



On the road

CRAFTY STOP-OFFS IN NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES

TOUR GUIDE

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1. Nundle THE COTTAGE ON THE HILL

Where's Nundle: Nundle is a small town about an hour's drive south of Tamworth.

Where in Nundle: We're actually located on our family grazing property, 4km south of Nundle, nicely nestled in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, so we're surrounded by beautiful scenery.

Who plays host: Kerry Swain – I'm the owner/host/cook/cutter/designer, but not always in that order!

Worth visiting because: I have a wonderful selection of fabrics, patterns, kits, books and tools for your sewing needs. What I'm really known for is hosting great retreats and workshops – and it's the perfect place to run them. Each year on the Saturday of the Mother's Day weekend, I hold my annual Outdoor Quilt Airing, where over 100 quilts are hung in the paddock surrounding the store, and we have a wonderful day, with money raised going to the Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea. The store is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday or by appointment.

What we recommend: I specialise in two-day quilting retreats and precut kits to order. There is always a lot of fun to be had on retreats, so for more information, just contact me or visit the website.

Address: 417 Crawney Road, Nundle, NSW 2340

Phone: (02) 6769 3297

Website: www.cottageonthehill.com.au



2. *Tamworth* INSPIRATIONS CAFÉ, GIFT AND PATCHWORK GALLERY

Where's Tamworth: Drive up the Hunter Valley on the New England Highway. Tamworth is about two hours from Muswellbrook and an easy drive within an hour of Armidale, Gunnedah, Manilla, Barraba and Nundle.

Where in Tamworth: 515 Peel Street. If you're travelling north, turn off the New England Highway into the main street (Peel Street), and you will find us in the second block on the left, opposite Barbeques Galore on the southern end of Peel Street.

Who plays host: Leonie and Peter Bell

Worth visiting because: We really are the place for a wonderful, relaxing break. Our shop is filled with patchwork fabrics and supplies to inspire you, tasteful giftware, Bernina sewing machines and accessories. To help you relax, we have a cafe specialising in home-cooked light meals, slices, cakes and great coffee – we have everything you need for a great day out! We have a wide range of fabrics on the bolt and also precuts from most of the manufacturers. We stock a range of threads for overlocking, sewing, quilting and machine embroidery as well as stranded cottons and silks for hand embroidery. You'll also find Sewline products, supplies for English paper piecing, an extensive range of Clover products, patterns, and wool and cotton batting. We also have freezer paper for appliqué, foundation piecing and fusible paper for appliqué, Inkjet printable fabric for memory quilts, Kai scissors, cutting mats, rotary cutters, rulers, buttons, zippers and 'sew' much more!

What we recommend: One of our favourite things has to be the



double-sided fusible cotton batting. It gives a good quilting result, and there is little pinning and no tacking required.

Address: 515 Peel Street, Tamworth, NSW 2340

Phone: (02) 6766 6800

Fax: (02) 6766 2300

Email: info@inspirationstamworth.com.au

Website: www.inspirationstamworth.com.au

3. *Armidale* GET STITCHED

Where's Armidale: Situated inland, midway between Brisbane and Sydney, Armidale is north-east of Tamworth and easy to get to travelling either from the north or south along the New England Highway.

Where in Armidale: 118A Dangar Street. We are located in the CBD of Armidale, with a big carpark at the rear of the store.

Who plays host: Karyn Herbert

Worth visiting because: I have a wonderful selection of lovely fabrics, from brights to darks, and everything in between. You'll also find a great range of neutrals and Moda Bella solids. Brilliant bursts of colour from the fabrics will tempt you, and there is a classroom as part of the shop. I welcome people wandering around to have a look and chat about what is being done in the classroom: after all, quilting is all about sharing. As well as fabrics, we have DMC threads, general haberdashery supplies, rulers, Olfa cutters, battings, papers for paper piecing and much more. I like to think of my store as a treasure trove for quilters, and I'm sure you'll agree. So, drop in, browse and say hello – you're always welcome.

What we recommend: For 13 years, I have been designing all sorts of kits and patterns, which are sold exclusively in store, especially kids' quilts, with cute appliqués and easy-to-follow instructions. The block of the month quilts have become a regular feature and much sought after, as they are largely precut, so all you have to do is take them to your sewing machine and stitch.

Address: 118A Dangar Street, Armidale, NSW 2350

Phone: (02) 6771 5122



Email: karyn@getstitched.com.au

Website: www.getstitched.com.au

4. *Kempsey* CONNIE'S FABRICS



Where's Kempsey: About 30 minutes north of Port Macquarie and about an hour south of Coffs Harbour by car – the perfect stop-off on a road trip.

