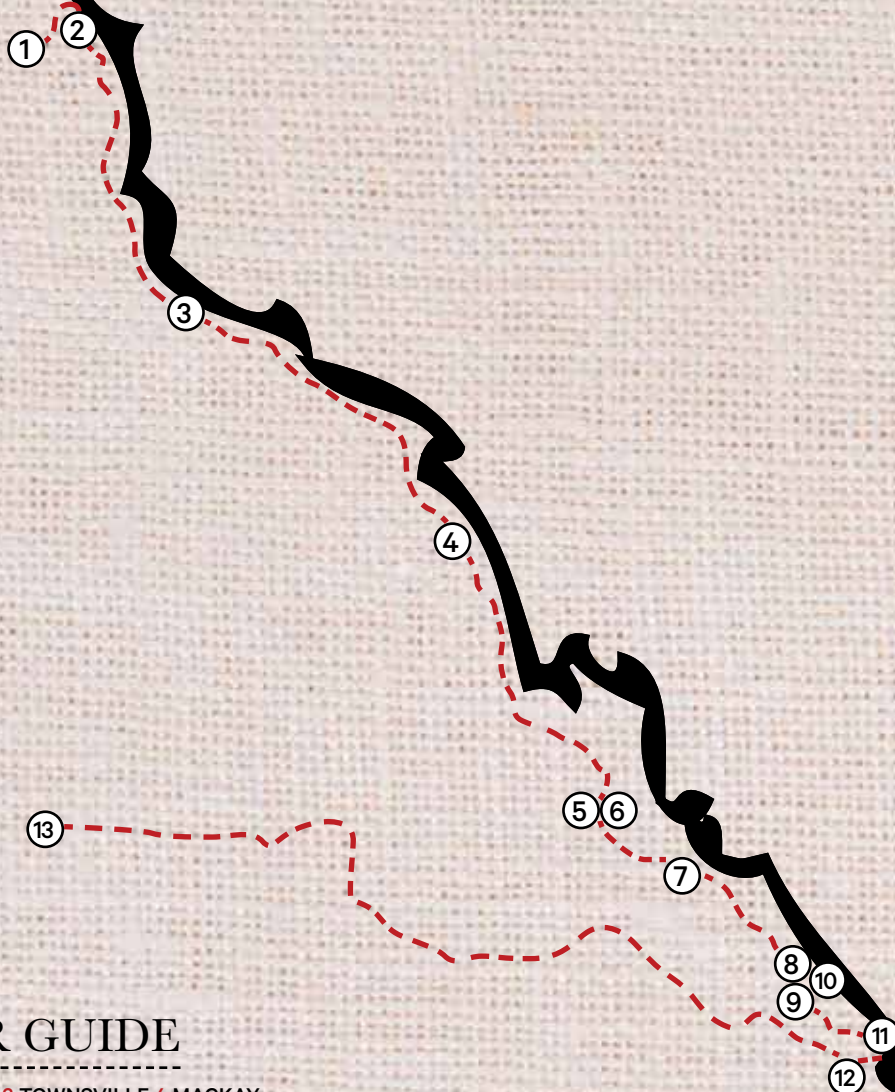


On the road

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND
AND THE FRASER COAST



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SUNSHINE COAST

1. Mareeba SEWING ESSENTIALS

Where's Mareeba: Mareeba is situated only 40 minutes west of Cairns, up the range past iconic Kuranda. Love your coffee? You're in luck! Mareeba is the coffee-growing capital of Queensland.

Where in Mareeba: 140 Byrnes Street. We're located centrally in Mareeba, on the main shopping strip.

