

## FOR SALE

- **Ashford 4 shaft table loom on stand** and can be converted to use foot treadles. 32" weaving width, 10 dpi reed, all new Texlov heddles. \$500 ono Please call Laura Bailey 0415 975 146
- **Ertoel electric spinning wheel** with jumbo bobbins and foot pedal. Hardly used, as new, half price, \$450 ono. Margaret Groves (08) 9302 5978 or 0439957753

## WANTED

- 8 Shaft Floor Loom. Please contact Helen Dunn on 0408 800 674.

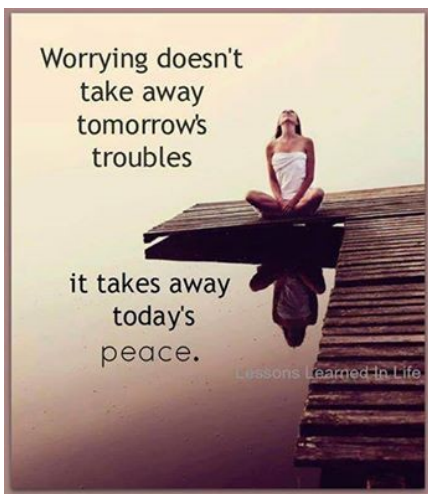
**Guild members** can advertise in the YarnSpinner (at no charge) any events or items for sale. Contact the editor at the Guild address or at lynato@iinet.net.au.

Non members may advertise but must pay \$5 per line, in advance.

*(Continued from page 6)*

the land from the current owners, the plan will provide the power for the WA Planning Commission to compulsorily acquire the site."

The public comment period closes on June 10, so we could see movement on this mid-year, especially if the Purly Queens keep needling the powers that be.



## HANDWEAVERS', SPINNERS' AND DYERS' GUILD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC

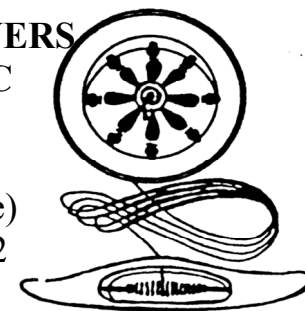
Alexander Park Craft House

Clyde Road, Menora

Phone: (08) 93705004 (with answer machine)

Mail: P.O. Box 446 INGLEWOOD WA 6932

Web: <http://spinweavewa.org/>



# The YarnSpinner

Volume 44, No. 5

June 2014

*Deadline for Contributions: Second Saturday of the month*

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

11:00 - Our Speaker will be **Valerie Hobson** who has recently published her book, "**Across the Board**"

She will tell us how she put it together and how it became the catalyst which reunited the "old" shearers

followed by: 12:00 General Meeting

Tea and coffee are available **until 1:00 pm**  
as well as **soup** at **\$2** per mug

The Library and the Yarn Area will be open from 10.00am

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2014**

## Spinning Day

Come and show us what you have been doing and reading.

Bring your current project, news and ideas. Beginners are always welcome.

We start at 10:00 am as usual, so come and spin in good company, choose some yummy new fibre to spin from the Yarn Area, or just enjoy a chat with friends.

Tea and coffee are provided, but bring your own lunch

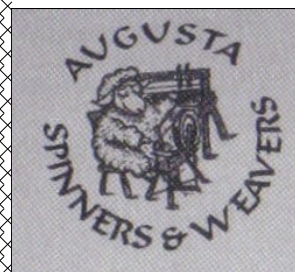
## Office Bearers and Convenors for 2013

\* indicates committee member + indicates APCH Committee member

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<b>HOUSEKEEPER</b>	Yvonne Sly	9409 6860	yvonesly@virginbroadband.com.au
	Jayne Lane*	9342 0039	a_lane1@optusnet.com.au
<b>SHARING TABLE</b>	Margaret PC*	9403 0394	kynox@bigpond.net.au
<b>WEB PAGE EDITOR</b>	Candace Gibson*	9474 9676	candacegibson@yahoo.com
<b>AUDITOR</b>	David Williams		

The Alexander Park Craft House Committee member representing the Guild for 2014 is:-

Janet Allsworth



## INVITATION TO SPIN-IN

Members of Augusta Spinners and Weavers invite you and your friends to join us for a day of fun, friendship and sharing.

**DATE:** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2014

**PLACE:** Augusta Centennial Hall

**COST:** \$6 includes door prize, am and pm teas and lunch

**RSVP** by 1<sup>st</sup> June to PO Box 164, Augusta, 6290

Bring items to show on sharing table.

### COMPETITION: -

Make doll, (basic pattern available on request from PO Box 164, Augusta, WA 6290 or from the Guild) to represent someone famous or infamous!



