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

(04) 473 4047                  PO Box 245, Wellington 6140
0800 783 639                              nancys@nancys.co.nz
FON Newsletter No 100, January 2013

Haven’t we had a lovely mild autumn, however now is the time to think about projects for winter and of course knitting cosy hats, scarfs and jerseys to keep our families warm. We are very lucky to have Alison Snepp from Australia coming to teach traditional Ottoman embroidery so spoil yourself with a weekend of stitching.

Mary

Wonderful Love Sewing Sale of Bernina and bernette sewing machines and overlocker on now in time for spoiling Mum on Mother’s Day.

Come and try a sewing machine or overlocker and go in the draw for a lovely gift basket of sewing goodies worth $299.

Ottoman Embroidery

The Ottoman Empire was very wide-reaching and encompassed many countries. Part of its richness was a strong design tradition. This was evident in its architecture and culture right through to its embroidery. Ottoman design was characterised by floral and folate shapes used in stylised yet formal ways. The carnation, tulip and pomegranate were particularly popular design themes. The beautiful textiles were strongly redolent of an exotic way of life – one bathed in in sunshine and heady perfumes, a way of life that was slow and gracious and, above all, permeated with the fondly imagined sensuality of the harem.

When visiting a Turkish bath-house the bathers would take a practical towel over which was draped an exquisitely embroidered decorative towel to cover the every-day one. The ends of the decorative towel were worked with wide bands of embroidery and finished with a plain or decorative fringe.

Also long sashes, made of linen, were embroidered with similar designs at both ends.

Students attending the class with Alison Snepp will work a woollen scarf with an original design that has been inspired by the classic Ottoman motifs. They will learn the traditional stitches of Ottoman embroidery using hand-dyed pure silk threads. The hunchback-style motif may be worked either once or twice at one or both ends of the scarf, so the project need not be a large undertaking, and best of all: the finished project does not have to be made up. The cream pure wool handwoven scarf will be provided for each student and once the embroidery is complete it is ready to wear with pleasure and pride.

This is a two-day workshop and there is no pre-class preparation. It is suitable for embroiderers with some experience of surface stitchery embroidery.

Tutor Alison Snepp
Date Sat June 1, Sun June 2
Time 10am - 4pm
Price $349 + materials
Hand Pieced Houses
One quilt that has stirred a lot of interest on the internet is a beautiful House quilt by Ingrid Press.

I spotted this just before Easter and was inspired to build my own. I had a selection of squares and triangle Paper Pieces at home so I started hand piecing. The finished quilt has 3 x 3 10 inch blocks with smaller houses up the sides to give a feeling of perspective. I have been inspired by Wellington houses designed by architect Roger Walker. I am now quilting it with the words of the Jane Austen quote: “There is nothing like staying at home for real comfort.”

To do hand piecing you will need paper pieces the right size. Cut your fabric about 1cm bigger all round and tack on to the paper piece. With right sides facing, stitch pieces together. Paper piecing allows for accurate joining of awkward corners. I used 1 1/2 inch and 1 inch triangles, 2 inch, 1 1/2 inch, 1 inch and 1/2 inch squares to build my houses and trees. I also used 4 different creams for the background.

Recipe for Grey House
Grey - 1 1/2 inch square
Red - 1/2 inch square
Yellow 2 x 1 1/2 inch triangles
Cream
  2 x 1 1/2 inch triangles
  2 x 1 inch squares
  1 x 1 1/2 inch square
Continue to make up to a 10 inch block.

Recipe for Tree
Grey - 3 x 1/2 inch squares
Green 2 x 1 1/2 inch triangles
Green 2 x 1 inch triangles
Cream
  2 x 1 1/2 inch triangles
  2 x 1 inch triangles
  2 x 1 inch squares
  2 x 1/2 inch squares
Continue to add squares to make up to a 10 inch block.

Recipe Little Grey House
Grey - 1 inch square
Yellow 2 x 1 inch triangles
Cream
  2 x 1 inch triangles
  2 x 1 inch squares
  4 x 1/2 inch squares
Incorporate this as a 2 inch corner block of the Tree Block

PROJECT

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. 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 30 May & 27 June
A Tweedy Story

Recently I was in Dunedin, taking Richard down to start University, and I spied in the Scottish Shop of all places a wonderful handbag of Harris Tweed. I love bags with a strong textile component, my Indian tambour embroidered bag from Frutti is at least five years old now. I feel a bit disloyal to it, but my Harris Tweed bag has my heart now.

