

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, plus some extras. \$175 each. Contact Walter Wallenborn 0419 937 499 (Mundaring)
- **Warping board:** Handmade, approx 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. Contact Barbara 0427 377 054, Bakers Hill, can deliver to Balcatta, Midland or APCH
- **Rigid heddle:** for an Ashford Knitters Loom, 30cm wide, 7.5 dpi (threads per inch). \$20. Contact Anne Marie 0423 114 256 or annemariekeights@gmail.com
- **Linen and silk yarns:** \$12.00 / 100gms linen, \$15.00/ 100gms ecru / peace silk. Contact Ann Richardson aerichar@gmail.com 0402 832 198
- **Ashford 8 shaft Folding table loom:** 40cm wide \$400.00 Contact Ann Richardson aerichar@gmail.com 0402 832 198
- **Weaving Loom:** \$450. 170cm, 4 Shaft, 6 pedal, floor loom with 2 spare reeds. Excellent condition, well crafted in jarrah by William Hall. Prev. owned by Peggy Whitewood. Contact Evana Beaton 0418 954 102

WANTED TO BUY

- **Speedweave loom:** or similar—contact Beth on 0412 288 366

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: 9 May 2020

Front cover: From the virtual sharing table—crochet Amish puzzle balls by Yean.

The YarnSpinner



Newsletter of the Handweavers', Spinners'
and Dyers' Guild of Western Australia
Volume 50 No. 4
May 2020



Due to the current circumstances surrounding COVID-19, the Management Committee of APCH decided to close APCH. There will be no Guild meetings or spinning days until further notice.

Contribution deadline for the June 2020 edition of the YarnSpinner: Saturday 9 May 2020

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

Alexander Park Craft House Guild Groups

Due to the closure of APCH these groups will not be meeting as of 31 March 2020. For more information, contact:

SPINNING GROUP:

Information Officer (details page 15).

IN-HOUSE WEAVERS:

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

TAPESTRY GROUP:

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

Guild Membership Fees for 2020

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

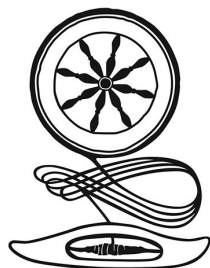
If a person applies for membership after 1 October, their fee will include membership for the current and following year.

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

Alexander Park Craft House
Clyde Road, Menora
Mail: P.O. Box 446 INGLEWOOD WA 6932
Email: Information & Publicity Officer
candacegibson@yahoo.com
Web: <http://spinweavewa.org/>



Office Bearers and Convenors

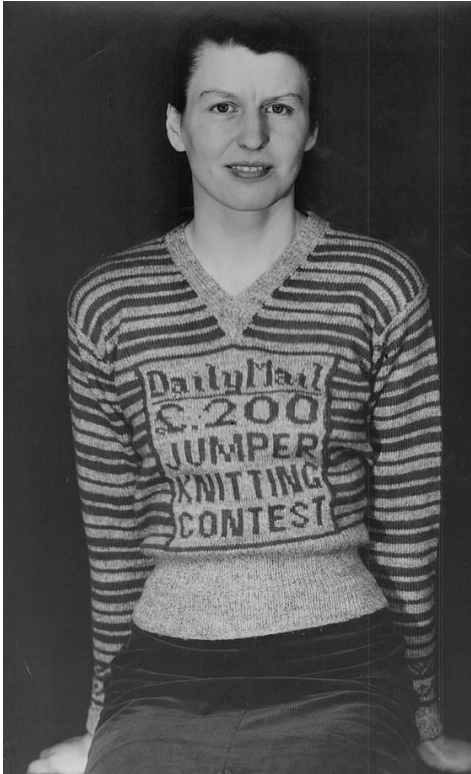
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5	Shona MacDonald	0419685506	shona.macdonald@gmail.com
6	Brenda Roy	0437904223	brenda@cadplan.com.au

