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Dear Guild Members

This is my final memo for the year. I know guilds are at various stages of winding down for the year and I hope you enjoy your end of year activities, challenges etc.

My first granddaughter was born four weeks ago and as she and her parents live just up the road I've had the joy of seeing her most days and helping my daughter, as well as being reminded how full on life is with a baby.

## Regional news

Much has been happening recently.

- Congratulations to Robyn Kitchen (Upper Hutt Guild) for passing her **ANZEG Colour Module**.
- Jo Dixey (designer & tutor) and Cathrine Llyod (representing the region's guilds as I was on Nana duty) had morning tea with the Governor General, Dame Cindy Kiro and her husband Dr Richard Davies to **present the handkerchiefs many of you embroidered for Her Excellency**. Jo embroidered a handkerchief with each of the four motifs in the corners for Dame Cindy and a men's handkerchief with a Kowhai flower for Dr Davies. Their Excellencies were thrilled with them all. I'll be writing an article with more details and photos for the April edition of "Threads", but in the meantime I've been given permission to enclose the link below with a photo from the Governor General's blog: <https://gg.govt.nz/governor-general/blog/2025/11/call-association-new-zealand-embroiderers-guilds>
- **At our November Taranua Regional Group** (TRG – Presidents & Secretaries) meeting we agreed we want to focus the long term goal (2026 – 30) in our Strategic Plan to **"Build design expertise across guilds"**.

When I visited the Taranua Guilds in late 2022 – early 2023 this was a concern of some of our longstanding, experienced members. While this has been happening organically over the last few years with some people working through ANZEG Modules, Sue Swann and Jo Dixey's pilot "Introduction to Design Course" & Royal School of Needlework (RSN) courses, informally through Extensions groups and participating in guild projects such as conference displays and Wellington Guild's recent exhibition "Petals & Threads" we intend to provide opportunities for all guild members

to develop skills and confidence in design and use of colour for their own enjoyment, to enable them to participate in exhibitions and even possibly teach others themselves in the future.

We know many members have great ideas so please contact your president or myself if:

- you have any suggestions on how we can do this
- you are interested in developing your skills and confidence in design and colour.

- **Upcoming Guild AGMs in 2026**

Our guilds can only function if people are willing to be on their committees to run them. Across the region all guilds have presidents and other officers who are committed to their guilds being run well and we'd like this to continue.

As a group, the Tararua Regional Group is committed to supporting and helping each other and between us we can support new officers and committees according to what they need.

Many of you have been on committees before, but you also have been members for many years so maybe it's time to offer to go on the committee again. Some of you are newer members and will come with different ideas which are valuable when running a guild.

Please find out more from your president or myself about how you can help run your guild and discuss help you may need if you were to do this, particularly in roles as president, secretary or treasurer.

- **Tararua Extensions** – members of this supportive group meet three times a year to extend their design and embroidery skills. Maria Champion-Forster (Wellington Guild) has convened the group for the last few years, but will give this up at the end of 2026.

2026 dates: 1 March, 2 August, 1 November, all held at Waikanae Arts & Crafts Society Rooms. Maria is planning the sessions from ideas discussed in our October session. She would like someone to take over from 2027 and is happy for them to shadow her. Email her for more information or if you have any ideas for Extensions or would be willing to be convenor [championforster@gmail.com](mailto:championforster@gmail.com)

If no one is willing to be convenor you can still be enrolled in ANZEG Extensions so you can get their emails & be able to participate in exhibitions, etc. See <https://www.embroiderynz.co.nz/extensions>

- **Photo for updated regional brochure for publicity**

Our regional brochure needs guild details updated and we'd like it ready for "Stitch Summer", 28 February. Donna Kennedy allowed us to use an illustration of a piece of her work for the cover of our current brochure. We'd like a different illustration for the updated brochure so we can easily identify it. If you have something appealing, colourful, stitched well, would photograph well and looks manageable for a new stitcher, let your president or me know.

- **Viewer's Choice at Tararua regional events.**

It was agreed at the recent TRG meeting that work can be entered in any of the Tararua regional events such as regional stitch days hosted by a guild, exhibitions or the regional retreat more than once in a calendar year, but if it is a winner at any of these events, it cannot be re-entered.

- **Tararua Regional Retreat Viewer’s Choice** - there will be two categories - one for original work and the other for a kit/class/pattern.
- **Wellington Guild is hosting the next Tararua Region Stitch Hui** on 14 March, 2026. This will include presentation of the Diana Parkes Award for work that best displays the attributes of Diana – see notes on page 5. Further information about the Stitch Hui will be sent out by Wellington Guild.
- **Regional Representative’s Role**  
Early next year ANZEG will call for nominations for ANZEG Executive including my role. I’m happy to continue as Tararua Regional Representative for another two years, the last of the three two year terms I’m permitted to do. However, if you would like to nominate someone else I’m happy for someone else to take on the role. If I continue in the role the region’s guilds will need to think of someone who can be regional representative from 2028 and who may like time to shadow me.

