

FOCUS ON ... NEEDLE NY-DLE NOO, Western Australia

Needle Ny-dle Noo is the culmination of a long time dream for Ros Cumming, the owner of this charming needlework shop in Perth, Western Australia.

Ros takes over the story from here ...

I have loved and been fascinated with many types of embroidery for years.

I completed my first piece of embroidery (needlepoint) at age 18 and have never really been without a project since then. Knitting is another passion but not as consuming. I have had a small group of stitching friends for many years and Thursday afternoons have been my therapy with some very special people. My first stitching holiday was on Vancouver Island and it opened a whole new world to me.

I have never owned a shop before but have been a frequenter of needlework shops forever, so have embarked on this project with some firm ideas of what I would like to achieve and also what I would like to present to my customers. I believe it is necessary to watch carefully the changing tastes in needlework and to be prepared to support new initiatives and concepts and to embrace new ideas.



Ros Cumming

My shop is located in Perth, Western Australia and as we are a relatively isolated city it is important for my customers to be able to visit the shop and get some idea of what is happening and available elsewhere in the stitching world. I have travelled regularly to the wholesale needlework markets in Nashville over the last few years, which has given me the opportunity to make some wonderful friends and also to keep up with changing trends.

Selfishly it has also given me the chance to visit my sons regularly who have a studio just outside the city.



Christy

I am very fortunate to have Janie Hubble of The Cats Whisker Design Studio as my very dear friend and mentor. Her enthusiasm and energy keep me motivated to ensure my shop is edgy but tasteful.

It is so valuable to have such a creative influence on hand, however she is always open to new ideas and not limited to her own design style, she really enjoys the creativity of others too. We spend many an hour together brain-storming and I do believe the synergy is valuable for us both.

The latest project we are offering is a
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Focus On Needle Ny-dle Noo (cont'd)

weekend retreat in a wonderful bush setting about an hour from Perth. The retreat project is quintessentially Australian and the use of the Australian Scissors® scissors is an inspirational touch on Janies' behalf.

Needle Ny-dle Noo stocks some wonderful threads including Dinky-Dyes, Needlepoint Inc and Gentle Art Sampler Threads, as well as an Australian mohair wool called Mogear.

We have a large range of stitching fabrics with something to tempt most stitchers, with the sparkly fabrics proving very popular. We also carry a range of Australian wool blanketing for those beautiful embroidered blankets.

My accessories cabinet is a great treat for those stitchers looking for small gifts for their stitching friends.

Having the stitching table as an integral part of the shop is a new concept in Perth and is proving to be popular, we often have stitchers drop in for a couple of hours and

they are producing some inspirational work.

I am very lucky to have some wonderful staff to support me, Christy is a beautiful stitcher with a lot of valuable knowledge and endless patience; nothing is too much trouble for her.

Jess is new to actual embroidery, but is studying textiles and fashion at University; she has mastered the cross stitch technique easily and is producing some beautiful work and now plans to tackle thread painting.

Emma, my daughter, had never stitched before, but is really enjoying her introduction to embroidery.

These girls all enjoy my customers sharing their projects with them and are happy to make suggestions and advise on colours etc.

Needle Ny-dle Noo is located at Shoppe 18 in The Stitchers Village ... so pop in when you have a chance - Ros and her staff would love to see you.

For a chance to win a gift certificate worth \$100 to spend at Needle Ny-dle Noo , turn to Page 12 and enter the competition!

What's New In The World of Needlework! *or ... A Little Retail Therapy is Always Good For The Soul!*

GOING, GOING GONE! Bookmark by Jen Funk Weber Funk & Weber Designs

Celebrating the partnership between Needle and ThREAD: Stitching for Literacy and TNNA's Stitch N' Pitch program, Funk & Weber Designs releases the first Stitching for Literacy baseball bookmark pattern which is sure to be a hit with baseball fans.

The design is stitched on a Tokens & Trifles Trinkets Star card so it's easy to transport and stitch in hand at, say, a Stitch N' Pitch baseball game or a high school or Little



League game. The kit comes with all the materials needed to complete the bookmark: Tokens & Trifles Trinkets Star card, needle, fiber, backing, Treasure Tape, ribbon, pattern, and instructions.

