

October, 2018. Newsletter.

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

Kevin worshipping

What a lovely email from **Yvonne Joyce**, inspired to action when she saw the *Sydney Parkinson* and the QSA panels on display outside the Hobart Meeting recently!

'I'm not sure if you would remember Cliff and I visiting Devonport Meeting earlier this year. I was struck by the image of Kevin sitting with a book on his knee and the mirror above his head reflecting the blue skies outside. The colours he was wearing, the reflected colours of the sky, his contemplative posture, a book on his knee really struck me as an image. Later he was telling us about how he had been of late trying to work out the nature of God. It all reminded me of a painting by Rembrandt called *Philosopher in Meditation*. Kevin's picture though includes motorbike boots

and a motorbike helmet - markers of a contemporary philosopher, and I guess for me too, indicative of the inclusive and liberal ways of the Quakers.

Anyway, I later did a rough sketch of the image from memory, with no real idea what I'd do with it, if anything. The image 'haunts' me and I keep referring back to it. The idea came to me during Meeting on Sunday that perhaps I could work it up into a design for a tapestry - the image of Kevin and the words 'Contemplating God' and 'Kevin, Devonport Meeting 2018'.

I have no idea if this would make a suitable tapestry, and have no idea if Kevin would approve. I don't yet have something I could send, and Cliff and I are heading off tomorrow to Victoria, on the way to Perth for Meeting for Learning, so I wouldn't be able to send you anything for a couple of weeks.'



Another interesting email - came from Canada from Shirley Ann Brown, professor of Art History at York University Toronto.

She wants to purchase a copy of our book, as she says:

' I am writing up a report on Bayeux Tapestry spinoffs for the Bayeux Tapestry Museum in Bayeux.'

Post cards available



This post card, using Julie Webb's photo, is available for \$1.00 a card. I have made 50 cards and already sold 20 to Launceston Worshipping Group. If I get enough orders, I will do another run, or perhaps feature another panel. Any requests?

I also attempted a 2019 calendar. It had a few problems so I am going to have another go, having learned from my mistakes. If you would like to order a calendar or a few, please contact me at CStitches@quakersaustralia.info. At this stage I am pricing them at \$25 each. They will be 21 x 28 cm. They will include Australian Quaker dates, so please let me know if you have any for 2019 which you would like included.

The Way Forward for the Book by Sally O'Wheel

There have been a lot of emails flying back and forth with discussions about the next steps for the book.

First of all, I think it is important to say that if you got a dodgy copy of the soft back at Yearly Meeting and you would like a refund, please do not hesitate to ask. You are entitled to it. If you do not request a refund, we appreciate your donation to the project.

We have consulted legal advice regarding having the company re-print the soft copy

but we cannot proceed with that as the mistake was ours, a corrupted file having been submitted.

The Publications Committee, ((Margaret Bywater, Jim Palmer, Jenny Stock and Jude Pembleton) has taken on the task of reprinting the book. Jude Pembleton has written to a range of Friends interested in Publications and others involved in Friends in Stitches, asking for thoughts.

She suggests the following

- extensive revision of layout and editing.
- Possible re-writing of the texts to bring more consistency
- some photos reshot to create better more consistent quality

Some people have remarked that they don't think the unfinished panels should be included.

Others have counselled leaving the whole idea to rest for a few years.

This has been a very difficult time, especially for Tessa who was so enthusiastic and worked so tirelessly to get it out in time for Yearly Meeting this year.

I would be sorry to see the 'Panels in Progress' not included. The Embroidery project will not be 'finished' for a very long time, perhaps not in our lifetimes! Some panels take ten years to complete and some even longer, so they should all be represented in the book. It is interesting to see how designs alter from their earliest idea to their completion. It is worth recording the journey as well as the finished product.

I would be cautious about making the writing *too* consistent. It is one of the features of the project that each panel is designed and produced by different Friends, reflected in their individual style. Reading the writing about each panel is like reading a collection of short stories, not a single narrative. However, I do think it could be edited so that it is not repetitive.

The project is now over ten years old. It is time that the work be recorded. it should not be postponed any longer. The publication of the book, however faulty, catapults us into a better edition. Let's do this! But less haste, more speed.

The question remains about what should happen to the faulty books. Should they continue to be sold? Some stitchers in the South Australian Stitchers Group have even recommended that they be destroyed so that they are not in circulation, bringing the Quaker Narrative Embroidery project into disrepute, as the publication does not reflect the quality work of the designers, the stitchers or the photographers.

This is a difficult question and all of us will have different responses.

I have had a lot of reflection about my own role in producing the book. Through the process, I could see how stressed Tessa was and how the urge to do it within the time available was negatively impacting on her and on the book project. Although I did gently suggest that we could let it carry over until after YM 18, I did not make this suggestion as forcefully as I might have had I known what I know now. I was the junior partner and saw my role as chiefly supporting Tessa with whatever she wanted to do. With hindsight, I realise that I did not listen to my Inner Light. I was weak and compliant, under valuing my own insight. In fact, I let Tessa down.

So the book project has been a big growing up for me. I am coming into my own as a co-convenor and I am sorry that we had to go through this expensive and painful process.

Please give us your ideas, your thoughts, your feelings, as we find our way through. Hold us all in the Light and don't hide your own under a bushel!



Meeting for Stitching in Adelaide

23rd -27th November - Stirling, Adelaide Hills

We do hope to get a few stitchers from around the country to gather at Robin Sinclair's place at the end of November. We will be hosted by the South Australian Friends in Stitches Group, billeting Friends in their homes.

A car will be driving from Melbourne on the 22nd. Passengers welcome, to share fuel costs and company. Please email me if you want to come with me CStitches@quakersaustralia.info

Jacque Shultz is coming, to get her brief on organising exhibitions.

If you are thinking of coming please email so we have an idea of numbers.

The only cost is getting there and feeding yourselves.

CStitches@quakersaustralia.info



A trip to the Wittunga Botanic Garden and other historic Adelaide Quaker sites and certainly attendance at Meeting for Worship at either of the Adelaide Meetings will be on the cards.