

# Crafting of an Australian Citizenship Quilt

## VIC Contributions

The Citizenship Policy and Promotion Section of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs would like to thank the following **Victorian** contributors to the *Australian Citizenship Quilt* and the companion *Young Australian Citizenship Quilt*.

In total about 400 squares were received and almost 300 were selected for the final designs.

qryVICWeb			
ArtistSurname	ArtistFirst Name	ArtistSuburb	ArtistID
Armstrong	Fred	Connewarre	118
Barker	Alexandra	Lysterfield	4
Block	Margaret	Violet Town	43
Burman	Anita	Upwey	81
Byers	Jan	Highett	131
Ceschin	Julie	RYE	9
Channing	Nannette	Parkville	30
Eager	Betty	Bairnsdale	15
Edmonds	Debbie	Taylors Lakes	52
Ferres	Susan	Doncaster	86
Ferres Miles	Claire	Upwey	153
Frederick	Susan	Cranbourne	112
Goninan	Elizabeth	Beaumaris	25
Hamilton	Gabrielle	Nunawading	158
Hamlin	Elsie	Tallangatta	114
Hansen	Robyn	Richmond	98
Hare	Adrienne & John	South Geelong	TBA
Harmsworth	Julie	Warrandyte	161
Hilton	Sue	Aspendale Gardens	12
Hopkins	Wendy	Donvale	180
Hutchison	Emily	Moriac	116
Hutchison	Sandy	Moriac	117
Kemper	Christine	Foster	44
Lancaster	Susan	Ouyen	83
Lorenzini	Lidia	Rosanna	135
Macgregor	Erica	Mitcham	132
Martin	Valda	Ruffy	41
McCabe	Barbara	Killawarra	101
McPherson	Ellen	Wangaratta	184
Nero-Lewis	Kathleen	Wangaratta	72
Nicholls	Kate	West Melton	121
Norman	Anne	Rutherglen	206
Polglaise	Marjorie	Noble Park	32
Polglaise	Marjorie	Noble Park	33

qryVICWeb			
ArtistSurname	ArtistFirst Name	ArtistSuburb	ArtistID
Power	Marika	Junortoun	103
Power	Marika	Junortoun	104
Power	Marika	Junortoun	105
Rata	Rebecca	Doncaster	152
Robinson	Helen	Doncaster East	165
Strachan	Jennifer	Werribee	7
Toogood	Barbara	Ballarat West	68
Trimble	Allison	Bulleen	110
Webster	Helen	Vermont	186
Weeks	Lyn	Ocean Grove	64
Whitford	Patricia	Clifton Springs	115
Wingfield	Lesley	Burnbank	87
Yarrunga Primary School		Wangaratta	73
Xeros-Colbert	Maria	Prahran	143



ID118

"Four Generations..."

**Armstrong, Fred (Age 92)**  
Connewarre VIC

*"Hi. My name is Fred and I am 92 years old. I am fifth generation Aussie, having lived on the land all my life, except for a short time in the Army during World War II. My two sisters, now 98 and 96, and I grew up as a pioneer family in the early 1900s.*

*"We took a horse to town 15 miles away or walked everywhere.*

*"I love the land, its animals and its flora and everything about this country, for we were the pioneers. We watched so much progress and the development of amazing technology."*



115

**Whitford, Patricia (Age 59)**  
Clifton Springs, VIC

*"I am sixth generation Australian living my whole life around the Geelong district.*

*"I now live in the same area where my ancestors in 1839 built the third house in what is now a thriving township. My ancestors came from England, Ireland and Germany between the 1830s and 1970s and many of my family have been farmers and gardeners, so I have chosen Australian flowers and the Australian flag because they signify to me what I take pride in – my heritage and my home of which I am very proud."*



ID177

**"Four Generations continued..."**

**Hutchinson, Sandy (Age 33)**  
Moriac VIC

*"As a seventh generation Australian, I have been lucky to learn from my grandparents the wonders of this country, its uniqueness and its beauty.*

*"I have travelled to many parts of the world but always feel a certain pride and comfort when I step back on Australian soil.*

*"It takes a family to make a village, a community to support a village and a country to keep them all safe."*



ID116

**Hutchinson, Emily (Age 7)**  
Moriac VIC

*"I am eighth generation Australian, my descendents all coming in the 1800s (the first in 1810) from England, Scotland, Ireland and Germany. One of my ancestors was on the first fleet to Victoria as a Lieutenant and another was a convict.*

*"I am seven years old and was the eighth generation baptized at St James Church in Drysdale..."*

*"My square shows St James Church, depicting the long family history and the Southern Cross, because I am proud to be Australian and I like to look at the stars and wonder."*



ID004



*"Vegemite and meat pies became part of our diet, as we fell in love with Victoria's beautiful towns and coastlines..."*

**Barker, Alexandra**  
**Lysterfield VIC**  
**"Adventure of a Lifetime"**

The artist was born in Uruguay and migrated with her family in the mid 1970s.

