



Now that Easter's over for another year, watch out for the Post Easter Sales, similar to the Post Christmas Sales, but quieter and less well known, and generally only involving "drastically reduced" Easter eggs and chocolate. If you're on the ball, you can buy these items in large quantities now and make great savings for Easter next year. Your family and friends will never be the wiser, thanks to all the preservatives put into chocolate these days.

In this week's Midweek Moments we profile a creation of Jackie Clarke's in Show and Tell, we feature a new project the kids will love and examine another piece of headwear in Who Wants to be a Milliner?. Enjoy.

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

The Secret Life of Hats, Episode 4 – The Mortarboard

It's safe to say that this special-purpose hat will probably never be adopted as an item of fashion. The mortarboard, so named because it resembles (kind of) the flat square implement used by builders to hold mortar, is the official headwear of traditional academic dress worn by university graduates in many countries around the world. Throughout the first half of the 20th century it was also commonly worn by male schoolteachers. In Australia the mortarboard is also sometimes known as a corner cap or trencher.



The mortarboard consists of a flat square board attached to a skullcap, which is either rigid or can be folded in half. Attached to the centre of the board by a button is a tassel, which is often colour-coded according to the level of study or the institution's official colours. In graduation ceremonies in the United States, the tassel traditionally hangs to the right until actual reception of the diploma when it is then switched to the left.

It is believed that the mortarboard has its origins in similar headwear of scholars within the Catholic Church. It is also thought to be related to ancient Islamic graduation practices where the graduate would wear a skull cap with a Koran balanced on top of it.

Traditionally, the mortarboard is not worn indoors by men, although it is by women. This has led to the belief held by many universities in the UK, that men stopped wearing their mortarboards as a form of protest when women began to be admitted to universities. The flat horizontal form of the mortarboard was considered to be a symbolic "capping" of academic opportunities for women at bachelors or masters levels. Perhaps in defiance of this, women then began wearing their mortarboards tilted at an angle away from the face, which was probably the closest the mortarboard ever came to a token form of fashion.

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Maisy Quilt Box

We would like to introduce the popular cartoon character Maisy, the colourful, lovable mouse with a nose for adventure. She has ears, tail and whiskers, as well as hands and feet, not paws! Maisy has animal friends and toys who share her world, including Cyril the squirrel, Talulah the chick, Charley the crocodile, Eddie the elephant, and her favourite Panda toy.

Maisy's adventures with her friends are funny and fantastic moments like making friends, riding tricycles, going swimming, playing in the garden, and "reading" books.

The kids will love this Maisy Quilt Book...



The Maisy Quilt Book



What's Maisy doing? let's turn the page...

continues next page...

she's wrapping presents



Click [here](#) to see more pages...or visit the shop to see the quilt in person

Kits are available for \$140, which includes all fabric for quilt top and binding, click [here](#) to purchase.

New Fabric

We have had some new fabrics arrived. Enjoy!

[Mrs March Collection](#) - 30 fabrics to choose from



[Little Darling Flannels](#) - 15 fabrics to choose



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Show and Tell

Show us the item and tell us the story

Skirting the issue with Jackie Clarke

What was your inspiration for this skirt?

I wanted to make something relatively quickly, that was a bit different and that I could wear for Christmas. I thought it was a lovely pattern and I knew Susan Carr could help me at Blueberries, being a dressmaker.

Had you ever made a skirt before?

Only once, years before at a one day TAFE course. It was okay but looked a bit homemade so I didn't really wear it as much as I would have liked. It's always nice to wear clothes that you've made.

With this skirt, did you stick strictly to the pattern or did you customise?

Oh I definitely stuck to the pattern. I even used Susan's fabric, which I was able to get from Blueberries. It really suited the look and style of the skirt.

Have you been a sewer for long?

I've been a sewer since I first became a mother, so that's about seven years now. I've mainly stuck to patchwork and quilting, making cushions and quilts and dolls' quilts and bags. Things like that.

How did you feel about this skirt when you finished it?

I was thrilled with it, especially as it doesn't look at all homemade. My husband thought it would so he was surprised to see the finished product. I've already worn it so much. I got a new sewing machine for Christmas so now I'd like to make more skirts and also some dresses for my daughter. With help from Blueberries of course.



Til next week!

The Blueberries Team.