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August 2024 Memo #1

What an amazing start to my tenure as ANZEG President! All I can say is a huge congratulations to the A Stitch in Time Conference 2024 organising committee and the Otago Embroiderers' Guild for an amazing week in Dunedin. When announced, 2024 was going to be in the southern city, there were many murmurs of *"it's too cold in July down there"* or *"no one will go it won't be worth it"*! Well contrary to everyone's concerns, you our members proved them wrong and an amazing 343 people registered.

Dunedin turned on the weather, even though the wind was fresh some days, the sun shone and the view from the classrooms and Whitby Hall dining room was to die for. St Hilda's Collegiate School was definitely a hit with everyone, the warmth and light in the rooms along with the amazing tutors and projects had everyone buzzing. The incredibly knowledgeable speakers were inspiring and the spine-chilling sound of the bagpipes as you walked in on Saturday morning didn't disappoint. Then of course it wouldn't have been right without including Larnach Castle in the programme. The venue the 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner was stunning, the food delicious and the entertainment very animated. And I must say the haggis was nothing like I had imagined – quite tasty indeed!

Executive were kept very busy over the formal section of Conference, having full day meetings on Thursday prior to Association Weekend and the Monday after. I welcome our new Executive Members Jo Dixey (Education Coordinator), Jan Jackson (WBOP RR), Gloria Campbell (TWM RR) Margaret Rietema (Threads Editor) and Janna Young (Secretary). To have new blood and fresh ideas on any committee is a blessing and I know your enthusiasm and knowledge will help move us forward. To our Executive (or should I say friends) who have retired – enjoy your time doing what you and your whanau love and THANK YOU for your contribution to ANZEG!

We were excited and overwhelmed with the number of Study Assistant Grant applications. It is encouraging to know that our art is alive and in good hands. Congratulations to this year's recipients, the most ever given in one year, Jane Carroll, Caroline Strachan and Carol Connor we look forward to seeing what you bring back after your ventures.

Once again, the Open Forum section of the Association Weekend was a great success and to hear the robust discussion between members was rewarding. It proves that many Guilds/Members are all wanting to know answers to the same questions, and this is the perfect time to ask. Guilds, please remember ANZEG Executive are there to help in any way we can, many times we can't tell you what to do but we can guide you to help with your decision.

A part of my tenure, is to be open with members, to keep you informed on what your Executive do, the following is a list of some of the topics that were covered in the 2 meetings above:-

- Strategic Plan Review – keeping ahead of planning and making sure we are achieving our goals
- Finance Review – making sure ANZEG finance is working in the best interests of members
 - New Signatories for the bank
 - Investment and Insurance reviews
- Constitution – Charities Services, Policies & Procedures
- Guild concerns – covering any issues raised by Guilds and replying
- Legal Advice – answers to a legal question we needed assistance with
- Tours Coordinator – Wendy Johnstone appointed
- Threads Magazine, facebook pages – where to from here
- Education – Tutors, Modules, Resources
- MTM Meeting – 5-8th June 2025 Wellington
- 2026 Threads of Connection – Keynote Speaker

These 2 meetings are very important, we work hard, and it is very tiring but rewarding.



It was my pleasure in conjunction with Robyn Hart (NNI Rep) to award the **ANZEG Outstanding Service Award** to our President Trish Hughes. Nominated by Auckland Embroiderers' Guild, seconded by Embroiderers' & Lacemakers Guild, for Trish's commitment to embroidery in New Zealand during a 22-years' service to embroidery. This included Guild Vice & President for 6 years, NNI Rep on National Executive for 4 years and National President for 6 Years. Trish, you led by example, you were always calm and collected, never seemed to get ruffled. You were wise and thoughtful and your attention to detail got me out of a few pickles. Thank you and congratulations – well deserved.

Now we know everyone wanted to win the beautiful Vintage DMC Thread box raffle donated by Zweigart & DMC but sorry there could be only one winner and that was Barbara Smith of Dunedin, and Lynne Blake from Hamilton won 2nd prize \$250 voucher from Nevill Framing Studio. Congratulations ladies.

