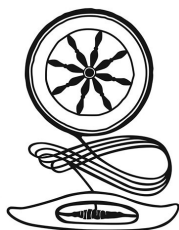


# The YarnSpinner



Newsletter of the Handweavers', Spinners'  
and Dyers' Guild of Western Australia

Volume 49 No. 2

March 2019



## Coming up....

**Saturday 9 March 2019:** Annual General Meeting of the Handweavers', Spinners' and Dyers' Guild of WA.

**10am** Library & Yarn Area open

**12pm** HWSGDWA Annual General Meeting, followed by lunch

Coffee and tea available. BYO lunch.

**Contribution deadline the April 2019 edition of the  
YarnSpinner: Saturday 9 March 2019**

DISCLAIMER: Opinions expressed in correspondence in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Guild

## Alexander Park Craft House Guild Groups

### **SPINNING GROUP: 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month from 10am**

Beginners welcome. Library and Yarn Area open. Bring your spindle or spinning wheel, your latest project, and lunch. Coffee and tea provided. Guild equipment is available for hire by members including hand and drum carders, spinning wheels, and dye equipment . Contact Information Officer (details page 15).

### **IN-HOUSE WEAVERS: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 9:30am**

Anyone is welcome to join us! Contact Brenda Roy 9381 4870 or [brenda@cadplan.com.au](mailto:brenda@cadplan.com.au).

### **TAPESTRY GROUP:**

Contact Stephnie Cantoni [stephniecantoni@bigpond.com](mailto:stephniecantoni@bigpond.com) or Jan Hunter [wsf.jmhunter@bigpond.com](mailto:wsf.jmhunter@bigpond.com).

## **Guild Membership Fees for 2019**

Full \$65.00	Concession \$52.00	Associate/Junior \$52.00
Student \$52.00	Family \$97.50	Group \$97.50

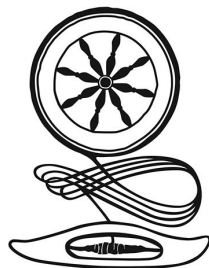
If a person applies for membership after 1 October, their fee will include membership for the current and following year.

**Renewing Members:** If renewing by mail, please include renewal form (or name, postal address and phone no.) and a stamped self-addressed envelope for return of your receipt and name badge. Renewing members no longer receive a name badge—members get a perpetual badge at joining. To replace a lost badge, contact Membership Officer (details page 15). A \$13 fee applies.

**New members:** For info on joining contact Membership Officer (details page 15).

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

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## Dates for your diary

Saturday 9 March	HWSDGWA Annual General Meeting, APCH, 12pm (Yarn Area and Library open from 10am)
Saturday 23 March	Spinning Day, APCH, from 10am Spinning Study Group (APCH Studio) from 10:30am
Thursday 4 April	Porongorups Ruby Spin In (see below)
Friday 5—Sunday 7 April	Stirling Range Fibre Weekend (see below)
Saturday 13 April	HWSDGWA General Meeting, APCH, from 10am
Saturday 27 April	Spinning Day, APCH, from 10am Spinning Study Group (APCH Studio) from 10:30am
Saturday 11 May	HWSDGWA General Meeting, APCH, from 10am
Wednesday 22—Sunday 26 May	Craft and Quilt and Fair, Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre <a href="http://www.craftfair.com.au/wp/Perth/">www.craftfair.com.au/wp/Perth/</a>
Saturday 25 May	Spinning Day, APCH, from 10am Spinning Study Group (APCH Studio) from 10:30am
Sunday 2 June	Toodyay Fibre Festival (pg. 7)
Saturday 8 June	HWSDGWA General Meeting, APCH, from 10am
Saturday 22 June	Spinning Day, APCH, from 10am Spinning Study Group (APCH Studio) from 10:30am
Saturday 28 September— Saturday 5 October	Perth Royal Show

## Porongorups Ruby Spin In

It is 40 years since the Porongurup Craft Group was formed and its founding member Etta Glen still attends. To celebrate this milestone we are having a Ruby Spin In on **April 4 2019**. Come along for the day from **10am until 3pm** at the **Porongurup Hall**, for a day of eating, talking and maybe a bit of spinning.

Along with the usual sharing table we will have a special Ruby themed sharing table with a prize for the article voted most popular. **RSVP to [fiona-iglen@gmail.com](mailto:fiona-iglen@gmail.com) or 9853 1192**. You can also use this email or phone number if you need help with accommodation or need any other information.