*"I have often asked my parents what it was that made them want to move half way across the world to come to a country they did not know and did not even speak the language. At the time, there was military unrest in Uruguay. This, and the love of their two daughters and wanting to give them a better life, decided my parents to make the journey to 'The Luck [sic] Country' we know as Australia. In the mid 1970s, 'fitter and turners' were being accepted to enter Australia. As my father was highly skilled in his profession, he packed his young family and embarked on what we now know to be an adventure of a lifetime.*

*"My father decided to settle in Victoria. Here, my parents found jobs and we went to school. We had our own struggles to adjust to – mainly the language and cultural differences. Soon we found that we loved everything about our new home. Vegemite and meat pies became part of our diet, as we fell in love with Victoria's beautiful towns and coastlines.*

*"In 1987, my parents bought their first home as well as making the major decision to become Australian citizens. We planted our trees in the backyard and as they set roots, so did we. Soon the years became decades and with it our family grew. I married my wonderful husband and we have two beautiful children. My sister is also married with her two precious children. What began as four has not grown to ten. Both our husbands are [Australian-born] and we have been successful in blending both our cultures and more importantly showing our children how it is possible for different cultures to love and live together.*

*"We will always have a soft spot for our homeland. I want my children to grow up and know of my origins and maybe some day visit my homeland, but I also want them to embrace what makes Australia so unique. We are the Luck [sic] Country and I am proud to be called an Australian."*



ID043

Block, Margaret  
Violet Town VIC  
"Harmony Under the Southern Cross"

No story provided.



ID081

Left to Right: Romy, Callahan, Zoe & Genevieve at the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Upwey Baptist Community Church, Victoria.

Burman, Anita  
Upwey VIC  
"Our Heritage, Our Home"

*"This is the story of four cousins... Their heritage is shown by the flags of the nations of their ancestors and includes: American Indians and pioneers; coalminers from England; European aristocracy; an Australian World War I veteran who ran a remote Fijian Island plantation; and, Scandinavian folk who set out on a great adventure.*

*"The rich history is now continued in the lives of this most recent generation of young Australians. They spend time in the city, but are linked by a family home in the nearby hills amongst the tall mountain ash, manicured gardens and strawberries.*

*"They learn their heritage passed from generation to generation... and living together in an environment of growth and love."*



ID131

**Byers, Jan**  
**Highett Victoria**  
**"Australia Day 2005 Citizenship Coincidence"**

The artist's father first came to Australia from the UK on the staff of Sir Reginald Alexander Dallas Brooks, the Governor-General of Victoria from Oct 1949 to 1963, with two periods as Administrator of the Commonwealth in 1959 and 1961. His family was able to join him in 1958 in Australia, where the artist settled and completed a University education.

*"I married an Australian who was one of 13 children and so my family increased enormously. We had two children of our own and two grandchildren to date.*

*"I worked for the CSIRO for 14 years and to date 15 years with a Public Hospital. In my working life, I have seen much change for women. I was asked to leave an earlier job with the Federal Government when I wanted to marry. Earlier wages were less for women than for men... I have been voting since I was 21 because I was a British citizen. I voted "Yes" in the Referendum for Aborigines to be included as citizens, which I found to be one of life's ironies.*

*"All in all, for many years I have enjoyed the privileges of citizenship; however, over the past few years there has been a maturation of Australian politics and attitudes in which it seemed to be important to take that final step and declare myself legally and finally an Australian in front of my peers. Unbeknownst to me, my father had also been going through these same thoughts and processes and so we both [made our Pledges] on the same day [on Australia Day 2005]: he in Hamilton, Victoria and myself in Brighton, Melbourne.*

**"Star of Hope" or "Twisted Star"**

*"The square has been constructed from a fabric patterned with gum blossoms, and other fabrics which have been hand dyed by local women. The design is known as the 'Star of Hope', and also as the 'Twisted Star'. I think all who travel to a new country are propelled by hope for a new future and that life's journey has many twists and turns – and so either name would be appropriate."*



ID009

Ceschin, Julie  
Rye VIC  
"Scherenschnitte"

The Australian-born artist is of Italian heritage on her father's side and Irish descent on her mother's side. Her husband, Pierre, also of Italian heritage, was born in the German part of Switzerland. The artist and her husband lived in Switzerland until 1999, when they moved to Australia after the birth of their daughter. The artist has used fabric reflecting the colours of the Australian landscape and included an iconic fence line made of gold beads.