Visit the Funk & Weber website for an illustrated finishing tutorial and further ideas for personalizing the bookmark. As with all Stitching for Literacy patterns, kits, and classes, Funk & Weber Designs donates 10% of profits to literacy programs. For more information head to the website at:

<http://funkandweber.com/fw/designsk.html#kits>

NEEDLE NY-DLE NOO

NEEDLEWORK HOLIDAY

26-28 MARCH, 2010

Flowers for Matilda

Dilly Bag and Stitching Accessories



It all started with a pair of Scissoroo scissors ...

and is in honour of the women who came from the gentle surroundings of the English countryside to settle on remote sheep stations in the harsh Australian outback.

**PLACES ARE LIMITED!
BOOK NOW TO AVOID
DISAPPOINTMENT**

Enquiries & Bookings:
ros@needlenydenoo.com.au

**Join Us at Nathaniel's Rest in
Mundaring, Western Australia for a
wonderful weekend of stitching.**

JAN HOUTMAN A LIFE IN CROSS STITCH

A biography of Jan's life by Theo Spaan and Willem Riesmeljer.

This wonderful book contains photographs of Jan's early years and of his samplers and includes two charts of not yet released samplers; the 'Ora et Labora Sampler' and the 'Every Home Has A Cross To Bear Sampler'— Jan's last stitched sampler.

The book is 180 pages and the text is in both Dutch and English, and the official book launch will be December 11th, 2009 with the Mayor of Aerdt will receiving the first copy of the book.

All sales will go towards the Jan Houtman Foundation for the preservation of the sampler collection.

From Ina van Maar ...

Our Sampler Master, Inspirational Always ... This was written on the bouquet ribbon for Jan's memorial in 2007 donated by the members of the Samplerlife Group.

When Theo asked me to write an introduction for the new Jan Houtman book my mind went back to when I first heard of Jan Houtman and how he had touched so many lives.

In 2004, a member of the Samplerlife asked if anyone knew how to get hold of a chart called 'Patchwork', by a Dutch designer, Jan Houtman.

I volunteered to try and find out more. The search didn't take long and a call was made. Not knowing my search would lead to Jan breaking through as a much loved designer overseas. Soon enough I was on the phone weekly, chatting with Jan and Theo, with questions about his designs by stitchers from all over the world.

That Autumn Jan and Theo came over here for a short holiday and we arranged a



meeting, I was greeted like an old friend, not someone they were meeting in person for the first time.

We chatted and laughed a lot and all too soon it was time for me to go home, but not before we had arranged for me to visit Heammaeker.

When I arrived at Aerdt a month later, walking through the exhibit doors was like walking through the gates of Sampler Heaven, so many samplers stitched by just one man! This was the first of many visits and each time I wrote about my visit to the group, creating more questions and enquiries about Jan's designs.

Soon Jan was given the honorary title of 'Sampler Master' by our members. Everyone agreed his way of creating samplers was unique. You could tell of the love he had for letters and colours just by



Jan Houtman

looking at one of his samplers. And more importantly, he encouraged stitchers to personalise his designs and play with their own colour scheme. He probably never realised how much he influenced stitchers to go their own way instead of following strict colour directions that usually come with a chart.

Jan also wrote "When stitching a sampler you have to consider three things, a sampler is built out of motifs, letters and patterns. This can be extended with data of an anniversary or other festive happenings. A sampler should have some kind of order in it".



Some of Jan's Samplers On Display

This great designer leaves a wonderful legacy behind. He will live on forever in all his beautiful designs.

I hope you will enjoy reading this book, marvel at his talent as a designer and stitcher, and when possible, visit the Heammaeker in person to see Jan's samplers.

The revenue of this book will be used for the preservation of Jan's samplers. Available as pre-order from European Cross Stitch, and in Europe, available through Theo Spaan-Houtman.

LAST MINUTE GIFT IDEA!

