

On the road

CRAFTY STOP-OFFS IN NSW BLUE MOUNTAINS & HUNTER VALLEY

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SYDNEY

1. Tea Gardens BLACK POSSUM FABRICS

Where's Tea Gardens: One hour north of Newcastle, located on the beautiful Myall River surrounded by great coffee shops and eateries, and only 10 minutes from the Pacific Highway – well worth the trip!

Where in Tea Gardens: Shop 1/197 Myall Street. We are located right in the main street of Tea Gardens, so it's really easy to find us.

Who plays host: Owners Jenifer and Hazel Gimbert

Worth visiting because: A visit to Black Possum Fabrics is a must! After being in the business for over 30 years, we have created a haven of fabrics, with hundreds of bolts of fabrics from subtle designs to bright as bright, and everything in between. Along with all of our beautiful fabrics, we also stock DMC cottons, a wide range of ribbons and buttons and also plenty of patterns and quilting supplies. We run a number of block of the month programs such as Libby Richardson's mystery quilt, *Nature's Gift* by Petals and Patches, Monica Poole's *Happiness Quilt* (published in *Homespun* issues 15.2-15.11 inclusive) and many more designs, all of which can be started at any time.

What we recommend: Come and try one of our two wonderful retreats we hold each year at the beautiful Boathouse Resort. We only take 14 at each retreat, so numbers are limited, and we have tutors who will teach you a wide range of techniques. To ensure your place at one of our retreats, just give us a call.

Address: Shop 1, 197 Myall Street, Tea Gardens, NSW 2324

Phone: (02) 4997 0866

Email: blackpossumfabrics@bigpond.com

Website: www.blackpossumfabrics.com



2. Waratah ONPOINT PATCHWORK & NEEDLECRAFT



Where's Waratah: Waratah is a suburb of Newcastle, approximately two hours north of Sydney. There is a lot to see in Newcastle, from beautiful beaches to nature reserves. A short drive to the Hunter Valley vineyards is a must when in Newcastle.

Where in Waratah: 61a Station Street. Travel along Turton Road past Hunter Stadium and Waratah Village, then turn left into Station Street at the Town Hall Hotel corner – easy!

Who plays host: Owned by Cath and Pat Guilfoyle since January 2003.

Worth visiting because: At Onpoint, you'll find a wide array of fabrics from many leading designers, all temptingly displayed on the shelves just to make your choice a little more difficult! We have so much on offer, from Civil War, olde-worlde florals, country and children's fabrics – you'll certainly find just the right fabric for any project! If you're looking for inspiration, just browse the many books and patterns on display and no doubt you will end up like many of our customers saying, "I only came in for a reel of cotton and I'm going out with all of this!" We have quality notions, rulers and templates in our nooks and crannies, just waiting to be found.

Customers are always welcome and we endeavour to go the extra mile to obtain something that may be hard to get like that elusive piece of fabric. We also run patchwork classes for all levels of expertise, and embroidery classes run twice monthly with well-known local tutor, Adele Richards. We carry a wide range of threads including Cottage Garden and Threadworx, and patterns from many designers, including Brenda Ryan from Thimblestitch. Cross stitch kits and a variety of fabrics for embroidery are also available.

What we recommend: If you haven't used the Matilda's Own Templates, we can thoroughly recommend them! Blocks fit together easily and the templates can be used for either machine or hand piecing. With many designs available, the possibilities are endless, so be sure to check them out. We also love the ¼ Plus tool, which allows you to mark intersections and sewing lines precisely.

Address: 61a Station Street, Waratah, NSW 2298

Phone: (02) 4968 0094

Email: shop@onpointpatch.com.au

Website: onpointpatchworkandneedlecraft.com

3. Georgetown A QUILTERS HIVE

Where's Georgetown: A suburb of Newcastle, the second largest city of NSW, just a short distance from the CBD.

