

Hello ladies,

We hope that you have all had a lovely week, given that it has been a little bit chilly on these recent mornings.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Craftathon last weekend. We found the whole experience quite inspiring. For those of you who were unable to attend, we had Anne from Brother up for the weekend. She was creating a gorgeous hanging using beautiful silks, silk threads, yarn and free motion work. She had created stunning hydrangeas using small squares of silk. The technique was simple, but the effect was breathtaking. I just want to lock myself away now in my sewing area and create too.

We also "unveiled" our Hoop Sister's "Goose tracks" quilt which is made entirely on an embroidery machine. It is very beautiful. We now have it hanging in the shop, and we have scheduled classes to start next month. It is a block of the month quilt and will be held once a month for the next 10 months. If you are interested in attending, come down and have a look at our quilt, and discuss securing a place in a class.

Also happening in the shop:

We are getting organised for the next lot of school holiday classes. Believe it or not, they are not that far away. We will be doing 2 classes in the second week. One will be hand sewing and it will be a beautiful pincushion. Great for getting young children interested in sewing and it also gives them a starting piece for a sewing kit. The second class will be machine sewing and it will be a "Tater Bag". This is a quilted bag that you use for cooking potatoes, corn etc in the microwave. The bag's batting is designed for this purpose as it has not been through any treatment process. The vegetables keep their full flavour and are cooked beautifully. It comes with instructions for cooking times as well. Both of these classes are geared at encouraging younger children to sew. We all know how much we love it, so if you know any younger children who might like to attend, let us know, and we can give you all the details. The pincushion class costs \$15.00 and the "Tater Bag" costs \$20.00. Not much more than a trip to the movies but they get to take something home with them as well as new skills and a fun experience.

Simplicity Patterns are on sale. All Patterns are \$7.70 that can be a saving off the normal retail price of up to \$12.00. This sale is on until the 20th August 2011.

Next week we are also having our Winter End of Season Sale. All winter fabrics and a selection of summer fabrics will be marked down 35%. We are aiming to make some room for the new season fabrics arriving soon. We will also have some of our patchwork fabric marked down 35% too.

Just one more little message, next week will also mark our 4 years in business. It has been an interesting 4 years and we have met a lot of beautiful and talented people. We would like to thank everyone, of you for supporting us and helping us grow our business to where it is today. We always appreciate feed- back from you on the different things we have been doing. We also realise that without your support, we would not be in business today. We look forward to sharing many more wonderful experiences with you.

Happy sewing,
Fiona and Carol
Diamond and Pearl Fabrics