

# THREADS

Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists



## Greetings from New Zealand

Editorial by Ailsa McKenzie

A Happy New Year to everyone! We had a lovely Christmas get-together with all our family. The day after Christmas, we took our fifth-wheel van and drove around the West Coast of the South Island to show our Rotary Exchange Student some more of our beautiful country. It is certainly interesting having a teenager in the house again after all these years! Patrick is from Switzerland and a really nice lad and we have had some real fun with him, not least in the language department!!! It has been a great education, not only for him but for us as well.

I have been wondering about all the different patchwork designs and how they came by their various names. Some are very obvious but others must have extremely interesting stories behind their name origins. Some questions here! Who made the "Broken Dishes" into such perfect triangles? What was she drinking when she named the "Devil's Puzzle"? And what about "Coxey's Camp", "Economy", "Hands

Around", "Old Maid's Puzzle", "Crosses & Losses", "Fox Chase", "Job's Troubles", "World Without End", "Boy's Nonsense", "Secret Drawer", "Turkey Giblets" and "Hither & Yon", I could go on and on and on!!!

Are there any blocks still left to invent? Does anyone know if there are any recently discovered blocks which were not in my copy of "1,001 Patchwork Designs" by Maggie Malone? I would love to know if any of you out there have invented a new block recently. As I look through this book of black and white blocks, I feel about 1,001 new quilts forming in my head!!! My life will never be long enough!!!

Happy Stitching!

Regards, *Ailsa*

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Ailsa McKenzie, and Exchange Student Patrick from Switzerland celebrate Christmas in the New Zealand Summer.

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# Quilt by Gayle Thomas

Our member **Ann Eatman** of Loveland, Colorado USA shared a great website created in 1996 by Gayle Thomas who produced a wonderful animated film that brings quilt blocks to life as they dance to the music. Using computer animation and experimental techniques, Gayle created a tribute to quilting that will set your toes to tapping. I hope you will be able to enjoy the video produced by the National Film Board of Canada.

[Quilt by Gayle Thomas](http://www.nfb.ca/film/quilt/?ec=en20110209) click on <http://www.nfb.ca/film/quilt/?ec=en20110209>

## Wrap-A-Smile quilt project still going strong

Article found on Google and submitted by Nann Hilyard, Illinois USA

WELLS — In 2001, Wells Rotarian **Terry Hodskins** founded a quilt project called Wrap-A-Smile.

The project was started in response to Rotary International's Rotaplast Missions. Rotaplast is a nonprofit, humanitarian organization founded in 1992 as a World Community Service Project of the Rotary Club of San Francisco, Calif. Rotaplast is committed to changing lives by offering free corrective surgery to children born with cleft lips and palates in third-world countries.

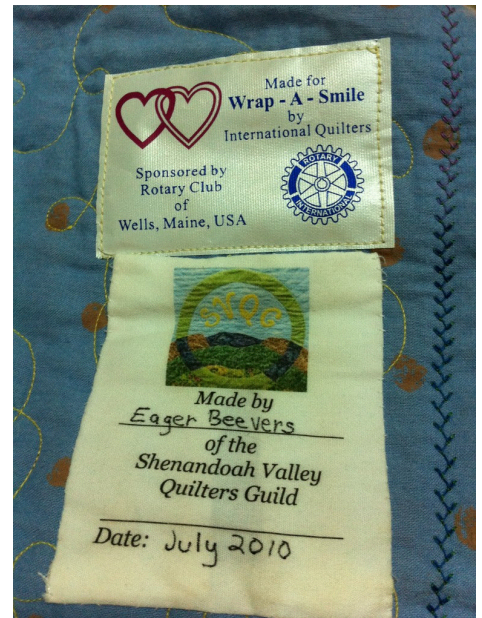
The name Wrap-A-Smile recognizes the fact that the repair of a cleft lip enables a child to smile for the very first time.

