



Friends in Stitches

The Australian Quaker Narrative Embroidery
Australian Quaker History in Crewel Embroidery

Newsletter June 2020
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Friends in stitches: The Australian Quaker Narrative Embroidery.

In Lockdown

Hello Friends,

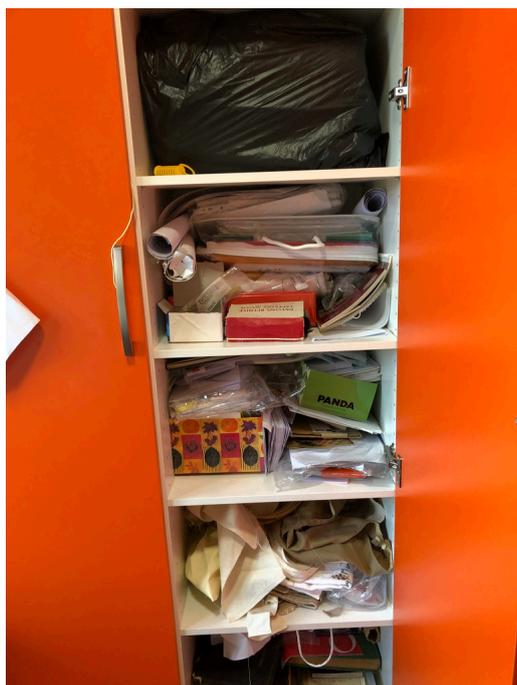
I wonder how everyone is getting on in this prolonged time of staying home. Friends in Stitches are actually seeing more of one another in our weekly Zoom Meetings for Stitching. We have met every Thursday at 1.30pm for a few weeks. Tessa, Moira and I are regulars but we have been joined by Mary Pollard, Lisa Riley and Mary Grbavic at different occasions and have enjoyed chatting as some of us stitch. The link is ... <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87384920112>

Tessa and I have both been cleaning out our Friends in Stitches cupboards. It was at first an overwhelming task and we were weighed down with it. But we took it to the Meeting for Stitching and shared it with our Friends, item by item, getting advice about what to do with each piece.

Archives

My shelves contained a lot of archival material which I had brought back from Yearly Meeting in 2018 at the Hunter Valley, material that Cathy Davies had collected. My ultimate plan is to donate this to the the Quaker Collection, attached to the University of Tasmania Library. I needed to go through it and remove duplicates, declutter some items, arrange copies of emails in chronological order and so forth. Tessa was able to advise names and dates of photographs. And Tessa and Moira could be consulted before I decided to throw anything away. It is now sorted and ready to go to the library when it should open and I should be allowed to travel beyond thirty kilometres.

before: a mess



after: a place for everything and everything in its place



Wool

One of Tessa's main items for sorting was her wool collection and also the materials Debra Schrader had left. She is very pleased with her newly acquired set of drawers on wheels with a drawer for each colour category. The next step will be to produce a catalogue of the wools we have so that we can know if we already have the colour you need.



Kits and a new embroiderer.

Tessa and I both have collections of kits which we are offering for sale. We are adding these to the Items for Sale section of the web page. New Kits are being prepared. Kits are a good way for new people to get involved in the project and were used a lot in the beginning when we didn't have panels to stitch. Just this month we have had interest from Young Friend, Lucy Stevin of TRM. She has been sent a kit and is beginning her embroidery involvement. We are so delighted to have a new Young Friend involved.



Kits are available for purchase, made up to order. Keep an eye on the web page as new kits become available.

<https://www.quakersaustralia.info/Stitches/cards-and-book>

The Greening of Broken Hill - Bert and Margaret Morris

In looking over the archives I realised that this panel has been one of the earliest to be dreamed up. So far two people have had a go at creating a design. In 2018 when Rowe Morrow saw the proposed design at Yearly Meeting she said it wouldn't do. It didn't tell the story adequately. She said she would have a go at another design. However Rowe Morrow is a very busy woman, travelling to dangerous places like Afghanistan and Iraq and teaching permaculture. It is no surprise that she hadn't got to it. In the meantime Beth Harcourt in WA, had offered to design panels so we got the two of them together and are in hopeful expectation that a panel will result, with Rowe's knowledge of this remarkable couple and with Beth's artistic talent. Both of them are confined to home so this seems like perfect timing. We hope so!



Continue stitching

Moira is making great progress on the *Kiama Recognised Meeting* panel. Every week we see it grow as we meet to stitch together on Thursday afternoons.



And *Cherish Our Place* is coming along in leaps and bounds. I have almost finished making a practice piece of the Sassafras leaves and have stitched them into the panel, feeling a lot more confident after doing the practice.



It would be great to see pictures of other panels in progress: North Adelaide Meeting House? Silver Wattle? Ballarat? Kelvin Grove? Friends School?