While you are in the area, why not stay for the Stirling Range Fibre Weekend. That is always a lot of fun with natural dyeing, textile recycling and lots of other craft work (for information phone 9853 1192).

## From the President

I am writing what is likely to be my final report as President of the HWSGDGWA Inc. and find myself thinking of all the things that I would still like to do, but I have put myself down for a committee position so I am likely to still be in a position to help out.

I just want to say a big thank you to everyone I have worked with on the committee, past and present, as President over the last 3 years and for 3 years prior to that as Vice President. I also want to say a big thank you to Cecilia for quietly and consistently getting on with the job of putting together the Yarnspinner which is quite a substantial task, not made easier by the odd late President's Report. Thanks for your patience!

I know there will be some new faces on the committee this year but whoever is chosen as President will have a professional and experienced committee behind them. We are all volunteers and it takes quite a few of us to keep things running smoothly. We also have Convenor positions, many of which have been filled by the same people for many years. It can be easy to take for granted that someone will run the Yarn Room, open the Library, but every one of the Convenor positions means that someone has to turn up each fortnight/month and perform their role.

I am happy to have presided over one Spin In as President and just helped out at two others. We will be having another Spin In this year (in case you are wondering, every two years on an odd year in June) and if our last one was anything to go by it will should be a huge success. From memory we stopped counting at 150 attendees. We also had a lovely catered lunch to celebrate our diamond anniversary (60 happy years!) which was great fun and went smoothly.

We have had several other events and it has been my honour to pin three life members for their exceptional contributions to the Guild, Mrs Ruth Reid and Mrs Janet Allsworth and Mrs Evelyn Cousins. In their different ways they have all made huge contributions to the Guild and I hope to continue my own efforts for the Guild with them as my model.

I will not be able to be present for the AGM as I will be overseas but I wish the committee a smooth meeting and look forward to seeing you all again on my return.

## Sharing Table—Saturday 9 February

The sharing table had an abundance of beauty on this first meeting day of 2019.

**Bronwyn Croghan** brought three skeins from her experiments with natural dyes while holidaying down south. The tops she dyed the tops gave yellow with red onion skins, pinky beige from avocado skins and pits and soft brown from the



leaves of a red flowering gum.



**Sue Greig** had woven cotton kitchen towels in colourful summer hues in plaited twill combined with plain weave. She also wove a scarf on a rigid heddle loom featuring Brookes Bouquet to striking effect. The warp was ribbon, alpaca and silk, the weft merino and silk. Another scarf, knitted from 8ply acrylic sock wool in a 'waterfall' look achieved by carrying dropped

stitches from the finished edge to the cast on row. Simple and very effective.

**Sue Webb** showed us her gorgeous skeins of handspun, hand dyed and colour mixed on a blending board. I cannot tell you what the fibre mix was, only that those greeny brown skeins were fine and soft and luscious. Sue had woven herself a beautiful blue scarf, light and airy, from Suri mohair, and cotton I think.



**Helen Lovitt Raison** had knitted a beautifully subtle sweater with lace side panels and delicate front 'contour' patterns, plus a sweater knitted of Icelandic wool/Thai silk in an Einem pattern was amazingly lightweight.

**Beth Klokeid** had woven a colourful, textured scarf in single weave using upcycled linen and silk strips as weft on a cotton warp to great effect. Absolutely as colourful and textured were the pants and top





**Gail Hamilton** had also been a prolific knitter over the summer break. She produced a very striking baby cardigan by coco knits in Bendigo wool, a bottle green 'sock madness advent scarf', socks in Dingo Dyeworks yarn from a 'Goat's Eye' pattern by Tracy Millar. Last but certainly not least she showed us the charcoal grey cardigan, knitted for herself, of Dingo Dyeworks yarn in the 'Like a Cloud' pattern by Joji Lockateli.



Lastly, I brought some of my dyeing fun during January—linen scarves and scavenged table linen



dipped in indigo and some skeins of silk and cotton dyed with madder, and a scarf woven in

grey white and beige with a madder silk edge. Also along for the fun before heading to a grandson in Adelaide, a lion from fabric handspun and woven many years ago.

*Brenda Roy*

## Happy birthday Connie!

Long time Guild member Connie Ward celebrated a major milestone this year—she turned 90.

Happy birthday Connie!

