

## FOR SALE

- **Beautiful Alpaca Fleece:** This year's shearing, clean, white and colours available. For all enquiries contact Carolyn : 0417 920 044 (evenings) or emerys5@westnet.com.au
- **4 shaft Jarrah table loom:** 72 cm weaving width, string heddles. Not sure of the make but it is a 'Kissane' type with the levers at the side front (2 each side) Asking \$250 O.N.O. including a warping board. Please contact Beatrice Guillon 0414 250 425

## FREE TO A GOOD HOME

- **FREE 4 ft. floor loom:** Reasonable condition. For details contact Anne Roberts phone 9335 6063, email jonanne@inet.net.au

## WANTED

- **"Weaving for Kids" by Sarah Swett:** If any one wants to get rid of their copy. Phone Anne Miller 0412 700 508

**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.

### Guild Membership Fees for 2016

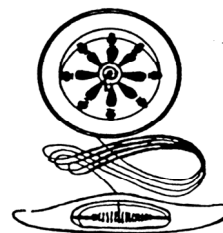
Full —\$40.00	Pensioner—\$30.00	Associate—\$30.00
Student—\$30.00	Family—\$65.00	Group—\$45.00

**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 year badge. Half fees apply after 1st July, those joining after 1st October have the option to pay in full which then includes membership for 2017.

**New members:** Contact the Membership Officer for details on how to join.

*Front cover: From the sharing table—Corriedale skeins spun by Janet Allsworth*

# The YarnSpinner



Newsletter of the Handweavers', Spinners'  
and Dyers' Guild of Western Australia  
**Volume 46 No. 02**  
**March 2016**



## Coming up....

### Saturday 12th March 2016

General meeting of the Handweavers', Spinners' and Dyers' Guild of Western Australia

**10am** Library and Yarn Area open

**11am** 'Surprise' speaker

**12pm** HWSGDWA General Meeting

Thankyou to those who have renewed their Guild membership. A **red spot** above means we have not received your membership fee for 2016, which is now over due. Please note: only financial members will receive the YarnSpinner next month

**Contribution deadline the April edition of the YarnSpinner:  
Saturday 12th March**

## 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 including hand & drum carders, spinning wheels, electric wheels and dye equipment is available for use by members. Contact Information Officer (details page 15).

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

My apologies for having to cancel our first meeting of the year. I'm sure there are many like me who were looking forward to getting back to our weaving day, but not in 40c! I guess there is always a first for everything, and that is the first time we have cancelled due to weather. This year I hope to spread the work load around our group, with each month someone different being the 'boss', giving a small demonstration or talk of their choice of weave structure—a favourite weave, or something you have wanted to try, so a good excuse to warp up a loom and 'have-a-go'. We will start at 10.00am, giving everyone a chance to settle in and get a cuppa.

- MARCH: Judith Matisons will demonstrate Inkle weaving, so for those interested in learning more please come and join in.
- APRIL: Margaret PC will demonstrate her 'Lucky Dip' dying. For those who haven't seen her marvellous results, you will be in for a treat. Please note that this is a demonstration only, not a hands-on workshop. If there is enough interest we will try for a workshop on another day.

Please give some thought to the following months to be the 'boss', it would be wonderful to have a full calendar of keen helpers. I am looking forward to a busy schedule and hopefully lots of new faces, as well as all the 'old' ones. Happy weaving! Contact Sue Greig 9448 0840 or sue\_greig@hotmail.com.

### KUMIHIMO GROUP: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month 10am to 1pm

Beginners welcome. Contact Rosemary Skinner 9341 3037.

### TAPESTRY GROUP

Contact Stephanie Cantoni stephniecantoni@bigpond.com or Jan Hunter wsf.jmhunter@bigpond.com.

