



*A life in
patches*



A *life* in patches



NOOSA \ REGIONAL GALLERY

Introduction

A Life in Patches is much more than a quilt show. It is an exhibition about lives lived in the company of stitching; all wrapped up in 29 quilts, photographic portraits and stories.

Stand in the midst of those lives, suspended in fabric. Listen to the whispers of mothers across the generations. Feel the force of special friendships, and touch the sadness at the death of a child. Every single patchwork quilt is a celebration of life.

It's powerful stuff, and woven into each patchworker's personal story is another one; that of the group, the Wallace House Quilters. The WHQ is the largest group under the auspices of the Noosa Arts and Crafts Association. We are 55 members and meet every Tuesday. I'm new to the group, just three years in, but I might be as old as the oldest member for the comfort I feel in their company. Their welcome is warm, their friendship inclusive, solid. I belong to the Wallace House Quilters and they belong to me.

The idea for this exhibition was modelled on a previous story telling project, *Portraits of a Tea Cosy*, a travelling regional gallery exhibition. I knew that here, in this creative, generous, boisterous group of women, there'd be a plethora of stories to tell. Here are just 29 of them.

Enjoy.

Loani Prior

Loani Prior Curator

Loani is best known for her four best-selling books, *Wild Tea Cosies*, *Really Wild Tea Cosies*, *How Tea Cosies Changed the World*, and *Pretty Funny Tea Cosies*. She exhibited at the Powerhouse in Sydney in 2010 and at Pour L'Amour Du Fil in France in 2012. Loani was guest artist at six Craft and Quilt Fairs in 2013 and has had whale of a time teaching knitting workshops all around Australia since all this cosy nonsense began.

More recently Loani discovered the joys of cutting fabric into small pieces and sewing it back together again. It's called patchwork! It seems to have consumed her.



Mark Crocker Photographer

For artist and photographer, Mark Crocker, to make an image is to tell a story. His entire artistic life painting, print making and photography has been punctuated by community arts projects, giving voice to the disadvantaged. His more recent collaborations with Anthony Anderton and Dee Martin resulted in story telling exhibitions with refugees in *Art from the Margins*, with adults with long term mental illness in *What will the Neighbours Think?* and with survivors of torture and trauma in *Where the Heart Is*.

Mark's commercial photography work includes portraiture, events, architecture, and advertising.



A Life in Patches - a collaboration

Mark and Loani have worked together on a number of projects, all to do with tea cosies until now. *Portraits of a Tea Cosy*, was a 2013-2015 regional galleries touring exhibition, travelling to 12 galleries across 5 states and territories. Yes, even tea cosies come with stories. And then there are the tea cosy books *Wild Tea Cosies* and *Pretty Funny Tea Cosies*. Mark photographed all the work in these two beautiful and bestselling books.

A Life in Patches is a natural progression for them both.

Loani sat down to tea with each of the 29 quilters in the exhibition and recorded the stories of their quilts, which of course are not about quilts at all, but about loss, and laughter and life.

Mark photographed the women in their happy place, the rooms and verandahs of Wallace House.

Where did it all begin

by **Margaret Johnston** (founding member).

We began in 1984 with just seven women and met twice a month in our friend Peg Brennan's home and then later in St Mary's Church Hall in Cooroy and other halls in Tewantin when the group became too big for home sojourns.

Our 1990 record attendance for 6th of March lists twelve members, sadly some now gone to the great quilting group in the sky and some simply no longer stitching. There are four originals left in the group with Judith Murray, Maggie Johnson, Rosemary George and myself still hanging in there.

We had many very successful Christmas Sales of our work (in the church hall near Aldi's) with people lined up at the door, waiting to come in! We steadily grew and became the Noosa Tewantin Patchwork and Embroidery Group.

In 1993 we joined Noosa Arts and Crafts Association at Wallace House separating into two groups, patchwork, and embroidery, and we continued to hold many combined exhibitions in local venues including the Noosa Regional Gallery, Harbour Town and others.

Our group travelled to many other groups on the Sunshine Coast and further afield, enjoying their hospitality and then entertaining them royally in return. We craved inspiration in those days (before the internet) and so we were happy to travel many miles to further our knowledge.

I remember having all night sewing bees making quilts for charity and I have fond memories of Rosemary organising us to make more than eighty little teddy bears to be sent to the children of flood victims up North.

I should mention the fire which almost destroyed the house and how we were all crammed into a small building near the Shire Office owned by council where we could hardly move or breathe and how grateful we were to get back into the lovely new and spacious Wallace House we have today.

How fortunate we are to have such a wonderful venue where we can meet and share our most important thoughts, to receive and hopefully give inspiration to others, while at the same time solving the problems of the world!

Gwenda Apel

Exhibition Quilt:
For the Love of Horses
150cm x 213cm

Gwenda joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2003



Georgia is my granddaughter. She's 15 years old and she just loves horses. We have a cattle property north of Bundaberg and the children go up there every holiday. They all have their own horses. Georgia's horse is called Camry and she loves it to bits. She's been riding since she was about four. They just ride for the fun of it. And they go mustering. That is the highlight of their life when they go out with Uncle Bruce to go mustering. Uncle Bruce is my son and he works the property with his family. Mustering happens every six weeks because we have lots of ticks in that area. They bring the cattle back to the yards and then there's the process of dipping them and giving them needles and Georgia's part of that.

There's been a couple of horses that no-one can catch in the paddock. They have a reputation of being quite frisky, they race off. Georgia can take a bridle up to those horses, just give them a pat and a talk and put their bridles on. She's quite a horse whisperer.

It's great now they're older, Georgia and her younger sister who's 10, April, they go off riding together, they take picnics down to the creek. It's just a wonderful life for them.

I came to Wallace House when we moved up from Brisbane and not knowing a soul in Noosa and I decided that if you want to make friends and want a social life, you just have to get out and a friend had told me about Wallace house so I presented myself at the door.

And there was another new girl, Sally, we virtually arrived at the door at the same time, and we have been very good friends ever since. She had come from Sydney.

There are so many like me, you come to the area, you don't know a soul so you come and join in.

I also paint. I've been painting for about 30 years. I just love to paint. I joined the painting group here too. It's really really great. And Wallace House is just an amazing place. I think we should be so grateful for having it.



Jill O'Brien

Exhibition Quilt:
Jill's Goodbye Quilt
146cm x 188cm

Jill joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2003

My husband died in 2001, suddenly of a heart attack. And so I decided to finish my working life and come back to Queensland where I belong. I was in charge of the operating theatres for the hospital in Inverell, Northern NSW. That was my last job. When I left, the staff gave me a quilt which they put together. Even the maintenance men cut the pocket off one of their uniforms and signed it and they gave it to the girls to put on the quilt. They all knew I liked cats so there are quite a few cats on it. There are all sorts of little quirky bits on the quilt.

Was there a big presentation for you?

Yes, there was. They had a dinner in one of the school halls and they presented the quilt to me there. It was so embarrassing. You know how you don't like attention.

I love attention

(laughs) I don't like attention. And that's probably why I was in theatres because I was disguised. And all my patients were asleep.

You must have been well loved Jill

I think it was easy because everyone was very loving and close, though you had to be careful in a small

hospital that you kept everything private. You'd often see the people down the street and they'd say, "oh you took out my gall bladder", but you've just got to forget about all that, because you know them so well.

In 2003, my sister was on holiday up here. She saw a unit for sale and said Oh this'll suit Jill and she put a deposit on it for me. I hadn't even sold my house in Inverell yet.

I joined the Wallace House Quilters in the same year. I was in the bakery in Tewantin and the lady saw I had an "I love quilting" badge on and she invited me to join the quilting group. Anne Hunt was the president then.

I was speaking to my 2IC (second in command), Peter Cam, recently and said that we were doing this exhibition and he said he remembers getting all those bits and pieces together for the quilt

He'll have to come up and see it. Bring a cohort from Inverell.

Yes and boost the economy of Noosa.

Jenny Clouston

Exhibition Quilt:
Flowers for Penelope
90m x 117cm

Jenny joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2016



I needed a dedication for my third book (Floral Embroidery) and I found a quote by Alice Walker, "In search of my mother's garden, I found my own." My mother finds her peace in her garden and I have always found my peace in sewing. It's my yoga. It's where I go to every day.

You're an immigrant. Where from?

From the east coast of South Africa, from Natal, the land of the Zulus, the Kingdom of the Zulus, the only Kingdom left in the world I think. Google that. We immigrated in 2002. My son Gareth has two children and lives in Canberra. My daughter lives in Sydney with her partner, Bob.

