

Cupboard to Creativity

January 2026

Try Something New

Hi Everyone,

Well 2026 has well and truly started and I have been very much in a bubble of family for several weeks which has been wonderful—it is always lovely to have all our family together, and we were so blessed to have had a new addition Luca welcomed into the family mid December.

There has also been a lot of moving and sorting which started well before Christmas when we decided around October to close my city studio.

So... I am only just getting my head back into the quilting mindset now, so you can understand why I decided to change all my **groups to now start in February**.

I will email shortly all the group people to confirm spots and provide the list of dates for the year.

I hope you all had lots of fun times across the holiday period and that you are also settling into a routine for the year that involve lots of creativity and brings you much joy.

I am excited about being in one place, after having split my time between our farm and Brisbane for the past 15 plus years or more recently our new home and the Brisbane studio.

I knew the change would mean lots to do, but my body wasn't really happy about it — it has been exhausting—there has been a lot of lifting & carrying, and very little down time especially with all the things we have managed to squeeze into the past few weeks. The pool has been a welcome cool off at the end of each busy day.

There have been lots of decisions about what needed to go & what could stay as having had multiple areas with similar items we have lots we do not now need or have room for, so we have put all the extra things into the city studio— jugs, vacuum cleaners, desks, washing machine, dryer, lounge, fridge, freezer, microwave, many kitchen items like air fryer, rice cooker etc, various craft items and soon will be opening up the doors to sell what we can.

I will email out to all my clients first when we decide on a date, then we will go public.

So it will not be hard for you to understand when I say I now have 4 filing cabinet drawers with projects that need to be attended to!

I was certainly not surprised, so this years challenge each month for me will have the added intention to complete some of those projects as well.

So lets get quilting.

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Try Something New - Strips on Point

With starting 2026 in my new quilt shed, to a new time frame, so I have decided the overall theme for 2026 is going to be "Try Something New".

Each month I will have a different idea to work to, but each time we will look to try something new within that category as we work through our stash.

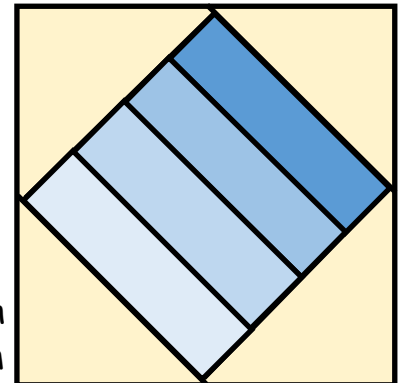
My intention will be to take one of the many project bags in my "to Finish" drawers, decide on the monthly challenge, then offer suggestions of how you can work from your stash to complete a project with the theme for the month in mind.

By setting the monthly challenges, I keep my creativity flowing as I have to think outside the box to create something different to what I have done before.

A fairly simple one to start the year Strips on Point

The first bag I pulled out this week had 6" finished blocks made with a strip pieced centre using $4\frac{1}{2}" \times 1\frac{1}{2}"$ cut size pieces in various colours—often in similar colours ie purple, blue etc and some are multi coloured. I find this a great block to use up scraps (and I have lots)

To make the block I have added cream corners to the strip pieced square by cutting 2 squares of $4\frac{1}{2}"$ in cream, cut each square on 1 diagonal and sew onto the the centre block. Trim the finished block to $6\frac{1}{2}"$ including seams. (this will give a slight floating effect).



Make as many blocks as you want for your project.

Work out if you want traditional settings with of sashing and borders, or see what creative way you can put them together to meet the challenge "Try something new" and share the result.

Some suggestions:

1. You may decide you want the strips to be square to the block and choose to add another round of corners to do this (cut 2 squares of $6\frac{1}{2}"$, cut on 1 diagonal for this.
For this you may decide to do alternate blocks in different fabrics, or use up many fabrics to create alternate light and dark corners on your blocks.
2. You may wish to flip some corners with another colour so that as you connect them you create stars.

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3. You may join your blocks with an alternate block of the same size in something you have not made before.
4. You may prefer a modern layout—there are many ideas for this in such books as "Smashing Sets" by Margaret J. Miller
5. OR I'm sure there would be lots of ideas online or in your favourite quilt magazines.

I have quite a few of the 6" blocks already made, and although the block itself is not new, my challenge is to put them together in a way I have not done before.

I intend to make mostly children sized quilts this year that measure around the 40" x 60" size, so that will also limit my options, so I may need to add some fun fabrics too.

If you wish to work with a larger 12" finished block of the basic design you can cut strips for the 4 centre pieces $2" \times 6\frac{1}{2}"$ (or you could vary the widths to include more than 4 pieces) to make a $6\frac{1}{2}"$ cut size square for the centre.

Cut the 2 squares for the corners $6\frac{1}{2}"$. Cut squares on diagonal & sew them on and check the finished block is $12\frac{1}{2}"$ including seams.

Have fun everyone,

Chat soon

Jan P