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

Alexander Park Craft House  
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\* indicates committee member

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## Weaving Workshops 2016

Weaving Workshops for 2016 are being held on **Sundays** at Alexander Park Craft House and the dates are as follows:

**Course one:** March 13th and 27th, April 10th

**Course two:** May 1st, 8th and 22nd

**Course three:** July 3rd, 10th and 31st

**Course four:** August 28th, September 11th and 25th

This is a **beginners** course designed to ensure that by the end of the course you are able to weave independently. Classes have a full day programme (**9:30am to 3:30pm**) and the teacher will provide plan of what is going to be taught in advance of the class and any materials required (there may be some available some available on the day).

**Day one** you will go through the basics of designing your item and warp (thread your loom with your chosen pattern) your loom – *it is crucial you do not miss the first day.*

**Day two** you will begin weaving your item.

**Day three** should see you removing your item from your loom and be warping up and be ready to continue independently with your second item. The dates are spaced so that you have time to continue your work between sessions.

Classes will be filled in the order that you expressed interest and your loom type. The Guild does not have rigid heddle looms for hire to Guild members, only 4 or 8 shaft.

For more information or to register, go to the HWSGDGWA website: <https://spinweavewa.org/198-2/coursesworkshops/weaving-courses/> or contact Candace Gibson on 0424984883 or [candacegibson@yahoo.com](mailto:candacegibson@yahoo.com)

## Dates for your diary

Tuesday 1 March	Closing day for entries to WAFTA twentyONE+ Exhibition (p. 11)
Saturday 12 March	HWSGDGWA General Meeting
Thursday 17 March	Porongurup Spin In (see below)
Friday 18 March	Deadline for entry to 2016 Scarf Exchange (p. 10)
Friday 18 - Sunday 20 March	Stirling Range Fibre Weekend (see below)
Saturday 26 March	Spinning Group APCH 10am
Thursday 7 April	APCH Annual General Meeting 6:30pm
Saturday 9 April	HWSGDGWA General Meeting
Saturday 23 April	Spinning Group APCH 10am
Wednesday 18 - Sunday 22 May	Perth Quilt and Craft Fair, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, 9am-4:30pm
17 June - 7 July	WAFTA twentyONE+ Exhibition (p. 11)
Friday 15 - Sunday 17 July	Bendigo Wool and Sheep Show
Saturday 10 September	Project of the Year (p. 11)
Saturday 24 September - Sunday 1 October	Perth Royal Show

Porongurup Spin In is on again!

WHEN: Thursday 17 March 2016, 10am-3pm

WHERE: Porongurup Hall, Mt Barker Porongurup Road, Porongurup

Stirling Range Fibre Weekend

WHEN: Friday 18 to Sunday 20 March

WHAT: A full weekend of fibre craft. Eco-dyeing, spinning and lots more.

For more information or to register phone 9853 1192 or message the Porongurup Craft Group Facebook page.

## Handweavers', Spinners' and Dyers' Guild WA

### Presidents Report 2015

I always read through each copy of the Yarn Spinner before I start to write my report for the year. Again this year I congratulate each person involved in the production of our first class magazine. Thanks to every contributor and the dedicated production team. What did I discover! You will not be surprised if I say what a busy and successful year we have had. With the Scarf Exchange and a Spin-in to tackle your committee swung into action early!

The Spin-in was well attended and with help from many members, a few changes in set up and format we had a great day. The success of the Scarf Exchange has been well documented. The pictures, press notes and feedback from the public and crafters alike were most positive. Well done to every one for their expertise and hard work.

Throughout the year the Yarn Room has continued to tempt us with new fibres, colours and objects to keep us up to date.

There is certainly evidence of this in quality and quantity of items that are displayed each meeting for our show table. Check them all out in last year's Yarn Spinner. Thank you again to all who entered items in the Royal Show. Although entry numbers were a little less this year, the quality of entries in all categories were really good, well done everyone.

Thank you to those who maintain our library and keep us up to date with new publications.

This year we again had the pleasure of viewing items in the Tapestry Challenge, the theme My Place. The diversity and imagination of entrants and their expertise is so amazing.

Thank you to all members who again constructed and serviced our presentation at the Quilt and Craft Fair. The exhibit was so professional, you did the Guild proud! We always have many inquiries for membership from this event, it is a vital part of our growth.

