



Welcome to your Midweek Moments, and to autumn proper, now that we finally passed the equinox last weekend. This means that, from now on, there will be less and less daylight hours and more and more non-daylight hours as we slowly head towards winter. Just the right intro, really, for this week's article of headwear under the spotlight in Who Wants to be a Milliner? Read on to find out what it is. We also have a workshop coming up that you are sure to love and last but not least our regular Show and Tell from a different perspective, this time from the recipient of a quilt, not the quilt maker. Enjoy!

[Who wants to be a Milliner?](#)

The Secret Life of Hats, Episode 2 – The Chullo

Ok, since we finished last week's column in Peru and Bolivia, while we're there we might as well devote this week's column to a look at the humble chullo, which is the traditional headwear for the Andes regions of both countries.

The chullo is a knitted or hand-woven woollen cap with earflaps, sometimes also sporting a braid that hangs down from each earflap. They are often decorated with brightly coloured geometric motifs. Chullos are usually made from vicuna, alpaca, llama or sheep's wool, combined with synthetic fibres. The insulating qualities of these materials are essential for highlanders as they provide efficient protection against the bitter cold of the Andes.

The exact origin of the chullo is unknown but it is believed to date back thousands of years to the ancient Incas, making it one of the oldest styles of headwear still around today. Traditionally, the chullo was worn mostly by men rather than women and the different styles, designs and colours denoted the wearer's indigenous identity and community.

The other notable thing about the chullo is that it is just about the only traditional headwear from a non-western country to have made the leap into contemporary western fashion. This is thanks mainly to visionary fashion designer John Galliano, who made a visit to Peru about five years ago for inspiration and brought the chullo back to the catwalks of Europe. Also known more colloquially as an earflap hat, it is now a fairly common sight on the heads of both men and women in the cooler months of countries all around the world, including Australia. In fact, chullos have become so popular that they are sold extensively in both boutique and mainstream stores and the internet abounds with knitting patterns for them.

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a native Peruvian wearing a chullo and other, more western wearers



Mariners Madness with Chris Jurd



Chris certainly knows how to make dramatic quilts and over this two day course Chris will teach you how to create your very own Mariners Madness (pictured above) or your very own Mariners Medley centre. The centre is all foundation pieced and requires two full days of sewing.

Dates: Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 April 2010

Time: 10:00am - 3:00pm

Cost: \$90 plus requirements.

Click [here](#) to register for this workshop.

In next weeks Mid Week Moments our Tutor Profile will feature Chris Jurd, don't miss it!

Show and Tell

Show us the item and tell us the story

Monika's quilt for sister Marlies

What was Monika's inspiration for this quilt?

She has a very good eye for what works and what won't, so that was really her guiding principle. Also, knowing she was making it for me helped. She helped me select the fabrics, making sure there wasn't too much of the one thing. We chose some quite bold colours, and also some beautiful Japanese fabrics, deep purples and greens with swirly black Asian writing.



So Monika is the sewer and you aren't?

Absolutely! I just don't have the patience. But Monika has always been very crafty. She has all the equipment. She's quite a perfectionist. She made all the curtains in her house and she has all these beautiful things hanging in almost every room.

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Whose idea was it for Monika to make a quilt for you?

It was my idea but she was very happy to do it. She even paid for the fabrics. We've always been close as sisters, but she lives down in Frankston, near Melbourne, so we don't see each other as often as I'd like. But last year she came up here to see Chris Isaac for her birthday and that was when we went to Blueberries to select the fabrics.

How long did it take for her to make the quilt?

About two months. We selected the fabrics in October and she gave the quilt to me for Christmas.



How did it feel to have a personally handmade quilt gifted to you from your sister?

It was just lovely, very touching and emotional. I went down to Frankston for Christmas and she made a bit of a thing of presenting the quilt to me. The whole family was there and everyone was extremely impressed with the quilt, but not at all surprised as she's always been so talented.

Here are two other quilts made by Monika for Marlies.



Til next week!
The Blueberries Team.