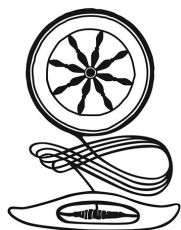


The YarnSpinner



Celebrating 60 years
1957 to 2017

Newsletter of the Handweavers', Spinners'
and Dyers' Guild of Western Australia
Volume 47 No. 03
April 2017



Coming up....

Saturday 8 April 2017: General Meeting of the Handweavers', Spinners' and Dyers' Guild of Western Australia

10:00am Library and Yarn Area open

10:30am Pop up demonstration: Inkle loom weaving

11:00am Guest speaker TBC

12:00pm HWSDGWA General Meeting

Coffee and tea available, BYO lunch.

**Contribution deadline the May edition of the
YarnSpinner: Saturday 8 April 2017**

Alexander Park Craft House Guild Groups

SPINNING GROUP: 4th 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: 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month from 9:30am

Contact Brenda Roy 9381 4870 or brenda@cadplan.com.au

TAPESTRY GROUP:

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

Guild Membership Fees for 2017

Full \$40.00

Student \$30.00

Pensioner \$30.00

Family—\$65.00

Associate \$30.00

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 name badge. Half fees apply after 1st July, those joining after 1st October have the option to pay in full which then includes membership for 2018.

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

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

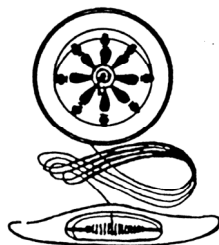
Celebrating 60 years 1957 to 2017

Alexander Park Craft House

Clyde Road, Menora

Mail: P.O. Box 446 INGLEWOOD WA 6932

Email: Information & Publicity Officer
candacegibson@yahoo.com



**Celebrating 60 years
1957 to 2017**

Dates for your diary

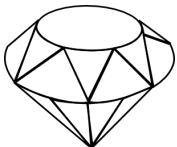
Thursday 30 March	Porongurup Spin In
Friday 31 March— Sunday 2 April	Stirling Range Fibre Weekend
Saturday 8 April	HWSDGWA General Meeting, APCH, from 10am Pop up demonstration: Inkle loom weaving
Saturday 22 April	Spinning Day, APCH, from 10am Spinning study group (APCH Studio)
Saturday 29—Sunday 30 April	Whiteman Park Alpaca Show (p. 12)
Saturday 13 May	HWSDGWA General Meeting, APCH, from 10am Pop up demonstration: Spinning Art Yarn
Wednesday 24— Sunday 28 May	Craft and Quilt Fair, Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre
Saturday 27 May	Spinning Day, APCH, from 10am Spinning study group (APCH Studio)
Sunday 4 June	Toodyay Fibre Festival (p. 13)
Saturday 10 June	Guild Spin In, APCH (p. 4-5)
Saturday 24 June	Spinning Day, APCH, from 10am Spinning study group (APCH Studio)
Saturday 26 August	Toodyay Spin In
Saturday 9 September	Project of the Year: Diamonds and Gems
Saturday 23—Saturday 30 September	Perth Royal Show

Diamonds are a Guild's best friend in 2017

The Handweavers', Spinners' and
Dyers' Guild of WA is celebrating it's 60th year in 2017.

In honour of this diamond jubilee,
the theme for this year's project of the year is:

Diamonds and Gems



Handweavers', Spinners' and Dyers' Guild Diamond Jubilee Spin In 2017



Come and join the Handweavers', Spinners' and Dyers' Guild as we celebrate 60 years of craft, learning and friendship.



WHEN: Saturday 10 June 2017, 9:30am to 2pm

WHERE: Alexander Park Craft House, Menora

COST: \$7 per person, includes morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, door gift PLUS the chance to win a door prize

All our usual traders will be there plus a couple of new ones.

We will draw raffle prizes and run guessing games throughout the day.

Please bring your latest spinning, weaving, dyeing, knitting, crochet or felting creation for display. There will be a popular vote and prizes.

This year we would like to support Knitters for a Cure (details below), a fund raising group for cancer patients and their families. **Please donate a small crafted article** which would sell on their fund raising stalls.

Please join us as we celebrate and have a great day!

Knitters for a Cure

Knitters for a Cure (KFAC) is a group of WA knitters, crocheters and spinners who started raising funds for the Cancer Council of WA in 2009. Since then KFAC have raised over \$47,900 for research and support services for people with cancer and their families.

