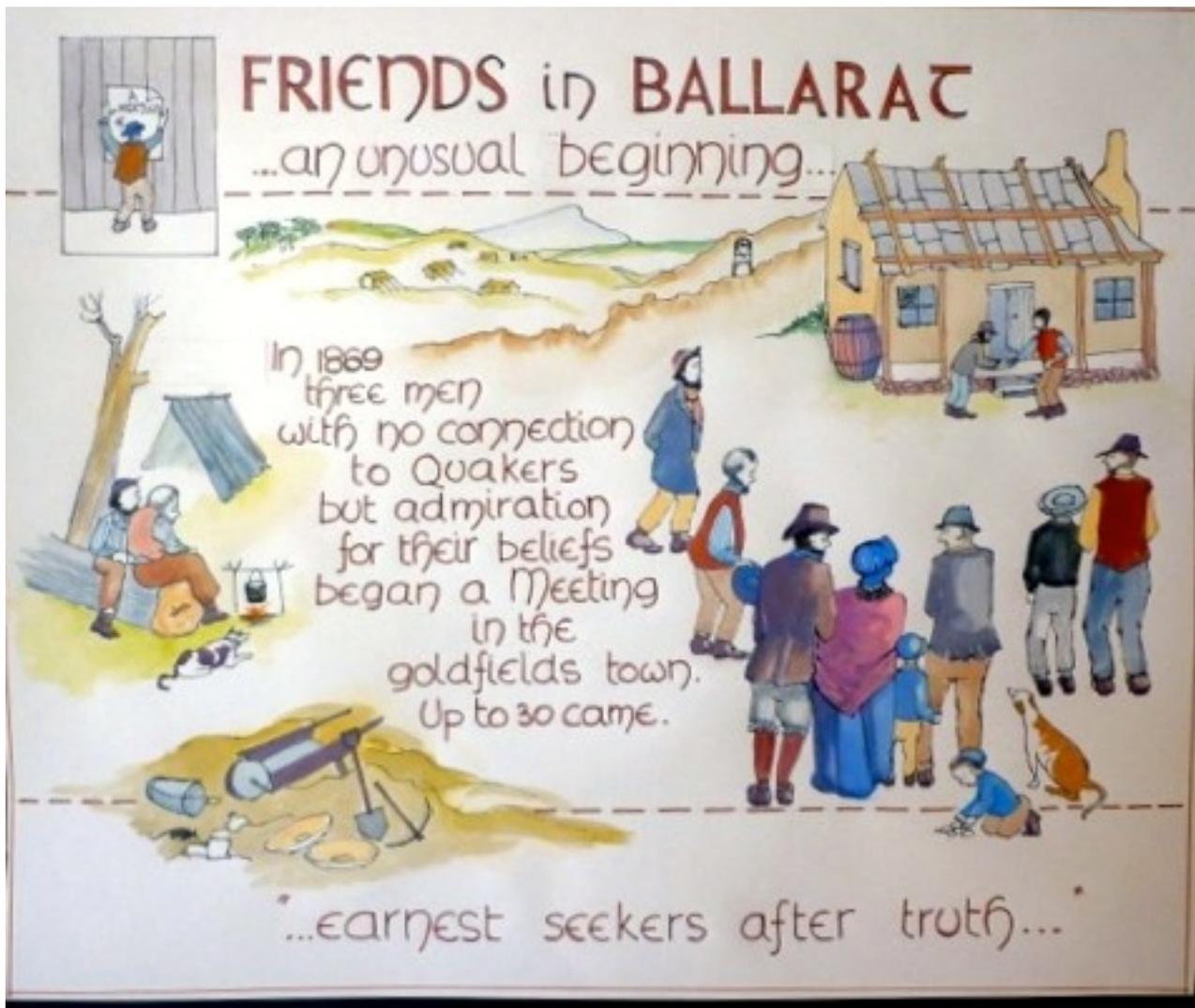


Here is the completed text and design in colour for the new Ballarat panel.



In 1867 three men who were not Friends but who admired their beliefs and practices, decided to start a Meeting in Ballarat. Of the three, one kept a junk shop and sold iron ware and miners' tools. One was a sawmill engine driver, of no education, but who had been apprenticed as a seaman to a

Friend in England, and one was a cooper by trade. They met first in a hired room in the Temperance Hall, where "some of the the outward conditions were discordant, or at least disturbing; a large church adjoined and the frequent roaring of a noisy organ tended to distract..." and there were also

noises from the street outside. After two years another place was found. It was quieter but somewhat dilapidated, "on the eve of complete ruin, standing in an obscure position near the edge of a vast hollow covered with the melancholy debris of gold-grubbing operations. In one part of the battered interior the spider reigneth supreme, and still more objectionable insects..."

It is this second building that I've chosen to try to depict in the panel. It might well have been more dilapidated than I've shown it, but I did try to get one spider web in, in one of the windows.

Robin Sinclair

### **The new Australian Quaker Website will include a link to Friends in Stitches. It will read thus:**

#### **Australian Quaker Narrative Embroidery Committee (Friends in Stitches)**

**This Committee oversees the creation, care and exhibition of embroidered panels made by Australian Friends, which depict the history of Australian Quakers.**

Inspired by the Kendal Panels created by British Friends, these panels are faithful to the Kendal panel-making techniques and materials.

