

# Q Friends in Stitches

The Australian Quaker Narrative Embroidery  
Australian Quaker History in Crewel Embroidery

Australian Quaker Narrative Embroidery  
Newsletter August 2020

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Here is Tessa doing Zoom and her stitching at Yearly Meeting. She is working on the *350 Years Exhibition* panel which was almost finished by WA FIS.

The big Australian Quaker event last month was of course Yearly Meeting. And what a Meeting it was! To quote the Epistle :  
*Australian Friends gathered in Spirit this July mid-Winter, called to walk*

*unfamiliar paths with an open heart, courage and curiosity, in our first experiment with an online Yearly Meeting. Presenting novel opportunities in this time of novel coronavirus, we gathered across the country and around the world, in kitchens, lounge rooms, studies, dining rooms, meeting houses and outside. Pamela Leach said to me, about AYM 2020, 'I can't wait to see the panel' and that got me thinking!*

## Australia Yearly Meeting 2020



May we gather in whatever ways are possible to hold all in the  
Light as our lives slow and boundaries shrink.

Above is a rough draft of a new panel to commemorate this great experiment. It will follow the usual FIS design principles. The plan now is to get this drawn up on the calico and attached to the wool and then to take it - or send it - around to all the RMs, offering Friends the opportunity to stitch themselves or their Friends into one of the Zoom boxes. The quote at the bottom, which I think is so appropriate, is from the Queensland RM Report to Yearly Meeting. I know that usually we do historical panels and do not address contemporary events but I feel this is so momentous that it should be immediately recognised and honoured. Also it gives us all a chance to re-invigorate our project and invites many Friends to become involved in a small stitching challenge. I look forward to a wide variety of artistic styles.

## Exhibitions

Jacque Shultz, the Curator, came to one of our Thursday Zoom Meeting for Stitching sessions to discuss the state of play re exhibitions. The 2020 exhibition planned for the Brisbane Library is now postponed until 2021. The panels are still packed up and stored in the Library and we hope they can stay there as they are well protected there. Tessa has written to the library to check they are ok with this. Meanwhile another exhibition planned for 2020 at Sacred Spaces Singleton, NSW, has been entirely cancelled as the exhibition space has closed down. We are very sad about that.

Don't forget: we meet every Thursday, 1.30 pm for two hours to stitch and chat.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87384920112>

## South Australian Report

Robin Sinclair writes:

*We have now finished the Silver Wattle panel. I have just mounted it and am taking it to Julie Webb next Thursday so she can take the official photograph and make some cards. We will send the image as soon as we have it, along with some comments on the panel design.*

*The Meeting House panel is about three quarters done and should be finished in a few weeks.*

We look forward to featuring these photographs of Silver Wattle and the North Adelaide Meeting House in our September Newsletter!

## Waratahs

I am very excited about *Cherish Our Place*. I used to regard this as a 'life's work' and thought I would eke out my days stitching it but now, quite suddenly, I can see that it will be finished maybe by the end of the year. Zooming has been such a boon! I have now set up my bedroom, which is the best space for both privacy and internet connections, so that I can zoom and stitch away. All the wools are organised - somewhat - on the shelves below the shelf where the laptop sits.

In the last letter I discussed my problems with the Waratahs and published that beautiful drawing by Margaret Stone. Now I have made a practice piece of a Tasmanian Waratah. You will see that it is quite different from a mainland Australian Waratah, must simpler. One thing I learned, which I had never noticed before, although I have seen these plants countless times and photographed them as

well, is that the leaves are different colours on the front and the back. I had an idea that the plants look greyish when seen from a distance but that is because the backs of the leaves are grey-green. The fronts of the leaves are dark green.



Here is my Zoom set up, my Waratah sketches and my practice piece. All set now to move on to the bottom half of the panel. Stay tuned!

The Devonport Embroiderers Guild has started meeting again. We have a small on-going exhibition in a glass cabinet outside the Council Chambers. The new exhibition is on the theme 'Scenes' and I was finally able to make a contribution to the exhibition with my practice piece *takayna*. This is the palawa word for the Tarkine, the unprotected northwest

Tasmanian wilderness area which Backhouse encountered in 1831. It is threatened by logging and mining. I love it that this political work is now on display outside the very conservative Devonport Council offices.



## Bookmarks from Kendal.

Tessa has this great collection of bookmarks from Kendal and would be happy to send them to you for a donation to Friends in Stitches and the postage.

We also have our wools catalogued and if you need a particular colour, check with us to see if we have it before you go out and buy new wool.

Our prayers go out to Victorian Friends. May they be nourished by this new time of lock down. May they be safe and stay healthy.

We are thinking of you and send love.

Please send photos and stories to me for the September edition of the FIS Newsletter.

Sally

