

August 2009

Morpeth Whisper

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The Morpeth Weird & Wonderful Novelty Teapot
Exhibition is on again this August from 20th -
30th every day & there will be visiting artists for
you to meet...

4,000 Novelty Teapots on Display & For Sale.

It's getting harder, but we have again scoured the world to bring you an amazing array of Novelty Teapots. From the UK, new releases include a walking 'Betty' teapot with British Flag up a pole on top, Cup Cakes with cherries & hearts on top, a gramophone, lighthouse, beach hut, shoe box, a waitress serving morning tea, and a washing machine all in the shape of teapots!



Sadler brand teapots are also back: whilst they are now made in India & not the UK, their distinctive square shape with images of traditional British cottages, shopfronts and London scenes, remain of the highest quality. Their octagonal Henry VIII, Queen Elizabeth I & Queen Victoria teapots are beautiful. There's also a Peter Rabbit teapot for all those Beatrix Potter fans.

New American Designed Teapots come in the shape of a fish, rabbit, frog, zebra, ladybird, turkey, lobster, dog, rooster, hen, pig & a cat. Miniature teasetts and teapots will feature, alongside an impressive display of Christmas inspired teapots this year. For those longing for a traditional floral teaset, there are plenty of those as well. Irish Linen Teatowels, Tea Infusers & Tea Accessories will be in abundance.

Elsie's Teapot.

Vanessa Killen is based in Newcastle, and last Christmas whilst enjoying a little downtime from her babywear business, Vanessa was reminiscing about her Great Great Aunty Elsie, who lived in a terrace in Belmore, Sydney. Elsie had the most beautiful teapot. She was a young woman in her mid twenties when she took her 4 young orphaned nephews and niece in to her home in 1932. Elsie turned down her fiancé's proposal of marriage and took on the job of raising the children alone, not wanting to burden anyone else with the responsibility during the depression. Vanessa's grandfather was one of these children. The four children all grew and left the home Elsie had made for them. All except Lillian.



Vanessa says, "As a child it was always such a thrill to visit with Aunt Elsie & Aunt Lillian for lunch or afternoon tea. I remember the terrace being just as it has always been... the jasmine covered lattice walkway and the aluminium fold up kitchen stool that was my chair, pulled up to the table whilst I listened to the stories of times long passed. My favourite story being the one how, in 1970, my father had managed to find his way to the Aunt's terrace house after a night out celebrating my birth with his mates. I would imagine the two of them doting on him the next morning with a soothing cup of tea and toast."

Lillian remained dedicated to her aunt, living together in that terrace until Elsie passed away in her late eighties. Vanessa was fortunate enough to be given Elsie's Teapot and silver service, to remember her by. Each time she polishes it, she tells her own two small children stories about the two Aunts. Vanessa's kids love Origami and together they had purchased the most beautiful Japanese rice papers from which to make origami birds and animals. They created an origami bookmark, that slips over the corner of your book to mark the page.

Often a cuppa coincides with a little book reading... The bookmark was such a simple idea, and one of great beauty, handmade with love. In remembrance of her Aunty, Vanessa created a name for this new range: **Elsie's Teapot**. If you wish to take home a little memento from the Teapot Exhibition for yourself or a friend that is made in the Hunter Valley, make it a bookmark. They are \$3.50 each. Vanessa has also created a Japanese paper covered peg fridge magnet to hold your notes and recipes, \$4.50 each, whilst her acrylic Japanese paper coasters are \$7 each.

Meet Guest Artist Cathy Brady.

Maitland based still life artist Cathy Brady has been visiting the Novelty Teapot Exhibition for many years. Last year she was so inspired by some of the traditional English Floral Teapots, that she went home and painted some into her oil on board artworks. You can almost reach in and pick the teapot filled with flowers off the lace tablecloth, they look so realistic! Six original paintings will be for sale, featuring teapots and antique china cups and saucers, along with art cards featuring her Teatime Series. These cards are an original set of drawings that have been hand coloured in watercolours with pen and ink. They are acid free and will look great in a frame.



