

Meetings Last Month:

Thursday March 6th at Sally's

No Machine Day

A small turn-up with several away or with other commitments keeping them from sharing the festivities. Eric kept us company for a short while and was then collected by Chris mid-morning. Many thanks to Ross and Sally for entertaining him and allowing him to share toys and a rocking horse, and to wander all over the garden. And thanks also to Ross for shuffling the cars to create parking spaces for us. Gudrun knitted, Ohna and Lyn threaded elastic into skirts, and Sally altered a T-shirt with help from Ohna and completed children's pyjamas which she brought to our Saturday meeting and showed off to all.

Saturday March 15th at Bev's

A great audience for Helen's concise demonstration on piping, followed by hands-on for those interested. Her samples were exquisite and something we can all aspire towards. I took lots of notes (some indecipherable) and many of the finer points are here as a reminder:

• Regarding the cord, Helen advises that cotton piping cord can be rather expensive and instead recommends Bricklayers Twine and although it is synthetic is quite useable. It comes from Bunnings on a 50 metre roll and you should look

for 8-strand. Always take a sample of the fabric to the store when buying cording to test how the fabric performs with the cord. If you'd rather use cotton piping then pre-shrink it before use, and both cords are suitable for pin-tucking.

- When making piping for a garment, ensure that the fabric surrounding the cord is the same width as the seam allowance on the garment. This will enable the layers of the garment to be placed together evenly, plus the piping you've made, thus making sewing seams easy and convenient. For instance, when placed together you should have the front of garment, the piping and the facing.
- Hint when buying over-locking thread – instead of buying three or four reels all the same colour, try buying 3 or 4 shades of the same colour. This way

you'll at least have one that exactly matches the garment and the threads will blend to provide quite a close match.

- Schmetz sewing machine needles are recommended for your sewing machine, especially 130/705.
- There was some talk of threads and which are the best to use. Helen, and others, recommend Guterman or Mettler as the best two for garment construction. (ps, have since discovered that if you buy 5 or more reels at a time from Spotlight you can get 30% off).
- When purchasing a rotary cutting mat always choose a quilter's mat not a craft mat. The quilters mat is self-healing and a craft mat is not as resilient or as safe to use when cutting fabric.
- When joining bias strips, place the 'sharp' point to the 'blunt' point of the fabric. There will be a tiny triangle of 'overhang' but when sewn together a perfect seam with straight edges will eventuate in your long bias strip.

Many thanks to Helen for her patience in waiting for everyone to get settled before the talk could commence, and she has offered to conduct other short talks and demonstrations on any other topic for which you'd like help, so let's take up her generous offer. Suggestions please! Think zips, collars, buttonholes, facings...

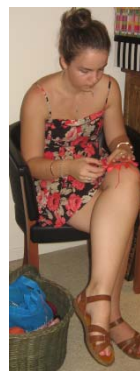


demonstration, it's magic.

A visit from Lauren showing off and selling her wonderful crocheted necklaces made our day complete, and I'm told that many were sold at bargain prices. Please visit again Lauren.

Plus another fine lunch by Chris – chicken schnitzel with potato bake and a salad. Morning tea with a cake and biscuits by Jane (recipe included), salmon rounds by Janet, scones by Chris and not-so-successful brownies by Bev completed our day. Oh yes, a cheese board too – we do ourselves well don't we?

I wrote down the instructions for turning a rouleaux through but when typed they didn't make sense – will follow this up. We were also shown a neat way to make a flat bow using two fingers from a willing participant (or two sticks!) but that too is fairly impossible to put into words – ask for a



Meetings Next Month:

Thursday April 3rd at Lorna's

No Machine Day

Lifts available from Bev, BYO sandwich to share.

Saturday 19th April at Bev's

Although this is Easter Saturday and thinking that many may be away several suggested that we re-schedule, however we failed to do this. Anyway Chris and I will be here and happy to host this usual Saturday. Morning tea by Jan and Wendy. Easter eggs perhaps???

Reels of Information:

Something else we failed to discuss was an excursion to Old Government House at Parramatta to view the exhibition of **Miss Fisher's costumes**. Let's try to pick a date next time we meet as we must book.

As our April trip to Ferndale has been cancelled **Caroline has kindly offered to host a Replacement Ferndale Day** at her home for us to sew Samaritan's clothing. Let's discuss a date for this too.

New Ferndale dates: Monday 8th September to Thursday 11th September. Bank account details for deposit: NAB, 082:762, account number: 176572037 in the name of Chris and Qi Hasemore. No need to send money yet though, in the two weeks before our anticipated arrival is plenty of time.

The Fabric Cave at 112 Bowden Street, Meadowbank advises that they are now open every Wednesday, in addition to Monday and Friday, all three days are 9am to 2pm. And their Fabric Sale will be held from Friday 4th April to Friday 11th April (That's Friday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday).

I have sent a cheque for \$411 to **Delvena Women's Refuge** in Lane Cove and am assured that it will be used to improve a woman's situation. I have also offered our services to do simple sewing tasks but am yet to have that offer accepted. They are extremely thankful for our donation and our thoughtfulness.

