

On the road

EASTERN VICTORIA

TOUR GUIDE

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MELBOURNE

1. Kyabram CATHARINA'S VINTAGE STITCHES



Where's Kyabram: Kyabram is located approximately halfway between Shepparton and Echuca.

Where in Kyabram: 141 Allan Street. We are located in the main street of Kyabram next to the Kyabram jewellers and the Three 620 café at the top end of town. Is there a better place, with fabric, coffee and diamonds all in one stop?

Who plays host: Your hosts are Catharina, Simone, Bronwyn and of course our mascot, Graycen (who is about to turn one, and will let you know that he is here). We are very passionate about what we do, are always ready to help and look forward to seeing all the different projects you have to show us.

Worth visiting because: A visit to our store is always worth it, for our extensive range of fabrics (which includes our beloved Tilda), threads including Cosmo, Cottage Garden, Cascade stranded silk

and much more. We also have a large range of haberdashery, wool, embroidery supplies as well as Singer, Pfaff and Babylock machines. A wide range of classes is available, from beginners' and children's to more advanced ones, as well as our sit and sew days. We also have one day a week that's our Tilda day, when we work on the current *Homespun Foxley Village* block of the month or our Tilda club projects, or just anything that is Tilda. We've been working very hard over the last six months and have a delectable and truly amazing new range of our own projects for you to see, from quilts through to some small projects. If this is not enough reason to come visit us, you could just pop in to see our happy faces! Our opening hours are Mon-Wed 9am-5pm, Thu-Fri 9am-5.30pm and Sat 9am-1pm. If you're passing through town after hours, give us a call during business hours and we'll always be happy to open up for you.

What we recommend: There's nothing in our shop that we would not recommend – everything that we stock here we use. Our theory is if we don't like it and won't use it, it's not good enough for our customers – after all, our customers come first!

Address: 141 Allan Street, Kyabram, Vic 3620

Phone: (03) 5852 3356

Email: catharinas48@gmail.com

Website: www.catharinasvintagestitches.com.au

2. Benalla GINGERBEARS OF BENALLA



Where's Benalla: A two-hour northerly drive up the Hume Freeway from Melbourne, close to Winton Motor Race Track, and just on the way to the snowfields and the winery region.

Where in Benalla: 93 Nunn Street. Centrally located in the main shopping precinct of town, on the road heading to Shepparton.

Who plays host: Janice Hateley.

Worth visiting because: Although Gingerbears of Benalla is primarily a boutique teddy-bear store, there are more than bears to love when you visit. I stock a pretty range of patchwork fabrics, including beautiful Tilda fabrics, along with lots of stitchery patterns and gifts. But, of course, bears are really what it's about. You'll find handmade bears for sale, along with a collectable range of Charlie Bears, Me To You bears and Silver Tag Bears. Supplies, fur and patterns for bear making are also available. You'll also find a beautiful range of Cottage Garden Threads, and I run a Cottage Garden Thread club, which you simply must join if you love embroidery and embroidery threads. Don't forget to like Gingerbears of Benalla on Facebook to keep up to date with what is going on in store.

What we recommend: The Teddy Workshops are a great speciality and a lot of fun, where you can learn to create your very own special bear. I also love to recommend the many wonderful stitchery patterns I have in stock, from very talented Australian designers. Don't forget to pick up your Cottage Garden Threads to stitch them with.

Address: 93 Nunn Street, Benalla, Vic 3672

Phone: 0418 525 458

3. Bright SEW BRIGHT ALPINE QUILTING

Where's Bright: Located in the foothills of Victoria's alpine region, just over an hour's drive south of Wodonga, the picturesque and very tourist-friendly town of Bright has plenty of gardens, markets and shopping to enjoy.

Where in Bright: 4 Ireland Street. On the main shopping street through town, the store is in a beautiful old building and just off the roundabout running through Ireland and Cobden Streets.

Who plays host: Angela Bradbury.

Worth visiting because: You'll find a beautiful range of patterns from popular Australian designers along with in-house designs, notions, templates, kits and gifts, as well as modern fabrics from big-name suppliers, such as Tilda, Michael Miller, Moda, Benartex, Northcott, Riley Blake Designs, Hoffman Batiks and Timeless Treasures, to name but a few.