Cathy's original paintings and card.

Highlights of Cathy's art career include creating a portrait of racing legend JB Cummings, submitted into the 2007 Archibald's, along with a portrait of the Lord Mayor of Gosford City, that was sold to raise funds for the Coast Homeless Shelter. Recently a large selection of Cathy's works were auctioned to raise funds for the John Hunter Children's Hospital Burns Unit where some of her paintings also hang.

In between painting for exhibitions, Cathy tutors art classes within her private studio twice a week. Cathy enjoys painting still life and portraiture of both people and beloved pets, in oil, acrylic & pen & ink wash. Cathy will demonstrate how to paint still life, on selected days, Thurs 20th Aug 11am-2pm, Friday 21st Aug 11am-2.45pm, Sunday 23rd Aug 11am-3pm and Sunday 30th 11am-3pm of the exhibition in the Gallery courtyard. Her subjects will include a blue and white china teapot with a teacup and red cherries on lace.

Say Hello to Florence Humphries – Painter of Porcelain (Teapots).

We can't call Florence a guest artist, because after 17 years of coming to the Teapot Exhibition, to demonstrate painting of wildflowers and birds on teapots & mugs, Florence is like a part of the family! Florence, like many artists, loved to draw as a child. She walked in the bush, with her pencils and sketch pad, drawing the wildflowers & nature around her. Florence is such an expert in her field, she doesn't bother to mark out her design first onto a teapot, she paints wildflowers straight onto the surface from memory, getting the scale and proportions exact.



You may hear the ABC Radio's *Macca on Sunday*, talk about meeting Florence, and he drinks from one of Florence's hand painted mugs every Sunday morning in his studio. Florence's mugs are for sale from \$40 and her teapots range from \$98 - \$250. Florence is happy to take orders for personalised mugs and teapots – your name, a message, favourite flowers etc... Florence will demonstrate all 11 days of the exhibition.

Tea + Lime & Coconut Butter + Sticky Date Pudding + Farm Honey Tastings.

Next door to the Teapot Exhibition is Morpeth Gourmet Foods. Over the 11 days of the exhibition the team will conduct tastings of delicious Hunter Valley Foods, including blended Herbal Teas from Morpeth's Green Tea Frog. A new blend, of black tea and ginger, is delicious, whilst their popular Chai Tea blend will warm you up on a Winters Day. The Newcastle Pudding Lady will be serving up Sticky Date Pudding with Caramel Sauce & Chef Ian Morphy from the award winning Old George & Dragon Restaurant has made some more of his delicious Butters – Lime & Coconut, Lemon & Passionfruit, which are terrific on toast or fresh bread. Try some Greswick Farm Honey to stir in your tea. Straight from the farm it tastes just like Yellow Box, but better!



Another honey to hit the shelves has been produced by Tim Malfroy. He took his bees deep into the Wollemi National Park to discover a forest of flowering ironbark eucalyptus. These mature native trees do not flower every year and so the honey produced is rare and unique. Packaged to reflect this, the liquid gold comes in a 150g gift jar, with a foldout storybook label. Malfroy's latest delivery of section honeycomb is produced from Red Ironbark – a medium flavoured honey, which will suit most palates. Wollemi Honey is \$13. Section Comb \$14.

Indulge in the Delicacy that is Tetsuya's Avruga Caviar

The delicacy that is caviar has every reason to be wildly and indulgently expensive. It is the salted roe harvested from a mature Sturgeon fish. The Beluga Sturgeon is a very slow growing fish, maturing very late in life, which makes them particularly vulnerable to threats. For this reason it is currently listed as an endangered species. Concerns for the diminishing sturgeon fish population has seen Avruga quickly gain popularity as a more sustainable and cheaper alternative.

Avruga is a caviar product made from the Herring Fish. It is pearlescent black in colour, with taste nuances remarkably similar to Beluga. Award Winning Australian chef extraordinaire, Tetsuya uses Avruga on his menu, which led him to become the Australian importer of the product. There was a delicious magazine recipe for raw tuna with Cucumber and Avruga caviar in Australian Gourmet Traveller magazine recently.



Morpeth Gourmet Foods is excited to now stock this amazing product (along with Tetsuya's smoked salmon, truffled salsa, truffled salt & oyster vinaigrette) for you. The 120g jar of Avruga caviar will set you back \$65. It's worth every cent. Indulge yourself and your friends at your next soiree! It's half the price of Beluga.



The Merry Mermaid
Tea Cosy

Novelty Teacosy Challenge.

The Morpeth Novelty Teacosy Challenge is now in its 5th year. After you have visited the Teapot Exhibition, head upstairs in Morpeth Gallery to view the entries for 2009. Their creativity will astound you. Around 150 entries from all over Australia are vying for Champion Teacosy and a \$500 cash prize. Category winners receive \$100 gift vouchers to spend at Campbell's Store. Some of these novelty yet functional teacosies will be for sale, along with teacosies made in the UK and some knitted locally by Colleen Redding & Val Challinor. Colleen & Val are celebrating 10 years of trading at the Maitland Markets this year, such is the demand for their hand knitted & crochet babywear & homewares.

Meet Guest Artist Tara Badcock & admire her Hand Embroidered Teacosies & Tea Themed Fabric Wall Hangings.

You may remember for your last newsletter, us telling you about fabric artist Tasmanian Tara Badcock, and her beautiful hand embroidered purses and handbags (from \$50). Tara graduated from the University of Tasmania with 1st class honours in Fine Arts and had completed numerous residencies in Paris to hone her skills, including the disappearing traditions of French embroidery. Tara has held exhibitions of her textile wall hangings, tea cosies, homewares and wearable fashion in Tasmania, Turkey & France. Tara will fly up to Morpeth for the first 4 days of the teapot festival, to host a very special exhibition of 15 hand embroidered tea cosies.

They sell for around \$1,000 each, whilst her ceiling to floor banner style wall hangings are normally commission pieces. All teacosies and banners will be for sale during the exhibition. The exhibition will remain up for the 11 days of the exhibition. Meet Tara over the first four days of the exhibition only.

Tara says, "Ahh Embroidery, there's so much I could write...for me embroidery is a form of communication and a means of telling a story, through fragments & scraps, held together with many stitches..."

The Teacosy of San Gimignano...

Tara is often inspired from her travels, and the creation of this teacosy was no exception. If you have travelled to the Tuscan region of Italy, chances are you have been to the 3rd century hill top town of San Gimignano, 'you pronounce it like lasagne', (Gim-in-yarn-o) said our tour guide! San Gimignano is famous for its towers. Originally there were 72 of them, as the aristocratic families competed with each other – the higher the tower the bigger your status within the community. There are now 14 remaining, a few of which you can climb for a spectacular view of Tuscan valleys.

The towers also had a functional purpose – for hanging massive pieces of cloth to dry, that had been hand dyed using saffron. Most of this cloth was purchased by The Vatican in Rome, for papal clothing. San Gimignano also



Tara Badcock



Kylie models Tara's
San Gimignano Tea Cosy

boasts the worlds best Gelato (Shirley can vouch for that) and the worlds oldest bank!

One of San Gimignano's patron Saints (she was never canonized), and the focus of Tara's teacosy, is the Blessed Fina (1238-1253). She was only 15 years old when she died from sickness. Miracles attributed to Fina during her life (such as stopping the Plague) and her death, are mentioned in stories, paintings, poems and documents. Saint Fina is officially celebrated in San Gimignano on March 12th, the anniversary of her death, since 1481. Her relics are carried in a procession in order to bless the town, and the town hospital and a chapel are dedicated to her memory. It is within the Saint Fina Chapel, inside the altar, where her bones are kept. These are symbolised by Tara in a jar of Tasmanian Devil bones sewn onto her teacosy.