Lorraine Stokoe and Helen Lovitt Raison presented Connie with a card and flowers to wish her a happy birthday on behalf of the Guild.



## Reminder: RENEW YOUR GUILD MEMBERSHIP!

Its time to renew your Guild membership for 2019.

A membership renewal form was included with the February Yarnspinner. If you need another copy, contact the Membership Officer (details page 15).

Membership fees for 2019 can be found on page 2 of the Yarnspinner.

Only those who have paid their membership fees for 2019 will be able to vote at the HWSGDWA Annual General Meeting (12pm Saturday 9 March).

2018 memberships officially lapse on 31 March, so those who have not renewed will not receive the April edition of the Yarnspinner.

### Hello Weavers!

The **In House Weavers** group has started again for the year at APCH every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, 10am to 2pm.

From experienced to enthusiastic beginner, all our members do fabulous things and are happy to share skills. We love to have new folk join us with their ideas, challenges and creations. So if you can, consider joining us!

*Brenda Roy*

*(For more information, contact Brenda Roy [brenda@cadplan.com.au](mailto:brenda@cadplan.com.au) or phone 9381 4870 )*

## Toodyay Fibre Festival 2019

Hello creative yarn and fabric folk!!

**The Toodyay Fibre Festival will be happening on Sunday 2 June, 9am-4pm, at the Toodyay Memorial Hall (Stirling Terrace, Toodyay)**

As part of the festival, the Fibre Fashion Parade is on again. The organising committee are looking for budding or established designers who would be willing to have their work choreographed down the runway!

Do you crochet? Knit? Felt? Sew? Patchwork? Embroider? Upcycle? Recycle, ladies clothes?? It would be so delicious to have you on board!

Minimum three garments per entry with theme of "MAGIC".

Please contact Naomi Gonsall on 0459 207 972 for further details.

Be super creative! The sky is the limit!!!

Pieces do sell! So it's a great opportunity to be a part of something fun and a great way to meet like-minded folk.

# BRIOCHE KNITTING 101

A few years ago, pre-Westian times, knitting was knit, purl and a few increases and decreases. Occasionally folk would be brave and add multiple yarnovers (or yo) in a row of knitting and lace was born. Then a girl called Nancy and a bloke (?) called Stephen came along with something I thought only existed in cafes as a breakfast option: brioche. And not just brioche —many-coloured options with increases and decreases meant brioche was so much more than a new stitch.

Why would you want to do this you may ask? Because it's there I would say. It gives a new dimension and texture to knitted projects. You can add something a bit different and special to your master pieces.

Brioche can be, well, a lot of extra work! It makes a warm squishy fabric that, because of its texture, is a lot warmer than its ribbed equivalent. When you consider something made using this technique, you may wish to *decrease* the needle size you would usually use or that is recommended on the ball band of your chosen yarn as the finished piece will be looser than normal.

Specific cast-ons and bind-offs can be required depending on whether you go with a two-colour version or not. Edge stitches are recommended as a stabilising influence for your knitted pieces.

There are many books on the subject as well as YouTube videos demonstrating the technique. The reference list below gives some starting points and the major proponents of this stitch. I give you a list of videos to watch as I find that the one that works for me, may not suit someone else.

There are also a range of paid and free patterns on the web to get you started. Mine is one of many but is a single colour as a beginner option (my free downloadable cowl pattern on Ravelry is correctly written and only needs one end of yarn as it is knitted back and forth in one colour and not in the round).

## STITCH NAMES

If you look at any of the patterns in the references, you will see a weird and wonderful collection of terms that don't resemble those you may be familiar with – brk, brp, brk2tog – then there are the row names DS, LS, DS LC or DS DC. What does it all mean? Those in the know call the stitches bark's (brk) and burp's (brp). The complication factor comes in because you need to work each row twice, particularly in two colour knitting, to knit and purl the stitches. It's a bit like mosaic knitting in that regard.

Each stitch consists of what we see is a standard knit or purl plus a yarn over (yo), like a shawl \*(or hoodie if you're Stephen West!)\* around the neck of the stitch if you like. These are treated as a single stitch.



In two colour work, the “shawl” and stitch are in different colours and depending on whether you are barking or burping for that colour on that row determines which colour you use. That’s how those awesome windy, twisty patterns you see in the pictures are formed!

