



Friends in Stitches newsletter: January, 2018



*Unknown seeker looking at the panels*

## Melbourne Open Day and other things

by Tessa Spratt

Jill Parris - and other Friends too, put a huge amount of work into Melbourne Meeting's Open Doors day, introducing the new Victorian Centre to the Community. In many ways it was a huge success, but marred by a storm so bad, the Premier, Dan Andrews advised people to stay home unless their journey was truly necessary. Naturally, this put a lot of people off from coming, but still many did brave the weather. Clemmie Overall managed to get hold of some music stands from her ukulele group as these make a perfect vehicle for showing the panels. I was so thrilled by them, I decided we needed to buy our own and did a lot of research and consulted others and everyone said – go ahead, buy them. The stands that are sturdy enough to take the 800 grams of panel weigh 3kgs. I thought of going up to Yearly Meeting with 16 of these - wonderful idea – add 50 kgs to my luggage, together with 2 new oversize suitcases and decided it was not such a good idea after all, so I spent a few dollars on some Command hooks which stick on a wall and come off

again very easily – so I am assured. And weigh practically nothing.

The day showcased a lot of other things besides the Tapestries, but quite a number of people came and admired them and I used the time to put the Ballarat panel onto the stand. I now have one embroidery frame left, but no stands and Mark Parritt from the Men's Shed who made the others went home with the existing stand and has already copied it. Margaret Bywater, from Cambodia is coming over in March and will probably take that back with her with the Elinor Robey Peace Panel to embroider.



*Tessa and Clemmie*

## Trials and tribulations

by Sally O'Wheel

Before Christmas I was driven mad trying to tack the calico to the wool for the Elinor Robey Peace panel. I understood that Margaret Bywater would be coming to Tasmania at Christmas time and would want it ready to take home to Cambodia with her.

My first error was not getting the drawing centered properly on the calico. It isn't in the middle. Then it was incredibly hard to get the tacking stitches and the lines on the calico and on the wool to match up. I am not very good at this kind of detail. However I persisted, holding Margaret and Linor Robey in my thoughts and in my heart.

Then, just when I thought I had cracked it, I received an email from Margaret saying she wouldn't be able to be in Tassie until March. So I was able to drop it and get on with icing the Christmas cake.

My other FiS task lately has been working on creating our web page as part of the new Australian Quaker webpage which is due to go 'live' in the middle of January. I attended a 'Zoom' tutorial - an online session with Roger Sawkins and about 4 other Australian Friends who are responsible for different AYM committees. We learned the basics and then were let go to try it out. So far I have created a home page and some menu links to completed panels and panels in progress. I have quite a lot to learn about editing the size and dimensions of the photos so that they fit properly on the Web page.

There was a bit of a hitch when one day I managed to delete the whole page from the AYM Committees link. Luckily I could still find my page by going through a link to a 'News' item which I had created and which appeared on the main page. Roger has kindly fixed my mistake but I had to re-create my home page.

By the time the next FiS newsletter comes out you should be able to see it. Wishing all Friends in Stitches a very Happy New Year.

Sally



## Silver Wattle Gathering

This is advance warning that Friends in Stitches will be gathered at Silver Wattle between 14th to 19th April. We are currently negotiating a price but we encourage Friends to pencil in these dates. The Australian Narrative Embroidery Committee has money to spend and we hope you will ask for financial support to join this event. We know that the cost is a big disincentive so we hope that by making finance available you will be encouraged to consider coming. There is nothing so inspiring and uplifting as Meeting for Stitching at Silver Wattle. Please email me or Tessa an expression of interest.

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## Quaker cross-stitch collection

The *Inspirations* magazine connection has led me to other mainstream embroidery Facebook pages. In particular I liked and followed the Embroiderers Guild of Victoria. I did think it was odd that they had exclusively wintery Christmas patterns on their site. Then I followed it up a bit further and learned that it is actually Victoria, Canada, not Victoria, Australia! So that explained it. In all that I found a reference to 'Traditional Quaker' embroidery patterns. The woman who has designed these cross-stitch patterns is French. I don't know if she has any Quaker connections but she has a whole series called 'Quaker' which you can buy on line.

[https://www.jardinprive.com/catalogue\\_collection.php?coll=1014](https://www.jardinprive.com/catalogue_collection.php?coll=1014)