There are many ways Guild members can help!

DONATE YOUR CRAFT: Knit, crochet, weave or felt a small item to be displayed at the Spin In and donated to KFAC and sold at market stalls throughout the year. Smaller items are best – colourful and funky beanies, scarfs, fingerless mitts etc. for kids and adults, small quirky decorator items like knitted/crocheted food, babies' toys, Christmas decorations. Larger more intricate items like garments and shawls don't tend to sell so well at markets but may be put up for silent auction at our quiz nights where people are prepared to pay a more reasonable price for quality items.

DONATE YOUR MONEY: KFAC will be taking part in the UWA Relay for Life in October have just started fundraising. There are a number of Relay events held around the State each year, helping to raise millions each year to contribute to research to find better prevention, detection and treatment options, and provide direct practical support and services for people affected by cancer. To donate go to www.relayforlife.org.au and search for 'knitters' in the search field OR check the Relay for Life discussion thread in the WA Ravelry Group <http://www.ravelry.com/discuss/western-australian/3414457/201-225#211>.

From KFAC:

We're very appreciative of the support of Guild members and would love to hear from anyone who would like to get involved (even if it is just putting a collection box out at your work, school or club) or anyone who has a great fundraising idea.

Helen Gladstones, KFAC Team Captain 2017



Some knitted tasty treats and a KFAC market stall, raising funds for the Cancer Council of WA

Wise Owls...

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."

Mother Teresa



AuNZ Tapestry Challenge 2017

The theme for 2017 is: **The Elements - Fire, Water, Air, Earth**. The challenge is open to all tapestry weavers, beginners to experienced. Maximum size of tapestry 20cm x 20cm. The tapestries are exhibited in New Zealand and Australia and all weavers will receive a CD of all the tapestries when they are returned. Entry fee is \$10. Contact Marie Clews for more information mclews@tpg.com.au

Hills Weavers

Hills Weavers is a weaving group that meets every Thursday morning from 9am to 12pm at Parkerville Recreation Hall (Seaborne Road, Parkerville).

The group has been running since July 2010. I had two reasons for starting it: one was to have a weaving group close to my home in Chidlow, and the other was to provide weaving lessons up in the hills.

The weaving lessons are casual, usually run on a one to one basis for anyone who is interested in having a go. Most of the equipment can be borrowed on a temporary basis and the cost of being a member of the group is \$6 per week when you attend. We also welcome experienced weavers.

If you are interested in joining our group or just coming to have a look, I can be contacted on 9572 3045 or magnpete@activ8.net.au for more details.

Maggie Webb

Fibres West 2017

Enrolments are now open for Fibres West 2017. It will be held **2 to 8 July 2017** at the Muresk Institute, with 10 workshops by international and local tutors, plus many other activities.

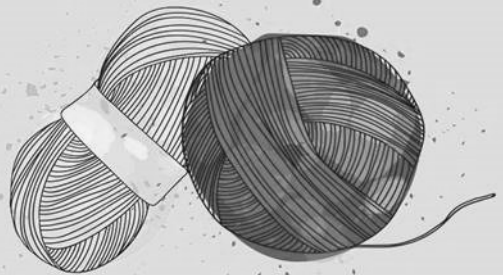
Fully residential and catered.

More info:

www.fibreswest.com.au

info@fibreswest.com.au

Wool you just let me



Knit in peace

Sharing Table—Saturday 25 February

Two lovely shawls, the blue one knitted by Candace Gibson using 'Noro Silk Garden', and Nicolea Savage knitted the pink shawl using Merino 'Hot wheels' fibre and 'Surf' pattern by K. Pritchard. She knitted it while driving to Dirk Hertog Island. It was spun and knitted for her UK friend in sunset colours to remind her of W.A. Fractal Technique – $\frac{1}{2}$: $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{10}$, $\frac{1}{16}$ (a mystery to me).



Two scarves by Sue Greig, the blue one made using left-over sock wool.



Now. The picture of the knitting out of the car!!

I needed something to decorate the top of a cake. I left the cake in the oven with only minutes to go before it had to be taken out and flew to the shop down the road.

On my return I found that my 'car knitting' must have fallen out of the car and left hanging out of the door unnoticed, and had been dragged along the road to the shops - and back, filthy but with all the stitches still on the intact plastic needle.

Who is the patron Saint of Knitters? Thank you!