Who plays host: Colleen Owens

Worth visiting because: As our name suggests, all of your essential sewing needs can be found in our store. We have pins, needles, thread, scissors and other haberdashery, crochet and knitting yarn, hooks and needles, fabric for dress and craft, embroidery threads, ribbon, buttons – you name it. We are a small-town, one-stop-sewing-shop, with the type of friendly service you expect in the country. We use what we sell and are happy to assist, share experiences and help out in any way we can. If you're in the market for a new sewing machine, we sell Elna and Husqvarna Viking machines. Many locals join our classes to learn sewing, patchwork and hand embroidery, and visitors are more than welcome to join in. Beginners are welcome, or those with more experience can refine their skills. Our classes are always full of smiles, chatting and laughter, so pop in for a few classes, or many, and you'll be sure to have a great time! You can also find Sewing Essentials Mareeba on Facebook.

What we recommend: If you can't pop in all the time to see what is new, our blog is constantly updated – where a picture is worth more than a thousand words. For those who are travelling to the



Cape: since we are the last fabric stop before venturing on a trip to Cape York, visitors travelling north find it the perfect store to top up on sewing supplies before moving on.

Address: 140 Byrnes Street, Mareeba, Qld 4880

Phone: (07) 4092 1078

Email: sew.ess@bigpond.com

Website: www.sewingessentials.wordpress.com

2. Cairns KAY'S FABRICS

Where's Cairns: Cairns is situated in Far North Queensland, where the Reef meets the Rainforest.

Where in Cairns: 473-475 Mulgrave Road, Earlville (Cairns). We're just 10 minutes from the city centre, beside Stockland Earlville Shopping Centre.

Who plays host: Sandra, Kay, and our friendly staff

Worth visiting because: For crafters, excitement starts as soon as you step into our shop, with over 8,000 quality patchwork fabrics to choose from, and with prices starting at \$10.95 per metre. We also stock Janome, Husqvarna Viking and Babylock sewing and embroidery machines and overlockers. For embroidery enthusiasts, we have embroidery designs from Anita Goodesign, EME, Jenny Haskins and more. We have a large range of Floriani stabilisers and embroidery threads and we also provide an embroidery service. Patchwork and embroidery classes are held every day through the week, in skill levels ranging from beginners to advanced. Not only are we the largest patchwork store in North Queensland, but we're lucky enough to be based in one of the most beautiful parts of Australia, so it's the perfect place for a patchwork holiday. Groups are welcome to visit.

What we recommend: Call in and meet Sandra, Kay and our friendly staff, and join us for a coffee and chat. If you need some advice on patchwork or embroidery, just ask us and we'll be happy to help. With such a large range of patchwork fabric to choose from, we're sure you'll find something to suit your needs and a little something extra.

Address: 473-475 Mulgrave Road, Earlville, Cairns, Qld 4870

Phone: (07) 4054 1455, 0418 726 312



Fax: (07) 4054 1124

Email: sandra@kaysfabrics.com.au

Website: www.kaysfabrics.com.au

3. Townsville OLIVE BRANCH QUILTS

Where's Townsville: On the upper north coast of Queensland, south of Cairns, Townsville is one of the largest northern towns of Queensland, and a popular tourist destination, with Magnetic Island just off the mainland's coast.

Where in Townsville: 3/277 Charters Towers Road. You can find us on the Rising Sun Intersection in the Townsville suburb of Mysterton, just opposite Bob Jane T-Mart.

Who plays host: Carmel Gage with the help of Eva a couple days a week and Sue taking the classes

Worth visiting because: After working as a nurse for 36 years, I decided to start up my own shop and, after a year, I'm still enjoying it as much as I did when I first opened. While the store is only a year old, I've been quilting for 10 years and I love talking to visitors about all things quilting. You'll find a mix of good-quality, 100 per cent cotton fabrics in styles including shabby chic, romantic and earthy styles, along with children's ranges, Tilda and much more. We have plenty of kits around and block of the months and a large range of notions, and we are also Janome dealers, so you'll find a range of Janome sewing machines and accessories in store. If you can't make it to the shop during opening hours, we can open the shop for you: just ask!

What we recommend: Our regular classes and 'sit and stitch' sessions are always lots of fun. Everyone is welcome to join, and Sue, who runs the classes, is a wonderful teacher.

