

Blog #52 - The Little Kit Company

Monday, 27 February 2017

Almost at the end of February. Where, oh where, have the last two months gone?

As mentioned in my last blog, I acquired 'The Little Kit Company' from my friend, Liz, at the beginning of last year.



For 20 years Liz created the needlework charts from hand-drawn ones by Maree Garstang of Masterton and stitched models, wrote instructions for the designs and packaged these designs and instructions with fabric, threads and needle and sold the little kits throughout New Zealand at craft shows, to craft retailers, to museums and to city information centres.

Also as mentioned in my last blog, all designs feature NZ birds, scenes and icons and all are ONLY available as kits and are to be made as either bookmarks or framed pieces. All designs are now on my website - www.barberryrow.com/barberryrow.html

Examples of three designs



Aotearoa Kiwi



Pohutukawa & Kowhai



Wellington

I've also created a dedicated Facebook page for them - www.facebook.com/littlekitcompany - and I would appreciate it if you would "LIKE" it.

And too, I've opened an Etsy shop - www.etsy.com/shop/thelittlekitco - although only the bookmarks are listed in it as yet. For those of you who are unfamiliar with Etsy - it is a site where crafts people who design, make, and/or manufacture their own items can sell their products. Each shop has a shopping cart and there are several payment choices. I have to confess that prices in my shop are a little more expensive - only slightly - as the website host charges a percentage fee.

Below is a list of some kits currently available from 'The Little Kit Company' -

SCENES: Art Deco Napier Auckland Christchurch Dockside Café Dunedin Farming Down Under
High Country Hut Lake Taupo Lake Tekapo Lake Wakatipu Map of NZ Marine Parade Napier
Mount Cook Pioneer Cottage Pohutukawa Tree Taranaki Farmland Wellington

All Scenes: \$ 19.50 each

BOOKMARKS: B is for Bee Black Cat Bullrush & Fern Dusky Dolphins Fruit of the Vine
Houhere (Lacebark) Kia Ora Kiwi Kokako Manuka Mount Cook Lily
NZ Kiwis Red Billed Gull Sheep Sheep Dog Takahe Pohutukawa & Kowhai
Tuatara Yellow Eyed Penguin Traditional - Carving : Kiwi : Poi : Tiki

All Bookmarks: \$ 17.50 each

MISCELLANEOUS: Aotearoa Aotearoa Kiwi Native Flowers Wild Flowers **These designs : \$ 19.50 each**

To view several other designs - check these out on the website or Facebook.

The most popular design is : *Bookmark - Red Poppy.* \$ 22.50

I have added a couple of pages to the kit.

One page relates the history of the creation of ANZAC day and Canadian medical officer, Colonel John McCrea's poem about the poppies he saw in Flanders' Fields, France in WWI and the second page relates how the red poppy was first created as a symbol of remembrance by American teacher, Miss Moina Belle Michael.



Also included with the design, fabric, threads, needle, instructions and poppy information is an artificial red poppy.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this design is donated to the NZ Returned and Services' Association.

Unfortunately the computer charting programme that Liz was using in her computer was not compatible with my system and so I've not been able to 'download' the charts and instructions into my computer. Consequently I am having to "redo" them - one by one. To date completed ten - lots more to do!

As for "kitting" the designs - each design has a "recipe" sheet - that is, a list of all the contents to be in a particular kit.

I have a special board that has thread lengths marked on it for measuring of the threads. When I cut threads for a kit, I actually cut 25 sets at one time so that I always have stocks on hand. So too, with the pieces of fabric for the scene designs and the banding fabric for the bookmarks. Cut several at one time so that there is always stocks ready cut on hand.

Cutting of all the thread lengths and the fabric pieces takes quite a lot of time, and then there is -

1. the printing and folding of the design chart & instructions
2. the adherence of the design photo to the inner packaging
3. the folding of the inner packaging
4. the assembly of all the kit items
5. placing all assembled items into the inner packaging
6. and finally, everything being put into the outer plastic or cello bag packaging.

To the right is a pic of my 'LKC' cupboard -

Shelf one & two - boxes containing small cones of threads : 18 - 20 cones per box

Shelf three - box of small cones, box containing separate thread packages for all bookmarks, box containing separate thread packages for all scenes & misc designs, packaging bags

Shelf four - cream printed packaging, extra rolls of banding fabric

Shelf five - black printed packaging, box of photos for all bookmark designs, box of photos for all scene & miscellaneous designs, trays contain cut fabrics, needles, glue, templates for folding instruction & chart sheets, etc.

Shelves six, seven & eight - large cones of threads : 5 deep

Shelf nine & ten - more large thread cones, spare boxed threads, excess small & large thread cones & pre-folded 'Red Poppy' information sheets.

I hope you have gained a little insight into the process of creating a kit.

That's all for this time.

Bye for now.