I've just been home to South Africa to see my parents, to smell my mother and hug my dad.

And you've been in her garden?

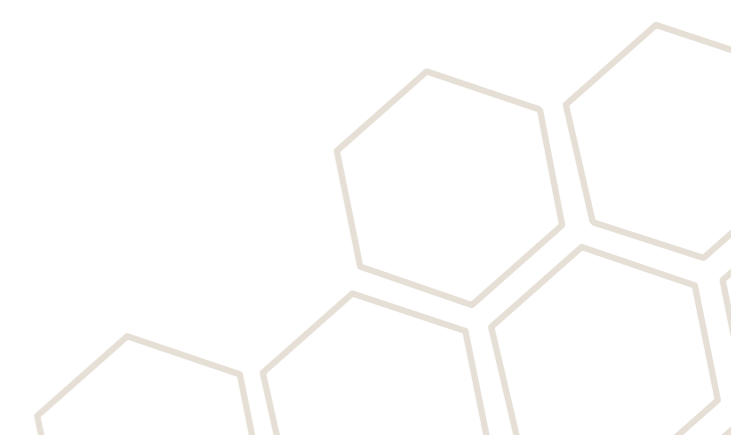
I have been in her garden. It's very small. She has back problems now, so she can't do the gardening that she used to any more but it's beautiful. It overlooks the Natal hinterland.

I've always sewn and I've always done crocheting from a little, little girl. My grandmother taught me how to, but then when I was a young mum I went to my

first patchwork class. Like all of us I was just hooked and I quickly discovered that I loved working by hand rather than by machine so for me the whole process of making a quilt is in the doing right now. I never plan a quilt. If, at the end of the day, it's beautiful, it's a bonus.

So, for the last 34, 35 years it has been my yoga. As my mum goes to garden, I sew and I sew every day and I embroider every day.

I genuinely do not care what other people think of my quilts. I think we've got into the habit now, even more so with Instagram, that we do things for other people. For me it is about the simple act of stitching. That needle going in and out of fabric. It does it for me in a way that nothing else does.





Micky Coghill

Exhibition Quilt:

Evie's Quilt

118cm x 168cm

Micky joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2009

My quilt is for Evie, my second grandchild. She is thirteen. She was two when I made the quilt. It makes me think of all my grandchildren. I have seven now. They are 15, 13, 11, 9, my goodness me, 5, 3, 1. Five of them live within walking distance and the others live in the Blue Mountains.

Evie's quilt is just made out of scraps. Most of my quilts are made out of bits and pieces. I thought of Evie the whole time while I was making it.

Evie is an interesting little girl. She didn't speak to everyone all the time. She always spoke to us of course, but she was very shy, whereas her older brother Sasha was more outgoing and really showed his feelings. Evie was definitely a feeling child too but she always had a bit of thinking going on. She was a determined little girl. That's what I love about her. When she had to learn how to hoola hoop, she could hoola hoop at two, when she had to ride a bike, she could ride at two. She'd just try hard.

I'm really interested in childhood development and my husband is too because he was a teacher also. We've really loved watching their changes and how they grow and how they relate to others and how they problem solve. I don't have to be with them. I love watching them. But I do love being with them too.

I have made my grandchildren quite a few quilts.

Evie's got more than the others because she's easier. I gave her my old machine when she was quite a bit younger and she's always sewing. One day we did a jelly roll quilt. She's always putting the machine out on the floor. I went over yesterday morning and she had the machine and all the fabric out on the floor. She makes her girlfriends scrunchies for their birthdays. She's very crafty.

It took me a while to make her brother, Sasha's quilt. He wanted a big one to cover his whole bed. The quilts are not always on the bed. They are sometimes folded. They are washed and worn. They are loved.

I love those two children. It's funny isn't it.

Heather de Grandi

Exhibition Quilt:

Knitting in Time - Memories of my Mother

65cm x 150cm

Heather joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2017



My piece of work is not actually a quilt. It is a display mounted on a very old blanket that belonged to us as children, my sister and me. And it is my mum's knitting of some of our baby clothes.

I was born at the beginning of the war and mum knitted our baby clothes and I've kept those, or she did, in the camphor chest. The camphor chest had been given to my mother from a good friend who'd gone to China before the war. It was hand carved, the real McCoy. It had all our woollies in it. Mum knitted all our clothes, our jumpers until we grew up.

This piece is a tribute to my mother and her knitting skills. Her maiden name was Jean Stuart Ross (before she married Howard De Grandi.)

Did your mother teach you to knit?

Yes. I knitted my first jumper when I was in grade three. It was in bluebell crepe.

Mum was a music teacher and taught the piano and singing but she was also a stenographer and when the depression came she was put off work. She was lucky enough to have qualifications to be able to teach singing and piano and she used to go to a little private school and teach Eurhythmics - which was a sort of dance to music, physical education to music.

She was an old mum, having been born in nineteen hundred and two. The story goes that she had many boyfriends, and she had been engaged, but she broke that off and then she met my dad. Dad was a boy from the country and he had a lovely singing voice so they did a lot of singing and playing together.

They got married in 1939 and mum and dad were both 37, and that was old for women to have babies in those days. I was born first and then my sister. Dad was too old for the second world war, much to my mother's delight.

She was not a sewer, but she could knit, and she always said it was too expensive to buy clothes, "you girls" (that's my sister and I) had to learn dressmaking at school so we could save money by making our own clothes.

I hope there will be room to put in a feather and fan multi-coloured little jumper that my sister found that mum made for us as well and I've got some photographs that I'll put on fabric and I'll put that in the blanket.



Rosemary George

Exhibition Quilt:
Anthony's Memory Quilt 2002
162cm x 164cm

Rosemary joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 1989

We lived in Camperdown, a country town in Western Victoria. It has a beautiful avenue of elm trees in the centre with a large clock tower. My husband was a lawyer and I was a stay-at-home mum. My first child was born in 1963. Alistair. Once you had the four boys you were pretty busy. Alistair, David, Stephen and Anthony.

There was six years between Stephen and our youngest, Anthony. We all loved Anthony dearly. He was a bit spoilt.

What were the boys into?

Alistair loved computers. David and his mate played guitar and he loved bike riding. Stephen loved woodwork. He made me a beautiful little gallery for my Amish quilts and he made a little quilt stand and a little chair. He made my frame for tacking quilts.

We shifted here (to the Sunshine Coast) in '88 by which time our youngest, Anthony, was fifteen, sixteen. Anthony went to four different schools. He did his last year at St Johns, Nambour.

The quilt has Anthony's work shirts. Anthony and Stephen really loved fishing. We didn't know what Anthony would end up doing with his life. He didn't want to study. He could play golf really well. He was a

good caddy. He caddied at the Coolum Classic. But he loved it at Davo's (Fishing Tackle) best and he ended up working at a tackle shop in Brisbane.

The precious things for Anthony have gone into that quilt. School badges and uniform fabrics. There's a photo of Anthony when he's about six in the snow in Camperdown. There's a photo of him with his first baby in his arms at just an hour old. And a group photo of our family at David's wedding day.

There's a lot of life in it.

Tell me about your time at Wallace House

I joined the patchwork group at the Methodist Baptist Church hall in 1989. I was the President when we were asked to take part in shifting the craft groups to Wallace House. I've been here since the word go. My membership number is seven.

Originally, the back area wasn't there. It had a long thin passage and an old kitchen with great big beautiful wood stove. Anthony was coming home from work one day and said to me, "Oh mum, your house is on fire". I rushed across here and at the time Bob Abbott was mayor and he was here too, watching the fire and he said, "We'll fix it for you. Don't worry."

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Linda Gordon

Exhibition Quilt:
A Stitch in Time
203cm x 203cm

Linda joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2012

I was cleaning out my linen cupboard and I thought what do I do with all these beautiful linen table cloths embroidered by my mum and my dad. Dad entered a lot of his in the Brisbane show. He often got first. I thought, I don't know anyone to give these to. They take a lot of care in laundering.

I have a friend who's doing a quilt with old doilies, making paper pieced hexagons. I thought maybe I could do that with my mum and dad's stuff. But there is no way I could cut them up. There are a lot of them. There is one Hardanger. It is really beautiful.

I don't know when dad started embroidering. He was the overseas booking officer for TAA. He booked trips for people pre-computer and it was pretty stressful sort of work. He often did shift work and to relax he would cross stitch.

Mum and dad went on a trip to England and visited the Needlewoman's Shop and the V&A (Victoria and Albert museum). Dad used to get a lot of his designs from the Needlewoman's Shop. And from Burda magazines. A lot of it was European designs, which were absolutely beautiful and that's what I've grown up loving.

