

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 July YarnSpinner: 13 June 2020

Front cover: From the virtual sharing table—mosaic knit shawl by Helen Lovitt Raison

The YarnSpinner



Newsletter of the Handweavers', Spinners'
and Dyers' Guild of Western Australia
Volume 50 No. 5
June 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 July 2020 edition of the YarnSpinner: Saturday 13 June 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

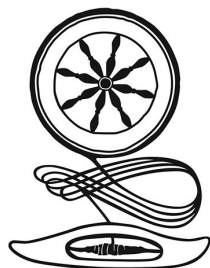
If a person applies for membership after 1 October, their fee will include membership for the current and following year.

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

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AUDITOR	David Williams		
PATRON	VACANT		

Royal Show update

At the time of printing, a decision has not been made by the Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia (RASWA) regarding whether the 2020 Perth Royal Show will go ahead as scheduled.

To keep all the crafters and cake decorators mentally active and stimulated during this Covid-19 crisis the Craft and Decorated Cakes Class List is being released. It can be downloaded from the Perth Royal Show website (see below), or contact the Guild RAS Representative (details page 15). This will enable Guild members to go ahead with projects for the next Perth Royal Show.

This will be a great opportunity for those who have not participated in the Perth Royal Show previously, or who have lapsed for lack of time, to prepare your items.

No entries will be taken until the official schedule is released. If a Show in 2020 does not go ahead the Craft and Cookery schedule of classes will remain current until the next Perth Royal Show.

For more information visit: <https://www.perthroyalshow.com.au/>

Did you know...

The Royal Agricultural Society was established in 1831 by the farming families who pioneered the State of WA.

The first official "Fair and Cattle Show" was held on 7 November 1834 in Guilford. According to the Society's records, the colony's stock at that time amounted to 307 cows, 96 working cattle, 97 bulls and steers, 3545 sheep, 492 goats and 374 pigs.

The first show at Claremont was in 1905, utilising the buildings from the old grounds in Guildford, with a newly erected Exhibition Hall and a bar. Prize money totalled 3,000 pounds and attendance topped 30,000 people. Attendance peaked in 1997 at over 460,000 people.

Source: <https://www.perthroyalshow.com.au/about-us/history/>

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

A big thankyou to everyone who contributed photos, stories and ideas to this and last 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

Cecilia Jordan has a new challenge—she was given a bread maker, and has turned out her first successful wholemeal loaf (after one disastrous effort which resulted in a soggy flour brick).



Helen Lovitt Raison has been busy knitting and spinning. From Helen:

The first is a test knit of the Adobe Shawl by Ambah O'Brien in two shades of Wollmeise Pure fingering - "Patina" and "Guide to Galaxy". The shawl uses slipped stitches and mosaic stitches and has a picot cast off (pictured on the front cover).

The second is a club pattern from Ysolda Teague which I finally managed to block, called Phedimus. This uses mosaic and lace stitches and will be available to purchase later this month I think.



I have also been spinning on my nano espinner. This is 50g of Ixchelbunny's CamelBunny Silk in colourway 'Political Science'. Not sure what the single will be yet.

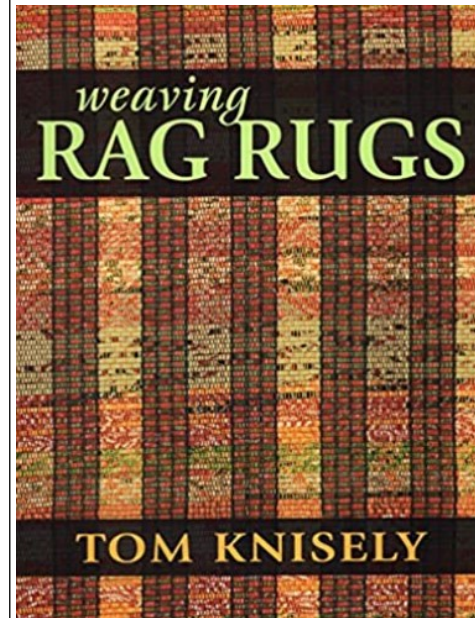


Shona MacDonald has been weaving with cashmere. From Shona:

They are simple twill scarfs in 2-ply cashmere. This was my first attempt at tying an old warp onto a new one. It was a learning experience!



From the library



Weaving Rag Rugs Tom Knisely

The author is the manager of The Mannings Handweaving School of Supply Corner in Pennsylvania, USA.

There are detailed instructions to guide you through the entire rag rug weaving process from preparing the rags to warping the loom to finishing the edges. The 30 patterns, from simple to advanced, cover a huge range of materials, colour schemes, and styles.

