

# Concepts ...

## Student News and Notes - Spring 2015

Hi Fellow Fabric-A-Holics and Textile Teachers,

Poems have been written about it ... Songs have been sung about it ... Symphonies have immortalized it ... SPRING! Season of rejuvenation when bright colours rule, and our gardens are filled with dragonflies and butterflies, birds (and I suppose creepy crawly things that we used to revel in as children !?!), and of course an array of different flowers and interesting leaves. So let's get ready to throw off the woolen jumpers, bare our arms in the warmth, and plunge headlong into a world of creativity.

Talking of bare arms, today is the last day of winter as I type this, and I'm wearing two layers of woolly clothing here in Toowoomba (temperatures still hover around 5<sup>o</sup> in the mornings); but later this week Alan and I fly to Darwin where I've been invited to conduct workshops with the Home Economics teachers, and I'll stay on and work with a bunch of quilting and patchwork enthusiasts and other creative people while I'm in town. Yes, we've been watching the weather up there in the tropics where it's 21<sup>o</sup> overnight, through to mid-thirties during the day. We sure won't need many clothes, so there'll be plenty of room for workshop essentials in our packing. After a couple of days' holiday to see Darwin and surrounds, we'll fly home again ready for more activities here. We're really looking forward to this trip, as we celebrate our 48<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary while we're in the Northern Territory ... and to make it really memorable, we've arranged a chartered helicopter flight over the 'top end', taking in national parks, cattle stations, wetlands, and a sweep over the Darwin coastline. Wow, will I have some inspiring photos from all that !!! Colours and shapes, lines and angles, the things that inspire the work that we do. Bring it on !!!!!



Lantana leaf prints, with dragonflies sponged through a stencil using gold Liquid Lustre over a Liquid Radiance colour base.



L - R: Bernadette and Yoko, our students from Nauru, with me - after eight days of constant working, we don't even look tired!

**GLIMPSES FROM MONTHS PAST:** 2015 has sure been a wild ride till now ... but an excellent one for expanding awareness of our goodies, and meeting new people. Rave reports are coming in from New Zealand schools after our workshops at their Home Economics National Conference - always pleasing to hear! We now have five ladies trained to teach our skills in New Zealand. Back at home base in Toowoomba, there were more workshops in my Studio - always fun, and a good reason to keep the studio neat and tidy. Two ladies flew in from Nauru, especially to attend one of my programs with the aim of taking our skills and products back to their home island to share with their people. That was a fun week, working from morning till well into the night to achieve as much as possible in the time they were in Toowoomba. In early July it was off to Albury-Wodonga for another successful Craft Alive show with

our local teachers down there. Then to Warwick for 'Cool Scarves and Silly Socks' workshops, a fund raiser for breast cancer and prostate cancer patients. The three sessions held over two days this year were so popular that we're expanding to three days and double the sessions in July next year; as well as take the workshops to Stanthorpe for the Apple and Grape Festival in March 2016.

**WHAT'S STILL TO COME in 2015?** One more show in Tamworth, then workshops in Sydney and Toowoomba ...

**Craft Alive - Tamworth** - from Friday 18<sup>th</sup> till Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 10 am till 5 pm each day, at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment Centre

- **FREE WORKSHOP/SEMINAR: Fabric Designing - from the Pantry!** - 11 am each day. You'll be amazed at the things in your pantry that will produce stunning effects in your hand-coloured fabrics. We'll explore a bunch of creative ideas in this 45 minute presentation.
- **MAKE 'n' TAKE WORKSHOPS** - also FREE! - at our stand. **"Fabric Designing: It's So Simple, and Crystal Clear!"** With three sessions each day, there's plenty of opportunity to try some new skills or revisit old ones, and take your creation home at the end of the workshop.

More of this creative fun at Craft Alive, Castle Hill, in February 2016 - Note the dates in your diary if you're in or around Sydney - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> till Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February. SEE YOU THERE!

## WORKSHOPS – September till November 2015 –

- “Mates Rates” Workshops at my Studio, 4 Jull Drive, Centenary Heights (Toowoomba) – Sat 26 till Wed 30 September – ask for more information about this special program. More workshops on 14 and 15 November.
- Sydney (Emu Plains) – Sat 24 and Sun 25 October – Saturday: Traditional Silk Painting | Sunday: Fabulous Fabrics: Basics and Beyond. Check my website for details, or ask me to email the leaflet to you.