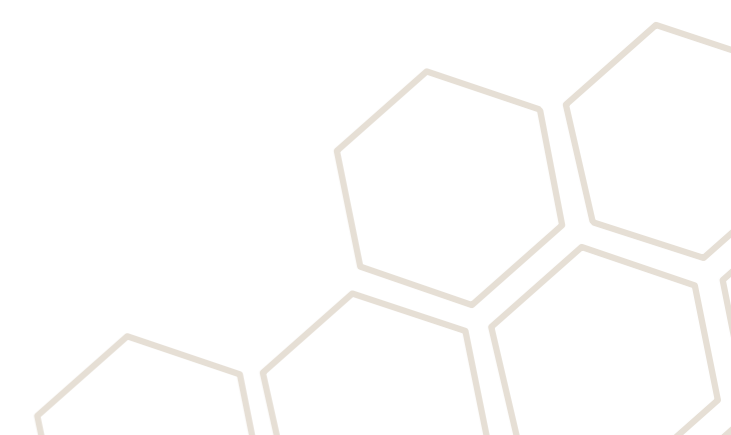
He also did amazing tapestry. I think he did one for each of us. I've got Pinkie (Thomas Lawrence). He

also did the Blue Boy, (Thomas Gainsborough). Really big ones. He put in a lot of time into them.

We all feel a bit strange about telling this story. I remember my brother telling it at dad's funeral and he said he wouldn't ever tell anyone as a kid. And we didn't ever tell anyone.

When I told my daughters about the exhibition and the idea I had, they said that they would love to own their grandfather's embroidered table cloths and that they would use them.

Note: Hardanger embroidery is a form of embroidery traditionally worked with white thread on white even-weave linen using counted thread and drawn thread work techniques.





Patsy Haigh

Exhibition Quilt:

Margaret's Quilt saved from the fire. (It had been in Alex's cottage)

211cm x 216cm

Patsy joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2004

We moved up from Sydney in 2003. We bought the most beautiful Balinese style house on five acres in Doonan, all wood, very big, two stories. We had a lovely big lake in the front and a swimming pool and a nice garden. We had two houses on the property, the big house and then a little cottage 50 meters away where my son Alex lived. That didn't get burnt down.

We had come here to retire. Sydney was just getting too, too chaotic.

And you had a lifetime of belongings?

I didn't just have my own things. I had my mother's things and my grandfather's things. There were pictures of my father born in 1895, as a small boy, dressed in his little britches and his little velvet coat. There were some beautiful Japanese lacquered ornaments, and some large Japanese urns. I used say "see that urn, when I die, when I'm cremated, I want to go into that urn".

I understand you were a bit of an art collector as well.

Yes, we had a lot of art. We had Sydney Nolan's and Pro Hart's and John Gleeson's. I had Ray Croke. I loved Ray Croke, and Margaret Olly. Quite a few. It is a great pity they are gone. I also had 6 or 7 American quilts from the 1860s to the 1890s that I brought back from America, all beautifully hand made. They all got burnt.

Tell me about the fire event.

The week before the fire, on the Wednesday, we'd had a false alarm with the fire alarms but quickly had them fixed.

On the Sunday, we had the first BBQ after winter. It had been a lovely day. At about 2.30 in the morning all the fire alarms went off and I thought "Oh damn, another false alarm". We all got up and we could see that the house was on fire down at the BBQ area.

We grabbed the animals, that's all we were worried about, and got in the car and just waited for the house to burn down. The fire brigade took about 20 minutes. The house was gone before they came. But when they arrived they were very good in saving the other house and the bush.

The neighbours were wonderful. They took us in and gave us coffee and tea. They gave Melanie and Savannah clothes. That's my daughter and granddaughter. Melanie had asthma and she was treated in the ambulance. My son, Alex, went to hospital because he'd been running around without any shoes and had burnt his feet. My husband, Peter, was with us too. He was alright.

Melanie's work colleague offered us a place to stay for a

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Lynda Harrison

Exhibition Quilt:

Baskets and Reels

231cm x 252cm

Lynda joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2001



I made "Basket and Reels" while I was convalescing from an illness about seven years ago. It was all I could do, sit and sew. It was my husband's suggestion. We'd never had a handmade quilt on the bed before. We used to have a German Shepard who jumped on the bed all the time so I wasn't going to let him jump on a handmade quilt.

Tell me about your illness?

I was sitting in the hairdressers at about lunch time one day and my tummy started aching. By 7 o'clock I was in the emergency department in Noosa hospital and they took me to ICU the next morning.

I had Pancreatitis. "Idiopathic" pancreatitis, which means nobody knows why I had it. I was accused of over indulging in alcohol but I've never been in over-indulger in alcohol. (Laughs) Another cause is scorpion bite. I had tubes everywhere, up my nose, everywhere you can think of. I was in hospital for 10 days. I didn't know how sick I was because I was so sick.

I started the quilt when I got home from hospital. I felt that I was achieving something. I couldn't do much else. When I look at it now it always reminds me of that time, the getting better part. And it reminds me of how kind and encouraging my fellow Wallace House

Quilters were.

I was only home a few weeks when Gerry had to go into hospital for a knee operation, I think. He stole my thunder completely.

How did you find Wallace House?

I used to do aqua aerobics at Tewantin school and heard somebody mention patchwork one day and I grabbed her and said "where do you do that" and she told me about Wallace House.



Sue Hayllar

Exhibition Quilt:
Fandance (Jackie and Sue's Quilt)
233cm x 259cm

Sue joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2017

I lost my job about ten years ago. My sister, Jackie, wanted to keep me busy so I wouldn't get depressed and she started sending me small little quilts in the post (from her home in Maitland NSW) and asked me to hand sew them up. I was always a hand sewer from way back but I didn't know anything about quilts or quilting at that time.

Then she asked me to do some English paper piecing. I didn't know what that was either. Of course, you say yes. And up came lots of these cut out pieces of material and a sample to follow so I machined all the pieces together and then I had to applique them onto the background and when I finished all that I sent it back to her.

I thought no more about it. When I moved here I joined Wallace House which was the best thing I could ever do because I'm still learning today.

A couple of years ago, to my surprise and delight, Jackie returned the quilt to me finished with the words that I'd put so much work into it she thought it should be mine.

When I got hooked into quilting I said to all the family, instead of sending me a Christmas present, can you send me a little bit of money so I can buy a new

sewing machine. Jackie found out which one I wanted and she bought the whole thing for me.

She's a good sister.

She IS a good sister.

I named the quilt Fandance, but to me it will always be the Jackie and Sue quilt. And that's my story.



Sally Heron

Exhibition Quilt:
Emptying the Drawer
215cm x 215cm

Sally joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2014

This is an important quilt to me, not because of the way it has been put together, but because it holds many pieces of my life within it.

I had a pile of mostly unfinished pieces I had created over the years, as well as little reminders of my childhood sewn by my mother and grandmother. These are mostly unfinished or unused, but too good to throw out. But there's no point in leaving them in a drawer for my lifetime, so now is their time to shine it seems.

When I was an airline hostess in England back in the seventies, flights were often delayed for hours by bad weather and fogs. I would sit in the crew room sewing tapestries to pass the time. Two of these unfinished pieces are incorporated into this quilt.

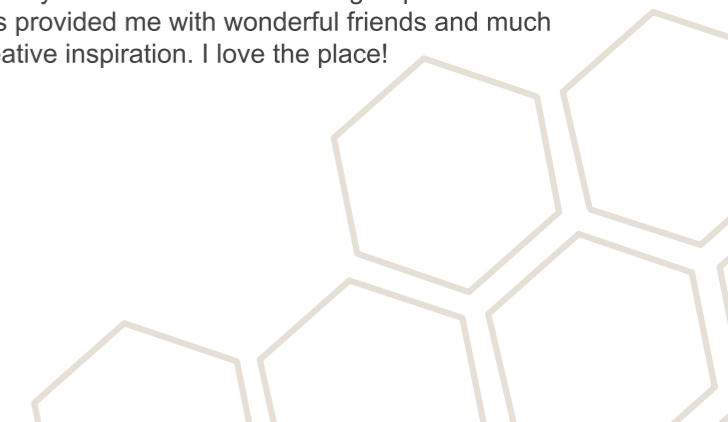
In 1986 I opened the first patchwork shop on the Sunshine Coast, called The Patchwork Centre in Nambour. Customers and tutors inspired me greatly and I have included bits and pieces from those days within the quilt. These include a series of reverse applique squares, some crazy patchwork, favourite fabrics from down the years and the odd bit of family memorabilia.