Address: 3/277 Charters Towers Road, Mysterton, Qld 4812

Phone: (07) 4755 2336

Email: shop@janometsv.com.au



4. Mackay NEEDLEWORX

Where's Mackay: The southern gateway to the Whitsunday Region on the Central Queensland coast.

Where in Mackay: Corner Sams and Willets Roads. We are located immediately over the Pioneer River, when you're heading north on the A1. Turn eastward at the Sams Road intersection, and we're on the left at the next corner, where Willets Road intersects Sams Road – you can't miss us.

Who plays host: Chris and Ray Cross

Worth visiting because: We're known as the "hardware store for the ladies", and when you visit, you'll see why. If you like to explore the many different and unique craft offerings out there, you'll find our range interesting. We have a great selection of quality patchwork fabrics, dressmaking fabric to suit the climate, bridal and dance costumes. You'll also find a huge range of haberdashery, notions, trims and laces. For the needlework enthusiasts, we have all the popular threads and even weave specialties, so you'll find something ideal for your needs. With such a wide range, it's no wonder we have a reputation as the hardware store for the ladies.

What we recommend: What we love is the surprise that customers show when they find something they can't get elsewhere. Because we are independent, we source product from all over and we buy specifically for our customers' needs. If you require something, you only have to ask us; we're always there to help.

Address: Cnr Sams and Willets Roads, Mackay, Qld 4740

PO Box 8297, Mt Pleasant, Qld 4740

Phone: 1800 631 644



Fax: (07) 4829 4002

Email: nwx.welcome@needleworx.com.au

Website: www.needleworx.com.au



5. Rockhampton NEEDLEWORK COTTAGE

Where's Rockhampton: Rockhampton, in Central Queensland, is known as the beef capital of Australia and hosts a Beef Expo every three years, which is one of our biggest events. With the ocean a short drive away, it's a fabulous place to be for both tourists and locals.

Where in Rockhampton: 194 Quay Street. Not only are we lucky enough to be surrounded by beautiful heritage buildings and with the lovely Fitzroy River only a stone's throw away, but our store is also in a stunning heritage building, a couple of doors from the famous Customs House building. Quay Street is renowned for the heritage buildings, so be sure to have a wander around.

Who plays host: Dianne, Sloane and Anne Maree

Worth visiting because: There is something for everyone at Needlework Cottage. We have such a wonderful wide range of patchwork fabrics, including indigenous prints and cloth-book panels, which are very popular among our large range of panels. Our flannels and polar fleece combine to make the most amazing shaggy quilts that are very lightweight and quick to dry. We have the full range of DMC pearl cotton as well as Finca pearl and stranded cotton, and to stitch your embroidery on, we have Lugana, Cashel Linen, Adia, Huck and surface linens. You can find us on Facebook, where we like to show pictures of some of the fantastic products we have in store and some of our talented visitors.

What we recommend: We just love to show and recommend products to our customers that can help make their work more enjoyable. We find the Clover products perfectly fit the bill because they represent quality and are comfortable to use. A couple of our must-haves are the Clover needle



threader and the soft-touch crochet hooks – a real favourite of all of us who work at the shop. We all also use the Gingher Rotary Cutters, as they make cutting fabrics gentle on your wrists and shoulders.

Address: 194 Quay Street, Rockhampton, Qld 4700

Phone/fax: (07) 4922 2150

Email: dianne@rockyfit.com

6. Rockhampton PATCHWORK PARADISE

Where's Rockhampton: Near the Tropic of Capricorn, Rockhampton is the beef capital of Australia.

Where in Rockhampton: 128 William Street. Turn off the Bruce Highway by the Caltex service station near the signs for the railway station. Our shop is located on the left side of William Street, just off the Bruce Highway heading towards the Fitzroy River and CBD.