Emma Dolan is a Yorkshire based artist working from a beautiful old schoolhouse built in 1840, recently opened as Weetwood Studios, a craft and design venue. In her studio space, Emma is surrounded by mid 20thC domestic paraphernalia and imagery, reflecting her love of the treasured and the discarded items of design history. Old Vogue knitting patterns and Ladybird books fill the shelves alongside glossy Art Deco catalogues. But I think it will be the nostalgic Milly Molly Mandy prints that may make me succumb.

But as is the way on the internet I noticed that she also used woolen felt from Hainsworth, I am still looking for a supply of thicker wool felt so I went to their website, they produce felt for whole range of uses from pool tables to heavy industrial felt for manufacturing machinery.

I also discovered that the wool for their blankets come from New Zealand and is then imported back into NZ by Exquisite Wool Blankets who are also importing their range of Felt coffins. Three fleeces go into making each fully biodegradable coffin in the Natural Legacy range. The recycled cardboard frame is covered with thick felted wool and lined with organic cotton and it also boasts a wool pillow and blanket. They are fully biodegradeable and seem to me to be more sympathetic somehow. They are investigating making the coffins here, using our stock piles of cross bred wool. We wrap our babies in wool and love, why not complete the cycle.

Mary
Brighten up winter with lots of colourful scarves

One of the most satisfying ways of getting to use lots of colourful and soft wool is to make scarves for everyone. If you want them to be continuously worn, do the softness test under your chin. Here is a whole range of scarf and cowl ideas for you.

**Stripey Knitted Scarf**

Continuing our playing with stripes, with a nostagic look back at school days of the long thin scarf wrapped around a few times.

**Materials**

Following is the number of Strand 25 gm and 10 metre skeins you will need to make a

- 2 x 25g balls colour A
- 1 x 25gm ball colour B
- 1 x 25gm ball colour C
- 3 skeins colour D

**Inca Spun Tweed**

10ply 40% Alpaca 40% Merino 20% Donegal

This is a lovely soft aran weight tweed in vibrant colours as well as natural colours for winter. Using our free Cable Scarf pattern, that cleverly has cables on both sides, 3 balls will give you a 1.5m scarf approximately. Our sample is in the blue, but the raspberry, brick red, grey, cream or charcoal would be equally lovely. $13.95/ball

**To Make**

Cast on 40 sts in colour A
St St 5 rows starting with a knit row

** With colour B St St 8 rows starting with a knit row
With colour A St St 20 rows starting with a knit row
With colour C St St 16 rows starting with a knit row
With colour B St St 8 rows starting with a knit row
With colour D St St 4 rows starting with a knit row
Repeat from ** 10 more times
With colour B St St 8 rows starting with a knit row
With colour A St St 20 rows starting with a knit row
With colour C St St 16 rows starting with a knit row
With colour B St St 8 rows starting with a knit row
With colour D knit 1 row

St St 4 rows starting with a knit row
Cast off loosely

**Colours:**

- A = 072, B = 155, C = 142, D = 195

**Field of Flowers**

**Crochet Cowl**

What a wonderful way to celebrate the over 170 colours of the Strand yarn - to create a whole field of flowers in as many colours as you want. One of the advantages is that within each colour family of the Strand yarn there are 5 shades so you can get variety without introducing too many different colours. The mohair also gives a silk like lustre.

The sample used 14 different colours, 3 shades each of green, blue, orange and pink and 2 shades of another pink. Each 10m skein will make 3 flowers, each 25gm ball will make about 30 flowers.

