

## **Tocal Retreat 20-23 July, 2023**

Twelve happy sewing ladies stayed at Tocal in the Hunter Valley for our annual sewing retreat. Apart from enjoying the local animal life, including a noisy guinea fowl and content Friesian cows, the sewers were actively involved in planning, cutting, constructing and finishing projects over the 4 days. Some of the highlights included: Kerry showing her fabulous method for inserting an invisible zipper; Marie creating a terrific scuba knit top (and introducing Penny to her favourite dress shop in Maitland); Carolyn, Kerry and Susan giving great advice to Kathy on best fit for her trousers; Margaret creating a lovely girl's frilly skirt and knitting delightful socks; Joan and Shan sewing cute bucket hats for both little and big girls; Joan sewing a gorgeous blue pinafore; Susan creating a stunning maroon top; Elizabeth sewing a beautiful leather bag using the skills and pattern from Suzanne's leather bag workshop; Kathy persevering to create a fabulous pattern and toile for trousers; Penny making a lovely skirt; Barbara finishing a quilt, working on 2 lovely shirt patterns, bringing all the Frocks gear required for the retreat and sorting out the finances; and Marguerite finishing her 'Sew Into Overlocking' project by Kate Marra and working on 2 summer dresses. Morning and afternoon teas were delicious and self-catering for all meals went well.

Marguerite Sander