My main challenge, or course, has been to bring the

past into the present. What was cool back then in the way of colour and stitch, looks very dated now.

But that's been fun. I have enjoyed every step of the process of bringing life back into these dusty pieces and creating something that will outlive me and keep my family warm for many years to come. So much better than keeping them in the drawer till the day they get tipped into a bin.

I came to the Sunshine Coast from England in the late 70s and I've lived here ever since. I became a member of Noosa Arts and Crafts Association about 12 years ago and immediately joined the House Committee when Brenda McFeeters was president and I remained there for eight years under the stewardship of presidents Carole Castle and Jan Bentley. I now run the Fibre Arts group. Wallace House has provided me with wonderful friends and much creative inspiration. I love the place!





Margaret (Maggie) Johnson

Exhibition Quilt:
Spring Wreath
158cm x 185cm

Maggie is a 1984 Inaugural member of the
Wallace House Quilters

In conversation with Loani Prior and Margaret Johnston

Loani: Tell me how long you've been friends?

Maggie: Since the beginning of time.

Margaret: 47 years.

Maggie: That long?

Margaret: 1972.

Loani: Well that is the beginning of time, 1972.

Margaret: Margaret had the paper shop in Tewantin and I used to go into her shop to get the McCalls magazine which came out every three months and if it wasn't there on the day, she dreaded me coming in.

Maggie: She'd drive me the crackers

Margaret: Because I'd kick up such a stink, so that's how we became friends. I've still got the McCalls magazines and they've still got Margaret's writing on it and the prices and everything. I was away for a year with my husband John, while he worked on a building contract in Victoria. When we came back, Margaret had sold the newsagency and I saw her in the butcher's shop one day. We took it up seriously then, and we became drinking buddies.

Maggie: We discovered alcohol.

Margaret: Well I had discovered it before then, but we used to have dinner parties. It was good fun. Our

children were at school together.

Loani: Did you sew already then Maggie?

Maggie: I used to make my own clothes and I had the girls so I made their clothes. I had four daughters in five years.

Margaret: After Margaret left the paper shop, she went to work as a legal secretary and I had a shop in the same arcade. I slowly managed to get her into patchwork but I'll just tell you a funny story, I made Margaret a cushion once with three little kittens on it and I'd quilted it and Margaret said to me "What did you leave the tacking in for?"

Maggie: I knew nothing

Loani: And the quilt that you're showing in the exhibition Maggie, in fact, has the most beautiful hand done 'tacking' on it.

(we all laugh)

Margaret: I want you to tell Loani about you winning a prize to go to Hong Kong on the Bob Dyer radio show.

Maggie: You had to answer questions about the place you wanted to go to, and the stops along the way. If you got the question right, you went ahead, if you got one wrong, you went back, so I got there, to Hong Kong.

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Margaret Johnston

Exhibition Quilt:
Log Cabin Learning Curve
195cm x 195cm

Margaret is a 1984 inaugural member of the
Wallace House Quilters



When I made the "Alpha Log Cabin Quilt " I knew very little about patchwork. My dear friend Peg Brennan asked how I would quilt it and I said "quilt it?". Eventually I buttoned it together and although it weighs a ton, among other faults, it's still important to me.

We settled on the Sunshine Coast in 1972 from Mt Eliza, in Victoria and had so much "stuff" that wouldn't fit in the house we bought in Noosaville, so I opened an old-wares shop where the Islander Resort is now.

My husband had a work contract in Stawell, Victoria for a year, then we returned to Noosaville again in 1974 just after Cyclone Pam had caused so much damage here. I was bored out of my brain and opened a recycled clothing shop in Tewantin, called Ragtraders, which became very famous in the days before op-shops and garage sales. It had been the picture theatre before burning down.

In the same arcade, I bought the haberdashery owned by Larry and Daphne Quillan. They were going back to America. With two shops in the arcade and building a new home in Cooroy, life was very hectic, but my employee Rhonda Heffernan was a godsend and many years later after she moved to NSW she said to me "Margaret, the time I worked for you was the happiest time of my life!" I was very touched by that.

I still get people stopping me to say how much they loved my shop. In Aldi recently a lady asked if I remembered her, she had bought a teddy bear for her Grand-daughter from me and it's still on her bed 35 years later.

Another time, a woman stopped me to say she had recently buried her husband in the shorts he had bought from me as they were his favourite shorts. That was a funny one. I really didn't know what to say to that.

Over the following years, I also had Plaza Drapery in Tewantin and Patchwork Paraphernalia in Cooroy, both very successful and well thought of even after so many years. I feel very humbled and blessed by so many still remembering me.



Sandy Mackie

Exhibition Quilt:
Mary Tolman Quilt

151cm x 202cm

Sandy joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2007

My beautiful husband, Alistair, passed away on 2 April 2014.

In June that same year, Brigitte Giblin gave a workshop at Wallace House and it was ideal (timing). Alistair always loved colour and so I knew which quilt I would make at the workshop.

I refer to it as my 'grieving quilt' because that's what I did. It was exactly one year from the day I started to the day I finished. I would wake up and I would be in my creative room, as my Alistair used to always call it, stitching away. Whenever I went somewhere on holiday, or went away for a weekend, the little hexagons came with me and that's how it grew. Some friends had a boat up in the Whitsundays, and there I am sitting on this gorgeous ninety-foot cruiser stitching away at my hexagons. They go anywhere, they're very portable.

Alistair and I were married for 38 years, we were together for 2 before that, so 40 years. And it was lovely to stitch and remember and then let go and remember again. It was very calming. I still get upset today over certain things that happen in life and I think why was he taken and I realise that it's just part of life and you have to get on with your life and that's what he would want me to do. He would want me to keep

on stitching and keep on making beautiful colourful quilts.

Every time I make a quilt I think of him, because we were so connected. We used to joke, the reason our marriage lasted so long was because he was a keen cyclist and he'd be outside and I'd be in my creative room sewing and we never got together much.

Having such gorgeous children to support (me) and a wonderful family and all the girls here at Wallace House, they were all a huge support when Alistair first passed away. And I don't think I could get through it really without the support of the girls here. It was just so reassuring. You don't know everybody but everybody felt for you.

I am really pleased with my quilt. I love my colour scheme. I just love how it has all come together.



Mazi Mantel

Exhibition Quilt:
William's project

152cm x 152cm

Mazi joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2016

I had made a quilt for William's younger sister, Olivia, and one day Will said to me "why can't I have a quilt" and I said "what would you like Will?". He wanted an army quilt. Both his parents are army professionals and at that stage he was very into guns and tanks and all sorts of wonderful things. I asked my daughter if she had any old uniforms because I didn't know where to start.

I made William a fidget quilt from the uniforms with pockets he can hide things in and he lapels he can undo. There are all these little secret places in the quilt. His surname is on the bottom of the quilt, because that's his father's surname or course. He also wanted poppies for remembrance.

Does he know it is going to be exhibited?

He does and he said to his mum the other day "mum can you book me a flight for February please. I've got to go and see Mazi, the quilt is going in the exhibition at the Regional gallery". And he had it all right.

He was very excited about getting the quilt. He didn't actually say anything, which is very William, he just looked at it and then packed it up. I asked him what he wanted on the label. He asked what's on Olivia's label. He said he wanted what Olivia has on hers.

So it says: Made for William, with all my love, Mazi

I came to Wallace House four years ago. My friend Bev Bennet asked me to come and I said that I hadn't made a quilt in 40 years. She said to come and meet the ladies and have a morning out. I was made president the week after that. Because I was a stupid bunny. And then I was president for two years and I got to know everybody and I haven't looked back since.

I think I have made some beautiful friends here. It has widened my whole perception of people and friendships and creativity. I wouldn't be without quilters.



Sarah McConkey

Exhibition Quilt:
Folded Flowers
90cm x 120cm

Sarah joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2012

I've been quilting for about twenty years and have made at least twenty quilts for my family. I've found myself making smaller quilts as I get older. I've got an interest in Japanese quilting effects. The flowers on the quilt hanging here came from a Japanese folded flower book. I just let myself go and enjoyed myself folding flowers.

Ever since I was so small, I've wanted to create things. There doesn't seem to be anybody else in the family with quite the same passion for creating with fabrics. But I can remember even as a small child, knitting tiny little dolls clothes. I've made fabric clothes for the dolls and teddy bears ever since I was tiny. Do you remember when we were young we had paper dolls and their paper clothes had the little tabs? I'd make little dresses for the paper doll family. My sisters joined in. Our dolls had the most fantastic wardrobes, but that was paper.

