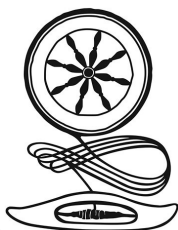


The YarnSpinner



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

Volume 47 No. 04

May 2017

Celebrating 60 years
1957 to 2017



Coming up....

Saturday 13 May 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: Spinning art yarn

11:00am Guest speaker: Cordelia Gibbs (see page 3 for more info)

12:00pm HWSGDWA General Meeting

Coffee and tea available, BYO lunch.

**Contribution deadline the June edition of the
YarnSpinner: Saturday 13 May 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

We were sad to farewell Rosemary Skinner, a mentor and friend to so many of us for so many years. Happy weaving in Victoria, Rosemary! Next meeting of the weaving group on Tuesday May 9th will be sharing examples of rag weaving. Bring past or present work of your own or work by other hands you have collected over the years - whatever you think might intrigue or inspire the group. We will also be having a go at the guild rag cutter so bring some fabric to make yourself some 'rag yarn'. Anyone is welcome to join us! Contact Brenda Roy 9381 4870 or brenda@cadplan.com.au

Guild Membership Fees for 2017

Full \$40.00

Student \$30.00

Pensioner \$30.00

Family—\$65.00

Associate \$30.00

Group—\$45.00

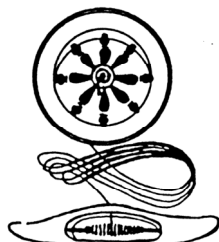
Renewing Members: If renewing by mail, please include renewal form (or name, postal address and phone no.) and a stamped self-addressed envelope for return of your receipt and name badge. Half fees apply after 1st July, those joining after 1st October have the option to pay in full which then includes 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

Saturday 29—Sunday 30 April	Whiteman Park Alpaca Show
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 28 May	Weaving Day, APCH, from 10am
Sunday 4 June	Toodyay Fibre Festival (p. 6)
Saturday 10 June	Guild Spin In, APCH (p. 4-5)
Saturday 24 June	Spinning Day, APCH, from 10am Spinning study group (APCH Studio)
Saturday 8 July	HWSDGWA General Meeting, APCH, from 10am Pop up demonstration: chain plying
Saturday 22 July	Spinning Day, APCH, from 10am Spinning study group (APCH Studio)
Saturday 26 August	Toodyay Spin In
Saturday 9 September	Guild Annual Showcase: Diamonds and Gems (p. 12-13)
Saturday 23—Saturday 30 September	Perth Royal Show

May guest speaker: Cordelia Gibbs

Cordelia Gibbs is a WA wool fashion designer. She was brought up on a Merino Sheep stud in the Beverley, and began studying a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Fashion in 2010. Her Honours research investigated the importance of wool in colonial Australia.

In 2015 she was offered the opportunity to produce the Summer 2015/16 menswear collection for Fremantle based ethical label, Anjel Ms. Following this, Cordelia continued the relationship in 2016 with 'Cordelia Gibbs for Anjel Ms'. This year, Cordelia has become a part of Curtin University Fashion Incubator program in collaboration with industry partner DHouse Australia.

More information: www.cordeliagibbs.com

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 on page 5), 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!

Call for volunteers! The Spin In needs your help

You can help make the Spin In a wonderful day for everyone. Volunteers are needed to:

- **Bake sweet or savoury treats** to be served for morning tea and afternoon tea
- **Make soup** to be served with lunch

If you can help, please contact Jenni Talbot or Janet Allsworth (contact details on page 15).

There will also be a 'white elephant' stall on the day, to sell second hand items. Proceeds from the stall go to the Guild. If you have any items to donate to the stall, please bring them along on the day.

Continued on the next page....

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. 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. These will be 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.

DONATE YOUR MONEY: KFAC will be taking part in the UWA Relay for Life in October. 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>.

Wise Owls...

"Diamonds are only lumps of coal that stuck at it no matter how much heat or pressure they faced."

Jeffrey Fry

"I never worry about diets. The only carrots that interest me are the number you get in a diamond."