CONVENORS

MEMBERSHIPS	Memberships will go to the Librarian to be incorporated with the Library database.		
YARNSPINNER	TO BE CONFIRMED	TEMPORARY	
DISTRIBUTION	CHARMAINE PEDRICK	0401342278	pedrickc62@gmail.com
YARNSPINNER	Cecilia Jordan	0406506941	ceciliajordan@rocketmail.com
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COMMUNITY	Helen Lovitt-Raison,	0408272496	furrywithruffles@gmail.com
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ARCHIVES	Janis O'Loughlin	0411212986	janis.47@bigpond.com
AUDITOR	David Williams		
PATRON	VACANT		

Knit to win



In 1932 the UK's Daily Mail ran a knitting competition – thousands of readers entered the contest, designing and knitting their own jumpers in the hope of winning the 200 pound prize.

Now that millions of people are in lockdown, with more time for pursuits such as knitting, the competition is being run again. This time, the winning jumper will be turned into a professional knitting pattern by Jacinta Bowie (who can be found on Ravelry, and at her website jacintabowie.com), and will be featured in the Daily Mail, and on craft-enthusiast Kirstie Allsopp's TV show C4 Lockdown Craft Club (on UK Channel 4).

If you fancy trying your luck:

- You cannot be a professional knitwear designer
- Design and knit a unique jumper. It can be any colour, size or shape, with or without decorations
- It must be an original concept

Send a copy of your design drawing and photographs only — showing the front, back and side of the jumper. Please do not send completed jumpers.

Send entries to: femailreaders@dailymail.co.uk. Closing date for entries is May 23.

For more information go to: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8186595/Knit-victory-1932-Mail-ran-loved-knitting-contest.html>

APCH may be closed, but the Yarnspinner is open for business!

A big thankyou to everyone who contributed photos, stories and ideas to this month's Yarnspinner.

We may not be able to meet at APCH in the near future, but I want to keep making the Yarnspinner, so that Guild members can feel connected in these strange times of worry and isolation. But I need your help.

Members, I am calling on your help to fill the pages of the Yarnspinner. Please send me...

- Photos of your latest finished project so we can create a virtual sharing table
- Fibre-related tales from your past travels near and far (with photos if possible please)
- Links to websites Guild members may be interested in
- Descriptions/photos of the strategies you are using to continue crafting even when stuck at home
- Anything you've tried that's new—a dyeing experiment, a new knitting stitch, a new weaving technique (successful or otherwise!)
- Anything vaguely fibre-related you think may interest members

Contact me, the Yarnspinner editor, at ceciliajordan@rocketmail.com or 0406506941. I look forward to hearing from you!

Cecilia Jordan



WA Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080

WA Department of Health:

https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus

Australian Government Department of Health:

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

World Health Organisation:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Virtual Sharing Table



Gail Hamilton has finished rounds 1 and 2 of Sock Madness.

1: Pattern is Diamond Duality by Liz Harris and the yarn is Knit Picks Stroll in Navy and Dingo Dyeworks Ridgy-Didge in colour way Pinnacles

2: Pattern is Braidalot by



Dots Dabbles, yarn is Dyeing 4 Ewe (Red), Knit Picks Stroll (Navy), Dingo Dyeworks Ridgy-didge (unknown colour).

Both modelled expertly by Gail's husband!

Yean has been crocheting mini Amish puzzle balls (pictured here and front cover). These are made of 3 inter-locking discs positioned at right angles to each other. Each disc is made of 4 wedges which are connected by 4 caps. This makes the puzzle balls a great project for using up scrap yarn. For these ones Yean used an 8ply yarn with four colours combined in numerous ways.



The pattern is by Dedri Uys and can be found here:

<https://lookatwhatimade.net/crafts/yarn/crochet/free-crochet-patterns/mini-crochet-amish-puzzle-ball/>

Dedri also has patterns for making these puzzle balls into cute animals as you can see from her website. Yean made the elephant for my nephew when he was age 2, and he managed the puzzle with a little help from his parents initially.

Soak the Black Beans:

- Put your dry beans in a pot or bowl, then add just enough water to cover them. Stir and let soak. Stir once in a while and add water as needed, so it is to just above the top of the beans. Don't stir the beans for about an hour before you're ready to use them.
- Let them sit at least one full day or longer.
- Carefully, strain the liquid from the beans. Make sure there are no bean particles left in the liquid as they will leave discolored spots on the yarn (**don't throw out the beans! Now you can cook them**).