Where in Kempsey: 1 Verge Street. This is our new location. To find us, at the traffic lights at the end of the bridge, head towards West Kempsey, then at the first intersection, go left, then at the next intersection, go left again heading towards Riverside Park (not down the lane), and we're just around the corner.

Who plays host: Owned by Connie and Colin Norberry – and we have help running the store on Monday, thanks to Connie's mum Gwen, and we also have the help of friends Monica, Joanne, Adele, Sue and many others who are happy to pitch in when needed.

Worth visiting because: We have recently moved into much larger premises – about three times bigger than before, which means we

have plenty of space to store and display all of our wonderful, and not to mention, huge range of patchwork fabrics and accessories. We also have plenty of room to accommodate groups, so if you want to organise a group visit, just give us a call to book – otherwise you'll only get a dry biscuit for morning tea! We also have a new Facebook page, so like us on Facebook to keep up to date with what's going on in store.

What we recommend: Now that we have the space to admire our fabrics, it's like we've fallen in love with our range all over again. We have a wide variety to suit everyone, including Japanese, reproductions, batiks, Kaffe Fassett, Australiana, William Morris and plenty of novelties – just to name a few.

Address: 1 Verge Street, Kempsey, NSW 2440

Phone: (02) 6562 7792

Email: conniesfabrics@outlook.com

5. *Coffs Harbour* HUNTERS & COLLECTORS PATCHWORK STUDIO

Where's Coffs Harbour: One of the most popular coastal summer-holiday destinations in New South Wales. Further north from Port Macquarie – the Pacific Highway goes straight through the town.

Where in Coffs Harbour: 203 Rose Avenue. We are located in a central position in the heart of Coffs Harbour, just on the side of the Pacific Highway. You can't miss us.

Who plays host: Janelle

Worth visiting because: We have a fantastic range of products for crafters, including a great selection of DMC and King Tut threads, buttons, embellishments, patterns and books. Patchworkers are in heaven with our three rooms full of delicious patchwork fabrics, quilt samples and plenty of packs and kits ready to go. The only problem is deciding what to pick! We are actively involved with the community, having been part of the Coffs Quilters' annual show since its inception, as well as supporting other local events.

What we recommend: Classes are run on a regular basis with talented tutors who all have their own unique style. Monthly workshops have been a great success this year, so contact us for information on upcoming workshops. The studio is open 9.30am-4.30pm weekdays and 10am-2pm on Saturdays.

Address: 203 Rose Avenue, Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450

Phone: (02) 6650 0017



6. Yamba CRAFTY ANGELS

Where's Yamba: Yamba is on the north coast of NSW, heading north between Grafton and Ballina and it's only 10 minutes off the highway.

Where in Yamba: 63 Witonga Drive. We're in the residential area. As you come into town at the shopping centre, turn left into Treelands Drive, then turn left into Gumnut Road, then turn right into Witonga Drive, and we're located on the left-hand side, with a big sign out the front.

Who plays host: Leonie is there to help you, along with Jo on class days.

Worth visiting because: We are the only fabric and sewing store in Yamba. Yamba was voted the most liveable town in Australia; it is also a great place to holiday or just to pop in for the day. We offer over 2000 fabrics, lots of fat quarters, threads and a huge range of panels. Jo runs a quilting service for locals and visitors, as well. We offer classes not only for locals but also for visitors to town. And if you just want to come for the day, you're more than welcome. If you can't make it to the shop, then you can shop on our online store, which is open 24/7; all the items in our store are on our website, and we are happy to take orders over the phone. We have free postage Australia-wide and we also post overseas at the current overseas postage rates. We work from home, so if we're home, then we're open!

What we recommend: You really can't go past our fabrics – the largest fabric store in Yamba! You would be surprised at how much fabric you can fit into a large garage. Not only do we have a great



range of fabrics, but there are some wonderful coffee shops in town, lovely beaches to visit and great fish and chips to eat. We hope you will come visit us soon and say hello!

Address: 63 Witonga Drive, Yamba, NSW 2464

Phone: (02) 6646 8682 or 0401 669 290

Email: craftyangels@optusnet.com.au

Website: www.craftyangels.com.au

7. Ballina SPLASH INTO CRAFT

Where's Ballina: One of the more popular coastal destinations in northern New South Wales, about 30km south of the world-famous coastal town of Byron Bay.

Where in Ballina: 2/28 Southern Cross Drive. We're pretty easy to get to, on the road to the airport and only a short distance from the main shopping district of town and the Richmond River.