So when you look at Tara's teacosy she has embroidered golden thread onto a scarlet red background, to symbolise the wealth of the nobles who resided in San Gimignano during medieval times. The Devil Bones symbolise the sacrifices made by Saint Fina, and a vintage French button on top of the teacosy features an image of Fina. Tara's initials are placed in the bottom corner of the teacosy. It is indeed a work of art!

Pencils made out of recycled newspaper?

As I sit here now, I am jotting down notes on my recycled sugar cane pulp notepad, with a pencil made entirely out of newspaper! And in doing so, I'm helping to protect tigers, lions, whales & polar bears. When you finish reading the daily paper, what do you do with it? It's likely you recycle it in a variety of ways – wrap up your fish & chips, dispose of that smelly salmon tin, use when packing breakables, a fire starter, and pop your unwanted newspapers into the recycle bin, where they are recycled into more papers and cardboard.



In the early days man used stone to draw. In the 16th Century, a large graphite mine was found in Borrowdale, England. In the 19th Century the first machine made wooden pencil was manufactured in Germany. Since then, millions of trees have been destroyed. In 1997, pencils made from recycled newspaper were invented, and in 1999 the first successful recycled newspaper was made. In 2000 Singaporean Ivan Hoo and American John Davis put their heads together and advanced the technology to create the perfect pencil made from recycled newspaper. The company O'Bon was born.

Now in 2009 their pencils are recognised as being stronger & tougher than wooden pencils. Drop one and the graphite won't shatter, which means your pencil will last longer. They are also better looking, with their bold animal prints, colours & fruit designs, and are therefore popular with school children and adults alike. When you discover that they are made from recycled newspaper, you'll feel excited that you are doing your part to help our environment. These clever pencils made from recycled newspaper are available in 2B graphite, coloured pencil packs and artists drawing packs. They cost less than \$1 each.

Magical Tickle Monster Mitts.

Here comes Tickle Monster!!! Share the treasured gift of laughter with your child. With mitts like these your talents are obvious. Your kids will all say your tickling is marvellous! Tickle Monster mitts are brand new. They have been created to go with the *Tickle Monster* hard cover book written by Josie Bissett. Books are \$35, Tickle Mitts are \$20 each. Purchase a cellophane wrapped book & mitt set, and pay just \$50.



Take Home a Lady Bird for Good Luck.

Ladybirds, Lady Beetles or Ladybugs are considered lucky in China and Europe. Some people consider seeing them or having them land on one's body to be a sign of good luck to come, and that killing them presages bad luck. The Ladybird is considered a kind of beneficial insects, which protect crops from aphid (a bug that eats crops), but not many people know it is a symbol of good luck.

Central Europeans and some Swedes, believe that if a Ladybug crawls across a maiden's hand she would soon be married; Germans believe that the Ladybug is generally good luck but a traditional belief is that if there are less than seven spots you are guaranteed a good harvest; in England each spot means a lucky month to come; in French vineyards Ladybugs bring good weather; and, similarly, in Austria a Ladybug is a sign of good weather; its name in Iran means "Good News"; and Canadians & Australians say that you should make a wish and let the Ladybug fly away; the direction it flies to, shows the direction from which your wish will come; the Chinese consider it good luck to find one in the house.

The variety of ladybird you will find upstairs at Campbell's Store in Morpeth Bears, are two spotted ladybirds that are found in Germany, where these ladybirds have originated. The tag attached says Viel Gluck, or *Much Luck* in German. These 13cm Lady Birds are just \$10 each and they are part of the Herman Red Brand.



Ladybirds made by Hermann Red.

