

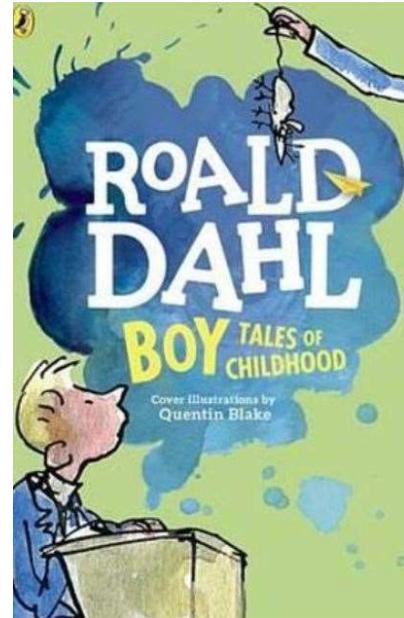
## Cherry Parker's Aug/Sept 2020 Newsletter

Last month I talked about Roald Dahl's book **Going Solo**. He has also written about his early life, losing his father and sister at an early age and his time at boarding school.

He had a Norwegian mother who was a very resourceful person who somehow carried on to raise a large family, some of whom were her own children and some who were step children. Those born a century or more ago were a hardy lot when faced with devastating circumstances.

A small book '**Boy**' is easily read, but very interesting and has some great laugh out loud moments. When Dahl went to write the book, he had hundreds of letters he had written to his mother to refer to. She had kept every one from when he first went to boarding school until he was injured flying in the war.

You can certainly see where some of his future stories originated.



Elections will be upon us here in New Zealand on the 19<sup>th</sup> September ( or not!)

I thought I had retired from this work, but apparently not. A Returning Officer became ill, so I am looking after an electorate again. A busier time than usual this time as we have two referenda at the same time as voting for our local political candidate.

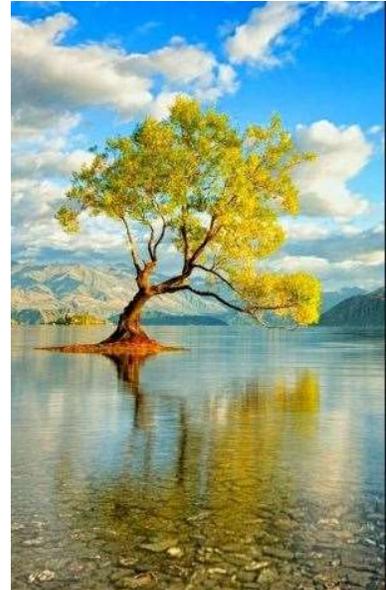
For a Returning Officer, who in fact manages an electorate, this means employing 400 – 500 people, hiring halls and premises for the public to vote in, making sure they are all trained and allocating voting papers amongst the voting places. Furniture also needs to be ordered and transported to each voting place, as well as cardboard screens for voting. It takes a lot of organisation and many hours of planning.

So the next few newsletters will be affected as there are only so many hours in each day. Sadly stitching also gets abandoned for a few months.

Lately I have had several requests for patterns. One lady would like me to do a pattern of the area around Wanaka, another a street of New Zealand shops decorated for Christmas, maps of NZ, more NZ birds and another would like to see more Maori designs.

It is always difficult to say it takes a lot of time to draw and stitch as well as put the pattern together. And it is impossible to please everyone. The requests above would fill my time for about eighteen months.

But the Wanaka request is appealing as it lends itself to a lot of colour and the wonderful tree that is the most photographed in the country. Framed by the Southern Alps it is a colourful sight in summer and in winter, stark and forlorn.



The cows of Morrinsville, mentioned last month are also a colourful option. It would be great to see what one would look like in cross stitch.



First of all, it must be remembered that the cows are all painted by local artists and just because the work is on a cow does not mean it can be treated any differently to that of a painting you would hang on the wall.

Permission needs to be obtained from the artist as well as an agreement put together to pay them royalties quarterly, on all sales. Of course they may say 'no' and

there it stops.

But I am pleased to say that another company came straight back with a 'yes' when I asked the same question of them. Some years ago, I stitched a few designs of our own Buzzy Bee but these have sat in a drawer for ages, as permission to go ahead with a pattern was, way back then, denied.

Now though we have the go ahead, so to the many people who have emailed me over the years asking why I didn't have a Buzzy bee pattern, it is available at <https://www.etsy.com/nz/shop/CherryParkerDesigns>



Prince William was gifted a buzzy bee when the royal family visited here in 1983. When William and Kate's third child Louis was born, he was given a buzzy bee-themed romper suit.

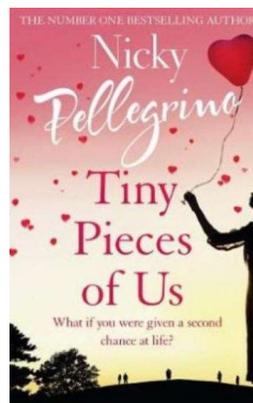
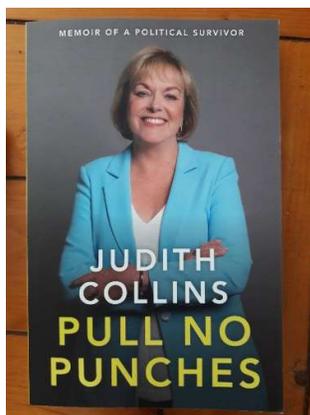
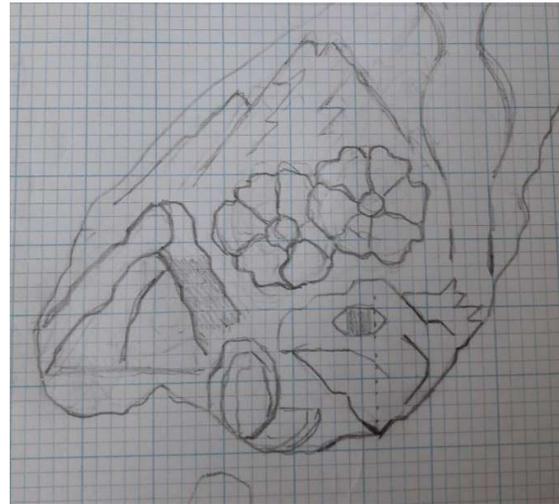
When our Prime Minister's daughter, Neve, turned one, Prince William sent her an engraved Buzzy Bee which read – "Happy Birthday Neve. From Prince William."

The Duke of Cambridge and Neve share the same birthday. 20,000 to 30,000 buzzy bees are sold in New Zealand each year which proves the popularity of this Kiwiana icon.

I have several patterns with the map of New Zealand in the centre but requests have been for icons and famous landmarks to be included inside the map. There have been enough requests to make me begin the design!

What to include and what to leave out? There are a large number of things that spring to mind when beginning to sketch such a pattern. Ask a dozen people what they would like to see and you will end up with fifty choices.

It has been a matter of what fits into our relatively skinny islands, as the pattern does not want to get too big. For some reason I began at the bottom of the South Island with a tuatara, Mitre Peak and the Southern Alps, Mount Cook lily and an oyster with a slice of lemon.



On the book pile is Judith Collin's book – 'Pull no Punches' and Nicky Pellegrino's Tiny Pieces of us. Very different books that will most likely keep me going til Christmas with election work. I don't watch a lot of television and when I do, I usually have stitching in my hands, so it is more 'listening' to tv that watching. And you just can't beat a good book!

Until next time when hopefully spring will have sprung.

Cherry

As always, request a pattern, ask a question, or unsubscribe at [cherry.parker@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cherry.parker@xtra.co.nz)

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