



Friends in Stitches Newsletter: March 2018

Door Knocking in Port Sorell

Sally O'Wheel.

You may have noticed that the Friends in Stitches newsletter is late.

The reason for that is that I have been involved in the Tasmanian State Election, (March 3rd), standing as a Greens candidate in Braddon and also employed as the election organiser for my electorate. I have been under the pump.

But I do have an Friends in Stitches story to tell.

On the 28th of Feb, at the *bitter* end of the campaign, I was door knocking in Port Sorell. It is a seaside development just outside our electorate in the neighbouring electorate of Lyons. a marginal seat, on a knife edge. Our Devonport team had agreed to help out across the border.

My patch was along the Hawley Beach Esplanade, a more picturesque spot, to my right, would be hard to imagine. It was once a village of holiday shacks but in recent years huge McMansions have been built, on my left, so it is an interesting mix of vulgarity, charm and seaside paradise.

At one house a woman came to the door who I immediately recognised. When I saw her name on my walk list, I recognised that too. She was a Greens supporter who I had tried to recruit to volunteer for us in the 2014 election.

I remembered that she had been unable to volunteer because all her efforts were extended on establishing a University of the Third Age in Port Sorell. But we had a feeling that we knew

each other from somewhere else as well. Then we remembered that we had met in the context of the Devonport Embroidery Guild. Naturally I started to talk to her about the Quaker tapestry.

Well, she said, I've just been reading all about it in the recent edition of *Inspirations*. Funny you should call!

By the time I left that door, we had agreed that I would be a guest speaker at a meeting of her Craft Group at the Port Sorell U3A.

Beautiful French knots in the Ashby Family panel



Discoveries at Friends Eastern Meeting

Tessa Spratt

Each month, Friends Eastern Meeting arranges "Discoveries" a time when we either get someone from outside our Meeting or use the resources inside to learn something new. This month we used resources within and because I had all the panels at my house, I lugged all 16 down there and gave a presentation of each panel, with a few words about how it started, a funny story attached to the panel or something relevant to this group. It was extremely well received and I got plenty of help unpacking and repacking which is becoming a bigger problem now we have 16 panels – 8 in each suitcase. I started putting the "oldest" eight around the room, which gave those Friends who couldn't stay a chance to at least look at them. The six people who stayed were so enthusiastic it made up for there not being more of us – only one of those 6 had seen the Tapestries before **and** we definitely now have another few people who understand we are not just a group of little old ladies embroidering – our project in fact plays a

vital role in outreach – and also in-reach. At every presentation, people say – what a pity they can't be permanently on display somewhere – we'll get there eventually fellow stitchers!!! I did tell them that Jacque Schultze and Nancy Tingey have been appointed by Australia Yearly Meeting to take exhibitions forward but will be unable to take up their positions until the middle of this year.

Inspirations -the world's most beautiful needlework magazine #97 features a double spread about the Australian Quaker Narrative Embroidery. It briefly tells how it began, inspired by the Kendal Quaker Tapestry and then goes into technical details about the wool, the design process, the stitches used. Robin Sinclair is quoted to say: 'We have enough ideas for one hundred panels but only enough base fabric for about seventy.'



Come to Silver Wattle Workshop: April 14th -19th

When Sally asked me to write an introduction to the Silver Wattle workshop coming up, I was very pleased, because so far we only have 5 of us going and we REALLY want and need more than that. How can I entuse you to come? For starters, we have halved the cost of staying at Silver Wattle, so this is a marvellous opportunity to grab a bargain. We did this to encourage more of you to attend – please consider it.

If I work hard, I might have a preview of THE BOOK with me. Jill Parris has been helping me – she has produced a book called “Open Doors” which is fabulous. If that is anything to go by, the book should be lovely. I would like some input into what people would like to see in THE BOOK. My vision is a picture of the panel on one page, with the “blurb” on the other and a few close ups of detail in the panel. I want a picture of the cartoon of all the other panels that are still in production –again with the story behind them. And finally, I want a description of how the project started and developed and instructions on how to create a

panel. And with some of the history – like our first attempt to mount them as per suggested when we visited The Power House Museum in Sydney. Each panel weighed 3 kgs. Now with experience we’ve got them down to 800grams each – which makes an enormous difference when you are taking them by air to the next Yearly Meeting – or Silver Wattle for that matter.

The panels will be on their way to Silver Wattle next week in the back of Jim Palmer and Helen Bayes’ car – what a happy accident when Helen came up to lunch, I happened to say what a problem it is getting to move them. Poor Helen – next thing she knew she had both cases in the back of her car as she and Jim are en route to Silver Wattle next week.

When the workshop is over, we are hoping someone who attends might want to take the panels back to their Regional Meeting – or even a few of them as I know Sally is hoping to take some – so perhaps they can be shared with another RM.

See you at Silver Wattle on April 14th

Silver Wattle Friends in Stitches, 2009