*"This quilt square symbolises where my husband came from to his journey down under: from the European tradition of Scherenschnitte to the vast expanse and wonderfully colourful Australia. Scherenschnitte is a centuries-old German paper-cutting folk art.*

*"While living overseas, I was involved in a patchwork group with women from many walks of life. I adapted to a new way of life, its customs and language. This helped me to become a richer person and learn what is important about being an Australian."*



ID030

Channing, Nanette  
Traralgon VIC

The indigenous artist is from the Monaro/Gunai people on her father's side.

*"I am known as a Koorie. I am one of nine children and the fourth eldest. I am a mother of three children, Danny 22, Lacey 20 and Katie 18.*

*"The different cultures that reside within Australia make our country. They make it an enriched place to live. With a diverse group of languages, styles, traditions, colours and foods. That's what makes Australia the place it is today.*

*"I wouldn't want to live anywhere else, because Australia has it all and I love my country. I love being an Australian Aboriginal and my quilt square shows that."*

The artist's contribution was crafted as one of her three children, Lacey, was being treated for leukaemia at the Bone Marrow Donor Institute in Melbourne. Her second daughter, Katie, was to be the donor.



ID015

Eager, Betty  
Bairnsdale VIC  
"Yes it took me a while..."

The artist was born in Glasgow, Scotland and arrived in Australia in 1961 aboard the "Fairsea" with her husband, Tom, and the first of their four children. From his first job working with a firm of accountants in Melbourne, the family moved to Bairnsdale. The artist has used a traditional "Friendship Plate" design for her square to illustrate her Australian citizenship story.

*"With no relations or friends to meet us we were pretty much on our own. When we arrived in Australia we knew no one, and we started to make friends two by two. I have made so many Australian friends now who have taken us on board as part of their family.*

*"We arrived owning just one chair and the two trunks which we brought our precious goods in and this was our entire lounge suite.*

*"The small practice my husband came [to Bairnsdale] to manage has grown to quite a large practice which he now owns. Life has been good, filled with many blessings including our nine grandchildren. I have a busy life rearing four children, being involved with palliative care and remedial teaching.*

*"I became an Australian citizen in August 1990. Yes it took me a while, but being a British citizen, there was no pressure to become an Australian citizen. Missing family and always yearning to be with them, yet knowing I had an excellent life here is probably why I waited so long..."*



ID052

Edmonds, Debbie  
Taylors Lakes VIC  
"Freedom"

*"My quilt is a representation of my home... It represents the fact that my husband and I have been able to strive and achieve for our family, thanks to our country and the opportunities we have been afforded. Modern Australia is more an urban lifestyle, rather than the rural image that is often portrayed. That's why I have portrayed my home..."*

*"My family is myself, my husband and our three young children. We have the choice of where we want to live, where we want to go, what we want to do and how we want to do things. Being an Australian citizen means freedom to me."*



ID 086

Ferres, Susan  
Doncaster VIC  
"Our Land is Girt by Sea"

The artist arrived in Australia from England in 1949, aboard the "Mooltan", settling in Melbourne.

*"I was educated here, worked and married a wonderful [Australian-born] man. After having our children, I was able to be qualified as a teacher and then go on to complete a Masters Degree at Melbourne University. I have had a most satisfying career, teaching art to children and adults over many years at school and university."*

*"I took out citizenship of Australia with a local ceremony where I was given my native Australian tree that is still growing well in my garden. I value my citizenship."*



First house, car and caravan in Australia in Oakleigh 1951.