What we recommend: As a certified Quiltworx shop, Sew Bright Alpine Quilting stocks most of Judy Niemeyer's highly efficient foundation paper-piecing patterns, and we teach the technique in a number of classes held in-store, along with a range of other classes in dressmaking, beginner patchwork, art quilting and free-motion doodling. I also host stitching days with visiting tutors.

Address: 4 Ireland Street, Bright, Vic 3741

Phone: 03 5755 5118 **Email:** lovequilting@sewbright.com.au

Website: www.sewbright.com.au



4. Mansfield COUNTRY FOLK

Where's Mansfield: Situated in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, just east of the Mt Buller Ski Resort and only two hours from Melbourne.

Where in Mansfield: 21 High Street. Just look for the big red buttons! Country Folk is at the eastern, Mt Buller end of town, on the left-hand side. Or just ask anyone for the wool/patchwork shop.

Who plays host: The store is owned and run by Annie Folk, and is heading into its ninth year of trade.

Worth visiting because: Country Folk has a huge range of everything wool, patchwork, art and craft. I'm always happy to help you with knitting and pattern problems or just general craft questions and finding inspiration. In store, it's all about the wool, with major Aussie brands, including Cleckheaton, Panda, Patons and more, plus a wide range of other top-class wools, including Filatura di Crosa, Rowan, Noro and Jo Sharp, along with Naturally NZ and Rare Yarns. If yarn isn't your thing, I also stock plenty of fabrics, including patchwork cottons, fleece, linens and satins. You'll also find a selection of cross stitch, embroidery and tapestry kits and patterns, along with sewing haberdashery and craft supplies. I also have Art Spectrum professional art supplies and Lyra pencils and crayons available.

What we recommend: 'Come in for a Yarn' is the Country Folk motto, and it's very evident when you visit my friendly shop.



Feel free to have a browse through the beautiful yarns, and I'm always happy to help you get started with new projects.

Address: 21 High Street, Mansfield, Vic 3722

Phone: (03) 5775 2044

Email: lafolk@bigpond.com

Website: countryfolk.com.au

5. Wandin North YARRA VALLEY QUILT YARN & SEW



Where's Wandin North: On the fringes of the beautiful Yarra Valley, among the vineyards. If you're coming from Melbourne down the Maroondag Highway, going through Lilydale, head right on the Warburton Highway, and Wandin North is about 8km up the road.

Where in Wandin North: 382 Warburton Highway. The shop is easy to find in town, just between the bakery and florist.

Who plays host: Owned and run by Howard van Egmond.

Worth visiting because: When you visit, you'll be amazed by the huge range of craft supplies, from fabrics to yarns and everything in between. For your fabric fix, there are ranges from Rosalie Dekker, Sue Daley Designs, plenty of batiks,

Colorworks premium solids, and Shadow Play by Maywood Studio, plus much, much more. For further quilt inspiration, I have patterns from Judy Niemeyer in foundation piecing, Pacific Rim Quilt Company from Nany Lee Chong and Janice Lee Baehr, Wildcraft Farm and Wattlebird Designs, just to name a few. If you're after yarns, there are selections from Patons, Panda, Shepherd and Cleckheaton. For your sewing needs, I stock machines from Pfaff, Singer, Husqvarna Viking and HandiQuilter Sweet Sixteen long-arm machines. I also offer servicing of machines and the Avante long-arm machine in store is available for quilting your quilts, or you can learn to quilt it yourself. Large groups and bus tours are welcome, and if you get in touch first, I can organise a group discount. Classes and workshops are always changing, and we have classes in machine embroidery, foundation piecing, needleturn appliqué, crazy patch, crochet and more.

What we recommend: The Pacific Rim Quilt Company patterns are hard to go past. They are visually complex, yet easy to make, and are designed for machine, raw edge or hand appliqué.

