



Jackie and Lisa with her doll

Hailing from Athelstone, just outside of Adelaide in South Australia, Jackie Bond has incorporated her dressmaking skills with her love of dolls. In addition to her home-based business of making designer clothes for brides and formal wear, she also runs a doll website, and makes and dresses dolls. In fact, a very successful component of her business is making doll dresses that are copies of bridal parties or babies in a Christening robes as very special keepsakes.

We have used the dolls Jackie dressed for her daughter-in-law Lisa and Lisa's youngest sister Maddie as projects in this issue of our magazine. In addition to creating and sewing the dresses for the bridal party, Jackie found dolls that looked like Lisa and Maddie, and made and dressed replica outfits for these dolls, and presented these to the girls as wonderful mementos of their big day.

Even though she was a tomboy as a child, Jackie was always interested in playing with dolls, and as she grew up she started collecting artists reproduction porcelain dolls from companies such as Ashton Drake. A friend made her a doll, and then offered to make her another one, suggesting that Jackie go to a studio



Jackie Bond

Sew talented!

It's amazing what you can achieve when you do what you love.



Chyna



Jade



Daddie's Boy



Heather

to select the greenware. Whilst at the studio, The Dolls Cottage, the teacher Joan Smith encouraged Jackie to "give it a go". As Jackie says: "I caught the Dolly Pox, and the rest is history!"

While her main business is in dressmaking, Jackie is very involved in the porcelain doll industry. She is the sole distributor in Australia for TIB's cleaning technique brushes and DVDs, and also supplies a range of Schoepfer glass eyes and Monique wigs and other lines that she imports directly from the USA. She sells soft fired greenware through to finished dolls, including the latest releases from the likes of Expressions, Doll Art Works, and other moulds rarely, if ever, seen in Australia..

Jackie keeps abreast of the dolly

world by visiting doll shows in the USA every year, and also goes to local shows in and around Adelaide. She is a member of two forums, Keepsakes of Van Buren and Victoria's Place, both in the USA, and says she has made many wonderful dolly friends through these groups, and also from the many shows that she has attended.

Revealing a passion for modern dolls, Jackie says she loves the lady dolls the most, however she also finds delight in baby and child dolls. When asked to nominate her favourite doll, Jackie says she has three absolute favourites – Jade, an Oriental original sculpt by the late Gwen Ross (whom Jackie dressed as a young Japanese girl in a kimono), Julia by Thelma Resch (whom Jackie

dressed in a copy of a powder blue wedding gown she had made for a friend's daughter), and Heather, a stunning portrait doll. Heather is dressed as a bride in an ivory Dupion silk gown, and she took the Judges' Choice and Best in Category awards at the Tyler Texas Show, USA.

There's a story around the creation of Heather. While in the USA, Jackie's friend Kaye suggested she enter the Tyler Texas Show. The choice of doll was easy, as Kaye had just received a beautiful new release mould for an original sculpt by Glenda Carey, named Heather. This doll was a sculpt of Karen Welch's daughter Heather, and Karen was the organiser of the Tyler Doll Show. Jackie says she felt a bit apprehensive at the thought



Julia and Emily

of making and presenting a doll for a competition where not only the original artist would be present, but also the mother of the real Heather, but decided, with Kaye's encouragement, to give it a go.

Kaye poured and soft fired two complete dolls, and one of these (and the second head) were sent back to Jackie in Australia, while the breast plate and limbs would remain in the USA. Jackie started work on the two Heather's (one to keep in Australia, and one to go to the USA), painting and dressmaking with the most painstaking attention to detail. Jackie then shipped the head plus her two outfits back to the States, and when Jackie arrived she completed the rest of her assembly, and dressed her for the Show, where she was awarded 98 points out of 100. A seasoned competitor in the doll world (including winning "Best in Show" for modern dolls on five different occasions), Jackie was very proud to add this award to her list of achievements.

Jackie has developed a technique to apply long sculptured acrylic finger nails to lady dolls (which we will bring you in a future issue), and conducts workshops in both the USA and UK to teach her technique. While not holding classes in Australia at the moment, Jackie says that when she and her husband move house, she is planning on a studio and is thinking about teaching again. Jackie says she still attends the classes she started in 1997 at The Dolls Cottage, as she loves the camaraderie of her fellow students. She offers a few words of advice to those thinking of becoming involved in the porcelain doll world – "If you have a love of dolls, do give it a go, as it is very relaxing and rewarding. You need to be patient, as you won't learn everything in a single lesson, but you will see your little lady, child, baby or young man just come alive before your eyes. It can also be

quite an expensive habit, particularly when you are having lessons, but well worth it."

She loves big dolls, but comments that the smaller porcelain dolls seem to be more popular. Jackie comments that the reborn craze has probably affected the devout porcelain doll people, and says she attended a lesson on reborns in the UK to see if she would add them to her website, but will probably take a few more lessons before she is persuaded to stock reborns.

Jackie says many people have helped her in her dollmaking career, and she wishes to make special mention of Joan Smith – her very patient teacher of many years, who is also a brilliant painter, and Kaye Dunn, who taught her how to do the "messy" side of dollmaking, from pouring the casting moulds, and cleaning and firing the kiln. In addition, she'd like to thank her family – husband John, and son Iain and daughter-in-law Lisa, who are both commercial photographers and kindly do most of the photography work for her website.

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Baby Shay



Maddie with her doll

