

Stitched up: as well as vintage and new clothes, Thread Den has a sewing lounge.



Den of delight

△ A WHIMSICAL mural climbing the wall is a clue to what might be found at the top of a flight of terrazzo steps in North Melbourne.

It shows 20th-century fashions in the style of paper patterns that were a household staple in the days when it was the norm for clothes to be made at home and not in a Chinese factory.

The painting, by Hannah Tracey, leads the way to the Thread Den, a cool little shop and workshop that combines sewing, vintage clothing and locally designed and made fashion — the passions of the three women who opened it last month.

“It was a way of incorporating all those things we love,” Kylie Shepherd, a former costume design student who runs the Thread Den with Melissa Kramer and Tennille Rohde, says.

One room is a shop selling vintage clothing, shoes and bags. Old knitting needles, sewing equipment, Butterick and Simplicity patterns await use by a crafty new generation. Then there’s new clothing by labels Elkha, Mint Slice Afternoons and Shapere, and jewellery by Bridbird and Elissa Moodie.

But it’s the second room that sets the Thread Den apart. It’s a sewing lounge,

where people can satisfy their own crafty urges on sewing machines, overlockers and cutting tables. People can use equipment by the hour or enrol in classes.

As well as regular classes, Thread Den will run a school-holiday program from January 7-18.

**Thread Den, 16 Errol St, North Melbourne (upstairs).
Ph: 9329 5305.**

www.threadden.com