Address: 382 Warburton Highway, Wandin North, Vic 3139

Phone: (03) 5964 3592

Email: sales@cccpatchwork.com.au

Website: www.cccpatchwork.com.au

6. Malvern WONDOFLEX YARN CRAFT CENTRE



Where's Malvern: Malvern is an suburb of Melbourne, about a 30 minute tram ride or 15 minute train ride from the city.

Where in Malvern: 1353 Malvern Road. The Camberwell tram, No. 72 stops at the front door (stop No. 46). If travelling by train, the Tooronga Station, on the Glen Iris Line, is a block away.

Who plays host: Marilyn and her friendly staff.

Worth visiting because: We are the largest shop of our type in Australia, which allows us to offer you a vast choice of yarns to suit all budgets and tastes. Our warehouse-style shop is stocked floor to ceiling with beautiful local and imported wools and yarns, spinning and weaving equipment and plenty of display items to inspire your own creativity. We are a friendly bunch and very happy to help, if required, but also happy to give you time to explore our shop of treasures, or even perhaps leave you to sit in peace by the wood heater on a chilly Melbourne day. Every Friday and Saturday we open our clearance area. Affectionately known as 'The Dungeon', this area is where you will find plenty of discontinued yarn and pattern bargains.

What we recommend: We have a great selection of Zauberballs – they make an amazing accessory or garment – or spoil yourself with Cleckheaton Superfine merino 8 ply. This is the lowest micron-count merino and the softest, pure merino we have ever knitted with, and the fact that it's Australian made makes this even more special. We also now proudly stock Bendigo Pottery Yarn Bowls – a perfect gift to yourself or another knitter.

Address: 1353 Malvern Road, Malvern, Vic 3144

Phone: (03) 9822 6231

Email: info@wondoflex.com.au

Website: www.wondoflex.com.au

7. Baxter THE SEWING BEE CAFÉ

Where's Baxter: Near Frankston, about 45 minutes' drive from Melbourne. Take the Baxter exit when using the Peninsula Link. There are also public transport options: catch the Stony Point train or bus 776 from Frankston.

Where in Baxter: 80 Baxter Tooradin Road. We're just near the post office, with lots of surrounding shops and good parking.

Who plays host: Owned and managed by Debbie Roberts and Sonia McCann.

Worth visiting because: We offer a warm, friendly atmosphere, and we welcome all levels of experience to our store. Our great speciality is teaching beginners in a fun and encouraging environment, with classes in dressmaking, patchwork, quilting, toys, bags, sashiko, foundation piecing, appliqué and English paper piecing – there is something for everyone. Since opening the doors in 2013, our shop has doubled in size, and we now have a separate classroom. Our preference for fresh, bright fabrics is still obvious, and our ranges include batiks, 1930s fabrics and the complete Jinny Beyer Palette. Hourly, on-site sewing-machine hire is available, and affordable lessons for small groups or individuals are also on offer. We also run an alteration service, long-arm quilting, as well as sales and service of sewing machines. Thanks to our larger store, we can easily cater for bus visits and all groups.



What we recommend: As an accredited Janome dealer, we offer first-class customer service and support, including free lessons so you can get to know your machine, along with a regular Janome club. We also stock Quiltworx patterns by Judy Niemeyer and offer classes with an accredited instructor. We also have new patterns from Quiltsmart and Frances Lilly Designs.

Address: 80 Baxter Tooradin Road, Baxter, Vic 3911

Phone: (03) 5971 5737

Email: sewingbeecafe@gmail.com

Website: www.sewingbeecafe.com.au

8. Rosebud SEWING 'N' BEYOND

Where's Rosebud: A growing seaside town on the beautiful Mornington Peninsula, approximately one hour from the Melbourne CBD, with plenty to see and do when in town.

Where in Rosebud: Shop 1b Rosebud Parade. Just off the main road, Point Nepean Road, the CBD of Rosebud. There is plenty of shopping around, and it's a beautiful area to visit.

Who plays host: Julianne Whinney has owned and operated the store for 18 years.

