

# On the road

## NORTHERN AND COASTAL NSW

### TOUR GUIDE

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GOLD COAST

PORT MACQUARIE

## 1. Port Macquarie STITCHED N FRAMED



**Where's Port Macquarie:** Situated half-way between Brisbane and Sydney on the mid-north coast of New South Wales, approximately four hours' drive from Sydney.

**Where in Port Macquarie:** 14 Acacia Avenue. Turn off the Pacific Highway onto the Oxley Highway. Turn right at Lake Road, then left at Fernhill Road, then right into Acacia Avenue.

**Who plays host:** Jenny Gibbs is the owner with help from Mary, Dawn, Kathy, Lark, Gail and Sue, who all come with many years of patchwork experience.

**Worth visiting because:** We love to promote and develop patchwork, quilting and textile art within Port Macquarie and the surrounding areas. Our store is fully stocked with ranges of quilting products and haberdashery and we are a dealership for Janome sewing machines and the Handi Quilter Sweet 16. The shelves are lined with irresistible top-quality fabrics, specialising in Moda, reproductions and moderns.

**What we recommend:** We offer a very large workshop area where social groups meet and classes are held by local and well-known visiting tutors. Sue has her Gammill long-arm quilting machine in store to finish your masterpiece, and we provide a custom-framing service for all types of framing to suit your needs.

**Address:** 14 Acacia Avenue, Port Macquarie, NSW 2444

**Phone:** (02) 6581 3338

**Email:** [jenny@stitchednframed.com.au](mailto:jenny@stitchednframed.com.au)

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

## 2. Port Macquarie PATCHWORK IN PORT



**Where's Port Macquarie:** Located on the mid-north coast, about half way between Sydney and Brisbane.

**Where in Port Macquarie:** 79 Hastings River Drive. On the main drag into town, you can't miss us with the big 'red shed' on the Clifton Drive roundabout, next to JAX tyres, with on-site parking.

**Who plays host:** Jennifer and Geoff run the shop together.

**Worth visiting because:** We have owned our shop for three years and have loved every minute of it. More than 2,000 bolts

of fabric adorn our shelves, including batiks, reproductions, Christmas and Japanese prints. Our range of haberdashery includes products from Clover, Robson Anton and Gütermann, along with speciality buttons, patterns, English paper-piecing papers, embroidery supplies, lots of tools and bits and pieces. We're also an authorised dealer and repair centre for Bernina and Husqvarna Viking sewing machines, with spare parts and accessories for all brands also available. As a certified shop in Judy Niemeyer/Quiltworx, we carry exclusive patterns such as *Glacier Star*, *Mariners Compass* and *Paradise In Bloom*. Jennifer is a certified instructor for Quiltworx.com and conducts regular Quiltworx classes, which are always fun to attend. Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with what's happening in store.

**What we recommend:** We stock the best range of batiks on the mid-north coast. We also have a range of small, quick and easy projects available for holiday sewers to pick up on their travels. Visitors are welcome to join our Sew & Go group on Wednesdays and our Bag Club and Quiltworx Club are also really popular.

**Address:** 79 Hastings River Dr, Port Macquarie, NSW 2444

**Phone:** (02) 6583 3257

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

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

## 3. 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. 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. 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:** Last year, we 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 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](mailto:conniesfabrics@outlook.com)

## 4. Coffs Harbour NESTING NEEDLES FABRIC & PATCHWORK

**Where's Coffs Harbour:** Located on the mid-north coast, Coffs Harbour is a beautiful coastal holiday destination approximately half-way between Brisbane and Sydney.

**Where in Coffs Harbour:** Shop 5, Central Arcade, 28-32 Harbour Drive. Turn into Harbour Drive from the Pacific Highway, right in the middle of town. Nesting Needles is on the southern side of the street – look for the Bellissimo Coffee Shop and Golden Hot Bread shops: we are located at the end of the arcade that runs between these two shops.

**Who plays host:** Lisa, Ross, Justine, Sue and Jenny.

**Worth visiting because:** You'll be welcomed by our friendly and helpful staff, who are always on hand with advice. The store is full of beautiful fabrics, precuts, books, patterns, notions, bag accessories and kits. Our fabrics include Moda, Tilda, Lecien, FreeSpirit, Cosmo, Olympus, Penny Rose, Marcus and Maywood Studio. We also have a range of threads from Cosmo and Cottage Garden Threads. New students are always welcome to our modern, spacious and bright teaching environment. Classes are run weekly, fortnightly, monthly and bimonthly, in a range of techniques, including patchwork and quilting, fashion design, crochet and embroidery. We also run weekend workshops and host guest tutors. Feel free to ask our staff for any advice on projects, fabric choices or which class would best suit you.



**What we recommend:** Portable sashiko panels and threads along with our English paper-piecing kits, are great ideas for people on the go, especially if you need a small project to take with you on your travels.

