

THE POWERQUILTER RETURNS!!!!

Greetings everyone! I apologize for taking so long to get this letter out...I had really bad back issues on my trip to the states, which resulted in surgery about four weeks ago. I am doing very well now, and am able to get back into the swing of things...

Aside from the back injuries, my trip was fun, with lots of time and laughs with family. A nephew got married, a great niece got engaged. The weather was fabulous, the food was cheap and oversized, and it took me not eating much after the surgery to lose all the weight. But I was glad to get back home here.

BUT LET'S TALK QUILTING!

The weekend after arrival I headed off to the Long Beach Quilt Festival, run by the same people who also put on the Houston Festival, along with other shows around the country. I was staying virtually across the street from the Convention Center where it was being held. I had scheduled myself for two classes, both of which were TOTALLY out of my box. I took a Crazy Quilting class from Judith Baker Montano, and a machine-quilting class from Mary Mashuta. Judith is the Goddess of Crazy Quilting (or Patchwork as it is known in New Zealand) along with embellishment techniques. I knew I was out of my league as soon as I had to pick up a needle and some embellishing ribbon. I will finish this part of the letter by saying how much I admire all the women who can embroider and embellish, and anyone who came into my shop knew I feel this way. Mary's class on machine-quilting only using your walking foot was the exact opposite experience. I walked out of the class really enthused, and with book in hand, was determined to come home and get into the techniques I learned in her class. The quilt is still sitting on my sewing table, folded....But at least now I know what to do with it....



I found a cool Christmas pattern that I have put in to the "What's New" Section,

<http://www.powerquilter.co.nz/webapps/p/92772/249628/619525>

but I was looking for things that I could do to use up LOTS of fabric in a hurry.

To that end, I have discovered “Locker Hooking”. It is sort of crocheting, and it is sort of latch hooking, but it makes FABULOUS rugs and mats of all sorts. I have brought in all the supplies including instruction books, for making a rug or mat. All you need to do is add the fabric. The instructions are super-easy...I taught myself how to do it. Below are a couple of pictures of what I have done since getting home.



The nice thing is these rugs don't need to be blocked after completion, an issue I have had with other fabric rag rugs. AND they are quick to do. I love having rag rugs in my kitchen and around the house, and these fill the bill exactly. I have devoted a whole section on the website to these products so check it out and get into it...

<http://www.powerquilter.co.nz/webapps/category/92772/249628/58368>

Starting December 5th, I will be able to be seen at Cruise Ship Days in **Russell** on the Village Green, next to the Town Hall. I will have a stall, selling cool finished products with New Zealand themes and NZ batiks. Until Christmas, you will be able to find some Christmas - themed items as well...

Well, ladies, and gentlemen, I apologize for this being a little chopped up, but I am hoping to improve....make sure you check out the new items, and hopefully I will see you on Cruise Ship days in Russell!