When Hodskins learned that after surgery the children were wrapped in plastic or paper sheets, she contacted quilting groups asking for donations of small quilts. To date, 15,742 quilts from all 50 states and three foreign countries have been made and sent along with the Rotaplast Missions.

One of the quilt groups Hodskins has linked up with is a group called "Sunshine," whose members all belong to an Internet quilting group. Several of the members from across the country stitch the front pattern then ship the unfinished quilt top to a "Quilting Angel," who completes the quilt with batting, backing and binding. Completed quilts are then sent to Maine, where members of the Evergreen Quilt Guild in Kennebunk ("the label ladies") are kept busy attaching labels to each quilt. The labels carry the Rotary logo along with the Wells Rotary name. The quilts are then packaged and boxed and sent to Rotaplast Headquarters in San Francisco.

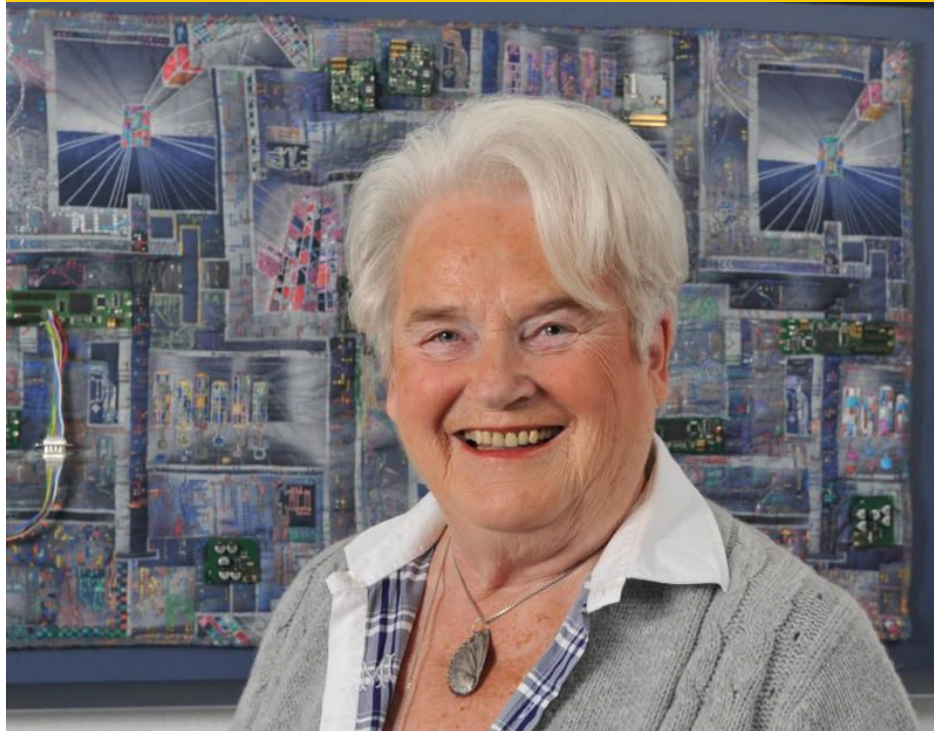
The Alaskan "Quilting Angel," Beverly Bennett, died in July. The Internet group wanted to do something in Bennett's memory, so they split up her fabric and created quilts in her honor. All told, 152 quilts were made from the fabric and they will be shipped to Peru for the first 2011 Rotaplast Mission in January.

To take part in the mission, quilts should be baby/lap size, in child-friendly colors and in 100 percent cotton. They should be machine-quilted or hand-tied as they may very well be washed in rivers and generally will be exposed to difficult conditions. Volunteers are also needed to assist with the packing and shipping. For further information, contact Terry Hodskins c/o Wells Rotary Club, P.O. Box 203, Wells, ME 04090, or [vagabond04@roadrunner.com](mailto:vagabond04@roadrunner.com). **TERRY SAYS SHE WOULD ALSO LOVE TO HAVE DONATIONS FROM OUTSIDE THE USA.**





# Circuit Surfing



Hiltburg Wussow has just finished her second book "Magic with the Felting Machine". It includes a lot of instruction on what can be done with felting.

