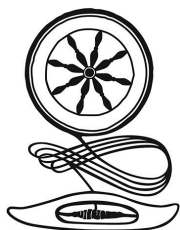


The YarnSpinner



Newsletter of the Handweavers', Spinners'
and Dyers' Guild of Western Australia
Volume 49 No. 5
June 2019



Coming up....

Saturday 8 June 2019: General Meeting of the Handweavers', Spinners' and Dyers' Guild of WA.

10am Library & Yarn Area open

10:30am Pop up workshop: TBC

11am Guest speaker: TBC

12pm HWSDGWA General Meeting

Coffee and tea available. BYO lunch.

**Contribution deadline the July 2019 edition of the
YarnSpinner: Saturday 8 June 2019**

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

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

IN-HOUSE WEAVERS: 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month from 9:30am

Anyone is welcome to join us! 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 2019

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

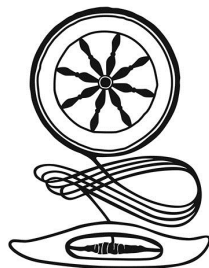
If a person applies for membership after 1 October, their fee will include membership for the current and following year.

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

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

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

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/>



Dates for your diary

Wednesday 22—Sunday 26 May	Craft and Quilt and Fair, Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre www.craftfair.com.au/wp/Perth/
Sunday 2 June	Toodyay Fibre Festival (pg. 13)
Saturday 8 June	HWSDGWA Spin In, APCH (details pg. 4)
Sunday 9 June	Beginners weaving course 1: day 3 (APCH)
Saturday 22 June	Spinning Day, APCH, from 10am Spinning Study Group (APCH Studio) from 10:30am
Saturday 13 July	HWSDGWA General Meeting, APCH, from 10am
Saturday 27 July	Spinning Day, APCH, from 10am Spinning Study Group (APCH Studio) from 10:30am
Saturday 10 August	HWSDGWA General Meeting, APCH, from 10am
Tuesday 13—Wednesday 14 August	Laverne Waddington backstrap weaving workshop (pg. 14)
Saturday 24 August	Spinning Day, APCH, from 10am Spinning Study Group (APCH Studio) from 10:30am
Saturday 31 August—Sunday 1 September	Beginners weaving course 2: day 1 and day 2 (APCH)
Saturday 14 September	HWSDGWA General Meeting, APCH, from 10am
Sunday 15 September	Beginners weaving course 2: day 3 (APCH)
Saturday 28 September	Spinning Day, APCH, from 10am Spinning Study Group (APCH Studio) from 10:30am
Saturday 28 September—Saturday 5 October	Perth Royal Show

Hand Spinners Weavers and Dyers Guild of WA

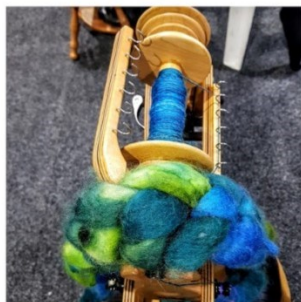
Biennial Spin-In



Time: 9am

Date: 8 June 2019

Entry Fee: \$7



Join us in a day of crafting whether spinning, weaving dyeing, felting, knitting or crocheting. There will be raffles, morning and afternoon teas and lunch available on the day. Trading stalls and a competition for handspun items on the show and tell table with a People's Choice award.

Members and guests—come one, come all!

Contact person: (08) 9272 4965

And leave a message for Helen please

**At Alexander Park Craft House
(look for the Tennis Club on Google!)
Clyde Road, Menora**

<http://www.spinweave.org>

**RSVP to
candacegibson@yahoo.com**

by May 31

Sharing Table—Saturday 20 April and Saturday 11 May

A fabulous cardigan from **Helen LR** – colour, colour colour! Read all about it (photo and description on page 6). Helen also provided a pair of “Sock Madness” socks knitted with twisted stitches, lace and beads. It took her six days to knit (I would have taken six months!). To top it off, a handsome hand-spun, knitted slouch beanie, pattern by Emily K Williams (see front cover for photo).



Yean Tan lit up the table with her multi-wear wrap made with the finest mohair and embroidery thread. She used the “painted crochet” technique inspired by sunset by the sea, from a Kathmandu wrap.



Giuliana Bond made, in her words, a “silk purse out of a sow’s ear” – a useful scarf made from synthetic yarns other people’s cast offs, woven on her Cricket loom.