**Address:** Shop 5 Central Arcade, 28-32 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450.

**Phone:** 0400 055 989

**Email:** [lisa@nestingneedles.com.au](mailto:lisa@nestingneedles.com.au)

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

## 5. Maclean SEW EXCITED



**Where's Maclean:** About 40 minutes' drive north of Grafton, turn left at Ferry Park or left turn just over the Clarence River bridge if coming from the north.

**Where in Maclean:** 237 River Street. We are very easy to find at the middle of the main street, opposite the Maclean Hotel.

**Who plays host:** Nel Matheson with the invaluable assistance of Chris Bale.

**Worth visiting because:** We're both experienced in a wide variety of needlecrafts, so the shop reflects our areas of interest, and we pride ourselves on friendly and personal service, with help always at hand. In store, we have a wide range of fabrics for dressmaking and patchwork, heaps of haberdashery, sewing needles and everything for your quilting and embroidery needs. You'll find summer wools in stock, with patterns for knitting and crochet available, and we host a knitting and crochet group on Tuesday afternoons. We are also a Janome dealer, with a comprehensive range of machines and accessories available, and we're lucky to have the services of a great sewing-machine mechanic available. Groups are always welcome to visit: just let us know in advance, and we will be ready with a cuppa and some specials for you.

**What we recommend:** We love every corner of our shop, especially our patchwork fabrics, which are affordable and varied in style. We have a complete range of Simplicity patterns to go with our range of dressmaking fabrics. We also have a library of magazines and pattern books available to flick through when you visit.

**Address:** 237 River Street, Maclean, NSW 2463

**Phone:** (02) 6645 1480

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

## 6. Lismore RAINBOW PATCHWORK



**Where's Lismore:** This subtropical city located at the joining of Richmond River and Leicester Creek is the commercial heart of the Northern Rivers of NSW.

**Where in Lismore:** 75 Union Street. Turn off the Bruxner Highway into South Lismore. We are on the opposite side of the road to the railway station and right next to the post office.

**Who plays host:** Karen and Glenda are able to assist you with your patchwork needs.

**Worth visiting because:** We are a specialist patchwork store, carrying about 3,000 bolts of fabrics and a beautiful range of

Aurifil threads, along with products, tools and notions for your patchwork needs, including a range of wideback fabrics and battings. You'll find a large selection of fabric coordinates, including the Jinny Beyer Palette and 'Toscana' by Northcott as well as solids, including Bella Solids by Moda and Cotton Supreme by RJR, and we also have a large range of neutral whites and creams. We have batiks galore, an extensive range of Kaffe Fassett fabrics, and just to name some of our new ranges, we have 'Autumntree' and 'Sweetheart' ranges from Tilda, 'Snippits' by Sarah Fielke and 'Stella' by Lotta Jansdotter. As a Judy Niemeyer certified shop, we carry many of her patterns, including the most recent Technique of the Month quilt, *Paradise in Blooms*, and we also host classes for Judy Niemeyer quilts. If you need help with your quilting, we have a Gammill long-arm quilting machine fitted with a Statler Stitcher, which is usually busy stitching away as you browse the shop.

**What we recommend:** We have many kits available for kids' quilts, including a new *Hungry Caterpillar* quilt designed by Karen and exclusive to Rainbow Patchwork.

**Address:** 75 Union Street, South Lismore, NSW 2480

**Phone:** (02) 6622 3003

**Email:** info@rainbowpatchwork.com.au

**Website:** rainbowpatchwork.com.au

## 7. Glen Innes GLEN FABRIC BARN

**Where's Glen Innes:** Situated in the Northern Tablelands, known as the Celtic capital of Australia, Glen Innes is home to the Australian Standing Stones.

**Where in Glen Innes:** 178 Grey Street. You'll find us in the main street of town, two doors north of the Grey and Wentworth Streets roundabout, right next door to the florist.

**Who plays host:** Fi is the current owner, for the past 18 months, and brings with her a great passion for all things crafty and is joined by her not-so-scary mother-in-law, Kath. Between the two of us, we have a combined experience in handcrafts of 90 years, so we can definitely help you out with any crafting problems you might have.

**Worth visiting because:** We stock a lot more than expected, from fabrics to curtains, haberdashery, fashion fabrics, patterns, sewing machines, furniture, bric-a-brac and more. You'll be in for a surprise when you stop by. Fi teaches classes on the weekends, but it's always best to phone in advance for dates, times and what type of class we're running. If you can't make it to our classes, Fi is always happy to teach at other times that fit into your schedule, and she is more than happy to assist you with colour choice, design or starting points for project ideas. Follow us on Facebook to check out our new arrivals, specials and class calendar.



**What we recommend:** If you need some quick repairs done while on your travels, we offer a full range of alteration services and we usually have a turnaround of a few days.

**Address:** 178 Grey Street, Glen Innes, NSW 2370

**Phone:** (02) 6732 7000 **Email:** frobits4@bigpond.com

## 8. Armidale GET STITCHED

**Where's Armidale:** Half way between Sydney and Brisbane on the New England Highway, Armidale is the highest city in the Northern Tablelands district.

