

EFTAG Newsletter

From the President

The gathering we had on the Saturday 1st March was just as energetic as the first gathering of the year. It's fabulous to see both old and new faces with such interest in each other's works and methods and the opportunity to learn from generous sharing of skills.

Thanks to Hilary for again providing the lucky door prize and name tags. Can I suggest we could all make our own, and then be challenged to remember to bring or wear it. If you forget, I'm sure there'll always be some sticky ones available!

Last month those present discussed whether we wanted to either participate in the River of Art or exhibit at the well-loved and known Mechanics Institute in Moruya. In the end, it turned out it didn't need to be an either/or decision and the committee decided it would be possible to do both. Please see below for more info.

The quality and breadth of EFTAG members' work gives me complete faith that these two main events planned for the year will be appealing and inspirational to all.

Please consider whether you would like to contribute to a monthly gathering by demonstrating and sharing some of your skills or running a mini workshop. We will always be happy to add you to the calendar!

In the meantime—keep creating!

Warmest regards

Veronica Wensing

President

2025 Committee

President	Veronica Wensing
Vice-President	Carolyn Kohler
Secretary	Trish Flynn
Treasurer	Jo Fafie
Workshops	Julie Mills
Monthly meetings	Alison Bogg
Newsletter	Hilary Metcalf

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Annual Exhibition 12 – 23 November

EFTAGs annual exhibition will be a birthday celebration this year. It will be held at the Mechanics Institute in Moruya from 12 - 23 November. Because it's a birthday celebration we are inviting both current and past members to participate and we envisage that there will be both past and present works on display. That means that past members in particular do not have to make something new and can choose to exhibit something they have made or exhibited previously.

We will be calling for interest to join a sub-committee to assist with this exhibition in due course as there will be considerably more effort required for this than for our participation in River of Art.

River of Art 26 September – 6 October

The River of Art this year takes place in the October long weekend which always brings people to our lovely part of the world. The Bay Pavilions will be one of those venues that gets through traffic, giving us the perfect venue to highlight and showcase the full breadth of talent and fibre/textile mediums that EFTAG members produce.



There will be much less work for members in putting this together but there will also be some limits on what can be displayed. Essentially it's a wall space with limited options for three dimensional display. We see this as the ideal opportunity to promote who we are, what we do and the birthday exhibition. It is open to current members and the committee has decided it can include past works, so as not to put too much pressure on those who wish to participate in both events.

Basically, members can participate in one, or the other or both events, it's up to you.

Watch this space for more information on both, as the committee progresses the planning.

The Artisans Nest has a new home!

Several of our members belong to the Artisans Nest which has been operating in Bodalla for some years. On 1 March it moved to a new home in Mogo, in the Clocktower. Check out their [facebook page](#) for more information.

March Monthly Gathering Report

Fifteen of us gathered together on Saturday the 1st, including 3 visitors, returning members and 3 Traceys!

Several of our members were otherwise engaged as there was a lot on last weekend, including the Cobargo Folk Festival, the Artisans' Nest moving from Bodalla to Mogo and assorted other activities in the region.

The President opened the meeting by welcoming members and visitors, and gave an update on the outcomes of the recent committee meeting regarding timing and location for the annual exhibition—see opposite page.

Show and Tell was inspiring. Unfortunately, I had a camera malfunction, so wasn't able to capture everything, but here are a few examples.



Top row:

Gelli prints and eco prints on paper from Suzi;

Bottom row:

Crocheted mandalas by Sally; felted eggs by Julie



Sally's crochet pieces are a contribution towards a large installation by artist Luise Elsing. Her 44 square metre outdoor sculpture "The Moon", will be on display during [OpenField](#) in Berry, from 13-15 June.

The door prize was won by one of our new members, Suzi Pfanner.

March Demonstrations

Rusting paper

Jen Hawkins demonstrated how to quickly rust-dye paper using a solution of ferrous (iron) sulphate, black tea and caustic soda. Everyone was entranced with the alchemy as the paper turned shades of blue and green, then magically into shades of rust—each one different.



In addition to Jen's recommended products on the next page, Hilary can recommend this beeswax polish, and finds that Home Brand black tea bags (no strings) work just fine. Jen demonstrated on printmakers Stonehenge paper. Hilary has also had success with 300gsm watercolour paper, tea-bag paper and Japanese washi. Wet strength tissue would be fine, if you can get your hands on it.

Fabric works too—just give it a good wash afterwards to remove the chemical residue and soften it.