Marg PC



Dominika Jacket



This jacket was first featured in the Rowan Magazine Number 48 but is available on download from Rowan on Ravelry now. It was designed by Marie Wallin. I came across it when I bought a set of yarn from a destash by another Raveller. The set appeared complete so off I went!

My first error was switching colours in the first band of colourwork so out it came....and then it rested in the naughty corner. Restarted in September 2016 and I forged ahead with the back and a front....then realised I had again switched two colours and I was going to run out. The project notes on Ravelry had warned me about one colour and I had managed to source enough of that for what I thought I would need. No, this was another colour, also discontinued! Found some in Canada that I bought so I continued, figuring I'd mix this unknown dyelot in when it arrived.

The pattern has a couple of shortcomings which anyone can find out about if they read other Raveller's project notes and also notes and discussions on the Rowan website. The sleeve tops aren't well formed and need extending to be comfortable. For those who aren't keen on cropped jackets, a little more length can be good.

Anyway, the long and short of it is that I completed my jacket in mid-March this year. Weirdly, I ended up finding more of the second discontinued colour I got from Canada at Calico and Ivy so now I have leftovers! With all the ends you get with colourwork, I had almost a whole ball of bits chopped off after completion. It's unlikely I will repeat this project though, sorry, no orders please!

Helen Lovitt-Raison

From the archives:

First published in the Yarnspinner in April 1972

Do you know? The word Tweed refers to a fairly coarse fabric woven of single ply woollen yarn in twill, broken twill or herringbone patterns. The name comes from the river Tweed, a vicinity where this kind of weaving was first carried out.

And from July 1973...

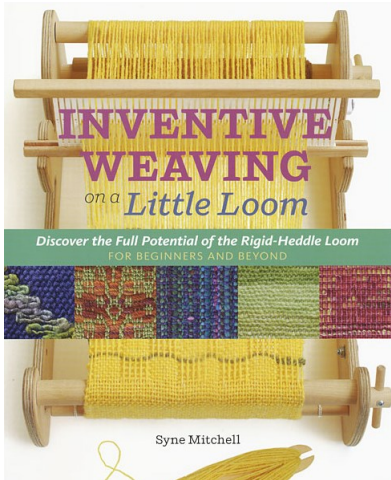
HELPFUL HINT. Specially for beginning weavers: Keep a loom book in which you record what you do as you go along (the type of yarn, the sett, the draft, your invented variations). You won't be able to remember your best ideas unless you write them down in something fairly durable.



"Leroy! Stop the car!"

Source: *It Itches* by Franklin Habit

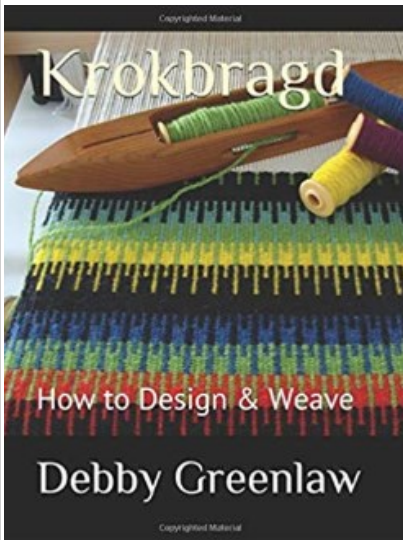
From the library



Inventive Weaving on a Little Loom **Syne Mitchell**

This book covers everything rigid-heddle weavers need to know about the craft, from the basics — how to select a loom, set it up, and get started — to a wide variety of fun techniques that yield beautiful results. Begin by exploring a variety of weave structures, including finger-manipulated laces, tapestry, and colour play with stripes, plaids, and multi-colour yarns. Then move on to more complex designs and irresistible projects,

from pillows and curtains to bags, shawls, and even jewelry. Explore warp-face patterning, weft-pile weaving, weaving with fine threads, woven shibori, shadow weave, and the textural effects you can create with different yarns and with wire and conductive thread.



Krokbragd Debby Greenlaw

Here is a book which fills that niche and provides a comprehensive look at this beautiful weaving technique. Debby Greenlaw brings together the traditional aspects of krokbragd with a fresh, contemporary approach to creating stunning textiles. You will explore the structure and design of krokbragd for the floor, table, and rigid-heddle looms. In addition to traditional single krokbragd, exciting variations such as double point krokbragd and turned krokbragd are also

covered. Each topic is supplemented with a project that allows the weaver to gain hands-on experience with the technique.

Anne McAdam

Inkle weaving workshop

Finally a date has been set!