Where in Georgetown: 53 Georgetown Road. I'm situated in a group of shops not far from Waratah Shopping Village. You'll find a red Australia Post box outside our door.

Who plays host: Candy McCauley

Worth visiting because: I have owned my shop for nearly five years and in that time, I have made it a happy and relaxed place to visit. I don't like to limit my store to one thing, so I have a very wide variety of stock to tempt you. My style can sometimes be quirky, very pretty and bit old-worldy, but always beautiful. I stock a range of patterns from various designers and some of my favourites are Libby Richardson for her beautiful bears, Brenda Ryan for her whimsical and endearing stitcheries and Bronwyn Hayes for her quirky ladies. You'll find ranges of Cottage Garden Threads, DMC and many beautiful trims including lace and ricrac. Each week there are sit and sew classes, always with morning tea and supper for a special treat – sometimes there is even some sewing done! Also, on the second and fourth Saturday of the month, we have classes with Jann Sturdy, who is a specialist tutor in her field of machine appliqué and machine quilting. These classes are very popular, so get in quick or you'll miss out!

What we recommend: I am currently running two block of the month programs, both from Libby Richardson. One which is *Teddies at Play* and the other is *Libby's Mystery Quilt*. These are both beautiful designs, so be sure to check them out when you visit.



Address: 53 Georgetown Road, Georgetown, NSW 2298

Phone: (02) 4968 0864

Email: aquiltershive@optusnet.com.au

4. Boolaroo PATCHWORK BY THE LAKE

Where's Boolaroo: We are 35-40 minutes from Newcastle, just up from the beautiful Lake Macquarie.

Where in Boolaroo: 15A Main Road. You won't miss us thanks to the colourful flags that lead you to our door.

Who plays host: Sandra and Kerry are there to greet you.

Worth visiting because: You'll find the largest collections of fabrics that are sure to please every taste, from modern to traditional, young and young at heart. All of your quilting needs are covered, with battings, backing fabrics, patterns, rulers and threads including Signature, Gütermann and Rasant. We also have plenty of haberdashery too. Adorning our walls are lots of quilts to inspire you, and each one comes in kit form to make fabric selections easier, especially if you need to finish a quilt quickly. We also have a collection of Kelly Lane giftware on offer, perfect for if you need to pick up a gift for someone, or just to treat yourself.

What we recommend: We have just added a Riley Blake collection and two new Moda ranges to our shop – the first of many! Like us on Facebook for updates for when they arrive in store. Also, we have a special offer for *Homespun* readers! Just tell us or show us that you purchased this edition of *Homespun* and we will give you 10 per cent discount on your purchase when you visit.

Address: 15A Main Road, Boolaroo, NSW 2284

Phone: (02) 4965 8418

Facebook: www.facebook.com/patchworkbythelake



5. Gateshead BATIK OETORO

Where's Gateshead: On the southern side of Newcastle.

Where in Gateshead: Unit 3, 11 Nevin Close. We're in an industrial area, just two blocks off the highway – just turn off at Charlestown Toyota.

Who plays host: Lynne is there every day, with occasional assistance from 'Tubby' (dear husband) and Britteny (daughter).

Worth visiting because: We sell colour! Dyes, fabric paints, marbling inks, natural dyes, fabric crayons and Textas, gutta resist, more dyes, and dyeing-related products including chemicals. If you have or have wanted to venture into the world of creating your own fabrics with dyes, fabric paints and other media, you've come to the right place! You can hand dye your threads or fabric, print your own fabric, try batik, shibori or silk painting – we really have everything you need, and we can answer all your questions and provide instructions too. Even if it is as simple a project as getting those faded jeans back to black – we have that too. I have a lifetime of experience with textiles and I am more than happy to share! I was taught the ladylike accomplishments of hand embroidery and crochet at an early age, and then I really went off on a tangent dyeing cotton scraps with mulberries. My dyeing experience has come a long way since then, and I now have plenty of industry experience and tertiary qualifications, so you really are in the right hands with any and every question about the wonderful textile technique that is dyeing. We're open Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, closed weekends and public holidays.