Dye the Yarn:

- Put the black bean liquid in a jar or bowl, then add your yarn. Let this sit for a day or two and you get blue yarn!
- Adding baking soda to the liquid changes the pH factor (acidity) and that gives a green dye.
- Gently wash your yarn by soaking in warm water with some mild detergent. Rinse in the same temperature water as the soak bath to prevent felting. Hang to dry and then your dyed yarn is ready to knit or crochet.

Pictured left to right:

1. Undyed, white cotton yarn
2. White, cotton yarn dyed with black bean
3. Alpaca/Merino yarn dyed with black beans
4. Alpaca/Merino yarn dyed with black beans and added baking soda
5. Undyed, Alpaca/Merino yarn



Dried black beans

Source: <https://www.instructables.com/id/Natural-Dyeing-With-Black-Beans/>

Contributed by Cecilia Jordan

Dyeing with black beans

If you are anything like me you have panic bought some dried beans over the last few weeks, “just in case”. Well, beans are not only delicious and good for you, but they can be used for dyeing as well! And even better, this method doesn’t waste the beans—you can use them for cooking once you’ve finished dyeing! I haven’t tried this myself yet, but I’ve decided to include it as part of the homeschool curriculum for my four year old. I’ll let you know how it goes (what could go wrong?).

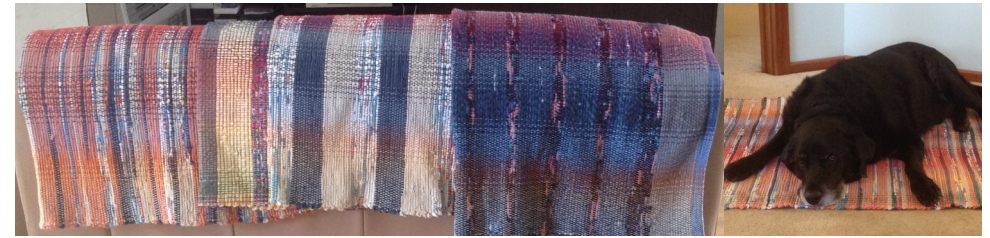
Equipment:

- Light coloured yarn, fibre or fabric (not synthetic)
- Alum (mordant)
- About 450g of dry black beans
- Water
- Large cooking pot for soaking the beans (one safe for food)
- Large pot for mordanting and dyeing the yarn (no longer safe for food prep).

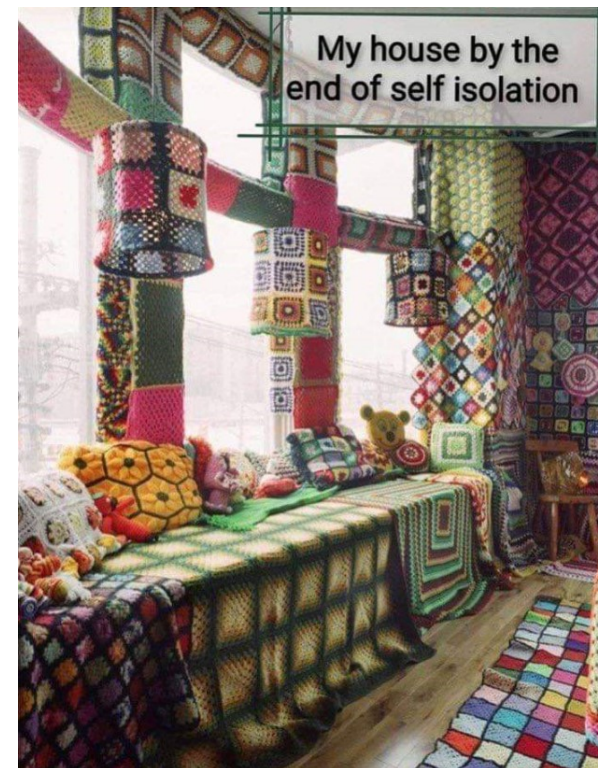


Mordant the Yarn:

