



THREADS

Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists



Greetings from New Zealand

Editorial by Ailsa McKenzie

Hi happy stitchers!

I guess many of you are coming into the colder time of year now so will be starting lots of new projects and finishing up a few older ones! We, 'down under' are just coming out the other end of our cooler season and are now looking more to our gardens and outside pastimes. I have managed to finish two quilts this winter for a grandson and another for a granddaughter, but now have just had another grandson added to our family, so that leaves me with one more granddaughter and one more grandson who need a quilt. Also we have an-

other daughter getting married early next year - so there is another quilt to be added to my list!! Not sure if they will all be made in time!! Knitting has been a large part of my re-



cent life also. My newest grandson, William, needed some woolen singlets, so I have just completed three in lovely coloured Merino wools. The young mothers here are using them not only for singlets, but also as an over-jumper! They look really nice.

We have again been

traveling overseas, attending a Rotary Conference in Germany, and then going to the International Convention. The RFQFA booth was again a real success and worked very well in its new format. We then spent time in Ireland tracing my great, great grandmother, stayed in Scotland with cousins, and returned home through the United States. Here I managed to get some lovely pastel fabrics for my grand daughter's quilt which she will get for her first birthday next week.

Happy stitching everyone.

Regards, Ailsa

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Tips 'n Tricks

- ☺ Wool makes great quilts. They are warm, cuddly, and drape nicely.
- ☺ New wool is on the market that is said to be washable and will not shrink. Be sure to know the difference and not make a tragic mistake!
- ☺ Because wool is thicker, seam allowances don't finger press well and may require pins.
- ☺ To learn more about quilting with wool check out our member Penny Halgren's website www.How-to-Quilt.com

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The "Perfect Quilts" - Rotaplast in India

RFQFA member Terry Hodskins is founder of Wrap-A-Smile (www.wellsrotary.org) and collects quilts to be sent out with teams who repair cleft lips and palettes. Since many of you donate quilts to WAS or other organizations like them, Terry wanted to share this beautiful letter from a team that just finished a mission in India. These sentiments are repeated time and again because of your thoughtful generosity.

September 2009—We arrived in India with 36 boxes, however, the contents of three of those boxes had a very special purpose on this trip - they were full of hand made quilts. Each year Rotary International quilting groups from different districts around the United States make quilts to give to the Rotaplast patients.

I can't begin to tell you how much these quilts mean to our patients. Walking into the waiting room they all have a scared look in their eyes. They hesitantly enter the room unsure of our team or the surgery that awaits. Then a member of our team will hand them their very own handmade quilt and their whole face just lights up. Regardless of their age, both young and old, they immediately wrap themselves up in their beautiful new gift.

I really enjoy watching as one of our doctors or nurses picks out the "perfect" quilt for their patient. They dig through the box of quilts making sure they choose a quilt that matches the patients' gender, age, and even

personality. It is adorable! The quilt stays with the patient everywhere they go even the surgery room. It is amazing to look in on a surgery and see the quilts draped over their new owner. It is a gift that they will be able to take home and, hopefully, it will remind them of Rotaplast team and all they people who work so hard to make their surgery possible.

On behalf of our entire team I would like to thank everyone who dedicated their time to make such beautiful quilts for our patients!



Handprints from Bosnia



Fun with Jane! Rotarian Jane Wiebe from the Rotary Club of Madera CA, USA, just returned from her 14th annual mission of goodwill in Bosnia. Jane took paints, sponges, and fabric blocks with her to get handprints of the Bosnian children. Jane said the project was a big "hit" with the children.

Diana Barden will assemble the handprints to make a special quilt for Jane in the colors of the Bosnian flag—blue and yellow!

Jane was a 2009 recipient of the RI Service Above Self Award for her humanitarian service.

Knit & Crochet Teams Getting Ready for Montreal

The Knitters and Crocheters are off to a good start planning and making their projects to help raise money for the Polio Challenge at the Montreal Convention.

Crochet team chairman **Bonnie Sirower** is collecting 4" x 6" crocheted flags of the Rotary nations which she will put together with rows of Rotary blue.

If you would like to help Bonnie make flags, please contact her on botzie@aol.com.

By the way, Bonnie is also interested in Beading. She has been beading for the past 3 years and incorporating that art into her crocheting. Are there other beaders out there?

The fearless leader of the Knit Team is also hard at work for Montreal. **Esther Arlan** has had her share of bumps and bruises and injury to her elbow, but she is not letting that keep her from making sure the Knit Team gets going on their knitted Afghan of Flags.

This is going to be fun! If you knit please contact Esther for the pattern. Esther's email is: learlan@roadrunner.com.

Our Quilt Team hasn't organized yet and Diana needs to get on the ball! We had an idea to do 4 lap quilts all using the same Maple Leaf pattern, but making each one in colors of the 4 seasons. That sounds like it would be a good project for Canada. I will get the pattern and directions posted in October, so we can work on it before the holidays which are fast approaching!

Grin and Bear It—D5160

Based on Interview with Linda Campbell llc@morasoft.com

Last year when **Linda Campbell** agreed to accompany her husband Jim on his DG visits D5160, she decided to "do something useful". A handicrafts enthusiast, she quickly recognized that knitted bears were easy to make and perfect gifts for children everywhere. The goal was to make 100 bears for D9200 in East Africa and collect 100 quilts for Rotaplast! Bears and quilts started pouring in taking her far beyond her widest dream. Linda donated a quilt for Polio and brought it to the convention in Birmingham. The quilt was made by participants at Jim's District Conference. A project sewing room was set up for one of the conference breakout sessions. Participants—men and women—stitched strips of fabric onto 13" muslin blocks. The blocks were cut down to 12 1/2" unfinished. There were enough blocks to make 1-1/2 quilts. Linda was so attached to this particular quilt that she made a donation to polio to "buy" it back in Birmingham. Linda says clubs and districts who choose to make bears and quilts will find a bottomless need.



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History sourced from '48-Hour Country Quilts' by Fran Roen.

Fellowship Raises Funds for Polio Challenge

Thank you from RFQFA Chair, Diana Barden

Quilts, wall hangings, afghans, aprons, totes, and more were donated and put on display at the Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists Booth during the 2009 RI convention in Birmingham, England.

My heartfelt thanks to all of you who contributed your items and got them to the convention. And, thanks to all of you who volunteered your time to staff the booth each day. A very special thank you goes to **Cheryl Minshew and Lyn Trowsdale** who did all the preliminary work needed for the booth in addition to doing the set up and take down tasks.

With all your help, the RFQFA was able to raise nearly \$2,000 for Polio. Plus, all items that didn't have a chance to sell there, are going to be raffled in the local district with proceeds going to polio. Also, our member,



Hiltburg Wussow donated a quilt which was on display at an International Cultural Museum in Texas and was auctioned for \$1,000 to Polio. YOU ARE THE BEST!