LOOKING FOR A LAST MINUTE GIFT for a stitching friend, or a little something to spoil yourself? How about a class at The Stitchers Village?

Jen Funk Weber's '**Embroider Me - Bracelet Basics and Beyond**' class could be just the ticket!

Get your needlework off the wall and into your life! Stitch a fabulous, fully customized bracelet to wear or share.

Four lessons will guide you step-by-step from start to finish from the decorative stitch, edge finishing, back finishing and stringing beads and clasps.



Once you've learned the bracelet basics, you can alter the decorative stitch, change fabrics and fibers, and add beads and charms to create an infinite number of one-of-a-kind, perfectly sized bracelets.

Download instructions, diagrams, and images, then participate in group discussions and ask questions in our private TSV forum. Basic knowledge of needlework techniques required: beginning and ending threads, reading a diagram, etc.

Jen's class is scheduled to run from January 11 to February 7, 2010.



TAG, YOU'RE IT! by Jen Funk Weber, Funk & Weber Designs



Holidays and handcrafts go together like turkey and stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, pumpkin pie and whipped cream. Many of us would love to give everyone on our gift list a beautiful, personalized, handcrafted item, but unless we've been working on this goal all year, the chances of pulling it off now are slim. Or are they?

As many of you know, I enjoy noodling. I don't mean casual Australian gem hunting, though I enjoy that, too, but rather needlework doodling. I also enjoy embellishing common objects with needlework to make them more interesting, unique, and fun. Holiday season, or any occasion that involves cards and gifts, is a great time to put noodles to use—as card and gift tags.

Hand-stitched noodles applied to cards and gifts turn a simple envelope or wrapped package into something interesting, unique, and special.

But like Ginsu knives, there's more. You know how young kids can enjoy the box a toy comes in as much as the toy itself? Okay, maybe not just young kids; I still collect boxes and containers to play with. Ahem. Well,

recipients of your noodle tags are likely to enjoy them as much as the card or gift they embellish. In fact, I've seen my own noodle tags hanging on friends' holiday trees, lamps, picture frames, and taped to a fish tank years after they were received, long after the card was tossed and the gift consumed, broken, or worn out.

You can make a tag out of any noodle. If you're like me and you have a stash of noodles, cut them out, thread narrow ribbon or metallic thread through a corner or edge, and embellish an envelope or package.



If you're not like me, and you don't have a stash of noodles, what's wrong with you?! Don't fret, there's hope. I've got a gift to you. Using your tiniest fabric scraps, you can whip up some of these star noodles between now and the holiday. Go to

...

<http://www.funkandweber.com/fw/tags.html>

In fact, these are so quick and easy you really could have hand-made gifts for everyone on your list.

Wishing you a joyful December!



TSV Twelve Days of Christmas Competition

Christmas is on the way and here at the Village we plan to celebrate by counting down last few days until Christmas and we have some great prizes up for grabs! Each day from December 11, check the scrolling message board on The Stitchers' Village homepage to see what that day's designer gift is, then e-mail the designer's name and gift offered to editorTSV@stitchersvillage.com for your chance to win the gift! *Make sure you check back daily as there will be a different gift offered each day.*



The TSV Christmas Competition Designers



DECEMBER 11 - MY BIG TOE DESIGNS

My Big Toe Designs offers a wide range of products for every level of stitcher. Our patterns include fun, quirky, faith based and inspirational cross stitch designs. There's something for everyone! For accessories we offer scissor fobs, thread pickers, needle threaders, marking pins and thread hoppers in many sizes and colors. Each is made with high quality materials, Swarovski Crystals, and glass and gemstone beads. **You can see our entire line at www.MyBigToeDesigns.com.**



DECEMBER 12 - CROSS-EYED KAT

Cross Eyed Kat has an eclectic collection of designs for the cross-stitch connoisseur. The designs are inspired by art, travel, history and fantasy. So check out the Ancient World Samplers, Arty-cats, and amazing dragons! Find unique things to cross stitch with Cross Eyed Kat designs!