- Safety Note: Alum is a fairly harmless mordant, however, caution should be used when handling more toxic mordants. Always wear gloves and a face mask.
- Weigh your yarn/fibre. The amount of alum needed is about 8-10% yarn/fibre weight.
- Dissolve your alum in a disposable container with hot water.
- Fill the dye pot about half way with warm water and add the pre-dissolved alum. Add the yarn or fabric and bring the water to a light boil. Simmer about 45 minutes.
- Turn off the heat and allow the yarn to cool to room temp. Either let it dry for later use or immediately move to the dyeing phase.



Sue Greig has just finished weaving 5 rag rugs. The warp is multi-coloured, using up lots of small amounts of cotton rug warp, the weft is mainly sheets (found after she cleaned out the linen cupboard), some dress fabric and a length of fabric from a failed attempt at indigo dyeing. All of the rugs have been put to a good use (including one which Sue’s dog took an instant liking to!).



Contributed by Marg PC

Wise Owls...



“Be thou the rainbow in the storms of life. The evening beam that smiles the clouds away, and tints tomorrow with prophetic ray.”

Lord Byron

“Sunset is still my favorite color, and rainbow is second.”

Mattie Stepanek



It's a peacock! It's a kitten! No, it's a spider!

In April 2020 a research paper was published in the journal Zootaxa by Joseph Schubert, reporting the discovery seven new species of peacock spiders (pictured below—photos by Heath Warrick), five of them in WA.

Peacock spiders, so called because of their bright colours and elaborate courtship dances, are only about the size of a grain of rice. Finding the tiny new species required a lot of time spent on hands and knees in the bush.

Like many arachnids, peacock spiders are venomous, but they are completely harmless to humans. Instead of using a web, they hunt their prey (flies and moths) by sneaking up on them. "When within jumping distance they pounce — hence the comparison to kittens" Mr Schubert said.

Western Australia is considered a hotspot for these colourful creatures.

Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-04-02/seven-new-species-of-peacock-spider-discovered/12110306>

Contributed by Anne McAdam



For those individuals and organizations that have already made commitments or payments towards the 2020 event, these will of course be refunded in full should this year's Perth Royal Show be cancelled.

May I once again place on record my continued thanks for your support of WA's largest community event and as a courtesy to you, I will continue to update you on preparations for the 2020 Perth Royal Show as information becomes available.

If at any stage, you need to contact us we are still available, with a small number of staff attending to essential tasks, but all emails will be centralised to contact@raswa.org.au and we will respond as quickly as possible.

Yours Sincerely

Peter Cooper

Chief Executive Office

Royal Agricultural Society of WA

Listen while you craft

There are lots of craft and fibre-related podcasts out there, but here's one I quite like...

Fiber Nation (<https://www.interweave.com/category/fiber-nation/>) is produced by Interweave. Each episode is about half an hour long, and they cover a wide variety of fibre-related topic, from the life of a sheep farmer to knitting-related crime.



Find Fiber Nation (remember the American spelling!) wherever you get your podcasts.

Are there any fibre, craft, textile or other podcasts you enjoy listening to while creating beautiful things? (or do the washing up?). Please share them with the Guild. Contact Yarnspinner Editor Cecilia Jordan (details page 15).

Royal Show update



These are of course challenging and uncertain times for everyone. The Royal Agricultural Society of WA like all organizations across Australia, is coming to terms with the ramifications of the unprecedented situation brought about by the coronavirus and we are adapting as best we can.

With the widespread cancelation or postponement of many fixtures of public life in WA, questions have inevitably been asked about the 2020 Perth Royal Show and whether it will go ahead, as planned, in September 2020.

We are of course conscious that, under current conditions, it would be impossible for the event to go ahead and therefore we have made the decision to close our offices for the months of April and May 2020.

