



Artist Profile: Cheryl Goss

1. When did you first begin your adventure with needle and thread? What prompted it?

I made an embroidery sampler in primary school in Year 4. At that time I was a bit of a tomboy so it was a challenge. I started sewing in earnest when the kids were little, making all of their clothes - even their undies and swimmers. It was born out of necessity and grew into an addiction!

2. What other crafts do you enjoy and is there a reason that patchwork is your favourite?

I've explored a wide variety of crafty pursuits including fabric painting, cross stitch, tapestry and decorative folk art painting. My love of patchwork (and everything associated) began in the early 1990's. I love the process of selecting the theme and blending beautiful prints and colours. Then there's the challenge of creating perfect points...

3. What is your most useful crafty tool?

It's a dead heat - My 5" spring embroidery hoop. A \$3 purchase quite a few years ago and I won't stitch without it and my 'little foot' $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam foot

4. What is your favourite crafting technique and why?

Although I love everything about patchwork and quilting from the initial design stage to the last stitch, my favourite thing is to sit and therapeutically hand sew the binding of a quilt.

5. Where do you get your inspiration from?

Mother Nature. The shape of a leaf, the curl of a cloud, the colour of spring flowers... it's such a fabulous resource. An idea for a new design can strike anywhere and anytime so I carry a sketchbook and pencil most places I go.

6. What comes first the fabric or the design for you?

Either. The colours and designs on fabric will often dictate its eventual destination. Then again, scrollwork on the verandah of a terrace house might be the trigger for a new design. I go with the flow on that one

7. What do you enjoy doing when you're not crafting?

Spending time in the garden or hiding in the cave (TV room) watching a movie with my family. And sometimes I quilt.... ☺

8. Who is your favourite designer?

So many inspirational designers to choose from... Natalie Lymer of Cinderberry Stitches creates whimsical stitchery designs and I love the vintage look of Debbie Magee's work (Always Stitchin)
At the moment though, I'm a bit partial to the Gum Tree Designers

9. Tell us one random thing about you? (something non-craft related)

I don't eat seafood in any form. However, I love peeling prawns and shelling crab

10. What is your best Tip?

Machine maintenance can be the key to quality sewing - remove your needle plate and clean out the fluff from the bobbin area. Oil it if it needs oil - check your instruction book first. Always have a spare packet of sewing machine needles on hand. Change your needle often (more often than you think you need to... so if you haven't changed your machine needle for a while, go and do it now... I'll wait... And throw the old one out!) And I use a fine needle for patchwork piecing - usually a size 9/70 and no bigger than a size 12/80. You will find that a finer needle will make a smaller hole as it pierces the fabric and therefore create a neater and more accurate $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam.