

Sublime Sydney

By Jeannette Vermeulen



Follow the needle and thread, button by button, as we make our way around the scenic suburbs of greater Sydney.

Tourists travel from all around the world to visit the iconic sights of Sydney, the Harbour City, and thanks to Oprah Winfrey's recent visit, the city is more popular than ever. Australia's largest capital city, Sydney offers a multitude of things to see and do and caters to all tastes — from a leisurely time out to more adventurous exploration. There's so much on offer, even locals can find new and exciting things to appreciate, especially in crafting circles. So time to grab the girls, embrace Sydney's style and get up to some crafty shopping shenanigans.

We begin our shopping adventure in the lively suburb of Annandale and stop by Quiltsmith for stunning reproduction, oriental and modern funky fabric. From there it's a leisurely drive into the sunny Sutherland Shire to visit the enchanting Peg's Pieces in Kirrawee.

From there we head to Campbelltown to explore the fantastic selection on offer at Sew Many Stitches. Judy's charming shop stocks the widest range of quilting fabrics in the Macarthur area.

We drop by to say hello to Kaye and Bruce Brown at The Finishing Touch in Glenmore next, and set about exploring the shop. Filled with stitching goodies, you're sure to find the perfect fabric for your next project here.

Our next stop is in Penrith, at the foot of the Blue Mountains, home to two charming shops, The Patchwork Heart and Folklore Penrith Patchwork. It's then on to Diane's Country Rose in Richmond. Take the opportunity to explore the Blue Mountains while you're in the area — boasting majestic scenery, there's much to see and do.

Coming round into our loop of the greater Sydney area, we call in at Sewrite in Seven Hills next for some quality products, before continuing on to the lovely Lyn's Fine Needlework in Baulkham Hills and a stop at Craft Depot in Pennant Hills, a one-stop craft wonderland with plenty on offer.

Our exploration of the Hills district complete, we head for the stunning coast of the greater Sydney region and make our final stop at Cottage Quiltworks in Warriewood.

Quiltsmith

Annandale

Annandale, with its charming village atmosphere, will make you feel welcome as you stop by to visit Quiltsmith, a delightful shop offering a wonderfully deep and broad selection of fabric that will appeal to all quilters.

Famous for its selection of 1800s and 1930s reproduction fabrics (more than 4000 bolts!), the shop holds many treasures that simply must be seen. On offer are hundreds of Japanese fabrics, both traditional and modern; bright, bold and beautiful prints, including one of Sydney's largest selections of Kaffe Fassett fabrics; over 500 bolts of spots and stripes; 200 or more bolts of batiks, plus much more, including a large fabric clearance section, full range of haberdashery, and a variety of patterns and books.

As the closest patchwork shop to the inner city and Darling Harbour, Quiltsmith is a short bus ride from George Street in the city, and there



is plenty of easy on-street parking available. The shop has fun, experienced staff eager to help with any patchwork project and is open Monday to Friday, 10am–5pm, and Saturday from 9.30am–4pm. A wide selection of classes and workshops are also offered. Contact the shop for more details about these and other special events such as the Airing of the Quilts.

**Local knowledge:**

Annandale boasts a number of heritage-listed buildings including Grant Leigh on Johnston Street, classified by the National Trust.

Address: 75 Nelson Street,
Annandale NSW 2038

Phone: (02) 9550 4947

Fax: (02) 9550 4946

Email: quiltsmith@ozemail.com.au

Website: www.quiltsmith.com.au

Blog:

www.quiltsmith--australia.blogspot.com

Peg's Pieces

Kirrawee

Twenty-five kilometres south of Sydney's CBD we come to Kirrawee, home of the wonderful patchwork and sewing store Peg's Pieces. It has been in business for more than 30 years and has been owned by



husband-and-wife team Bernadette and Ian Hoy for the past six.

At this gorgeous shop you'll find a stunning selection of cotton fabric, dress fabrics, buttons, laces, ribbons and trims. The store also carries Bernina sewing machines and accessories and offers a sewing-machine repair service.

A range of classes is available with both local and guest instructors. "Our 'Anything Goes' classes are the most popular; however, our monthly quilting and technique class taught by Deborah



Louie is another popular offering for 2011," Bernadette says. A Bernina club will also run at Peg's Pieces in 2011, where students can learn about a variety of different techniques using their Bernina sewing machines.

Peg's Pieces holds an annual sale during the month of January and a mid-year sale in June or July, so if you're in the area at these times be sure to stop by for a bargain! Check out the shop's Facebook page to stay up to date with the latest happenings, www.facebook.com/pegspieces

Local knowledge:

Just metres from Kirrawee rail station, Peg's Pieces is easily accessible to those without a car.

Address: 138 Oak Road,
Kirrawee NSW 2232

Phone: (02) 9542 3513

Email: info@pegspieces.com.au

Website: www.pegspieces.com.au

Sew Many Stitches

Campbelltown

Judy Rudd has loved sewing for as long as she can remember, so when a local sewing-machine shop came up for sale four years ago she seized the opportunity to turn her passion into a business. Judy expanded the store's range and introduced patchwork fabrics and now Sew Many Stitches stocks the widest range of quilting fabrics in the Macarthur area.

Sew Many Stitches has something for everyone, carrying collections by Moda, Kaffe Fassett, Robyn Pandolph, Michael Miller, Jinny Beyer and many more. The store also continues to offer a great range of sewing machines from Janome, Brother and Bernina, as well as Horn cabinets.

The shop's friendly staff members Erica, Tina and Catherine are all as passionate and energetic about their



work as Judy, so when you're in this store you're guaranteed to have a good time. "Customers are greeted with lots of fabric, glorious quilts and projects and, usually, the sound of laughter coming from our class area," Judy says.

Sew Many Stitches runs classes in quilting, dressmaking and machine embroidery, so there's something for just about everyone!

Local knowledge:

Judy says there are lots of interesting

things to do and see in the Campbelltown area including the Mt Annan Botanical Gardens, the Campbelltown Art Gallery, the Japanese Gardens and the local historical buildings including the old St Patrick's School House, Menangle House and St Mary's Tower.

Address: Shop 4, Level 2, 147 Queen Street, Campbelltown NSW 2560

Ph/fax: (02) 4628 4437

The Finishing Touch

Glenmore

Kaye and Bruce Brown of The Finishing Touch established what was possibly the first machine-quilting service in Australia. Since 1992, The Finishing Touch has provided quality service and currently offers a machine-quilting service to finish off customers' quilts on a Gammill Statler

quilting machine. The store also sells Gammill Statler quilting machines for anyone who prefers to do the hard work themselves.

Kaye is heavily involved in her local craft groups and is the first Life Member of the Camden Country Quilters, <http://camdencountryquilters.org.au>, and is the president for 2011. The group makes quilts for Camden's palliative care ward and "any other needy cause that we get requests for. We made over 70 for

the fires in Victoria in 2009 and for the floods in 2011," says Kaye.

If you are one of many quilters who prefer to leave the finishing touches up to the experts, don't hesitate to contact Kaye as the store offers a one to two week turn around for edge-to-edge machine quilting.

Local knowledge:

Camden sits on the banks of the Nepean River and has a rich history to accompany its natural beauty. Offering something for everyone, there are visits to the museum, scenic flights, picnics in the park, a day spa, alfresco dining at one of the many cafés, or you can try a little wine tasting or just shop, 'til you drop!

Address: 180 Moores Way,

Glenmore via Camden NSW 2570

Phone: (02) 4654 5328, 0428 545 328

Email: kquilts@bigpond.com

Website: www.kquilts.com



The Patchwork Heart

Penrith

An experienced quilter is always behind the counter to help you when selecting fabrics at The Patchwork Heart. The shop is owned by well-known quilter, Michelle Marvig, and she is assisted by published quilters Kim Harris and Katrina Hadjimichael.

An excellent selection of fabric can be found on the groaning shelves, including vintage reproductions, kids' prints, basics, spots, extensive Japanese and Michelle's own two fabric ranges, the modern *Suzani* and Australian-inspired *Michelle's Backyard*. Due this month is the playful *Cat in the Hat* fabric, just so much fun for little ones!

Bag patterns are a particular shop favourite and you will find samples of many Melly & me and Natalie Ross designs in store, along with all the haberdashery required to make them. The fabulous *Lou Lou* bag by Natalie Ross (pictured) is just one example of the great bags on offer. It is made



from *Michelle's Backyard* fabric and is available in a kit for \$65, including p&h, or grab the pattern for \$17, including p&h. The Patchwork Heart also offers an edge-to-edge quilting service.

Local knowledge:

With a range of outdoor activities on offer, the Penrith Valley is a nature lover's dream. Whether you want to get into the action by hiking, swimming, fishing and canoeing, or simply sit back and enjoy the scenery, there's hardly a more picturesque place to do so.



