EFTAG Newsletter





From the President

This month we yet again had a lovely gathering of about 15 people, including two guests. The mix of people varies slightly each month and that means that most of us are engaged over the course of the year.

We had a wonderful demonstration of Shibori stitching by Marilyn and Delma, both of whom had been to Japan for an 8 day intensive workshop. They have supplied some very helpful notes, which will be included in this newsletter. Thank you so much for your generosity.

We had a less structured show and tell this month, but still got to see some great work that members have been doing. What we don't want, is anyone feeling pressured to share. If you haven't made anything, it doesn't matter. If you don't want to speak, you don't have to. We still do however want to hear from those of you who are comfortable to share information about what you have been doing. It's a great way to get inspiration and to see how talented and creative people are.

Due to diary clashes, there are a few changes to the upcoming monthly gatherings. Next month, Alison and Trish will give some basic tuition on hand embroidery and looping. Alison will send out any list of requirements before hand in her usual email reminder of the upcoming gathering.

We have decided to bring the June gathering forward to 31st May to avoid the long week-

end. At this gathering I will be demonstrating freehand machine embroidery and Jo will bring along her smocking machines. I am planning to have 4 machines set up ready to go so that anyone can have a try at it.

We have also decided not to have a gathering on 4 October, because the Tuross hall is needed for something else. It is also the closing weekend for the River of Art Showcase.

I am just reiterating that we have decided to have two different significant events this year. The Showcase during the River of Art festival will be used to promote EFTAG and our exhibition in November. The idea is to promote the breadth of work that members do. Work does not need to be new and can have been exhibited before.

The second major event is our annual exhibition which will be honoring our 21st birthday. Therefore, past members are also invited to participate. Again, the work does not need to be new, but rather that the exhibition captures contributions from members over the past 21 years. Of course, new members are encouraged to participate as well.

And lastly, Alison has earmarked our August gathering to hold a Market Day. This will essentially be a buy, swap or sell of the various surplus items that we all have in our textile collections. More information will be provided as we get closer to the day.

2025 Committee

Thanks for all your positive feedback about our newsletter, I'm sure you'll all agree that Hilary is doing a fantastic job! She has also been providing the monthly door prize, which was won by Trish this month.

In the meantime—keep creating!

Warmest regards

Veronica Wensing

President

PresidentVeronica WensingVice-PresidentCarolyn Kohler

Secretary Trish Flynn

Treasurer Jo Fafie

Workshops Julie Mills

Monthly meetings Alison Bogg

Newsletter Hilary Metcalf

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The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls

Pablo Picasso

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If you think you would like to participate in the organising sub-committee for the River of Art Showcase, please indicate your interest by **Sunday 20 April** by emailing *in-fo.eftag@gmail.com*. Management Committee members on this sub-committee are Hilary and Veronica and general members Delma and Suzi have also offered to join. We only need one or two more members at most.

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.

The role of this sub-committee is more substantial as we basically have to manage the whole event from start to finish. This will include contacting past members, facilitating the call out for works, determining what can be displayed, setting up the venue including hanging and curation, developing a sitting roster, managing the sales process and organising the launch. Much previous work has been done with some really good systems in place, so the wheel does not need to be reinvented.

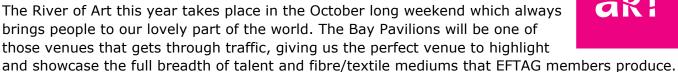
If you think you would like to participate in the organising sub-committee for the Annual (birthday) exhibition, please indicate your interest by **Sunday 20 April** by emailing info.eftag@gmail.com. Management Committee members on this sub-committee are Jo, Carolyn, Trish and Veronica and general members Sally, Suzi, Jennifer and Marilyn have also offered to join. Again, we only need one or two more members at most.

We may call for additional specific assistance, e.g. managing the bar at the launch etc and this will occur close to the time.

