

# Wonderful Western Victoria

By Jeannette Vermeulen



Map by Susan Cadzow

Follow the needle and thread, button by button, as we make our way around scenic Western Victoria

When it comes to stunning natural beauty and arresting scenery, Western Victoria is the place to be. This beautiful area boasts a number of gorgeous natural attractions including the Grampians National Park, Little Desert National Park, and Mt Arapiles State Park. If that's not enough, there is also a wonderful selection of wineries, not to mention plenty of great craft stores.

We begin our western wanderings on the cosmopolitan outskirts at Sunbury, 29km north-west of Melbourne. Here we say hi to Nada at her wonderful shop, Quilter's Lane. From there, we continue north to Gisborne, a tranquil settlement home to the well-stocked The Drapers of Mt Macedon, and on to Lancefield, to explore Harmony Quilts.

Next we call into Pick Up Stitches in thriving Kyneton. Skirting the scenic Macedon Ranges and travelling through country awash with greenery, our next stop is The Village Patch in Maldon. We head for picturesque Daylesford next where, in a fertile region

that contains Australia's largest concentration of natural mineral springs, we pop into Merrillyn and David's gorgeous shop, Threadneedle Craft.

We now wind our way south-west towards the ocean, taking in some amazing scenery and retracing the gold rush as we pass through Ballarat. Here, we call in at Eureka Patchwork to stock up on some more craft goodies.

As our journey loops through the state, we pass the stunning Grampians National Park. Be sure to leave enough time to soak in the gorgeous natural beauty and detour to the Victoria Valley to appreciate the stringybark forests and redgum woodlands.

We reach the coastal town of Portland to visit Joy's Craftworx. After wandering the historic streets and enjoying some great local dining, it's time to turn back east. Taking one of the world's most breathtaking panoramic roads through the Great Ocean Road region, we make our way to our final stop, Gum Valley Patchwork at Cooriemungle.

## Quilter's Lane *Sunbury*

Owner and manager of Quilter's Lane, Nada, has been sewing since she was just five years old. This long-lasting passion has driven her to create a wonderful store filled with beautiful products, enthusiastic staff and an inviting atmosphere, conducive to creativity.

At Quilter's Lane they believe in "patchwork therapy". The whole team strives to make your experience in their store wonderful, right from the very start, when you are greeted with a warm welcome.

Quilter's Lane carries a great range with more than 1000 bolts of fabric, patterns, kits, books, haberdashery, batting, threads and buttons. Classes are held Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, where participants can take along their own projects or some fabrics and have the girls help them to create a unique design. Every second Thursday Quilter's Lane also runs a charity quilt



group and Tuesday is "Sit and Sew" day, where anyone is welcome to bring their sewing along for stitching and socialising. If you're in need of a little "patchwork therapy", Quilter's Lane is certainly the place to go.

**Local knowledge:**

Sunbury is an historic wine region with vineyards dating back to the 1850s and many historic buildings, including Victoria's oldest homestead, Emu Bottom, built in 1836. It is also believed



that Sunbury is the location of the first-ever Ashes cricket match.

**Address:** Shop 5, Old Bakery Walk, Sunbury Vic 3429

**Phone:** (03) 9740 6811

**Email:** [quilterslane@aol.com](mailto:quilterslane@aol.com)

**Website:** [www.quilterslane.com.au](http://www.quilterslane.com.au)

## The Drapers of Mt Macedon *Gisborne*

After relocating from the hills of Mt Macedon to the main business and café hub of Gisborne in January 2009, The Drapers of Mt Macedon has gone from strength to strength. In this store, owned and run by Melia Courtney and Mary Kelly, you'll

find a huge range of fabrics ranging from reproductions, homespuns, fresh brights and pretty florals to Kokka fabrics, quilter's sateen, oasis canvas and quilter's muslin.

The outstanding range at The Drapers of Mt Macedon is ever-expanding; on top of their wonderful selection of fabrics, the store stocks an increasing range of

DMC threads, Appleton wools, Gütermann cottons and decorative threads. The range of haberdashery available is also growing, with

zippers and fasteners, as well as quilter's hardware, now available.