Was it your mother who taught you to sew?

Yes, when I was eight she said I could use the sewing machine and from then on I was machine sewing dolls clothes. It progressed into making my own clothes and making clothes for my children and then curtains and cushions and all sorts of furnishings.

I'm never happier at home knowing that I've got a nice pile of fabric to make something with into the future. If there was no fabric there, I'd be very despondent.

It is a meditation. You can let yourself get lost in this world of colour combinations and possibilities.

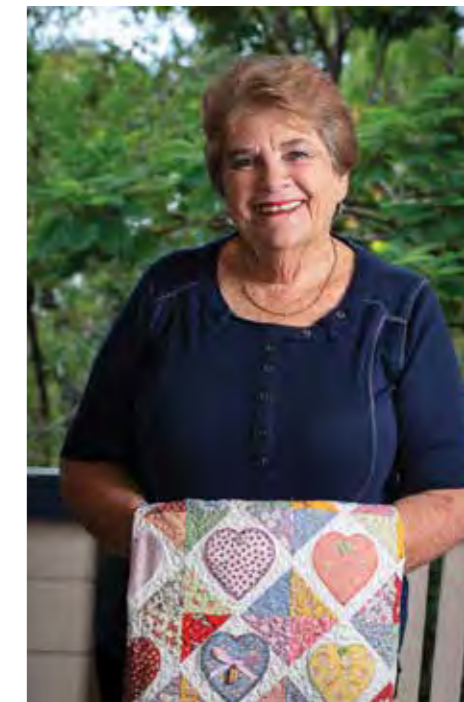
I came to Wallace House about 6 years ago. They were having an open day within weeks of us arriving here from Brisbane (and before that, Melbourne). I said we may as well go along and lo and behold there was Brenda (McFeeters) in charge of the day. She's more or less looked after me ever since.

It's a nice place to go to share ideas and not only about fabric, but about day to day life. It's a nice place to be.

Brenda McFeeters

Exhibition Quilt:
Hot Stuff in the Kitchen
170cm x 210cm

Brenda joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 1997



The quilt is the story of my husband's life, I liked to create story quilts. John's nieces and nephews received story quilts for their 21st Birthdays. John said to me about 3 years before his 70th birthday, "you know what I want for my birthday? I'd like a quilt" and I said, "you have to be joking, you want a quilt?"

John was a poultry hobbyist and loved exhibiting his chooks, so there are 28 different patterned materials in this quilt.

It is a queen size and I thought I would never finish it. He was also an avid grower of chilli plants. He made chilli sauce and chilli chutney for friends, so there is a chilli boarder on it.

The quilt is named "Hot Stuff in the Kitchen"

We travelled a lot to Victoria and South Australia to exhibit his many breeds of chooks in poultry shows and being successful, he had boxes of prize ribbons. They are on the back of the quilt. I have cut out the egg shapes... if you read downwards you will see when he was born and what he did in his life.

He joined the navy at seventeen, went to Malaya on the H.M.A.S. Anzac and then to Vietnam. We moved to Noosa in 1996 to live his dream.

He received this quilt for his '70' birthday. The reward was the tears in his eyes. He said to me "I am really pleased you made that quilt for me. When are we going to put it on the bed?" Can you imagine all those chooks being on the bed? So, it went to the spare room.

He died that same year and we just missed 50 years of marriage!

A few people have named you in their stories as being the person that welcomed them to the Wallace House Quilters.

I always believe you should never walk against the blank wall. There's always another door open to you, In Sandy's (Mackie) words - it's a sisterhood here. I always feel there's a bond here with these girls.



Lyn Midgley

Exhibition Quilt:
Happy Sailing
183cm x 184cm

Lyn joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2009

My quilt is called Happy Sailing. I made it for my husband, Brian when he was planning to sail our boat around Australia. That was in 2011. I sailed with him from Noosa to Hervey Bay on this trip, then he continued on alone around Australia.

Brian was always saying you make all these great things and give them away. So, I thought it would be nice for him to have a quilt of his own to take with him and so kept with the sailing theme. He does call it "my quilt".

He was away for eight months. I flew to Darwin with my daughter and grandson to see him. We got a big shock because he had lost a lot of weight. We all went out sailing for a couple of days with him and then flew home and he continued on. Later I flew to Perth and spent three weeks with him in Fremantle. By then he had gained weight, probably due to pies and cream buns at each port of call.

His first response (on hearing about this project) was "Oh you'll be able to use my quilt". That was it. It is my own design, I just made it up as I went along.

And it has the best story because it has sailed right around Australia, keeping him warm, particularly in the

colder Southern Ocean. It is a bit special. And since, we have sailed up and down the coast with it aboard.



Deirdre Moony

Exhibition Quilt:
Golden Wedding
83cm x 106cm

Deirdre joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2004

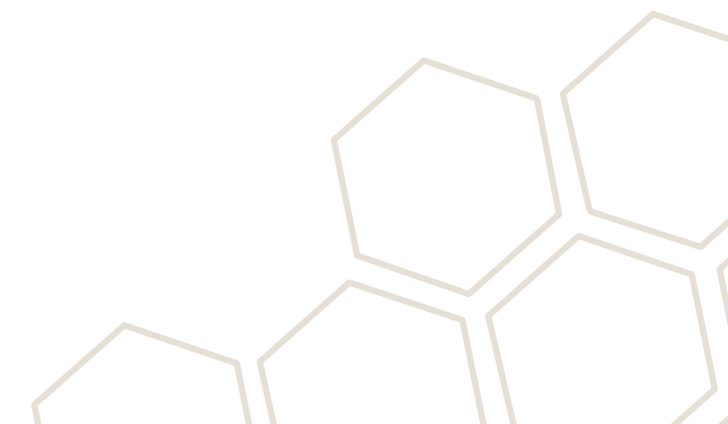
I made the quilt for my parent's golden wedding anniversary. My sister and I got together and winkled all these old photos of their wedding party out of mum's house. Mum had her engagement notice from the newspaper and there were other photos too. By this time they had a few grandchildren but I knew that it wouldn't be the full suit so we just stuck with Mum and Dad and us five siblings in the quilt.

I went to a local print shop in Bowral, where I was living at the time, and they printed the photos onto a light homespun. Then I creatively chopped photos up and put them in the quilt.

Mum and dad really liked it. It was quite a talking point to see their wedding photo up there on the wall, dad, when he was about 22, and mum was about 19. I made sure I got some from when we were little tots to our teens.

Dad passed away about 15 years ago and it has been on the wall in mum's house until last year but she discovered the geckos were having a lovely time behind it. It needed a good wash so she has taken it down for a little while. It's nice to look at the old photos without having to take out a photo album. They're right there on the wall.

My late husband Pat, and I, moved up here from Bowral in 2003. I had decided I wouldn't do any more quilting because I already had enough quilts in the cupboard but I discovered very quickly I needed the company of other women. The council must have had a community day. It was held at Australis and there were a whole lot of community clubs and groups. We went to that and I discovered the Wallace House Quilters.





Judith Murray

Exhibition Quilt:
Friendship Quilt
134cm x 188cm

Judith is a 1984 Inaugural member of the Wallace House Quilters

I'm showing a friendship quilt in the exhibition. The group made the squares. I gave each person three pieces of material for the tulip design square. They could make that into any type of design they wanted. That showed their own personality in my quilt.

I started patchwork in Tewantin. There was a Dorothy Watson workshop in the gallery in 1983 and after that, half a dozen of us decided that we should keep going. We met around Peg Brennan's dining room table for a couple of years and when we outgrew Peg's house and we moved to the Baptist Church Hall.

Rosemary George had us all make teddy bears to send to the children who'd been through the floods in Central Queensland in 1990.

When Wallace House opened, we had more space and many more workshops. I was involved in the committee for the South-East Queensland Quilt Show held at Caloundra doing the publicity and various things. I liked the challenge of making a quilt to hang in the exhibition each year.

What was work did you do before you retired?

I was a nurse. I worked in Canada and travelled by car with a friend all over Canada and America. And then went to London to work to save to drive around

England, Scotland and Europe. I came home to Texas in south west Queensland, where I grew up. I was working at the Texas Hospital. My husband Ian was a farmer. He had cattle and pigs and grew crops. He was on the board of the hospital. That's how I met him. We moved here in 1980.

Tell me about all the other things that you do Judith.

Apart from playing golf for a time, I was the Manager for the Endeavour Foundation for 8 years and a member for 33 years. I was the treasurer of the Noosa Music Society for many years.

