

# SOUTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES

By Katie Crosby



*Follow the needle and thread, button by button, as we make our way around scenic southern New South Wales*

From sun kissed beaches to the Blue Mountains and the picturesque Riverina, southern New South Wales has a lot to offer. Whether you fancy sunbaking on the sand, a mountain retreat in the snow, drifting on the Murray or a quiet getaway in the country, you can find it all here.

We kick off our southern adventure at the picturesque coastal town of Narooma, where we stop for a stroll along the water and a patchwork class at Pepper Lane Designs.

From there we head west to the largest town at the foothills of the Snowy Mountains, Cooma, to browse the extraordinary variety of stock on offer at Busyfingers Craft.

Our next stop is at Wodonga, a lovely rural town near the Murray River, where we pop in to say hello to the folks at

Carolyn's Quilting Room, before heading north-west to Finley.

At Finley we drop in at Julie's Sewing Shed to stock up on patchwork fabric, and from Finley we continue further north to Griffith. At Griffith we discover the delightful store, Fabric 23, where Morganne shows us the great range of patchwork supplies on offer.

From here we head to Leeton to visit Eileen and Liz for a chat at their cosy store, 2 Friends. This is such a friendly place it's hard to leave! Next we drive east to Wagga Wagga, where we stop for a cuppa with the delightful Maria, at Nimble Thimble.

The final leg on our journey takes us north to Cootamundra, the birthplace of Sir Donald Bradman. Here we indulge in some retail therapy at Cootamundra Sewing Centre.

## Pepper Lane Designs

Narooma

Pepper Lane Designs is owned and managed by Catherine Pepper, who has been in business for more than 21 years. This store stocks a terrific range of fabrics, which continues to grow all the time. "Despite the small space, we keep finding room!" Catherine says.

Pepper Lane Designs is a Janome stockist and also carries a nice range of giftware, but it is the classes that are Pepper Lane Designs' specialty. A few years ago Catherine bought the house next door to her shop and this has become a classroom and studio space. "My students consider the space a second home and are encouraged to stretch themselves creatively in this space," Catherine says. "Everyone is an artist in our work space!" The classroom space has also been used to hold two quilt and fibre art exhibitions, where all



money raised has gone toward breast cancer research. The next exhibition will be held in October 2010, so if you are in the area, it will be well worth stopping by for a sticky beak.

### Local knowledge:

"Narooma is a beautiful town and the surrounding areas offer lots for arty people," Catherine says. "All the

beaches, Montague Island, Mount Dromedary — it's an inspiring place to be."

**Address:** 163 Princes Hwy, Narooma NSW 2546

**Phone/fax:** (02) 4476 1378

### Email:

quilts@pepperlanedesigns.com.au

## Busyfingers Craft

Cooma



Portabellopixie bag by Sandi Henderson, pattern \$19.95. For more information contact Busyfingers Craft.

Set in a historic building in Cooma that from 1900 to 1950 was a bakery, you'll find the charming Busyfingers Craft. Owner Ruth Ellis describes the shop as "a mini craft department store, catering to the varied needs of a rural community". This amazing store stocks supplies for many crafts including patchwork and quilting, knitting, embroidery, beading and fabric painting. Whether you are after fabric, patterns and haberdashery, or wool, threads, beads, findings and fabric paint, it is all here.

The store runs classes in patchwork and jewellery making and is involved in the Cooma Craft and Quilt Interlude. "This is a four day event held at the ex-services club, where we bring tutors to Cooma for workshops," Ruth explains. "The event is held in September and in 2009 we had workshops with Helen

Godden, Ruth Bloomfield, Yan Pring, Jennifer and Hazel Gimbert and Pauline Rogers." From March 27 until April 11 in 2010, Busyfingers Craft will also take part in the annual Monaro Textile & Needlecraft Guild quilting exhibition at The Raglan Gallery. "It is a two week event held at, I think, the most picturesque time of year," Ruth says.

### Local knowledge:

"Visitors come to the mountains, both in winter and summer, for sightseeing, skiing, fishing, water sports on the lakes, music festivals and more," Ruth says. "There are picturesque bed and breakfasts and venues that can cater for quilting retreats as well as family holidays."