"Genius is eternal patience."

Michaelangelo

"If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. Then quit. There's no point being a damn fool about it."

W.C. Fields

HWSDG  
Clyde Road  
Menora  
6<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Dear Members,

I draw your attention to an incorrect statement made by me in my president's report printed in the May Yarn Spinner.

There are members who are anxious to have a retreat this year, provided an acceptable venue and date can be found.

Should this not be achieved, planning will go ahead for a retreat in 2015.

My sincere apologies to everyone who thought I had made a decision on the planned retreat without consulting Guild members and the committee. That is not how I conduct myself and I sincerely regret my mistake.

Janet Allsworth

### "THE NEW AGE"

## ROBERTA ELECTRONIC SPINNER

**World Renowned and Proven**  
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Motor guaranteed for 10 years.  
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(or combination)

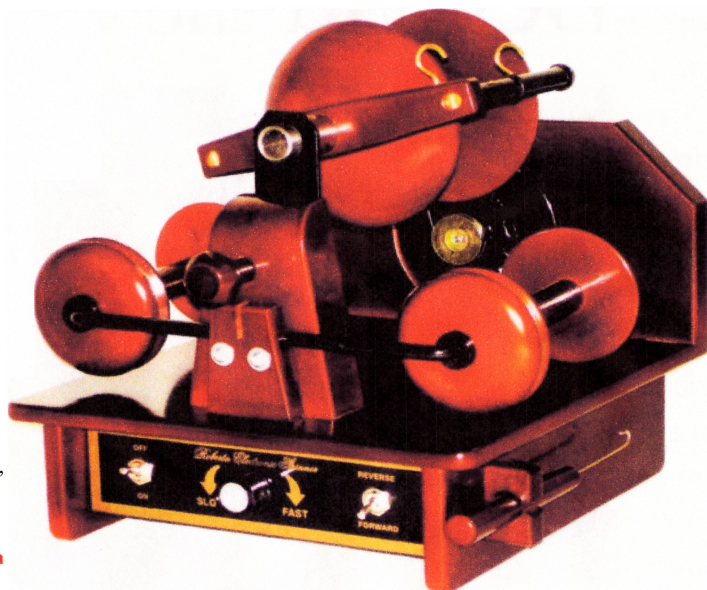
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## Craft House Guild Groups

### KUMIHIMO GROUP

Kumihimo Braiders meet on the first Thursday of each month from 10am to 1pm. Beginners are welcome. Contact Audrey Ford 93045231.

### TAPESTRY GROUP

Contact Stephanie Cantoni 93858774

### SPINNING GROUP

Spinners meet at Craft House on the fourth Saturday of each month from 10:00 am. Beginners are very welcome. Members share their knowledge with each other. Library and Yarn areas are open.

Bring your lunch and your spindle or spinning wheel. The Guild equipment, including carders, drum carder, various spinning wheels, electric wheels and dye equipment, is available for use by members.

### In-house Weavers

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the month, starting at 9:30am. The hall is booked until 4:00pm but everyone leaves at different times, depending on their needs and demands.

Wonderful to see so many new and enthusiastic weavers ----- the hall is almost bursting with beginners and newcomers.

Mingling with the experienced weavers doing their own thing is a great way to see what their weaving future holds in store.

Please remember that if you aren't able to bring your own loom, we still have some in the store room that can be used, either for your own project or threaded up in a weave structure of choice to sample on.

If demand is high, there will be a 3 month limit on using it.

The library corner is open to browse for new ideas, chat with friends or have a cuppa!

Thank you to everyone for sharing your time and expertise to those who need it, especially the beginners when I don't have time to get to everyone.

Happy weaving

Sue

### WEAVING LESSONS

These are now all day, with many helping hands. Please note that these are quite casual with everyone working at their own pace; not a structured class.



### PAGES FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S NOTEBOOK.

Tony Bennet, from Dormani Yarns, was our guest speaker for the General Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May. He gave an interesting and amusing talk to one of the more packed halls I have seen for a while. I think many of us will have learned a lot from him regarding going back to basics when designing knitwear and some very useful tips and tricks for making a garment fit. I doubt I will be alone in trying out some of his ideas.

Tony was happy to answer questions, which is wonderful because he was nearly trampled in the rush when his talk came to an end and we all got to have a closer look at his samples and talk to him further. We are continuing to give speakers hand crafted work and this month's donation came from Jo Rhodes. Jenni will be happy to accept contributions for future speakers.

It was great to have two new members join us on the 11<sup>th</sup> and I would like to welcome Trish and Pam to the Guild and hope to see them at our meetings for many years to come.