When I first came here I had Ikebana lessons. We still meet at someone's house once a month. The Ikebana motto is "friendship through flowers". We have been through a lot - all the members - a lot of life. We still meet for a cup of coffee and do an arrangement.

I also belong to the orchid society. I have about 30 orchids.

Life's busy.

Notes: After 38 years dedicating her time to the Red Cross, Judith Murray was recognised in 2019 for her outstanding service to the community with a National award.



Helen Mutch

Exhibition Quilt:
Millie
177cm x 216cm

Millie joined the Wallace House Quilters in 2011

I lived in Canada for five years when I was younger where I met my good mate, Julie. We've always kept in regular contact. I've visited her many times since then. I knew all her family. When her mum died in 1984, Julie found her mother had kept a lot of her grandmother's handiwork. Her grandmother knitted, sewed, crocheted and netted, and made all her own clothes.

When I was over in Vancouver visiting Julie for my fiftieth birthday, she gave me twenty (of forty) of her grandmother's Dresden Plates blocks, that she had handmade in the 1930s from old clothing and scrap fabrics. Julie gave me twenty for my birthday. I was delighted with the gift.

The two of us went out and bought appropriate fabric to finish the two quilts. I brought all the blocks home to Australia and put them together. I sent one top home to Julie and instructed her how to quilt it. Julie could knit and sew but she hadn't quilted before... so we now have a quilt each - one in Canada and one in Australia.

Julie's grandmother's name was Mildred Jeanette O'Connor and she was known as Millie, hence the name of the quilt, and she lived in New Westminster and British Columbia her whole life - 1892 to 1974.

Before moving to Noosa, I lived in Austinmer, NSW - 100k south of Sydney, and I began quilting in 1982 when I made three quilts and didn't do it again until I came here.

I joined Wallace House Quilters in 2011. I love it and all the girls here. Everyone is so amicable and I've made some very good friends.



Christine Myers

Exhibition Quilt:
Fabric memories 1939 - 2019
200cm x 200cm

Christine joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2017

This old Arnott's biscuit box has been in my life as long as I can remember. It has always been filled with fabric hexagons and other bits and pieces. There were no cardboard templates from Patchwork Angel in those days. It was just "here's an old magazine, cut out your own paper templates" so they are a bit wonky.

One of the magazine templates has the date March 7th, 1939, my grandmother's time. Some have cartoons of Ginger Meggs and Pluto. Some are from a later time in my own adult life when I worked in real estate for my sins and I used the old window cards to make templates.

I've been in and out of this box for years, looking at bits of fabric from clothes my mum made for herself, and for me, and from the little dresses my grandmother had made for my mother's dolls.

In the 1980s I decided that a lot of work had gone into these hexagons and I should make something. I didn't really know how to go about making a quilt but I went to a quilt fair and I bought a piece of cream fabric with pretty little flowers on it and started to join the hexagons. I sat and sewed them for a time, before putting it away, moving onto other projects.

In the early 2000s my mother was diagnosed with

dementia and I thought that making this quilt would be a lovely thing to do for her, but life just got really busy, we renovated a house, grandchildren started to arrive and mum needed more of my time.

Once again it got stuffed back in the cupboard.

When I dragged it out this last time, I realised that there are so many memories and so much work in it that it just had to be finished. I have used a lot of the hexagons from the box, hexagons my mother would have been working on from when she was about thirteen. There is also a lot of the sewing fabric out of my own stash from over the years even some quilting fabric from some small quilting projects I'd done.

It's not a beautiful quilt aesthetically, but every time I look at it, I have memories of my mother and my childhood.

I'm the baby of the family. I have a much older brother and sister. They were away at boarding school mostly. Dad had left when I was two. I didn't know him. I didn't miss him.

I grew up in Port Moresby. "Loani" is a Papuan name. I would tell people, "It means beautiful flower". Mum would say "you mean Stinking Roger".

We were tight me and mum. Then I grew up and we fought over everything, always. Perhaps we were too alike, but Rhonda and Geoffrey fought with her too. Proper crazy fighting. I reckon she couldn't give up being mother tiger, taking care of every small and big thing for us three. Having an opinion about everything. It was exhausting.

Mum worked full time for the Australia Government in PNG, at a time when women were paid three quarters of a man's wage for the same job. There was no child care, no parental support. She did it tough. She WAS tough, on herself and on all of us.

I was cross at her for everything. I was even cross at her for dying. She was 72. I was 37. I cried large loud tears for six months for what would never be, an easy friendship between us.

And then, oddly, I felt relieved. And I began to know



Loani Prior

Exhibition Quilt:
Happy Days
173cm x 173cm

Loani joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2017

the woman, Constance Katherine Prior, nee Dinsmore, born in 1922 in Hughenden, west of Townsville. She'd been a Radio Operator in the WAAAF in Townsville during World War II. She told us she went to Port Moresby, after the war, to begin her trip around the world, but met our father and married instead. And when he left, she took fierce care of the three of us.

At age 60 Mum gave up her job, changed her name to Kate and went to the Seven Hills College of Art full time for three years. I let her paint me in the nude, eight months pregnant with my son Ben. I love that painting. It hangs in my lounge room for all to see.

My mother was courageous, clever, political, generous, funny. She was a tour de force.

This is for you mum. In memory of a happy childhood and in gratitude for a lucky life.

Note: The sewing machine in Loani's portrait is her mum's 1964 Bernina. Loani has only recently relegated it to "Second Sewing Machine".



Diane Ridgway

Exhibition Quilt:
Guardian Angel
50cm x 35cm

Diane joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2014

The Guardian Angel Quilt is only a small quilt but it has had a big job to do.

When my two children, Abbey and Jesse were in primary school, their father was killed in a motor bike accident. When a parent passes away, their remaining parent often has the sole carer's responsibility, and has to witness that child's pain. Those moments are etched in my mind and have stayed with me.

Abbey, who was 11 at the time, seemed to lose a bit of faith in the world, and that an adult could protect her or look after her. And I saw that grief come back at every different milestone, at birthdays, at weddings, at all sorts of stages.

During the ensuing years, I was working full time and studying for two degrees. My main objective was to support the family, put food on the table, and make sure the kids were ok and had what they needed.

I've always loved sewing and making things. I made quite a lot of things for my children when they were young, clothes for them both, dance costumes and formal dresses for Abbey, and a little bit of quilting for gifts.

So, when Abbey wanted a quilt for her 21st birthday, I

rashly agreed, not thinking that a young lady studying interior design would, of course, be very specific about what she wanted. I started the first Holly Hobby block. It was hand appliqued and two months later I realised I was not going to make the quilt in time and I missed the 21st birthday deadline. Abbey was seriously disappointed and let me know.

Later, when I saw this design, I knew I had to make this quilt. It was a gift from me to her, a symbol of protection, and to help her with dealing with the world. I hadn't sewn anything like it for a long time so it was a bit of a journey in hand stitching and doing free motion machine quilting again. And perhaps it made up a little bit for the 21st birthday quilt I wasn't able to deliver.

When I asked Abbey if I might borrow the quilt for this exhibition, and went to collect it, the one thing she said was "will I get it back? I'd better!".

Maree Risby-Jones

Exhibition Quilt:
Dancing Dollies
113cm x 113cm

Maree joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2009



My mum was a soft place to fall and I miss her dreadfully still. It's kind of like never being able to go home, that's how I feel. It's at the back of my heart all the time, like a little hole.

I made this quilt for her. She died at 43 after having seven children. She had liver cancer. Mum had a pretty tough life. She was the second child in a four-child family. She and her elder brother were born out of wedlock. My nanna married the father of the third and fourth child. He had suffered very badly during the war. He was an alcoholic and a very angry man.

My mum had to protect her mum all the time from beatings and things.

When mum was about 9 or 10 she would clean toilets in the billiard hall for money and she would take it home for food for the family and her stepfather would find it and take it down the pub.

I felt mum didn't have a childhood. But she was galvanised to survive anything.

I'm the eldest of seven children. I was 22 when mum passed away. We had been told that very morning that she had incurable liver cancer and she was attending an outpatients visit at Brisbane General Hospital. They'd put her in a cubicle to wait for her doctor. She

told my dad she couldn't breathe and I went searching for a doctor to help her. He popped his head in the cubicle and said 'Of course she can't breathe. She's dying.' I screamed at him to help her and later realised that the last thing my mum would've heard was me being angry. She passed away ten minutes after.

I gave birth to my first child, Rebecca, 6 weeks later.