You then need to work out increases and decreases to keep the colours right but that’s a little detailed for a beginner’s session. If you are heading there, remembering that this is like ribbing can help. To keep the neat rows of knit “V’s” on the brk’s lined up, you need to work increases and decreases over three stitches rather than just two so that the purl (brp) stitch in the dip of the rib-like texture is decreased as well as the knit or brk. To increase a stitch and get everything working again, you increase two, one for the purl (brp) stitch and one for the knit (brk) stitch. The first book in the list gives clear pictures of how this will work and I strongly recommend something simple to start.

Like lace, brioche sounds a bit gobbledegook when you haven’t done it and I’m here to tell you that a dropped stitch can initially be a nightmare but it too can be fixed easily once you understand how the whole thing works. Until then, you may like to use lifelines. Less sleepless nights and ripped out knitting that way!

Enjoy your brioche adventures!

*Helen Lovitt Raison*

## REFERENCES

*Knitting Brioche* Nancy Marchant 2010, North Light Books (print and eBook)

*Knitting Fresh Brioche: Creating Two-Color Twists & Turns* Nancy Marchant 2014 Sixth & Spring Books (print only currently)

*Leafy Brioche* Nancy Marchant 2016, Schoolhouse Press (print/eBook and Ravelry download)

[www.briochestitch.com](http://www.briochestitch.com) (Nancy’s website lists her craftsy classes, books and links to her forum on Ravelry)

*Brioche Chic* Mercedes Tarasovich-Clark 2014, Interweave Press (print/eBook)

*Westknits Bestknits Number 1 – Shawls* Stephen West 2016 (print—comes with a code for download—and eBook only)

*Westknits Bestknits Number 2 – Sweaters* Stephen West 2017 (print—comes with a code for download—and eBook only)

There are a plethora of Stephen West patterns available that use this technique. Check out Ravelry page [www.ravelry.com/designers/stephen-west](http://www.ravelry.com/designers/stephen-west)

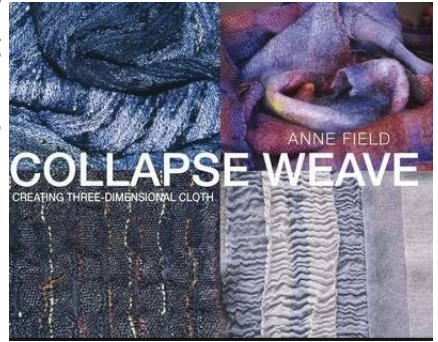
YouTube videos here: [www.youtube.com/](http://www.youtube.com/)

Ravelry search for brioche (no delimiters) [www.ravelry.com/](http://www.ravelry.com/)

## From the Library

### ***Collapse Weave—Creating Three-Dimensional Cloth* Anne Field**

Collapse weave can be created by contrasting yarn factors, or combining weave structures that react with each other to create ridges and hollows. This fabric has a flexibility of movement that makes it lovely to wear and the uniqueness of the weave means the artistry of the weaver can be seen in the cloth. Instructions are clearly written, easy to understand and fully illustrated.

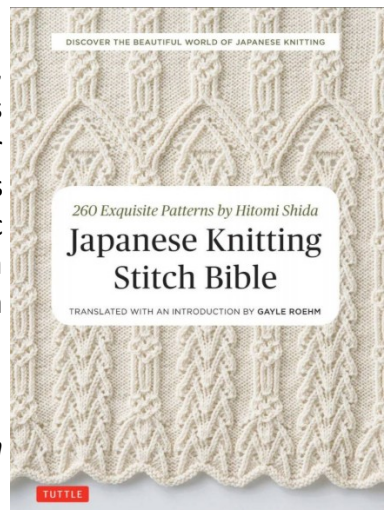


### ***Cool Knitters Finish in Style* Lucy Neatby**

Lucy takes all sense of peril and woe out of finishing, showing how to master your stitches and put them to bed with ease. Necks and collars, seams, button holes, shoulders and sleeves are just a few important topics covered in this book.

### ***Japanese Knitting Stitch Bible* Hitomi Shida**

Featuring some rewardingly intricate cables, popcorn stitches, twisted stitches, edgings and so much more - this book is perfect for the experienced knitter. Detailed diagrams show you how to execute all the basic stitches. Patterns are included for a sampling of small projects, including a beanie, mittens and a scarf.