Who plays host: Margaret Olive

Worth visiting because: Browse our extensive range of fabrics (over 7,000 bolts available in store), including backing fabrics, patterns, batting, books, threads and quilting tools. We have a huge range of patchwork and quilting items to satisfy your creativity and to inspire you, and our fabric range includes top designers, such as Jinny Beyer, Moda, Riley Blake, Kaffe Fassett, Amy Butler, Kaufman and Maywood Studio, just to name a few. The store is adorned with a vast array of full-sized quilts to whet your appetite, and we have patterns or block of the month kits to match. We have a great selection of DMC, Cosmo and Country Garden threads. If you can't visit us in store, why not have a look at our website or like us on Facebook?

What we recommend: Where do we start? In addition to our large stock of quilt patterns and fabrics, we have an extensive range of Judy Niemeyer patterns and batiks, along with bag patterns and toy patterns from Melly & me. We have nearly 100 ladies in our social groups, and we also hold workshops with visiting tutors and classes regularly.

Address: 128 William Street, Rockhampton, Qld 4700

Phone: (07) 4927 6628



Fax: (07) 4921 1099

Email: info@patchworkparadise.com.au

Website: www.patchworkparadise.com.au

7. Gladstone THE FABRIC PALETTE

Where's Gladstone: You'll find Gladstone just south of Rockhampton, on the coast, right near Curtis Island. Travel a bit further south and inland and you'll find Bundaberg.

Where in Gladstone: 164 Auckland Street. We're not too far from the Gladstone Valley shopping centre; just travel down Tank Street and turn right down Auckland Street at the traffic lights.

Who plays host: Husband-and-wife team Julie and Mark Morgan

Worth visiting because: This year, we're celebrating our seventh birthday in Gladstone. We're all about the fabric, with a huge selection of funky fabrics that you'll just love. If you're after a new sewing machine, we are stockists of Husqvarna Viking sewing machines, and we also offer service and repairs. Our servicing department, called Sew Darn Fine, also sells Janome machines, so be sure to have a look at our range of machines when you visit. We also stock the Accuquilt Go cutters.

What we recommend: Our classes and social sewing days are really popular, and we include classes in dressmaking. We love to provide a place for crafters to share their creativity and grow with their ability.

Address: 164 Auckland Street, Gladstone, Qld 4680

Phone: (07) 4972 9309

Email: julesatfabricpalette@bigpond.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fabricpalettegladstone



8. Bundaberg TEACUP QUILTS AND NICETIES

Where's Bundaberg: In subtropical Queensland, four and a half hours north of Brisbane.

Where in Bundaberg: Shop 9, Bona Lea Arcade, 58-62 Woongarra Street. We're right near the McDonalds in the CBD; two shops down from ABC Local Radio.

Who plays host: Julia Jenkins

Worth visiting because: You'll be greeted by a true treat for your senses, with the delicious scents of Yankee candles and wonderful displays of gorgeous fabrics. Once you've had a sufficient fabric fix, have a look through our selections of threads, patterns, giftware and other general sewing supplies, all at prices that will put a smile on your face. Our staff are always on hand with some friendly advice, and we're more than happy to share our love of craft with you.

What we recommend: We seriously love fabric, and you'll certainly enjoy our range of Moda, Lecien, Jo Morton and Liberty of London fabrics, with other ranges being added all the time. You'll also find a great selection of precuts, along with patterns from Marg Lowe, Fig 'n' Berry, Fresh Quilts and a variety of American designers.

Address: Shop 9, Bona Lea Arcade, 58-62 Woongarra Street, Bundaberg, Qld 4670

Phone: (07) 4153 6953

Fax: (07) 4151 8049

Email: turtlz@bigpond.com



9. Bundaberg THE QUILTERS SHACK

Where's Bundaberg: Approximately 350km north of Brisbane, 20km inland from the coast.

Where in Bundaberg: 24 Quay Street: we are right next door to Crazy Clark's car park.