Please only put your name forward if you can commit the time and energy. It's hard to know exactly how much time will be required and obviously the Annual Exhibition will require more time than the Showcase. If you join and then subsequently find you are not able to give the time, that's ok, just please let us know asap so we can find a replacement. We are keen to organize our first sub-committee meetings in the next 2 weeks, hence the tight deadline for nominations.

Email nominations to *info.eftag@gmail.com* indicating which sub-committee you are interested in joining.

River of Art 26 September - 6 October





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 only 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.

Call for expressions of interest in joining the sub-committee

The role of the sub-committee will be to facilitate the call out for works, determine how many of each type of work can be displayed and oversee the curation and hanging of works. The sub-committee will also need to organise the launch function. Since it is occurring at the Bay Pavillions, they will do the hanging, manage sales and we can use their bar for the launch.

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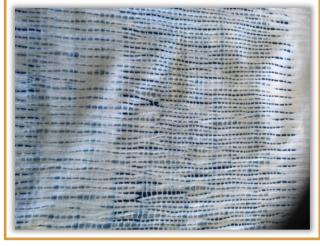
APRIL GATHERING



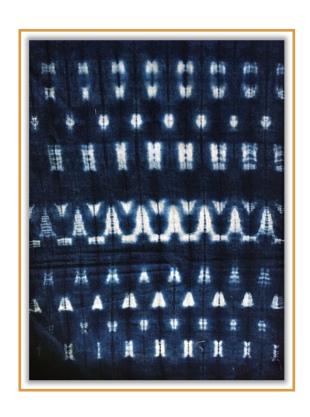
Shibori demonstration by Marilyn and Delma.







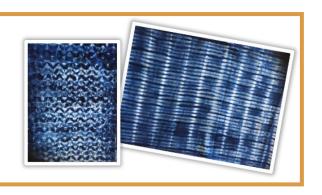












Shibori Stitching

Materials and notes

- * **Fabrics**: cotton, linen, silk Other fabrics can be used but as not all fabrics dye with indigo, this will depend on the type of dye you use.
- * A water erasable fabric marking pen for marking up dots and designs. Japanese use Aobana Ink Pens. This ink is made with extract from a special orchid. Always test your marking pen before starting a large project.
- Sharp small scissor snips. Japanese snips are great, but any small scissors can be used.
- * Strong thread. We used Japanese cotton thread. Always use a double thread.
- * Long thinnish needle with big eye. Maybe look for Clover Basting Needles.

Always start with a very large double knot as the thread needs to be pulled up tightly and you don't want it pulling through or breaking.

You can finish each row with a knot, but the thread doesn't need to be pulled up tight or a large knot made at the sewing stage.

When pulling up the thread to gather up the fabric, do it evenly so as not to stress or break the thread.

Once gathered up and the pleats are aligned, wet the fabric then pull on the threads again to ensure it is pulled up as tightly as possible.

Tie off the threads with a good big knot, a reef knot or square knot or even 2 surgical knots work here.

<u>Suppliers</u> – your favourite local craft store, Etsy, Amazon for supplies or venture further afield to Japan for authentic supplies.

References – YouTube deep dive. Good books are 'Shibori', by Yoshiko Iwamato Wada & 'Stitched Shibori 'by Jane Callender

Hotaru (Firefly Stripe)

This is a simple running stitch.

Width of stitch is 2cm and rows are 5cm apart

Stitch rows of normal running stitch of equal length.

Start and finish with double knot on same side of fabric. There's no need for the tread to be

pulled tight at this stage.
Check there are no loops or knots i.e... make sure the thread can be pulled through ok.

Once the stitching is completed and knotted off, pull each line of thread up tightly, ensuring the fabrics pleats up evenly.

Wet the fabric and pull on each thread again until it is tight. Tie off threads tightly with a big knot.



Kirameki (zig-zag)

This Zigzag stitch is done on both sides of the fabric.

The dots are positioned 2cm apart length and width

One row of stitches is sewn on one side, then the second row is sewn on the back side.

Start on the first dot and pick up a small stitch on top of fabric, then pick up a small stitch on dot that is one row down and one across.