Anne McAdam

## Spinning Study Group 2019

The Spinning Study Group is a monthly gathering at APCH for those who want some company and feedback whilst doing the NSW Guild Certificate of Competence in Handspinning—find out more at: [www.nsweave.org.au/](http://www.nsweave.org.au/)

The group meets every 4th Saturday of the month in the Studio at APCH (from 10:30am), every month until Dec. Contact Candace Cranston: 0424 984 883 or [candacegibson@yahoo.com](mailto:candacegibson@yahoo.com)

### From the Yarn Area

We have new stock trickling in all the time, so pop over to our tables to refresh your memories and restock your depleted supplies (secret word for “STASH”)... new cotton from BWM (Bendigo Woollen Mills) has arrived and new scrumptious hand dyed tops of assorted smoochy blends from local indie dyers are on their way too. The digital row counters are back too (at a great price).

There are assorted knitting/haberdashery accessories available on the swinging stands, along with beautiful hand turned spindles by Eastern Stater Frank Williams, and hand turned lucets by local craftsman Collin PC.

Checkout the basket of hand dyed silk tops by Treetops, and a comprehensive selection of Landscape Dyes to delve into DIY dyeing.

If you are interested in different fibres, there is a basket with a large selection of “nude” rovings for you to tryout.

We don't put all of these baskets out on the tables for display but please do not hesitate to ask us about any of these products - if they are in the cupboards.... you can pop in behind us to have a look.

*Happy spinning, weaving and dyeing—Sue & Jo*

### Who do you follow?

The internet is full of weird and wonderful sources of inspiration for those of us who love fibre, yarn, and textiles. I'm hoping that the Yarnspinner can share some of these with the Guild.

**Do you have a favourite website, blog, Facebook page, Pinterest account or Instagram star that you follow, that you want to share with the Guild?**

Anything related to fibre, yarn, textiles, spinning, dyeing, weaving, designers, sheep breeders, artists, museums, galleries...whatever inspires you.

Please let me know. Send a link to Yarnspinner Editor Cecilia Jordan at [ceciliajordan@rocketmail.com](mailto:ceciliajordan@rocketmail.com).

# Workshops

## Dianne Totten: an update

NB: Dianne's courses have been put back until March/April 2020 which will give us more time to organise them.

### Crimp cloth workshop

From Dianne's website <http://diannetottenhandwovens.com>

This is an on-loom workshop taking fiber in a new direction by creating "crimp cloth." Learn to create fabric with permanently crimped designs that hold their memory even when washed. Apply this stash-busting technique to any threading and learn the thought process that will lead to endless possibilities for creating magic cloth. Participants will draft, weave, and crimp their samples in class. Learn how the fabric can be used for one-size-fits-all garments that flatter any figure, scarves and shawls that won't slide off your shoulders, and knit-look ribbing for a sweater or jacket collar. Garment design and sewing tips are included. Advanced beginner and beyond.

Cost is estimated as between \$120 and \$180 for the 3 days.

Dianne also does a course called "Sewing with crimp cloth"

*From her website: A sequel to "Crimp and Create," this workshop focuses on creating and assembling a crimped garment. Participants will bring crimped yardage, with or without an idea of what to make. We'll share ideas for each individual yardage, give encouragement, and have fun with the design process. Think from elegant to funky, from zippers to bling. With all the tips and tricks of sewing with crimp cloth that will be presented, the goal will be to complete a garment in class. Skill level: can sew a straight line (or close counts!)*

Initially it was thought that Dianne wouldn't be able to run this course because of the logistics of her having to fly back and to too many times. However, Dianne has agreed to send through a draft of how to weave the cloth for making cloth a couple of months before the course so that we can prepare cloth. Obviously anyone who would like to do this course would need to pay up front as it would be unfair for Dianne to supply a draft for free. Cost of this course is likely to be similar to the first one.

*Continued on the next page...*

## **Laverne Waddington**

This year, in August, Laverne Waddington is coming to run 2 day workshops on backstrap weaving:

From her course description:

### **Complementary-warp patterning on body-tensioned looms**

In this two-day workshop, we follow the path of young girls in some regions of South America as they take their first steps in weaving on narrow warps that are tied to their waists. With these simple body-tensioned looms, we create bands of plain weave, and then learn to add simple pick-up patterns. While doing so, participants will review the basics of backstrap loom operation and the principles of complementary warp pick-up weaving using only their fingers as tools.

Participants practice reading the weaving from the cloth as well as charting new designs directly from woven samples. The principles are then applied to a slightly wider warp as we weave a classic Andean hook design on which many of the motifs seen in South American textiles are based. We will prepare warps to weave a variety of patterns by mirroring and flipping the hook motif. Finally, we learn to apply these principles to warps of any width.