Who plays host: Sue Dearden

Worth visiting because: I started to dabble in patchwork fabric about six years ago, when a similar business in Ballina shut down. When I realised I couldn't go just halfway into patchwork, I decided to open Splash into Craft, and it's really made a mark on the local Ballina craft scene, with my huge range of patchwork and craft supplies. There are about 3000 bolts of fabrics in all sorts of colours and styles, so you'll have no problems finding the right fabrics for your latest project, including quilt panels. You'll also find an extensive range of tapestry canvases, counted cross stitch kits, DMC stranded cottons and DMC tapestry wools. Visitors are also more than welcome to join in on classes, which we hold four to five days per week, so I've always got something happening in store!

What we recommend: Like most patchworkers, I have a weakness for fabrics, so I carry a broad range. I have about 500 blender/tonals, and there are always new fabric ranges arriving weekly, so I'm constantly updating the Facebook page with new arrivals – like Splash Into Craft on Facebook to keep up to date.

Address: 2/28 Southern Cross Drive, Ballina, NSW 2478



Phone: (02) 6686 8985

Email: splashintocraft@gmail.com

Website: www.splashintocraft.com.au

8. Lismore RAINBOW PATCHWORK

Where's Lismore: A regional centre for the Northern Rivers of New South Wales, situated in a subtropical valley, inland from Ballina, Byron Bay and Bangalow.

Where in Lismore: 75 Union Street. We're in South Lismore, down the road from the railway station and right next to the post office.

Who plays host: Karen owns the store; Glenda is also on hand to help.

Worth visiting because: We are a specialist patchwork and quilting store with more than 2500 bolts of fabric, with modern and bright colours all around. You'll find a large range of Kaffe Fassett Collective, Australian designers, Anni Downs and Emma Jean Jansen, along with Indigenous prints. We also have a wide range of solids, about 300 actually, including Bella solids from Moda, Cotton Supreme from RJR and Quilters' Deluxe from Leutenegger. We also carry the Jinny Beyer Palette and other tone-on-tone ranges. If you love the convenience of precuts, jelly rolls and layer cakes are also available. Many patchwork and quilting supplies and notions, including rulers, templates, cutters, paper pieces, patterns, pins, markers, threads, etc., are also available for your needs. We have lots of quilts filling the shop, illustrating different techniques, both of patchwork and quilting designs. Karen is experienced in many forms of patchwork and is on hand for advice, and she also makes up lots of patterns and kits for small projects, such as table runners, small wallhangings and kids' quilts – a great way to get started or ideal as gifts! The online store has many of our products and has a good search facility to help you find what you are after. A long-arm quilting service is available for edge-to-edge quilting with a turnaround



rate of about a week. We have about 200 patterns stitched out to help you select the design you would like. There is also a large range of backings and batting to choose from.

What we recommend: Karen has designed a quirky teapot block of the month pattern, with both the pattern and starter kits available. It is lovely seeing different renditions of the quilt as people add their own flavour to the project.

Address: 75 Union Street, South Lismore, NSW 2480

Phone: (02) 6622 3003

Email: info@rainbowpatchwork.com.au

Website: www.rainbowpatchwork.com.au

9. Stokers Siding MOO MOO STITCHES

Where's Stockers Siding: About 8km south of Murwillumbah, turn right off Tweed Valley Way into Stokers Siding (the second turn off is the best one to take). Stokers Siding is approximately 30 minutes south of Tweed Heads or 30 minutes north of Byron Bay. It's an easy drive, with wonderful scenery along the way.

Where in Stockers Siding: 224 Stokers Road. We're on one of the only roads in the area, and without many houses or shops around, it's hard to miss us!

Who plays host: Owned and run by Marie Pegrum and Tina Neff.

Worth visiting because: Our store is a 100-year-old historic house, stocked with a delicious selection of fabrics, a full supply of DMC threads, plenty of kits, unusual buttons, smocking dots, haberdashery and locally handmade gift items with many of the proceeds of these items donated to charity. Check out our really useful wooden travel ironing boards with a compartment for fabrics or a small iron. We have a John Watts long-arm quilting machine available for customer use, and we also provide machine servicing and repairs, as well as scissor sharpening. Join in on our daily classes, both instructional and a chance to finish off those UFOs, while Thursday mornings are for charity quilting, where everyone, from near and far, is welcome to join in if they're in the area. We're also happy to cater for larger tours and bus groups, with tea and coffee supplied.

What we recommend: Our quality fabrics and appliqué sheeting is hard to resist, and we have a fantastic box of offcuts for appliqué and small projects. We also offer personalised assistance in choosing



fabrics, matching designs and planning patterns, and with our policy of no minimal cut, you can get whatever you want or need for your quilt. We also have a large table available for pinning or laying out your designs.

Address: 224 Stokers Road, Stokers Siding, NSW 2484

Phone: (02) 6677 9216

Email: moomoostitches@hotmail.com