EFTAG demonstration of Rusting on 1 March 2025

For the demonstration we are using (approximately) 200mls of water for each solution and:

Tea - 4 teabags

Ferrous sulphate - 2 teaspoons

Caustic soda - 2 teaspoons

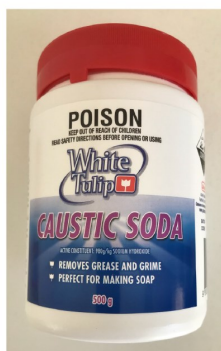
Make three separate solutions in trays.

Use tongs to dip the paper into tea, then ferrous sulphate, then caustic soda, then place the paper on baking paper to dry.

The solutions will become contaminated with each other, so trial dipping caustic, then ferrous, then tea. Also try combining the caustic with the tea and dipping each way; tea/caustic first, then ferrous first.

As the solutions become more contaminated the results become less predictable; what fun is that!

When the paper is dry, polish it with beeswax or other polish. I have trialled a few kinds and find these two work best.



March Demonstrations

Gelli Printing

Hilary gave a demonstration of gelli printing. There was a lot to cover in a short time, but hopefully it whetted peoples' appetites to know more and answered a few questions members had.



There are several brands of commercial gelli plates on the market, but if you would like to make your own, here is a recipe from Australian printmaker, [Kim Herringe](#).

Just about any type of paper can be used, from regular printer paper, newsprint, drawing paper, mixed media paper, teabag paper, tissue paper, and so many more. Two of Hilary's favourites are available from the Japanese variety store Daiso (there are several stores in Sydney). They are practice calligraphy paper and tempura oil absorbing paper! (see below). Another useful product is Floetrol (available from Bunnings and art stores) which can be mixed with regular acrylic paint to create an 'open acrylic' i.e. a paint which flows more easily and which stays wet and workable for longer—very necessary for some styles of gelli printing.



March Demonstrations



There are many excellent websites with tutorials on gelli printing—here are three Hilary recommends.

[Jane Fasse](#) is a Sydney-based artists who offers an excellent 10 Lesson Beginners Gelli printing course, for free.

[Kit Bell](#) is a Canadian artist who makes beautiful botanical prints using a gelli plate.

[Mark Yeates](#) is a British artist who has a truly original and inspiring approach to gelli printing.

If you have any favourite gelli printing artists whose work you would like to share, please post them to the Members Facebook page.

Members' News

Welcome to the following new members

- ♦ Sally Stephens
- ♦ Delma Rosemond
- ♦ Jen Hawkins
- ♦ Suzi Pfanner

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Sally Stephens , who was recently awarded

- * 1st in class
- * Champion of Division
- * Overall Champion of sub-section

at the Royal Canberra Show for her mixed media art work of crochet and plaster



Members' News

Geelong Fibre Forum 2025

Alison Bogg will be teaching at Fibre Forum this year. Her workshop has sold out, though there is still a range of workshops available.

For details of all workshops: www.taftainc.com.au



Coila Rural Retreat 8th & 9th March

Trish Flynn and Alison Bogg are teaming up to present a Textile Workshops Weekend *Indigo dyeing-Shibori & Coiled Basketry* at Coila Rural Retreat.

See Humanitix link for details.

<https://events.humanitix.com/textile-workshops-weekend-indigo-dyeing-shibori-and-coiled-basketry-at-coila-rural-retreat-nsw>



[Jules Brooker](#) recently had two pieces in the Narooma School of Arts exhibition—'Transiting'. The exhibition finished on 2 March, but you can view her pieces by clicking on her name and viewing her Facebook reel.

If you have any news of exhibitions, workshops or achievements you would like to share with fellow members, don't be shy—please send info for inclusion in the newsletter—info.eftag@gmail.com

Getting to know... Trish Flynn

I've been using traditional basketry and weaving techniques to create contemporary baskets, vessels and sculptural pieces for over 15 years. The techniques featured in my pieces include twining, looping, and coiling using a range of natural fibres such as linen, hemp, flax and paper twine, raffia, and vines. I also like to incorporate recycled materials including copper wire and fabric scraps.

I've been a member of EFTAG since about 2020 and on the committee as Secretary 2023-25. Like many members I really value friendships I've found through EFTAG as well as the opportunities to learn from and share skills with others.

This lovely photo of Trish was taken last year at the River of Art Prize, where she was a finalist.





"Fierce Women Don't Wear Scarves"

2024 CSW Fay Skyring Scholarship

Jacqui Kempton

The Fay Skyring -
Canberra Textile Works Gallery

14 March - 3 April
Tue, Thu and Fri: 10am - 1pm
and Sat 15 March: 10am - 3pm

Floor Talk: Sat 15 March 2.15pm
You are invited to afternoon tea afterwards



Canberra Spinners & Weavers Inc.
70 MacLaurin Cres, Chifley, ACT

NEXT GATHERING (5th April)

STITCHED SHIBORI - demo & mini workshop—*Marilyn Banfield & Delma Rosemond*

We will show some samples of stitched shibori, and the end results. There will also be some small pieces of fabric marked up for participants to stitch and once stitched, show how they are pulled up and tied ready to be dyed.