I am often away for the Project of the Year and although it was held this time earlier in the year, you all came up trumps! The pictures in the Yarn Spinner tell the story of a great well organized day with so many beautiful entries.

The variety and quality of our speakers for the year is again proof of the commitment of our committee members, thank you.

*Continued on next page...*

- For garments or articles, attach a white card, and include a raw sample of fibre, a small length of spun yarn and details as to fibre content.
- It helps if you give any details that may be relevant to your special item or why you have made an XS or an XXL garment. For example, if you have made your item very long or the sleeves very long, it helps to mention if the end user of your garment is very tall or needs longer arm length. Please block lace shawls and scarves.
- The spinning section will lose the class specifically for bootees, mittens, socks etc [there were no entries in 2015]. These items will now be included in the class "Any other handspun article or garment etc". All other classes, with exception of Melanian class, will remain the same.
- Skein weights have been recommended as minimum weights.

This is the 40th Anniversary year for the Melanian Sheep Breeders Society of Australia. The class sponsored by them will reflect this, requesting 'Any adult garment or article handspun from West Australian Melanian naturally coloured wool.' Please do NOTE, only 5% white or overdyed is permitted. The prize money has been increased to celebrate this special year.

#### KNITTING

- All these classes remain available.
- Please note that in the knitting section, you are requested to attach a yarn label. If you do not attach a yarn label or give details, your item will not be judged. If you do not have a yarn label, please give details on a white card as to its origin and fibre content.
- Please also remember that if you have made a retail purchase of handspun yarn, there is only ONE class you may enter this in the knitting section, and you must give details of fibre content and where it comes from. All other handspun you have done personally, must go into the Spinning section.

**CROCHET:** classes remain the same.

**NEEDLE FELT** items, **WET FELT** items and **RECYCLED** items: classes will still be available in the 'General Handcrafts' section.

**SENIORS over 70s:** There is a section for seniors with a class for HANDKNIT and one for CROCHET. Both classes require commercial yarns to be used.

**TOYS:** Have a look at this section as there is a class for Handknitted Toys [once again commercial yarn]

For more information on the 2016 Perth Royal Show contact the Guild Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) representatives (see page 15) or go to:

[www.perthroyalshow.com.au](http://www.perthroyalshow.com.au)

*June Lynn*

## Perth Royal Show

The Creative Craft Section of the 2015 Perth Royal Show had lots of good quality bootees displayed in the Knitting Section. The overall standard was high with good quality articles in the spinning, weaving, crochet, knitting and general handcraft sections. Thank you to everyone who entered and 'well done' to all prize winners. Congratulations to Best Exhibit section winners - Janet Allsworth [spinning], Helen Dunn [weaving] and Keilo Wise [knitting].

2015 entries included 20 skeins, 1 skein from a hand spindle and 19 handspun articles/garments. Weaving section had 10 entries over 2 classes only. Knitting entries were in abundance, however, I do not have exact figures to hand.

Please do consider entering your 'Project of the Year' items in this year's show and hope that you all consider putting an entry in. Entries for 2016 need to be in by mid-July with items delivered in September. Please read the comments listed at the beginning of your section thoroughly.

### WEAVING

- On the white card attached to your weaving, please attach a small length of yarns used and give details of the fibre content. Do not attach commercial labels.
- You may mention the specific pattern used and whether you have a 4, 8 or multi shaft table loom or foot/floor loom. Also if you made an article or garment, do give details if you have done something for a specific reason. For instance you have made a fluoro pink bag but lined it with red/green tartan and perhaps there is a reason for the 10 pockets inside. Keep your details brief and specific though.
- Last years' 3 classes have been cancelled. To encourage weavers to participate in this section, we have made a proposal to the Schedules committee for 4 new classes:
  - Any article 4,8,multi shaft
  - Any article 2 shaft or rigid heddle loom
  - Any wearables item or garment
  - Any other handwoven article not provided for [ie rugs, tapestry etc]

### SPINNING

- Please do NOT attach commercial labels or mention as to where you purchased the fibre. On your white card, attached to your skein, you should place a sample of the raw fibre and a small length of spun or a miniature handknit square of your spun yarn. Plus details of fibre content and intended use of your handspun skein.