Extended Divided Twill Weaves Based on Dr William G. Bateman's Manuscript, Virginia I. Harvey(ed.)

Dr Bateman spent his retirement years weaving samples. He progressed from inkle weaves, overshot and other established techniques to variations of these weaves and finally to the discovery of new weave systems.

A number of monographs were published, this being one of them. His text has been printed on grey ground and precedes the related text prepared by the editor. There is information on tie-up and treadling as well as photos of samples.



Anne McAdam

Fair Isle fifty years on

In 1970 photographer Chris Morphet, then 26, saw Fair Isle jumpers being worn by trendsetters on London streets, and wanted to explore where this fashion icon came from.

He travelled to Fair Isle, around 130km off the Scottish mainland, knocked on doors, and asked locals if they had any Fair Isle jumpers he could photograph. The resulting photos give a unique window into the lives of Fair Islanders, and are a fabulous record of the beautiful knitwear that has made them famous worldwide.



Revisiting these photographs 50 years on, it is obvious that while some of the hairstyles and hemlines may have changed over the years, the Fair Isle jumper is an enduring classic that looks as good now as it did in 1970.

To see more go to:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-51370635>

(Photographs by Chris Morphet - Fair Isle in 1970)



Anne McAdam has been knitting cosy socks in Katia DK weight sock wool.



Gail Hamilton has also been busy with socks. From Gail:

The first is my round 3 Sock Madness socks. Pattern is Lacy not Lazy by Imawale. These are fraternal – first photo shows the front and second shows the sole.



Yarn used was Knit Picks Stroll in Duchess Heather and Dingo Dyeworks Ridgy Didge in Strzelecki.

And just finished my round 4 socks. Pattern is Adamant Hearts by KnitJoz.



Yarn is Knit Picks Stroll in Navy and Dingo Dyeworks Ridgy Didge (can't remember the colour name).

Modelled by my husband.

The Shetland Isles – Then and Now

By Helen Lovitt Raison



Geographically, the Shetland Islands lie 80km north-east of the Orkney Islands, 170km from the Scottish mainland and 300km west of Norway. They lie between the Atlantic to the west and the North Sea to the east.

The word I would use to characterise these islands is windy so it shouldn't surprise you to know that they have an average of 236 hours of gales per year where the wind reaches above 140kph. The world record was reached in 1963 when a gale blew at over 325kph and took out the anemometer!

The archipelago has an area of 1466km², 967km² of which is made up of "Mainland", the largest of the islands and Scotland's third largest island. There are 15 more islands inhabited out of the total of over 100 giving Shetland a coastline measuring about 2702km. All this means that as you move around the islands, you are never more than 4 km from water.

In October 2018, legislation came into force in Scotland to prevent public bodies, without good reason, showing Shetland in a separate box in maps, as had often been the practice. The legislation requires the islands to be "displayed in a manner that accurately and proportionately represents their geographical location in relation to the rest of Scotland", so as to make clear the islands' real distance from other areas.

Shetland's subarctic location means that the northern lights can be visible during winter if conditions allow. The middle of winter can mean that it barely gets light during the day while midsummer nights are for celebrating when the sun barely drops below the horizon, the so called "summer dim".

The economy of the isles comes mainly from oil reserves in the North and Atlantic Seas - the East Shetland field being the largest in Europe, alternative energy sources (mainly wind based), fishing, textiles and tourism.

Weaving with colour

Tien Chiu began weaving in 2006, and was quickly totally obsessed with designing, dyeing, weaving, and sewing handwovens.

She has written many articles for magazines founded the website: Warp & Weave: Color Courage for Weavers!

Her mission is to *"transform your colour fears into confidence by teaching you how colour works in weaving. I'll also teach you to apply your knowledge, so you can create beautiful handwoven projects that make your heart sing and that fill others with awe"*.

If you have odds and ends of yarn in lots of different colours, and aren't quite sure how to combine them effectively in your weaving, this article might help: <https://www.warpandweave.com/make-pattern-show-lots-colors/?cn-reloaded=1>

It has instructions and lots of tips about how to combine colour pattern in the warp, colour pattern in the weft, and the pattern of the draft, when you've want to use lots of different colours.

There is plenty more for weavers on the website too – articles, and even an online weaving colour mixer tool. Check it all out at <https://www.warpandweave.com/>

Contributed by Gail Campbell

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 Masterclasses, and go shopping with your favourite stallholders.

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

Wise Owls...



