



Mid Week Moments #63

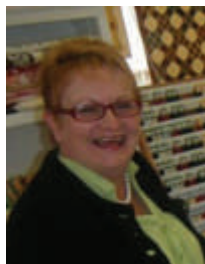
Wednesday 9 June 2010

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Welcome to your Midweek Moments. We'd like to start by giving a great big thank you to everyone who's offered positive feedback and comments over the last couple of weeks on Midweek Moments. Remember, it's there for you, the readers and Blueberries customers and friends, so if you have something you'd like to contribute, please don't be shy. We'd love to hear from you.

**Blueberries will be attending the Sydney Craft and Quilt Fair at Darling Harbour Sydney next Wednesday 16 June to Sunday 20 June, come and say hi, we will be at stand i12. Janelle Wind's samples will be on display at our stand, read on to find out more about Janelle's new book called "Pieces of Me"**

## Class Report



The column where pupils give us a report from the class.

**Pupil:** Lisa Egan

**Class:** Irish Circles, 2nd Thursday of the month at Blueberries

**Tutor:** Karen Cunningham

Click [here](#) to read this article on our blog and make a comment.

### **What do you do in the class?**

This year I'm working on a quilt called Irish Circles, but Karen's classes tend to be pretty varied. She only teaches the quilts that she's designed. She has a bit of a cult following.

### **How was the tutor?**

Karen generally tends to work with more experienced quilters but is also very patient with less experienced people so she's pretty versatile. She's such a good communicator and has a great eye for lovely fabrics and styles. She has the X factor.

### **What's the best part of the class?**

I can't really generalise because it's such a fun day. It's great seeing the new quilts and she'll also bring out the older quilts she's made. You feel so inspired. Also, it's such a lovely group of ladies to work with. The days are very social. We muck around a lot.

### **Does the class meet your expectations?**

I've known Karen for nearly ten years so I knew what to expect the first time I went. I was really excited to be in a class of hers.

### **Would you encourage others to do the class?**

Well actually I've already done that. A group of ladies that I sew with on a social basis booked into the class this year because I spoke so highly of it. Do you think I should get a commission?

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*Lisa's quilt made in  
Karen's class last year.*

*Lisa's Irish Circles so far  
Irish Circles is Karen Cunninghams  
adaptation of a quilt made by Jane  
Piza from Ireland around 1850-60.  
The original quilt can be found at  
Cheltenham Art Gallery and Mu-  
seum Gloucester England.*



### Congratulations on your first book!

Congratulations to Janelle Wind and Natalie Ross for the release of their respective books, a first for both! Click [here](#) to find about more about this very special release and don't forget to leave a comment on our blog.



*"Pieces of Me"  
by Janelle Wind*



*Get red red ready for Christmas  
by Natalie Ross*

*continues next page...*

## Mini Foundation Pieced Sampler by Anne Sommerlad

This tiny wall hanging is made up of 20 traditional blocks. The catch is... they are each only 2 inches in size! The centre of the mini-quilt is surrounded by a 1 inch Flying Geese border.

Even though making such tiny blocks may appear daunting, (one Pineapple block contains 61 pieces of fabric!!), everyone who has attempted the project has been amazed at how easy it really is – thanks to the use of the Foundation Piecing technique.

Because of the size of the blocks, it is a great economy project, as it uses very little fabric, so just dive into your scrap-basket! This is an excellent project to use to learn Foundation piecing and the final result certainly has the “WOW” factor!! It really is... Easy!!!

**Click [here](#) to register for Anne’s sampler class on Friday 2nd July.**

## Who wants to be a Milliner?

### The Secret Life of Hats, Episode 13 - The Beret

The humble beret has been a popular choice of headwear for many different groups over several hundred years and is especially associated with a motley and varied collection of people such as artists, film directors, schoolgirls, boy scouts, bohemians, revolutionaries, military units... and the French.

In fact, the beret is so commonly associated with France that it has often been incorrectly considered part of that country’s national dress. Although the beret originated in France, it is thought to come almost exclusively from the Pyrenees region in the west of the country where it is thought to have begun as a shepherd’s hat. ‘Beret’ is actually a derivative of a Latinized Celtic word ‘birretum’, which was the name of a hooded coat. In the Basque Country region of the western Pyrenees, a special commemorative beret is commonly awarded for sporting or literary achievement, and the Basque word for ‘champion’ (‘txapeldun’) literally means “the one in the beret”.

Traditionally the beret is a soft round cap with a flat crown that is usually worn pushed to one side. It is popular with both men and women and its versatility has allowed it to cut across many socio-economic and demographic boundaries. Many military and police units all over the world, often elite units, have adopted the beret as their official headwear, usually adorned with a cap badge identifying the wearer’s unit. Today’s berets are made from woven or hand-knitted wool, wool felt or acrylic fibre, and the more expensive ones are often lined with silk or satin.

Popular culture is overflowing with images of the beret, one of the most famous being Alberto Korda’s famous 1960 photograph of Argentine Marxist revolutionary Che Guevara wearing a black beret with a red star. As this became a globally recognisable image that symbolised revolution and rebellion, the beret’s subsequent popularity with artists and bohemians, and, in particular, schoolgirls, is not surprising. Viva le revolution! Viva le beret!

*Quote of the week: Asking a quilter to mend, is like asking Picasso to paint your garage!*

Til next week!  
The Blueberries Team



Finished size is  
15 ½" x 18"

Beret wearers



Painter Pablo  
Picasso



Faye Dunaway  
as criminal  
Bonnie Parker  
in the 1967 film  
Bonnie and  
Clyde



Revolutionary  
Che Guevara