



Wednesday 15 July 2009

Welcome to this week's newsletter, in this edition you will find photos our of Demonstration Day and Quilt Sale as well as a video. Also a new feature called Staff Profile, we hope you enjoy this week's newsletter.

#### News from our Demonstration Day and Quilt Sale

The buzz from last weekend's hugely successful Demonstration Day is still well and truly alive, if comments from our customers are anything to go by.

Due to the popularity of last November's Demonstration Day, we decided to have another one, this time with the theme; "So you want to make a patchwork quilt".

Over the course of Saturday and Sunday, a total of almost 250 people attended the four sessions, spread over the two mornings and afternoons. The vacant premises next to Blueberries served as an ideal venue, with enough floor space to accommodate quilt sales, a demonstration area, and of course, the enthusiastic crowds.

Quilting aficionado, Meredith Clarke from Victorian Textiles, travelled interstate to be at the event, she kept people engrossed with her demonstrations of new tools and techniques. Particular crows pleasers were the rotating cutting mat, the needle threader (watch the video below), the various new templates designed by Meredith herself along with the many different types of needles, pins and threads.

#### **Click here to watch a VIDEO on how to use the Needle Threader!**

"Meredithe was wonderful," said Susan. "She's such a great presenter. The Demo Days were a hit. Jackie, Tyson and the team did a great job. The feedback from the ladies was so positive. It was great to be involved."

Many people were keen to get their hands on the demonstrated tools that they even skipped their morning and afternoon tea! Now THAT's serious dedication!



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Blueberries would like to thank Meredith Clark for her inspirational demonstrations, and, of course, all our customers and staff for supporting the event and making it the resounding success it was.



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## Staff Profile on Carmel Leybourne

### A Gift from her Mother in Law

For Carmel Leybourne, it was her mother in law who first got her started on her sewing journey.

"I hadn't been married for very long when she gave me my first sewing machine, an old 1950's Singer" Carmel recalls. "I'd never really done any sewing before, except a bit by hand at school, and hadn't shown any particular interest in sewing."



Carmel quickly developed an enduring passion for sewing, teaching herself through patterns, practice, and lots of unpicking. Before she knew it, she was making her own clothes, and then in time, her children's clothes as well. Later on, she surprised herself when she completed a soft furnishings course with a high distinction.

"My maternal grandmother was a very accomplished sewer, making lots of clothes as well as costumes for plays," says Carmel. "She was also very good at calligraphy and a passionate cook, so I've obviously inherited some of her creativity."

Carmel sees her own passion for cooking as going "hand-in-hand" with the sewing. "They're both nurturing, warming activities that bring people together," she says. "And that's one of the things I love most about what sewing has given me – it's very much a 'people' thing." The regular Blueberries customers would have to agree.

Carmel has been a familiar face on the Blueberries staff for five years, sharing her passion, knowledge and experience with dozens of new enthusiasts.

Til next week!  
The Blueberries Team