*"We now have five Australian grandchildren. One of the joys of our life is to take our grandchildren to the sea to enjoy digging in the sand and playing in the sea water. The sea is a special part of our lives and many Australian's lives. We love holidays and visits to the sea, sun and sand with our children and grandchildren. In our National Anthem, there is a line 'our land is girt by sea'. The sea has many moods, just like people... I often feel inspired as I walk along a beach and gaze across the waves, like the beads on my quilted square"*



ID 153

Ferres Miles, Claire  
Upwey VIC

*"From Bath and beyond, my family came to Australia.  
My quilted square seeks to embody a moment in time –  
an early morning walk meandering through the gum  
gullies..."*

***All that makes me an Australian citizen***

*The Essence of Australia*

*The Eucalyptus Tree*

*The great Australian Bush*

*Nature untamed by man*

*Can you smell the eucalyptus aroma*

*as it wafts from the dried leaves stitched together?*

*Does the light catch the olive glass beads*

*and remind you of the early morning dew*

*as it glistens on the leaves on a crisp winter morn?*

*Are the night stars still twinkling in the dawn?*

*Can you see the Southern Cross?*

*The bush is evocative for the senses*

*peaceful for the soul*

*oxygen for the heart and mind*

*all that makes me an Australian citizen.*



ID112



Artist (at back) with younger sister at Holmes Glen Migrant Hostel, Warrigal Road, Melbourne

Frederick, Susan  
Cranbourne VIC  
"What Kept Ya"

The artist arrived in Australia from England in 1958 aboard the "Fairsea" with her parents and four siblings. Her father was a pastry cook /baker and the family bakeries at Ripponlea, Blenheimly and Bayswater followed.

*"I have always admired my parents for this endeavour. They came to a new land with little money and a lot of hope.*

*"My happiest childhood memories are of the two years we spent at the [Ripponlea Bakery]. We worked together as a family. Mum and my eldest sister ran the shop. My brother and I had our little jobs to help out in the bakery. One of mine was to peel the veggies for Dad's yummy Pasties.*

*"I have never been back to the UK, as I have always thought of myself as an Aussie, having gone to school, worked, married, had my children and just lived my life in what I believe to be the best country in the world.*

*"Mum and Dad had taken out citizenship years ago and had expressed the wish for us all to do so. 'I am an Aussie' I would say and never took steps to do anything about it.*

*"In 2004, after 46 years I became an official Australian. In my heart I have always been one, but the pride I felt the night I spoke the Pledge was emotional and memorable, and in my head I could hear Mum and Dad say, 'What kept Ya'."*



ID025

**Goninan, Elizabeth  
Beaumaris VIC**

An Australian of several generations, the artist has cross-stitched a wattle wreath as a symbol of the national floral emblem. A pre-school teacher before raising her family, the artist works as a volunteer in the Sandringham Community Hospital and Sandringham Community Information Centre in Melbourne.

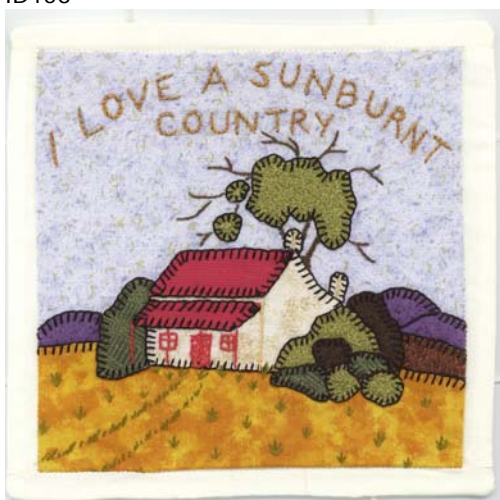
*"The coloured stick figures surrounding the wreath represent the multicultural influence on Australia – all the people united to make Australia. Australian citizenship enriches our life and Australia is so lucky to have such a diverse culture. I feel proud that the Australian Citizenship Quilt will be on display from 17 September [2005] - Australian Citizenship Day and my 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday!"*



ID158

**Hamilton, Gabrielle  
Nunawading VIC**

The central image of the square has been drawn by Alexandra Hamilton (aged 3), with the square assembled by her mother, Gabrielle. The mother and child are Australian-born of English and Irish background.



ID114

**Hamlin, Elsie  
Tallangatta VIC**

The artist is third generation of predominantly Scottish, Irish and English heritage.