MargPC

The Editor found two contenders for the Patron Saint of Knitting:

St Clare (patron of healthy childbirth, good eyes, knitters and embroiders, and good weather) and St Fiacre (patron of cap makers in France, became patron of knitters when knitted caps were "invented" in the 1500's. He is also the patron of taxi drivers and gardeners).



Sharing Table—Saturday 11 March

This month we had another array of beautiful work resulting from hours (days) of skilled and painstaking work.



Walter Wallenborn showed us his skeins of alpaca spun from three different coloured fleeces. One skein of three ply combined all three colours, the other was black and white.

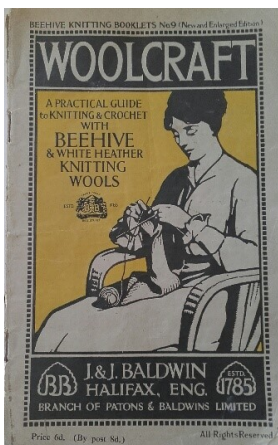


Janet Allsworth brought her wonderfully soft and airy lace shawl knitted of 2ply hand-spun from a prize winning Corriedale fleece.

Gail Campbell shared two tea towels woven in 8 shaft twill and featuring lovely colour shifts in shades of brown and orange.



Maggie Webb showed us the sample strips woven with impressive uptake of skills by her beginning weaving group. They explored twill treadling possibilities in quite individual ways.



Inspired by her experience, Natalie, one of this class wove two cushions in grey and natural handspun wool (see front cover).

Just beautiful, Natalie. So soft and inviting!

Brenda Roy



It's Quintuplets!

A stray sheep has given birth to five lambs on a hobby farm in Uduc, 140 km south of Perth.

Landholder and former veterinary nurse Clare Simms does not run sheep on her 2 hectare block, but there is a stray mob of sheep that roams the area. When the pregnant ewe strayed from the flock, she was brought to Ms Simms to be cared for. She was in poor health, and her fleece was so long it touched the ground and took up 'the best part of a six by four box trailer'.

One week later, the ewe began to lamb. Ms Simms had been expecting twins, but was amazed when five healthy lambs were born.

The mother ewe and three lambs will remain on the farm, and two lambs have been rehomed. SOURCE: www.abc.net.au/news



PHOTO: Clare Simms

From the Library

***Spinning Luxury Fibers* Judith MacKenzie**

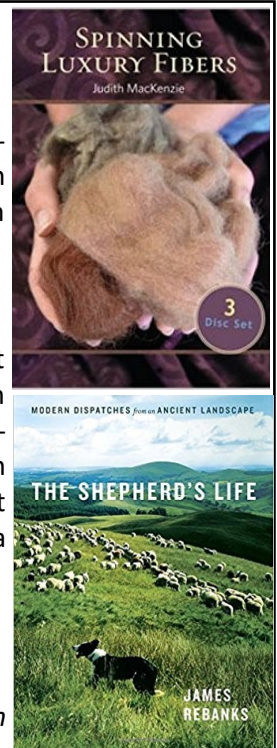
This three-disk set covers silk, alpaca, camel, llama, paco-vicuña, yak, bison, cashmere and quiviut. You'll learn how to prepare each fibre, how to spin it, how to finish your yarn, and the fascinating history and lore of each.

***The Shepherd's Life* James Rebanks**

James Rebanks comes from a family of shepherds that has lived and worked in the Lake District of Northern England for generations. This is the story of a deep-rooted attachment to place, modern dispatches from an ancient landscape describing a way of life which has not changed in centuries. He give a great interview - here is a link to his conversation with Richard Fidler:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/conversations/quests/?label=james%20rebanks&search=james%20rebanks&active=true>

Anne McAdam



60 years ago....

When the Guild was established in 1957 fashions were somewhat different to today.

A fabulous video of a 1957 fashion show, showcasing the work of fashion design students, can be found here: www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/hindsight/stitch-in-time-video/4058788

At the Australian Wool Bureau 1957 fashion awards this dress (right) won the Supreme Wool Fashion Award (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/48202051>).



One notable fashion event in 1957 was the invention of a very special style of footwear: *The modern rubber thong was invented by New Zealander Maurice Yock, who patented the rubber 'jandal' design in 1957, which was believed to be derived from Japanese sandals made with wooden soles and fabric straps Servicemen returning from occupied Japan after the Second World War popularised the footwear in both America and New Zealand. In 1959, Dunlop Footwear in Melbourne imported 300,000 pairs of thongs – the thong finally attaining widespread popularity in the 1970s* (www.australia.gov.au/).



