

Nancys Embroidery Shop  
**Nancys™**  
 www.nancys.co.nz

Create with us

In our shop at 241 Thorndon Quay or on our websites:  
 www.nancys.co.nz - unique embroidery & patchwork kits  
 www.theyarnstudio.co.nz - gorgeous knitting yarns, patterns & needles  
 www.jenniferpudney.com - fun needlepoint, felt kits & fabrics  
 www.strandnz.com - for crewel yarn & kitsets

your dedicated  
**BERNINA+**  
**SEWING CENTRE**  
 passionate about sewing

FON Newsletter No 95, April 2012

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Hasn't the weather this Easter been really lovely?

But with winter just around the corner, now is the time to start knitting lots of cosy hats and scarves from

soft yarns like the Debbie Bliss Palomo.

Join us on Facebook to get updates of exciting new products and weekly promotions. Go on to our page and "like us" to get a free gift.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Nancys-Embroidery-Shop/213654182030566>

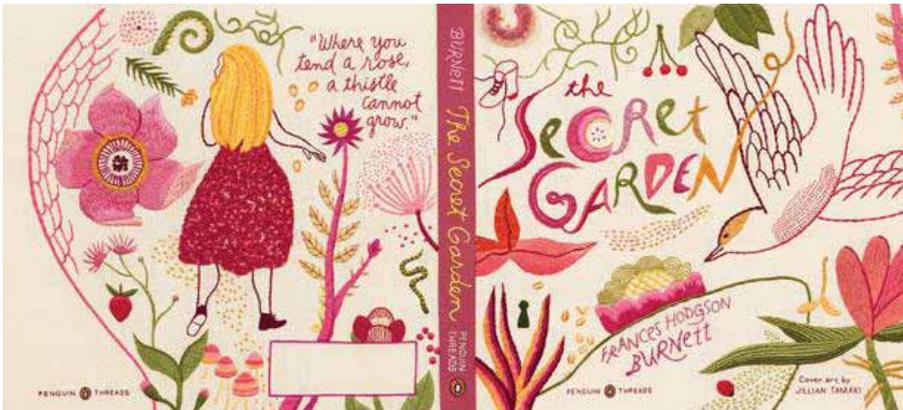
Mary

## Embroidered Penguin Classics Book Covers

Penguin have just brought out 3 new books with wonderfully embroidered covers. Jilian Tamaki is a multitalented illustrator who lives, works and teaches in New York. She has an extensive illustration portfolio, and after showing off her recent monster quilt venture into embroidery on her blog, Penguin commissioned her to embroider covers for a "Threads" series of some of their Classics.

I saw them featured in Craft magazine and had to see them as The Secret Garden and Black Beauty were favorite childhood books and Caroline said that Emma was her favorite Jane Austen. They are paper backs but the covers are embossed and the inside flyleaves are the back of the stitched work. Murray at Millwood Gallery was happy to order for me.

Mary



## New Jennifer Pudney Needlepoint Postcard Designs

### Rapunzel



While waiting patiently for her Prince, Rapunzel's hair get caught on a passing hedgehog.

### Like A Red Rag To An Angel



She tricked the Angel and skilfully managed to dodge becoming an Angel herself, the crowd cheered and showered her with roses.

### An Ordinary Day



Coming to grips with being the centre of the universe with no one appearing to notice..

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# PROJECT

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## Sew on a Sequin

When Robyn Alexander was here teaching her Bohemian Baubles class she bought some more of her gorgeous sequins and Sadi threads. As I was sorting through them my fingers started itching to stitch something. I wanted to combine them with her Colourstreams silk threads; I enjoy canvas work but didn't want a canvas background so I used waste canvas (14 count) tacked onto a piece of batik fabric. Once the stitching is done, trim the waste canvas and use tweezers to pull the threads out. You are then left with your stitches and eyelets in neat squares and rows. Place some pellon behind and sew on sequins using a bead or a French knot to hold them. Mount over an artist's canvas.



If you didn't want a fabric background you could paint some 14 count canvas with a lovely colour from our SoSoft range of Fabric paints.