*"I grew up in Victoria; listening to many tales from my Scottish grandfather of the years he had spent working around Australia's Outback. This had a great influence on me, and it was natural for me to gravitate – Outback. I spent several years living and working in Central Australia and other remote areas, and grew to love the way of life. To me, this quilt block symbolises 'My Country' as the indigenous people of Australia would term it."*



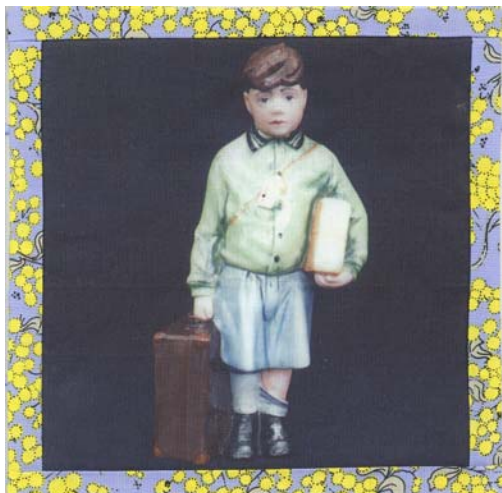
ID098

Hansen, Robyn  
Richmond VIC

*"My vision of Australia is summed up in the chorus of 'I am Australian' by Bruce Woodley and Dobe Newton.*

*"We are one, but we are many  
and from all the lands on earth we come  
We share a dream and sing with one voice:  
I am, you are, we are Australian"*

*"I am proud of the way that we have, in the past, welcomed immigrants and refugees to our country. I believe that we have been enriched socially, culturally and economically. It is my prayer that those who flee their own countries because of war, famine, poverty or repression will continue to be welcomed here and that they will be able to find peace, security and freedom in Australia."*



ID402

Royal Doulton Figurine  
Children of the Blitz Series  
Boy Evacuee c1940s



John Hare (right) winning East Gippsland  
Championships against A. Bishop in Sale,  
Victoria, 1952.

## Hare, Adrienne & John South Geelong VIC

*"In August 1940, my parents sent me, together with my three older sisters, from our London home to Australia to escape World War II. I was seven years old and had never been away from my home or family before. We travelled on a Polish ship with another 473 kids all aged between five and 15... On arrival, we were split up and over the next 62 months, I went to nine foster homes and eight different schools. At the end of the war, we were sent home to London, but it took five months to find a school still standing around our area... I decided I wanted to return to Australia when I was old enough. This I did in 1949 after I turned 16 and migrated on a migrant ship on my own.*

*"I was lucky to get a bank position and did well and after doing National Service in the first call up in 1951 in the Navy, I took up my old passion for amateur boxing. I later began coaching."*

John Hare eventually became Manager of the ANZ Bank in Geelong. His coaching career saw him become the most senior Professional Boxing Official in Victoria. In 1970 he travelled with the Australian Team to the 1970 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games as Manager/Coach.

*"When I was selected to represent Australia... I hadn't fully realised my obligation to Australia – that I was not an Aussie citizen and would need a passport to travel overseas with the Team. I had been in this country for more years than I had been in England. Now, after 56 years in Australia since I migrated, I am an Aussie through and through and passionately proud of that fact. I have no English accent. I barrack for the Aussie cricket team and particularly when we play the 'Poms'.*

*"So what does Australian citizenship mean to me? It means safety in the truest sense of the word. It means that I am proud to have been accepted as a citizen of this wonderful country which gave me a chance that I'm sure I would not have got if I'd stayed in England. I married an Aussie girl and we have three Aussie daughters and six Aussie grandchildren and I'm very proud of them all."*



ID161

Harmsworth, Julie  
Warrandyte VIC

The artist is of Irish, English and German descent.

*"My earliest memories are of growing up in the western district, inland from the coast. Although I now live in the city and work as an artist and teacher, these memories still inform my love, reverence and appreciation of the natural world and I have aimed to reflect this in my quilt patch.*

*"Open skies, blue sea, ochre earth and towering, grey-green forests are all suggested in the myriad of colours used. I placed a golden sun in the middle of the patch – beaming a guiding light over this ancient land, now called Australia.*

*"A continuous spiral pattern was used to quilt the patch to symbolise the way we are all connected by a common thread – no matter what our diverse and complex backgrounds may be. We all live as one people under our great southern sky, sharing a treasured and unique environment."*



ID012

Hilton Sue  
Aspendale Gardens VIC

No story provided.



ID180



ID180 – Reverse

Hopkins, Wendy  
 Donvale VIC  
 1st Doncaster East Cub Scouts

The community group includes children from many diverse backgrounds. The group was begun in 1977 so “children could experience the wonderful Australian way of life – camping, bushwalking, exploring the natural beauty of this land and create friendships that will last a lifetime.”