Worth visiting because: Sewing 'n' Beyond is a sewer's delight with all sorts of things for you to browse. I have wonderful fabrics, knitting yarns, patterns, patchwork notions, a quilting service, buttons and bows and also Brother and Elna sewing-machine sales and full machine servicing for all makes and models. I specialise in weekly and monthly machine embroidery, patchwork for beginners, basic sewing techniques, knitting and crochet classes – just phone or email for full details on classes. When you visit, you'll find so many gorgeous products from my large range of Tilda fabrics, doll kits, tins, books, trims, charm packs and jelly rolls. I've also just released the baby blanket range of Littlees Stitchery designs, and you'll also find Liberty and Kokka fabric ranges – the largest of the Mornington Peninsula, to be exact! You can also follow Sewing 'n' Beyond on Facebook and Instagram.



What we recommend: Tilda, Tilda, Tilda! Join my Tilda club or come along to one of the Tilda Tea Parties – just contact me with your details. I also stock kits for the Natalie Bird-designed *Homespun* block of the month, *Foxley Village*.

Address: Shop 1b Rosebud Parade, Rosebud, Vic 3939

Phone: (03) 5981 2020 **Fax:** (03) 5982 1820

Email: sewingnbeyond@hotmail.net.au

9. Tyabb MAGIC PATCH QUILTING



Where's Tyabb: On the picturesque Mornington Peninsula, about one hour from Melbourne.

Where in Tyabb: 1525 Frankston-Flinders Road. We're on the main road, about four doors down from the Post Office – easy!

Who plays host: Carol, along with Taylah and Jenni.

Worth visiting because: We stock a wonderful selection of fabrics, books, patterns (including a large range of exclusive designs only found in our store), haberdashery, wool – the list goes on and on! We are known especially for our range of reproduction fabrics, and also stock Orientals, florals and children's prints. If you need help with your quilting, we also offer a long-arm quilting service. Bus groups and larger groups are very welcome to visit.

What we recommend: Our very favourite products in store just have to be our large range of reproduction fabrics. We just love to design quilts in this style, and you'll see many of them adorning our walls. Our latest quilt is the beautiful *Olde Sturbridge Medallion Quilt* made in the medallion style. Patterns are available for \$25 plus p&h. We are also happy to make kits for this or any of our other designs in your favourite fabrics.

Address: 1525 Frankston-Flinders Road, Tyabb, Vic 3913

Phone: (03) 5977 3332

Email: query@magicpatchquilting.com.au

Website: www.magicpatchquilting.com.au

10. Pakenham SEWING CONNECTION



Where's Pakenham: Pakenham is 60km east of Melbourne on the Princes Hwy, and you can explore either East or South Gippsland from here.

Where in Pakenham: 115 Main Street. We are located in the Australia Post Arcade in the Main Street of Pakenham, which is easy to locate. There is a great parking area behind the store, so you can visit for as long as you want.

Who plays host: Owned and operated by Sandra Dodd and Sue Rasmussen for 27 years, with the help of the wonderful team of Jenny, Janene, Val, Karen, Chebbie Ashleigh and Leanne.

Worth visiting because: We are jam-packed with the latest quilting fabrics, patterns and books around – a treasure trove of ideas and samples to inspire you. We stock some of the most

popular fabrics from Moda, Stof, Hoffman, Riley Blake, Kaufman, Michael Miller and a fantastic selection of batiks. As a well-known Bernina and Brother dealer, we stock all the machines for you to try, and we have a large range of feet and accessories, as well as wonderful embroidery designs from Bernina Design Studio, Anita Goodesigns and a huge range of stabilisers, including the Floriani range. After a trip to the US in 2014, Sandy and Sue have many of the interesting gadgets that you see online, including binding tools, strip sticks for easy pressing of long seams, Quick point rulers for prairie points and scallops, quilting pounces, bendable bright lights as well as Whims Watercolour kits and Happy Hollow Christmas Kits. We welcome pre-booked bus tours and groups at all times.

What we recommend: Our large and bright classroom plays host to a variety of classes, including Bernina and Brother Clubs, Machine Embroidery Club, patchwork and quilting classes, basic sewing and also guest tutors Caroline Sharkey, Deb Louie and, in 2017, Gloria Loughman. So why not join in and learn something new at one of our classes?