Visit our website: www.crosseyedkat.com



DECEMBER 13 - GLENDON PLACE

Glendon Place is a cross-stitch and counted thread design company offering unique and finely-detailed charts for the most discriminating stitcher, as well as the occasional needleart enthusiast. Some designs simply require ordinary floss and a solid color of fabric, while others are more challenging and suggest using an over-dyed fabric, and may incorporate variegated floss, metallic braid and embellishments such as seed beads, buttons or glass/crystal treasures. Choosing to stitch a Glendon Place design will result in a needleart piece of heirloom quality that will be enjoyed by you, family and friends for years to come. See all the Glendon Place designs at www.glendonplace.net.



DECEMBER 14 - ARACHNE'S SILKEN WEB

Living, working and stitching in New York City, Theresa Racht and Cynthia Aquila began Arachne's Silken Web in 2002. Their designs reflect a love of antique samplers and embroidery, as well as the enjoyment of Christmas, whimsical bees and other creatures.

Visit their website: www.arachnessilkenweb.com

The TSV Christmas Competition Designers



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DECEMBER 15 - HEIRLOOM EMBROIDERIES

Carol Tinson of Heirloom Embroideries designs embroideries that reflect our love of embroidery today, with a hint of history that would be Heirlooms for future generations. Carol's main interest is Counted Stitch samplers which she feels always invites you to learn something new whilst being creative at the same time. Her other love is teaching embroidery, sharing skills and watching people's confidence grow as they complete something they felt they could never do.

Carol teaches classes at The Stitching Village website in the Village School.

Visit Carol's website at www.heirloom-embroideries.co.uk



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DECEMBER 16 - PRAIRIE MOON

Sue and Barb, who own Prairie Moon, are sisters. Barb, who lives in West Texas, was a nationally successful fabric artist who has now turned her devotion to cross stitch design. Sue, who lives in Indiana, is a staff attorney for a federal judge, and brings a knowing eye for the market and a sense of style to the design process. Together they produce the wonderful designs that are 'Prairie Moon'.

You can find all their wonderful (and sometimes offbeat) designs on their website at www.prairiemoon3.com



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DECEMBER 17 - TWISTED OAKS DESIGNS

Twisted Oaks Designs started by accident 5 years ago when a shop owner asked me to design a monthly project that would be unlike those she had been offering. The Spring Bunny Basket Topper proved to be a hit and was followed by other off the wall designs. Since then I have made it my passion to design projects that the stitcher will find unique as well as challenging but with directions that make assembly a cinch and give the stitcher a profound sense of accomplishment. It has been my pleasure to offer my talents to you the stitcher.



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DECEMBER 18 - SAMPLER COVE

My name is Diane Jourdan and I design under the name Sampler Cove. Currently I'm in Thailand on an expat assignment and have been given the nick name Thai Di. I've been designing for about 6 years now and I have to say that samplers and band samplers in particular are my passion. I will have two new band samplers and a set of blackwork accessories for the Nashville 2010 show.

Please visit my website at <http://www.samplercovedesigns.com> to see the complete line of Sampler Cove designs.

The TSV Christmas Competition Designers



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DECEMBER 19 - DEBBEE'S DESIGNS

DebBee's Designs creates counted canvas, counted cross stitch, Hardanger, miniature punchneedle and specialty stitch samplers designs featuring large, easy to follow stitch diagrams and charts. Our latest venture is hand-painted canvas with stitch guides! We also create beaded stitching accessories to provide some "jewelry" for your tool box. DebBee's Designs distributes products made by Arkansas CARES, a residential substance abuse treatment program for women with their children; proceeds from Arkansas CARES products return to the program to provide dental co-pays that Medicaid doesn't cover. Lately we've begun teaching the women at CARES to stitch, hoping to ignite a love of stitching that will give them a creative outlet.

Debbee's Designs website: www.debbeesdesigns.com



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DECEMBER 20 - THE CAT'S WHISKERS & DINKY-DYES

Janie Hubble from The Cat's Whiskers Design Studio Pty Ltd and Jo Mason from Dinky-Dyes Threads and Designs are also the owners and 'back-room' girls of The Stitchers Village.