Address: Shop 2, 51 York Road, South Penrith NSW 2750

Phone: (02) 4721 0196

Fax: (02) 4721 0952

Email:

michelle@patchworkheart.com.au

Website: www.patchworkheart.com.au

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Folklore Penrith Patchwork

Penrith

When it comes to variety, it's hard to imagine a better place to visit than Folklore Penrith Patchwork. In the centre of Penrith, just near the train station, one of Australia's largest selection of fabrics is on display with more than 12,000 bolts of fabrics to choose from. A real stitcher's playground, the charming shop was first established in 1988 and is well versed in the wants and needs of local crafters.

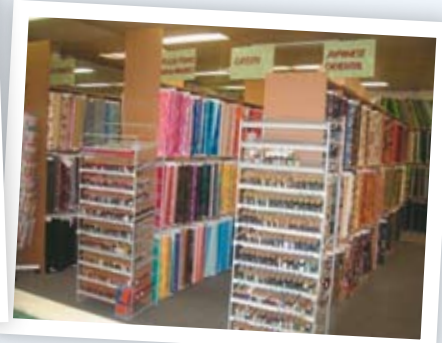
The shop prides itself on offering the most reasonable prices it can deliver, with 5000 of the fabrics between \$5 and \$12.95 per metre, including fabric from Moda, XLN and many others. For the other 7000 fabrics, the shop offers great discounts. There are full walls of Japanese, Civil War, Fossil Ferns, marbles and more than 1000 bolts of flannels. A huge selection of backing fabrics is also available.

The store has friendly staff and a warm atmosphere, so you'll never want



Showing two of the shop's 26 rows of gorgeous fabric.

to leave! "We are so thankful that we are visited by more than 50 buses a year and so many small groups that have claimed this shop as their shop," owner Jeff says. "We love that they ring to make sure we have the jug and biscuits ready. With all these patchworkers, their friends, plus 15 classes we run a week, the place really comes alive. Thank you all so much!"

**Local knowledge:**

Why not explore the Nepean District in a different way? Opt for a cruise down the Nepean River and see things from a new perspective.

Address: 97B Henry Street,
Penrith NSW 2750

Phone: (02) 4721 1213

Email: penpatch1986@bigpond.com.au

Website: www.penrithpatchwork.com.au

Sewrite

Seven Hills

Dynamic duo Jackie and Shaun Deutrom have owned this fabulous store in Seven Hills for only a few months. Jackie, who manages the store, has always had a passion for sewing and beautiful fabric that led her to eventually teaching sewing classes at Sewrite, while Shaun has extensive knowledge of sewing machines and the textile industry, having spent 22 years servicing and selling industrial sewing machines. When Sewrite's original owners decided to retire, it was a natural

progression for the pair to combine their skills and take over the store.

Stepping inside, you are greeted by the whirring of sewing machines and happy chatter of participants in the various classes, groups and workshops hosted each week. The store prides itself on the talents and skill of its eight staff members, each offering a different element to the Sewrite mix, including sewing-machine repairs and advice.

The shop's modern, open-plan arrangement is a breeze to navigate

and clearly displays a selection of the latest models of Bernina and Janome sewing machines and overlockers.

A wide, stunning selection of both patchwork and dress fabrics fills the shelves, inviting the customer to touch and explore. Among the many fabulous things on offer at Sewrite, an extensive range of Birch and Clover haberdashery is also carried and Sewrite is also a supplier of Horn Furniture.

Local knowledge:

Seven Hills has a rich history and is believed to have been first visited by Europeans very early in the settlement of New South Wales, possibly as early as April 1788.

Address: 115-121 Best Road,
Seven Hills NSW 2147

Phone: (02) 9621 4007

Fax: (02) 9621 4088

Email: jackie@sewwrite.com.au

Website: www.sewwrite.com.au



Lyn's Fine Needlework

Baulkham Hills

When it comes to passionate and knowledgeable service, Lyn's Fine Needlework can't be beaten! This charming shop started life in adjoining suburb Winston Hills around 1980 and moved to Baulkham Hills in 1995. It is currently owned by Jeanette and Frank Latta after their family purchased the company in 2000. Jeanette has worked in the store since its first day in 1980 and still teaches and manages the business today.