I made the quilt with 1930s material, from the time mum was a child. And the dollies around the boarder are for the dollies she didn't have. It is a sampler quilt, to show that each square along the way is what you make of it. I think that's what she taught us more than anything. That, and that education would pull you out of any problem.

I finished the quilt about 10 years ago. Its' been in my cupboard ever since. Once in a blue moon it gets an airing. This quilt is for me and my mum.



Suwanna Russell

Exhibition Quilt:
Underworld Dream
194cm x 216cm

Suwanna joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2000

I made this quilt when my husband had treatment for melanoma in Brisbane. It was stage four (cancer). It was fifteen years ago. They didn't have a lot of treatment then. They wanted to do a case study because it had gone to his organs, so not even chemo would work.

We stayed in an apartment in Brisbane. Rob had daytime treatment each day, Monday to Friday, for three months and come home on the weekends.

Melanoma cell is quite clever. You know how we have killing cells and normal cells. The killing cell will find a way to kill the bad (cancer) cells but because melanoma is very tricky, they know how to hide, and the killing cell can't find him. I learned a lot about this.

Anne Hunt is my neighbour next door, and because I needed something to do when I go to Brisbane, she said come over and I'll show you how to make quilts and you can have something in your hand and I would sit in the hotel or in the hospital all day and this was something to do. That's why I made that quilt in three months. It is hexagons, handmade, everything. And just for something to do.

But at the end of the three months, they said there

was nothing else they could do. But Rob said if it doesn't help him, it might help other people, him being in the trial.

Rob, he decided to go and see our daughter in New Zealand and we went there (with our son) for four weeks. We did everything we wanted to do, we went around everywhere and our daughter took time off from work, took us around. I think he knew himself that the treatment was not working.

When we came back, we got a message from the hospital. They wanted to see him. They told him that the treatment didn't work and the (cancer) was everywhere and to prepare for the end.

He died 2004 in April. In the Noosa hospital here. He was 61. Young.

This quilt got me through. Especially at night time when you can't sleep, at first, when Rob died. I was very thankful for Anne. She was really good to me.

Sue Scougall

Exhibition Quilt:
Yukata Inspiration
147cm x 185cm

Sue joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2004



I was shopping at a place called Kazari in Melbourne which has a lot of Japanese and Asian things and I saw this old yukata hanging. I'd never seen anything quite like the design in the fabric. I loved it so I bought it. I've got quite a few yukata and didn't really need another one, but ...

What is a yukata?

A yukata is a cotton kimono. It is a casual or hot weather kimono. I used to live in Japan and I just collected these things. My husband was a diplomat and we were there twice for a total of seven years.

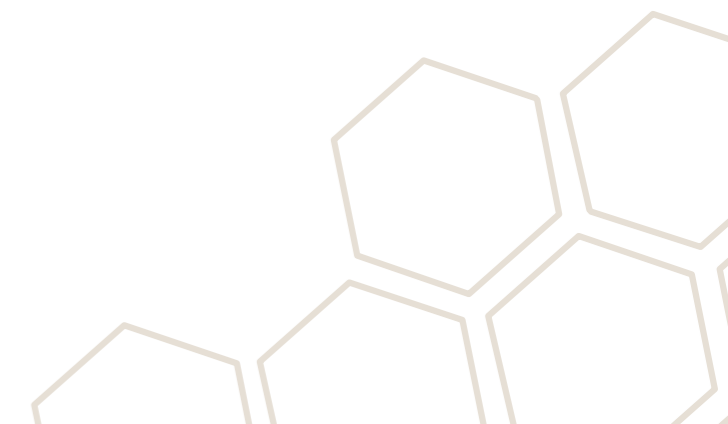
I decided that I would unpick the yukata and use the fabric to make a quilt. Unpicking it was just wonderful because it was all hand sewn and I was able to see how they'd done it. You'd get to areas of stress, like under the arms, and they would have sewn in a little bit of muslin.

When I had unpicked it, I decided I didn't want to cut it, so I made a cheat quilt. It is just long strips of yukata fabric. Yukata fabric is always about 35cm wide. The dark blue fabric in between the strips is beautiful old indigo. It is very fine cotton and was given to me by a Japanese friend, Mimi. It was Mimi's grandmother's fabric. It's more than a hundred years old. So that's

very special as well.

I started learning to quilt with a Dutch lady in about 1981. I was pregnant and going to make a quilt for my baby. I started the quilt but my friend left Tokyo and went home to Holland so I put the quilt in a box and didn't do any more.

When I came to Noosa to live I wanted to finish the quilt I had started all those years ago in Tokyo. So I came to Wallace House and I had Rosemary George helping me with it, which was wonderful. It went from a bassinet quilt to a cot quilt to a single bed quilt. It expanded as it went along. Only took me 24 years.





Mary Stasiak

Exhibition Quilt:
Teds in Bed
95cm x 119cm

Mary joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2010

We moved to Sunshine Beach in 2001. I was still working and hadn't really had time to meet new people. Ten years ago my neighbour Bev Bennett kept saying to me, "why don't you come to Wallace House to join the quilting group" and I kept saying "No, what do I want to go and do quilting for?"

Then my daughter told me she was pregnant and Bev said, "well that's it, you've got to come now." So, I came and I absolutely loved it. Teds in Bed was my first quilt and I was very happy with the result. It was made for Maisee, my first grandchild. She's nine now. Her brother Harvey also used the quilt when he was born - it was a quilt that would suite either a boy or a girl.

Maisee is a gorgeous little girl. She is very loving and caring, as is Harvey. I hope as they get older, they will appreciate the quilts I have made for them.

We grew up in the country in Lockrose in the Lockyer Valley. Dad was a grazier. He had property in the area and mum had the post office and the telephone exchange. I went to a one teacher school and the teacher's wife would come one afternoon a week to teach the girls sewing. She was a beautiful lady who taught us very well. I've still got my samplers with all the different stitches.

I've met amazing people here at Wallace House. It has changed my life. I've had a trip to Melbourne with the girls and this year to Japan to the International Quilt Show. It's been more than just quilting.

Valerie Stevens

Exhibition Quilt:
Oliver's Quilt
198cm x 216cm

Valerie joined the
Wallace House Quilters in 2012



I made this quilt for Oliver because he provides me with all the inspiration in my life. Oliver is down syndrome, he's thirty four. He's been living with me ever since he was born and he has achieved such wonderful things in his life so far.

When I first joined Wallace House, there was a raffle in the April, it was the first lot of sewing I'd done and I won some fabric and my first thought was to make a quilt for Oliver.

Oliver went to the Men's Shed at one stage and he made these little cotton reel holders. Helen Mutch's husband, Graham, worked with Oliver and Oliver came in to Wallace House with a tray of them and sold them to all the quilters and they loved them.

He loved making them and Graham was so good with him.

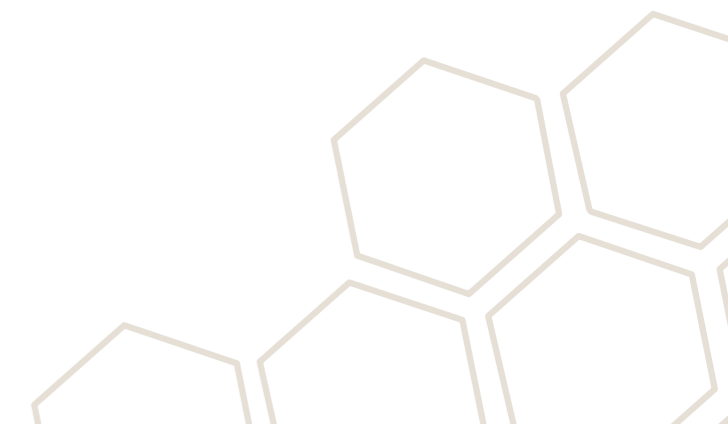
Oliver works at Carramar Nursing Home in the kitchen and loves it because he gets his breakfast and lunch. He dwells very much on food.

And when my mum was in Carramar, before she passed away, Oliver used to go up and see her. They had a special bond and it's funny, because mum didn't smile for a lot of people but when Oliver came she always had that special smile for him. Mum had

dementia. I'm not sure if she recognised Oliver, but she knew he was hers.

Oliver is really well known in the community. Every time we go anywhere, it's "hi Oliver, G'day mate, how ya going?". I didn't want him to only go to places where they only had young adults with special needs. I wanted him to be out in the community. He goes to swimming, to Thai Chi and he's learning to play golf and he really loves singing.

Every day he asks me "Do you know I still love you". Every day without fail, he says that. And if I don't answer him, he has to repeat it so many times until I do.