The Drapers of Mt Macedon runs a variety of classes in beginner's patchwork, hand quilting, machine quilting, machine appliqué and getting the most out of your machine. Jan Kerton from Windflower Embroidery also pops in regularly to teach embroidery, thread painting and stumpwork.

**Local knowledge:**

"The first Sunday of each month, Gisborne is the setting for its markets," Mary says. "The streets are lined with produce and homemade goods, along with bric-a-brac."

**Address:** 32A Aitken Street, Gisborne Vic 3437

**Phone:** (03) 5420 7333

**Email:**

[info@drapersofmtmacedon.com.au](mailto:info@drapersofmtmacedon.com.au)

**Website:**

[www.drapersofmtmacedon.com.au](http://www.drapersofmtmacedon.com.au)



## Harmony Quilts

Lancefield

Seventy kilometres north of Melbourne, at the geographic heart of Victoria, is the peaceful town of Lancefield, the home of Trisha and Tony Freeman and their store, Harmony Quilts. Passionate quilter Trisha has more than 20 years experience working in the craft industry, so it was only natural for her to take the next step and open her own quilting store three years ago. From the store, Trisha, who is an accredited patchwork teacher, runs fantastic patchwork and quilting classes and sells a terrific range of supplies.

When entering Harmony Quilts and being greeted by the friendly cat Kimar, the first thing you'll notice is the spectacular collection of Thimbleberries products on display. Harmony Quilts is a Thimbleberries specialist and stocks the complete range of Thimbleberries fabrics, kits and patterns, as well as running a Thimbleberries Club and two other Thimbleberries-themed clubs:



The Fat Quarter Club and The Charm Square Club.

**Local knowledge:**

"Nestled in the north end of the Macedon ranges, our shop is very close



to local wineries, Hanging Rock and Mt Macedon," Trisha says. "Lancefield is an historical town with numerous historical buildings, including the Antique Centre and the Wiegard building, where Harmony Quilts can be found."

**Address:** 6 High Street, Lancefield Vic 3435

**Phone:** (03) 5429 2347

**Email:** [harmonyquilts@bigpond.com](mailto:harmonyquilts@bigpond.com)

**Website:** [www.harmonyquilts.com.au](http://www.harmonyquilts.com.au)

## Pick Up Stitches

Kyneton

With an absolute love for all things knitting and patchwork, Sharon Boxshall opened Pick Up Stitches two years ago. A one-stop shop for all your stitching supplies, the shop is a dream for avid stitchers.

A warm and friendly greeting awaits you from Sharon or her mother, Maria, as you enter the large store. It's a real treat for the senses, awash with colour and the lovely fragrance of Urban Rituelle products. It's no wonder that



Sharon refers to the store as a "lollyshop of stock"! Along with a wonderful selection of fabric, there is an abundance of wool products on offer and the shop specialises in Noro, Heirloom, Sirdar Sublime and specialty sock yarns.

Take your time to look through the extensive selection of patterns and



The Lovebird Lane Quilt is \$39 per month, including postage.

books on patchwork, quilting, felting, knitting, crochet, and sewing. As you are encouraged to browse and enjoy a more tactile experience of the shop, you will quickly feel at home at Pick Up Stitches. The shop's motto is "Come in and unwind with Pick Up Stitches" and that is certainly very easy to do.

"Stitch and sew" days are held on Mondays and Wednesdays, 10am–12.30pm, and Wednesday evenings, 7–9.30pm. Classes, such as the popular sock-knitting class, are held regularly, check in store for details.

**Local knowledge:**

Pick Up Stitches has a lovely old wooden shingle ceiling well worth a mention, and is located in historic Piper Street, close to some of the area's award-winning eateries.

**Address:** 46 Piper Street, Kyneton Vic 3444

**Phone:** (03) 5422 6614

**Email:** [pickupstitches@bigpond.com](mailto:pickupstitches@bigpond.com)

## The Village Patch

Maldon

In the historic town of Maldon, set in the original Freemasons Hotel built in 1910, is The Village Patch, a beautiful big store filled with light and colour. This quilter's paradise stocks more than 3000 fabrics ranging from delicate florals, blenders and country prints to more modern, bold styles and everything in between. Also on offer are threads, kits, patterns and books, as well as beautiful quilting-themed cross-stitch patterns by Linda Myer and a wonderful machine-quilting service.

