



# Chainstitch

Otago Embroiderers' Guild Inc  
**November 2017**

## COMMITTEE for 2017

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

## GUILD MEETING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual General Meeting  
Leith Bowling Club, 2 Duke St, Woodhaugh  
**Thursday 23 November – AGM Meeting at 6.00pm**

## 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

Hello everyone

I have now returned from my wonderful trip to visit relations in Ireland and as you can imagine, I enjoyed my time catching up with them and exploring more of the country.

The only thing I did that had an embroidery connection was visit the linen museum in Belfast. The stages of production were well displayed and I learnt a lot. There were some stunning pieces of work on display, particularly a christening gown the bodice of which was heavily encrusted with embroidery. Loved it! I saw no linen suitable for stitching for sale, but lots of damask mats, runners, etc which I was able to resist.

Thank you to Mary and the committee for holding the fort in my absence. Also a big thank you to Aggie and her team for the hours of effort involved in the exhibition which I believe was a great success. I understand Regional Day was an enjoyable one and that the venue in Mornington worked well.

The next big event for our guild is the Wanaka School. It always amazes me how many people come from outside our area to attend. It's always an enjoyable experience though I am guilty of doing too many classes and not finishing all I hoped to.

Next year sees the national conference in Nelson. If anyone has matters that they would like brought up at conference could they please make us aware of them?

Several people have indicated they find the Thursday evening meetings less enjoyable than our Saturdays. I agree. We will investigate having as many Saturday meetings as possible but are unable to have the rooms once the bowling season begins. Please could we have suggestions from you as to what you would like to do on the Thursday evenings? We would like to make them as appealing as we can!

The monthly Thursday evening group is well supported and will continue next year. Thank you Mary for organising this.

The Thursday morning group which always attracts a good crowd, will also continue. Thank you to Jan Letts for overseeing this. New stitchers are always welcome to join us!

The next meeting is the final one for the year, and the AGM. We hope it will be a sociable occasion with lots of chat over yummy Christmas goodies.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to more enjoyable stitching times next year.

Brenda



## LIFE MEMBER, Otago Embroiderers' Guild

Jan Wilson



Educated at King Edward Technical College where she studied embroidery under Miss Moran, Jan became a Guild member in the 1960's.

In 1970's Jan completed the City and Guilds of London course under local tutor Mrs Allen, achieving Part 1 with Merit. Jan continued with Part 2 as a distance student gaining Distinction. During this time she was a part time tutor at Otago Polytechnic.

By the 1980's Jan was involved with a number of large panels throughout the city. In 1981 the Annunciation Panel for Holy Name Church, was designed and stitched by Jan. The Library Banner for the Rare Book Room of the Dunedin Public Library, designed by Jan, and stitched by guild members in 1983.

In 1986, Invermay Agricultural research Centre commissioned her to design and embroider a panel for their new complex.

Jan also designed a long tapestry for First Church, worked in wool by 19 women, supervised over 6 years by Jan.

Until 1992, Jan lectured at Otago Polytechnic School of Art and Department of Community Studies, when she was granted a QE2 Travel Grant and accepted a place at Goldsmiths College, London. Jan gained Postgraduate Diploma in 1993, followed by another year when she gained her Master of Arts in Visual Arts from London University with Distinction.



Back in Dunedin, and a position at Otago Polytechnic, Jan continued with her interests in guild projects, private commissions, and curating exhibitions e.g. *"Always Busy with a Needle"* in 2002 with Sean Brosnahan, celebrating work of some of our founding guild members. Another was organising an exhibition for the ANZEG Conference in Dunedin in 1996...Intertext, textile art A4 size posted to Dunedin from overseas, all mounted on board and all for sale.

Conservation work and producing a data catalogue for Larnach Castle artefacts, conservation of frocks for Otago Settlers Museum for Fabulous Frocks Exhibitions 1 and 2 are some of the many tasks she has been involved in.

As if that is not enough she became an approved tutor for City and Guilds, London, and has guided a number of guild members and others through this interesting course.

Jan is still prepared to set challenges for us like the display at the Botanic Gardens for World Embroidery Day. She is always encouraging when asked for advice. Jan is a valuable guild member.

Ingrid Emerson

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the

## Otago Embroiderers' Guild

is to be held at the  
Leith Valley Bowling Club  
2 Duke Street, Woodhaugh, Dunedin.

**Thursday 23 November 2017 at 6.00pm (*Meeting starts*)**

The November General Meeting will then be held.

Please bring a small plate of food for a shared supper  
and a non-perishable item to gift to the foodbank.

**Final date to receive nominations will be 22 November at 5.30pm**

### AT REGIONAL DAY

Pat De Bono and Pearl Stenhouse

Sharon Evans, Erin Wheeler and Vicki Miller

Jan Wilson and Ingrid Emerson



Pauline Cosgrove-Haggarty and Sue Eliot - Eunice McLeod and Jeanette Trotman - Kay Hawker, Margaret Erskine and Gay Downing



