



Welcome to your Midweek Moments. In this week's issue, you can read all about Bev Brown's very first quilting experience. We also continue our historical meander across Europe through the Dark Ages, following the early roots (or should that be stitches?)

**[Read Blueberries recent blogs...  
2 years on!, at Blueberries Wyong  
Monica Poole's recent Book Launch](#)**

#### Stitches Through Time - Part 3

Quilting was first brought north to Europe from the Mediterranean and the Middle East through a combination of trading and the Crusades (see last week's instalment). However, due to the comparative lack of historical evidence relating to Europe's 'Dark Ages', there's precious little evidence of how popular quilting was in society and how the craft evolved over the next couple of hundred years.

The fairly recent discovery of a fifth century Merovingian tomb in Germany was found to contain a wool twill pall which was made with the ubiquitous Egyptian cotton. However, there doesn't appear to be any other evidence of quilting existing in Europe at all until about the early 12th century. Certain pieces of French poetry dating back to this time makes several references to bed quilts, where the word for quilt was 'courtepointe'.



**14th century Hungarian  
patchwork quilt**

About 200 hundred years later, quilting was becoming more common and began to appear in Germany, France, Italy, Hungary and England in the forms of tunics, armour and wall hangings. Quilted armour was often padded with metal plates, a process that required more of a professional knowledge, giving rise to specialised businesses in London, Paris and Rome.

Embroidery was still the most common form of needlework at this stage, although quilting was working its way down to the lower classes as it became more widespread. However, although the craft of quilting was jumping the class borders of the time, quilts themselves were still largely still considered luxury items.

[Blueberries Sampler Quilt with Susan Carr](#)

**Would you like to learn new quilting techniques?**

**Do you know someone who is creative and never quilted before?**

***If so, this is the class to do. Send this to your friends.***

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Every quilter, whether beginner or experienced, at some stage feels the urge to make a sampler quilt. A sampler quilt takes us back to our roots as patchworkers. They help us connect with the traditions of the art as well as giving us the chance to extend our own skills.



Our nine month sampler class will take you through a range of skill building techniques. We begin with the basics of cutting and straight piecing, then progress through to more challenging techniques like curved piecing and setting triangles. You will learn both hand and machine piecing as well as foundation piecing on paper.



Full patterns and instructions for twelve different quilt blocks will be provided as part of your class fee. We also help you to understand colour, value, terminology, finishing and quilting techniques. The finished product is up to you. There are many options for using your completed blocks, cushions, wall hangings or a single bed quilt. With the knowledge you have gained you may wish to continue to add more blocks of your own choosing and come along to further classes to finish them into a larger quilt.



If this sounds like a challenge that you would like to take, please visit Blueberries or call on 02 4355 4400 and speak to one of our staff for a complete requirements list. Class begins February 20th so be quick.



I look forward to seeing you there. Regards Susan.

*If you purchase the [Blueberries 2010 Class Schedule](#) you can redeem the coupon inside, which entitles you to 10% off the Sampler class.*

## Show and Tell

Show us the item and tell us the story

### Bev Brown's first quilt ever

#### What was your inspiration for this quilt?

It's called 'Victoria Stars' by Meredith Clark and it caught my attention in a magazine. I've been a sewer for many years but this was the first time I'd done a quilt. The colours attracted me as well.

#### As a quilt novice, how did you find this journey?

It was a case of one step at a time. I had a lot of help from Susan and Jackie down at Blueberries in the Sit and Sew classes. Susan would show me a particular technique then I'd go home and work on it.

#### How long did it take you to complete?

It took me 14 months, although I got the majority of it done in the first six months. As it was my first, I didn't want to botch the job by rushing.

#### Did you stick strictly to the pattern or did you customise?

I pretty much stuck to the pattern, although the colours I used are slightly different. They're a bit more toned down than in the pattern.

Til next week!

The Blueberries Team.

