



# Chainstitch

Otago Embroiderers' Guild  
Inc

September 2016

## COMMITTEE

<b>President</b>	<b>Sharon Evans</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Sue Lucas</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Aggie O'Leary</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Brenda Burton</b>
Catering	Barbara McCabe
Chainstitch	Julie Farquhar
Hostess	Mary Flaherty
Library	Erin Wheeler/ Vicki Miller
Programme	Nicky Van de Jagt/Jane Carroll
Raffles	Jane Carroll/Julie Farquhar
Treasure Chest	Committee
Website	Aggie O'Leary/Sue Lucas
Welfare	Sharon Evans

### ROSTER AUGUST

Catering	Betty Twaddle, Pauline Bishop
Library	Cathrine Waite
Treasure Chest	Rowena Larsen
Raffles	Marion McLean
Hostess	Betty Rawlings

## GUILD MEETING

Leith Bowling Club, 2 Duke St, Woodhaugh

**NEXT MEETING Thursday 22 September 2016 at 6.45pm**

## THURSDAY MORNING WORKSHOP

Senior Citizens Rooms, Lower Octagon. 9.30am – 11.45am  
Cost: \$1 tea Full membership is required to attend workshop.

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Spring has certainly sprung with my garden a blaze of colour of pink, red and yellow. The days are warmer with new lambs and calves appearing in the paddocks on the Taieri. This has made my work very busy but the days certainly do fly by.

From all accounts Regional Day hosted by the Eastern Southland Guild was a great day and the bus trip south went well. Thank you again to Gaynor and David Chronican for organising and taking the ladies south. Thank you also to Eastern Southland Guild for being such wonderful hosts

September meeting will see us once again back to night meetings and this meeting we have the excitement of the release of the Wanaka School of Embroidery's pamphlet on what will be available at the Wanaka Embroidery School 2017 weekend.

Nicki Mortimer has kindly agreed to speak at our September meeting on her time at the Royal School of Needlework, Hampton Court. Nicki received funds from the OEG Education Fund to attend a class on World War Postcards and she will share her experience with members by way of a presentation and talk.

After seeing the popularity of a raffle at Conference it was proposed at the August meeting to have a Christmas Tree covered in hand made decorations. Could all willing members, including our juniors, please make a decoration for hanging on this tree? These are to be given to Jane Carroll by the October meeting – or make arrangements to get to Jane after this date.

On the subject of Christmas decorations – Eunice McLeod will release her "Christmas Cracker" pattern at the September meeting. Another delightful small project to make.

Keep Sunday, 16 October free – we have booked the Otago Polytechnic H Block Rooms for a Project Day – this will be where you bring along your PHDs (UFOs) and have an informal day stitching. A great day for those of us who need more time set aside to stitch.

The end of the year is fast approaching and with that our AGM. We have some committee members standing down and therefore will be looking for replacement members. The work on this committee is not onerous and very enjoyable. Please consider being part of this group.

Don't forget the President's Challenge for OEG Exhibition in November. Happy stitching and we will see you at the September meeting.

Sharon



# Shirley Holdaway



Shirley always enjoyed looking at embroidery but says she wasn't very good at it as a child and got the strap for not going to her class!

Later, Shirley attended polytechnic evening classes under Margaret Sharpe and her skills grew. Margaret insisted upon the class spending ten minutes on designing every session, something Shirley hated but it's very thankful for. The class was also assigned homework which consisted of something to look up and something to stitch. Margaret really built up her confidence Shirley said. Through these classes Shirley met another life member of the Otago Embroiderers' Guild (OEG), Rae Reed, who was also generous in sharing her skills and encouragement.

In her family, Shirley said although her mother was a gardener, rather than a stitcher, her grandmothers stitched. Her English grandmother was very skilled. She also had an aunt who attended the Royal School of Needlework.

Shirley was not a founding member of the Otago Embroiderers' Guild, but she held the office of President for a time and taught a lot of classes. She taught at the Wanaka Embroidery School for about a decade she said.



Shirley also wrote a book, *Festive Elizabethan Creations*. This is available from the guild library.

Shirley said she had no favourite stitch or style but was not fond of hardanger perceiving it to be on the bulky side and preferring to do fine work.

In regard to UFO's she said she has one still that she began in high school!



Since moving to Ashburton in October 2015, Shirley has completed a quilt and is currently working on an advent calendar which is a combination of patchwork, applique and embroidery.

She has yet to unpack much of her embroidery but a large 3 panel screen was in pride of place in her lounge. The screen was made to celebrate her and husband David's golden wedding anniversary. It features two swans (who mate for life) and two old trees.

It took Shirley three years, one day a week to complete and featured on the front of the threads magazine.

I miss Shirley at Guild meetings and at Thursday group, but know her influence over many of us will continue.

Brenda Burton

# PROGRAMME

## Thursday 22 SEPTEMBER

- \* Nikki Mortimer presentation  
Nikki will speak on her experience at the Royal School of Needlework
- \* Wanaka Embroidery School 2017 17 – 19 March  
The programme, with full class lists, tutor profiles and registration forms will be available at the meeting.

## CHRISTMAS CLUB SEPTEMBER – Eunice McLeod

### Mini Bon Bon Stitch Sampler



28 count linen

Threads

Eunice has used colours of  
Christmas, red/green.

6 stranded DMC Colours of your  
choice

Beads

Ribbon

## CHRISTMAS CLUB OCTOBER – Cathrine Waite

### Chicken Scratch Heart



# EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER



2016 10:00am - 12:00pm  
Toitū Otago Settlers Museum  
Josephine Foyer

Members of the Otago Embroiderers' Guild will be working on panels for the New Zealand: A History in Stitch project.