AnneMarie shared the wonderful "Sew on a Sequin" song written by Dillie Keane with Robyn and me for the group "Faslnating Aida." Here is the first verse and chorus:

"When life has got you down;  
You're broke, you're on your uppers,  
And you don't know who to call your friend;  
When for weeks and months you've roughed it,  
And your Pekingese has snuffed it,  
And you think you've really reached the bitter end;  
When your mother-in-law has run  
Away with your teenage son,  
A sequin is such a little thing  
But sure as hell, you know that it'll bring  
You through when you've got writer's block;  
And the river, yes, the river's your only hope;  
Take a tip from me, you chump,  
And listen, 'cause here's the only way to cope;  
Sew on a Sequin, it's sure to cheer you up;  
Sew on a sequin when you've drained  
life's bitter cup;

Sequins will brighten up the oldest shabby dress;

Sequins are guaranteed to bring you happiness.

Yes, it's easier to smile  
As you face each fearful trial,  
When you've got a bit of heaven on your frock."

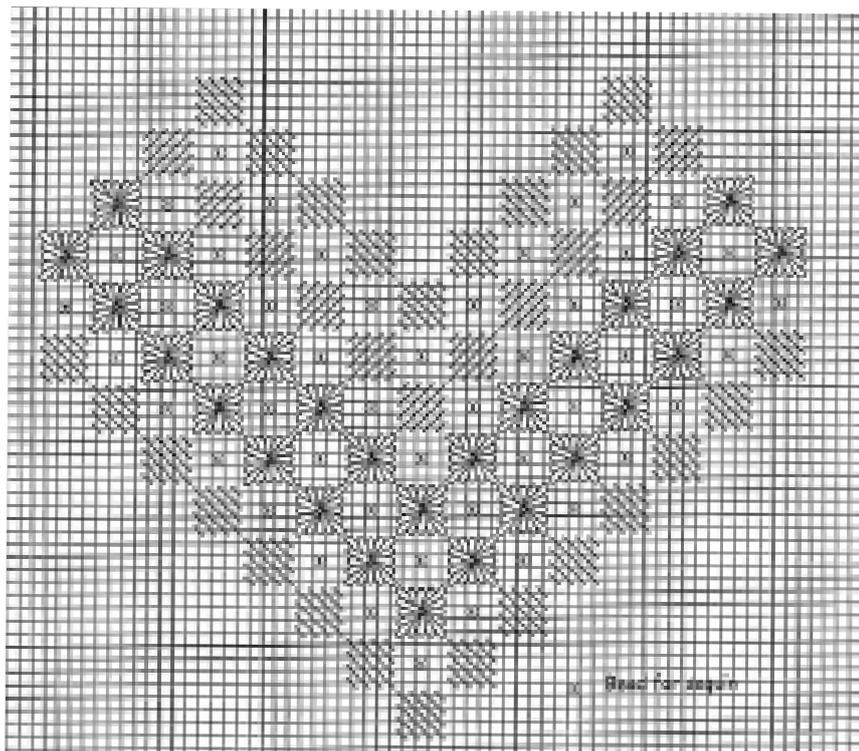
You can go onto Utube to find videos of the ladies singing this song and lots of others are well. Sequins really do make you happy, so go ahead and "strew a spot of stardust on your dress".

## SoSoft Fabric Paints

SoSoft Fabric Acrylics are super soft fabric paints that are opaque and give excellent coverage and washing durability on fabric. They are soft, like fabric dyes, but do not require the addition of a medium or heat setting. SoSoft Fabric Acrylics are permanent and can be brushed, stamped, sponged, or stencilled. As we can't get the coloured canvas for canvas work these paints are great for painting your canvas, the holes don't get blocked as much as with other paints. The range includes Metallics and Shimmering Pearls. \$4.95

## Sequins and Sadi Threads

Robyn from Colour Streams always brings packages of delight with her. The packages of sequins and metallic Sadi Threads were no exception. She often goes to India and has discovered wonderful treasure troves that she shares with us. Sequins \$3.95/ packet and Sadi Threads \$3.50.



## How to finish your Hexagon Quilt

The wonderful people at Paper Pieces ("we put the peace back into piecing") who supply us with the paper pieces have some great downloadable design sheets for all sorts of shapes including clamshell as well patterns and material requirements for different sized quilts. They even give the number of hexagon pieces in a queen size quilt... I am not sure that I really want to know that.

What I found really useful was a "how to finish a hexagon quilt". I get asked this question quite often. I checked with JoAnne about whether I could share it with you .... she agreed. Check out her website [www.PaperPieces.com](http://www.PaperPieces.com).

There are many ways to finish your hexagon quilt, but the three most common are as follows.

1. This is the easiest. When you have finished your pattern you will notice that two sides of your quilt will finish evenly and the other two sides will be jagged. Remove all the paper pieces and press the outside seam allowance flat. Take your rotary cutter and ruler and trim all the edges to get a straight line. If this is going to interfere with your design, you may want to piece another row of hexagons around so you won't lose the pattern. Then you can apply a regular straight binding after the top is quilted.

