

# Friends in Stitches

The Australian Quaker Narrative Embroidery

September 18, Newsletter

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



*2016 Sally meets the SA FIS. Get in the picture in 2018.*

## Meeting for Stitching November 23rd - 27th. Adelaide Hills.

We will be gathering at Robin Sinclair's place in the beautiful hills in November, arriving on the Thursday the 22nd and leaving on Tuesday the 28th. Between those dates we will be inspired and learn from the very successful South Australian Friends in Stitches. They have been responsible for at least five completed panels. They held a very successful exhibition in 2017. We are hoping that Friends who could not join us at

Silver Wattle in April or at Yearly Meeting in July may be able to join us for this gathering.

Please put it into your diary and book fares now! I will be coming across on the Spirit of Tasmania and driving from Melbourne and there may be room in the car.

Best wishes

Sally

## Further developments on Albert Morris

Hello Tessa,

Do you think you could please do something for me. Could you go to the boxes you took away from here, and marked on it is a list of their contents. One of them holds the panel I was embroidering. It is easy to recognise as I made comments about the "boy scout" embroidery on it. Do you think you could please get it out and post it to me. Even though it will not have all the additional bits and pieces I will, I believe, be able to pick it up from there and carry it forward. If I cannot actually embroider it I should be able to create a second or new cartoon for it.

Could you also tell me about Ellan's wanting to be involved with its creation. I had the feeling that she expected to take it home and embroider it. However the panel design really doesn't have enough involvement or knowledge in it and I don't think it should go forward. You will only get disgruntled comments if you let it be embroidered as so much of the Morris's story has been left out. Reading through Rowe's comments she considers that Bert Morris is possibly the most important Australian Quaker to have lived. If that is so it is really important that we make sure that as much as possible of their story be told on the panel.

Cathy

Dear Cathy,

Yes – I have found that box and the panel and am AMAZED – WHY WHY was it rejected? Wilma's work along the bottom is beautiful and so is the rest of the panel – a few additions and we have another completed panel!!!! At least you now know which additions are vital!! But do remember Cathy that you cannot please all of the people all of the time. I think it should be finished and put to bed. And I can't think of a better person than you to do it – you have been involved from it's conception in ?2007??

Ellan is very easy going – she is getting the Ballarat panel and starting embroidery on that. Deborah and I have decided we will not do it – we have good intentions but never carry them out. I have enough on my plate at the moment.

I can't see why one Quaker story is more important than another. I am also bemused by his name – Charles Stevenson KNEW him (when he was considerably older of course) and he was never called Bertie or Bert – always Albert.

Now I will go and pack the Morris panel up and post it to you.

One last thing –that big bag of beautiful orangey wool – what is it where did it come from and can we use it? I could advertise it in the Newsletter and also at our next workshop in SA in November.



## From Elizabeth Kwan about the book

Bless you, Tessa, for Creating *Australian Quaker Narrative Embroidery*. It's a wonderful achievement! So many have had a hand in its creation, I know, involving the research, design, stitching and packaging of each panel. But then as well, there was the writing about the project, and arranging the panels and texts for the book, the proof reading and printing and production of the book, in which Sally and Jill were also involved.

I'm sure the book will encourage all of those involved and yet to be involved in the project, as well as informing other Friends.

The pixilation of some 6 images in the book was most unfortunate, but I guess it served to make the others seem so bright and clear – and to reinforce the need to check the first sample copy next time.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Kwan

PS

I know you wrote in the July 2018 *Friends in Stitches*, 'We are quite convinced there are still some mistakes – but if you find them, please don't tell us – we couldn't bear it!!'

But I hope you will encourage readers to let you know of typos and other corrections, because the next edition will benefit from getting them right. For example, Kendall (page 5) or Kendal (correct, p. 9).

## 2019 Exhibitions

In 2019 Yearly Meeting will be in Tasmania so I had the bright idea of approaching the local Devonport Art Gallery to see if I could arrange an exhibition of all the panels which will be in Tasmania at that time. My plan was to hold it either before or after the panels are exhibited in Hobart at Friends School. The curator of exhibitions was polite but unfortunately all the exhibitions for 2019 are already locked in. However I decided to make an appointment to see the curator and see if I could organise something for future years.

When I arrived at the Gallery, the curator had forgotten about the appointment but luckily she was there. I must have looked like a little old country woman of no great importance. That was how I felt until I unpacked the QSA panel and the Sydney Parkinson panel. I also had the two articles from *Inspirations Magazine*.

As soon as the curator saw them her eyes lit up and she said; 'just a moment, I have to get the director.' Two other women appeared from the back office and they all went 'ooh' and 'ahh' 'how exciting'. They appreciated the way the panels were linked into one work by the design, by the lettering font and colour. They asked me a lot of questions about the project. One of the women started talking about holding stitching

workshops for children concurrently with the exhibition.

Given that there cannot be an exhibition in Devonport in 2019, I wonder if there is anyone in Tasmania who feels led to take on facilitating an exhibition in their town. Once people see the panels, especially if they know anything about embroidery, they quickly become enthusiastic - or they did in Devonport anyway. It would be wonderful outreach for a small meeting.

Please let me know if you are interested in making this happen. I have two panels here until November and expect to have some different ones to bring back from Adelaide. It would be a matter of making an appointment with a suitable art venue, taking the panels to show them and seeing if they are interested in locking in a date in winter 2019.

Sally