Participants will take home fully dressed warps that they create themselves in class so that they can continue to study these motifs and pick-up techniques.

Laverne's website is <http://backstrapweaving.wordpress.com>

This class costs approximately \$200 for the 2 days and I have already taken bookings and deposits for 3 courses. If you are interested in participating and haven't already put your name down, please let me know as soon as possible on [magnpete@activ8.net.au](mailto:magnpete@activ8.net.au)

Finally, Elizabeth Woods of the NSW guild is bringing Joan Ruane, well-known US cotton spinning teacher over to Australia and New Zealand in 2020. If anyone is interested in bringing her here, please contact Elizabeth on [elizabeth@ourguild.com.au](mailto:elizabeth@ourguild.com.au)

It looks like we're in for a feast of workshops in the coming years!

*Maggie Webb*

# Nada Murphy's Saturday Studio Workshops

## ECO DYE WORKSHOP

**Saturday 30 March 10am to 3pm**

Working with nature's resources is so rewarding.  
Build your creative process with eco dyes.

- Explore the eco dye process
- Use an iron blanket
- Create a beautiful unique silk scarf
- Experiment with yarns and paper

Fee: \$85 Includes Light Vegetarian Lunch

Materials supplied: pre-prepared bush dyes, scoured iron blankets, papers, eco materials, dye pots, steamer, microwave and other tools. Additional silk and yarn available for sale.

Places limited. Reserve your place now. Book by Friday 22 March.



## COIL BASKET WORKSHOP

**Saturday 16 March 10am to 3pm**

Enjoy working with your hands using time honoured simple coil method.

This popular workshop will take you through the process of building coil baskets. You will:

- Construct a vessel using yarns, cord, raffia or recycled materials
- Explore creative applications of the cord technique
- Enjoy working with your hands using time honoured simple coil method

Price: \$65 Includes light vegetarian lunch & refreshment

Materials included: raffia, cord, yarns and basic equipment

Places limited. Reserve your place now. Book by Friday 8 March.



Nada Murphy

10 Holland Street Wembley

Phone 0400 031 952

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CreateCollaborateCommunity/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/nadamurphy>



# Office Bearers and Convenors

## COMMITTEE

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<b>5</b>	UNFILLED		

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WEBSITE EDITOR ARCHIVES AUDITOR PATRON	Candace Cranston UNFILLED David Williams UNFILLED	0424984883	candacegibson@yahoo.com

## FOR SALE

- **Alpaca Fleece:** Lovely soft luxurious natural colour alpaca fleece. Let me know the colour and quality you'd like so I can hand pick a fleece. Email Carolyn at emerys5@westnet.com.au or contact Jo Rhodes 0414 782 277
- **Ashford Traditional spinning wheels:** Two wheels available, plus some extra bits and pieces. \$175 each. Contact Walter Wallenborn 0419 937 499 (Mundaring)
- **Warping Board:** Handmade, probably 50 years old, sturdy and reasonable condition \$30 Contact Tracy Barker 0418 946 972 or tracy@barkerandhale.com.au
- **Mohair:** full fleeces, white or grey. \$20 per kg (weights vary). Contact Barbara 0427 377 054—located at Bakers Hill but can deliver to Balcatta, Midland or APCH
- **Nagy Spinning wheel:** dated 1976. \$200. Contact Sue Greig 0411 831 814 or 9448 0840
- **Ashford Traditional Spinning Wheel:** Included is 11 bobbins, threading hook and Lazy Kate. Fully operational and ideal for beginner spinner. \$150 Also available jumbo flyer and 2 bobbins to suit this wheel \$30. Contact Helen Dunn on 0408 800 674
- **Majacraft Rose spinning wheel:** in excellent condition. Includes eight bobbins, delta flyer, standard flyer, slow speed whorl and Majacraft lazy kate. \$1,000. Contact Bev Wallis 0403 270 656 or beverley8416@yahoo.com.au

**Guild members** can advertise in the YarnSpinner events or items for sale at no charge.

**Non members** may advertise but must pay \$5 per line, in advance. Contact the editor at the Guild address or by email as on page 15.

**Advertising deadline for April YarnSpinner: 9 March 2019**

***Front cover:** From the sharing table—necklace and a brooch made from left over cotton and silk weft and warp, by Beth Klokeid*