**Address:** 163 Sharp Street, Cooma NSW 2630

**Phone:** (02) 6452 2973

**Email:** busyfingerscraft@bigpond.com

## Carolyn's Quilting Room

Wodonga

Carolyn Konig has been patchworking for more than 30 years, so when you step into her gorgeous shop at Wodonga, you can expect expert advice. Whether you need help for a couple of minutes or a couple of hours and whether you spend \$2 or \$200, Carolyn and her staff are always bubbling with enthusiasm and keen to offer assistance.

Carolyn's Quilting Room stocks a fabulous range of fabrics, including reproduction fabrics and Moda precut fabrics, battings, threads and notions, books and cross stitch designs. You'll also find fabulous round of the month and reproduction fabric clubs on offer. While you are at Carolyn's Quilting Room, don't forget to take a look at Carolyn's extraordinary award winning quilts, on display in the shop. For

inspiration, encouragement, expert tuition and advice, head to Carolyn's Quilting Room.

### Local knowledge:

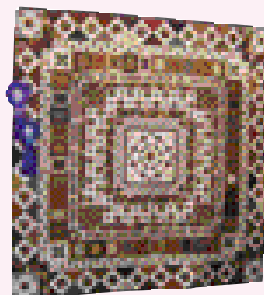
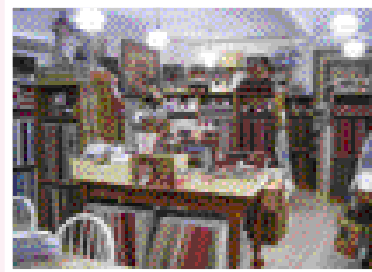
Situated on the scenic Murray River, close to the beautiful winery regions of Victoria, Wodonga is the perfect spot for a quiet weekend away. While you are there, enjoy the lovely river scenery, explore nearby historic Beechworth, visit the wineries, get in a round of golf, have a picnic at Lake Hume and visit the nearby snowfields.

**Address:** 85 Brewer Drive, Wodonga Vic 3689

**Phone:** (02) 6059 1702

**Email:** carolyn@carolynsquiltingroom.com.au

**Website:** www.carolynsquiltingroom.com.au



19th century Medallion Frame quilt, round of the month program, \$22 plus postage per month for eight months. For more information contact Carolyn's Quilting Room.

## Julie's Sewing Shed

Finley

Julie Sibraa literally started her business from a shed in her backyard (hence the name) but it wasn't long before the stock outgrew the space



Green Farm Village BOM quilt. For more information contact Julie's Sewing Shed.

and Julie was moving to her very own shop front. Julie's Sewing Shed has been at its current location for six years and now stocks more than 500 bolts of fabric plus a great collection of patchwork and sewing accessories. Julie also provides dressmaking and altering services.

At Julie's Sewing Shed, you'll always find Julie nearby to offer a friendly greeting and helpful advice. Julie's



Sewing Shed offers beginner's classes throughout the year and UFO classes on Wednesdays and the store also runs a great variety of BOM programs. Julie hopes to introduce more classes to her schedule in 2010.

Julie is an agent for Statewide Sewing Centre. She stocks a great range of Janome machines and offers servicing.

### Local knowledge:

Finley is a peaceful Riverina town in a rural district 673km south-west of Sydney. As well as being incredibly scenic, Finley is home to the largest irrigation channel in Australia.

**Address:** 180 Murray St, Finley NSW 2713

**Phone:** (03) 5883 2586

**Fax:** (03) 5883 2587

**Email:** juliesewing@bigpond.com

**Website:** www.juliesewingshed.com

## Fabric 23

Griffith

Approximately 570km south-west of Sydney we come to Fabric 23 at Griffith. This store, owned by Morganne and David Webb, carries a great range of wide backings and battings and a diverse collection of fabrics. Among their extensive range you'll find batiks, black and whites, brights, kids' prints and civil war reproductions from brands including Moda, Thimbleberries, Quest for a Cure, Kaye England, Michael Miller, RJR, Timeless Treasures, Andover and Makower. Also available are wonderful kits, exciting BOM programs, classes and a long arm quilting service.

Fabric 23 is a Janome stockist and offers in-store machine servicing (by a local technician) for most brands of sewing machine. The store is also an agent for Horn Sewing Cabinets. Morganne and her staff are all

keen quilters, enthusiastic and very knowledgeable. From helping with pattern and fabric selection to piecing the top and quilting, the staff at Fabric 23 are there for their customers at every step of the quilting journey.

