

QUILTING MATTERS

JUNE 2024

Newsletter



MEETING: Sat 15 June . The doors will open at 9.30 am; the meeting will begin at 10 am.

Venue: Woodstock Centre, Stoke School Hall, Main Road, Stoke.

Speaker: Jeanette and Tressa, from the miniature club will chat about what they get up to in their group and have a "mini" show and tell.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available before the meeting.

We are asking you to bring:

- Your **hand sewing/stitching or knitting**. Tables will be set out for you to sit at.
- Your completed or nearly completed **projects** and any community quilts.
- **Raffle money** : \$2.00 for one ticket, 2 draws take place. Please purchase at the door.
- Any **library books** please.

JUNE HOSTS: Merryl Newton, Rosalie Johnson, Elizabeth Morris, Steph Murch, Lyn McCullough, and Kim MacDonald



Please be there by 9.30 am to put out the chairs and tables, help set up the library and kitchen, assist at the sign in table, and welcome new members and visitors. Put out tea, coffee, milk, and biscuits. Use the new visitors badges, direct any new members to **Eileen Gordon** who will take care of them. Help with clean up at the end. Consult the members' list if you need to find a replacement, or send me an email.

NB. People often contact me to say they are not able to help with the hosting at a meeting. so we are usually at least two people short. If you arrive early and feel you could help us out in some way please approach one of the committee members.



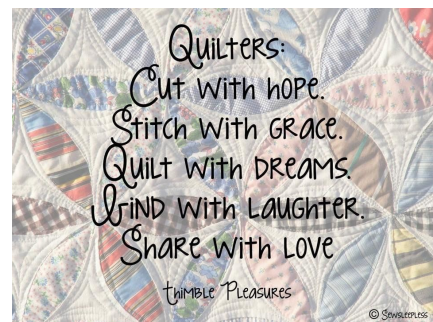
Look at these beautiful quilting designs.

But what are they really?

Answer at the end of the newsletter.



President's words



Calendar 2024

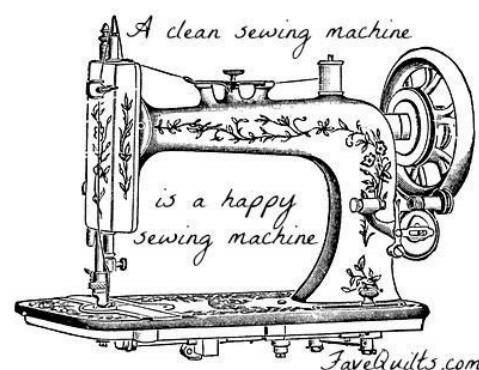
- Sat 15 June Monthly meeting 10am. Speakers from the Miniatures Club.
- Sat 20 July Monthly meeting 10am Speaker: Karen Richards - curator and carer of garments at themuseum.
Workshop: Faux Cathedral windows, quilt as you go taken by Ruth Carlile. More details in the next newsletter.
- Sat 17 August Monthly meeting 10am Speaker: Janie Hall from the Richmond Creative Fibre group
- Sat 17 August My Time, My Life at Greenmeadows, Stoke
- Sat 07 Sept Liberated Birds workshop with Margaret Rogerson. \$40.00 per person. Each person will also need to download a pattern at the approx cost of \$25.00.
- Sat 21 Sept Monthly meeting 10am. Speaker being finalised.
- Weds 16 Oct Monthly meeting 7pm Speaker being finalised
- Fri 1 - Sun 3 Nov Marahau Retreat
- Weds 20 Nov End of year meeting 7pm
- Sat 23 Nov Morovian Stars workshop - cost to be advised



Liberated birds

2025

- Weds 19 Feb Monthly meeting 7pm
- Fri 28 Feb - Sun 2 March Marahau Retreat
- Sat 08 or Sat 15 March **Quilts in the Garden Show**
- Weds 19 March Monthly meeting plus AGM
- 11 - 13 April Workshop with Sheila Christensen
- 23 May Inktense Pencil on Fabrics workshop with Jo Hollings



After my recent visit to Australia where I visited the Port Arthur former convict colony, I read a book titled *Heroes, Rebels and Radicals of Convict Australia*. In it was quite a detailed record of the Rajah Quilt, so I have included some information from Wikipedia about it. NB It is pure coincidence that Chris Webb had put something on the Facebook page about it too. I had already started the newsletter. Great minds....!