The Village Patch is run and operated entirely by husband and wife team Lee and Ian French, with help from their daughter Nicole, so you can always expect a warm welcome and personalised service.

"Thursday nights in the store are noisy," Lee says. "We hold a UFO session and 'getting started' projects are



undertaken without the pressure of a formal class. Women of all ages and skill levels attend from the district."

**Local knowledge:**

"The historic village of Maldon in Central Victoria has been classified by the National Trust as Australia's first notable town and boasts many beautiful galleries, stores, cafes and B&Bs, all set in an intact mining village streetscape,

surrounded by the original bush landscape," Lee says.

**Address:** 49 High Street,

Maldon Vic 3463

**Phone:** (03) 5475 2391

**Fax:** (03) 5475 1880

**Email:**

[enquiries@villagepatch.com.au](mailto:enquiries@villagepatch.com.au)

**Website:** [www.villagepatch.com.au](http://www.villagepatch.com.au)

## Threadneedle Craft

Daylesford

Merrilyn and David Sim moved their young family from the city to Daylesford and opened their craft store as a "tree change" a few years ago. "Daylesford is a popular destination for crafters and as a weekend retreat for women of all ages who enjoy the picturesque setting, cafes, markets and day spas," Merrilyn says. This stunning shop, with its large, varied selection of wonderful craft supplies, is



centrally located in the Coles walkway in Vincent Street.

Threadneedle Craft is well known in the area for the range of colourful, contemporary fabric designs. They also stock traditional fabric designs and patterns, as well as kits to create fabulous handbags, soft toys, apparel and home décor. A selection of quilting tools, threads and other accessories is available. The store specialises in quilting fabrics and needlework but



you'll also find beading, papercraft and art supplies and an inspiring collection of craft books.

In addition to its staggering range, Threadneedle Craft also offers hand-sewing and quilting classes and runs school holiday programs for the kids.

**Local knowledge:**

Last year, more than 150 women attended the Daylesford Craft Experience held by Threadneedle Craft. The craft retreat at the award-winning Peppers Springs Retreat & Spa is now an annual event. This year, it will be held on the weekend of 4-5 June and guests will include Melanie Hurlston, Jodie Carleton and Kristen Doran.

**Address:** Shop 2, 52A Vincent Street, Daylesford Vic 3460

**Phone:** (03) 5348 4277

**Fax:** (03) 5348 4377

**Email:** [info@threadneedle.com.au](mailto:info@threadneedle.com.au)

**Website:** [www.threadneedle.com.au](http://www.threadneedle.com.au)

## Eureka Patchwork

Ballarat

**E**ureka Patchwork is the newest patchwork shop in Ballarat.

Just over a year ago, with the desire for a new direction in life, opening a shop dedicated to fabric and colour was the perfect solution for owner Elisabeth. This year, beginners classes and Sit and Sew groups have been introduced, check in-store for more details. Elisabeth does not sew but makes up for that with continued reading and research into the art of quilting. There are also local people on hand who are only too happy to help with any tricky questions.

The challenge of transforming an old milk bar into a patchworker's heaven has been a big job,. What a transformation it's been! As you step into the lovely



shop, your imagination will be captured by the stunning display wall showcasing quilts in featured fabrics. Eureka Patchwork carries over 3000 bolts of fabric, specialising in a large range of blenders. An excellent selection of children's, black and white, batik and Japanese fabric is also on offer. Bus tours are welcome by prior arrangement.

The shop offers discounts all year so there's no need to wait for a sale to build up your stash. With such wonderful

stock and its friendly atmosphere, Eureka Patchwork is the place to be!

**Local knowledge:**

Ballarat is full of history, fascinating sights and fun attractions.