The Tuesday Weavers had a wonderful work shop conducted by Ilka White. I am still a very inexperienced weaver and I learned heaps! The two days ran so smoothly even in the heat! Again thank you for all the behind the scenes help that made this possible.

Matilda Bay in January was again well supported, with Mrs Reid paying us a visit thanks to our faithful taxi member. We are so fortunate to have such a supportive and special Patron.

I have been the Guilds committee member at APCH for this year. We have seen some great improvements and changes in these facilities, that we are fortunate to use. At the time of writing scaffolding has been erected and I hope by the time I present this report we will have at last the block out blinds. This should be a real improvement for screen viewing and temperature control. The committee is also looking at further ways of addressing this problem.



Sadly this year we have all been touched by the death of several very special people who have had a long and distinguished association with the Guild. To their families we say thank you for all they have given to our members in the field of their expertise. They will always be remembered and the memory of them treasured.

I step down as President of the Guild this year. There are so many people to thank for making this a very special time for me. To each Guild member and especially to the committee, thank you for your support and your friendship.

*Janet Allsworth*

## Un-Just

"I just threw it into the dyepot."

"I just tossed it in to exhaust the [insert rare dyestuff of choice]."

"I just thought I'd go in at the deep end."

"It's no big deal. Shrug. It's just a hobby."

"It's not like it's \*important\*, or anything."

How often do you, when describing your efforts and achievements in your fibre crafts, use the J-word?

*Continued on next page...*

Vanessa Runs, in her recent book "Daughters of Distance" notes that as women, we are conditioned from the time of toddlerhood to not brag, or put ourselves forward, or brandish our achievements. We are supposed to be demure and quiet and unassuming, achieving and doing without accolades or recognition, so that we are never perceived as a threat. And of course, we are expected to do "it all" in exactly this fashion, presenting ourselves as though it is effortless and comes naturally. Heaven forbid that we should TRY at anything, or work hard at learning a new skill, or - horror of horrors - ever, ever fail.

We might ask ourselves, why do we go along with this? Why would we ever belittle ourselves, or talk our own creations down? Why would we demand that others, instead, give us the praise and validation that should, by rights, come from within? And that circles back directly to that social conditioning. We smile when we're nervous to make the rest of the pack like us and we hide our lights under bushels in case we draw attention to ourselves. Asking others for validation is hard enough; presenting our validation as a foregone conclusion - well, that's nigh impossible. But it's important that we start holding our lights higher, and we must begin to mind the language we are using when we speak of the things we have made and done. There are two reasons for this.

### Relegation

You see, every time a woman uses a diminutive to describe her work, such as "just" or "little" or "only" or "knick-knack", we are allowing the status quo to continue relegating our art or work or passion to the Optional column in the ledger of life. And in doing so, we allow that status quo to withhold resources, interest and most of all, practitioners, from that art or work or passion. When I say I "only" ran five kilometres yesterday, I'm conceding that really, unless I'm running much longer or professionally or at the very least, much faster, I'm wasting my time. And I don't think I'm wasting my time. Are you wasting your time, "just" "only" making "knick-knacks"? Are the people listening to you talking about your art going to want to start making art, or are they wondering why you waste your time?

### Fallow Fields

The second reason that diminishing your work is counter-productive is that when you remark off-handedly about your processes, you forget that many people will have no idea what you mean. Those people may want to learn but in treating your subject with disdain or minimising their perception of your efforts, you might be setting them up for either disappointment when they have a stab at what you did but lack the detail and immersion to really apply

*Continued on next page...*

## Project of the Year: THE GALAXY

Time to start knitting, weaving, knitting, crocheting, felting of dyeing your articles for the Project of the Year. The 2016 theme is THE GALAXY, and entries will be submitted, displayed, and judged at APCH on **Saturday 10 September**. Entries will be returned to participants after trophies are awarded. The competition categories (and sub-categories) are:

**SPINNING:** A skein or article made from handspun yarn which is...

1. 14+ wraps per inch (equivalent to 5 ply or under)
2. Less than 14 wraps per inch (equivalent to thicker than 5 ply)

**WEAVING:** Any article which is...

1. Loom weaving
2. Off loom weaving

**KNITTING/CROCHET:** An article knitted or crocheted, made using...

1. Handspun yarn
2. Commercially spun yarn made of natural fibres (plant or animal fibres only—no man made fibres)

**FELTING:** May be any article made from any fibre type.

**DYEING:** An article or skein of yarn (may be commercial or handspun yarns). Will be judged according to quality of dyeing.