2. If you want to maintain the uneven design of the hexagons on the edges, you can applique your top to borders. Decide the width of the border you want and cut and piece border pieces, Do NOT remove the paper pieces. Starting on one side lay your top on the border strip and pin in place. Applique the top to the border. Allow extra length (at least 1 and 1/2 times the width of your border) on each end so that you can mitre the corners. This gives you a straight edge to bind as normal.

3. If you would like your quilt to finish with "uneven edges" this is the method for you! If you are going to machine quilt, go ahead and remove all the papers from the edges, pressing the seam allowance as you remove them so they retain their shape. If you are going to hand quilt, leave the pieces in until you get to them. After the top is quilted, cut the batting about 1/4" inside the top edge, following the shape of the top. Cut the backing 1/2" larger than the top. Turn the backing under to match the shape of the top and slip stitch closed. This is a beautiful way to finish and maintain the hexagon shape top.

We have a great selection of paper pieces in hexagons, diamonds and now squares in a range of sizes. \$6.95/packet

## Classes With Spaces

### HEXAGON QUILT AS YOU GO CLASS

For all levels. Traditional hand piecing is a peaceful and serene way to construct a quilt; perfect for a travelling project or to relax with in front of the TV. This class will teach a contemporary version where you'll learn classical hand piecing methods along with adding quilt batting and the back at the same time. As you stitch the whole quilt is completed in one go.

Tutor Mary Self  
Date Wed Jun 20  
Time 9:30 – 11:30 or 6 – 8pm  
Price \$39 + materials

### ENGLISH PAPER PIECING CLASS

For beginners. If you like relaxing, traditional patchwork piecing that you can take anywhere then come to this class. You'll learn about using paper templates, preparing fabric and joining pieces together with invisible stitches.

Tutor Mary Self  
Date Wed May 2  
Time 9:30 – 11:30am  
Price \$39 + materials

### AMISH QUILT

For beginners: Amish quilts are known for their intense plain colours and simple blocks. In this class you will learn about colour values, and design and make an Amish inspired quilt top. A major feature of Amish quilts is the hand quilting, so you will also develop a quilting design, transfer it onto your quilt and learn how to hand quilt the design.

Tutor Fyvie Murray  
Date Mon Apr 30, May 7, 28  
Time 9:30 – 11:30am or 6 – 8pm  
Price \$99 + materials

## Imagine Our Life

Many of you will have made fabric activity books for your children or grandchildren. One of our customers came in to proudly show me the pages for a quiet book for her small grandson to read on the plane trip from the UK, and then have some more pages to look at here while visiting.

She had taken her inspiration from a website called [www.imagineourlife.com](http://www.imagineourlife.com) where Stephanie generously shares her patterns and techniques for making incredible interactive pages for Quiet Books in felt. She has forklifts, stoves and frying pans, cupcakes, rockets, sandcastles and mail boxes (what child doesn't enjoy opening mail) to name just a few.



Remember that we have great wool felt at Nancy's. 33cm x 30 cm pieces are just \$3.95, small pieces are 50 cents and you can also get larger pieces off the bolt.

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## Introducing Sara Keppel ...

When Mary asked me to write this I was quietly thrilled. I love reading this newsletter and now I get to write in one! I recently joined the family of ladies here after many years of being both customer and class participant. My day job was as an accountant in a bank, from which I took a break after having my daughter 2 1/2 years ago. I love all things hand needlecraft, especially crewel embroidery and stumpwork but have tried my hand at machine sewing and quilting. It's a wonderful feeling being surrounded by all things craft and meeting others who feel the same way. I look forward to my work days of the week and meeting more Friends of Nancys.

*Sara*

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# PROJECT

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## French Knitting Doll Needle Book



As promised, here is the pattern for the needle book that was included in my hussif. Inspiration for the shape came from the cross-stitched French Knitting dolls.

### Requirements:

15x20cm pelmet Vilene  
20cm square skin tone wool felt  
20cm square blue wool felt for dress  
Small piece of black felt for hair  
20 x 30cm wool flannel for pages  
25cm each of 2 colours of rickrack  
Stranded cotton or Coton a Broder in skin, cream, dress colour, black, red  
2 buttons  
Embroidery needles

For the back of the needle book:

Using the full pattern piece, cut two layers of skin tone felt and one layer of pelmet Vilene. With the pelmet Vilene between the 2 layers of felt, buttonhole stitch around the feet and the skirt with skin tone thread.

