Blueberries Newsletter
Patchwork, Quilting & Accessories

Mid Week Moments #64 Wednesday 16 June 2010 Previous editions

Welcome to your Midweek Moments. This week we have a chat with Blueberries tutor Rachael Porter and in the Who Wants to be a Milliner? column, we take a look at a very special item of headwear. In fact, as hats go, it probably doesn't get any higher (or heavier or expensive) than this. Here's a clue; it's to mark this week's Queen's Birthday holiday. No prizes for guessing…

Sydney Craft and Quilt Fair, Darling Harbour

Today kicked off the start of the Sydney Craft and Quilt Fair for 2010. Come and see us at stand i15A.Click here to see some photos of our stand and what we are featuring.

Tutor Profile on Rachael Porter

How long have you been quilting and what got you started?
I've been quilting for over 15 years now. It was a colleague at work who first got me started. She taught beginner's classes herself and she persuaded me to go along to one of those. I'd only ever done a bit of needlework at that stage and didn't even have a sewing machine so it was really intuitive of her.

How long have you been teaching and what do you specialise in?
I've been teaching at Blueberries for just over a year now. Prior to that I was in the NSW Public Service so it was a complete change for me. My husband and I moved up to the Central Coast with his work so it was a great bonus for me to discover Blueberries. I tend to specialise in English Paper Piecing and appliqué.

What and where do you draw your creativity from?
Mostly the fabrics themselves, especially the different colours and textures. But I also get a lot of inspiration from anything around me, books, movies, people, etc. The Quilt and Craft Fair at Darling Harbour is displaying a quilt, called Vintage Rose, that I wrote the pattern for and it's on the Blueberries website as well.

Do you have any favourite colours or designs?
I like more of the old English style and also antique designs for quilts. And reproduction prints. The colours are dustier and have softer tones.

What have you learned from your students as a tutor?
I've learned that anybody can be creative if they put their mind to it. For some people it just takes a bit longer. I get a lot of pleasure from students' reaction when they make a breakthrough, or even when they just do something they didn't think they could do. And they get a real buzz about being able to do something, no matter how small.

Rachael's Block of the Month classes are at Blueberries on the fourth Tuesday of the month, the next three being 22 June, 27 July and 24 August. Click here for more details. To view Rachael's quilt called Vintage Rose that is on display at this week's Quilt Fair click here.

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New Fabric

From the Bakehouse

Happy
Jelly Roll - $52.50
5" Charm Squares - $17.50
Layer Cake - $52.50
Honey Bun - $39.50

Hope
Jelly Roll - $52.50
Layer Cake - $52.50
Fat Quarter Pack - $176.00
5" Charm Squares - $17.50

Lily & Will
5" Charm Squares - $17.50
Jelly Roll Blue - $52.50
Jelly Roll Green - $52.50
Jelly Roll Purple - $52.50

Fabric by meterage

Good Tidings of Great Joy
$23 per metre

Itsy
$22 per metre

Rosery Rose Collection
$24 per metre

Who wants to be a Milliner?

The Secret Life of Hats, Episode 14 - Crowning Glory

Elizabeth II wearing the crown at her coronation

This week we're looking not at a particular kind of hat but a very specific individual hat – St Edward's Crown, which has been the official coronation crown of the British monarchy for 350 years. Okay, so referring to a crown as a "hat" is like calling Buckingham Palace a "self-contained two bedroom unit close to shops and public transport" but we figured you'd forgive us the inaccurate description nonetheless.

Part of the British Crown Jewels, St Edward's Crown was created in 1661 for the coronation of King Charles II after the former crown had been destroyed by order of Oliver Cromwell during the English Civil Wars. It is made primarily from solid gold, encasing a velvet and ermine dome-like top. The crown is encrusted with numerous precious jewels, including pearls that had belonged to Elizabeth I.

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Originally the jewels were merely rented and affixed to the crown just for coronations (cheapskates!) but in 1911 they were permanently fixed to the crown at the coronation of King George V. As the entire structure weighs a considerable 2.2 kilos, several monarchs along the way have refused to wear it at their coronations, (including both Queen Victoria and her son Edward VII), opting instead for the much lighter State Imperial Crown. Maybe the other monarchs have just had stronger neck muscles.

The current monarch, our beloved Lizzie II, must be one of them, as she wore St Edward's Crown at her own coronation in 1952, which was technically the most recent time it was used. For many of the Queen's other official functions, like the opening of Parliament, she wears the State Imperial Crown, as St Edward's is for coronations only. At other times, the Queen frequently opts for one of her many tiaras, of which she has the largest collection in the world, no doubt the envy of A-Listers and socialites everywhere.

Quote of the week: Good friends are like quilts. They age with you, yet never lose their warmth.

Til next week!
The Blueberries Team