**Pattern** $5.95 or free as a downloadable PDF on www.theyarnstudio.co.nz
Tula Pink has made her Hex on the Beach quilt with her Saltwater range (look out for the sea horses hidden in one of the designs) of fabrics in a bargello style that shows off the three colourways we have in store plus mixing in with some the plains. I love her comment about making the quilt: “I made mine by hand but feel free to make this how ever you wish. It is crazy fun and an amazing travel project. I took mine with me everywhere when I was making the sample; I made 30 hexies while waiting to get my oil changed, 68 while listening to my sister practice Twinkle Twinkle Little Star on the violin (over and over again), 109 while waiting to find out who was going to be America's Next Top Model, you get the idea. Then one day it was done! I call these kinds of quilts “nibblers” because you don't sit down and make this in a day or even a weekend but it is a great quilt to make over time in little bites, get it? You nibble on it you don't scarf it down in one sitting.”

Come in for the free pattern to make the Combi Cushions

Rosemary Mcleod has always been an influential writer, I always read her Listener articles and bought her first book over 30 years ago. The first time I saw her was in the early 1980’s at Dunbar Sloane’s Tuesday auctions hunting in boxes for textile treasures. Little did I know then that this was to be the start of a significant journey that has let to us all more fully appreciating the work of our mothers and grandmothers. Her latest book has grown from her extensive collection of patterns from last century. As well as providing commentary on the social aspects, she and Marilyn have recreated a number of them as projects in the book. Dip into the book often to give yourself a warm nostalic feeling.

To go with the book Rosemary has also developed two Porch Cushion kits made of felt on to a lovely substantial hessian.

Book - $55, Kits - $60

Karla’s quilt is unlike any other: it comforts her as she falls asleep with stories of the squares that make it up. Through the quilt, she learns about her grandparents’ love, her aunt's imagination, and her mother's adventurous childhood. We have a free quilt pattern to go with the fabric perfect for snuggling up while you are reading the book aloud.

Book $33.95, Fabrics $30.95/metre

Flowery Sampler with Birds
A pretty new sampler from DMC
This kit contains: DMC 6-stranded cottons and 28 count 100% linen. $47.95
**Discover the new world of Bernette**

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**Bernina made to create**

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**Sew, cut and overlock**

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**Design your own**

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<td>SP4000 Steam Press</td>
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Prices are effective to 19 May 2013 or while stocks last.
BERNINA Challenges

Win Great Prizes in BERNINA Competitions

Music Wallhanging Challenge

Following on from our “Great Kiwi Icons” and “7 Deadly Sins” Challenges, the next Bernina Wallhanging Challenge has a “Music” theme.

Simply create a Wall Hanging with a theme of “Music” and be in to win a Bernina 550 sewing machine valued at $4,699. There’s also a People’s Choice Award for the most humorous design, with the winner taking home a Bernina 380 sewing machine valued at $2,799.

Wall Hangings can be a quilt, felt-work, embroidery or other textile medium as long as it includes fabric and thread as a major component. So get your thinking caps on, let your creative juices flow and show us what “Music” means to you.

Entry forms can be downloaded from www.bernina.co.nz or from us here at Nancy’s your local dedicated Bernina Sewing Centre. Entries close 31 October 2013.

BERNINA Challenges

Yes, it’s “Yellow”! That’s the theme for this year’s Association of New Zealand Embroiderers’ Guild’s / Bernina Postbag Challenge. Simply create an embroidery piece which demonstrates your thoughts on the colour YELLOW and you could WIN a Bernina 350 sewing machine. Embroideries will be exhibited at the Craft and Quilt Fair in Hamilton in September.

Open to all textile artists - winner receives a Bernina sewing machine

Download the entry form from www.bernina.co.nz or visit www.anzeg.org.nz for more information.

Section A Forms to arrive by 19 July
Section B to arrive no later than August 19 2013.

Wishing for a Passage to India by Marjorie Thomas inspired by a love of things Indian and the opportunity to build on a motif from Northern India. Machine and hand stitch on silk paper.

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
NOTICES

Days our staff work

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Staff Name</th>
<th>Days Available</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alana</td>
<td>Friday &amp; Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna</td>
<td>Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denise</td>
<td>Monday - Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marilyn</td>
<td>Monday - Tuesday, Friday - Saturday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marjorie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sara</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah</td>
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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.

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.

Nancys Embroidery Shop
241 Thorndon Quay
PO Box 245
WELLINGTON 6140
Tel: 04 473 4047