The schedules are up for the Perth Royal show and your entries forms have to be in by 25<sup>th</sup> July. *Please be aware that this does not mean that you have to have your articles finished by then. You have until just before the show to complete them, which gives us all about four months, at least, to get our entries ready.*

It would be wonderful to have us make a really huge effort to fill the cabinet with as much weaving, spinning and knitting this year as it is likely that the spinning categories will be cut back further if there is not increase in entries. You can send your form in to the address on the schedule or email your entry form to: [creativecraft@perthroyalshow.com.au](mailto:creativecraft@perthroyalshow.com.au) This information is also on the entry form.

All information about the schedule and entry forms is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/mnmovx8> and is also available on our website: [www.spinweavewa.org](http://www.spinweavewa.org)

A big thank you to Yvonne for continuing to look after the kitchen. Don't forget that everyone is responsible for washing up what they use and your help is much appreciated. The roster for soup for the General Meetings has now been prepared and the next meeting has been taken care of but it would be great to have more people signed up for the next couple of months to take care of this.

Looking forward to seeing you all on our next Spinning Day.

Candace

### Perth Royal Show

The entry forms are now available from the show website. Forms have to be in by 25th July, not as I mentioned in the last news letter.

Here is the information from the show schedule that is **relevant to the weaving section:**

Entry fee: \$4 per entry

Prize money: 1st \$10 2nd \$15

Prize certificates: 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Exhibitors restricted to ONE ENTRY per class.

#### Judging points:

1. Suitability of materials and patterns to classifications.
2. Balance and regularity of weave, sett, beat and selvages.
3. Originality.
4. Finishing.

Best exhibit: sash and \$50.

Class 212 - Any handwoven article.

Class 213 - Dimensional weaving (which I called "off loom weaving" in the last issue).

Since each of us can only put in one entry per class, it's even more important that as many of us enter as possible. We can all contribute something!

Maggie Webb

Email: [magnpete@activ8.net.au](mailto:magnpete@activ8.net.au)

### Silk Obsessions: Margaret River Silk Fair and Expo

From **Friday 31 October to Sunday 2 November** Margaret River is hosting a celebration of all things silk, including an exhibition of silk painting, dyeing and other art pieces, silk farm tours, art and craft workshops, displays and demonstrations and an outdoor marketplace.

(Continued from page 10)

She now has two socks but the tops don't actually match. Minor detail - they will be warm! Anyhow, who said sock tops had to match anymore than that skirt hems had to be straight.

**Candace Gibson** had knitted a very fine shawl in alpaca - fine in every sense of the word. I hope the photo gives some idea of the fine knitting. Candace had also been at the indigo workshop as evidenced by wool, silk and mohair samples



**Sally Whitmore** took her handspun to the workshop and had dyed alpaca, merino and silk



**Lilia Vaughan** had handknitted a cowl using an Ashford blend of Merino and silk. The lace pattern used came from the internet.



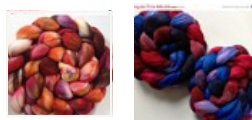
Thank you to all these people for sharing their work with us and giving us an insight into the workshop joys

*Connie Ward*

## Yarn Shop Report

Just arrived:

- New hand dyed fibres from New Zealand
- American drop spindles with whorls made from beautiful carved semi-precious stones and Chinese coins



If you are unable to come to the Guild please contact me and I could email you some photos of the items you are interested in.

*Jo Rhodes*

## Dates for your diary



Saturday 31st May	Toodyay Fleece & Fibre Festival and Back to Back Challenge
Sunday 15th June	Deadline for submissions to the July YarnSpinner
Tuesday 17th June	<b>Trudi Pollard</b> will talk to WAFTA about her involvement with a community development silk weaving project in Cambodia
20th to 23rd June	Alice Springs Beanie Festival, for info go to <a href="http://www.beaniefest.org/">http://www.beaniefest.org/</a>
Saturday 21st June	Augusta Spin-In (p.15)
18th—20th July	Bendigo Sheep & Wool Show
25th July	Deadline for Entry Forms for the Perth Royal Show
27th September—4th October	Perth Royal Show (p.13)
Friday 31 October – Sunday 2 November	<b>Silk Obsessions:</b> Margaret River Silk Fair and Expo (p. 13)

### Guild Membership Fees for 2014

Full —\$40.00	Pensioner—\$30.00	Associate—\$30.00
Student—\$30.00	Family—\$65.00	Group—\$45.00

If renewing by mail, please include your Renewal form, (or if you don't have that, then your name, postal address and phone number) along with a stamped self-addressed envelope for return of your receipt and year badge. Half Fees apply after 1st July, and late arrivals who join after 1st October have the option to pay in full which then includes their sub for the following year.

