



For anyone who might be visiting Brisbane over the next couple of months, the Queensland Art Gallery is showing a spectacular exhibition all about the art of millinery. The exhibition mainly features the creations of British milliner Stephen Jones, and we thought it deserved a mention in Midweek Moments, considering our current journey through the wonderful world of headwear in our 'Who Wants to be a Milliner?' column. The exhibition runs until 27 June, so there's still plenty of time to make the trip north of the border. Many thanks to this week's profiled tutor Val Moore, for the tip.

[Read out latest blog "A Happy Customer"...](#)

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

The Secret Life of Hats, Episode 5 – The Baseball Cap

Millinery historians are divided as to the exact origins of the modern day baseball cap. Many claim it made its debut in 1849 on the heads of the New York Knickerbockers baseball team, and made of straw! Purists point instead to the Brooklyn Excelsiors, who in 1860 wore rounded topped caps considered to be the true ancestors of today's familiar designs. But for all intents and purposes, the modern variety wasn't really born until the 1940s when latex rubber was used so the cap could retain its shape and to extend and stiffen the peaked bill. Prior to this, baseball caps had been floppy, making them easy to be stuffed into pockets, but no good for shading the eyes.

Although initially created and named for baseball players, this ubiquitous form of headwear can be found almost everywhere in modern society. Many of the world's different armed forces have adopted the baseball cap as part of their uniforms, from the United States Navy and United States Coast Guard right through to our own NSW Police Force. And baseball players aren't the only sportspeople who wear them either – they're also popular with professional tennis players and golfers and even amateur joggers like to don them for a couple of punishing circuits around the block. Umpires, ushers, movie directors, truck drivers, Boy Scouts, workers at fast food outlets, celebrities trying to disguise themselves in public... the list of baseball cap wearers just goes on and on.

Traditionally baseball caps came in standard sizes and were comprised of six triangular sections sewn together and topped with a button on the crown. However, since the 1980s, most varieties have been made with a plastic or Velcro adjuster at the back, allowing the wearer to tighten or loosen the cap accordingly. This One Size Fits All approach has also contributed to the baseball cap's immense popularity.

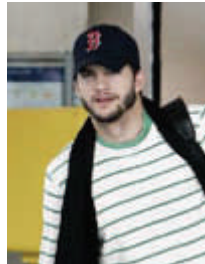
It was also in the 1980s that it became fashionable, particularly with teenagers, to wear a baseball cap backwards or with the peak to the side. This is mostly attributed to baseball catchers who were forced to wear their caps backwards because of their facemasks. Similarly, photographers (especially paparazzi) have had to follow suit to allow proper positioning of an SLR camera against the eye. Such simple and practical origins for such an annoying "fashion statement".

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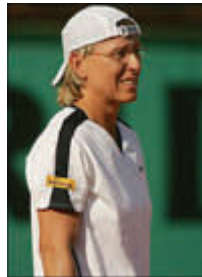
Some high profile baseball cap wearers...



Tiger Woods



Ashton Kutcher



Martina Navratilova



Michael Moore

New Homewares

We have some great new homewares available for purchase at our Blueberries Shop. There is a great selection of cushions, be sure to drop in and see what's on offer.

Kellie Wulfohn's Workshop This Weekend

As featured in our newsletter a couple of weeks ago, Kellie Wulfohn will be running workshops at our Blueberries store this weekend on Saturday and Sunday. There are still a couple of places left and this workshop is not to be missed. Kellie won't be back from another 18 months or more so don't miss out. Click [here](#) to register for Workshop A or click [here](#) to register for Workshop B.



New Fabric - Beach House

We have had some new fabric arrived called Beach House, click [here](#) to view the range.



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Tutor Profile

How long have you been quilting and what got you started?

I've been quilting since the mid 1970s. I started after we moved to Canberra from Sydney and I didn't know anyone. I went to an exhibition of embroiders and saw Margaret Rolf quilting there. She invited me to join their small group. Back then there were only eight of us and we'd teach in each other's homes, but now the group is called Canberra Quilters with hundreds of members.



How long have you been teaching and what do you specialise in?

I've been teaching for most of the time I've been quilting. When we moved back from Canberra I opened a quilting shop in Pennant Hills and I used to teach in the shop. After six years I sold the shop and continued teaching on a freelance basis. Then, when I was guest speaker at one of the Central Coast quilting groups, Jackie approached me and asked if I'd like to teach at Blueberries, which thrilled me. I specialise in appliqué and I've designed an Australian wildflower quilt, as I'm also interested in botanical art.

What inspires your creative ideas and/or projects?

I draw a lot of my inspiration from botanical art, so flowers and nature really do it for me, especially Australian wildflowers. I'm also designing another quilt right now where the inspiration has come from those colourful pyrotechnic squiggles you sometimes see behind your eyelids when you close your eyes tightly.

Do you have a favourite colour or design style?

I can't go past those great Australian wildflowers as a design style. My favourite colour would have to be Jacaranda blue.

What have you learnt from your students as a tutor?

I learn something different from my students with every lesson I teach. It's just amazing. I've learned friendship as well as all sorts of little tips and techniques. It's a total sharing thing.

Val is teaching ['Symbols of Japan'](#) appliqué at Blueberries once a month for most of the year. Next class is Wednesday 28 April from 10am to 2pm.

Til next week!
The Blueberries Team.