What we recommend: All of it – although we may be a bit biased! Hot Colour fabric paint would be one of our most versatile products. It is fixed by ironing and works on most fabrics. You can silk paint



with it, do marbling, sun print, faux tie dye, colour washes on fabric as backgrounds for embroidery – the possibilities are endless. But if you are unsure where to start, don't worry, we have kits that have clear step by step instructions and include all the basic 'stuff' you need to get creating.

Address: 3/11 Nevin Close, Gateshead, NSW 2290

Phone: (02) 4943 8808

Email: sales@dyeman.com

Website: www.dyeman.com

6. Leura PICKLEMOUSE CORNER

Where's Leura: Approximately two hours from Sydney, just before Katoomba in the spectacular Blue Mountains. Leura has some amazing shops and cafes around, so it is definitely worth a full day-visit.

Where in Leura: 1/152 Megalong Street. We're in a sweet cottage behind Leura Mall (the main shopping strip). Just travel down Leura Mall, turn left at Megalong Street and then left into the car park and we are there opposite Woolworths, so there is plenty of parking right outside our door!

Who plays host: Pamela Davis and her helpful and skilful team of Karlene, Di, Wendy and Natalie.

Worth visiting because: We are a unique patchwork boutique, with something for everyone, no matter what fabrics you love, or need for your projects. As well as patchwork and quilting supplies, we stock a wide range of haberdashery and wool. People also travel far and wide to buy some of our delicious homemade fudge – you just can't leave the store without some!

What we recommend: Flannel fabrics, Australian prints and our full Jinny Beyer Range are just a few of our favourites in store. Our novelty and reproduction prints are also popular and we have ranges from various fabric houses.

Address: 1/152 Megalong Street, Leura, NSW 2780

Phone: (02) 4784 2854

Email: pam@picklemousecorner.com

Website: www.picklemousecorner.com



7. Blackheath BLACKHEATH HABERDASHERY & FABRIC

Where's Blackheath: Blackheath is a village in the scenic Upper Blue Mountains of NSW, two hours west of Sydney.

Where in Blackheath: 52 Govetts Leap Road. Turn off the Great Western Highway into Govetts Leap Road (the main shopping street – clearly sign posted). We are two blocks down on the left, just up from where the iconic Ribbons and Rainbows traded for many years.

Who plays host: Karen

Worth visiting because: We are an exciting new store with many unique and beautiful products and classes to delight and inspire you. Whether your passion is dressmaking, patchwork, embroidery or heirloom sewing, we have something for everyone. For patchworkers, we have Moda fabrics, Aurifil threads and Matilda's Own templates, just to name a few, plus quilting classes with Chris Jurd. We offer a fresh approach to dressmaking with our range of independent pattern labels, and we're bringing life back to the world of sewing with patterns from By Hand London, April Rhodes and the very well designed Tessuti house label, as well as Japanese pattern books and the evergreen Vogue patterns. We stock embroidery linens, DMC and hard to find Swiss-made heirloom fabrics. And as a Bernina sewing-machine dealer, our quality picture is complete.

What we recommend: We are thrilled to offer customers Tessuti fabrics – silks, wool, cashmere, cotton, linen – all top quality so that you can create quality garments. Also taking pride of place in our range are Bernina sewing machines. Come in store for a demonstration and try one for yourself. And if you are already a Bernina owner, we carry accessories and offer service and maintenance by the legend himself, John Clapham.



Address: 2/52 Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath, NSW, 2785

Phone: (02) 4787 5200

Email: kadmason01@bigpond.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Blackheath-Haberdashery-Fabric/531622440214622

8. Orange HOBBYSEW ORANGE

Where's Orange: Head over the Blue Mountains and follow the Rhino Trail to Orange – the heart of the central west. Orange is approximately three and a half hours from Sydney.