**Where in Armidale:** 2/118 Dangar Street. The main street through town, Dangar Street will take you down past the cathedral. Through the roundabout, and we are the bright orange store on the left. There's parking on the street, but we do have a big carpark at the back of the store with a longer time limit.

**Who plays host:** You'll be greeted by Karyn and, on a Friday, by Liz as well.

**Worth visiting because:** Get Stitched is a unique little store, where our line of patterns and kits are entirely designed and made by Karyn. We have patterns and kits for quilts of all sizes, as well as bags, runners and cushions. Our shop is bursting with fabrics down one side of the shop and our haby along the other. Little projects are displayed above the cabinets, while bigger quilts hang in the front of the store and along the walls of the classroom, providing constant inspiration. Nowhere is off limits, and you can always feel free to wander through the class and have a chat; after all, that's what it's all about – inspiration and motivation.

**What we recommend:** For lovers of appliqué, a great lightbox is a must. We have A3 and A4 sizes available, and they're lightweight, portable and fabulous to work on. Also, Karyn's latest block of the



month design, *Butterflies and Gum Leaves*, runs over six months and is \$29 plus \$3 postage per month, or as a complete kit for \$174 plus \$14 p&h. The kits are mostly precut. Final size is 48 x 56in.

**Address:** 2/118 Dangar Street, Armidale, NSW 2350

**Phone:** (02) 6771 5122

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

## 9. Tamworth STITCH BETWEEN THE BRIDGES



### Where's

#### Tamworth:

Tamworth straddles the Peel River and is a major regional centre for New England. It's approximately 318km from the Queensland border, and about five hours from Sydney.

### Where in

**Tamworth:** 9-11 Bridge Street.

Coming from Sydney, we are on the left-hand side before reaching town, and heading from Armidale, we're on the right-hand side – located between the bridges!

**Who plays host:** You'll be welcomed by Maureen or Jane. Max, Maureen's little dog, will meet you on arrival if he's at work that day.

**Worth visiting because:** Not only is Tamworth known for the Golden Guitar and Country Music Festival, but Stitch Between

The Bridges is the largest patchwork shop in country NSW. Over the last three years, we've continued to expand our stock to supply quilters and crafters with the largest range of fabrics in the northwest area. Not only do we have ranges from Moda, Northcott, Robert Kaufman, Tilda and Red Rooster, but we also have a great range of Asian-inspired fabrics and sashiko. We always stock complete ranges, so it is easy to mix and match, and we are happy to help with your fabric selection. You'll find a huge range of buttons, ribbons, threads, patterns and haberdashery for crafters of all levels to choose from. Our complete range of kits cover beginners to advanced quilters. Classes are held every week to help you learn or master your skills, and specialist tutors, including international teachers, present workshops in store. We have a long-arm quilting machine to give your work a professional finish. Sign up for our newsletter and like us on Facebook to keep up to date with what is happening in store.

**What we recommend:** Everyone loves our range of table runners and sashiko. We add new runners regularly to keep our range diverse and interesting.

**Address:** 9-11 Bridge Street, Tamworth, NSW 2340

**Phone/fax:** (02) 6765 4138

**Email:** [stitchbtbtamworth@gmail.com](mailto:stitchbtbtamworth@gmail.com)

## 10. Gunnedah GUNNEDAH FASHION FABRICS



**Where's Gunnedah:** About an hour's drive west of one of the biggest regional centres of western NSW, Tamworth.

**Where in Gunnedah:** 177 Conadilly Street. Located very centrally in the main street of Gunnedah, right at the pedestrian crossing opposite Subway.

**Who plays host:** Owned by Kathie Spence, with the help of a lovely lady, Therese. Kathie has always sewn, and is a passionate patchworker. Therese is a qualified teacher and

runs our sewing classes. We look forward to welcoming you with our old-fashioned country service when you visit.

**Worth visiting because:** We have a large range of patchwork fabrics from various designers, one of our favourites being Moda, however we stock many different designers. We also carry a range of daywear fabrics, including the Rossini range of beautiful individual pieces. You'll find a very extensive range of haberdashery, ribbons, trims and laces, as well as all the necessary sewing accessories, including Simplicity and Kwiksew patterns. We sell Janome sewing machines and have a service mechanic who visits the shop regularly to service and repair all makes and models of machines. Join in on one of our sewing classes with Therese; they run on the second Thursday of each month. We also run specialty patchwork classes. Just get in touch with us for more information.

**What we recommend:** Come and take a look at our beautiful new range from Rossini Fabrics, as well as our tubed buttons, trims and laces. We also have a large selection of flannels, including tractor prints for kids, and for your home decorating, we have a beautiful range of canvas and linens.

**Address:** 177 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah, NSW 2380

**Phone:** (02) 6742 1235

**Email:** [gff@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gff@bigpond.net.au)