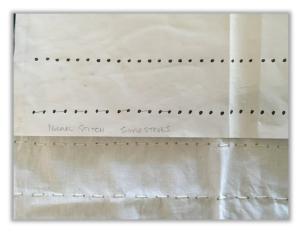
On the back side, the same is done starting from the second dot down and then each alternate row.



Be careful to ensure the threads don't cross over at back of sewing.

Once the stitching is complete and knotted off, pull each line of thread up tightly, ensuring the fabrics pleats up evenly.

Wet the fabric and pull on each thread again until it is tight. Tie off threads tightly with a big knot.

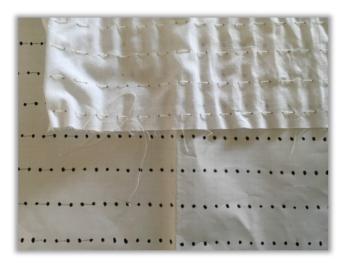


Kantera

This stitch is a small running stitch set 1cm apart on rows 3cm apart on one side of the fabric.

The rows of stitches are pulled up tight and tied off.

This piece of pulled up fabric is then normally laid along a rope or roll with a couple of other pieces of pulled up fabric. They are all lashed on with string. Pieces of fabric can also be tied around to form extra resist patterns.



The whole thing is dyed and then the pieces are taken off, turned to the other sides and lashed on again and dyed.





Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time

Thomas Merton

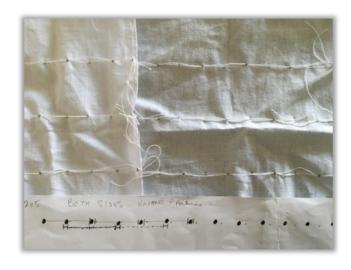
Whip Stitch

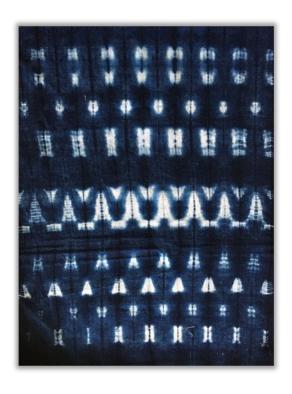
This stitch is sewn on both sides of the fabric. The stitches are 2cm apart and the rows are 5cm apart.

Start and finish all stitches on the same side. Start with a good size double knot and end with a bit of spare thread and good knot.

Start on first dot from underneath fabric, then go to third dot in the row and make a small stitch taking up only a small piece of fabric, then do same on every alternate dot, until the end of the row. On the other side, start on the second dot with your starting knot on this side of the fabric, sew a stitch taking up a small piece of fabric, then skip a dot and sew a small stitch on next dot, across to end of row, making sure you don't catch any stitches already made on other side.

Once the stitching is complete and knotted off, pull each line of thread up tightly, ensuring the fabrics pleats up concertina style, evenly, and tie off tightly. The piece is then in a layered strip. Stitches are sewn along the sides of the layered strip in varying patterns that will form a design on the dyed fabric when opened out.





Katana

This stitch is the same as for whip stitch

This stitch is sewn on both sides of the fabric. The stitches are 2cm apart and the rows are 5cm apart. Start and finish all stitches on the same side. Start with a good size double knot and end with a bit of spare thread and good knot. Start on first dot from underneath fabric, then go to third dot in the row and make a small stitch taking up only a small piece of fabric, then do same on every alternate dot, until the end of the row. On the other side, start on the second dot with your starting knot on this side of the fabric, sew a stitch taking up a small piece of fabric, then skip a dot and sew a small stitch on next dot, across to end of row, making sure you don't catch any stitches already made on other side. Once the stitching is completed and knotted off, pull each line of thread up tightly, ensuring the fabrics pleats up concertina style, evenly and tie off tightly.

The piece is then in a layered strip. Stitches are sewn along the layered strip in varying patterns that will form a design on the dyed fabric

when opened out.