Where in Orange: Follow the main road in, cross over the railway line, turn right at the first set of traffic lights and we are on the left about fifty metres down, just opposite the SUPA IGA.

Who plays host: Patricia is the shop owner and staff members Kate and Toni are always willing to help and are full of creative ideas.

Worth visiting because: Our friendly and informative staff are always on hand to help with all of your creative projects. We have over three thousand bolts of patchwork fabric to choose from, a large range of haberdashery, quilting accessories, buttons, sewing and embroidery threads, ribbons for all occasions and much, much more. We also carry a full range of DMC embroidery threads and tapestry wool. Groups of ladies meet here on a regular basis for some stitching, and many friendships have been formed over the years. Twice a year, we organise quilting retreats and we have a wonderful and relaxing time. We are also proud to be the longest established patchwork business in Orange.

What we recommend: We are agents for Bernina and Brother sewing machines. We also have some gorgeous fabrics including French General, Moda Solids and Me and My Sister, just to name a few. For real customisation, we can have rulers made to order to suit your specific requirements!

Address: 221 Peisley Street, Orange, NSW 2800

Phone/fax: (02) 6361 7420

Email: patriciajcole@gmail.com



9. Orange BELLA PATCHWORK DESIGNS

Where's Orange: Travel west from Bathurst along the Mitchell Highway.

Where in Orange: 201 Peisley Street. Cross the railway line, heading west from Bathurst, just turn left and we are on the left, opposite Robert's Bakery and with plenty of parking at the rear.

Who plays host: Owned and run by Delma Watts, with help from Mara Watters on Saturday mornings.

Worth visiting because: A large part of our shop is filled with a gorgeous range of Kaffe Fassett fabrics, and we also have his laminated, home decorator and dress fabrics. Our shop is just bursting with colour from all of our wonderful fabric ranges, and we have accessories, books, patterns and batting – everything you need for patchwork, really! We run classes during the week and guest teachers come on the weekends throughout the year. Large groups and bus tours are welcome.

What we recommend: Here at Bella, we really love Kaffe Fassett fabrics, and Delma has designed several quilt kits using 2½in strips. We also love Bali batiks and we use these in our advanced workshops, using the "Divine with Leaves" templates to create unique and beautiful designs.

Address: 201 Peisley Street, Orange, NSW 2800

Phone: (02) 6361 3399

Email: sales@bellapatchwork.com.au

Website: www.bellapatchwork.com.au



10. Orange HIDDEN TALENT

Where's Orange: Three hours west from Sydney over the beautiful Blue Mountains and through Bathurst and then to colourful Orange.

Where in Orange: 150 Lords Place. Coming from Sydney, turn left at Canobolas Hotel into Lords Place and we are just after the roundabout.

Who plays host: Carolyn and Marilyn with the help of casuals Kate, Elizabeth and Karen.

Worth visiting because: We have a very large range of patchwork fabrics including the Jinny Beyer Palette. We carry Husqvarna, Janome, Elna, Singer, Baby Lock and Handi Quilter machines and overlockers. We also have a nearly full range of Accuquilt Go fabric cutters. We offer machine repairs, which are mostly carried out on the premises. Classes are held every weekday between 10am and 3pm, no appointment necessary, and we have a quilting service available. All bus groups are welcome and we can open on Sunday by appointment.

What we recommend: We have many kits already cut and ready to go, and we're happy to cut others if you require. We teach children from seven upwards, and some have even won several prizes at local shows, including grand champion. This year, one of our children Clare, won the AQC Shining Light award. She has been learning at our store for four years! Our tutors have many years of experience in many avenues including software classes for embroidery, so you will always be in the right hands when you visit.

Address: 150 Lords Place, Orange, NSW 2800

Phone/fax: (02) 6362 0011

Email: carolyn_andra@optusnet.com