WHEN: Saturday 22nd June, 10.00am to 3.00pm

WHERE: In the studio, APCH

COST: \$30 for the day (plus yarn if you don't have any)

YARN REQUIRED: A smooth cotton, preferably mercerised, but not essential. About 4 ply or equivalent, at least 4 different colours. Hopefully these can be shared around if necessary, and I will have my stash!

You will need an inkle loom with correct heddles (about 30) already made. There are plenty of looms in the store room that can be hired if required.

Anyone interested please contact me **by Saturday 8 June:**

Email sue_greig@hotmail.com or by phone 9448 0840 or 0411 831 814

Workshop organiser, Sue Greig

Who do you follow?

Do you have a favourite website, blog, Facebook page, Pinterest account or Instagram star that you follow, that you want to share with the Guild? Anything related to fibre, yarn, textiles, spinning, dyeing, weaving, designers, sheep breeders, artists, museums, galleries...whatever inspires you. Please let me know. Send a link to Yarnspinner Editor Cecilia Jordan at ceciliajordan@rocketmail.com.

Spinning Study Group 2019

The Spinning Study Group is a monthly gathering at APCH for those who want some company and feedback whilst doing the NSW Guild Certificate of Competence in Handspinning—find out more at: www.nsweave.org.au/. The group meets every 4th Saturday of the month in the Studio at APCH (from 10:30am), every month until Dec. Contact Candace Cranston: 0424 984 883 or candacegibson@yahoo.com

Saved from the shredder

In 1983 Annemor Sundbø, Norwegian textile designer and teacher of weaving, wanted some experience in a small scale woollen mill. She went to Torridal Tweed og Ulldynefabrikk, Norway's last remaining 'shoddy' factory, where old, worn woollen items were shredded and recycled into wool-filled comforters, pillows, and rag rugs. The owner agreed to let her use the mill – as long as she bought it first! It was a deal she couldn't refuse.



Photo: Annemor Sundbø with just some of the knitwear she rescued from the shredder (Source: Mikkel Aaland, <https://craftsmanship.net/the-nordic-sweater-detective/>)

Annemor bought the mill, and along with it, 16 tonnes of wool sweaters, socks, mittens and underwear, 30 to 100 years old, waiting to be



Photo: Just some of the 1000's of mittens in the rag pile (Source: Annemor Sundbø <https://www.flickr.com/photos/annemorsundbo/>)

shredded. She began sorting out those to be thrown away, and saving those that offered clues about traditional Norwegian knitting patterns and their variations. Annemor received a grant from the Norwegian Council of Culture to sift through the entire rag pile in the old storage room.

Continued on the next page...

Her rescue of the knitwear launched a lifetime mission to discover, document and preserve the craft of artisanal Norwegian knitting while it is still in living memory. She has interviewed the oldest women and men she can find in remote parts of Norway to find out what they wore, how they were taught to knit, and how they learned the patterns.

She has identified symbols that date back



to pre-Christian mythology, which tell stories that even the knitters no longer understand, and written a number of books on the subject.

Photo: Annemor and her *spelsau* sheep (Source: Mikkel Aaland, <https://craftsmanship.net/the-nordic-sweater-detective/>)

Annemor's rag pile collection is now widely recognised for its cultural significance, and has been moved to the Setesdal Museum for an exhibition on her life and work (see link to the museum below).

Annemor has taught and lectured all over the world, and many of the sweaters and stockings and undergarments from the rag-pile have travelled with her. She also finds time for her own spinning, dyeing, weaving, and knitting, and is raising *spelsau* sheep, considered to be the oldest breed in Norway. In Viking times the *spelsau* provided wool that could be woven into an unusually thick fabric, so dense an arrow couldn't pass through it.

Thanks to her, an important part of the world's knitting heritage has been preserved for us all to enjoy.

Sources:

<https://craftsmanship.net/the-nordic-sweater-detective/>

<https://annemor.com/english/>

<https://norwegiantextileletter.com/article/a-rag-pile-my-lot-in-life/>

<https://www.setesdalmuseet.no/kva-skjer/annemor-utstilling/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/annemorsundbo/>

Tips for demonstrators and Guild events

For those of you who haven't done this before, and even for those who have, a few tips on things you might like to know or consider before attending events.