Mokume

A pattern is sewn into the piece and the parts left unsewn dye blue, while the stitched part becomes a pattern that resembles woodgrain (mokume).

The pattern is drawn onto the fabric in disappearing ink (orchid pen or similar).

Rows of running stitch are sewn across and parallel to the top edge of the fabric in rows 5 \mm apart. The stitches do not have to be even or align in any way as long as they are sewn up to the edge of the pattern parts. Thread should start at the edge of the fabric even if the sewing bits start some centimetres in from

the edge. It is neater if all the knots are at

the edge of the fabric.

When this is fully sewn, pull up the threads, a couple of rows of thread at a time. Wet the fabric then pullup each row of thread very tightly and knot off tightly. The unsewn parts will stick out of the bundle.

When dyeing, lots of manual manipulation is required to ensure the dye gets into all the unsewn parts, and the pulled-up parts are evenly dyed. The darker the indigo you can get the better. When this has been dyed, washed well and dried, then the stitches are all pulled out.





Getting to know... Cathie Griffith



I am Cathie Griffith, a fibre and mixed media artist living between our home in Ulladulla and Sydney where we have our art and music studios.

We are currently working towards opening a gallery in Marrickville in the next few months which is a very exciting venture.

I have been a part of EFTAG for over 10 years now and have participated in many wonderful workshops with both overseas and Australian tutors.

These workshops present amazing opportunities to experiment and expand my art practice. The regular exhibitions initiated by EFTAG have provided a great space to showcase and sell my artworks. The members of the group have varied art practices and are a colle-

gial and sharing group from whom I have learned so much.

I am a fibre and mixed media artist and see myself as a storyteller and a narrator. My art practise focuses on my experiences as I interact with the world, the people I meet and their stories. Initially, my art works may have had origins in my own personal history, but I hope others will look into my work and find a story of their own.



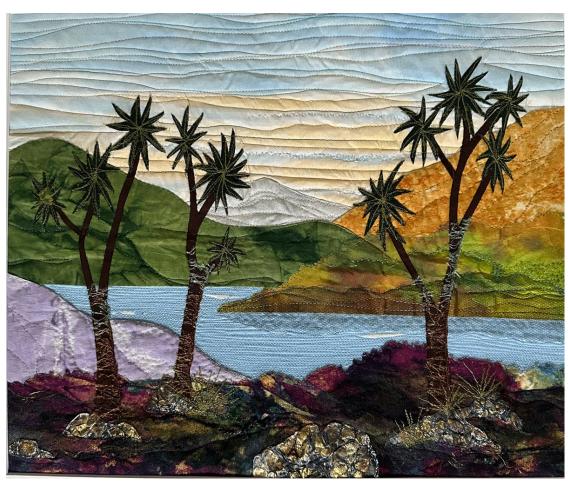
With a love of design, my art works

explore line, pattern, texture and colour. Although I often work with fibres, I frequently include other media in my art works. Integrating paint with stitch is a current favourite combination. As a dedicated recycler of materials, I look to include items that others discard. I see value in these cast-off objects where others may not and they often become an integral part of my works.

The landscape around me, both natural and built, continually influences my work.

As well as exhibiting with EFTAG, I also exhibit with 'Untethered Fibre Artists' at regional galleries around Australia, and with both the Paper and Textile groups from Primrose Creative Art Centre in Cremorne.





Members' News

Welcome to the following new members

- Tanja Wernick
- Tracey Rich

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

CLASSIFIEDS

If you are on the lookout for a reasonably priced sewing machine, check out Rally for Recovery in Tomakin. They often have good quality second hand machines for reasonable prices. All machines are checked out prior to sale.





Rally for Recovery in Tomakin - Open 9 - 12 Wednesday & Saturday

If you have equipment, supplies or materials that you would like to destash, please feel free to advertise them here. Please email I info@eftag.gmail.com and put "Newsletter input" in the subject line.

EXHIBITIONS

<u>Tuggeranong Arts Centre</u> has several upcoming exhibitions that may be of interest to members.