From the President

We have started our Spinner's Study group on the 4th Saturday of the month and our facilitators are keeping everyone informed and on track. We are so lucky to have them helping ensure that the Guild is able to offer study opportunities like this.

We have also just completed the first weaving course and the final day coincided with a General Meeting day. We were delighted to see some of our latest students work and I must say I was very impressed by the lovely cushions made by one of the students, woven from her own hand-spun. I feel that I haven't been doing enough with my time!

The Guild Spin In is already being worked on behind the scenes and catering, traders and raffles are all in hand. We have also chosen the charity we will be supporting this year and it will be Knitters for a Cure, "KFAC". There is further information elsewhere in this edition of the Yarnspinner but basically we are requesting that members create small, saleable items which will be given to the KFAC representative, Helen Gladstones, at the Spin In. These will then be sold with proceeds going towards cancer research.

We will be looking the donation of non-perishable items on or before the day for the Spin In Door Prize and if you have any ideas for entertainment, games, quizzes or fun on the big day then please get in touch with either Janet Allsworth or Jenni Talbot (contact details on page 15). These brave ladies are running the organisation of the Spin In this year and are already doing an excellent job.

We will be restarting our cooler weather soup and bread days in May so if people could think about what they might want to contribute that would be much appreciated. We will be asking for volunteers for the May at the April General meeting. I look forward to seeing you then.

All the best,

Candace Gibson

President, HWSGDGWA

Whiteman Park Alpaca Show 2017

Hello everyone! This is a quick note to remind you that the Whiteman Park Show will be held on **29 and 30 April**. There will be a fashion competition and a craft competition. If you are interested in entering, it is time to get busy on projects. **Details and entry forms will be available soon.** Contact Chris Pietraszek cpietram@bigpond.com or Barbara Adrian badrian@inet.net.au.

Please pass this info on to others even if you are not entering yourself. The competitions are open to anyone, not just Alpaca Association members.

Regards, Barbara

Annual Charity Knit In (or Crochet In) 2017

WHEN: Saturday 8th April 2017, 10 am to 12:30 pm **and/or**
Wednesday, 12th April 2017, 10 am to 2 pm

Once again we have been asked to create **scarves and beanies**. Feel free to use your own patterns or email us to get the knitting/crochet pattern.

We will also gladly accept **20cm x 20 cm squares** as we are fortunate to have a lady to sew them into blankets for us.

The scarves, beanies and blankets will be distributed to those in need by Anglicare, Charity Link, Salvation Army, The Shopfront and St Albans.

PROVIDED: Morning tea (tea, coffee, biscuits)

BYO: Knitting needles, crochet hooks, yarn, completed projects, water, etc. Lunch is not provided but you are very welcome to bring lunch if you are staying for the day

VENUE: Lower Theatre, All Saints College, Cnr Brockman Ave & Ewing Ave, Bullcreek (We have moved to the Lower Theatre this year as it has better lighting and more room). Parking in Junior School Car Park off Ewing Ave

MORE DETAILS OR PATTERNS:

- Join our facebook page: Knit In (or Crochet) for Charity
- Email: charityknitin@gmail.com
- If you need to speak to someone ring Linda on 9332 6873

RSVP: Saturday, 1st April (catering purposes only). Even if you haven't been able to reply please come along!

From the Yarn Area

We are predominantly sourcing from Australia and New Zealand:

NEW:

- Large selection of yarns suitable for socks and also fantastic for weavers
- New cones of Tencel and wool blend in a gorgeous selection of colours
- New knitting accessories

- ◇ Treetops - Perth, Heavenly Wools - NZ, First Edition - merino silk - Vic, Space Cadets arty batts - WA
- ◇ Hand dyed silk rovings, cocoons & rods
- ◇ Rovings and 4 ply cotton from Bendigo Woollen Mills - Victoria
- ◇ Alpaca rovings and small packs of fleece, all in natural colours - Perth
- ◇ Melanian wool rovings in natural colours - WA
- ◇ Hand turned drop spindles by Franks Williams - NSW
- ◇ Cones of threads for weaving and new cottons
- ◇ Re-stocked Landscape dye colours
- ◇ Large selection of other fibres (undyed) to try
- ◇ A selection of yarns including sock wool
- ◇ Cones of Tencel for the weavers

It's well worth having a look in the cupboards at all the treasures that can't fit on the tables.