## SOUTHERN REGIONAL EXHIBITION AWARDS

Ivy Pollard Memorial Award "Paua and Pearls"	Eleanor Wilson (ESG) with Ocean Beauty
Miss Moran Award "New Zealand Themed Embroidered Bag" (Traditional)	<i>Joint winners</i> Betty Twaddle (OEG) - Harakeke Barbara Smith (OEG) - Secrets of the Forest.
Miniature Award "Kiwiana theme"	Barbara Smith (OEG) - Kaikoura - What a fluke.
Contemporary "A walk through a New Zealand garden"	Anne Jaquier (OEG) - A walk in the garden.
3 Dimensional "New Zealand Native Creepy Crawlies"	Sue Lucas (OEG) - Boulder Copper Butterfly
Open Award "Anything Goes!"	Mary Flaherty (OEG) - Remembrance Flanders Poppy
Children's Award "Own Choice"	Katiya Brasell (OEG) with Pet Rock
Judges Award	Gay Downing (QEG) - The Magic of Monet Janine Smith (OEG) - Welcome to the Parlour.
First time Entrant	Amy Baker (QEG) - A walk in the woods
Viewer's Choice	Sue Lucas (OEG) - Hazel's Garden
<b>Southern Regional Day Awards</b>	
Miss Moran Sampler Best Guild Display	North Otago Guild
Edna Hoskins Silver Tray Best Handstitched	Margaret Michelle
Gwen Watson Box Best Hand Constructed	Barbara Smith

### Southern Regional Exhibition Raffle Winners

**Christmas Tree Embroidered decorations** - *Sharleen Johnston*

**Pamper Pack** - *Sue Eliot*

**Threads** - *Aggie O'Leary*

# NOTICES

## Project Group

The group meets the second Thursday of each month for two and a half hours. We finish with supper. Most members are working on their Strawberry Thief but some have finished and are working on their own projects. Our last meeting for the year is on the 14th December. The group has indicated they would like to continue next year as they have enjoyed working with others on their embroideries. New members are always welcome. Please phone Mary Flaherty.

## Curtain Bank

The Curtain Bank upcycles donated curtains and gives them out to those in need of curtains, helping to keep homes warmer and healthier. The charity are always looking for donations of good quality curtains, and perhaps if you are obtaining new curtains, you might like to consider donating your old ones.

The Curtain Bank can be found at 174 Princes Street. It is usually open Monday-Thursday between 8:30-14:30 for drop offs. For more information please go to the following link <http://dunedincurtainbank.org.nz/>

## Library books

Please return all library books at the 23 November meeting.

# SUBSCRIPTIONS 2018

Subscriptions can be paid to the Treasurer, in an envelope with your **name on it**. Forms, if needed, can be picked up from the Treasurer.

Full annual membership	\$60 (\$55 if paid by 31 March 2018)
Country membership	\$45 (\$40 if paid by 31 March 2018)
Associate Membership	\$30 must be current member of another Guild. State associated Guild on form.
Student Membership	\$20 if aged between 13-18 years \$2/session, if aged 5-12 years

### Payment method options as follows:

**Cheque:** made out to 'Otago Embroiderers' Guild'.

**Handing in:** Place into envelope with your **name on the outside**, give to the Treasurer at the meeting.

**Post to:** The Treasurer  
Otago Embroiderers' Guild  
PO Box 5732  
Dunedin 9058

**Online: 03 1732 0001345 00**

Payee = Otago Embroiderers' Guild

Particular = your name

Code = subs

Reference = (membership type) full, country, associate or student

## Of interest

### New Zealand Christmas Symbol



The pohutukawa tree (*Metrosideros excelsa*) with its crimson flower has become an established part of the New Zealand Christmas tradition. This iconic Kiwi Christmas tree, which often features on greeting cards and in poems and songs, has become an important symbol for New Zealanders at home and abroad.

In 1833 the missionary Henry Williams described holding service under a 'wide spreading pohutukawa'. The first known published reference to the pohutukawa as a Christmas tree came in 1857 when 'flowers of the scarlet *Pohutukawa*, or "Christmas tree"' formed part of table decorations at a feast put on by Ngāpuhi leader Eruera Patuone. Several years later Austrian geologist Ferdinand von Hochstetter noted that settlers referred to it as such. The pohutukawa, he observed, 'about Christmas ... are full of charming ... blossoms'; 'the settler decorates his church and dwellings with its lovely branches'. Other 19th-century references described the pohutukawa tree as the 'Settlers Christmas tree' and 'Antipodean holly'.

In 1941 Army Chaplain Ted Forsman composed a pohutukawa carol in which he made reference to 'your red tufts, our snow'. Forsman was serving in the Libyan Desert at the time, hardly the surroundings normally associated with the image of a fiery red pohutukawa tree. Many of his fellow New Zealanders, though, would have instantly identified with the image. Today many school children sing about how 'the native Christmas tree of Aotearoa' fills their hearts 'with aroha'.

Pohutukawa and its cousin rata also hold a prominent place in Maori tradition. Legends tell of Tawhaki, a young Maori warrior, who attempted to find heaven to seek help in avenging the death of his father. He fell to earth and the crimson flowers are said to represent his blood.

A gnarled, twisted pohutukawa on the windswept cliff top at Cape Reinga, the northern tip of New Zealand, has become of great significance to many New Zealanders. For Maori this small, venerated pohutukawa is known as 'the place of leaping'. It is from here that the spirits of the dead begin their journey to their traditional homeland of Hawaiki. From this point the spirits leap off the headland and climb down the roots of the 800-year-old tree, descending into the underworld on their return journey.

(<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/pohutukawa-flowers>)

## Contacts

Secretary Guild email: [otago.guild@gmail.com](mailto:otago.guild@gmail.com)

Website: [www.oeg.org.nz](http://www.oeg.org.nz)

Guild Address: Otago Embroiderers' Guild  
P.O.Box 5732  
DUNEDIN 9058

If you would like to share information with OEG members via  
Chainstitch *please* email Julie

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