



## Artist Profile: Joy Coey

1. **When did you first begin your adventure with needle and thread? What prompted it?** Even though I only started patchwork about 5 years ago I've always sewn. I remember my Mum buying me an "Empisal" sewing machine when I was 13 so that I could make my own clothes - I think it cost the princely sum of \$22. I kept that machine for years and made clothes for my 3 children on it too - partly for pleasure and partly to save a few \$\$\$\$. My Dad gave me his old Janome in the mid 90's and I did a lot of craft sewing on that - but when Dad passed away I needed a creative outlet to help me through my loss, and patchwork/quilting was what I chose - and I'm so glad, I've met some wonderful people in the quilting world, I feel blessed ☺.
2. **What other crafts do you enjoy and is there a reason that patchwork is your favourite?** I have enjoyed so many different crafts over the years. I dabbled in folk art and fabric painting, I also did a lot of cross-stitch and crocheting. I belonged to the 'craft group' when my kids were in primary school ... making gifties and raffle prizes for the craft stalls at the fete and other special days ☺. I met some of my best friends doing that and we still meet every Friday for coffee - we've continued to do that for about 20 years!!! Once I found patchwork though, I realised I had found my passion.
3. **What is your most useful crafty tool?** Oh my quick unpick ... no question about it!!! I'd be lost without my little unstitchers ... I have loads of them ☺.
4. **What is your favourite crafting technique and why?** I just love quilt-as-you-go!! I tend to adapt most of my designs to this method.
5. **Where do you get your inspiration from?** Loads of things and people inspire me. If I'm making a quilt for a particular person I like to make sure there's a bit of the essence of them in that quilt. Sometimes I get inspiration from a need I have for some particular purpose. I remember when my youngest was doing Home Economics at school and she had to bring her cooked items home on the bus so I decided to make her a casserole carrier to bring it home. Then of course I had to make another for her best friend - I love that ☺.

6. *What comes first the fabric or the design for you?* Either!! Sometimes I see a fabric and immediately a picture will come into my mind of what to make from it. Other times I'll design something and I'll be hunting for just the right fabrics to use.
7. *What do you enjoy doing when you're not crafting?* I love going fishing with my dear husband in our little boat!! It must be the 'hunter/gatherer' in me LOL, I just love the thought of cooking up a meal from my catch. I have to admit though, most of my catches get sent straight back as they're usually too small he he he.
8. *Who is your favourite designer?* I have several favourites. I love Bronwyn Hayes (Red Brolly) work and have done since I started patchwork. I've done loads of her stitcheries and I adore her whimsical style. Natalie Lymer's work is also wonderful, her cute stitcheries are to die for. I also think we have some remarkable new Australian designers starting to emerge and their work is just as fabulous.
9. *Tell us one random thing about you? (something non-craft related).* I hate housework - I do it because I have to, but I'd rather be doing anything but!!! BUT ..... I can't leave the house unless the beds are all made.
10. *What is your best Tip?* "Read all of the pattern instructions before you cut ANYTHING!!!! Does that sound like I've made this mistake before lol???"