For me the best part of my fortnight in Dunedin, was catching up with the beautiful friends I have made on my Executive journey. Laughing, enjoying everyone's company and seeing the joy on participants faces, whether it be after purchasing from the merchant's mall, viewing the amazing 2024 National Exhibition or just joining together over wine and food.

Don't forget to view the National Exhibition online – Amanda has done some superb photography; every piece looks fabulous. Snippet of Jane Siddall's entry right: <https://www.embroiderynz.co.nz/gallery>



There is also a few 50th Celebration Needle Nannies available to purchase from our website. They were meant to be by pre-order only but we were so close to the next tier to reduce the individual cost we bought more. Cost is \$12.00 plus postage. Or contact me!


If you were one of the unlucky ones who caught the nasty bug that went through the event, I hope you are well on the way to recovery.

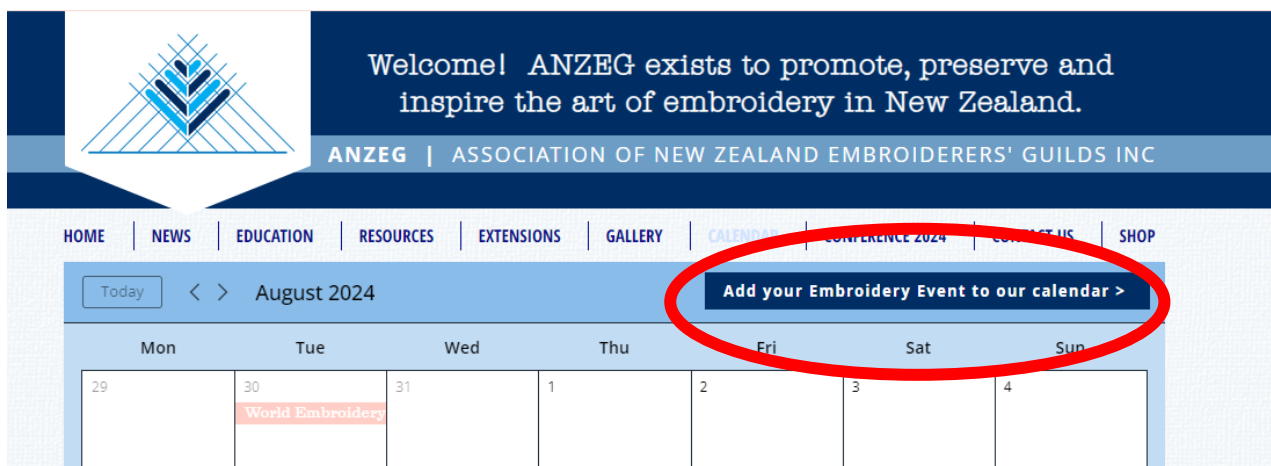
I can't wait - bring on Threads of Connection 2026 Conference in Palmerston North!

My first port of call as President was a lovely visit to Waimate for Canterbury Regions post-conference Trout class with Nikki Delpont-Wepener. The day was gorgeous and the ladies in the class were concentrating hard of mastering Nikki's techniques. Thank you, Nikki, for your bubbly style and precise tuition it was a pleasure to be able to attend. Safe travels in NZ.



I would also like to remind everyone, due to my busy schedule, if you are wanting me to consider attending any functions etc please let me know early. If I can make it I will, but please forgive me if I decline. I am associated with a lot of events and love organising them.

Finally, Executive and our resources can only work to it's full potential with assistance from you, our members. So, starting in simple steps, check out our website it has had a facelift and looking great thanks to Amanda and her hard work. But our calendar is looking a bit bare now. Help us out by completing the form marked  Click the link <https://www.embroiderynz.co.nz/calendar>



Thank you and remember respect our fellow stitchers and their work, we are one big family.

Happy stitching till next month.

Nga mihi nui



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