



This week we begin a three part series explaining the extraordinary story behind Quilt Aid. While many readers are no doubt already aware of the charity, there are many other more hidden levels to the story that deserve to be told, in particular about the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia and the pioneering work of Dr Catherine Hamlin. So settle back with your cup of tea for the first instalment of 'Women Helping Women', as well as many of your regular favourites.

## Trapunto - the art of making art

Ok, so you've been quilting for a while now and have a pretty good handle on the basics. Everyone says your quilts look good and you agree with them. But there's another voice in the back of your mind that keeps piping up whenever someone tells you how good your quilts are. *"Lots of people can make a good quilt. What you want now is to make a great quilt. In fact, a work of art!"*

The difference between a good quilt and a quilt that's a work of art is trapunto. Trapunto involves the techniques required that give an elegant, formal, three dimensional look to a quilt - things like feathering, multi echo swirls, micro background fillers and pinning. It's one of the more advanced and potentially challenging techniques to master, but worth every bit of the effort once you start churning out quilts that wouldn't look out of place hanging at the Quilt & Craft Fair.

Deborah Louie is running a trapunto class on Thursday 16 September at Blueberries. This is for anyone who's ready to take the next step from good to great and hone the artistry of their quilt making. Deborah was recently awarded the 'Best in Show' trophy at the Fair in June and will be sharing some of her many other award-winning quilts with her students in the class.

"Trapunto is like embossing on fabric," Deborah says. "It's a way of transforming a single piece of fabric into a work of art. After the class, people will be able to transform their own quilts in ways they wouldn't have thought possible, adding timeless elegance to them."

**Trapunto with Deborah Louie**  
**Thursday 16 September 2010, 9.30am - 4.00pm**  
[Click here](#) for details or to register



*Two examples of the transforming effects of trapunto on fabric.*



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## Show and Tell

### Show us the item and tell us the story

#### Di Holmes and her 'Di & Jackie original'



#### What attracted you to this quilt?

I love the fabric. It's a Japanese print that Jackie had in the shop. I knew the kind of thing I wanted and Jackie really helped with the design. I made it to give to my brother-in-law so I liked the fact that the colours and design were both quite masculine as well.

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

All up it took about six months. We played around to get it all together at the end, especially to highlight it.

#### How long have you been quilting?

I've been quilting for ten years now. I was well and truly bitten by the bug. I've actu-

ally been going to Blueberries on Wednesdays since Jackie's been there and I just love it. The Wednesday girls are a real blast and we have so much fun. There's usually people waiting to get into the Wednesday classes.

#### What's the next project?

I've just finished a bag and I've made accessories to go with it as a travel pack.

## Women Helping Women

### The Quilt Aid Project - Part 1 of 3: Finding the Charity

Many readers are probably already aware of the Quilt Aid Project, which was inaugurated in 2009 to raise money for Ethiopian women suffering from obstetric fistula. Blueberries is again proud to be involved in this worthy and inspiring cause in 2010, and is one of only 12 quilting shops nationally chosen to participate. Midweek Moments recently spoke to Helen Stubbings, one of the founders of the Project, to get some of the background of this amazing story of benevolence intertwined with creativity.

"We had the idea of Quilt Aid before we had the charity," Helen explains. "We wanted to use what we were already doing (quilting) to somehow help others, and in a way that didn't really affect people's pockets or lifestyles. Once we got the idea of Quilt Aid sorted out, we then had to find a charity."

Selecting the most appropriate charity proved more difficult than anyone had anticipated. Helen trawled through dozens of websites and spoke to all kinds of different people in the quest for a cause that ticked all the right boxes for Quilt Aid's purposes.

"Primarily we wanted it to be women helping women, or women helping children," says Helen. "We ended up going through World Vision because we wanted it to be an international thing, something that people from other countries could participate in where we were all helping someone in a common place. If we'd settled on an Australian charity, there was a danger that people from other countries might feel that they should be supporting something in their own back yard rather than in Australia."

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Finally, after an exhaustive search, Helen's attention came to rest on the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia and the work of Dr Catherine Hamlin. "It was because I happened to see a documentary on the ABC about the hospital and Catherine Hamlin," Helen says. "It was very moving. I went out read Dr Hamlin's book, *Hospital by the River*. It was a very strong, often disturbing, book. World Vision helped to connect us. I started getting their newsletters and learning more about them. I knew then that we'd finally found the right charity for Quilt Aid."



*The Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia*

Tune in to 'Women Helping Women' next week to find out about the work of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital and Dr Catherine Hamlin.

## Who Wants to be a Milliner?

### The Secret Life of Hats

#### Episode 24 - The Homburg

This iconic, dressy hat of stiff felt was made popular throughout the 20th century by three quite distinct groups of people who had apparently nothing else in common other than their choice of headwear. At various stages throughout the century, politicians, gangsters and hip-hop artists all turned to the homburg, possibly because of its masculine, slightly dangerous, "don't mess with me" appearance.



However, it was neither a politician, gangster nor hip-hop artist who first introduced the homburg to the world - but a king. Or rather, a future king. In 1890, Prince Edward VII, son of Queen Victoria, had a new hat made for himself when he was visiting the town of Bad Homburg in Germany. He was so pleased with it that he named the new style of hat after the town in which it was made. Lucky he hadn't gone to Deutschanktnikolaus.

Classier than both the bowler (*Midweek Moments* #51) and the trilby (*Midweek Moments* #65), the homburg has a crease along the crown and the brim is fixed with a tight upwards curl. It is often accented with a hatband, and almost always comes in either black, brown or dark grey – conservative, manly colours that helped make it popular with politicians, diplomats, bankers and all those other Old Boys Club members.

In the 1930s, the homburg's reputation got a bit of a makeover when the British Cabinet Minister, Anthony Eden, became associated with it. At 38, Eden was the youngest Foreign Secretary for decades, particularly notable amongst a phalanx of crusty older male politicians. Eden's stylish dress, suave manner and film star good looks all contributed to the homburg becoming informally known as the "Anthony Eden" hat, a nickname that even found its way into many dictionaries. Eden was admired by both the Press and the public, his appeal lasting all the way to 1955 when he became Prime Minister. Of course, his "Anthony Eden" homburg came along for the ride, enjoying unprecedented attention that had previously been denied it, even though it had been seen many times on the head of another famous Prime Minister – Winston Churchill – but rarely commented on.

By the 1960s, hats began disappearing as standard day-to-day dress for men, and the homburg had to take whatever opportunities came its way. With a spectacular former career on the heads of kings and Prime Ministers, the homburg now had to settle for an odd and random assortment of wearers such as melancholy comedian Tony Hancock and the cantankerous old Mr Steptoe from the BBC sitcom *Steptoe and Son*.  
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In 1972 the homburg enjoyed an unexpected resurgence in the movie *The Godfather* where it was riddled with gangsters' bullets, earning it the second nickname of "the Godfather hat". Then in the 1990s it had its most surprising comeback of all in the unlikely world of hip-hop, thanks to artists like Snoop Dogg and Puff Daddy, where it was forced to endure endlessly repetitive synthesized beats and sleazy lyrics in slummy city alleyways. What the homburg itself actually thought of these bizarre career twists and turns is unknown, and a far cry, surely, from a life full of promise than began on the head of a future king.



*The politician, the gangster and the rapper; homburg wearers (l to r) Winston Churchill, Al Pacino in *The Godfather* and Puff Daddy.*

## **And the Last Word...**

**"Five Star Man - One who makes room in his life for fabric."**

Til next week!  
The Blueberries Team