New members should contact the Membership Officer for further details on how to join.

## KNIT HAPPENS

*From "Inside Cover" The Weekend West – April 26-27 2014*

This yarn is about a community tired of the State Government trying to pull the wool over its eyes. But more than that it's a yarn about, well, yarn.

The good people of Albany have long bemoaned the Government's perceived inaction on the old Esplanade Hotel site, which has been a blot on Middleton beach since the building was torn down in 2007.

Frustrated with this state of affairs, a local group known as the Purly Queens set about yarnbombing the barbed-wire fence surrounding the vacant land last weekend in protest. Yarnbombing is like graffiti with wool and is possibly the cuddliest form of activism.

The Purly Queens themselves are a close-knit bunch, keeping their identities hidden by using aliases such as the Happy Hooker and, our favourite, Yarner Went. We spoke to the group's leader, Knit. One Sip One and learnt they have been active in the Great Southern region for some time now and have about 26 members ranging in age from 17 to 70.

Their latest act of craftivism reminded us Colin Barnett told ABC radio last October his Government was negotiating with the Singaporean owners of the land and hoped to finalise a deal "in the next few months".

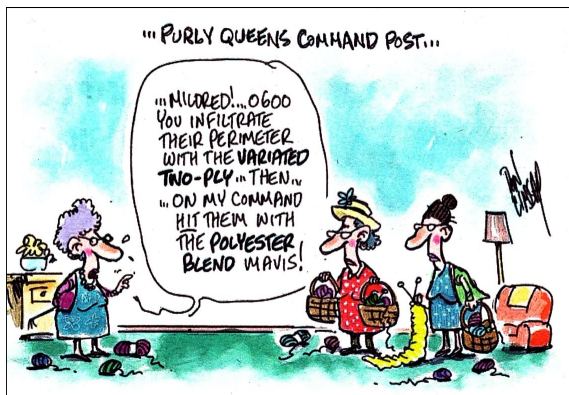
No strangers to knitpicking Government promises, we got on the blower to Acting Lands Minister Terry Waldron to see if a deal was actually imminent or if it was all just a stitch-up. "The State Government, through LandCorp, met with the owner's representatives late last year and again earlier this year," Mr.

Waldron confirmed. He said the intention was still to negotiate a positive outcome with the owners but the Government had legislative powers at its disposal and had an improvement plan for the site advertised for public comment.

"If the State Government cannot reach an agreement to purchase



Craftivism: Yarnbombing the site.



## Grow your own: Cotton

While most of us haven't got room in our gardens for a sheep or alpaca, we can still try spinning our own home-grown fibre. Several Guild members have successfully grown, harvested, and spun their own cotton. This year Jo Rhodes thought she'd give it a try, and the Yarnspinner is following her progress.



In February Jo laid dozens of cotton seeds on wet cotton wool and waited. About a week later one cotton seedling emerged, and was potted outdoors. Some other tiny seedlings, and un-germinated seeds, were also potted. About 6 weeks later the plants are coming along nicely (despite being accidentally planted in the wrong season!), but Jo will bring them indoors as the weather cools.

According to Cotton Australia cotton is an annual crop that prefers hot summers, low humidity, and as much sunshine as possible. It should be watered regularly, but the soil allowed to dry out a bit between waters. Time from planting seeds to harvesting cotton is about 6 months. Seeds should be planted in September-November (when soil temperatures reach 14 degrees or more for three days in a row). Flower buds develop a few weeks after the plant starts to grow, then flowers appear a few weeks later. The flowers then fall off leaving a ripening seed pod that becomes the cotton boll. Bolls can be picked as they are open and mature, around March-May. They are then 'ginned' – a process which separates the lint (raw cotton fibre), cottonseed and trash.

We will catch up with Jo again as her cotton grows....good luck Jo!

For more information about cotton in Australia, go to <http://cottonaustralia.com.au>

Do you have any tips on growing and harvesting cotton? Have you raised your own fibre plants or animals, and would like to share your experience with the Guild? Please email Cecilia Jordan [ceciliajordan@rocketmail.com](mailto:ceciliajordan@rocketmail.com)



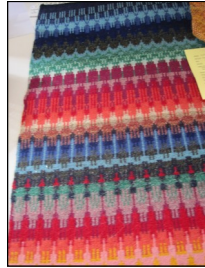
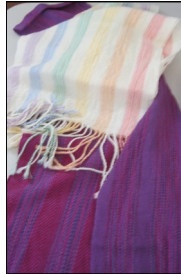
## Sharing Table—Saturday 12th April 2014

The result of the indigo dyeing workshop were very apparent today. We saw rovings, skeins, fabric and fibre samples all in their brilliant blue hues- or with a dash of white to highlight. Obviously a happy day for many.