This project is in progress every second Wednesday from 22 June 2016  
<http://www.toituosm.com/whats-on/events/the-tapestry-project2>

## NOTICES

### CONGRATULATIONS

#### SOUTHERN REGIONAL DAY at GORE (Sat 13 August)

- \* ***Guild Display Award*** Otago Embroiderers' Guild
- \* ***Construction Award*** Barbara Smith (*inspired by Diana Lampe with Jane Fisk*)

### FINISHING DAY

Otago Polytechnic (OP) - Sunday 16 October 2016 – 10.00am – 3.00pm

This is an opportunity to complete, or work on a projects with our Otago Embroiderers' Guild members.

The entrance to the venue, Room number **to be advised**, is opposite the University of Otago, **Bill Robertson Library** on Union Street East.

Sharon will be at the entry to the building to enable access to the OP classroom

- \* for the morning before 10.00am
- \* for the afternoon before 12.00midday.

Outside these times you can text Sharon to have the door opened for you.

Please bring your lunch.

### NEW MEMBERS

We have many new members at our Guild, please welcome them.

## ROSTER REMINDER

Please remember to note on the front page of Chainstitch when you are rostered on to assist at Guild meetings. If you cannot attend on your rostered day it would be helpful if you can arrange another member to take your place. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other members and provide support to the committee.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Payment of annual subscriptions are still being accepted by the Treasurer. Details of how to make your payment for 2016 are in the April Chainstitch. If you have any queries about how to pay please feel free to speak to Aggie.

Annual membership: Full \$60, Country \$45, Associate \$30,

Student - \$20 between 13 - 18 years. Children aged 5 - 12 years \$2/session.

## CHRISTMAS TREE RAFFLE

A Christmas tree covered in hand made decorations by members, including our juniors will be the raffle at our OEG exhibition, Tuesday 15 – Sun 20 November 2016.

Please have contributions of handmade embroidered Christmas decorations ready for the raffle by the 27 October meeting. Please give these to Jane Carroll or make arrangements to get your decoration to Jane after this date.





# **OTAGO EMBROIDERER'S GUILD EXHIBITION**

**Tuesday 15 – Sun 20 November 2016**

The Otago Embroiderer's Guild Biennial Exhibition is scheduled to open to the public **Tuesday 15 – Sun 20 November 2016** at the Otago Art Society, in the historic Dunedin Railway Station.

Items will be collected for display on **Saturday 12 November and Sunday 13 November**. The official opening is Monday 14 November.

## **The categories for entry are:**

Traditional - own Design  
Traditional - Class Work, Kit, Pattern  
Contemporary - own design,  
Contemporary - class work, kit, pattern  
Contemporary - Mixed media  
Patchwork  
Small Article  
Excellence in Construction  
Beading  
Children's Award  
Construction of Kit, pattern etc.  
Best in Show  
President's Challenge - Heart Shaped Brooch  
First Time Exhibitor for OEG

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

- **ALL entries must acknowledge design source**
  
- **An original design is:**
  - (a) a unique design by the embroiderer**
  - (b) a design significantly adapted from a published source or tutored work.**
  
- **Items entered into this exhibition must not have been previously exhibited in any other judged exhibition.**
  
- **Items entered should have been finished within the last two years.**

## Contacts

Secretary Guild email: [otago.guild@gmail.com](mailto:otago.guild@gmail.com)  
Chainstitch email: [oeg.chainstitch@gmail.com](mailto:oeg.chainstitch@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.oeg.org.nz](http://www.oeg.org.nz)  
Guild Address: Otago Embroiderer's Guild  
P.O. Box 5732  
Dunedin 9058

## Notes

- \* Show and Tell Display. Please bring items to share.
- \* Tea and Coffee provided, please bring your cup.
- \* Name badges. Please wear your name badge, this is for the benefit of others who are new to the Guild, and for those of us who don't find it easy to remember.
- \* If you wish to receive Chainstitch via email please check with Julie to ensure she has your correct email address.

**REMEMBER TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE [oeg.org.nz](http://www.oeg.org.nz)**

## Last word *(almost)*

Can you picture the women embroidering the beautiful fabrics?

The following notes are extracts from the link:

**<http://www.afashionhistory.com/fashion-history/an-introduction-to-the-history-of-embroidery/>**



Embroidered fabrics have always been considered a symbol of luxury and wealth. This old artisanal craft was firstly developed in private homes and convents and the purpose of the embroidery was to mimic the effect of the fabric, using precious yarns (gold and silver) and creating designs with soft borders.

In the past embroidery was considered as a beautiful painting on fabric. Each design should have symbolical meanings, inspired by religion and superstition (Sphinx, Dragon and The Tree of Life) or to underline the membership to a certain



aristocratic family. But embroidery has evolved during time, changing its purpose and meanings along the way.

Do you know how this challenging artisanal craft evolved over time and came to us?

### Eleonora di Toledo and Bronzino



She was the most elegant woman in all Europe, the most glamorous *arbiter elegantiarum* of the 16th century.

Eleonora di Toledo was famous for her tasteful wardrobe and great personality. The 1544-55 Bronzino's portrait of Eleonora shows us how sublime the embroidery of her dress was. The dress was embellished with golden ribbons and a golden web, decorated with pearls. The velvet is the protagonist of the portrait. It was embroidered and then cut, to make the underneath hairy fabric coming out.



During the 16th century sequins also were very popular on clothes, but they were called "trablantes", as they were not fixed tightly on fabric, creating a flickering effect.

The daughter of Eleonora, Maria de Medici portrayed by Alessandro Allori, show us how delicate the collar embellished with sequins is.