

Concepts ...

Student News and Notes – Spring 2017



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Hi Fellow Textile Teachers and Fabric Enthusiasts,

What a great idea it was to escape the winter cold in Toowoomba this year and head to warmer places to conduct workshops in Tannum Sands, Yeppoon, St George, Charters Towers, Townsville and Halifax. Thanks, ladies, for the warm welcome, the balmy weather, AND the wonderful way you received our programs. We sure fitted LOTS into our days, to make the most of our time while I was in town. I look forward to seeing you again in North Queensland, with a bunch of new people too, in May and June 2018 to extend your skills even further, and share with you even more techniques that we'll be releasing at GC training next year.



The Silk Workshoppers in Charters Towers did a splendid job of their creations, and took home three silk painting as well as two scarves designed during our two-day program.

Guess I should let you know that I wasn't away from Toowoomba for the entire winter. ☺ **Queensland Home Economics Conference in Brisbane** is always a 'major' in my diary in August. This year, as well as having our trade display, I was invited to present a hands-on workshop to a group of delegates during the conference program. It was exciting to receive a message from the Convenor afterwards, congratulating me on being the first HEIAQ Conference presenter to

achieve a 'perfect score' from all participants in the evaluation survey. "What an achievement," she said. "Just wonderful!" It's SOOO good to know that our products and the ideas we share are being so well received, and beneficial to those who attend our sessions.

In amongst all the driving between home and various venues, I fitted in time to write another article for *Embellish* magazine. I know some of you caught up with my 'Tropical Lizards' Heliography project in the June issue. Now look for the next article – called "**Capturing Memories**" – later in the year. The girls at Artwear Publications have several titles under their umbrella of magazines, all produced in Australia, and are very classy productions, with high quality projects and inspirations. My next contribution shows how to convert a favourite photo (or other image) into an intricate stencil, so simply you won't believe it ... and so essential for someone like me to be able to be creative without having to be able to draw. (And that's as much as I can say right now – look for the magazine in the newsagents in December.)

On arriving home from NQ in early September, it was time to prepare for our Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebrations on 9th September – a wonderful 'Open House' day spent with over 40 friends and relatives from ALL sorts of times and places in our lives. What a day of reminiscences !!! In spite of my thoughts that 'only old people have such anniversaries', I'm happy to think that one is only as old as one feels, and that YOUNG people can celebrate 50 years of marriage too.

Here's something different for you to try ... just for fun ... DOUBLE DIPPED SOCKS! ...



In the *Concepts Winter* issue last year, we looked at how to colour Stripty Socks on poles or drink bottles. Hope you've tried that. Hope you've also loved these very different socks as much as lots of other people do! Now for an interesting variation, for even more zing to your stripty feet. **METHOD:**

1. Colour the socks as before, and let them dry completely.
2. Take them off the pole / bottle / or whatever round objects you have used. No need to heat set them at this stage as the colour will not move or come out after it has dried.
3. Colour the socks again, using a different colour.
4. Rescrunch them onto the bottles or pole.
5. Allow to dry completely.
6. Heat set in the usual way. Remember the socks are best heat set with the heel underneath – that is, as they would be if they were on your feet, and not 'side on'.

BRIGHT IDEA: try this for one-coloured fabrics on a pole too, doing it twice as for the socks.

(Check out this pole technique on DVD #2, or ask me.)



Colours and shapes constantly inspire me. These balloons from our 'big day' will end up in a creation in the future for sure!



Underneath the sock - Heels tucked in when heat setting.

COMING EVENTS ... Workshops from now till end of year will be held in my Toowoomba Studio, 4 Jull Drive, Centenary Heights ... October and November ... Friday 13th till Tuesday 17th October, then Friday 10th till Tuesday 14th November.

Same program each month. Choose your days and topics, or come for the entire five days for a very special price.