They wish you all a very, very happy festive season with loved ones and friends, and hope that 2010 brings peace, joy and prosperity to you all.



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DECEMBER 21 - THE CAT'S WHISKERS DESIGN STUDIO

Designs from The Cat's Whiskers are bright, often three dimensional, and a lot of fun. Janie is a firm believer that you can take the humble cross-stitch and turn it into something wonderful ...and along with a sprinkling of specialty stitches she creates magical designs which embroiderers of all ages and levels of expertise can enjoy. Janie never quite knows what she will design next, as there are so many ideas floating about in her head ... but you can rest assured it will be something quite different, useful (she likes things that are useful) and probably three dimensional! Pop on over to her website at www.thecatwhiskers.net.au to discover Janie's designs.



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DECEMBER 22 - DINKY-DYES THREADS & DESIGNS

Established in 2002, Dinky-Dyes produces a stunning range of top quality, hand dyed stranded silk in 170 colours, ribbons and silk perles as well as stranded cotton and perle threads. They also have their own range of quality scissors in many pretty colours and shapes, that are very affordable. Dinky-Dyes Designs is the design side of the company which produces several different collections of cross stitch designs. All their products, and those of the designers they distribute, can be seen on the **Dinky-Dyes website - www.dinkydyes.com**

CHRISTMAS IN AUSTRALIA ...



White Christmas

I'm Dreaming Of 'White Christmas' ...

Christmas in Australia just wouldn't be Christmas without that wonderful Aussie home-made sweet (candy) 'White Christmas' - filled with dried fruits, coconut and rice bubbles!

There's always a plate of this delicious confection to be found at every Christmas BBQ, gathering and get-together over the Christmas holidays.

Mention 'White Christmas' to older Australians and they will get that far away look in their eyes and they'll start to reminisce about Christmases past, and how the taste of home-made White Christmas reminds them of their Mums!

Now, I know that cooking measurements in the US are different to those in Australia ... so I've hunted for a recipe that is in cups and pounds and ounces.

I also know that the ingredient that binds all of the delicious bits and pieces together 'coppa' (pronounced with a long 'o' as in broke) is probably a specialty ingredient that might be a bit hard to find in the US.

'Coppa' is an Australian brand name for solidified coconut oil that remains solid at room temperature. Available in blocks or cubes. Coppa is white, but becomes clear when melted. Marketed as Kremelta in New Zealand and Palmin in Germany.

So, I've included a 'traditional' recipe that hopefully will work for those in the US, and I've also found a 'White Christmas Fudge' recipe that is an approximation of our Aussie recipe, made from ingredients which will be easier to source in the US.

Hope you enjoy making this wonderful Aussie Christmas treat!



TRADITIONAL AUSSIE WHITE CHRISTMAS from: www.sunshinerecipes.com

Ingredients

- ½ lb coppa
- 1 cup coconut
- 1 cup rice bubbles
- 1 cup powdered milk
- 1 cup sifted icing sugar (confectioners sugar)
- 1 cup mixed fruits, including cherries and nuts

Method

Put the coppa into a saucepan and melt it. While the coppa is melting put all the other ingredients into a large bowl and mix them together. Now take the melted coppa and pour into the other ingredients in the bowl and stir until it is well combined. Line a small flat baking tray with greaseproof paper and press the mixture into it and put it into the refrigerator and chill until firm. Take the tray of White Christmas out of the refrigerator when it has set and cut it into squares.

WHITE CHRISTMAS FUDGE

Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon plus 1/4 cup butter, divided
- 2-1/2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 2/3 cup milk
- 12 ounces white baking chocolate, chopped
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
- 3/4 cup sliced almonds, toasted
- 1/4 cup chopped dried apricots
- 1/4 cup dried cherries
- 1/4 cup dried cranberries

Method

Line a 9-in. square pan with foil and grease the foil with 1 teaspoon butter; set aside. In a heavy saucepan, combine the confectioners' sugar, milk and remaining butter. Cook and stir over medium heat until combined. Bring to a boil; boil for 5 minutes without stirring. Reduce heat to low; stir in white chocolate and extract. Cook and stir until chocolate is melted. Remove from the heat. Fold in the almonds, apricots, cherries and cranberries. Immediately spread into prepared pan. Refrigerate for 2 hours or until set. Using foil, lift fudge out of pan. Discard foil; cut fudge into 1-in. squares. Store in the refrigerator.