### ANZEG news

- I hope you’ve registered or are considering registering for the **2026 Conference in Palmerston North**. <https://www.embroiderynz.co.nz/conference-2026> There are still spaces available in a good variety of workshops.
- **Opportunities for exhibiting work**  
ANZEG provides several opportunities for exhibiting work including at our **national conference** in Palmerston North and in the Colour Challenge. It would be great to see many entries from Tararua Region. Have a look at: <https://www.embroiderynz.co.nz/conference26-exhibitions> or pages 28 - 31, “Threads”, April 2025.

**Te Wero Tuia - The Stitch Challenge** provides the opportunity for members EITHER to use the design exactly as it is, using their choice of colour and technique to depict it OR to treat the design in any way they choose and it will be judged on stitch technique/colour and creativity in interpreting the design.

If you would like to participate, but would like some support in doing it, talk to your president or someone in your guild who could support you.

**Colour Challenge 2026 Green** – details for this exhibition are on page 6 of the October “Threads” <https://www.embroiderynz.co.nz/gallery> shows the pieces exhibited in Colour Change 2025. Maybe a group of you in your guild could support each other in entering this exhibition.

- **Change Of Guild details:**

A message from Janna Young, ANZEG National Secretary:

*With the New Year fast approaching and the likelihood of changes to Guild Office Bearers happening, below is the link where all Office Bearers changes need to be noted as it allows our National Secretary, our Contact for the ANZEG Website and Threads know of the changes.*

<https://www.embroiderynz.co.nz/update-guild-details>

### Exhibitions

“Short Threads” Stitched works inspired by Katherine Mansfield. See flyer on page 5.

## **Educational opportunities & exhibitions**

Hutt Art Temari Ball Class 30 November <https://www.huttart.co.nz/copy-of-classes-3>

Fibre Arts NZ is offering three, three or four day workshops in Wellington in 2026. Details on <https://fibreartsnz.co.nz/>

**If you're in other parts of NZ**, check the ANZEG calendar for events & exhibitions <https://www.embroiderynz.co.nz/calendar>

Best wishes for Christmas and the holiday season, hopefully with lots of stitching.

Susan

# Short Threads

Stitched works inspired by  
**Katherine Mansfield**

Nov 12 - Feb 22

Katherine Mansfield House & Garden

25 Tinakori Rd, Thorndon

Open Tues - Sun 10 - 4

Admission \$10/ \$8

closed public holidays



## Diana Parkes Award

Now is the time to get started on your entry for the Diana Parkes Award, given to the work that best displays the attributes of Diana herself. She believed that telling a story was paramount. Show us your creativity and mixed media work. The award will be given at the WEG workday in March 2024. The criteria for the Award are as follows :

- An original work, completed in the last two years by a member of a Tararua Guild.
- There is no size limitation, can be 3D, can be a banner or clothing and can be a joint project.
- Each entry should be accompanied by a short statement describing the inspiration and/or the technique used ( not more than 50 words).
- The work may have been exhibited previously.

Diana Parkes, MNZM joined the Wellington Embroiderers' Guild in 1972 and was a committed member until her untimely death in 2011. Diana's work was exhibited widely in New Zealand and overseas and she won many awards. Her work was shown in WOW in 2006, 2007 and 2009. Her work remains very inspirational, and you can still refer to and be inspired by her blog, which remains online. The accompanying images are from the blog.

<http://dianaparkes.blogspot.com/>

Diary dates (also see Calendar page 4 in “Threads“ and <https://www.embroiderynz.co.nz/calendar> )

## 2005

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday monthly - Kapiti Extensions Group - open to members from all guilds, meets at Waikanae Arts & Craft Rooms. Contact Donna Kennedy 0212550519 [donna.kennedy72@outlook.com](mailto:donna.kennedy72@outlook.com)
- 18 October 2025 – 15 March 2026 Softy: Textiles from the Dowse Collection, Dowse Art Museum <https://dowse.org.nz/exhibitions-and-events/exhibitions/2025/softy-textiles-from-the-dowse-collection>
- 12 November – 22 February 2026 “Short Threads” Stitched works inspired by Katherine Mansfield. Katherine Mansfield House & Garden. Open Tues – Sun 10 – 4, Admission \$10/\$8, Closed public holidays
- 6 December 2025 – 8 March 2026 Tivaivai exhibition, Pataka, Porirua <https://pataka.org.nz/whats-on/exhibitions/tipurepure-au-vaine/>

## 2026

- 28 February Stitch Summer
- 1 March Extensions at Waikanae Arts & Crafts Society Rooms
- 14 March Tararua Region Stitch Hui hosted by Wellington Guild + Diana Parkes Award
- 27 - 29 March - The Embroiderers’ Great Escape <https://embroiderersgreatescape.com/classes-2026/#C1>
- **2 – 3 May Tararua Region Guilds’ Annual Retreat, Copthorne Solway, Masterton**
- 4 - 9 July – ANZEG Conference, Palmerston North
- 2 August Extensions at Waikanae Arts & Crafts Society Rooms
- 10–14 August Fibre Arts Australia ‘Landscape Fragments’ in Hamilton. All details and registration: <https://www.fibrearts.net.au/julia-wright.html>
- 10 October Tararua Region Stitch Day hosted by Kapiti Guild
- 24 October – 22 November Wairarapa Guild Exhibition, Aratoi
- 1 November Extensions at Waikanae Arts & Crafts Society Rooms