Mae West



Weaving workshops 2017—Four shaft looms

Course 1—NOW FINISHED

Course 2—Sunday 9 April, Sunday 23 April, Saturday 13 May

Course 3—Sunday 27 August, Sunday 10 September, Sunday 24 September

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

FAREWELL ROSEMARY

Alas, we are saying farewell to Rosemary Skinner. This stalwart Guild member has been a most productive spinner and weaver with us for well over thirty years. Rosemary joined the Guild in 1982, in the Drabble House days. Soon she was the Librarian and a most efficient one. She only quite recently passed on the stamps! When it comes to weaving, not only was Rosemary a skilled practitioner but she taught many others both at the Guild and Bentley TAFE. Her many successes at our annual Project of the Year Competition and the RAS Show are proof of her ability. As with weaving, so with spinning. Dyeing?? Yes, that too. All the time, Rosemary's quiet efficient teaching and support was freely given to any at the Guild or the Innaloo Spinning group who needed it. Not content with these three strings to her bow, Rosemary introduced – and again taught others, the art of Kumihimo braiding. Her latest innovation is to quietly work on her “Weave it” while following the discussion about the day's project.

This introduces Rosemary's husband, Roy, who has been very involved in repairing wheels and looms, making kumihimo looms and Weave-its and generally being the man to help in all or any maintenance tasks for the Guild. Our sincere thanks Roy.

Returning to Rosemary, one would expect that with a track record such as hers, she would be given Life Membership of our organisation. And so it was. Rosemary, your many years of contributions to members, your efficiency in our textile crafts, your quiet, clear explanations to others and ready smile will be greatly missed. But remember, you will always be our Life Member wherever you live.

Our love and best wishes go with you and Roy as you start this new venture.

From your friends at the Handweavers, Spinners and Dyers Guild of W.A.

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.



Alexander Park Craft House Inc.

President's Report to Annual General Meeting

6 April 2017

This has been another good year for APCH with some improvements to facilities and an increase in use of both the Hall and Studio.

We now have a children's jazz dance class using the Hall on a regular basis for after-school classes. This is an excellent use of our facilities by the local community and an additional source of commercial income is always helpful.

It is worth noting that while bookings and membership have increased very significantly in the last 5 years our operating profit has been relatively stable, at around \$3,000 per year. As fee increases have been modest this indicates that our costs have risen very much in line with our income.

The most significant change to our facilities this year has been the installation of a reverse cycle air conditioner in the Studio. We now have one space that should be pleasant to use whatever the weather. As discussed many times in the past it is not practical or economic to try and air condition the Hall. Other improvements include: the installation of additional cupboards in the room next to the kitchen; installation of an exhaust fan in the Studio; and keypad locks on the Office and Storeroom. We now have a First Aid kit in the kitchen and a door bell to improve security.

There has been discussion about refreshing the kitchen, in particular removing the large gas stove, and this will be something for the new committee to consider further.

New Rules of Association have been drafted to bring APCH Inc. in line with the new Associations law. If approved at this meeting they will be lodged with Department of Commerce.

I would like to thank all those who have been committee members during the year for the time they have put in and for their support. I'd particularly like to thank Pat Forster, who stepped down as Treasurer in January, Jenni Talbot who joined us as Secretary at the last AGM, Susan Sheath who has the Booking Officer role humming, and Karen Lee who continues to do a wonderful job as House Manager.

As I am stepping down at this AGM I'd like to thank everyone, committee members and others, who have supported and assisted me in my role as President.

Continued on the next page...

APCH is a wonderful facility that works because we have the support of our members groups and, in particular, of those individuals who give their time to keep things running and improving. We've achieved a lot in the 5 years I've been President and I think everyone who's been involved in that. I'm sure you will continue to offer the same support to my successor.

Marilyn Clark-Murphy

You will see from the Presidents Report a great deal has been achieved by the APCH Committee in the past year. The office bearers for 2017 are as follows:

President: Christine Wheeler

Secretary: Jenni Talbot

Treasurer: Ric Balquiere

Booking Officer: Susan Sheath

At the committee meeting after the AGM the new Rules of Association for APCH were adopted and will be lodged with the Department of Commerce.