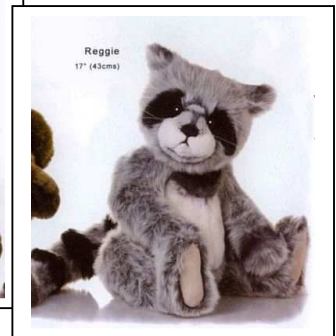
Herman Red have also created some beautiful plush animals: lots of breeds of cats & dogs, frog, rabbit, elephant, penguin, squirrel, red panda, meerkat, guinea pig, these really cute mice that have a pull ring under their tail. Pull the cord and your little mouse will scamper across the floor. Your cat will love it! There are plenty of beautiful plush teddy bears too.

Charlie Bears arrive at Morpeth Bears

Morpeth Bears is now a stockist of plush "Charlie Bears" from England. Bears had no sooner started to arrive and they were finding new homes. Charlie Bears range in price from \$60 - \$295, with most of them around \$80. They are *Bears with Personality and are designed by some of the worlds leading bear artists.*

Charlie Bears was founded in England by Charlotte & William Morris, in 2006. The spirit of Charlie Bears is to provide bears that people will love, that people will cherish and collect. The company is going from strength to strength with their main designer Isabelle Lee. Other bear artists who design collections for Charlie Bears include Heather Lyell. Heather is from New Zealand and her handmade bears can be found in collections around the world. Dutch bear artist Marjan Jorritsma, Britain's Susie James from Kingston Bears, Lisa Rosenbaum from Oz Matilda Bears in Australia, Christine Pike from England, Germany's Maria Collins are all new designers to the collection.

Isabelle Lee designs an exclusive limited edition range known as 'The Isabelle Collection'. Isabelle is known for her beautiful embroidered noses. *The Isabelle Collection* are mohair or alpaca and range in price from \$115 - \$395.



Braid, Lace & Beading from Miss Rose, Sister Violet

Forget Me Not Shop upstairs at Campbell's Store has recently received some beautiful new beading and braid from the home of Miss Rose, Sister Violet. If you are working on a craft project: scrapbooking, patchwork, embroidery, clothing, soft furnishings you really must take a look. High quality braids begin at \$5 a metre. Pearl Beaded Lace motifs are also just \$5 each. Soft Rose Braid is \$15 per metre. They are all featured on our website: www.morpethgallery.com - then click on Forget Me Not. Bree has been busy using these braids and beading to create some stunning lamps. Why not bring your lamp shade in for a make over? Choose your favourite colour and Bree will create something magical for your home.

Play Prams & Heirloom Carriages

There are many reasons why you may wish to buy a dolls pram. To feature a doll collection, to give to your favourite granddaughter, for your kids to play with, because you had a pram just like *'that one'* when you were a child! We even sold one to a lady who was getting married, and wanted her niece to wheel her newborn baby down the church isle in a traditional white pram.

Our new dolls prams have been created using old styles that were popular in England and Germany. They are a very high quality: solid, with hard wearing wheels, tightly woven cane, some painted then lacquered, and have beautiful pillow & bedding inserts. There are 12 different prams to choose from, and 3 white baby's cradles – one with a canopy. They range in price from \$135 - \$400.

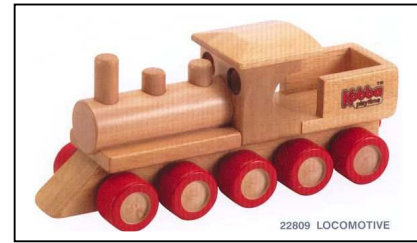
New Zealand's Favourite Toy - The Buzzy Bee Story

Buzzy Bee is one of New Zealand's most famous icons and was first made in the 1940's by brothers Hec & John Ramsey in Auckland. It's been NZ's top selling toy for 60 years! Buzzy Bee enchants generations of children from all around the world. Even the future king of England, Prince William has one! Buzzy Bee is brightly coloured, has spinning wings, and when you pull him along he makes gentle clicking noises, just like a real New Zealand Bee. Australian Bees buzz with a humm, New Zealand bees go click, click, click! Listen for them in the gardens if you go on holidays there.



