



Welcome to your Midweek Moments. In this edition, as well as profiling special guest tutor Kellie Wulfsohn, we also give you the low down on a two day workshop that Kellie ran for Blueberries two weekends ago. Read on for the details.

Susan's Patchwork School in May has been moved from 1st May to the 8th May

A Southern Visitor

On the weekend of 17 and 18 April, a handful of Blueberries quilters had the privilege of meeting in the flesh accomplished quilting aficionado Kellie Wulfsohn for a two-day workshop at Blueberries.

Kellie is well known in the quilting blogosphere but, being Melbourne-based, this was her first time at Blueberries. Jackie Leybourne had previously stumbled across Kellie's blog and was so impressed with it, she cyber introduced herself to Kellie and invited her up to New South Wales to run a two day workshop. The fact that the two women hadn't actually met each other in person gave rise to an interesting situation at the airport in Sydney.

"I'd just collected my luggage when this woman I'd never seen before came up to me and hugged me and said how wonderful it was to see me," says Kellie with a wry smile. "I just assumed it was Jackie and went along with it until the woman realised that she had the wrong person altogether. It was one of those crazy, bizarre moments that life sometimes throws at you."

Eventually Jackie and Kellie did make contact, of course, and the following day Kellie was sharing her knowledge, skills and experience with an eager group of Blueberries regulars.

"I taught raw-edged appliqué and free-motion quilting," says Kellie. "The workshop went for two days and then we had a four-hour class, which was really just an intro of what you'd learn in a full class."

Kellie especially enjoyed her pupils' enthusiasm in tackling techniques that aren't run-of-the-mill but are considerably more specialised. "They were great, they all really gave it a go and took it on board," she says. "They were very enthusiastic to learn. They were a wonderful class."

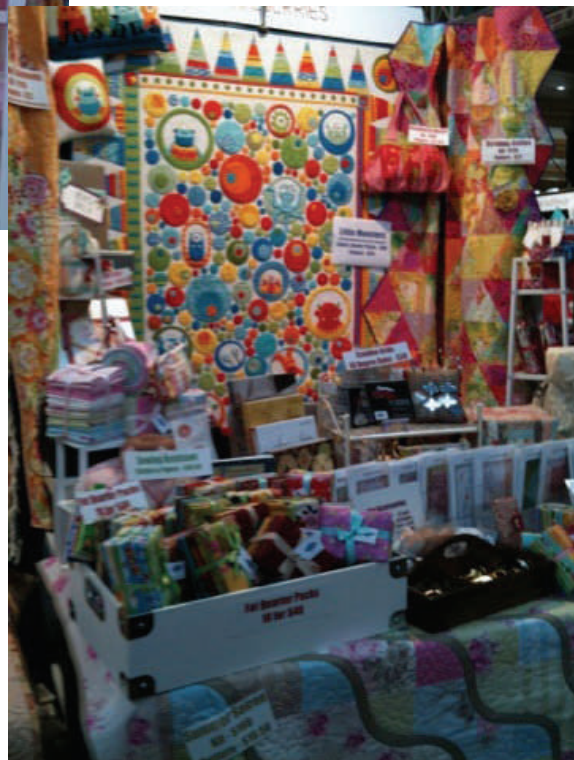
Kellie also enjoyed the fabrics at Blueberries, which she described as exactly the kind of fabrics she'd buy herself. "It's a beautiful shop," she says. "Such a great atmosphere. I felt so comfortable around the fabrics. It was like being at home."

Check out Kellie's blog at www.dontlooknow.typepad.com

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Blueberries is displaying **Kellie's Monster Quilt** at the **Australasian Quilt Convention & Expo in Melbourne** from tomorrow, Thursday 29 April to Sunday 2 May 2010, we are located at **stand 21**. Be sure to stop by and say hi to Jackie and Carmel. Meanwhile here is a sneak peek of our stand.



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Who wants to be a Milliner?