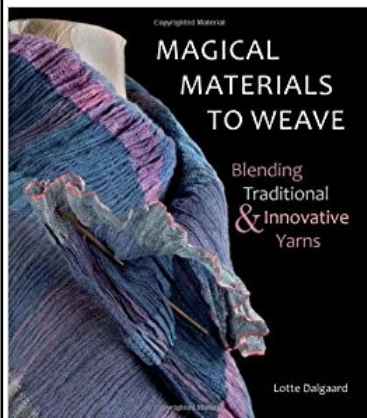
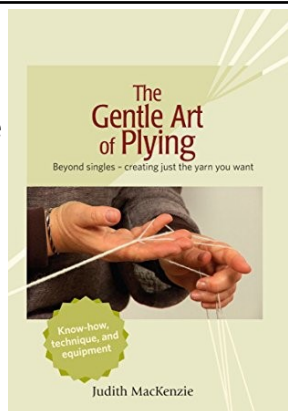
We are fortunate to have this facility to share with the other fourteen craft groups and we look forward to an harmonious year ahead.

Janet Allsworth—your APCH committee member

From the Library

***The Gentle Art of Plying* Judith MacKenzie**

Informed and skillful plying can make all the difference between 'just another yarn' and 'just the yarn you want'. In this engaging video master spinner Judith MacKenzie presents not just the basics - how to hold your hands, where to put your kate - but an extensive adventure into endless possibilities.



***Magical Materials To Weave: Blending Traditional and Innovative Yarns* Lotte Dalgaard**

You'll find valuable insights in this book on how to handle innovative yarns, including suitable weaves, ideas for finishings, advice for experimenting and explanations of yarn effects and how they are created. Learn how to get the best out of metal, crepe, elastic and easily-fulled and shrinking yarns.

Anne McAdam

Sharing Table—Saturday 8 April



A very Autumnal table – obviously the cooler months are approaching.

Giuliana Bond wove an Alpaca scarf on her rigid heddle loom and a twinkly synthetic twill scarf; also a scarf in the same yarn, knitted flat then joined.

Helen Lovit-Raisen knitted three huge beautiful shawls: (pink) merino/silk “Bell Rose” (Strichmich! Club pattern); (grey) an interesting pattern in Ysolda Blend 1 yarn; (shades of green) a lovely irregular curved shawl in wool with lots of slip-stitch work, a Hale-Bopp KAL (Amber O’Brien) pattern.



Gail Hamilton also knitted a Halle-Bopp KAL shawl in blues and greys using Sunshine yarns, and a cosy vest for her husband with yarn from Bendigo Woollen Mills.



Jo Rhodes knitted two toe-up pairs of socks on 2 circular needles. She loved the challenge and her daughter has already put her name on the blue pair.

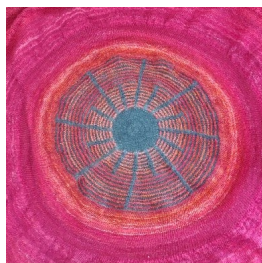
Kjersten Bjelland knitted a huge snug jacket in chunky Norwegian wool – her first-ever knitted garment, and wove four stunning cotton wraps using different wefts for each on a hand-painted warp.



Janet Allsworth has FINISHED her tea towels for the tea towel competition/exchange (the first one to done so I’m sure) using mercerized cotton.



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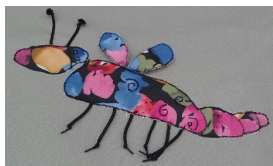


Sharing Table—Saturday 8 April

Keilo Wise gave mini-member, daughter Nimini, the job of showing (and telling) her beautiful shawl her mother had spun and knitted for her using BFL/merino/silk - lace pattern by Stephen West.



Avril Lindquist knitted a lovely lacy shawl using Bendigo READY SPIN and Ashford Dyes. It looked complicated but Avril assured us that it was a very easy pattern.



