

Friends in Stitches

The Australian Quaker Narrative Embroidery

July, 2019. Newsletter
CStitches@quakersaustralia.info

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

Dear Friends, way has not opened for this newsletter and thus it is late. I do not apologise.

This month we are readying for Yearly Meeting in Hobart. One of the most exciting moments will be the launch of the 2nd edition of the Friends in Stitches book. I congratulate Tessa and Barney and the Publications Committee for this achievement. My copy has been lost in the post to Forth and this has held up the newsletter. Every day I eagerly approached the post box to find another bill or, on a good day, a letter from my aunt. It was 'in transit' on June 24 but now it says the 'tracking number' doesn't exist.

Here is Tessa enjoying her work. Thank you Sharee Harper for the photo.



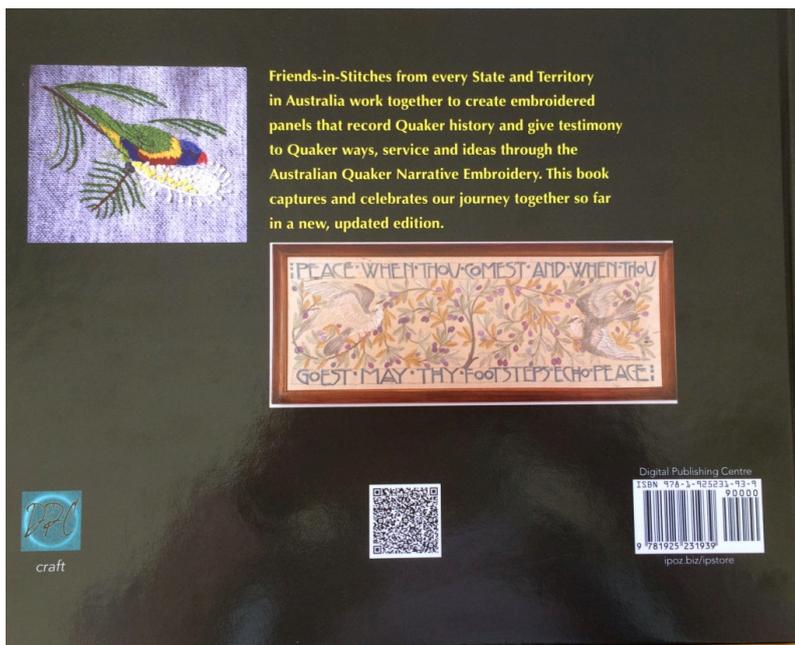
Tessa has sent me some photographs of her favourite pages:

The cover





Below, the back cover:



Tessa says:

Well, Friend stitchers, the second edition of the book is out and this time I really do think it is perfect!!! It cannot be compared with last year's. It is 162 pages with a lot more history and "how to" included. Working with Barney Reynolds was fascinating. We'd be chatting and he'd say "But Tessa, that's a piece of history that just has to go into the book. Write about it!!" It has heaps more pictures in too and if you took part in a workshop and had a photo taken, chances are you're in it!!

I decided to go with hard back only this time – it looked SO much better in hard back last year. Unfortunately, it has, of course come out much more expensive – We are making no profit at all and it will be \$60 per copy. If you bought a soft back

last year (the ones with the pixelated pictures) you are very welcome to a copy of the new book for \$30. We do not want the first edition back – carrying that to Yearly Meeting to be pulped would be ludicrous. We know who bought them as we issued individual receipts last year and will do the same again this year. We do not feel it is necessary to offer this discount to those of you who bought the hard back as last year's hard back copy had no pixelation's.

It cannot be stressed how much we owe to both Jill Parris for all the hard work she put into 2018 edition – indeed without Jill's offer, I don't think there would've been a book. And it cannot be stressed how much Barney Reynolds has put into this 2019 edition. I am very proud of it and he should be too.

To order your copy, if you are not going to YM, please email Tessa.

Paxtons Farm: researching a possible new panel for Queensland

from Margaret Van Breemen, via Mary Grbavac

Paxton Farm was settled on about 100 acres of land at Slack's Creek – now known as Springwood. It was developed as a farm by several families in the 1940s. Each family owned their own patch, but all worked cooperatively together, and during the Second World War several conscientious objectors came to work with them. The Souwer, Brown, Coldrake and Hoey families, were some of the original pioneers in establishing Paxton as a place of peace and harmony, and it was regarded as a Quaker settlement, though not all members were Quakers.

My parents (Barbara Critchley and Dick Souwer) and my aunt and uncle (Sylvia Souwer and Laurie Brown) lived there when they were married in a Quaker double-wedding. In some of my grandmother's writings about Paxton, she noted that Les Hoey, Gordon Clair and Gordon Heron were some of the earliest conscientious objectors who joined them on the Farm. Dr William J Metcalf, Adjunct Lecturer, Griffith University, Honorary Associate Professor, University of Queensland, is the author of 'Friends Farm: Australia's First Quaker Commune', which was published in the Journal of Religious History in March 2018. I believe he accessed Quaker archives via NSW Quakers at the time. He is keen to record the history of Paxton Farm, and submit it to the Queensland History Journal for publication. I have been working with him and we are currently in the process of collating newspaper articles, photographs and other writings to establish a timeline of Paxton.

Kay Faulkner

We are indebted to Barbara Huntington for informing us of the untimely death of Kay Faulkner and forwarding the June Fibre Forum e-bulletin, which was dedicated to Kay.

Cathy Davies explained on page 10 of the first edition of *Friends in Stitches* that Kay was the Brisbane-based master weaver recommended to us who wove the 70 metres of woollen fabric, using Australian wool, the basis of our work. She fitted it into a 'frantic schedule of lectures throughout the world.' The weaving was completed in 2008 ready for Sydney Parkison's panel it to begin.

Here are some holiday snaps of the Community Arts Embroidery project at the Jane Austen Museum in Chawton, UK.