I attended a meeting at **Samaritan's Purse** in Kings Park on a recent Saturday with over 35 attendees treated to a delicious afternoon tea. The meeting was ostensibly a recruiting drive for volunteers because as Samaritan's has grown it has become unwieldy and needs more structure. Thus Craig is attempting to formalise the jobs in the

warehouse by appointing managers and team members. This is designed to take the pressure off Craig himself and Helen who both run the warehouse single-handedly and will instead to create teams who will be responsible for all the warehouse tasks: Banking (at present done by one volunteer), Logistics, First Aid and OH&S, Community Relations Co-ordinator (people to talk to schools, church groups and community groups), Front-End and Back-End Processing Coordinator, and others.

I erroneously thought that the amount we do for them is such a drop in the ocean that it made little impact, but Craig inspired us all by telling several stories of children having received a Christmas box then going on to make great changes in their lives. One in particular concerned a young boy who received his Christmas box 20 years ago when living in a famine-stricken part of Africa. This child, now a man of 25, has migrated to the US and is studying medicine so that he can return to his country to improve conditions there.

Craig spoke about the 'integrity of the box' and this is something that I've always questioned. What this means is that whatever comes into the warehouse in the box, stays in that box. You can add to it when processing but not take anything out and this seems a silly rule when five pairs of underpants came in one box but none in the next one. Craig told the story of a pair of ski gloves going to Africa and much discussion ensued about whether to send them. Months later they heard that the gloves went to a young boy whose mother worked in a kitchen handling hot trays from the oven – the gloves became very valuable as oven mitts, thus saving her from many burns. Craig explained that a higher being (God, the universe or whatever your beliefs are) knows where the gifts are most needed and guides them in that direction.

This year 81,262 boxes were despatched from Australia and next year's target is 110,000. Worldwide over 10 million boxes are sent out and in the three processing centres in the US volunteers have to book a place as early as July such is its popularity. So I have new-found inspiration and will continue to cut out, sew and collect goodies. In fact I took the opportunity to deliver some already collected items: 30 pairs of shorts, 38 skirts, 23 totes, 32 T-shirts, and various small bags, pencils, rubbers and toys, so our tally has already begun. Keep up the good work everyone, it is much appreciated and the joy begins with a simple gift.

Many, **many thanks for your prayers and offers of help during the birth of our very early third grandson, Emory, on 19th March.** Your prayers have been heard and he's doing well. Out of his humidicrib and out of intensive care, he's now in Special Care but still in isolation as they test for reasons for his sudden arrival. He's had a couple of set-backs, and has had to re-occupy his humidicrib but despite that he's slowly thriving. Ali is also recovering very slowly after an emergency Caesar and is home, although she visits hospital every day for his three-hourly feeds. At six weeks preemie he weighed in at 1852 grams (I think that's about 4lbs) and is very long at 18½ inches. He's now just under 2 kilos. (Grandparents recovering slowly too!)

Thought

If I had known how wonderful it would be to have grandchildren, I'd have had them first.

(Lois Wyse)

Jane's Cinnamon Biscuit recipe:

(From The Nu-Kooka – Jewish Cook Book, ~ 1950's)

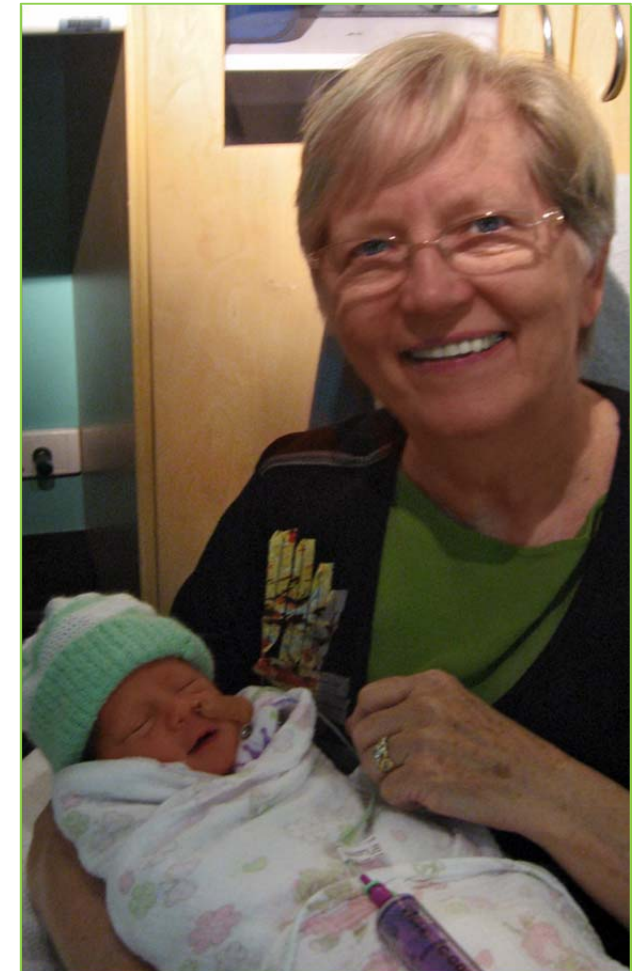
- Preheat oven to 180.
- ½ lb butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups plain flour
- 1 dessertspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- Yolk of 1 egg (retain the white)
- Blanched almonds

Cream butter and sugar then add dry ingredients. Finally add yolk of egg. Roll into small balls, brush with lightly beaten egg white and push a blanched almond onto the top of each biscuit.

Bake until brown (no suggested time given, sorry. (PS. I suggest 10 – 15 minutes depending on Oven Effectiveness and ball size, Chris))

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Lane Cove River



Gourmet Sewing