**GROUP ENTRY:** Article(s) may incorporate spinning, weaving, knitting, crochet, felting, dyeing and use handspun and/or commercial yarns.

Plus new in 2016 a **BEGINNERS** category (more details to follow).

Articles may be entered into more than one category e.g. part of a group entry may also be an individual entry in the spinning and dyeing categories.

The Project of the Year is a wonderful opportunity to share the amazing skills of Guild members—everyone is encouraged to have a go!

### Twenty one today.....

In 2016 the Western Australian Fibre and Textile Association turns 21. To celebrate the twentyONE+ juried exhibition will be held, 17 June to 7 July at the Spectrum Project Space, Edith Cowan University, Mt Lawley. WAFTA members and non-members may enter. Entry forms due **Thursday 3 March**. Contact Louise (louise@eftdownunder.com) or visit [waftatwentyoneplus.com.au](http://waftatwentyoneplus.com.au).

## 2016 International Scarf Exchange

The 23rd International Scarf Exchange will be hosted by the Bland Spinners and Weavers Group Inc. of Wyalong NSW. The Bland Spinners and Weavers are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year, so the theme of the scarf exchange is **Birthday Celebrations**. To participate...

- 150g of fibre, entry form and entry fee of \$20 must be sent to Bland Spinners and Weavers, PO Box 36, Wyalong NSW 2671 by **18 March**
- You will receive a different 150g and instructions by 22 April
- Spin, felt, weave, knit, dye and/or crochet an article according to the requests of the supplier of the fibre
- All articles must be returned to the Bland Spinners and Weavers by **23 September**

Completed articles will be exhibited at the West Wyalong 'In the West' festival in October and returned to the original fibre supplier of the fibre in November 2016.

For information or entry forms email [mdbolte@exemail.com.au](mailto:mdbolte@exemail.com.au) or phone 02 6972 1850 or 0427 820 115, or download form from:

<https://sites.google.com/site/handspinweavesa/invitations>

## From the (newish) Editor

Just a quick note to say I am looking forward to editing the YarnSpinner in 2016, thankyou for entrusting me with this honour. I have had the privilege of working closely with Evelyn for the past couple of years - thanks for showing me the ropes Evelyn, I hope to do you proud. If anyone has articles, photos, events or ideas to share, please contact me at [ceciliajordan@rocketmail.com](mailto:ceciliajordan@rocketmail.com) or 0406 506 941, or by post through the Guild PO Box. And if you have any comments or ideas regarding the 'new look' YarnSpinner, please let me know!

*Cecilia Jordan*

## From the Yarn Area

We have a large selection of fibres: Bamboo, Banana, Corn, Hemp, Hemp/Viscose, Mulberry Silk, Ramie, Soy, Tencel, Tibetan Yak Down, Cashmere, Dyed silk cocoons and rods.

Plus Hand dyed tops, Silk Hankies, "Space Cadet" batts, Digital row counters, WPI measures, Spindles (Turkish, Drop and Support), Sock wool, Noro, lace yarns and more. Ask to see the Sale Bag of yarns.

*Regards Sue and Jo*

their energy, or even complete inaction because their knowledge is so incomplete that they imagine it's just too hard.

The net result of this is loss of knowledge and experience as people with skills pass on without passing on, as it were. Additionally, people with creative passion want to try things, and by sharing with them, and empowering them, we can help to bring about a world where people, and most especially women, live less fearfully (for a discussion on this theme, see Mark Frauenfelder's utterly uplifting "Made by Hand").