*“I am proud to wear the Scout Uniform to enrich as many children’s lives with the story of Australia – the lucky country.”*

Hutchinson, Emily  
 Moriac VIC  
 “Four Generations”

ID116

See Armstrong, Fred

Hutchinson, Sandy  
 Moriac VIC  
 “Four Generations”

ID117

See Armstrong, Fred



ID044

Kemper, Christine  
Foster VIC

*"This quilt block is to commemorate our sponsorship [to Australia] of our friend Joanne Goh.*

*"The block shows our lovely part of Australia which includes the most southerly tip of mainland Australia. It also has an appliquéd and embroidered Yanakie Berry, a plant that grows where I spent my childhood, a dairy farming Soldier Settlement area just outside the gates to Wilson's Promontory.*

*"The pink material for the Yanakie Berry has been taken from the fabric of a gift Jo gave me on her first visit to our home in Foster.*

*"The blackened area of the map of Wilson's Promontory depicts the burning of the southern part of the park earlier this year. This fire and its devastation made us all realise how precious our National Park is.*

*"However, with each new month the greening renews our land as do new citizens to our country's identity."*



ID083

Lancaster, Susan  
Ouyen VIC

*"My block is to celebrate the family of approximately 30,000 Australians who are descendants of First Fleet Convicts, Nathaniel Lucas (c1763-1818) and Olivia Gascoigne (c1762-1830).*

*"Nathaniel was sentenced at the Old Bailey on 7 July 1884 to transportation for seven years for theft of a few items of clothing. Olivia was sentenced to death for theft of coins, but later this was reprieved to seven years transportation.*

*"On 14 February 1788, both convicts were sent to Norfolk Island. Along with the group to settle the Island, Nathaniel made a valuable asset as carpenter in the new community, one of the few skilled men among the convicts.*

*"Nathaniel and Olivia had 13 children. Twins were killed by a pine tree on Norfolk Island. By the next generation these eleven surviving children had produced around 70 grandchildren for Nathaniel and Olivia. They returned to Port Jackson by February 1806 and Nathaniel erected a number of flour mills in the Port Jackson area. He also worked as Superintendent of Carpenters in NSW, his salary was £50 a year in 1811. His buildings are well known today, including the Rum Hospital at Sydney, the Parsonage at Liverpool and Parramatta, and St Luke's at Liverpool.*

*"Nathaniel died in Sydney in 1818. After her husband's death their son, Nathaniel Jnr, took Olivia and the younger children to Van Diemen's Land, where she died in 1830 and is buried in the Cypress Street Cemetery, Launceston."*



Lorenzini, Lidia  
Rosanna VIC

No story provided.

ID135



Macgregor, Erica  
Mitcham VIC

No story provided.

ID132



Martin, Valda  
Ruffy VIC

*"We are descendants of Port Phillip Pioneers who selected land east of Melbourne, Victoria. Our ancestors and ourselves have always been on the land, and have commercially produced fruit, vegetables and flowers delivering first to the Queen Victoria Market by horse and dray, later on by truck... Adrian, my husband, and our two children, Craig (43) and Debra (39), use biodynamic methods on our orchard and 530 acre sheep farm keeping a high standard of land and environment care. We have always been in community work... We are proud Australians."*

ID041



ID101

McCabe, Barbara  
Killawarra VIC

*"I'm a proud citizen of Australia. Decades ago my ancestors made the courageous decision to venture across the sea, seeking prosperity in a new land of opportunity. My father's grandfather left the family farm near Carlisle, England to farm in Sorell, Tasmania. My mother's grandfather was a hatter in London, England and left his family's business to start out on his own in Emerald Hill near Melbourne. The chances and risks that they took as early settlers meant that I was born in a wonderful and peaceful country. In my square I have portrayed people emerging from the sea and rushing toward the land, depicted as a varied landscape."*



ID184

McPherson, Ellen  
Wangaratta VIC

No story provided.



ID072

Nero-Lewis, Kathleen  
Wangaratta VIC

*"Australian-born of English, Prussian and Australian heritage, I have been privileged to be living the Aussie dream of a good job, happy family and the quarter acre block to call my own. While money was and still is tight and I work hard for everything I achieve, I have received the greatest gift of all – friendship, mateship, citizenship – a true sense of belonging. Australia is a country made up of many different [people] – all of whom have called this continent home and enriched my life with their many and varied cultures."*



ID121

Nicholls, Kate  
West Melton VIC

The artist is fifth generation Australian, with ancestors from Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Her square depicts: children at Uluru, representing Australia's future, and wattle and the koala elements signifying her wish that Australia protect its unique flora and fauna.