MPC knitted a little shawlette, (Pimpliese Pattern) – 'Knitpicks' yarn for her daughter (see front cover), and two applique cushion covers inspired by a painting by her five-year-old grandson.

Keep up the good work everyone—MargPC

From Busselton...

It was standing room only at the Busselton Spinners, Weavers and Knitters friendship day on Thursday 16 March. Over 30 Spinners, weavers, knitters, and creative lovers of all things fibre, descended on Busselton from across the southwest. More than ten ladies came down from Bunbury and another ten drove up from the Augusta Spinning group.



There was an impressive range of handspun yarns and knitted, crocheted, dyed and felted items on the display table.

Fourteen wheels of all shapes and sizes were being worked by novice, intermediate and experienced spinners. Cath Miller who started spinning a year ago, said how much she enjoyed learning from the experienced spinners. "It is wonderful that we can keep this traditional skill alive, and there seems to be a real resurgence in using natural fibres."

Some of the ladies had been spinning for over 30 years and were able to pass on some tips and hints to the newer spinners, some of whom had only joined the group a couple of weeks earlier. June Wood has only been spinning for 3 weeks and said "It was really good to meet so many other ladies and see the different wheels".

Continued on the next page...



As well as 14 spinners on their wheels, people were knitting, crocheting and there was even someone doing macrame.

Janet Dunham, Win Wills, Margaret Brook and Jean Harris reminisced on their first encounter with the group at a friendship day 4 years ago in 2013. Win Wills said "It was really nice to meet up with everyone especially catching up with old friends."

Cath Miller



From the President

The year is well and truly underway and it is great to see so many people turning up to meetings. We are also getting an excellent uptake of our workshops and our Spinning Study group has hit the ground running.

We have a good many activities coming up and we are nearly finished organising the Spin In on June 10. We also have a number of events at which the Guild will be having a high profile and the first of these is the Quilt and Craft Fair where we will have a stand. (24 to 28 May) As usual demonstrators are welcome to contact me and don't forget you will get free entry to the event and if you retain your parking receipt you will be reimbursed!

At the same time it will be very busy in Gidgegannup. Sunday May 28 they are having both the Small Farm Field Day and hosting the Alpaca Association's Annual Colourbration event. It sounds like a great day out and combines two of my favourite things, fibre and a rural event - you can guess where I will be. Hope to see lots of you there.

As it is our 60th Anniversary year it was suggested that we should celebrate it with a formal lunch and the committee has decided that it would be nice to do this as our Christmas Party which will, as ever, be held on the second Saturday in November, this year that falls on the 11th. As for the 50th Anniversary tickets will be sold and pricing and other details will be forthcoming as we get closer to the date. This will also be partially subsidised by the Guild.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Candace Gibson
President HWSGDWA



Guild Annual Showcase 2017 Diamonds and Gems

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



Every year the Guild displays its talents at the annual 'Project of the Year' exhibition and awards ceremony. This year the Guild's Committee and Convenors have been looking towards a new direction for the "Project of the Year" over the last 12 months or so, particularly how to invigorate the event while maintaining the history of inclusive participation of the members.

During the Strategic Planning Meeting late last year, a number of ideas were discussed, which have been brought together into updated guidelines (included with this month's YarnSpinner). The main points of change are:

- **New name "Guild Annual Showcase":** Showcasing our art and crafts is the most common description people have used, and thus the change of name which more accurately reflects the aim of the event.
- **Encouraging an Artists' Statement:** More and more frequently we are seeing entries that have a very interesting subtext behind their creation, and we feel an explanation of the artists' thinking behind their item can add a lot of value to our understanding of their item.
- **Optional judging:** If members so choose, they can opt to have their entry marked as not for judging, and be shown for display only.
- **New Mixed Media category:** We felt it is important for our Guild to encourage creativity, artistry, and sustainability in our crafts, and that having a mixed media category (while a bit more complex to judge!) could encourage members to think a bit outside the box and really get their creative juices flowing.
- **Group, or Collaborative Entry:** This category has a huge potential to produce amazingly diverse and complex items, where a collaboration of 3 or more artists can together produce an entry that simply would not be possible to be made by one person alone. There has been a gradually declining number of entries in this category, and by focussing on the collaborative value, we really hope to encourage groups (whether formal groups, or just a casual group of friends within the membership) to get together to and create something amazing!
- **Weaving category:** Split into 3 subcategories to better reflect the different skills sets.