WALKING WITH THE GARDENER PETER MCLEAN AND SHARON PEOPLES

Exhibition dates: 11 April - 7 June 2025 Tuggeranong Arts Centre Opening: Friday 11 April 6pm Artist Talk: Sat 24 May 1:30pm

Peter McLean and Sharon Peoples were artists in residence at the Old School in Mount Wilson; Peter in 2024 and Sharon in 2023. Responding to Mt Wilson in embroidery, prints and drawings, these two artists set out to be immersed in, and record, the same lush environment. They have independently done so, while perceiving and hinting at the unseen hand of a spirit-like figure; The Gardener.









PIXEL AND THREAD

NETWORKS AUSTRALIA

Exhibition dates: 11 April - 7 June 2025

Tuggeranong Arts Centre
Opening: Friday 11 April 6pm

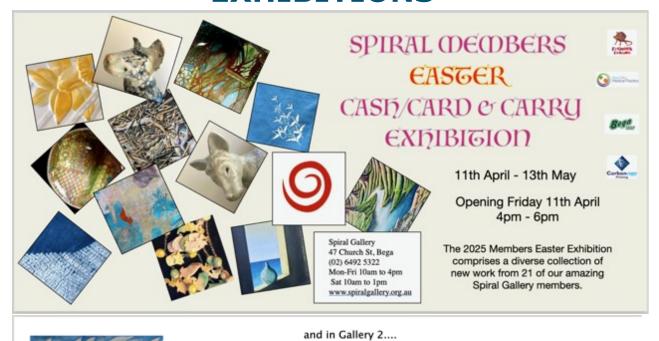
Demo & Afternoon Tea with the Artists: Sat 12 Apr 1:30pm

Pixel and Thread is an exhibition showcasing the diverse ways digital technology can enhance creativity for textile artists and makers. The Networks Australia artists experiment with technologies like AI, photography, programming, and automation, skillfully weaving them into their textile creations. This exhibition includes works from Angela Coleman, Beverly Moxon, Carol Cooke, Dotti Le Sage, Josie Cosgrove, Karyn Fearnside, Liz Perry, Monique van Nieuwland, Ola Robertson, Pinal Maniar, Rozalie Sherwood, and Susan Hey.





EXHIBITIONS









Anthea Moffatt solo

11th - 30th April

Illustrations for an Unwritten Story

Prints, drawings and paintings of

Cousins, Steve and Michelle, have created new work based on their family history of Michelle's grandfather, Steve's great uncle, Alf Stafford, a Gamilaroi and Darug man

Family threads

1st - 13th May

Steve Stafford and Michelle Flynn







From the Forest: **Art exhibition -Batemans Bay**

苗 Saturday 12 April to Sunday 27 April 2025

9am - 4pm

Where: Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, Deep Creek Dam Road, Batemans 'From the Forest' art exhibition will showcase over 120 artistic works created by 23 of our region's talented artists. Paintings, photographs, ceramics, fabric, and sculptures will be on display, and for sale.

Come along and support our local artists, the botanic garden, and the forests.

Don't miss this exhibition in our own backyard which includes work from EFTAG member Carolyn Kohler.

https://whatson.eurobodalla.com.au/event/32008008-a/from-the-forest-art-exhibitionbatemans-bay

MONTHLY GATHERINGS NEWS AND UPDATES

MAY

*These two sessions will run one after the other to explore different ways to use hand stitching. We hope you will do both!

STITCHING INSPIRATION - mini workshop/warm up activity—Alison Bogg (approx 45 mins)

Are you stuck for ideas for your next textile art piece? Or maybe you'd like to free up and experiment with some hand stitching just to try some new starting points for ideas to spring from. Through various stitching exercises we will create some quick samples to explore a few different ways to inspire artistic ideas. This is a great warm up to loosen up and stimulate creative possibilities even if you usually work in a different textile medium/technique.

<u>Please bring:</u> a medium sized needle (chenille, darning or similar sharp) and a pen or pencil

<u>Optional</u>: some small fabric scraps and embroidery thread/floss various colours & black if you have some. Other materials provided.