Initially rising out of a concern in 2005 from Friends from Blue Mountains Local Meeting who had visited the UK and seen the British Quaker Tapestry panels. In 2006 NSWRM took up this concern and appointed local Friends to carry the project forward.

In 2007, director of the British Quaker Tapestry, Bridget Guest and her husband visited NSW for several weeks running two week-long workshops, one in the Blue Mountains and the other in Devonshire St. near Central Station in Sydney. They demonstrated and explained the techniques and concepts behind the Quaker panels, covering not only the stitches but also some of the ideas needed behind the designs. They taught the Quaker stitch – a stitch specifically designed for this project by Anne

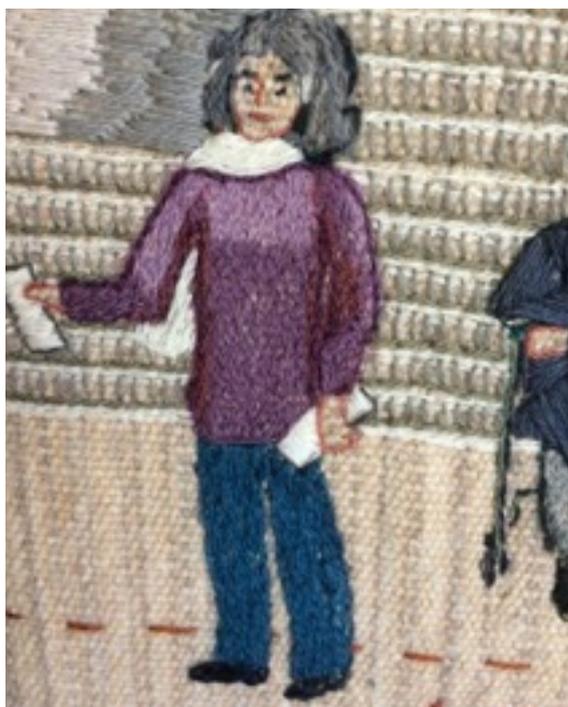
Wynn-Wilson, founder of the Quaker Tapestry. Both the Quaker Tapestry in the UK and the local panels' design is based on the layout of the famous Bayeux Tapestry.

In 2007 AYM moved to support the fledgling group and put forward the large sum of \$7500 for the purchase of 70 metres of woollen backing material (Australian wool) on which to embroider.

The first panel begun in 2008, designed and embroidered by Cathy Davies (NSWRM), shows the arrival of the first Quaker, Sydney Parkinson into Australia on the Endeavour with Banks and Cook and took four years to complete.

17 panels have been completed to date, with another 14 in various stages of design by local meetings. The AQNE Committee co-convenors travel to different Regional Meetings to run workshops to teach correct stitching techniques to interested Friends, as well as provide support for new designs.

The panels travel for exhibition to various states and territories for display at local meetings and other venues, providing a vehicle for outreach to the wider community about Australian Friends.



Detail from the Vigil

## Inspirations

The next issue of the international embroidery magazine, *Inspirations*, will feature an article about our narrative embroidery. The article has been written by Ansie van der Walt.

It starts out like this:

'In issue 96 of *Inspirations* we featured an article on the Quaker Tapestry in England. On the other side of the world, Australian members of the Society of Friends are creating their own embroidered narrative and some of the panels were recently on display in Adelaide. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about this inspiring work in progress.'

Issue #97 will come to our news agencies and embroidery shops in February, 2018. Find out more about the magazine at <https://www.inspirationismagazine.com.au/>



Photo contributed by Judy Wollan, Queensland FiS.

***I'm asked whether work with one's hands is a form of prayer. It depends on what it meant by prayer. Pure prayer, I would say no, but the fact I am being my entirely myself, with all of my capacities activated to do what I am doing - I don't know if its prayer, but I am completely and humanely committed and there is a certain plenitude of the person. One can hope that the spirit also is there.'* Sister Sylvie Maubon, artisan, Monastero di Boso Community ('Parabola' Winter 2015-16)**

Quote contributed by Wilma

Or like and follow their Facebook page here.  
<https://www.facebook.com/CountryBumpkin.Publications>

## Broken Hill

Broken Hill: In the last issue we mentioned the Broken Hill panel and hoped that the Friends who are stitching it could send us a picture of work in progress. Thank you Ruth Haig for sending photos of the memorial in Broken Hill to Albert Morris, taken on her way home from Yearly Meeting. I have learned that while some stitching has been started on this panel, it is thought that the design doesn't adequately tell the complex story. So it has all been packed off by Cathy to Robin who is holding all the ideas in the light as she walks the Adelaide hills. We await her next artistic ministry.

## Adelaide Exhibition.

The exhibition of the panels in Adelaide will be between Thursday 26th of October and Sunday the 29th. Open form 10.00am to 4:00 pm on each day. It is at the North Adelaide Meeting house, behind St Peters Cathedral.