Our member **Hiltburg Wussow** stands before her latest creation "Circuit Surfing". Hiltburg says, "I found the fabric (from Hoffmann) years ago in our greatest and most beautiful Patchwork Shop. I was fascinated by the technical style and bought it. Years later I saw a very tall circuit and was charmed by this style of shimmering plastic charged with a lot of functions. Then, I remembered the fabric in my cupboard! A Rotarian friend Thomas Volker, who works with circuits at his factory, gave me a lot of them. The beginning of the work was painting the fabric and free motion quilting without filling. Then I started the free motion quilting **WITH** the filling, that is with the normal "sandwich". Having finished the quilt work, I placed the circuits. Then the quilt was framed. Now it is hanging in the visitor's room of our Rotarian friend. He told me that every visitor asks astonished "what is that"! He assured me that the discussion concerning that unusual quilt is a good beginning for a successful selling discussion. The German Patchwork Journal named the article concerning this quilt "Patchwork meets High Tech.". My next quilt is called the "Skyline of Frankfurt" I will send photos soon."

## **BIG, EASY CLEANING by Sarah E. White [www.About.com.knitting](http://www.About.com.knitting)**

This [Fleur de Lis Washcloth](#) was inspired by Mardi Gras but it certainly could be used any time of year. I made mine purple, which is a traditional Mardi Gras color, but you could certainly make yours any color you like. It's a lot of fun to take a really basic washcloth pattern and add a little holiday design to it. You can make your own pretty easily with a little imagination and some graph paper, or use sources like cross stitch charts or other knitting patterns. Also find pattern on [www.rotariansquilt.org](http://www.rotariansquilt.org).





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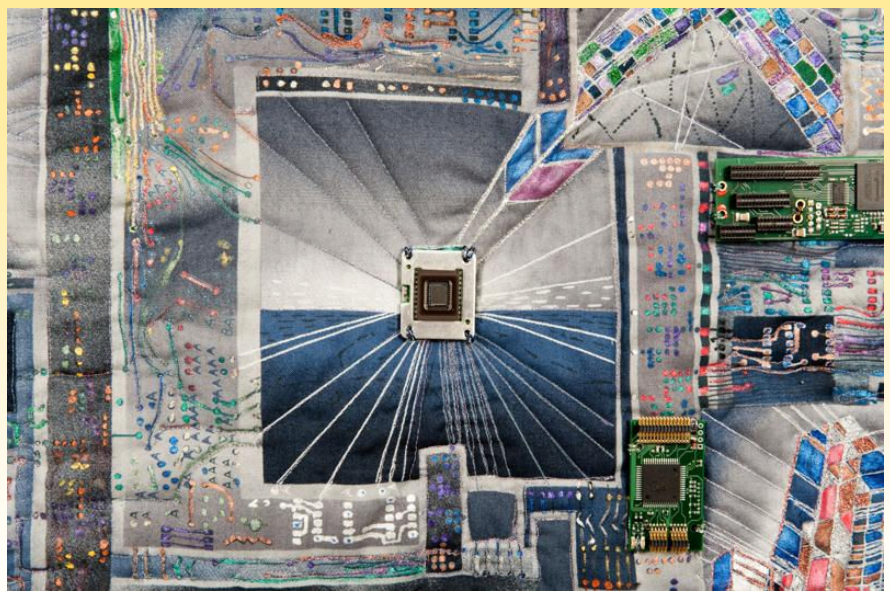
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## A Close UP of Circuit Surfing



The 2011 Rotary Zone 25/26 Institute will be held in Palm Springs, California USA , November 11-13. The Institute Chair, **Brenda Cressey** has just become a member of our fellowship! Brenda is inviting all institute participants to bring quilts which will be collected and donated to Wrap A Smile for Rotaplast. If you are in these Zones and would like to contribute or get a group together to make baby quilts, please contact RFQFA Chair Diana Barden for more information.