Who plays host: Sue Ellen and her team

Worth visiting because: Visitors to Bundaberg will be in for a treat when they visit The Quilters Shack. We have a huge range of fabrics, approximately 5,000 bolts – everything a quilter needs. We also stock a large range of patterns and kits, ready to go. Our thread ranges including Rasant, YLI, Wonderfil, Signature, DMC and Cottage Garden stranded cottons, just to name a few. You will also find a range of haberdashery, bear-making fur, sewing accessories, giftware and much more. We are also dealers for Pfaff, Husqvarna and Singer sewing machines, so you'll find everything you need under one roof. Our helpful and friendly staff are always there to lend a hand and they are very experienced in all facets of patchwork and quilting, so you can be sure of getting the best advice and help for your projects.

What we recommend: We simply love Libby Richardson's designs and her latest one, *A Little Bit Country*, is simply beautiful. It's available as a block of the month for \$35 per month, a full kit is \$350 and the pattern set is \$121, all with additional p&h.

Address: 24 Quay Street, Bundaberg, Qld 4670.

Phone: (07) 4154 4486

Email: girls@thequiltersshack.com

Website: www.thequiltersshack.com



10. Bundaberg THE FABRIC PALETTE

Where's Bundaberg: Travel a bit further south and inland from Gladstone, and you'll find Bundaberg.

Where in Bundaberg: 38 Targo Street. We are located in the CBD, opposite McDonalds.

Who plays host: Husband-and-wife team Julie and Mark Morgan

Worth visiting because: We're really lucky to have our store in a big barn, with wonderfully high ceilings, which give us plenty of space. We have a large section at the back that's full of wonderful fabrics, lace and dress fabrics – it's like a lolly shop for quilters. One of the things that we're most well-known for is our great facilities for the travelling quilter. We often have visitors travelling through Bundaberg drop in to work on their sewing. Why not drop in on one of our classes or social sewing days? Our classes and sewing days are renowned for creating many great friendships and for having plenty of fun. Whether your trip to our store is a short or long one, it isn't just a visit, it's an experience.

What we recommend: We just love the Accuquilt Go cutters and dyes. Cutting fabrics can be one of the hardest parts of quilting, so if you're looking at making that part of the process easier, the Accuquilt Go cutters are a great choice.

Address: 38 Targo Street, Bundaberg, Qld 4670

Phone: (07) 4153 3909

Email: julesatfabricpalette@bigpond.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fabricpalette.bundaberg



11. Hervey Bay DEWDROP INN PATCHWORK & CRAFT

Where's Hervey Bay: On the picturesque Fraser Coast, Hervey Bay is a popular tourist destination, especially as an ideal whale-watching location.

Where in Hervey Bay: 123 Boat Harbour Drive. Located in the heart of the CBD on Boat Harbour Drive, directly opposite the cinema complex. With plenty of off-street parking, it is both central and convenient.

Who plays host: Mother, daughter and son team Linda, Amanda and Rodney, with stitching enthusiast Diana

Worth visiting because: For over 15 years, we've been serving the Hervey Bay and Fraser Coast areas with everything for their craft needs. Our new air-conditioned store is bright and breezy – perfect for a craft store. Displays of mouthwatering fabrics welcome you into the store, and we have plenty of patchwork and quilting supplies, along with books, patterns, art and craft supplies, wool, crochet supplies, paper-piecing supplies, beads and much more. We stock over 8,000 bolts of quality fabrics from all the top international designers, including Kaffe Fassett, Amy Butler, Jennifer Paganelli, Tanya Whelan and Riley Blake ranges, just to name a few. You'll also find selections of Bali Batiks, Oriental fabrics and plenty of children's prints. There is a professional long-arm machine quilting service available, with a very fast turn-around on edge-to-edge designs. If you're looking for a new machine, we are the local Handi Quilter, Singer and Husqvarna Viking dealer, with full ranges of sewing machines, embroidery machines, accessories, embroidery designs and machine software. Bus groups are always welcome to visit.