Buzzy Bee has travelled across the Tasman to Campbell's Store, along with other fantastic New Zealand traditionally made wooden toys – trucks, trains, carriages, forklift, helicopter.

Buzzy Bee's are \$45, other wooden toys average at \$35 - \$55 each.



Play Australian Menagerie - Can You Save Australia's Wildlife?

Australian Menagerie is an Australian Made (Jindabyne) and created challenging game about Australia's Wildlife. It is suitable for ages 6 years and upwards. There are three levels of difficulty within the game, making it enjoyable for every member of your family. The standard game is ideal for 2-4 players but by adding on habitats you can play with 6 players.

The aim of the game: A Menagerie is a collection of different species of animals. The aim is to collect as many animals as you can for each habitat of your nature reserve and to protect them from threats to their survival. For example: fire, pollution and feral animals. You will score points for each animal you have in your reserve and the first player/team to gain 100 points or more wins the game.

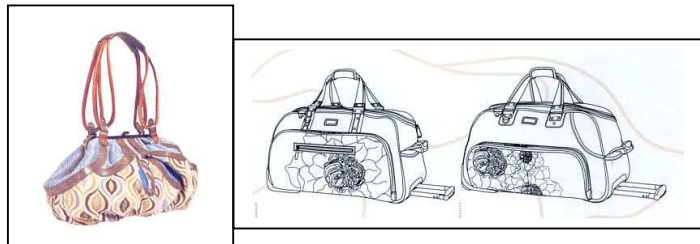
The standard game consists of 44 animal cards, 5 threat cards, 5 management strategy cards, 3 habitat game boards & lets play instructions. It is \$25. Add on habitats are \$9 each. There's Australian Alps, Red Centre, Tasmanian, Coral Reef & Rainforest Add Ons.



Spencer & Rutherford Handbag & Luggage New Releases

Handbags

The Spring/Summer 2009 Collection 'Into the Wilderness' has arrived. Inspired by the excitement of possibility and change; when you venture into something new, and somewhere different. Creative Director Kim Michaelides says, "These pieces are destined to be like the old oak in the woods; versatile, everlasting, and as beautiful and tempting as the forest which surrounds it. So leave the safety of your reality behind, just for a little while, and follow me Into the Wilderness."



From the bright pink, red & orange of Thorns & Roses and Sunflower's Haze series, to the subtle beige pinks of Fox Glove, the blue/browns of Speckled Egg, and dark grey/black of Mid Summer Night's Dream and Silver Nettle series, there is a handbag to match every outfit.

Wallets The new Purdy Limited Edition Wallets are fushia pink, pale pink/cream and blue/grey, \$165. Ginger is the name of a new wallet style, available in a black/beige/white or brown/sky blue/red colour combination & \$105. For the first time ever S&R have released a range of all leather wallets in different sizes called L'Accessorie. Quality leather has been matched with fine embossed detailing and embedded crystals – attention grabbing yet timeless in their style. You'll love these, especially priced between \$45 for a ticket purse, short and mid sized wallets around the \$90 and long wallets \$100-\$110. Oriental Butterflies, Cherry Blossom & a Black Cat on a Red Wrought Iron Chair designs will be popular.

Mini Break Luggage You'll be glamorous, sophisticated and best of all practical, with Spencer & Rutherford's stylish & strong luggage. Beautiful printed canvas is coated with a special plastic coating, preventing excess damage and making them waterproof. It's time to run away for that romantic trip or girls weekend you've been dreaming of, with contemporary soft luggage. Bootbags \$199 30H x 43W x 20D and Sleepover bags \$250 30H x 52W x 26D (for those 10kg carry on luggage flights interstate), are now joined by the Weekender \$350 38H x 72W x 42D & Getaway \$395 40H x 74W x 44D with a handle and wheels, for check in luggage journeys. There are three colour ways: Cobblestone: Beige/Black/Cream, Summer Bloom: RedPink/Mustard Yellow & Lagoon: Blue/Mustard Yellow/Black/Grey.

Hygiene - Terror