The Secret Life of Hats, Episode 7 - The Top Hat

This flat-crowned, broad-brimmed item of headwear has appeared on many well-known heads from many different walks of life ever since being first manufactured in England in 1793 by milliner George Dunnage. Originally, the top hat was made with either felted beaver fur (for the upper classes) or plain rabbit fur (for the working classes). However, at the beginning of the 19th century, they began to be made instead with silk, topped with black oilcloth to make them waterproof.

By the 1840s and 1850s, top hats had become the most popular form of headwear for men on both sides of the Atlantic. Because they had a look of authority about them, they were also quickly adopted by policemen, and Abraham Lincoln made them particularly popular during his presidency. Other famous top hat wearers included America's Uncle Sam, the Penguin from 'Batman', the Mad Hatter from 'Alice in Wonderland', Fred Astaire and even Dr Seuss' Cat in the Hat. Madonna also famously wore one during her Sticky and Sweet tour in 2008. The top hat also became associated with stage magic and was the hat of choice for magicians to pull white rabbits out of, something that happened for the first time in 1814 by French conjurer Comte.

Top hats may have been handy for hiding rabbits inside, but they also came with some disadvantages as well. One major drawback of the early designs was that they were quite tall and cumbersome and therefore could become problematic in overcrowded places such as on trains and in theatres and cloakrooms. In 1823, French milliner Antoine Gibus came up with an ingenious solution to this when he invented the collapsible top hat, an innovative and practical variation on an already popular theme. This helped to ensure the top hat's lasting popularity until well into the 20th century. Today, top hats have become collector's items and are usually only seen as part of fancy dress.

Some famous top hat wearers...



Abraham Lincoln



Fred Astaire



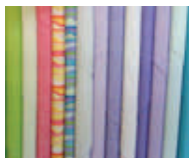
*The Artful Dodger
from the musical 'Oliver'*



*Madonna on tour
in 2008*

New Fabric and Patterns

[Sugar and Spice 2](#)
[\\$18 per metre](#)



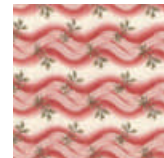
21 fabrics

[Martinique](#)
[\\$21 per metre](#)



19 fabrics

[Fancy Hill Farm](#)
[\\$22 per metre](#)



16 fabrics

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"Little Scraps from This & That" Patterns
\$7.50



The Cube Purse
\$15



Hi-Tech Totes
\$15



8 more to choose from

A-Door-Ables
\$12



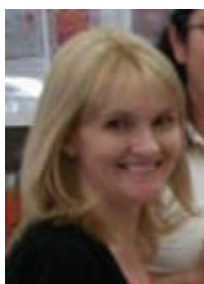
Wonder Wallet
\$10



Purse Nickities
\$12



Tutor Profile on Kellie Wulfsohn



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

I've been quilting for about six or seven years. I got started basically because I'm stingy. It was after the birth of my fourth child. I checked out some quilts in shops and thought it might have been cheaper to make my own. It isn't, of course, but it's certainly a lot more fun. And now I have my own business.

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

I've been teaching for 12 months. I predominately specialise in raw-edged appliqué and free-motion quilting.

What inspires your creative ideas and projects?

I'm like Seinfeld, it's all about everything and nothing with me. My kids inspire me, a book might inspire me, sometimes it's the colour of a particular fabric. Once when I was waiting in a laundromat watching people walking past outside, I saw this pigeon trotting along as if it was a person. It seemed so funny at the time it inspired me to make a quilt with these little birds walking all over it.

Do you have a particular colour or design style?

Well, maybe because I have such a young family I tend to go for child-oriented designs. I like bright fresh girly kind of colours.

What have you learnt from your students as a tutor?

I've learnt how important communication is and that there are lots of different ways of communicating the same information, rather than just one or two.

Quote of the week: *So much fabric... sew little time.*

[Don't forget to check out our Gift Ideas for Mother's Day.](#)

Til next week!
The Blueberries Team.