**Address:** 143 Victoria Street, Ballarat Vic 3350

**Phone:** (03) 5331 6160

**Email:**

[fabrics@eurekatchwork.com.au](mailto:fabrics@eurekatchwork.com.au)

**Website:** [www.eurekatchwork.com.au](http://www.eurekatchwork.com.au)

- Have you ever had the ruler make that nasty little slip, right at the end of a cut?
- Do your shoulders hurt from pressing down hard on the ruler?
- Do your hands ache from the pressure you place on them?
- Are you sick of doing the crabwalk up the ruler?
- Do you stop after a few cuts because it's just too exhausting?

**AND, MOST FRIGHTENING OF ALL...**

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It is a tool, not a gadget. You must use this tool, not leave it in a drawer somewhere. Once used, you simply won't understand how you got by without it – and that is straight from our customers.

So easy to use, why didn't somebody do this years ago? We don't know, but at least it's here now!

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Phone: 03 9786 9301 Fax: 03 9766 8430

[www.keepquilting.com.au](http://www.keepquilting.com.au) Wholesale enquiries welcome

## Joy's Craftworx

Portland

Our next stop brings us back to the beautiful Victorian coast to the seaside town of Portland. While tourists may be enticed to Portland by beaches, surfing and fishing, *Homespun* found something you will love even more — Joy's Craftworx.

This deliciously scented patchwork store sells patchwork fabrics of all colours and styles, batting, backing fabrics, patterns, Janome and Pfaff sewing machines and a huge range of haberdashery: ribbons, braids, buttons, rusty bells, wool, quilt hangers and more. You can get everything needed all under one roof and according to owner Joy Bolte, "The locals are very supportive of my business because I have so many different things and fabric styles and can usually help people with what they need."

Joy, her magical store and customers are all doing what they can to help make the world a better place. The store is

*Pink Fig patterns are \$15.40 each, plus p&h. For child sizes 1 to 10 years. To view more patterns, visit [www.joyscraftworx.com.au](http://www.joyscraftworx.com.au)*

involved in groups such as Destiny Rescue and also runs programs through the local church for under-privileged kids. "I feel that it is important to encourage the younger generation to sew so I stock small projects that are fun for kids to make," Joy says.

**Local knowledge:**

Portland was Victoria's first European settlement and boasts historic streetscapes, rugged landscapes and a colourful history. Why not visit Cape Bridgewater, with its captivating collection of petrified forests, blowholes and freshwater springs?



**Address:** 46 Percy Street, Portland Vic 3305

**Phone/fax:** (03) 5523 7190

**Email:** [joys\\_craftworx@dodo.com.au](mailto:joys_craftworx@dodo.com.au)

**Website:** [www.joyscraftworx.com.au](http://www.joyscraftworx.com.au)

## Gum Valley Patchwork

Cooriemungle

Linda White first opened the doors to this charming shop just south of Simpson four years ago. "I made my first quilt at the age of 16 and loved it," Linda says. "Then I began teaching patchwork to local farming ladies 15 years ago from my lounge room." Demand soon meant that Linda's



passion outgrew her home, and, along with her husband, she set about building her own shop on their dairy farm. The unique shop is modelled on an old church, circa 1892, and incorporates materials from the original building.

Known for friendly customer service, Gum Valley Patchwork is a delight for the stitcher after a personal touch. There are about 750 bolts of fabric on offer, including a large selection of Moda fabrics, as well as batting, a full range of Cosmo embroidery threads, Signature



sewing threads, a range of sewing notions, kits, patterns and some giftware items.

A variety of classes is held throughout the year in the large spacious classroom upstairs, and the area is also available for groups of up to 12 to use for their sewing get-togethers. Unless lunch is catered for, this is completely free! Bookings are essential so you don't miss out on experiencing Linda's wonderful hospitality.

**Local knowledge:**

"Nearby attractions include Newtons Ridge Winery, Apostle Whey Cheese and GORGE chocolates," Linda says. "Everything a girl needs — fabric, wine, cheese and chocolate!"

**Address:** 486 Princetown Road, Cooriemungle Vic 3268

**Phone:** 0427 943 201

**Website:**

[www.gumvalleypatchwork.typepad.com](http://www.gumvalleypatchwork.typepad.com)