LOOPING aka KNOTLESS NETTING - mini workshop - Trish Flynn (approx 45 mins)

To learn the technique Trish will guide you to cover a river stone or make a small vessel using beautiful waxed linen thread or fine paper twine. The technique can be used in many ways, from making small bags and other useful objects, beautiful pendant jewellery, or incorporated into sculptural art.

<u>Please bring:</u> a needle with a large eye, e.g. chenille or darning needle or similar sharp. Some needles will be available.
Materials provided, \$5 material fee.

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 for the upcoming exhibitions, even something that has inspired you creatively to share with other members (exhibitions, books etc).

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 for member run sessions (as above).
- small contribution to morning tea.
- gold coin donation to contribute to the hire of the hall
- our lunch and perhaps a friend
- nametag if you have one
- some work of your own old, new or in progress and/or inspiration.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

MONTHLY GATHERINGS NEWS AND UPDATES

JULY

GUEST PRESENTER - Sue Walker The Yarn Hub

We are delighted that Sue Walker is able to visit EFTAG in July for a special presentation to share her textile expertise and knowledge along with her wonderful array of yarns, fibres & accessories. Sue runs YarnHub, an online yarn/fibre shop based in Wollongong, selling a diverse range of textile yarn, fibre, dyes, weaving, felting, knitting & crochet supplies.

Sue regularly visits designer/hand made markets in Canberra, Sydney and the Southern Highlands, teaches loom weaving, and has a passion for all things textiles and fashion, including textiles in Japan.

She will be bringing a selection of her yarns & fibres and other items for purchase if you are interested.

In the meantime have a look at her <u>website</u> and <u>Instagram</u>.

AUGUST

EFTAG Members 'Market Day'

Members are invited to bring in their textile and fibre items to this informal Market Day in August.

This is an opportunity for members to sell, give away, buy or collect textile products, fibre/fabric/yarn and other materials and related tools/equipment to other members and interested friends.

Start collating/making - sort through/make some room in your stash - save up some cash!

Further details to come in future newsletters.

*We are starting this initial market day on a small scale as part of the monthly gathering program to give members an opportunity to participate and gauge interest in this type of activity. Members are welcome to organise expanded Market Days in the future if they wish to form a group to organise this in consultation with the Management Committee. If you are interested please let the committee know - chat to us at a gathering or by email.

The gatherings calendar opposite has been updated to reflect these changes.

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
EBRUARY				
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
IARCH				
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
PRIL				
1st Saturday	5th April	Shibori	Marilyn B and Delma	1.5 hours
10am - 2pm				
IAY				
1st Saturday	3rd May	Stitching Inspiration and Looping (knotless netting)	Hand stitch - Alison	
10am - 2pm			Looping - Trish	
JNE	•		•	
1st Saturday	31st May	Thread Painting (Freehand machine embroidery)	Veronica	demo 20 mins Lesson - up to 3
10am - 2pm	date changed d	ue to long weekend		
ULY				
1st Saturday	5th July	Guest presenter Sue Walker Yarn Hub - presentation & demonstration	s Sue Walker (& Alison)	approx. 3 hrs
10am - 2pm		yarns will also be available to buy.		
UGUST				
1st Saturday	2nd August	EFTAG MEMBERS MARKET DAY	members	
10am - 2pm		Buy Sell Swap Donate		
EPTEMBER				
1st Saturday	6th September	Preparations for exhibition work tbc	sub commmitees & members	
10am - 2pm				
OCTOBER	•			
1st Saturday		No Gathering - due to River of Art / Bay Pavilions Showcase		
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	AGM & Christmas Party - Venue TBC		
10am - 2pm		,		

St David's Church Hall, corner Drake Street and Hector William Drive, Tuross Head.
10.00am to 2.00pm

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 <u>eftag fibretextileart</u>

Facebook 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 eftaq.com.au

Email <u>info.eftag@gmail.com</u>

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