Members of Wallace House Quilters since 1984

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Nora Albrecht | Noelene Burgess | Patricia Dodd | Rae Hassell | Janet Marriott | Sally Oppy | Robyn Selby | Dawn Ward |
| Sue Allen | Denise Burkitt | Janelle Downey | Julie Hayes | Brenda Marshall | Jan Park | Jo Sellars | Susan Watsford |
| Yoka Altena | Eileen Burvill-Holmes | Betsy Drake | Sue Hayllar | Sherrie Martin | Gloria Parrish | Betty Sheales | Marg Watt |
| Kathy Andersen | Robyn Byron | Patricia Dunn | Pamela Heaton | Carolyn McCallum | Janis Paterson | Sue Shields | Rose May Watts |
| Ruth Andrew | Julie Cameron-Smith | Gail Durant | Sally Heron | Iris McCathie | Gwenda Pettiford | Debbie Siemon | Trudy Watts |
| Gwenda Apel | Joyce Carter | Christine Ferguson | Margaret Higgins | Sarah McConkey | Sally Platt-Hepworth | Ann Simpson | Yvonne Webb |
| Beverley Attrill | Anne Carter | Suzette Fisher | Helga Hill | Isobell McConnell | Aileen Poppo | Yvonne Sinclair | Sue Weedon |
| Shirley Bailey | Diana Case | Wendy Fitzgerald | Sharyn Hodges | Gloria McConnell | Diane Porter | Jennifer Skeet | Kerry Wellington |
| Sandra Baker | Patricia Chapman | Nova Flitter | Manny Holmes | Brenda McFeeters | Chris Price | Marilyn Skett | Barbara West |
| Irene Baker-Finch | Ida Chien | Jayne Forcone | Anne Hunt | Ann McGregor | Janis Price | Betty Smith | Sally White |
| Louise Ball | Rita Christensen | Fay Foster | Dorothy Imber | Jean McGregor Lowndes | Loani Prior | Elizabeth Smith | Helen Wiles |
| Nance Bambery | Jenny Clarke | Dawn Fover | Margaret Jackson | Lois McLean | Shauna Rafter | Pam Smith | Elaine Wiles |
| Margot Barnett | Jenny Clouston | Phyllis Foy | Zillah Jackson | Lorrie McNamara | Rachel Rance | Margaret St Clair | Chris Wilford |
| Liz Bartholomaeus | Faye Clout | Pauline Fozard | Joyce Jackway | Jean McNeil | Denise Read | Pauline Stacey | Annette Wilkins |
| Sue Bartlett | Micky Coghill | Pam Fraser | Jackie Jarrett | Sarah McNicol | Nola Reade | Di Stanistreet | Liz Williams |
| Lyn Bedongi | Karen Collett | Kay Frost | Margaret Johnson | Demetra Meakin | Connie Rees | Mary Stasiak | Madge Windrim |
| Sheryl Bell | Dorothy Collins | Carol Gallwey | Margaret Johnston | Brenda Meinecke | Jan Richards | Cicely Stephenson | Vi Winter |
| Chris Benjamin | Doreen Constable | Sue Gamble | Lindy Jones | Lyn Midgley | Diane Ridgway | Valery Stevens | Robyn Wood |
| Bev Bennett | Audrey Conway | Kate Garratt | Anne Kearney | Dorothy Miller | Ann Riley | Joyce Stewart | Joy Woodgate |
| Joy Berquist | Wendy Cooper | Annette Garrett | Jenny Keast | Marie Miller | Maree Risby-Jones | Vicki Stockton | Diane Worthington |
| Janette Berry | Sue Corbett | Rosemary George | Suzanne Keiselbach | Lilias Milne | Val Rixon | Megan Struik | Jo Wright |
| Lyn Best | Pat Cotton | Lyn Gleeson | Anthea Kelly | Sylvia Mitchell | Margaret Roach | Betty Sweetman | Andree Wyckmans |
| Jane Biddulph | Merlyn Coulson | Judy Glover | Wendy Kenyon-David | Dee Mooney | Daphne Robinson | Pearl Swenson | Bev Yorsten |
| Colleen Bilkey | Rachel Crawford | Lesley Godwin | Joan King | Christine Morison | Donna Robinson | Pat Taylor | Sabrina Yuille |
| Faye Blackburn | Sandra Crisp | Wendy Goldsmith | Laurene King | Joan Morrison | Lyn Robinson | Bonnie Thomas | |
| Bev Blain | Nan Crossley | Linda Gordon | Margaret Kippen | Janelle Morton | Elsie Roussac | Joy Thomas | |
| Kerren Booth | Prue Curtis | Ann Grant | Naomi Kirkegard | Sandra Murphy | Nancye Rowlands | Cathy Thomas | |
| Lou Bowen | Peter D'Arcey | Di Greig | Leila Koskela | Judith Murray | Patricia Rowsell | Joyce Thomson | |
| Betty Boyle | Sue Daley | Joyce Grounds | Jeannette Kovassy | June Murray | Suwanna Russell | Dora Timms | |
| Peg Brennan | Shirley Daly | Judy Guthrie | Marion Lacey | Betty Murray | Annemarie Rutledge | Adele Tucker | |
| Pat Brent | Vivien Daniels | Patsy Haigh | Helen Laird | Helen Mutch | Dawn Ryan | Jean Urquhart | |
| Yvonne Brinsmead | Paula Davis | Lynne Hall | Sandie Leadley | Christine Myers | Diane Sammut | Ann Viner | |
| Hilary Broad | Linda Davis | Faith Halls | Cheryl Linnegar | Jackie Nailon | Jayne Sammut | Amelia Viner | |
| Anna Brown | Sue Day | Melissa Ham | Anne Linton | Jill Nash | Veronica Sanders | Nessie Vinks | |
| Tina Brown | Ruth de Mearde | Helen Hamlyn | Thelma Lloyd | Gabrielle Naulty | Kathleen Sargent | Vicki Wales | |
| Kylie Bruin | Heather deGrandi | Anne Hanicek | Joan Lyell | Beth Nelson | Patsy Schmitt | Verna Wall | |
| Robyn Bryant | Esther Dennis | Marie Hanson | Monica Lynch | Margaret Newport | Jill Schneider | Jan Walsh | |
| Pat Bryce | Maria Diacostergou | Claire Harrington | June Lynn | Leone Noakes | Heather Schroder | Sharyn Walter | |
| Pip Buckley | Tanis Dickson | Pamela Harris | Sandy Mackie | Felicity O'Brien | Rose Scott | Tracy Warboys | |
| Kim Bunney | Judy Diggle | Lynda Harrison | Ann Main | Jill O'Brien | Jan Scott | Hilary Warburton | |
| Kate Burdorf | Pam Ditchfield | Robyn Hart | Maz Mantel | Joan O'Grady | Sue Scougall | Sarah Warburton | |



cont... Rosemary George

I was on the committee for the rebuilding of the back half. I had a finger in a few pies. I thoroughly enjoy the company here. I try to come nearly every week.

End Note: Rosemary and Michael George's two youngest sons died from Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy, a genetic heart condition - Stephen George in 1996 aged 30 and Anthony George in 2017 aged 45. Anthony is survived by his wife, Kristy, and three children, Zayne aged 21, Meeya aged 11 and Piper aged 7.

cont... Patsy Haigh

week and our friends Kathleen and Murray Maxwell put us up at their BnB for a while. They owned the Noosa Valley Manor at the time.

We had good insurance and I tell you what, if you don't have insurance, people would never survive. If you don't have money, it's just impossible. So that was it, we were very lucky from the point of people offering us a place. They were very, very kind. It was just amazing.

cont... Margaret (Maggie) Johnson

Margaret: Imagine Margaret getting on the plane with a hat, gloves, high heel shoes, because that's what you did in those days. And the pilot asked you to sit up the front with him didn't he.

Maggie: I was only young. About 20. Before I was married. I sat in up with the pilot. He landed at Hong Kong airport with me sitting behind his chair. I said I had better go and sit down. And he said no, stay there.

Margaret: It was adventurous of her because nobody travelled much then.

Loani: Can I ask Maggie, how old you are?

Maggie: I think I'm 84.

Margaret: 1936

Maggie: 1935.

Margaret: Yes, she's right, 1935.

Loani: Get it right Margaret! She knows her own birthday

Margaret: I was only trying to take a year off your age.

A LIFE IN PATCHES

NOOSA REGIONAL GALLERY

31 JANUARY - 8 MARCH 2020

Curator: Loani Prior
Photography: Mark Crocker

Cover: Rosemary George, *Cranberry Chutney* Quilt (detail) Photo: Mark Crocker

