

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. We have a selection of processed 100 gram bumps from \$15.00 - \$30.00, in a variety of natural colours. Postage can be arranged if required. Contact Jo Rhodes 0414 782 277 or jorhodes1955@gmail.com
- **Ashford Traditional spinning wheels:** Two wheels, plus some extras. \$175 each. Contact Walter Wallenborn 0419 937 499 (Mundaring)
- **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 cotton yarns:** Unbleached linen yarns and natural khadi cotton Yarn for sale. Please contact Ann 0402832198 if you're interested
- **Spinning wheels:** Terry Cavill would like to reduce his large collection of spinning wheels, all in excellent condition. Contact Terry 9731 0947 (Donnybrook)

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.

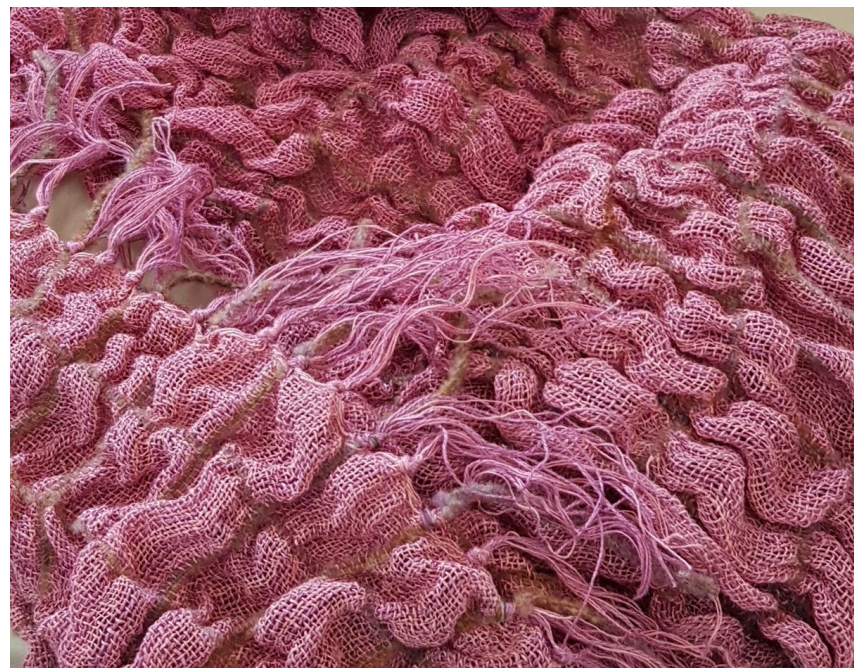
Advertising deadline for June YarnSpinner: 12 June 2021

Front cover: From the sharing table—wool/linen scarf by Kjerstin Bjelland—photo by Rae Flannagan

The YarnSpinner



Newsletter of the Handweavers', Spinners'
and Dyers' Guild of Western Australia
Volume 51 No. 05
June 2021



COMING UP:

Saturday 12 June: Handweavers', Spinners' and Dyers' Guild of WA Spin In, APCH, doors open 9:30am (see page 5 for more information)

Contribution deadline for the July 2021 edition of the YarnSpinner: Saturday 12 June 2021

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:

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

Guild Membership Fees for 2021

General \$80.00	Concession \$60.00	Associate/Junior \$60.00
Student \$60.00	Family \$97.50	Group \$120.00

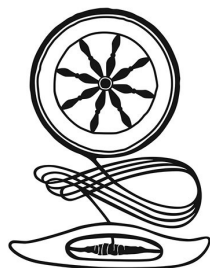
If a person applies for membership after 1 October, their fee will include membership for the current and following year.

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
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Email: Information & Publicity Officer
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PATRON	VACANT		

Staying up to date

Unfortunately it is not always possible to include up-to-date information about changes to the meeting schedule in the Yarnspinner, but the Guild will always follow the Government's guidelines on gatherings.

If you need information about the Guild's activities, you are always welcome to contact Guild President Jenni Talbot or the Information Officer (details page 15).

The Guild is also on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/spinweavewa/>

And online:

<https://spinweavewa.org/>



WA Coronavirus Health Information Line: 13 COVID (13 26843)

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>

Lifeline Australia: 13 11 14



Coming up...