Address: 115 Main Street, Pakenham, Vic 3810

Phone: (03) 5941 2244

Email: sewcon@bigpond.com

Website: www.sewingconnection.com.au

11. Koo Wee Rup CRAFT QUARTERS

Where's Koo Wee Rup: Around an hour from Melbourne and en route to Phillip Island.

Where in Koo Wee Rup: 140-146 Station Street. Park in the Woolworths Safeway car park and just cross the road, and you'll find us in the beautiful 100-year-old house.

Who plays host: Estelle is the owner, with help from the lovely staff members Jill and Lexi.

Worth visiting because: Open six days a week, we offer exceptional customer service and high-quality products and we host expert teachers who are passionate and experienced for our classes. Our store is packed with all sorts of goodies, with more than 5,000 bolts of fabric, including children's, florals, a large range of Bali/batik fabrics (the largest range of batiks in Vic), and we stock Christmas fabrics and kits all year round: after all, it's never too early to work on Christmas projects! We are also a registered retailer of Janome and Elna sewing machines and accessories. At Craft Quarters, the customer is our priority. Our store is designed for creative people of all walks of life – you are always welcome in our friendly shop, where there's lots of fun and an opportunity to let your creativity shine.

What we recommend: We are a Certified Judy Niemeyer shop and we have a wide range of her patterns and run classes and workshops – definitely worth checking out.



Address: 140-146 Station Street, Koo Wee Rup, Vic 3981

Phone: (03) 5997 1779

Email: sales@craftquarters.com.au

Website: www.craftquarters.com.au

12. Glen Alvie PATCHWORK MAZE

Where's Glen Alvie: Just 14km north of Wonthaggi – only 10 minutes' drive. Glen Alvie is just 40 minutes from beautiful Phillip Island and one and a half hours from Melbourne.

Where in Glen Alvie: 470 Glen Alvie Road. Heading from Wonthaggi, you will find Patchwork Maze on the right-hand side, situated on our dairy farm.

Who plays host: Jeanette Clark.

Worth visiting because: I opened the store 25 years ago, and I still love to welcome customers into my purpose-built shop. It's surrounded by my beautiful rose garden, which features around 600 different roses, with David Austin Roses recently added to the garden. After you steal yourself away from my garden, relax and enjoy what I have to offer in store, including lots of fabrics, batting, machine embroidery and quilting threads, along with lots of necessities for your patchworking. I have been teaching patchwork for 25 years, and I also offer a quilting service with my HandiQuilter Avante. My classes are very popular, with all levels of patchwork, machine embroidery and Babylock overlocker classes. Sometimes, classes are hosted in the garden, and I welcome beginners to join in and learn something new. On the 26-27 November, I'll be hosting my popular Quilt Hanging in the Garden exhibition of students' works and my own quilts.



What we recommend: I have lots of different sewing machines on offer, from Husqvarna Viking and Singer, along with HandiQuilter machines and Babylock overlockers. I also stock Accuquilt Go cutters and dies. Purchase a machine from me, and you'll receive free lessons to get to know your machine's ins and outs.

Address: 470 Glen Alvie Road, Glen Alvie, Vic 3979

Phone: (03) 5674 9292

Email: ptchmaze@bigpond.com

Website: www.patchworkmaze.com.au

13. Moe SHA COTTAGE



Where's Moe: An enjoyable one-and-a-half-hour drive east of Melbourne, along the Princes Highway. Moe is the gateway city to the Latrobe Valley.

Where in Moe: 134 Moore Street. Moore Street is the main street of town – just head north towards Walhalla, and we're in the industrial area, inside John Buckton Auto Spare.

Who plays host: Kellee Kenter.

Worth visiting because: Although Sha Cottage is a relatively new and small shop, new stock is always arriving, and you'll always find something new to look at. I personally love hand embroidery and appliqué, so I am always learning something new to share with my customers. My range of fabrics is just stunning, with collections from Tilda, Moda, Riley Blake, Ella Blue and also hanky linens, all available as fat quarters or by the metre. I also have Cosmo/Seasons threads, a range of books and patterns from various designers, and have the Hugs 'n' Kisses iron-on English paper piecing papers. If you're after trims, you'll find a growing range of ricrac, pompoms, lace and haberdashery. Search for Sha Cottage on Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date with what I have in store.