For the pages:

Cut 3 pieces of wool flannel from the same pattern piece, but exclude the head and feet. Buttonhole stitch around the skirt portion of each of these pieces with cream thread.

For the front:

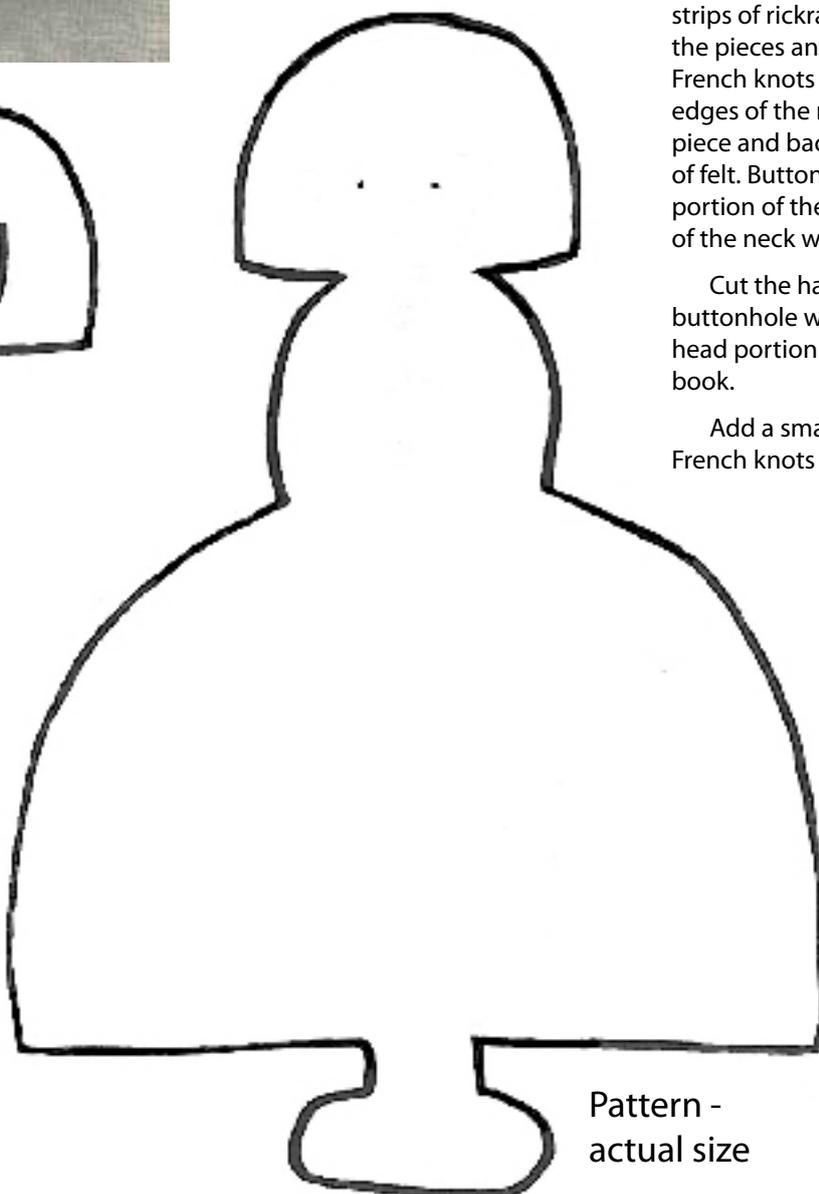
Again using the same pattern piece, cut 2 layers of felt in dress colour, excluding the head and feet. Arrange strips of rickrack across the skirt of 1 of the pieces and sew them down using French knots with red thread. Fold the edges of the rickrack to the back of this piece and back it with the other piece of felt. Buttonhole around the skirt portion of the front and across the top of the neck with thread to match dress.

Cut the hair out of black felt and buttonhole with black thread onto the head portion of the back of the needle book.

Add a small mouth in red and two French knots in black for the eyes.

Putting it all together:

Layer the back, pages and front and then join them all together by buttonhole stitching around the body. Place a decorative button on both the front and the back of the body and sew the two buttons together, through all layers of felt and flannel.



Pattern -  
actual size

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# ANNA'S QUILT

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## Networking mums solve quilt mystery!