So, to itemise:-

**Gail Campbell** had woven 2 scarves in a mix of cotton and wool. Once washed, the wool gave a gathered look in the one where pastel colours had been used.

**Kirsten Bjelland** had been busy, producing another of her strong and attractive storage baskets - in brown and blue this time - woven in plain weave. A second item was a closely woven runner/ wall hanging in bright colours and a Norwegian weave. There was also Kirsten's indigo contribution of an alpaca skein



**Sue Greig** had tied buttons to white seersucker fabric before



dyeing it in the indigo dyebath. The lines of seersucker came out a darker blue with the various button shapes in white brightening the end piece. Sue is not sure if it will turn into a skirt or retire to the "wait-and-see" drawer..Sue also had skeins of cotton which she had tied tightly at

intervals to repulse the dye.

**Maggie Webb** wove a baby blanket, 1 metre square, in herringbone twill. Warp and weft were both cotton.



**Keilo Wise** was another indigo experimenter with 3 rovings (wool and alpaca) and 2 skeins, the latter being commercial silk. In addition, she had spun a skein of merino/silk and alpaca mix in interesting colours. What happens to it next Keilo?

**Daphne Rowett** had a battle with some commercial sock yarn.



(Continued on page 12)

## Dare to Design: Tony Bennett – Dormani Yarns

On Saturday 10<sup>TH</sup> of May Tony Bennett, knitwear designer and owner (with Robert Bettini) of Dormani Yarns inspired Guild members to think differently about our crafts, and the garments we make.



Tony was born in a mining town in England and came to Australia with his family as a 'ten pound pom'. He started knitting more than 25 years ago, designing and making his own clothes, partly so he'd have something to wear that fit his 'gorilla arms'. His love of the knitting machine began when his mother bought one, and asked him to help her get it working. Tony gave up his job as a gaming inspector at the Burswood Casino, bought himself a knitting machine, and has been designing and creating beautiful knitwear ever since. He has now won over 300 awards for his designs, including 2012 WA Wool Designer of the Year.

When it comes to design, Tony believes in keeping it simple, utilising basic shapes in new ways, to make people see crafts that are too often dismissed as 'old fashioned' in a new way. He illustrated some of his design philosophies with a selection of the amazing garments he has created. He encouraged Guild members to experiment, play with shapes, consider drape and movement, and think laterally. And when things don't turn out as you expect, always remember: it's never wrong, you just charge more for it!

For more information about Tony, and Dormani Yarns, visit <http://dormani-yarns.com/>





## Indigo Dying Workshop — Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014



Twelve of us went to the Indigo Dying workshop that was held at Kjerstin's house in Kalamunda on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April. Thank you to Kjerstin for letting us use her work shed.

Anne Miller was the instructor, she did a wonderful job and was very organised. We all learnt lots of new things about dyeing with Indigo from her.

When we got there the dye was mixed and ready to use in a large plastic rubbish bin. We were keen to see what it looked like but when she took the lid off to stir it we all moved away very quickly, it stunk to high heaven!! Kjerstin's dog absolutely loved it.

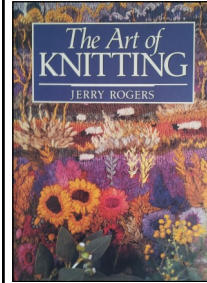


The items were put into the bin for 15 minutes then quickly pulled out and put into a bucket, being careful not to oxygenize the remaining dye in the bin. They all came out of the bin a beautiful green but as soon as the air got to them they quickly changed to blue before our eyes, it was most fascinating to watch!

We all had an assortment of fibres to dye, such as fleece, alpaca, silk, cotton etc. Keilo's fabric looked like an alien with pegs and string tying it

*(Continued on page 9)*

## FROM THE LIBRARY



### The Art of Knitting - Jerry Rogers

With brilliant colours and vibrant ideas, nineteen knitwear designers have interpreted the paintings of some of Australia's greatest artists, such as Fred Williams, Sally Morgan, Brett Whiteley and Margaret Preston. The designers comment on the use of colour, style and technique in their designs.

*Anne McAdam*

*(Continued from page 8)*



in knots and Maggie's looked like it had been taken off the window, as she had wrapped it in a venetian blind! The girls were very artistic and the fibres all turned out very different.

We all had a lovely day! Thanks again to Anne & Kjerstin.

*Sally Whitmore*  
*Photos Bev Wallis*