What we recommend: Creative Grid Rulers are great to help patchworkers with accurate cutting. I also love to recommend the iron-on EPP papers, so needleturn is much easier to do. The selection of pre-printed linens also takes the hassle out of tracing, and to get stitching quicker, pick up some of the Cosmo threads – they're a dream to stitch with.

Address: 134 Moore Street, Moe, Vic 3825

Phone: (03) 5127 3306

Email: jlbucko1@bigpond.com.au

14. Rosedale LILY LANE



Where's Rosedale: A pleasant two-hour drive east along Princes Highway from Melbourne, or Princes Highway heading south from Sydney, along the lovely East Gippsland coastline.

Where in Rosedale: 26-28 Prince Street. You'll find us in a stately building known as London House, which was built in 1882 and is right in the heart of our beautiful town of Rosedale. There are plenty of classy eateries, antique shops and a big public car park a few paces away, so there's lots to do when you visit us.

Who plays host: Jennifer McMillan, who has operated the business for nine years.

Worth visiting because: 'Wow' is the first impression our customers have. We have stacks of inspirational ideas for

projects scattered throughout the shop, with quilt samples adorning the high walls – some of which are for sale and for display. There are plenty of kits, patterns, fabric packs, pre-cuts, books and haberdashery. We also have plenty of patchwork fabrics from top-name designers to suit most fabric tastes. We have friendship sewing and specialist classes available and we are more than happy to host large tour groups, but a prior booking will help us work out your timeframe. When you come and visit Lily Lane, you'll agree we have the most beautiful front door in the street, and the store is wonderfully warm in winter and cool in summer.

What we recommend: Aboriginal art prints in stunning, earthy colours, portraying the spiritual world in the eyes of Indigenous Australians. I have fabrics in stock featuring native flora and fauna, and combined with my selection of batiks, they create some stunning projects. There are also plenty of widebacks, flannels, children's novelty prints and reproduction prints available. I have jelly rolls and layer cakes available, and with my prompt mail order and shippings, shopping online is so easy.

Address: 26-28 Prince Street, Rosedale, Vic 3847

Phone: (03) 5199 2777, 0428 486 365

Email: jennifer@lilylane.com.au

Website: www.lilylane.com.au

15. Johnsonville TWISTED THREADS STUDIO

Where's Johnsonville: Johnsonville is a great fishing spot on the Tambo River, situated between Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance, in East Gippsland.

Where in Johnsonville: 1780 Princes Highway. On the right, heading towards Lakes Entrance, we are just past the Black Stump General Store.

Who plays host: Wilhelmina Rijs, with the help of Cyndy, Alicia and some other casual staff members.

Worth visiting because: We have a wide range of fabrics available, including some new and some older collections from Kaffe Fassett, Amy Butler, Tula Pink and Cotton + Steel, as well as 1930s Aunt Grace collections, Heather Bailey, Kokka and some Moda fabrics. If you like bag making, we have lots of patterns from Melly & me, Moonshine and Rosalie Dekker, among others, as well as plenty of patchwork patterns. Browse through our baskets of Bali and Rainbow Pops, and our pre-cut shaggy quilts are quickly being snapped up. Check out our range of baby items for hand and machine sewing and Madeira threads for embroidery, not to mention our good range of kits for beginners. Our Sewcial Day is very popular, and we also run beginner's classes in patchwork and sewing, classes for kids, and more advanced classes are held throughout the year. We also offer a long-arm quilting service to finish off your beautiful quilts.



What we recommend: If you love hand quilting, we are happy to machine baste your quilt for you, so you can enjoy hand quilting to your heart's content. We can also offer our space if you have a group that needs a large area to work a project in, and we also offer to make bespoke quilts, especially for new arrivals in your family.

Address: 1780 Princes Highway, Johnsonville, Vic 3902

Phone: (03) 5156 4417, 0437 922 231

Email: wilhelmina@twistedthreadsstudio.com.au

Website: www.twistedthreadsstudio.com.au