*"[As a flight attendant I was] fortunate to travel this vast country and appreciate it as well as being able to greet people from all other countries..."*

*"Our children will be our caretakers and we hope we have left them a legacy of love, faith and wisdom..."*



ID206

Norman, Anne  
Rutherglen, VIC  
Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc.,  
Barnawartha Branch

*"Being Australian means Freedom"*

*"Freedom from fear, to be independent, to choose where to live, which school our children attend, what career to take on, freedom to choose which politics to support, which religion to be involved with, freedom of speech..."*

*"Freedom to enjoy our fabulous landscape, unique animals and birds, the multicultural diversity brought to us by 'new Australians'..."*

*"We also have the freedom to marry who we choose, and to see our family without restrictions, and the freedom to be who we are – Australian – and proud of it!"*



Polglaise, Marjorie  
Noble Park VIC

No story provided.

ID032



ID033



ID103

Power, Marika  
Junortoun VIC  
"Flocks of Galahs"

*"The significance behind this block is that my husband, who moved to Australia ten years ago from Amsterdam, used to drive along country roads to work daily in the Victorian Malley. Every day he drove through flocks of galahs which he refers to as 'those pink and grey stupid birds'.*

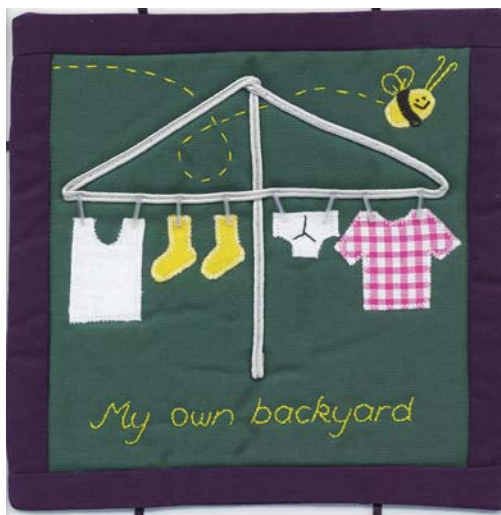
*"Nearly every month these lovely native birds of ours used to damage the car grill and once or twice used to break the side mirrors. So to bring in Peter's Dutch background, I have appliquéd an orange tulip."*



ID104



ID105



ID152

Rata, Rebecca  
Doncaster, VIC

The artist's father, Terry, arrived in Australia in 1965 aboard the "Fairisky" from England as a "Ten Pound Tourist" with the dream of owning a quarter acre block in the suburbs – "his own piece of Australia". Her mother, Kaye, was on a working holiday from New Zealand when the couple met in a hotel in Bondi "known for its congregation of expatriate Poms and Kiwis".

*"They decided that they could live nowhere else and called Australia home. They married and eventually moved to Melbourne to raise their family and realize the dream of a home in the suburbs. They both became Australian citizens on 22 August 1984"*

*"My quilted square represents my parent's sense of pride in their own backyard. It also represents fond memories of my own of playing outside in the sunshine as a child, whilst Mum hung the washing out on the line. The green is for the treed suburbs of Melbourne. The bee is for the hours of hard toil my parents worked to achieve their goals."*



Robinson, Helen  
Doncaster East VIC

*"I am a very privileged human being to be an Australian citizen."*

*"Being Australian to me means freedom of speech, freedom to do many things, being able to work and enjoy wonderful work conditions..."*

*"Being able to be a woman and not be treated as a second rate citizen, have the right to vote in a democratic system..."*

*"Sharing this wonderful country with many other ethnic groups so that others may witness what Australia means to me."*



ID007

**Strachan, Jennifer  
Werribee VIC**

The artist dedicates her square to her paternal Turkish and Croatian grandparents, Peter Atanasov (1885 – 1949) and Lukria Zanki (1893-1937), who died before she was born. They were naturalised in 1924.

*“My grandfather Peter (pronounced Pet-a) left Turkey as a young man and tried the goldfields in Alaska before becoming an interpreter on the USA railway tunnel under the Great Lakes connecting Michigan to Canada. When applying for the railway job, the clerk had difficulty with the surname and pronunciation, so he Anglicized it to ‘Thomas’ and so it remained. When the tunnel was complete he boarded the New Zealand Steamship, ‘Tahiti’ for Australia. On arrival in Sydney in 1912, he found work, until 1915 when he was interned as a Turkish National with the advent of the Gallipoli campaign. Upon release he managed a fruit shop with a friend and married his friend’s sister-in-law in 1923.*