1. Turn up when you tell people you are coming or when asked to attend. Otherwise let someone one know if you will be late or not coming. It means we can organise to fill in for you or arrange to cover your absence.
2. Bring a project that doesn't require a lot of concentration or thought. You will be interrupted.
3. Wear your Guild badge. It helps get past the entry points and gives people some idea of who to address if they have a question.
4. Be prepared to talk about what you are doing to people who have no idea how things work. Sometimes it helps to have some standard 'patter' to go through. For instance, "Spinning is the basic process of adding twist to fibre. A spinning wheel is one way to do this."
5. Bring some water and snacks. Food and drinks may be available but can be expensive and take time to purchase (time you could spend looking at other stands! The organiser of the Guild stand may be able to tell you whether facilities are available to reheat soup or make tea and coffee.
6. Be prepared to politely stop people touching or playing with displays and equipment not intended for handling.
7. Be prepared for people to take pictures of you without your permission. Some do ask but many don't.
8. Enjoy the experience. It can be extremely rewarding to introduce a newly interested 'muggle' to the world of spinning, weaving, knitting, etc.
9. If you are bringing your own equipment and are doing multiple days it should be safe to leave it onsite if you want to leave it overnight. That said, all equipment and display articles are left at your own risk.

For those people volunteering at the WA Quilt and Craft Fair...

Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, 22-26 May, 9am to 4pm daily.

As a demonstrator your name, or the name of the person you are replacing, will be on a list at the door. Then head to the entrance for the quilt show inside the Fair and we are directly opposite the entrance. If you aren't using public transport (station and Busport are at the venue - Elizabeth Quay), parking is available underneath the venue. Please keep your parking receipt so that we can reimburse you. We cannot reimburse parking if you do not retain one.

Cheers and thanks!
Helen Lovitt-Raison

Toodyay Fibre Festival 2019

Hello creative yarn and fabric folk!!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

From the Yarn Area

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

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

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

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

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

Happy spinning, weaving and dyeing—Sue & Jo

Upcycled style

What's the best way to recycle plastic bags? Rosa Ferrigno of Rochester, New York, turned 310 plastic bags from supermarket Wegmans into a suit.

Rosa, a retired dressmaker, cut the bags into strips and tied them together to make plastic yarn. She then made herself some knitting needles from wooden dowels, and knitted a skirt and jacket, making up the pattern as she went along. She lined the suit with brown cotton fabric.



Wegmans single use plastic bags



The upcycled suit made a splash when Rosa wore it to a family wedding in March this year. Wegmans found out about it and were very impressed at such an innovative approach to recycling.

Everyone's excited to see what Rosa creates next...

Source: www.democratandchronicle.com/

Story by Marcia Greenwood, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, published March 20, 2019



Photos: Rosa in her suit, and a close up of the knitted plastic fabric.

(Jamie Germano, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle)

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ARCHIVES	VACANT		
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FOR SALE

- **Alpaca Fleece:** Lovely soft luxurious natural colour alpaca fleece. Let me know the colour and quality you'd like so I can hand pick a fleece. Email Carolyn at emerys5@westnet.com.au or contact Jo Rhodes 0414 782 277
- **Ashford Traditional spinning wheels:** Two wheels available, plus some extra bits and pieces. \$175 each. Contact Walter Wallenborn 0419 937 499 (Mundaring)
- **Warping board:** Handmade, probably 50 years old, sturdy and reasonable condition \$30 Contact Tracy Barker 0418 946 972 or tracy@barkerandhale.com.au
- **Mohair:** full fleeces, white or grey. \$20 per kg (weights vary). Contact Barbara 0427 377 054—located at Bakers Hill but can deliver to Balcatta, Midland or APCH
- **From the collection of Barbara Thomas** who taught weaving at the W.A. Women's Society of Fine Arts and Crafts. Barbara is now a resident of Gracehaven in Rockingham:
 - * Weaving wools / threads: About 50 large tubs worth of thread. Most are rug wools already in balls) but there are many finer threads on cones (no silk thread). \$10 per kg (whatever the thread). Knitting balls \$1. All threads have been stored well.
 - * 1 old spinning wheel, 1x 4shaft loom, 2 loom stands, a fold up spinning wheel, spinning wheel chair and a few other odd bits
 - * Files of weaving mags/newsletters, weaving books and filesPlease ring or text Suzanne Vickery (Barbara's daughter) on 0498 538 581 (Safety Bay). Maybe a group might like to come down together for a social outing. Cuppas provided in the lounge!

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 July YarnSpinner: 8 June 2019

*Front cover: From the sharing table — hand-spun, knitted beanie by
Helen Lovitt-Raison*