Sunday 6 June	Toodyay Fibre Festival (more information on page 6)
Saturday 12 June	HWSDGWA Spin In, APCH, doors open 9:30am (more information on page 5)
Saturday 26 June	Spinning Day, APCH, doors open 9:30am
Saturday 10 July	HWSDGWA General Meeting, APCH, doors open 9:30am
Saturday 24 July	Spinning Day, APCH, doors open 9:30am
Saturday 14 August	Spin, weave or bring along your current project, APCH, doors open 9:30am
Saturday 28 August	Spinning Day, APCH, doors open 9:30am
Saturday 11 September	HWSDGWA General Meeting, APCH, doors open 9:30am
Saturday 25 September	Spinning Day, APCH, doors open 9:30am
Saturday 9 October	Spin, weave or bring along your current project, APCH, doors open 9:30am
Saturday 23 October	Spinning Day, APCH, doors open 9:30am
Saturday 13 November	HWSDGWA General Meeting and Christmas lunch, APCH, doors open 9:30am
Saturday 27 November	Library and Equipment Room stocktake, plus spin, weave or bring along your current project, APCH, doors open 9:30am

Guild General Meetings for 2021

Handweavers', Spinners' and Dyers' Guild WA General meetings will be held at APCH on the following Saturdays in 2021:

- 10 July
- 11 September
- 13 November

The second Saturday of the month August-October APCH will be open for members to gather, craft, and use the library and Yarn Area but no formal General Meeting will be held.

Notes from the President

Hi Everyone, well where did the last month go? The Guild members have been busy in the past month preparing for our forthcoming Spin In to be held on 12 June. Even though we have limited places we are still expecting to have a really good day so please RSVP as soon as possible.

We plan to have the Library database online in the near future this will mean our members can see what books or magazines we have available for loan. I am also arranging to re-activate the loan of books to our country groups. This was always available to our country members but with the high costs of postage it has fallen by the wayside. I think we can work together to solve the delivery and return of the books. If a country member is in Perth we can arrange a box of books to be collected from the hall or a committee member's home. The Guild has an amazing library and it should be made available to our country groups.

Also don't forget the Guild has equipment for loan to members and groups so if you would like to check out the equipment please see Sue Greig (contact details page 15).

The Guild is currently arranging a 4 shaft weaving course for beginners, this will be held fortnightly on a Saturday afternoon commencing 10 July. If you are interested in learning to weave please let myself or Sue Greig know. Further information will be made available soon.

I am very focused on growing and promoting our skills and craft and making sure everyone feels welcome at APCH so please bring along your current project that you are working on and enjoy the company of those around you. We may have spinning day noted in the calendar but don't feel you have to be spinning come along. Feel free to craft or just chat and enjoy the company around you. We are surrounded by very talented people and also people who are learning something new and there is always someone there if you are stuck and need help.

Your committee members are always available if you have questions and I am always available if you want a chat.

Stay safe and be happy

Jenni

At first his weavers — predominately Hazara women — would work at a giant loom in his Kabul studio, but that proved difficult with regular bombings in the city, as well as cultural precepts against women working under the same roof as men.

By 2017, Ali had developed a new method that meant embroiderers could complete sections of his tapestries in the safety of their own homes.

Ali's vibrant designs reflect his Hazara, Afghani, Pakistani and Australian identities.

His latest exhibition, *Invisible Border*, is on at the Brisbane Institute of Modern Art until 5 June and then at UNSW Galleries from 20 August to 20 November.

Says Ali:

"'Invisible Border' is re-

ferring to the line of the otherness that is invisible, but you can still feel it as a life of minority in Pakistan or in Afghanistan or even here in Australia — you see [it in] the treatment of the refugees, how children are now behind the bars...[I want visitors to the exhibition] to understand this land of Australia as a collective, and as a land that is providing opportunities that we are always taking for granted."

More information:

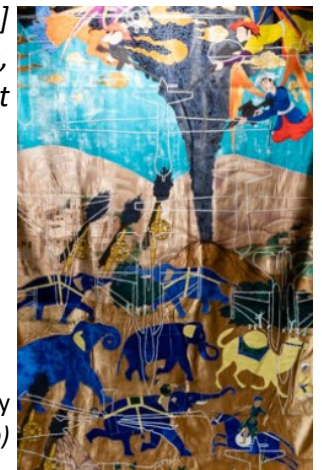
www.abc.net.au/news

ima.org.au/exhibitions/khadim-ali/

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazaras



Khadim Ali and with two of his paintings. Ali has become known for his depictions of demons (pictured here, the demons of Asad Buda). Photo: ABC Arts: Garry Trinh)



Part of the 'Invisible Border' tapestry
(Photo: Institute of Modern Art/ Marc Pricop)

Invisible borders

Khadim Ali was born in 1978 in Quetta, Pakistan. As a child he enjoyed drawing – combining imagery from the 10th century AD epic Persian poem the Shahnameh (Book of Kings) sung to him by his grandfather with what he saw around him, including Pakistani military planes.

As a Hazara man Ali was persecuted, and lived and worked in Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan before migrating with his family to Australia in 2009, sponsored by QLD Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art.

The Hazara people, from central Asia, are the third-largest ethnic group in Afghanistan, and a significant minority group

in Pakistan. Sadly Hazaras are considered to be one of the most oppressed groups in Afghanistan, and their persecution dates back decades.