Please bring:

Needles and threaders and strong thread, scissors.

If anyone wants to do more than the samples we bring, they will need some cotton fabric, an orchid pen (or similar that disappears with water or time)

As usual there will be an opportunity to catch up and share what you have been doing, so please bring some work of your own - old, new or in progress or even something that has inspired you creatively to share with other members.

We are particularly keen to welcome new or potentially new members to our gathering. Feel free to invite a friend who may be interested as well.

Please bring:

- ♦ tools, materials & other requirements (as above).
- ♦ some work of your own old, new or in progress and/or inspiration.
- ♦ a small contribution to morning tea.
- ♦ gold coin donation to contribute to the hire of the hall
- ♦ your lunch and perhaps a friend
- ♦ a nametag if you have one

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Alison Bogg Monthly Gatherings co-ordinator

How to keep in touch

We are a widely dispersed group with busy lives so we know that not everyone can make it to the monthly gatherings. We want to do everything we can to keep all our members engaged, informed and included in EFTAG activities.

Newsletter

This newsletter will be published monthly, just after the Saturday gathering, reporting on the day's activities and sharing any other news. If you have news of an exhibition, award, or any news you would like to share with your fellow members please email me not later than the first Saturday of the month so it can be included. Photos too please!

Facebook and Instagram

In response to the recent survey most members indicated that they preferred Facebook and **Instagram** to keep in touch. We have set up a new members-only **Facebook** page so that members can post directly within the group. There is an existing EFTAG members facebook group but unfortunately, due to the admin details and password having become lost in the mists of time, newer members cannot access it. We hope that all members (including those who currently access the legacy page) will join in the new page so that all members can come together in the one place.

Website

The website mainly functions as a repository of historical information about past exhibitions, workshops etc.

Email

Committee members monitor the email inbox regularly. To help us keep tabs, please include in the Subject line something to alert us to the content—e.g. newsletter input; monthly gathering; exhibition etc.

Links

Instagram [eftag_fibretextileart](https://www.instagram.com/eftag_fibretextileart)

Facebook [Eurobodalla-Fibre-and-Textile-Art-Group-EFTAG](https://www.facebook.com/Eurobodalla-Fibre-and-Textile-Art-Group-EFTAG)

Members-only Facebook page if you haven't received an invitation to join, please email and put "Members-only page in the subject line"

Website eftag.com.au

Email info.eftag@gmail.com

If you have any suggestions for what you would like to see in future newsletters, please get in touch by email.

Hilary Metcalf
Newsletter Editor

EFTAG GATHERINGS 2025

Monthly **EFTAG Gatherings** held at: Tuross Head Presbyterian Church Hall, 277 Hector McWilliam Dr, Tuross Head

MONTH	DATE	ACTIVITY DETAILS	RUN BY	TIME NEEDED
FEBRUARY				
1st Saturday	1st Feb	Welcome, updates and planning. Members and guests 'Show & Tell'	Veronica & MC & members & guests	
10am - 2pm		Silhouette Cutting Machine demo	Jo Fafie	30 mins
MARCH				
1st Saturday	1st March	Gelli plate printing demo on paper and fabric	Hilary	1 - 1.5 hours
10am - 2pm		Rusting stonehenge paper	Jennifer Hawkins	1 hour
APRIL				
1st Saturday	5th April	Shibori	Marilyn B and Delma	1.5 hours
10am - 2pm				
MAY				
1st Saturday	3rd May	Thread Painting (Freehand machine embroidery)	Veronica	demo 20 mins Lesson - up to 3 hours.
10am - 2pm				
JUNE				
1st Saturday	7th June			
10am - 2pm				
JULY				
1st Saturday	5th July	Looping	Trish	
10am - 2pm				
AUGUST				
1st Saturday	2nd August	Expressive Stitch workshop: explore creative mark-making with stitch	Alison,	1.5 Hours
10am - 2pm		exercises & experimentation to free up & develop expressive samples with a range of materials & stitches		
SEPTEMBER				
1st Saturday	6th September			
10am - 2pm				
OCTOBER				
1st Saturday	4th October			River of Art
10am - 2pm				
NOVEMBER				
1st Saturday	1st November	Basic Crochet stitches and forms	Sally	demo - 20 mins, lesson 1.5 hours
10am - 2pm				
DECEMBER				
1st Saturday	6th December	Christmas Party instead TBC		
10am - 2pm				

St David's Church Hall, corner Drake Street and Hector William Drive, Tuross Head.

10.00am to 2.00pm