- **Fridays – Traditional Silk Painting** – learn enough in this one day workshop to start you off ... and become addicted! You'll take home two small 'pictures' as well as a silk scarf.
- **Saturdays – Fabulous Fabrics: Basics and Beyond** – the perfect workshop for busy people who'd like to learn lots in a hurry. Teachers, this one is ideal for you, as it has been geared to skills relevant to your textiles students. Quilters and ... well anyone who loves fabrics? Great for you too. We cover plenty of one colour and multi-colour 'basics' to start you creating fabrics that are uniquely yours for your sewing projects.
- **Sundays – Fabulous Fabrics: Advanced** – exploring topics like traditional batik, discharge dyeing, marbling, and more. Attendance at a 'basics' workshop on Saturday or in the past is a pre-requisite for coming on these Sundays.
- **Mondays and Tuesdays – Big and Beautiful Fabrics PLUS Garments Galore** – we'll cover a huge range of our brand new topics during this two-day workshop! Salty Sandwiches, Bouncing, and a range of spray painting techniques are all suitable for working on bigger pieces of fabric for quilt backs, dressmaking, and items from your wardrobe that need a quick makeover.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT applies when fees are paid in full at least two weeks before the start of these programs.

E/B Deadline for October workshops is 30th September – so be quick to register !!! November deadline? 27th October. Numbers are limited to six participants per workshop so you have very personal attention during our time together.

Where to find us at SHOWS in 2018 ...

- **Craft Alive, Toowoomba** – 9th till 11th February, at the Clive Berghoffer Centre, Baker St (Uni of Southern Qld)
- **World of Craft, Brisbane** – 2nd till 4th March, at the Exhibition Building, RNA Showgrounds
- **Biennial Quilt Show, Port Macquarie** – 13th till 15th July, in the Panthers Club auditorium

We'll have our usual spectacular displays, with demonstrations and hands-on mini-workshops at each event.

Workshops in 2018 ... Plans are already well under way for my workshops in Toowoomba and away from home next year.

If you'd like to hold a workshop in your area, please contact me ASAP so we can arrange the details. No workshops in January. It's my 'month off'. Relaxing at the tennis in Brisbane or 'in front of TV for the Australian Open' are both high on my priorities list. It's also my preparation month for the busy year ahead. In February and March, our GC Teachers' Training Programs will be happening in my Studio, then in April in Wodonga, with a training weekend in Tannum Sands to be dated. For my 'travelling' workshops, there's a draft plan. Dates are still to be set in the following places ...

- ✓ Toowoomba – in my home Studio – late March, April, early May, and Sept / Oct / Nov
- ✓ North Qld in late May and early June – two weeks – Halifax and Townsville
- ✓ Perth in late October – one week
- ✓ Melbourne in early December – DATTA National Conference, and workshops

There are still some spots available on my Year Planner. Please contact me soon if you'd like me to come your way.

Making the Most of Our Painting Techniques ... WORKING with SALTS and SUGARS ...

Salts, sugars, and other things that dissolve are wonderful for creating textured effects in your hand-coloured fabrics ... BUT it is VITAL that any of these substances are completely rinsed out after the fabric is dry, especially when you are planning to use these fabrics in your sewing machine. Salt and other sticky substances will play havoc with the 'workings' of your machine!

When Liquid Radiance is dry, it is stable in the fabric. It cannot be moved, or removed. When salts or sugars are dry, remove the crystals, most of which can be 'recycled' / used again. Rinse fabric in clean water (water will now be salty), then another lots of clean water to remove the salty water – then another lot of clean water to make SURE all saltiness has gone. For large fabrics, or really salty techniques, a couple more rinses are a good idea to make ABSOLUTELY SURE all traces of salt have been removed. Peg fabric on the line to dry, then heat set in the usual way.

Have fun with different salts. The size of the salt crystal (rock salt, pool salt, cooking salt, Epsom salts, table salt) determines the size of the markings – the bigger the salt, the bigger the markings (and so on). Salt draws the colour to it, and the colour stays in the fabric. When working with sugars, the size of the grains also determines the size of the markings, but the sugar dissolves in the colour and removes the colour from those areas when the fabric is rinsed. Sprinkle sugars very sparingly so you don't lose too much colour! BRIGHT IDEA: Hundreds and thousands are a great source of sugar! They make wonderful round markings, and the food colouring from them washes out when fabrics are rinsed.

It is my pleasure to help you further with YOUR painting projects. Hands-on sessions are the perfect way to learn, but remember I'm always available to you via phone or email for help and advice. As always, happy creating, folks!

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Anne

**FOR FULL DETAILS,
CHECK MY WEBSITE:
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Download the registration form, or ask me to email or post it to you.

Watch this space, and check my website for more information.



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