Anna came to work upset because the gorgeous quilt that she had made for her friend's baby Tyler had been lost but you may have seen the happy ending in the Dominion Post "The Diary" in February. Here is the story from a blog on February 10, 2012 by daisyandzelda



Three weeks ago Sarah Statton found this striking quilt in the lost property department at her husband's Wellington workplace. We talked to Sarah. She told us:

"As soon as I spotted the message on the back I told my husband I was going to track down little Tyler. My husband was a bit skeptical."

Sarah took pictures of the quilt and posted them on a mothers' support network on Facebook, where Daisy and Zelda saw the story and posted about it. Local comedian and blogger Chelsea Hughes also read about the story, and immediately empathised with the situation:

"Being a new mother I understood how devastating it would be to lose something that precious."

Chelsea took upon herself to tweet a picture of the quilt to her network. 'I work in social media and knew it had the power to bring people together quickly', she told us. Within the space of 12 hours she had received over 7,000 hits on her Flickr account! Chelsea says:

"The Twitter community is amazing. I had at least 30 people retweet my plea for help. Even plunketnz and the wellingtonista called on their followers."



Meanwhile ...

Samantha Carter was breastfeeding baby Tyler at 3 am on Thursday the 9th of February when she stumbled upon a link to Chelsea's Flickr account on Facebook. She told us:

"I was flabbergasted; didn't expect to see it again. A good friend of mine who works at Nancy's Embroidery made this for my son at Christmas. I had tried looking for it everywhere but had given up; I thought it was long gone ... I was overwhelmed to see that so many people were trying to help."

Sarah is delighted that with the power of social networking, mothers have helped reunite baby Tyler with his stunning quilt.

I think a lot of people will be wanting the quilt-making services of Anna Hicks now – the quilt is gorgeous; she is very talented!



Baby Tyler with his quilt!

We love this story. It reaffirms so many things that we adore and that we're grateful for: social media (controversial but true!), human empathy, and not least, mummies banding together to get the job done! Baby Tyler, perhaps you're just a little bit lucky to grow up in this crazy old world you've stumbled into?! Enjoy that quilt, little man!  
....Daisy and Zelda

What made Anna's quilt so unique (apart from the love) is that Anna used a lovely children's fabric with fun shaped animals as inspiration. She enlarged the animals with the photocopier and used them as patterns for applique squares, see the lion and duck above.

This new fabric from Riley Blake, Woodland Trails has lovely simple animal shapes that would lend itself beautifully to applique. \$29.95/metre



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## Stitching Club for FONs

All Friends of Nancys members are invited to join us for Stitching Club, held on the last Wednesday of the month at 12.30pm and on the first Sunday of the month at 1.30pm. Come along for a social stitch with any type of embroidery or patchwork. It's also a good time to get help with any stitching problems you may have.

Next dates:

Wednesday 25 April & 30 May

Sunday 6 May & 3 June

# KNITTING

## Debbie Bliss Paloma



I was excited when we first received a sample of this yarn. It is a super soft Merino and Alpaca mix that is created like French knitting. It is a thick yarn so knits up quickly but because it has a hollow centre is wonderfully light. I have knitted up a sample in the cross over scarf pattern that we featured in the newsletter a number of years ago. This yarn works for this pattern as it gives a nicely defined stitch. We have the pattern as a free give away with the purchase of wool. Use 10mm needles.

Rita has just finished knitting us a sample of this Wrap Round Jacket in the most delicious aubergine. This will be one of those super cuddly classics that will last for years. Come and try it on.



## New Colours for Winter - Naturally NZ

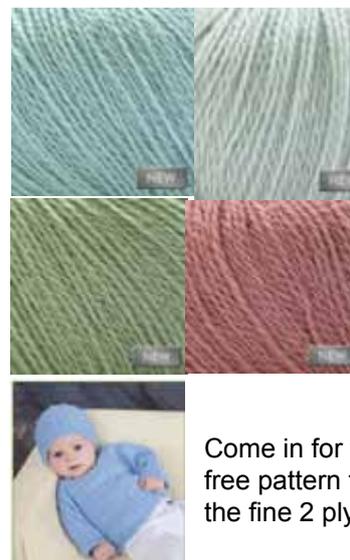
### Karamea

Ply / Weight: 8/DK  
75% Merino, 15% Alpaca, 10% Possum,  
Karamea is a very dense warm yarn. Come and see this beanie knitted up in the new Teal colour.



### Lace

2 Ply / Weight: Lace  
60% Merino, 40% Dehaired Angora  
This very fine yarn is very soft and is perfect for a light lacy knit or for baby clothes.