The Rajah Quilt

The **Rajah Quilt** is a large quilt that was created by women convicts in 1841 whilst travelling from Woolwich, England, to Hobart, Australia, using materials organised by Lydia Irving of the convict ship subcommittee of the British Ladies Society for Promoting the Reformation of Female Prisoners.



History

Lydia Irving served on Elizabeth Fry's British Ladies Society for promoting the reformation of female prisoners convict ship sub-committee and she had a financial success when she persuaded the Navy board to fund "gifts" for the convicts. These basic items included knives, forks, aprons and notably, sewing materials. During the 25 years that Fry was involved with the organisation, 12,000 women were transported on 106 ships. The plan was to visit every ship on the night before it sailed to calm the women bound for Australia.

Details of the Rajah Quilt

The sewing materials were supplied for the 180 women prisoners imprisoned on the *Rajah*. The women's names are still known. They had been assembled from across Britain, and they had been sentenced in Inverness, Aberdeen, Lincolnshire, Devon and the central criminal court. The ship set sail from Woolwich on 5 April 1841 and arrived on 19 July 1841 at Hobart in Tasmania. During the journey some of the women had embroidered and sewn the materials into an appliquéd coverlet now known as the Rajah quilt. The arranger of this quilt is believed to be Kezia Hayter who was the only free woman. She had come from the Millbank Penitentiary to assist Franklin in forming her own committee to mirror the one in the UK. It is thought now that about 29 women were involved. The convict sub-committee's work was remembered by the women on board. The quilt includes a message embroidered in silk thread giving thanks to the "convict ship committee". The quilt was presented to the governor's wife, Jane Franklin. The text on the quilt reads:

To the ladies of the convict ship committee, this quilt worked by the convicts of the ship Rajah during their voyage to van Dieman's Land is presented as a testimony of the gratitude with which they remember their exertions for their welfare while in England and during their passage and also as a proof that they have not neglected the ladies kind admonitions of being industrious. June 1841.

The quilt was sent back to Britain for Elizabeth Fry (who led the British Ladies Society). The quilt then became forgotten until it was rediscovered in an attic in Scotland. It was returned to Australia in 1989. The quilt is now held by the National Gallery of Australia.

Research shows that the quilt was not unique as other references are made to the convict women's

Wanted

CCS Disability Action Nelson and Marlborough Is asking for empty cotton reels for children at Little Stars to play with. If you have any could you bring them to the next meeting so we can deliver them to Elizabeth Perrone.

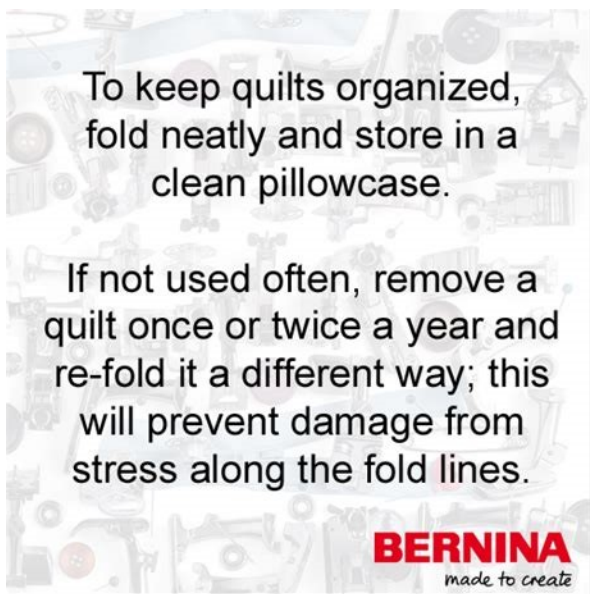


Community Quilts

One quilt has been given to NCMA for their upcoming fundraising event. A colour block quilt to the Cultural Conversations group, who have a shop and small workroom at Morrison Square, for their participants so they can see how to use scraps of fabric. Thank you June.

Another 5 quilts have gone to MOTU Services (ex IHC) for people in one of their three care homes who require 24 hour care.

Thank you for your kindness... their smiles said it all. Sandra



President: Sandie Sixtus **Secretary:** Geraldine Walker

Newsletter writer: Alison Paton 021 0766 486

Email: nelsonquilters@gmail.com **Facebook page:** Nelson Quilters NZ

Nelson Bank Account: NBS 03-1354-0270512-000 for online payments

Website: www.nelsonquiltersguild.org.nz - for info, newsletters and events



pizza

A second life for Grandma's quilt.