What we recommend: Our classes are held almost daily in patchwork, machine embroidery, machine software, bags, cushions, table runners and more. We also offer retreats for groups, who can stay and enjoy a relaxing few days sewing and quilting in our beautiful and very special part of the world.

Address: 123 Boat Harbour Drive, Pialba, Hervey Bay, Qld 4655

Phone: (07) 4124 9320

Email: sales@dewdropinn.com.au

Website: www.dewdropinn.com.au

12. Maryborough PATCHWORK ON PALLAS

Where's Maryborough: Famous for being the birthplace of Mary Poppins, author P.L. Travers, Maryborough is three hours north of Brisbane on the Bruce Highway and is the gateway to Hervey Bay and Fraser Island.

Where in Maryborough: 204 Pallas Street. Take the northern turnoff into Maryborough, and turn left off Walker Street into Pallas Street. We're in a quaint old butcher shop building on the corner of Pallas and Churchill Streets.

Who plays host: Leanne Greenhalgh

Worth visiting because: Looks can be deceiving from the outside. When you step inside, you'll find a treasure trove for the sewing and craft enthusiast. We are one of the leading and award-winning sewing-machine stores in Queensland, stocking all six of the major brands: Pfaff, Husqvarna Viking, Janome, Brother, Bernina and Singer, as well as specialising in Handi Quilter. If you are travelling or want a quick and easy project, we have kits that are cut precisely with Accuquilt Go cutters, which we are major stockists of. Our classes are run almost daily on many different things, including patchwork and quilting, machine embroidery, software and dressmaking. Our service is friendly and we love sharing with our customers and seeing what they're making or planning to make. Many of our customers travel many miles from outlying areas to visit our store. We pride ourselves on offering the best training and back-up service possible on our sewing machines and Handi Quilter machines. You can also like us on Facebook to see what's happening at the shop at any point in time.



We're open seven days a week but, if you can't drop in to the store in person (or need to pick something up in a rush), our website offers a full range of current fabrics and patterns from all leading designers. We're also caravan friendly, and we really put in a special effort for bus groups, to ensure your bus trip is the best trip ever.

What we recommend: We are now a major stockist of the wonderful new Accuquilt products – we can't get enough of them! Leanne is travelling Australia to stores and shows, demonstrating the wonderful benefits of the Accuquilt products. In store, we have some amazing samples and we can demonstrate how quickly they can be made – you'll really be impressed.

Address: 204 Pallas Street, Maryborough, Qld 4650

Phone: (07) 4121 2480

Email: Lea_Greenhalgh@bigpond.com

Website: www.patchworkonpallas.com

13. *Barcaldine* THE SILVER THIMBLE

Where's Barcaldine: Barcaldine is at the junction of the Capricorn and Landsborough Highways, almost in the centre of Queensland.

Where in Barcaldine: 113 Oak Street. The Silver Thimble is in the main street of Barcaldine, which runs parallel to the railway line. We're a couple of doors down from the only newsagency and just down the road from the Tree of Knowledge.

Who plays host: Sandy Gray

Worth visiting because: Having been established for more than 15 years, we have a wide range of fabrics and accessories. While we still carry traditional and more conservative styles, we have added more and more of the modern colours and designs, so different tastes are catered for, and we also have a wide range of patterns and accessories. There is an increasing number of younger sewers showing great interest in craft, which truly excites us, and we're very happy to lend any advice. Quilters on the 'tourist trail' are always welcome, and we have made friends with many repeat customers from all over the country. My generous and hardworking ladies assist me in supporting several worthwhile charities by making cushions to sell at our 'Airing of the Quilts' displays.

What we recommend: I conduct evening classes for the working girls, and approximately four times a year, we have retreat weekends that enables ladies living on outlying properties to get together to sew, laugh, eat and just have a wonderful time.

Address: 113 Oak Street, Barcaldine, Qld 4725

Phone: (07) 4651 1999



Email: graysandy@bigpond.com

Website: www.thesilverthimble.typepad.com