KEEP UP WITH DATES, TIMES, AND PLACES VIA MY WEBSITE

[www.genesiscreations.com.au](http://www.genesiscreations.com.au)

## Here’s a free lesson for you ... WATER SOLUBLE DESIGNING ...



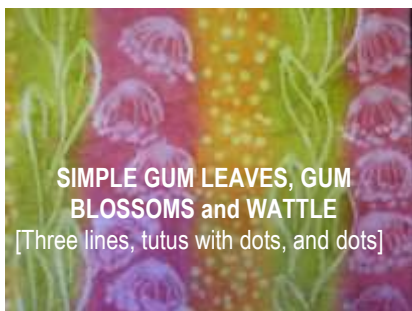
In this technique, we work through two layers of damp fabric, firstly colouring the fabric, usually by our Five Finger Foam Brush technique. Water Soluble Resist is then drawn onto the fabric, using simple line designs for best results. [See sample pics at right.] When fabric is dry, the resist lines form different effects on each layer. To use all four sides of the fabric, prepare a piece of fabric four times the size of what you need so it can be cut up for your project. All of the pieces will of course go together perfectly!

### METHOD:

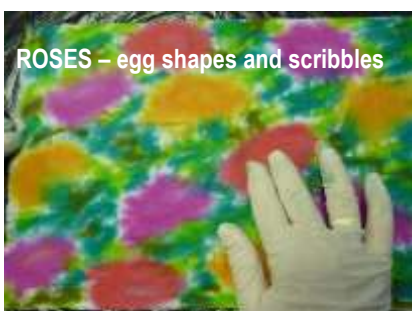
1. Wet two layers of fabric, squeeze out excess water, and place them one on top of the other.
2. Apply Liquid Radiance colours as required for your design. [See lines for an abstract design at right, and blobs of colour and scribbles for the roses below.] Blot out the excess colour. “Excess is the enemy”.
3. Apply Water Soluble Resist using simple lines, holding the resist bottle in the same way as you use a pen or pencil. Lines should be about the same thickness as string.
4. Allow to dry completely. Depending on weather conditions, this may take between 12 and 24 hours – but it’s worth the wait!
5. When dry, soak fabrics in water for around 10 to 20 minutes. The resist is ‘water soluble’ so can then be removed from the fabric using a gentle pressing action, as if you’re washing delicate woolen garments. Don’t be alarmed when you see colour coming out in the rinse water. This is coming from where the resist lines were drawn.
6. Heat set by ironing for ½ to 2 minutes, with iron temperature as for your fabric

*Here’s to getting together, in person or by phone or email, for lots more creativity! ...*  
**Ph 0418 771 808**  
**or 07 4613 4426**

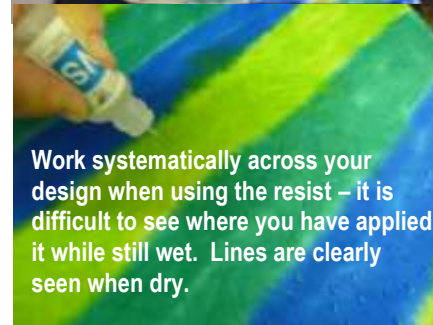
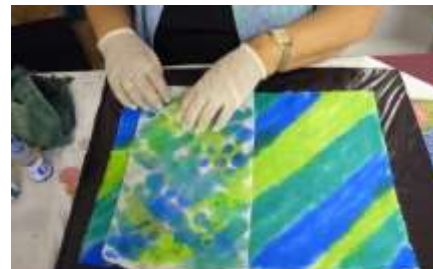
*Anne*



**SIMPLE GUM LEAVES, GUM BLOSSOMS and WATTLE**  
[Three lines, tutus with dots, and dots]



**ROSES – egg shapes and scribbles**



**Work systematically across your design when using the resist – it is difficult to see where you have applied it while still wet. Lines are clearly seen when dry.**



**Spirals of resist and simple leaves create the end result**

[www.genesiscreations.com.au](http://www.genesiscreations.com.au)