

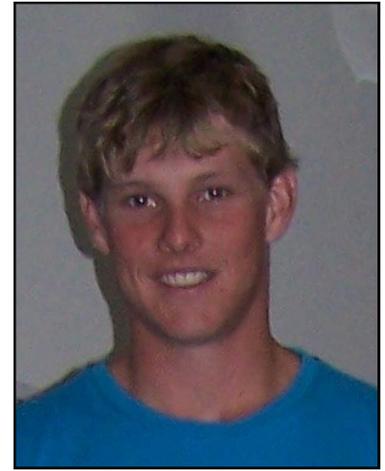
Blog #43 - July : A busy month

Tuesday, 28 July 2015

July. Another busy month and the days disappeared very quickly.

Three family birthdays - two in Australia (daughter-in-law, Kym and son, Rodney) and our grandson, Jacob, who lives just down the road. He turned 20 years of age and has just bought himself a brand-new, Toyota Hi-lux double-cab ute. The model that is 'top-of-the-range' with all the extras on it - chrome nudge bar, chrome running boards, etc.

He is very proud of it and we are very proud of him as he has worked and saved very hard. He began working whilst still at high school, after which he did a carpentry/building course with a dream to obtaining a building apprenticeship. Despite continual requests to many builders, "Sorry - nothing available" was the reply for a long, long time, but he did not give up trying as he worked full-time for a roading contractor until he secured a building apprenticeship almost a year ago. And now he is loving what he is doing. This photo of him was taken eighteen months ago. He is now quite the "dashing young man".



Two other friends celebrated their birthdays this month. One was 50 years of age and the other 93 - each marking these occasions with a lunch date. So lovely to be with friends and having a break from work.

One day this month it was also my turn to be the host for our ladies patchwork/quilting group which meant I had to bake a couple of items for morning tea. One of those items was yummy Cinnamon Oysters. I have to confess to loving these - cinnamon tasting, light, sponge textured cakes - each filled with freshly whipped cream and dusted with icing sugar!

The cake mixer and kitchen scales also had to come out of the cupboard for Jacob's birthday, as one of his birthday requests is always, "those little coconut cakes with the pink icing sprinkled with coconut". Thus, a batch made exclusively for him.

17th of July - a year since my mum passed away. A couple of "last" pics.

Firstly, our last Christmas together (2013) and secondly, her last birthday - her 84th - in January 2014.



This same date, the 17th, was the date that an uncle in Upper Hutt passed away necessitating a trip to Upper Hutt a few days later to attend the funeral and be with family. A huge funeral. Over 750 attendees.

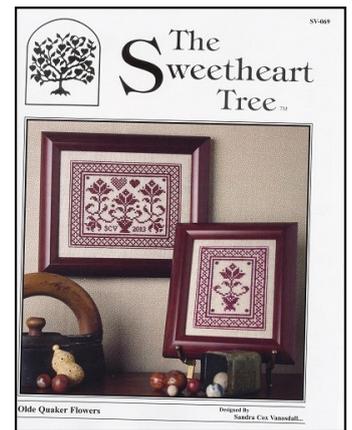
The Sunday just gone, the 26th, was the last Sunday of the month and so our lovely NATTER / STITCH DAY together. Always lots of love and laughter on this day as we stitch and natter together and admire and comment on one another's work.

And now in a couple of days time I leave home for Taupo to attend the Sampler Gathering that is to be held from Friday night until Sunday afternoon. I've begun to dismantle my Needlework Gallery and pack up stock and stitched models to take to it. During the month I have had framed or hand-finished the pieces of needlework that I have been stitching over the past few months. You have already seen most of these pieces in previous blogs, but to follow is how they now look -



Ashleigh's Birth Sampler - September : Madison's Birth Sampler - March : Sampler Frisien 1750 (unfortunately this piece hasn't photographed very well. In reality, the frame is not a dark black/brown but a rich burgundy colour and looks awesome!).

And here is 'Olde Quaker Flowers' -



The pieces looks quite different being stitched in blues compared to the original pieces which were stitched in burgundy.

Next is the JBW Design entitled, Monogrammed Tulips. This is how it looked on the 30th of June and how it looks today.



To create this sachet, I hemstitched another piece of linen exactly the same as the front piece, and then stitched the back and front pieces together on three sides. I then cut four even lengths of silk 4mm ribbon and threaded a length of ribbon through the hemstitches of the front and back on these three joined sides. I then completely stuffed the created sachet with wool stuffing, closing the sachet with the final length of ribbon threaded through the hemstitches of the fourth side and finally finished it by stitching the final front and back seam together.

All of the designs
for these pieces of needlework
are available
from
Heirlooms



*More about another piece of needlework
in my next blog.*