Come in for this free pattern for the fine 2 ply



Come and join Mary at Handmade during Queen's Birthday weekend. I will be teaching some classes and will also be running the Nancy's Embroidery Shop Finishing Room for you to come and stitch and to stock up with essentials for your classes.

HANDMADE is a festival celebrating beautiful and creative things. It is the place for people who want to learn the skills and crafts of previous generations but in today's context, using modern technology and style. HANDMADE is a contemporary, creative and inspiring event full of activities over many categories. We hope that you will join in and explore, or extend, your HANDMADE potential.

The 2012 programme features 80 different activities across a variety of crafts. Learn from expert and passionate teachers in a workshop environment and come away with a beautiful finished product made with your own hands. Or watch our well-known experts demonstrate their skills in the Masterclasses dotted throughout the programme.

The beauty of HANDMADE is that you can come to one activity, or as many as you like, depending on your budget and available time. Come and join us at HANDMADE 2012, 2-3 June, Wellington.

**HANDMADE 2012 tickets available now!**

## **Sale of the Year**

**21 April to 12 May 2012**

Our biggest sale for Bernina machines will be in time for Mother's day and will run for just 3 weeks,

If you are thinking upgrading your machine, getting a second machine or trying something new, like embroidery or overlocking it will be perfect time to buy, because on many models the prices won't be this low again. Take a look at some of the amazing offers.

- Save a whopping \$3,400 on our top of the line Bernina 830 Sewing and Embroidery machine. This offer will not be repeated again!
- Enjoy huge savings on the entire bernette range of sewing machines with prices starting as low as \$269 and the bernette 82E at the special clearance price of \$499.
- Save \$700 on Ex-Symposium demonstration models of the Bernina 550QE

There's 20% off all feet and accessories and an awesome free gift to enjoy when you take home one of our Horn Sewing Cabinets.

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## **Enter to win in the 7 Deadly Sins Challenge**

Following on from the success of the Great Kiwi Icon Challenge, we have a brand new competition to put your creative skills to the test in 2012.

Create a wall hanging of The 7 Deadly Sins and be in to win a new Bernina 550QE sewing machine valued at \$4,699.

Plus there is a Peoples Choice Award for the most humorous design, with the winner taking home a Bernina 380 sewing machine valued at \$2,799.

Put your thinking cap on, let your creative juices flow and give us your interpretation of one or more of the 7 Deadly Sins. Your wall hanging can be a quilt, felt work, embroidery or other textile medium as long as it includes fabric and thread as a major component. Collect your entry form from Nancy's or download it at [www.bernina.co.nz](http://www.bernina.co.nz).

## **Get a FREE sewing chair valued at \$299**

This fabulous chair is all yours when you buy a new Monarch, Kimberley or Sovereign Sewing Cabinet during our Sale of the Year.

The chair's height provides perfect lumbar support and its soft cushion is comfortable for those long sewing hours. Our chair features 4 casters for greater movement at your sewing cabinet or crafting surface. Lift the seat cushion up to reveal a hidden storage compartment for your small notions or patterns. Solid oak legs and base make this a sturdy and beautiful addition to your room.



## **All you need to know about feet**

Did you know that the Bernina New Zealand website has short (30-60 second) instructional videos on all Bernina presser feet. You'll find them at [www.bernina.co.nz](http://www.bernina.co.nz). You will be able to plan what feet you would like to buy during our 20% off all feet and accessories sale.

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All prices quoted in this newsletter are current at the time of going to print but may be subject to change at a later date.

**We're open Saturday 10.00am-4.00pm & Sunday 1.00-4.00pm**

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# NOTICES

## Days our staff work

Alana Monday, Thursday & Saturday  
Anna Thursday - Monday  
Caroline Monday - Friday  
Connie Thursday  
Denise Monday - Friday

Marilyn Monday - Tuesday, Friday - Saturday  
Marjorie Wednesday & Friday  
Mary Saturday - Thursday  
Sarah Monday - Tuesday  
Tess Thursday

## FON Subscriptions

The subscription of \$25 per annum offers newsletter, FON monthly Stitching Club, 10% discount off stock and class enrolment fees, and other special discounts. Discounts do not apply to framing, cushion, bellpull and wallhanging construction, sewing machines and overlockers.

Note: Membership is limited.

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If your Friends of Nancys subscription is due for renewal the newsletter will have a highlighted 'R' by your name on the address label and a renewal form enclosed. Please pay promptly as FONs with unpaid subs are removed from the list and their number reallocated.