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Photo by: Taste of Home

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SHOPPES IN THE VILLAGE

Shop 2 - HANGING BY A THREAD

Patrick's Woods Classes

June 12 and 13, 2010

Registrations now open for both of these classes. You can see the beautiful class pieces on our website.

Shop 14 - TRADITIONAL STITCHES

On-line Beginner Counted Canvas Work class beginning January 2010.

This project is a Traditional Stitches Exclusive designed by Carolyn Mitchell. It is the perfect small project to introduce you to canvaswork materials and stitches with step by step instruction.

Shop 29 - STITCHERS WORKSHOP

December Celebrations ...

Pat has all her in-stock punchneedle supplies out on special for the month of December, until sold. Head over to Shop 29 to discover a wonderful bargain or two ... or three ...!

DECEMBER SHOP COMPETITION

NEEDLE NY-DLE NOO
needlework nirvana!

Name the project and it's designer on the NNN website which is available to purchase as a kit exclusively from Needle Ny-dle Noo.

Email your answers to editortsv@stitchersvillage.com by **December 30, 2009** for a chance to win a **AUD100 gift certificate** to spend at Needle Ny-dle Noo!

There will be no mid-month newsletter in December ...
Next Newsletter will be available
1 January, 2010



NOVEMBER COMPETITION WINNER!

Congratulations go to **Kim Mummert** who correctly answered the crossword questions set by Maeann & Gary from BushMountain Stitchery & Framing
Kim wins a Gift Certificate worth \$100 to spend at BushMountain!

Answers to the crossword: **Across:** 3. Arctic Circle, 4. Gloom, 7. Needlework, 8. Quaker, 11. Heart, 12. Bush, 13. Stocking, 14. Angel **Down:** 1. Project, 2. Permin, 5. Lizzie Kate, 6. Ira, 9. Moonlight, 10. Fractals, 12. Bargello



Everyone at
The Stitchers Village
wish you a joyous festive season
full of love, laughter and
time to stitch!

THE STITCHERS' VILLAGE

2010 Bookmark Challenge Contest

The Stitchers' Village has accepted the Needle and ThREAD: Stitching for Literacy 2010 Bookmark Challenge, and now we need your help.

The **Needle and ThREAD: Stitching for Literacy** program seeks to encourage and reward kids for reading—and introduce them to embroidery at the same time. Bookmark Challenge participants (like us) collect hand-stitched bookmarks and donate them to libraries and schools during Children's Book Week, where they are awarded to kids for reading accomplishments.

Will you help us put hand-stitched bookmarks into kids' hands and books by stitching a bookmark?

Naturally, we at The Stitchers' Village want to turn this into a contest, complete with prizes ...

The contest rules are simple:

1. Stitch a bookmark. Any pattern, technique, fabric, fiber, embellishments, etc. Every bookmark counts.
2. Send it to **The Stitchers' Village,**
12819 Bedford Falls Drive,
Cypress, TX 77429

between now and **May 6, 2010** for a chance to win a prize. Every bookmark receives one entry into the contest. If you stitch and send ten bookmarks, your name will be entered ten times into the drawing.

On May 7, 2010, winners will be randomly drawn from all entries. The Grand Prize winner will win a **Complete Set of Dinky Dyes Silk Embroidery Thread in a Stitching for Literacy Zippered Tote.** Five Runners Up will receive their choice of **twenty-five (25) skeins of Dinky Dyes 6-strand embroidery silk, and a Cat's Whiskers Design Studio chart or kit.**

Please help us promote literacy and share the joy of needlework.
As Jen Funk Weber, the Stitching for Literacy founder, says,
“Reading and stitching make the world a better place.”