

# Glenvale

Patchwork and Quilting Guild Inc.

PO Box 189, Glenvale VIC 9000



Jane addressed the group again. "As I mentioned earlier, this year your committee has come up with some wonderful surprises and challenges for you. Your first challenge is inspired by the story about Mary Lewisham and Elizabeth Fry." As Jane spoke three members of the committee rose from their seats and headed towards the front of the room carrying large boxes that looked heavy. They put them on the floor next to the president who opened one of the boxes and pulled out a small hessian bag. She held it up so everyone could see. "Marian told us all about the hessian bag of supplies that were handed out by Elizabeth Fry and her committed team to the convict women before they boarded their ships. Today we are presenting you with a challenge, and that challenge is to take one of these hessian bags, containing the same supplies as the convict women were given, and to take them home and make a quilt. The challenge lies in the fact that you can only use the supplies given. To remind you of the list, you will find in your little hessian bag one tape measure; one box of pins; a packet of needles; four reels of white cotton, one black, one blue and one red; twenty-four hanks of embroidery thread; and two pounds of patchwork pieces. We have not included a pair of scissors due to the costs involved and thought you were best to use your own and the same with the thimble. "You must follow several rules, which we have written out for you and have several copies available for you to take home if you wish.

The rules for the Maria Challenge are:

1. Only use the supplies given
2. You may not add fabric from your own stash
3. Only one pair of scissors may be used (we suggest you use only your sewing shears, which can cut both fabric and thread)
4. You may not use pencil or paper, even for doing mathematical calculations
5. You may not swap fabric pieces with each other
6. No iron – you will not find one hiding in the bottom of the hessian bag!
7. You may not use a rotary cutter, mat and ruler – they're not hiding in the bag either!
8. You may create any type of quilt you choose – traditional blocks, border quilt, crazy patch or contemporary
9. Wadding was not provided for the convicts nor is it for you.
10. You have one year to complete the quilt



## The Maria Challenge Quilt Rules

from the novel *The Maria Challenge Quilt* by Margaret A. Rowe, 2008