However, with a period of six months between now and the first day of show, we are holding back on making any hard or fast decisions. Our hope is that we will be able to host a show that will represent a return to normality and an opportunity for optimism and hope following the uncertainty and worry of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Nonetheless, the current situation is moving at pace, with developments coming on an almost hourly – let alone daily – basis. Therefore, our decision will see our staff take leave for 2 months with their positions held open for an eventual return mid-year.

RASWA is proceeding with caution and keeping an open mind; which is all we can do.

As such - and out of respect for your continued support – we have decided that we will not be asking for any further commitments or payment in relation to the Perth Royal Show, until we have greater certainty over what form the event will take and what circumstances it will operate under.

Continued on the next page....

From the library

Edward's Crochet Imaginarium Kerry Lord

Ever taken the time to visualise the disheveled hairstyle of the sock monster who lives in your washing machine? Ignite your curiosity with this interactive flip-book that will keep you, your hook and your imagination busy.



Edward's Crochet Imaginarium
Kerry Lord
Flip the pages to make over a million more-and-match monsters



TEXTILES OF CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA



Textiles of Central and South

America Angela Thompson

The rich textile traditions of this region are explored from Pre-Hispanic Conquest to modern times. Weaving, spinning, dyeing, manipulated thread crafts, including knitting, crochet and plaiting, embroidery, beadwork decorative edging and finishing are covered.

Sixty Sensational Samples: a Kumihimo Collection Compiled by Shirley Berlin and Carol Goodwin

This is a collection of samples which grew out of sample exchanges. A group leader proposes a topic for study. Members of the group create braids and cut them into segments so that each participant gets a piece of everyone else's braid. Every sample is accompanied by its 'recipe' with comments from the braider about the inspirations and frustrations experienced during the creative process.



Anne McAdam

International Scarf Exchange update

Hi Everyone,

The International Scarf exchange plans have not escaped the effect of COVID 19. The main change is that the exhibition at the Hamra gallery will not go ahead. The gallery is attached to the local library and due to the uncertainty of when such public places will be open as normal again it was decided that we will have an online exhibition instead.

With the wonderful help of our guild newsletter editor and official photographer Jan Brown, the plan is to take photos of all entries and download them to the Scarf Exchange pages on the Spinners and Weavers Guild of SA website. Date to be determined but it will be as soon as possible after all items are returned. I will email you all when it occurs.

So please keep working on your marvelous creations **UNLESS YOU HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ANYONE WHO HAS COVID, YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS, OR HAVE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH COVID 19.** Do not work with the fibre in these circumstances.

Entries may only be returned by post now as the Guild is closed for the foreseeable future: please return to International Scarf Exchange, HSWGSA, PO BOX 163, TORRENSVILLE PLAZA, SA 5031 (I am happy to accept group posting if you can still arrange). **Return date remains 29 May 2020.**

I do not have an email address for every entrant so would the organisers for the group entries please ensure their members know, and if you are a member of a spinning or other group would you please ask your secretary or appropriate member to advise your group as a whole of the changes if they are able.

Many thanks to you all for your participation, happy creating and crafting, the first few items have been returned and I will try to take a few photos to whet your appetites without giving too much away.

Please contact me with any concerns or questions. Keep safe, keep well.

Regards

Sharn Rowland (internationalscarfexchange2020@gmail.com)

Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show update

Unfortunately the Australian Sheep Breeders Association has made the decision to cancel the 2020 Australian Sheep and Wool Show, which was to be held in Bendigo July 17-19 (more information about the cancellation can be found at <https://www.sheepshow.com/>).

However, the **good news** is that the show is going online!

From **July 17-20** you will be able to tune in and join the knit-a-long, brush up on your skills with our Masterclasses, and go shopping with your favourite stallholders.

Go to www.thebigwoolshow.com for more information, or to 'visit' the show.

Guild Traders Day update

Due to the Covid-19 we have postponed the Traders Day, but the Committee would like to support the traders who had signed up to take part. They were:

Yarn Shops

Love and Speckles - etsy.com/shop/loveandspeckles

Threaded Embrace - www.threadedembrace.com

Dyeing to Knit WA - www.dyeingtoknit.com.au

Dyeing 4 you - dyeing4ewe.com

Tools

1 More Row - 1morerow.com.au