The full-service retail shop caters for all forms of embroidery and needlework, as well as patchwork and quilting. It also carries a large range of tapestry canvases and latch-hook kits, and a small selection of gorgeous gifts. This sheer diversity of quality stock makes it a must-visit stop — on offer are extensive ranges of local and imported patterns, books, kits, embroidery threads,



Cutie Patootie by Hissyfitz Design measures 48 x 60in. Grab the pattern for \$17.80, plus \$3 p&h, or a full kit including fabric for front and binding for \$128.05, plus \$13 p&h.

notions, fabrics and so much more. Classes by experienced tutors are held most days of the week and specialised full-day workshops are also conducted periodically by well-known Australian designers and teachers. These are advertised in store, via the shop's monthly eNewsletter and on the website.

Local knowledge:

The Hills District is known for its friendly atmosphere and great shopping. Take some time out and enjoy a coffee in one of the many great cafés.

Address: 2/9 Seven Hills Road, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153

Phone: (02) 9686 2325

Email: lynsneedlework@aol.com

Website:

www.lynsfineneedlework.com.au



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Craft Depot

Pennant Hills

Crafters from near and far have long turned to Craft Depot at Pennant Hills for their supplies. Owners Melissa and John have been in business for 13 years and have managed to create a wonderland for stitchers in their store, complete with an amazing range of patchwork fabrics available.

The store has approximately 8000 bolts in stock as well as an incredible range of jelly rolls, books, gifts, haberdashery, wool, patterns and tools including rulers, boards, cutters and templates. Craft Depot also stocks Singer and Pfaff sewing machines. What's more, it is now also a Bernina dealer, stocking a full range of brilliant Bernina sewing machines.

On top of its extraordinary range, Craft Depot also runs a variety of classes in all aspects of quilting, taught by talented and well-known teachers. The staff at Craft Depot are friendly and knowledgeable and can assist with just



about anything — whether it's craft, knitting, embroidery or quilting.

If you are a bargain hunter, it's well worth stopping by during Craft Depot's twice-yearly sales, where all quilting fabrics, as well as a great range of other items, are greatly reduced.

Local knowledge:

Craft Depot is situated alongside the Pennant Hills Railway Station and has unlimited parking adjacent to the shop, making it easily accessible no matter how you choose to travel there.



Address: 2 Railway Street,
Pennant Hills NSW 2120

Phone: (02) 9980 8966

Fax: (02) 9980 9497

Email: mailorders@craftdepot.com.au

Website: www.craftdepot.com.au

Cottage Quiltworks

Warriewood

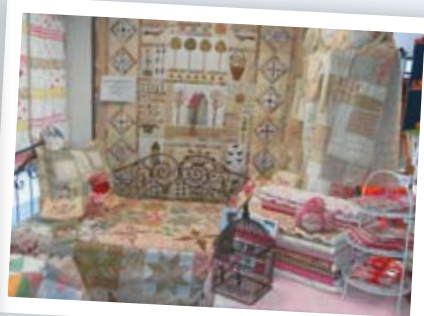
Located in Sydney's picturesque Northern Beaches area is Cottage Quiltworks, a must-visit shop that is sure to inspire. With more than 40 years experience between them, owners Jann Baker and Christine Lean are passionate about quilting.

Christine loves modern designs and brights, whereas Jann prefers more



scrappy, traditional creations. The store reflects the ladies' varied styles by catering for all tastes with a diverse range of fabric including reproductions, Japanese prints, retros and brights, as well as linens, flannels and hand-dyed felted wools.

Cottage Quiltworks stocks collections by top designers, including Kaffe Fassett, Brandon Mably, Amy Butler, Moda and more. The shop offers a diverse selection of classes with highly sought-after tutors, with everything from



machine-quilting basics to bag classes available. There's the added bonus of a great on-site cafe for refreshments and "husband entertainment".

Two new BOM programs are available, one designed by Anni Downs and the other by Sue Ross — two very different quilts but both quirky and fun. Aurifil Thread Club is also new this year. The girls are launching their own fabric club as well to cater to their ever-increasing number of country customers.

Local knowledge:

Cottage Quiltworks runs a week-long "Winter Escape" from Monday, 11th July to Friday, 15th July. You can choose to attend for a one- or two-day class, or the whole week.

Address: Suite 4205, 4 Daydream Street,
Warriewood NSW 2102

Phone: (02) 9997 4661

Email: cottagquilts@hotmail.com

Website: www.cottagequiltworks.com.au