**P. Thomas Fruit Shop, Mosman NSW**

*“Lukria, my grandmother-to-be, was brought out to Australia by her sister, on the Orient lines, first ‘Orcades’. Her family were Venetian ship owners in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, operating from Venice to North Africa and the Holy Land.*

*“Eventually my grandparents owned their own fruit shop, a market garden and poultry farm. I recently visited my grandfather’s shop in Mosman, Sydney and felt a connection, as it [was then] a Patchwork Shop. Croatians are known for their beautiful embroidery so perhaps that is where my love for fabric art and stitching comes from.*

*“My square is an olive and gum tree growing peacefully together under the Southern Cross. Olive trees are in abundance in Eastern Europe and I feel that even though they would have kept their European traditions, like our beautiful flowering gums, they would have also lived as Australians.”*



Toogood, Barbara  
Ballarat West VIC

No story provided.

ID068



ID110

Trimble, Allison  
Bulleen VIC  
"From Ireland to Island"

The artist's parents migrated independently from Northern Ireland to Northern Tasmania in the 1950s – first aboard SS Orcades, and her father two years later aboard SS New Australia on the completion of his indentured apprenticeship.

*"My mother worked hard in Ulster to avoid a future in the linen mill which was the dominant force in their village. In Australia she ended up working in the knitting wool mill – appropriate employment for a 'New Australian' girl.*

*"Despite a rocky start in their new, strange country, Mum and Day both developed new friends, new accents, a new life together and a new family.*

*"Their migration had so many repercussions on our family:*

*"Our family always included lots of adopted aunties, uncles and cousins. Christmas was not properly celebrated unless we saw the Queen's Message and the Edinburgh Tattoo. 'Home' always meant Britain, whereas 'Home, home' meant Tasmania. My brother and I read the 'Famous Five' and 'Biggles', rather than 'Seven Little Australians'.*

*"My parents left a country of old divisions, cold and grey skies, without knowing what lay ahead of them. They came to Australia, a place with more freedoms, warmth and blue skies.*

*"They made the right decision all those years ago to settle here. I'm glad they did."*



ID186

Webster, Helen  
Vermont VIC  
1<sup>st</sup> Vermont Joey Scout Group

The Scout Group consists of children born in Denmark, USA, England, China and Australia. The native animals are drawn by Rachel and Troy (age 6) and Harry (age 7).

*"To be a Joey Scout is to be a PROUD Australian, as we learn about the history and native animals and fauna of Australia. Vermont has a very broad mix of families from around the world. All these families blend in and actively participate in the community in which we live... Their influence... enhances our understanding of the wider world."*



ID064

Weeks, Lyn  
Ocean Grove VIC

No story provided.

ID115

Whitford, Patricia  
Clifton Springs VIC  
"Four Generations"

See Armstrong, Fred



ID087

Wingfield, Lesley  
Burnbank VIC

*"I am pleased to send you my quilt square to say how I love being an Australian. This is my first attempt at picture quilting..."*



ID073

Yarrunga Primary School  
Wangaratta VIC  
Coordinated by: Kathleen Nero Lewis

*"As part of our school's community based program, Community Links, the students were asked to draw what community means to them. This block is based on these drawings. The students have regular visits to local nursing homes and have community companions visit the school on a regular basis. We are all working hard to develop strong partnerships with our school community and the wider Wangaratta community and to continually demonstrate to the children that they are all very important citizens of Wangaratta."*



ID143

**Xeros-Colbert, Maria  
Pahran VIC**

The artist dedicates her square to her parents, Ballis and Evdokia Xeros, who settled in Australia in the 1920s and went on to have a strong influence in the development of Australia's modern day dried fruit industry.

The artist's mother fled the now Turkish city of Izmir (Smyrna) with her infant in 1922, as the city was burning during the battle for its independence from Greece. Her mother fled with two religious icons and her incense burner. The family were rejected by Greece as "Turks" and boarded the ship "Caricleano" from Egypt for Australia.

*"Their spirits, through the icons and incense burner, strengthened their resolve for survival..."*

*"The Southern Cross glowed strongly, and in time they disembarked at the Port of Melbourne, Australia. The years that followed, though difficult, allowed my father, through the Chaffey Brothers Irrigation System, to introduce the special drying process which was used in Smyrna – thus producing the Golden Sunraysia Sultana dried fruits.*

*"Ballis and Evdokia gave opportunity for their five children, their grand, and great grandchildren to be nurtured and thrive in this wonderful country."*