

Bacchus Marsh Visit

For the last twenty plus years, Phillip Island and Bacchus Marsh Patchworkers/ Embroiderers have exchanged visits. The exchange is open to all members of both groups. Last Friday nine Phillip Island members travelled to Bacchus Marsh. This year there were a few differences. We left Cowes by V line bus (using our free senior tickets) and picked up at Newhaven and San Remo. Tiki was to be picked up at The Gurdies but, to her dismay, the bus went sailing past, not even slowing down. (She was sitting in a car out of the rain!!). After a frantic phone call Tiki was able to meet us at Koo-Wee-Rup, so all was well.

After lunch and coffee at Southern Cross we boarded a very comfortable train to be met warmly at the Bacchus Marsh station. From there we all, including several local girls, invaded Lyn Hendry's home for afternoon tea. Thankyou Lyn.

This year we were billeted in private homes, and we say thankyou many times to Yvonne, Cheryl, Judy, Lyn and last and definitely not least Dot, for generously sharing their homes, their time and their treasures.

Each day we met at "The Laurels", a community centre used by the Bacchus Marsh girls for their meetings. It was bright, airy, carpeted, warm, and spacious and had a fully equipped kitchen. A few of us did a bit of sewing or knitting, but we all chatted, shared ideas, were amazed at the workshops available, heard about Lyn and Dot's overseas trip, and browsed with envy through beautiful craft books. The meals were delicious and enjoyed by everyone.

On Saturday morning we were treated to a talk and Show and Tell by a very enthusiastic, prolific and exemplary quilter who'd only been making quilts for the past 5½ years. Neil Chisholm has taught himself to machine appliqué and machine quilt, breaking all the rules. (He didn't know there were any!) He is now designing and teaching and will soon have one of his designs featured in a quilting magazine. He astounded us all by telling us he can design, appliqué, quilt and finish a quilt in four weeks all on a fairly ordinary sewing machine.

On Saturday afternoon we made a trip to Ballan, a very small town on the old Western Highway, and here in the middle of just about nowhere, like an oasis in the desert, was a huge patchwork shop with row upon row of fabric, patterns wool, etc and in the midst of this find, a class was in full swing, and no-one batted an eye as we all poured in. I feel sure we all added to the shop takings at Mill Rose Cottage that day.

After dinner (which included many casseroles and a range of irresistible desserts) we played a few games. Our Margaret and our Fay (a first timer with the exchange) excelled at making and flying paper planes, and Marj and Tiki with patchwork trivia. Some of us were good at Eggheads, but some also need practice (lots of). We all enjoyed our sleep on Saturday night. I think we were worn out from laughing

Sunday morning found us ordering some of the craft books we had admired the previous days, sharing a Show and Tell, exchanging addresses and email, with promises to send patterns and information. It seemed no time at all before we were all boarding a bus to begin our journey home (complete with packed lunches). The trip home was quite uneventful until, once again, the bus went sailing past The Gurdies stop. Poor Tiki!! She disembarked at the next stop and waited to be collected there!!

We all had a wonderful weekend, and hope that our Bacchus Marsh friends enjoyed the time as well. Our sincere thanks to Cheryl and Lyn and their teams, for their contributions and organisation over the weekend. A job very well done and truly appreciated.

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