

THREADS

Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists



Greetings from New Zealand

Editorial by Ailsa McKenzie

Hi all

Well, here we are at the end of another year. How this one has flown!!

When I look back over the year and try to think what I have achieved (and I am sure everyone is in the same situation), It has really been quite a productive one! Several quilts have been finished, several knitted jumpers for grandchildren, and four knitted blankets for baby capsules which my daughter is selling in her 'Things for Baby' shop at Leeston near Christchurch.

However, recently, I have been up to my eyes in Rotary!!! Every second year we produce a large print phone book for our local community. We sell advertising for the Business Directory, and give a free one to every business and household in the district. This is one of our main fundraisers and as Director of Community Services, I have been in charge of this project. I keep hoping that there will

be life after the phone book!!

It is time to wish all our members and readers a very Merry Christmas, a wonderful and happy holiday period, and also a very prosperous and healthy year in 2011!

May you all have peace and happiness throughout the coming year.

*Happy stitching everyone
Regards, Ailsa*



The New Zealand Christmas Tree is the Pohutakawa. Around this time of year it burst out in a bright display of cheery blooms.

December 21, 2010
Issue # 14

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RFQFA will be hosting a booth at the New Orleans Convention in the House of Friendship. You can help us staff the booth and/or help us with our PolioPlus fundraiser. Contact Diana on jerrybarden@comcast.net

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Operation Red Nose

Sherrin Palmateer from District 7080 in Ontario, Canada is having lots of snow and will surely have a white Christmas. The little ones love sledding in the snow. Sherrin tells us that her husband Bob's Bolton Rotary Club has organized a project called Operation Red Nose (ORN). People who have had too much to drink around the holidays will call a central dispatch number and teams of three are sent out. Two volunteers drive the person home, the third follows in a car to pick them up at the destination and drive them back to the dispatch center. It's a valuable community service that's catching on!



Luanne Auclair, a member of the Soldotna Alaska Rotary Club made this queen size Alaska quilt, hand quilted for Polio Plus for her club, the drawing was last week at their Christmas party.

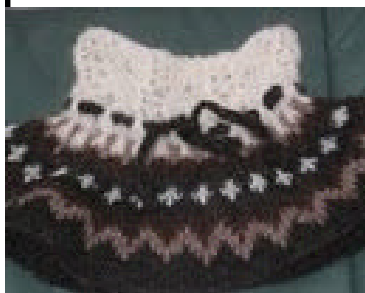
Vigdis Stefansdottir is from the Rotary Club of Reykjavik Grafarvogur in District 1386, Iceland. Vigdis says she and a small group of friends are teaching their German Exchange Stu-

dent to knit an Icelandic Lopi sweater. She loves horses and the outdoors, but Vigdis thought it appropriate that she learn to knit herself instead of buying the traditional Lopi sweater. Travel this year took Vigdis to Sweden and also to England where she enjoyed 4 days of quilting, patchwork, and friends at a very large quilt show in Birmingham.

Icelandic wool has earned an international reputation for its warmth and lightness. Icelandic sheep fleece is double layered, and in the same way that the sheep are kept warm and dry, the wearers of Lopi can expect the same results. The wool of Icelandic sheep consists of two types of fibres, inner and outer. The inner layer of light fine fibers called "pel" are shorter,

soft and crinkly, insulating well against the cold, while the strong outer fibers called "tog" are four inches long, coarse and glossy - and as a result, water repellent. The lopi sweater designs bear some resemblance to knitted sweaters from southern Sweden (which are made, however, with much finer yarn), and also to the colourful bead collars of the Greenland national costume. Whatever its inspiration, the distinctive round-yoked lopi sweater is uniquely Icelandic, and has acquired the status of a classic the world over in the past forty years

or so. Lopi sweaters are knit in the round on large circular needles, eliminating all seams and the need to purl (all stitches are knit).



Galaxy Blast !



Pastor Diane Mettam is from Bishop, California in D5260 where her husband is serving as president of his Rotary Club. Diane visited our booth at the Convention in Montreal and joined as a Lifetime Member. Diane created the "Galaxy Blast" pictured here by incorporating photos of the kids in her Vacation Bible School class using a spacesuit backdrop. She was excited to find fabric that replicated the feel of space in kid-friendly colors.

Diane plans to use the quilt as a fundraiser for ShelterBox.

I'm very happy with the result, says Diane - it's bright and happy, and I hope the winner will be happy with it. The kids are very excited about it.

Crocheting and Beading in Kenya

District Governor 2012-13, **Bonnie Sirower** from Glen Rock, New Jersey, District 7490 is definitely planning to go to Nkedejiii, Kenya in July to teach crocheting to older girls and games to the little ones. She is going with members of the Maywood, NJ Rotary Club. There are 15 volunteers. They will fly to Nairobi where they will visit an elephant orphanage and a giraffe orphanage and hopefully meet with representatives from the Nairobi Rotary Club. They will take a small plane to Siana Springs in the Maasai Mara Reserve where they will set up tent camp near Nkedejiii. They will be starting a water project that will go into effect during her year as governor. The village has no access to water and girls trudge forty minutes each way to Siana Springs to get potable water. They will be in that area for about a week and a day, then go on a safari to Tanzania. On the way back, they will visit the beading school. The Maasai ladies are best known for their beading. Bonnie hopes to learn some new beading techniques while she is there. One of the stitches Bonnie has learned in beading is the Ndebeje herringbone technique. She expects to bring home many new nuances for the craft. Among the supplies she is taking are aluminum H,I, J crochet hooks, simple polyester yarn, wooden beads, and for fun, inflatable beach balls and Frisbees! Bonnie would appreciate any suggestions you might have for patterns (botzie@aol.com). Be sure to send us photos of your trip, Bonnie!

December 21, 2010

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"Rotary is the best in the world at linking people of goodwill around the globe and then gaining their cooperation and support to make the world a much better place to live and work."

R1 President Ray Klingensmith

Happy New Year !

"Christmas Around the World" from The Christmas Handbook by Malcolm Bird and Alan Dart (1986)

Sweden—In Sweden the celebration lasts for a month from St. Lucia's Day on December 13th to St. Knut's Day on January 13th. On St. Lucia's Day, Swedish families are awakened with coffee and freshly baked buns by the daughter of the house. She is dressed in a white gown with a red sash, and wears a wreath of greenery on her head topped with lighted candles. To end the Christmas meal "rice porridge" is served. This is rice pudding containing a single almond...the person finding the nut will marry within the next year!

Australia—Christmas comes in the middle of summer when the weather is very hot. After exchanging gifts at the breakfast table, many people have their Christmas Day meal on the beach, followed by a celebration supper. Homes are decorated with palms and ferns and clusters of flowers. As evening falls, parks fill with hundreds of people for carol services by candlelight.

Mexico—The Mexican home must be decorated and ready to receive guests, by December 6th—the beginning of "Posadas", which commemorates Mary and Joseph's search for lodgings. Homes are festooned with Spanish moss, evergreens and colored lanterns and a crib is erected in the corner of one room. After prayers, fireworks are lit, and people gather to break the "Pinata" - an earthenware jar filled with treats which is hung from the ceiling. Blindfolded children try to break it with a stick to release the contents. Simple Pinatas can be easily made by covering inflated balloons with papier mache.