

Blog #72 - A Busy Month

Saturday, 24 February 2018

Lots of travel this month. Several trips to Palmerston North & Upper Hutt, plus further afield.

Also a very sad month, but there were some happy times too.

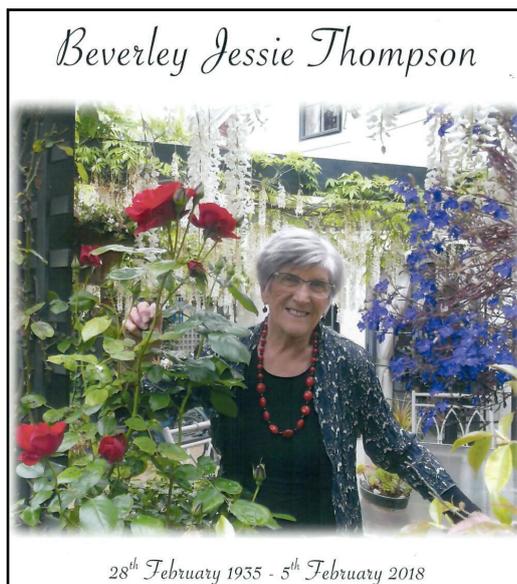
The sadness was due to us having to say farewell to one of Keith's lovely sisters after the discovery of cancer a couple of months previously. The first of Keith's siblings to pass away.

A few days prior to her passing we visited with her and her final words to us were, "I'll see you in glory. Bye for now", and she began singing an old hymn that we used to sing at church, some of the words being, "When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there".

A woman of great faith. We will miss her.

As you can see from the photo, she loved her garden.

Her garden was often visited by gardening groups and over the years featured several times in the NZ Gardening magazine.



The happy time was that another of Keith's sisters, Dulcie & her husband, Stan, travelled home to NZ from their home in Canada to see and spend time with Bev and visit with all the family. Over the previous 18 months Dulc had had an operation followed by chemo & radiation. In addition to all the family being at the funeral, there was also a special get-together in Upper Hutt for all the extended Whiteman family plus friends of Dulc & Stan's.

We were four days in Upper Hutt (Saturday—Tuesday). In addition to the family get-together spent an evening with my lovely cousin, Kevin Pepperell, and his equally lovely wife, Merrill, for a belated 50th wedding anniversary celebration (wrote about their wedding in Blog #61), met up with my primary school friends, Jocelyn & Marie, visited my 93 year old aunty at the Hutt Hospital, lunched at Kev & Merrill's café * - Café Blume * - and meeting up with two of their three daughters there (Lee & Anita) and spent a morning at a wholesalers ordering lots of lovely new Christmas items that I think you might like to purchase this coming Christmas. * **Since writing this, Kevin & Merrill have sold the café.**



Marie, Jocelyn & myself



At Café Blume - Kevin with daughter, Anita (left) & granddaughter, McKenzie



Merrill with daughters, Lee (left) & Anita

Returned home from Upper Hutt late on Tuesday evening and the next day Dulc & Stan arrived to stay with us for three days.

They left today to stay with another of Keith's sisters, Mave, (Mavis Whitfield) who lives here in the Hawkes Bay.

Last night we all met at the 'Mission' to celebrate an early 70th birthday for Keith.

In two days time I leave for the States to attend the Needlework Trade Show at Nashville, Tennessee.



I am SO looking forward to this trip as have not been for the past four years!

It will be awesome to see designing friends and USA retailer friends whom I haven't seen for ages. And, of course, all my friends that I usually see at other shows - Giulia, Romina (Romy), Simona, Maria Teresa, Gigi, Monique, Karen, Maureen, Niky, Janis & Bonny will be there. Sadly, there are some special friends that I would love to see - but they are not able to be there this time. They are Judy (JBW Designs), Sandie (The Sweetheart Tree), Cece (The Thread Gatherer) and Candy (The Workbasket).

I'm calling this trip my 'Nostalgic Trip' as I'm not sure that I will be able to go again.

As for stitching, I'm taking the companion piece to 'Tidings of Joy' and 'O' Christmas Tree' that I wrote about in my last blog. Began stitching this a few weeks ago -



Design Title:

Joyeux Noel

Design Code:

JBW 336

Price:

\$21.50

As per 'O' Christmas Tree' design, have chosen to stitch this piece with exactly the same coloured thread on the same coloured fabric.

Fabric:

Permin Linen

35 count

Lambswool

Thread:

Simply Shaker

Sampler Thread

7077 : Cucumber

And - just in case I get the above piece finished whilst I am away, taking threads and fabric for a little design in the 'Itty Bitty Kitty' series by Sandie of The Sweetheart Tree. This time Itty Bitty Kitty is beside a bee skep with bees buzzing around overhead.

It will be wonderful packing up for this trip away. I don't have to worry about what models to take, what stock to take, what quantity of stock to take, how many designs to take, no signage, no props (easels, baskets, flowers), no display tools, (hammer, fishing wire, sellotape, pins, ribbon,) no admin tools (pens, pencils, pad, order forms, etc).

And, I won't have to worry about my bags being over weight!

I will actually be able to buy myself something nice while I'm away and bring it home!!

I should have lots of news for you next time.

Till then, sincerely hoping you have been able to have some time with fabric, needle and thread in your hands.

We are truly blessed to have such a beautiful pastime.