### Local knowledge:

Griffith is home to Pioneer Park, the largest museum west of the Blue Mountains in NSW. Pioneer Park provides a unique educational experience of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area throughout history.



*Starry Nights BOM quilt, first month \$70 plus postage, months 2-12 \$30 plus postage. Contact Fabric 23 for more information.*

**Address:** 119 Yambil Street, Griffith NSW 2680

**Phone:** (02) 6964 5523

**Fax:** (02) 6964 5623

**Email:** fabric23@acr.net.au

## 2 Friends

Leeton

2 Friends is a little shop with a big heart, owned and managed by two friends, Eileen Vlatko and Liz Walsh. Fuelled by their addictions to patchwork, Eileen and Liz decided to "give it a go" and open their own

quilting shop four years ago. 2 Friends went from strength to strength and in 2007 the ladies relocated their business to its current larger premises.

2 Friends carries a lovely range of fabrics including jelly rolls and a huge collection from Kaffe Fassett.

This store also stocks quilting accessories, patterns, books and unique handmade clothing and shoes. Eileen and Liz are always willing to offer their advice and assistance and they also

provide beginner classes with complete kits, to get learners going in the right direction. "If you buy the kit, there is no cost to do the class," Eileen explains, "because we just love seeing our customers enjoy making their first quilt!"

### Local knowledge:

Leeton is a thriving agricultural centre, located half way between Sydney and Melbourne at the heart of the Riverina. There are plenty of things to see at Leeton, such as the Berri Juice Factory, Leeton SunRice Centre, Toorak Winery, Lillypilly Estate, Fivebough Wetlands and Murrumbidgee River tours.

**Address:** 38 Wade Avenue, Leeton NSW 2705

**Phone:** (02) 6953 7718

**Email:** eileenvlatko@bigpond.com



*Be Attitudes BOM quilt by Nancy Halversen. For more information contact 2 Friends.*

## Nimble Thimble

Wagga Wagga



Located at Wagga Wagga is Nimble Thimble, a delightful shop owned and operated by Maria Flinn, where you will always be made to feel welcome with a warm smile and the offer of a cuppa.

At Nimble Thimble you'll discover a great selection of fabrics and haberdashery as well as doll, stitchery, cross stitch and patchwork patterns. Nimble Thimble specialises in civil war reproduction fabrics and stocks

fabrics by Mrs Marsh, Judie Rothermel and Moda. A great range of Christmas fabrics and patterns is also available. In addition to her fantastic product range, Maria runs popular classes in fine needlework, stumpwork, creative tapestry, hand patchwork and machine patchwork. "Because of the open plan style of the store, customers often find themselves drawn to the activity of the students and are reluctant to leave!" Maria says.

### Local knowledge:

"Wagga Wagga is a large regional centre with many local attractions and much to offer visitors," Maria says. "Take time to admire the beautiful rose gardens."

**Address:** Shop 5, 140 Hammond Avenue, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

**Phone/Fax:** (02) 6931 8564

**Email:** nimblethimble@bigpond.com

## Cootamundra Sewing Centre

Cootamundra



Sonia Commins had been teaching patchwork classes at Cootamundra Sewing Centre for five years. When the shop went up for sale in 2009, Sonia seized the opportunity to buy the business and is thrilled to be sharing her passion for patchwork with her customers. "I have been patchworking for 18 years and I loved it so much, I just wanted to share all my knowledge with other patchworkers," Sonia says.

Cootamundra Sewing Centre is best known for its marvellous selection of patchwork fabrics but the store also carries a great collection of dress fabrics, ribbons, lace, trims, buttons, sewing and embroidery threads, wool, beads, haberdashery, patterns and Janome sewing machines. The patchwork fabrics on offer are varied in style including brights, reproductions, country prints and pastels. Sonia

is happy to cut kits to order and also provides a wonderful fabric club, where members can receive discounts and special offers. Classes at Cootamundra Sewing Centre, which are always a fun and social event, run on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays and are perfect for beginners and advanced patchworkers alike. Weekend workshops are also available and Sonia welcomes quilting groups for retreats.

### Local knowledge:

"Cootamundra is known as the wattle town," Sonia says. "It's a very small town with a great community spirit."

**Address:** 217 Parker Street, Cootamundra NSW 2590

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**Fax:** (02) 6942 7918

**Email:** jock.commins@bigpond.com