"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

Theodore Roosevelt

"In a time of destruction, create something."

Maxine Hong Kingston

Seven years of social distancing

In 2013 when bushfires were raging in Tasmania, Prickles the sheep ran away from her Dunalley farm to escape the flames. Seven years later, and her owners have finally caught up with her.

During her time on the run, Prickles grew an enormous fleece, and owner Alice Gray decided to put it to good use. Alice ran an online competition asking people to guess the weight of the fleece, in return for a donation to the UNHCR.



BEFORE: Prickles the sheep with her 7-year fleece (photo: Alice Gray)



AFTER: Prickles without her fleece (photo: Edith Bevin)

On 1 May the big day arrived, and Prickles was shorn for the first time since 2013. The fleece weighed in at 13.6kg (impressive, but a long way from the record 41kg fleece of Chris the merino from Canberra). \$12,000 was raised for the UNHCR, to support their work helping refugees.

Sources:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-05-01/prickles-the-sheep-fleeced-of-seven-years-of-wool/12207358>

<https://www.mycase.com.au/page/227275/prickles-an-expert-at-social-distancing>

Contributed by Yean Tan

Shetland gets its name from old Norse, *hjal* and *land*, meaning hiltland. The language spoken used to be Norn, a form of Norse, but this has largely died out over time and morphed into a dialect known as Shetlandic. This reflects the checkered history of these islands, using a Scottish dialect incorporating old Norse words and phrases.

The percentage of Norse can vary as you travel northward. A small booklet called "Mirds o Wirds", lists some terms commonly used, for instance in place names *wick* means bay, *ness* is headland and *voe*, a long narrow inlet. Larger centres on the islands list the old Norn name under the current name such as Tingwall which is Pingvöllr, old Norse meaning field of the parliament.

The islands have been settled for over 5000 years and have more ancient monuments per square kilometre than any other part of the United Kingdom. It is thought that the first settlements occurred around 4000BC. These people were farmers who brought with them animals and grain as well as fishermen and hunters.

The treeless nature of the islands means that many early dwellings are made of stone and are still stand including some of the best iron age brochs known. The most complete one of these exists on Mousa but is only accessible by boat.



This broch (pictured below) is actually on mainland Scotland but gives an idea of the size of the single access to the structure - and the drystone nature of the building.



Inside Broch now, and Broch as it was (photos by Helen Lovitt Raison)

Continued on the next page...

Visitors to Shetland can see a series of buildings reflecting various ages in the islands' history at Jarlshof. The area has the remains of Viking long halls, iron and bronze age dwellings.



Jarlshof (photo by Helen Lovitt Raison)

The islands have variously belonged to Norway/Denmark whose ruler, Christian I, gave them as part of his daughter Margaret's dowry to Scotland's James III in 1469. Since then, their ownership has varied but they now come under the Scottish parliament as the Orkney and Shetland Constituency.

NEXT TIME: Crofting and crafting and Shetland Wool Week

Did you know...



Small horses have been kept in the Shetland Isles since the Bronze Age, and the native stock was probably crossed with ponies imported by Norse settlers, and the Celtic pony, brought to the islands 2000-1000 BCE.

Shetland ponies were first used for pulling carts, carrying peat and coal, and plowing. As the Industrial Revolution increased the need for coal in the mid-19th century, thousands of Shetland ponies travelled to mainland Britain to be pit ponies, working underground.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shetland_pony

Listen while you craft

Here is a podcast I discovered when procrastinating while I was supposed to be working from home (anyone else had that experience lately?).

Close Knit was founded by Ani Lee in 2015 with the aims "holding space for conversations to be had about the ways we use fibre to process life and world events".



There are 53 episodes in what Ani loosely calls 'season 1' of the podcast, and they cover a very wide range of topics, as Ani interviews people involved in the sustainable production and use of clothing, teaching art, history and gender in fashion, community resilience and craftivism, and so much more. I have only just started listening so there's a big back catalogue for me to discover.

Find Close Knit wherever you get your podcasts, or visit the website: <http://www.closeknit.com.au/>

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

International Scarf Exchange update

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 to be returned by post by **29 May 2020**: International Scarf Exchange, HSWGSA, PO BOX 163, TORRENSVILLE PLAZA, SA 5031.

The planned exhibition of Scarf Exchanged entries has been cancelled, however you will be able to see photos on the Spinners and Weavers Guild of SA website <https://sites.google.com/site/handspinweavesa/> (date for the online exhibition to be determined).

Please contact Sharn Rowland with any concerns or questions: internationalscarfexchange2020@gmail.com