Don't be shy to ask to come behind and have a good look. If there is anything you would like us to source please let us know.

Happy spinning, weaving and dyeing—Sue & Jo

Toodyay Fibre Festival



WHEN: Sunday 4 June 2017, 10am-3:30pm

WHERE: Memorial Hall, Stirling Tce, Toodyay

COST: Gold coin entry

WHAT: Lots of fun activities for children and adults. Fashion parade, displays and stalls—spinners, yarn bombing, quilting, yarn, lace, weaving, felting, textiles in art. Mad hatters tea party. Giant French knitting. Shearing demonstrations. Live music.

Weaving workshops 2017—Four shaft looms

Course 1.

NOW FINISHED

Course 2.

April: Sunday 9th, Sunday 23rd

May: Saturday 13th

Course 3.

August: Sunday 13th and Sunday 27th

September: Sunday 10th.

This is a **beginners** course, and will be held at **APCH**. Please research four shaft looms before committing to ensure this is the type of loom you would like to learn!

The cost is \$185 for Guild members or \$225 for non-members (this fee covers the course and Guild membership, as long as you return the membership forms). For more information contact Candace Gibson on 0424984883 or email candacegibson@yahoo.com

International Back to Back Wool Challenge

It all started in 1811 at Newbury in Berkshire, UK. A one thousand pound wager was made to make a coat from the sheep's back to a man's back in one day. Watched by 5000 people, the coat was completed in thirteen hours. The sheep was eaten to celebrate.

Fast forward to 1995 and the idea of "a coat from the sheep's back to a man's back" is now an international event. The inaugural International Back to Back Wool Challenge is held, won by the Shetland Isles in 5 hours 57 mins 58 sec.

The Guinness World Record for the event was set in 2004 by a team from Merriwa, NSW. Their time of 4 hours 51 minutes 14 seconds is yet to be beaten.

The Challenge Date for 2017 is on or before Sunday 11th June. To participate you'll need a team (blade shearer, a sheep and seven handspinnners & knitters) and very fast hands!

For further information and Entry Forms, please contact:

Wendy Dennis, Tarndwarncoort, Warncoort 3243 Victoria AUSTRALIA

Ph: (03) 5233 6241 (Int. Ph: +61 3 6233 6241)

E-mail: backtoback@tarndie.com

Web: www.tarndie.com

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APCH	Janet Allsworth	9407 9025	clem.allsworth@bigpond.com
REPRESENTATIVE	(Intern required)		
PATRON	Mrs Ruth Reid		
AUDITOR	David Williams		

FOR SALE

- **Alpaca Fleece**: Lovely soft luxurious natural colour alpaca fleece. Please 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 wheel**: No lazy Kate, but has normal flyer and a lace flyer. Have spun prizewinning yarns on this wheel. \$250 (price negotiable). Contact Fran 0466 511 886 or franydorus@westnet.com.au
- **Ashford drum carder, fine carding cloth**: Very good condition. Has only been used with clean fibre. \$350 (price negotiable). Contact Fran 0466511886 or franydorus@westnet.com.au
- **Louett drum carder, coarse carding cloth**: Has been used for greasy fleece, but still good condition. \$300 (price negotiable). Contact Fran 0466511886 or franydorus@westnet.com.au
- **Ashford Traditional spinning wheels**: Two wheels available, plus some extra bits and pieces. \$175 each. Contact Walter Wallenborn 0419 937 499 (Mundaring)
- **Jarrah floor loom**: made by Nedlands Village Weavers. In good condition, only used twice. New heddles. In pieces with plans. \$500. Contact Jane McCrea 9446 1065 or platypus@iinet.net.au
- **Treadle sewing machine**: Singer brand, 104 years old, from Glasgow. \$650. Contact Jane McCrea 9446 1065 or platypus@iinet.net.au
- **8 shaft 80cm Ashford table loom**: transportable, folds together with weaving in place. 10 dpi s/s reed and texsolv heddles. Also includes a heddle/reed hook, 4 new stick shuttles, 2 new ski shuttles, and a 50-75cm stretcher. There is also a raddle and two sets of cross sticks (from another loom) and I have made a carry bag for it. \$640.00. Phone Judith on 0417172432 or email: judith.matisons@hillview.net.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 May Yarnspinner: Saturday 8 April

***Front cover: From the sharing table 11 March—Cushions woven from handspun by Natalie
(sorry Natalie, I don't know your surname—Ed.)***