



## Blueberries Newsletter

Patchwork, Quilting & Accessories

Mid Week Moments #56

Wednesday 21 April 2010

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Welcome to your Midweek Moments. This weeks newsletter is jam-packed with goodies, so let's get right into it.



Blueberries will be attending the Australasian Quilt Convention & Expo in Melbourne! Thursday 29 April to Sunday 2 May 2010, 10am to 4:30pm daily Royal Exhibition Building, 9 Nicholson Street, Carlton Gardens.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you at the Expo, come and see us at **Stand 21**.

### New Blueberries Pin

Blueberries is pleased to announce the introduction of the Blueberries Pin. You can purchase online or visit the store to pick up your very own Blueberries Pin for \$5. Wear it to a class, at your quilting group, when your out and about or pin it to a bag that you've made at Blueberries.



Members of the [Blueberries Cake Club](#) and/or the [Elm Creek Quilt and Book Club](#) can pick up their pins next time in store, as pictured here below.



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## Who wants to be a Milliner?



### The Secret Life of Hats, Episode 6 – The Slouch

Although the slouch hat has long been associated with Australia and is widely regarded as an Australian symbol of pride, it did not originate here, nor has it been exclusive to this country. Since the middle of the nineteenth century, variations of the slouch hat have been adopted by many different countries including Britain, India, New Zealand, France, the United States and even Germany (during WWI). However, Australia was using the slouch as part of the standard issue uniform for its military personnel since 1885 and still does to this day, where it is manufactured by Akubra, cementing our nation's idolatry of this iconic and practical item of headwear.

The slouch is made of felt with a high-domed crown and wide brim, which is pinned up on the left side with a specially designed badge, known alternatively as the Bayonet Badge or the Rising Sun Badge. A chinstrap holds it securely on the wearer's head, which can be adjusted with a sliding buckle. Many theories abound as to why the brim is pinned up on one side, but it would appear that the simplest one, to allow a rifle to be slung over the shoulder without damaging the brim, is the correct one.

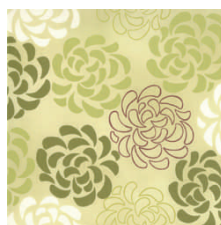
The slouch made its first appearance in Australia in 1885 on the heads of the newly created Victorian Mounted Rifles, at the request of Colonel Tom Price, the unit's commanding officer. Five years later, military commanders of the separate Australian colonies met to discuss the idea of a national military uniform, prior to Federation in 1901. The slouch was adopted for the armed forces of every colony, although back then there was inconsistency regarding which side of the brim was pinned back. Victoria and Tasmania pinned it on the right while all the other colonies pinned it on the left. The hat was first worn by Australian troops overseas in the Boer War in South Africa, but it was the Gallipoli campaign in 1915 that it is most popularly regarded as first introducing the Australian slouch hat to the world. The only other military units that are sometimes associated with the slouch hat are the British and Indian Army's Gurkha units, who still wear them today, although not while on active service. The New Zealand version of the slouch is known as the Mounted Rifles Hat and is still worn by that country's military personnel.

### Hunky Dory Fabric

Hunky Dory fabric has arrived... there are 13 fabrics to choose from as well as Layer Cakes and Jelly Rolls. Click [here](#) to view the range.



*Hunky Dory Jelly Roll  
16050.JR - \$52.50*



*Hunky Dory 16054.16  
\$21 per metre.*



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## Show and Tell with Trish Harrison

Show us the item and tell us the story

### Trish Harrison's Kaleidoscope Quilt

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

I thought it was a very interesting pattern and I loved the colours, all purples and golds and blues. Also, it was a style I hadn't done before.



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

It took me about six months to complete. I did a lot of the work in the Sit and Sew classes at Blueberries. Susan Carr was wonderful, she encouraged me to explore my own abilities while I was making it. I'd be there at Blueberries every day of the week if I could, it's got such a lovely atmosphere.

#### Have you made many other quilts before?

Yes, this is actually my fourth quilt. The other three I made for my grandchildren. That's why I got started quilting in the first place, just to make a quilt for each of my grandkids. But somewhere along the way it turned into a passion in its own right.

#### Where has this quilt ended up?

It's currently at home, but I'm pretty sure it's going to end up with my daughter. She has her eye on it and has said how much she likes it, so it's only a matter of time. I know resistance is futile.

*And last but not least one of our regular readers of Mid Week Moments, Jacqui Gardner, sent this article into us to share with you. The article is called [Idle Pastime: In Off Hours, Truckers Pick Up Stitching](#), Enjoy!*

Til next week!

The Blueberries Team.