



Artist Profile: Jennifer Reynolds

- 1. When did you first begin your adventure with needle and thread? What prompted it?**
My husband was a mechanic for 20 years, then re-trained to be a teacher. In July 2005 he was offered his first position, but it was only for 6 months and it was in far away Armidale. We put everything in storage and took just what we and our two kids could fit in the boot of our car, drove the 1200 kms to Armidale and moved into a cabin at a caravan park for the 6 months. We homeschooled, and after meeting up with a local homeschool family one of the daughters loaned me two magazines – a Country Threads and a Homespun. It's been 4 years this month since the stitching bug bit me and I've never recovered!
- 2. What other crafts do you enjoy and is there a reason that patchwork is your favourite?**
I can knit very well, and I try to crochet (not well!), but fabrics and cotton, a sketchbook and pencil, are a drug for me. Bringing one of my sketches to life on fabric is very personal, and I couldn't stop even if I wanted to. It's just too exciting!
- 3. What is your most useful crafty tool?**
A sketch pad, pencil, rubber, and my black Artline pen. Without them there would be no designs.
- 4. What is your favourite crafting technique and why?**
Blanket-stitch appliqué, and I LOVE Vliesofix - it makes appliqué incredibly easy!
- 5. Where do you get your inspiration from?**
Dreams, life, observing the ordinary and simplifying it. Prayer always calms me down so I can take in rather than give out.
- 6. What comes first the fabric or the design for you?**
Design...and then I have problems finding the fabric to match it! I'd like to think the other way around but my brain refuses to co-operate!
- 7. What do you enjoy doing when you're not crafting?**
Cooking, cooking, cooking...oh, yeh, and cooking – all while drinking endless cappuccinos. I'm also a fan of V8 racing, a hobby I share with my beloved husband. I can sit and watch it while I stitch and drink cappuccinos. Is cappuccino drinking another hobby do you think???
- 8. Who is your favourite designer?**
I don't have one. I'm so diverse with what I like that there is no particular person I can single out. I love the range of talent existing at present, but also I'm intrigued and inspired by the emerging new talent I see around me. I am always, always, blown away by the way another designer thinks and creates! There is always something new to see when you open your eyes and look. ☺ My fellow Nutters exemplify that truth every day.
- 9. Tell us one random thing about you? (something non-craft related)**

I take after my First Fleet & Second Fleet convict ancestors!

My g-g-g-g-g-grandfather arrived on the First Fleet in 1788, he was transported for stealing a sheep to feed his family. (I love lamb!)

My g-g-g-g-g-grandmother was transported here aboard the Second Fleet in 1790, for stealing a bolt of taffeta and some muslin. (I love fabric!!)

Fabric is in my bloodline – how could I not be a stitcher? Lamb is in my bloodline, how could I not cook? It was fate that I love both.

10. What is your best Tip?

People very often comment on my neat and tiny backstitches. When I first started sewing 4 years ago I wanted to make so many things, so I rushed through every item. Over the last year I began to slow down in many areas of my life – I needed to stop and smell the roses. I pray a lot, and prayer is a slow and soothing process of bringing all my life and its concerns before God. I decided to take that same view with my stitching...I slowed down as I stitched, and this allowed a natural and flowing rhythm to take hold. I was quickly addicted to the beauty of the stitches and I've not rushed since. Go slow, love every stitch, don't be afraid to unpick and do over. Let the work be something you connect with.