



Friends in Stitches

The Australian Quaker Narrative Embroidery
Australian Quaker History in Crewel Embroidery

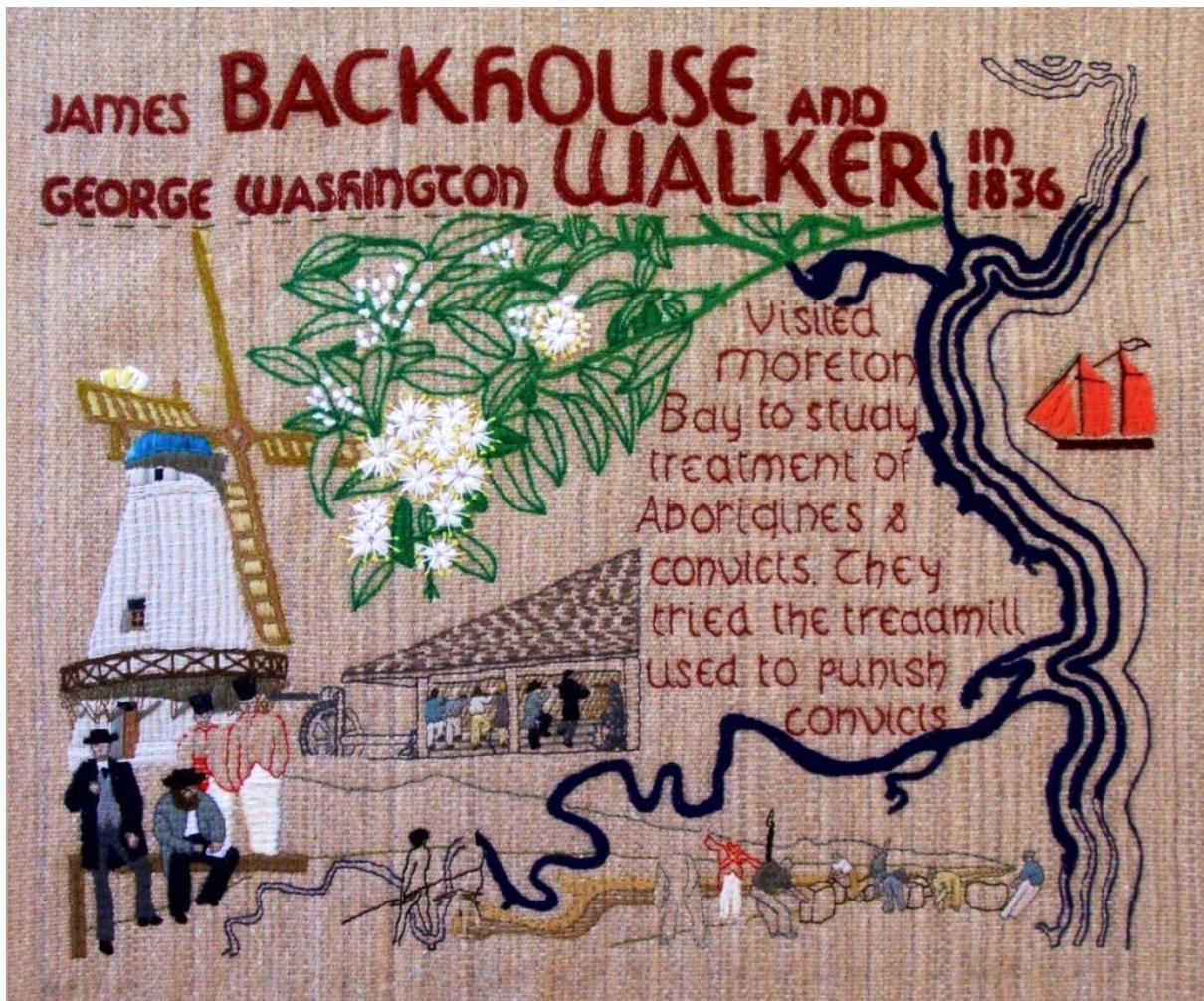
November, 2019.

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Brisbane News

from Valerie Joy.

In 2019, the Brisbane Lyceum Club members were fascinated by a description of the Scottish tapestry. We saw slides showing tapestries of 1,000 years of Scottish history. During discussion we moved onto tapestries in general, and someone mentioned the Kendall Tapestry and then someone mentioned they had heard of a similar project in Australia. Thus encouraged, I spoke with the Lyceum executive about bringing the Quaker Panels to Brisbane for what is known as the Annual Neita Bell Lecture. This takes place every April. At first they balked at the imagined expense of both the cost of cartage and also of insuring the panels. I think there was a background fear of proselytization - not specifically expressed, but I sensed an undercurrent.



After the 2019 Friends in Stitches book was released in July, I asked the President to read it and the Conveners of the Handcraft and Design Panel- which I think won them over.

Tessa Spratt was representing VRM at the Safe Quaker Communities Workshop in early October and also was staying with me. I arranged for Tessa to visit Lyceum and meet with the President and other relevant members over lunch. She explained her way of packing and sending the panels, which is not a great cost, and Lyceum agreed to pay \$50 towards this. Tessa explained that as the panels are unique, there is no possibility of insuring them. So, this removed the obstacles put up by Lyceum. I know they found Tessa an engaging personality, so that was helpful. We still have to resolve on how to display the panels at the Lyceum rooms. The lecture and display will be on 21 April.

At the same time, realising that the Friends in Stitches group in QRM has become moribund, I booked the Meeting House for Saturday 18 April, when both Tessa and Sally O'Wheel will lead a workshop on the Quaker stitch, the historical research involved, the art and agreement on the scenes we wish to capture on the 200 + years of European settlement of Australia.

As Tessa was leaving Brisbane, she asked thoughtfully- "It would be so good if we could also have an exhibition"?

So, putting on my thinking cap- I ruled out private art galleries, because one has to pay to exhibit and generally items are for sale. So I went first to the Qld State Library. I did not manage to speak with the Exhibitions Convener, but some days later I received an email, saying that all their exhibitions are arranged three years ahead of the date. I then spoke with Brisbane Museum Exhibitions- and was ready this time for the reply "we make our

arrangements 3 years ahead". I asked that they keep us in mind for 2022- or whenever.



Lastly I went to the Brisbane Square Library and spoke with an Assistant Exhibitions employee. She arranged for me to speak with the main worker, and I looked at the space on the second floor- which has a hanging rail and would easily accommodate the planned 20 panels. I negotiated dates. They like an exhibition to last a minimum of 1 month, and we

were able to find the dates between 9 March and 20 April as being possible. They will internally advertise the exhibition and also display flyers advertising the workshop on 18 April.

My hope and that of the FIS Friends is that the combination of the Library Exhibition, the Workshop and the Lyceum Lecture will revive FIS in Queensland. I am sure we have many more creative ideas to reproduce in future panels. A flyer is being developed to bring the attention of the general public- which we can send far and wide to likely embroidery groups/ or historians or...?

I am happy to be a contact person at this time.

Valerie Joy

Friends in Stitches goes to Mont de Lancey in Wandin

Tessa Spratt

Mont de Lancey is a Historic Homestead situated at 71 Wellington Road, Wandin, open Wed. - Sat 10am - 4.30pm.

Friend in Stitches are exhibiting our 20 panels there from Wednesday 6th. January until Saturday February 29th. 2020.

We are very excited about this next stage in our development. Tell your friends about this exhibition and come yourself - Mont de Lancey is a stunning experience in itself with a beautiful Gallery space. I had not found it myself until Megan Gibbons rang and asked for an exhibition. Megan's grandmother was the late Anne Baulch, a birthright Quaker some of us will remember.

If you need any more information or you would like to meet me there ring me on 97796274. I hope to make it up there several days to sit and do some stitching, adding, I hope, to the experience for viewers.

Christmas Cards and 2020 Calendar

Can you support our fundraising effort by purchasing our Christmas Cards and/or the 2020 Calendar? Orders taken now.



*Merry Christmas
Happy New Year*



Merry Christmas



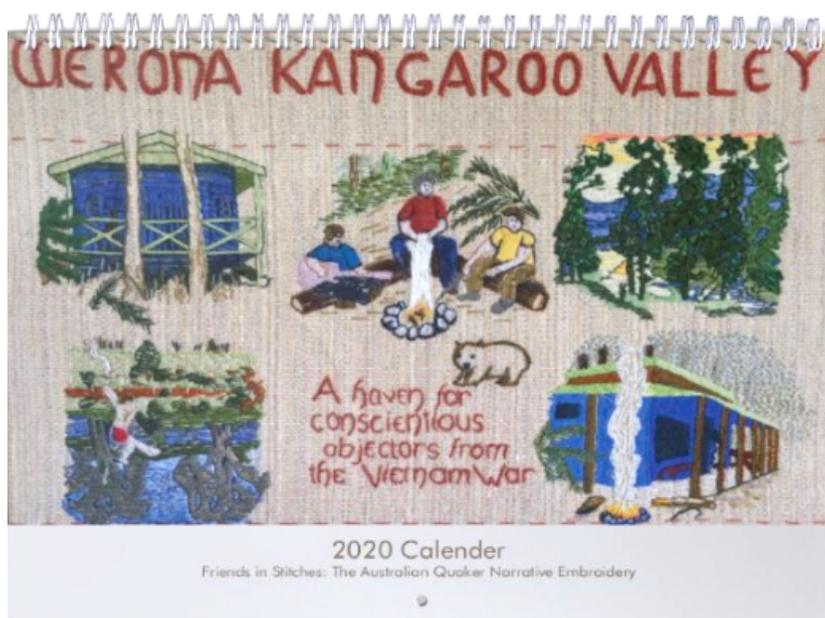
Order your cards and calendars from
CStitches@quakersaustralia.info.

Cards are \$3.50 each and come with an envelope.

Calendars are \$20. I have not put in a bulk order yet as I am waiting to get an idea of how many are needed and also waiting for a Sale to get them at the best price. But put in your order now and they will be sent as soon as they are printed.

When your items are posted, I will send you an email with the amount to pay - including the postage - and with the banking details.

Sally O'Wheel



VRM Weekend Gathering display.

The panels were on display at the VRM Weekend Gathering at Amberley last weekend. Although everyone had seen them previously, they continue to be appreciated. When something historical was referred to in a talk, someone leapt up and pointed it out on the relevant panel! Thank you to the many Friends who helped with hanging and taking down the panels, which is quite a job with 20 panels. They arrived from Tasmania on Friday at 1pm in time for my departure at 4.30pm, just in the nick of time.