

Regional Representative

Taranaki/Wanganui/ Manawatu

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Memo 146

February 2026

February memo and Conference Newsletter for our Region

February is here with its wild weather. Fortunately, the rain predicted for Feilding didn't happen.

Early in February I spent time with the New Plymouth Guild attending their monthly meeting and then a stitch day the next morning. At both meetings I spoke about how I came to be an embroiderer, my role as Regional Rep and Conference Convenor. I enjoyed meeting with members I knew and getting the opportunity to speak to those who are unable to attend regional meetings. I look forward to doing the same in South Taranaki and Opunake.

Guild displays. How is yours going? Manawatu have an exciting project underway, and I was given a sneak preview of what New Plymouth are up to. Shortly you will get notification from me or the Executive about confirming whether you are putting in a display. Two things to remember. It can be up to one metre square and must have fluffy Velcro on the back. The boards provided have the loops. Don't make it too heavy or the Velcro might not support the display.

"No touch" signs. I saw a couple of interesting designs in New Plymouth. Hopefully they will be completed. I would like to collect your "signs" at the Normanby Regional meeting on 2nd May. If not attending do give it to a member of your guild who is.

As a reminder: The background colour, technique, design, and whether words are used or not will be up to the individual. It is the basic message that is important. The design must fit within 4 inches by 6 inches (10cm x 15cm) –standard postcard size. Leave at least 2 inches (5 cm) of fabric around the design. I will provide a reinforced backing and tab. These are to be used with the guild displays in the Merchants Mall.

Classes by now I am sure that you have chosen these. Several classes still have spaces so if you are still thinking about this do it now!

Volunteering for Conference. Sandra is waiting to hear from you. Manawatu women are stepping up in good numbers to help but as this is a regional run conference we do need your assistance, but more importantly want your involvement. Remember if you aren't attending a class but are coming (hopefully you all are) to view the Exhibition and spend money in the Merchants Mall think about allocating time to help in the middle of the day.

Thank you again Wanganui guild for your help for the first 2 days, and to those volunteers who have already stepped forward.

Volunteers will be needed to assist in various areas including registration (Monday to Thursday), guild raffles, catering, parking, directing to venues, stitching at Square Edge. Remember free parking and your lunch are provided.

Contact Sandra on 0210439703, sandrahallsmocking@gmail.com

Raffle tickets. These are not selling very well. It is important to keep selling raffle tickets. I am sure you have family and friends who would be interested. These can be obtained through your guild committee or directly by emailing Felicity. conferenceraffle@gmail.com

Post Conference class. It has been confirmed that this class, “Indian Inspired Textiles” featuring traditional Indian embroidery techniques with Amarjeet Nandhra , will be in New Plymouth. It has been necessary to change the dates. They are now 21st and 22nd July. The cost of the class will be \$140.00 with not kit costs. A good price for two days of tutoring by an overseas tutor. Details with this memo. This class is in our region to acknowledge our commitment to running the conference. Only if the class is not filled will it be offered to other regions.

Stitch Summer. I hope you have something planned for this. It is a good way to advertise ourselves. Make sure you have information on hand about Conference.

During the past two weeks I have spoken to several groups of quilters and “slow stitchers” making sure they are aware of our conference classes that are on offer and about the Exhibition and Merchants mall. Every one of us can do our bit here. We all know people who belong to quilting groups or stitch with friends. Eyes light up when you mention the Merchants Mall!

Sixtus Lodge Manawatu Guild held it’s retreat at Sixtus Lodge last weekend. Trish Hughes ran classes in “How to cut and stitch a Peahole hem”. I attended this on the Saturday and although I thought I knew this technique I learnt lots! She is to be one of our tutors at Eltham next year. I hope to bring ideas of what she might teach to Normanby to get some feedback of what we do.

Sponsorship

I have spoken about various ways you can support our national conference. Sponsorship should be considered. As well as sending a Guild representative and support person can you afford to sponsor someone doing a class? This will provide a valuable opportunity for a guild member. If this is not for your guild how about financial sponsorship. Those guilds who do this are mentioned in the Threads magazine.

Keep stitching. There is lots to do!

Gloria Campbell, Regional Rep. and Conference 2026 Convenor

What is coming up in 2026

February 28 – Stitch Summer

March 27 – 29 2026 Great Escape.

July 4-9, 2026: ANZEG Threads of Connection Conference in Palmerston North.

Post Conference Class 21st, 22nd July. New Plymouth. (NB. This is mid week).

Colour challenge -Green. Form A July 24th 2026, Form B August 7th 2026