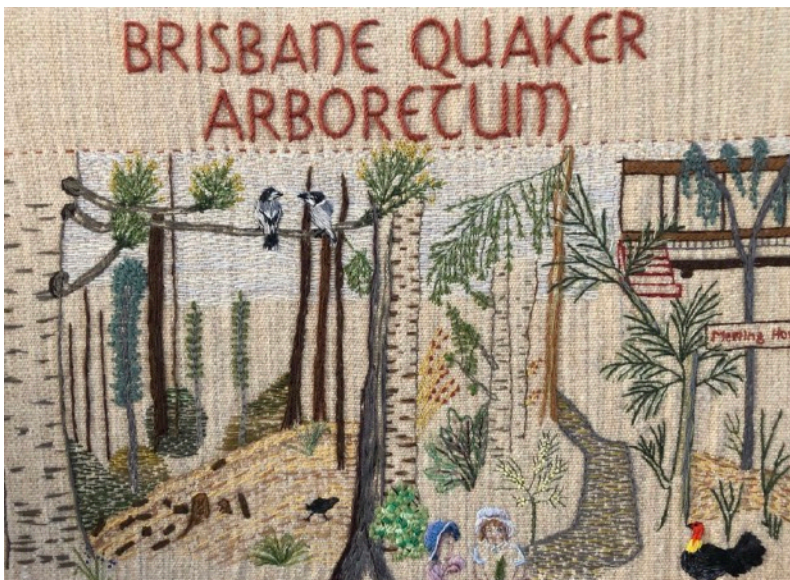
New Cards available from Sally O.

I have had some new cards made in preparation for Yearly Meeting. If you would like to order a specific card, please ask! I will be getting more cards made.

Here are the two new ones. They are \$5 each, plus postage.



detail from The Dunera Boys



Detail from The Brisbane Quaker Arboretum.

Order them through [CStitches@quakersaustralia.info](mailto:CStitches@quakersaustralia.info). When I send the cards I will advise of the postage costs and provide the bank details.

See you in Sydney on the 4th of April!

Sally O