The Guild exists expressly to prevent this happening, and all of us have much to share. I know I've been guilty of "just"-ing about my work, and I'm making a concerted effort to change the way I use words to shape my experience as a fibre artist. How about you? Will you join me in Un-"just"-ing your beautiful artwork?

*Kat Sherwin*



## Not 'just' basket weavers

From November 2015 to January 2016 the WA Museum held the *Pampa Mara Tjanpi* exhibition, displaying the basket weaving work of the Tjanpi Desert Weavers. Tjanpi is a not for profit social enterprise which began in 1995 as a series of basket making workshops facilitated by the NPY Women's Council, in an effort to give indigenous women new skills and provide them with employment in their own homelands. This style of

basket weaving uses native grasses and builds on traditional Central and Western Desert culture, where natural fibres were used to make objects of ceremonial and daily use. It is now done by more than 400 women from 26 remote communities across SA, NT and WA. Women have passed their basket making techniques on to family and friends, and are now experimenting with sculptural forms in addition to baskets.

Unfortunately the exhibition has now closed at the WA Museum, but for more information go to:

<http://tjanpi.com.au>



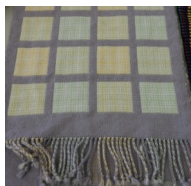
Baskets and a woven helicopter, part of the Pampa Mari Tjanpi exhibition  
(Photos: C Jordan)



## Sharing Table—Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2016



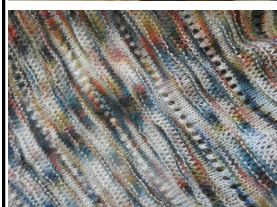
Despite the heat some people have been busy! On the table today was a beautiful woollen table runner in double weave incorporating a log cabin pattern in a subtle palette of pastels



and light grey from Carol Murray. Carol had also made a colourful inkle band for new handles to resurrect a favourite old basket (many oohs and ahhs from all of us).



Janet had brought a treasure trove of skeins spun from white corriedale, soft and springy and also from corriedale a bag embroidered using recycled gemstones.



Sue Greig brought two scarves of Bendigo 8ply wool and 'odds and sods' woven in tabby on a "scarf" loom as well as two merino skeins spun from 'Heavenly Wools' dyed tops and a knitted lace shawl in Misti alpaca sock wool.



Stephanie Cantoni shared scrumptious samples made in a knitting workshop she attended in Italy given by Marie Wallen who designs Rowan Yarns. She recommends checking out Marie's website.



Alaine has been slaving over a hot dye pot to come up with a range of shades of madder dyed merino tops to spin. From stronger pinks to delicate peach they illustrate the possibilities of exhausting completely your dye bath. We look forward to seeing the spun yarn, Alaine.

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Jayne Lane has been experimenting with making garments out of simple shapes. She brought in an intricately crocheted vest and cardigan made of rectangles and squares—great indoor projects for beating the heat.



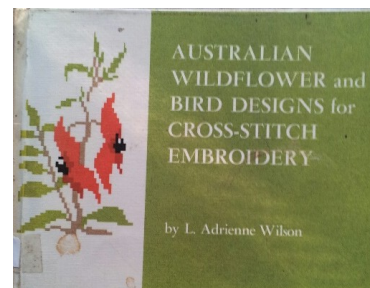
And Margaret PC brought colorful wool tops, microwave and crampot dyed in a plait, as well as a woollen spun skein from her Space Cadet – her first and only spinning of her own brand!



*Brenda Roy*

## From the Library

### ***Australian Wildflower and bird Designs for Cross-Stitch Embroidery***



**L. Adrienne Wilson**

There are a collection of designs in this book, ranging from individual motifs of birds and flowers, just flowers and borders. They have been worked onto graph paper and could be used for weaving, knitting or their initial purpose of embroidery.

### ***Decorative Tassels and Cords***

**Effie Mitrofanis**

This colour illustrated work teaches the techniques of tassel making and also contains many suggestions for their use. Working from basics the reader is guided through twelve projects.

*Anne McAdam*

