

Australian Quaker Narrative Embroidery Committee: Friends in Stitches

PART A: REPORT

Achievements/Activities

- We have a new Co-Convenor, Margaret Bywater, who started January 2023.
- The exhibition in La Trobe, Tasmania, was very successful and viewed by many embroiderers in Northern Tasmania, including stitchers from Launceston.
- The Wahroonga Meeting (NSWRM) exhibition of 10 panels coincided with an Open House weekend and resulted in lots of activity. The sale of FIS merchandise generated some income.
- The Central Coast NSWRM exhibition, was coordinated by Lisa Wriley, and again, generated new interest about the project in this locale.
- Planning and research have begun to create a 'Devonshire Street' Panel, to mark the 120-year anniversary of the Meeting's location on Devonshire Street in Sydney.
- There are plans for a projected exhibition of all panels near Grafton, NSW.
- The 'Dunera Boys' panel, completed in the UK, arrived in Australia in March.
- The 'Kelvin Grove' panel (QRM), is well underway and nearly finished.
- The 'Allowah Grove' panel was sent to Sally Gare (Herzfeld) in WA to complete.
- New stitchers in Tasmania are 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 the 'Ballarat' panel back, as she was unable to continue. We are looking for stitchers to complete this.

Issues/Analysis

Now that Covid is largely behind us, we need to travel to WA, Broken Hill and Sydney. We need to enthuse key Friends in these places, run stitching workshops etc.

We have the Quaker historical archive to refer to. Margaret is able to facilitate that. The existing panels may need more information and people designing new panels need information.

Friends work with people with disability as a theme for a panel.

PART B: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

None

Committee members: Co-Conveners: Tessa Spratt, VRM, Sally O'Wheel TRM and Margaret Bywater (TRM). RM Correspondents: Nancy Tingey (CRQ); Lisa Wriley, NSWRM; Saadia Thomson, Gillian Risdale, QRM; Robin Sinclair remains as correspondent, although the original group has laid down their involvement after stitching seven panels, (SANTRM); Sally O'Wheel, Margaret Bywater TRM); Tessa Spratt (VRM); tba, (WARM).

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