Continued on the next page...

- **Spinning category:** Revert to a skein and swatch format, to simplify judging of spinning skills. Remove reference to fibre type, to allow use of modern fibres, if desired.
- **Entries number:** have been restricted to 2 items per categories to encourage members to diversify their skills.
- **No cross categorising of entries, including group entries:** One of the most frequent comments by the stewards and judges has been how complicated it is to organise and judge, when many items are entered in multiple categories. We feel it is important to make life easier for our officials (so they are happy to volunteer into the future!), and thus remove the option of cross entering items across multiple categories.

A copy of the Guild Annual Showcase Guidelines has been included with this month's edition of the Yarnspinner. If you have any queries please contact the Committee (details page 15).

We are looking forward to a spectacular Diamond Jubilee display!

From the Yarn Area

We are predominantly sourcing from Australia and New Zealand:

- ◇ 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

There are many treasures in the cupboards that can't fit on the tables—come behind and have a look!

Happy spinning, weaving and dyeing—Sue & Jo

The 70th Anniversary of the Hand Weavers & Spinners Guild of NSW

70th Anniversary Exhibition

WHEN: 24 and 25 June 2017, 10am to 4pm

WHERE: Fitzroy Hall, Fitzroy St (next to Woodstock Comm. Centre), Burwood

WHAT: Members of the Guild and Network Groups are invited to enter their handmade items for selection in the Exhibition. Entries must be received by **1st May** and will be judged for special cash awards in ten different categories. There will also be demonstrations, and an exhibition of the entries for the Braids Exchange and Tea Towel Exchange (see below).

Dinner and Awards Night

WHEN: Saturday 24 June 2017, 6pm

WHERE: Club Burwood, 97 Burwood Rd, Burwood

WHAT: Celebrations and awards. To reserve a seat or a table for your group contact Susie John (susiejj@iinet.net.au). Ticket costs are still being finalised. This is a Guild and Network Group members only event.

Traders Hall

Everyone is welcome to join us at our 70th Anniversary Traders Hall to purchase fibre, equipment, and even members' work. The Traders Hall will be held at Club Burwood RSL, 96 Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood NSW.

Tea Towel Exchange

We welcome all members of the Guild and Network Groups to participate in a tea towel exchange, as part of our 70th year celebrations. Weave four tea towels on any loom type and keep a weaving record. Retain one for yourself and send in three, each with a copy of the weaving record by **23 June 2017**. \$10 entry fee. We will return to you three different tea towels with weaving records in August 2017.

Braid Exchange

We welcome all members of the Guild and Network Groups to participate in a braid exchange, as part of our 70th year celebrations. There is no theme, braids may use any fibre, technique or equipment. Create a braid, band, cord or plait at least 1.3m long and no wider than 15cm. Cut the braid into seven equal sections at least 15cm long. Retain one and send in six with a braiding record for each by **14 June 2017**. In August 2017, we will return to you five different braids with weaving records. The sixth will be retained for Guild archives.

For information on events, exchanges and the exhibition go to:

www.nsweave.org.au/learn/participate/.

Office Bearers and Convenors for 2017

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	Brenda Roy	0437904223	brenda@cadplan.com.au
	With Sandra Melville & Kat Sherwin		
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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)
- **Treadle sewing machine**: Singer brand, 104 years old, from Glasgow. \$600. 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 June Yarnspinner: Saturday 13 May

Front cover: From the sharing table—shawlette knitted by Margaret PC using the Pimpliese Pattern and 'Knitpicks' yarn available from Guild Yarn supply.