The Hazara people also have a rich tradition of tapestry, and Ali grew up watching his grandmother and mother weaving, stitching and embroidering, their designs inspired by nature, animals and the Shahnameh.

Ali tried to follow in their footsteps, but realized his skills lay in designing tapestries, and bringing them to life through collaboration with skilled artisans.



'The Sermon on the Mount'—a composite tapestry that reimagines a 15th century illustration from the fable collection Anwar-i Suhayli, and combines it with Australian flora, fauna and a response to the 2019/2020 Black Summer bushfires (Photo: Institute of Modern Art/ Marc Pricop)

Continued on the next page...

2021 HWSDBGWA SPIN IN

RSVP ESSENTIAL as numbers are limited

The Guild will be holding a Spin In this year!

WHEN: Saturday 12 June 2021, 10am to 4pm

WHERE: Alexander Park Craft House,
Clyde Rd, Menora

ENTRY: \$10.00

RSVP: hwsdg.president@gmail.com
or 0488 941 751

We will have traders, raffles, games. Morning tea, Lunch and Afternoon tea provided.

RSVP is essential as we will have to limit numbers in the hall. If you do not RSVP we can not guarantee you will be able to spend the day with us.

We have chosen **Perth Homeless Support Group** as our charity for this year and we ask if you can please knit or crochet a beanie or scarf or gloves and bring your item along on the day we will collect and deliver to them.

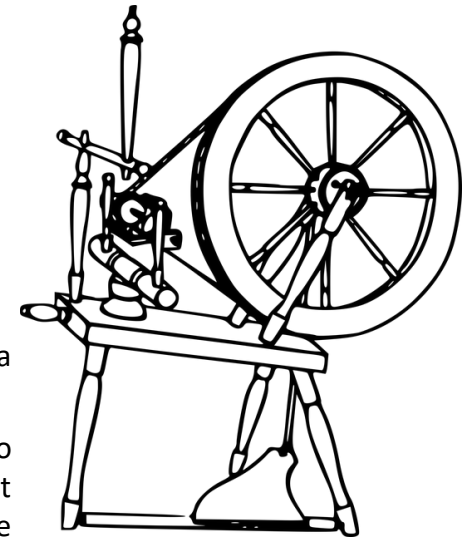
ABOUT PERTH HOMELESS SUPPORT GROUP

Over the years the Perth Homeless Support Group has created a new 'Community Model' for working with the displaced, homeless and those in transitional housing, creating a safe community for those in need to gather and share stories, and most importantly seek help.

Our mission is "See the need and make a difference, without prejudice".

Our primary goals are to relieve the stress on those experiencing homelessness, or who are at risk of homelessness, by providing their basic needs; and educate those experiencing homelessness of other services that are available to help them.

If you'd like to know more go to: www.perthhomeless.org.au



Toodyay Fibre Festival 2021

Held in historic and picturesque Toodyay, the annual Toodyay Fibre Festival is a free family friendly celebration of fibre arts and crafts — featuring artisan markets, workshops, exhibitions, activities for kids, a fashion parade, and much more.

Where: Stirling Terrace, Toodyay

When: Sunday 6 June, 10am-3pm

Toodyay
Fibre Festival



If you'd like more information, or would like to sell your handmade creations, or want to check out the Artrisan Market's Directory, or would like COVID 19 updates for the Festival...

go to: <https://toodyayfibrefestival.com/>
or email: info@toodyayfibrefestival.com

Sharing Table—Saturday 8 May



Shona MacDonald wove a fabulous "Rainbow Pride" scarf in a broken diamond twill pattern—a birthday gift for a lucky person.

Brenda Roy was busy weaving too, but on a rigid heddle loom. Her scarf, in blues, browns and greens, was plain weave, with a wool and silk warp and wool weft from Malabrigo.



Continued on the next page...

We were going to fill the holes in and paint over them, but we can't possibly do that now—the bee nursery remains!

In the UK a group of crafters called Grans on the Make have gotten together to form Make a Beeline (makeabeeline.uk). This project aims to increase awareness of the importance of bees, encourage people to plant bee-friendly gardens, and raise money for bees through displays of knitted and crocheted been at craft shows throughout the UK. They have some very cute bee knitting and crochet patterns available for free—check out their website.

Australia has a number of bee charities, including:

The Bee Cure (www.beethecure.com.au/)

The When Bee Foundation (www.wheeneefoundation.org.au)

The Bee Cure (www.beethecure.com.au)

Save our bees (saveourbees.com.au)

(There are more, each targeting different elements of bee conservation).

Everyone can help bees: by planting species which flower at different times throughout the year; by planting flowers with a range of different sizes, shapes and colours; by using pest control methods in their gardens that don't harm bees; by putting a bee hotel on your balcony or garden (or just drilling a few holes in the wall!).



A leaf cutter bee in action, taking a slice of leaf to make a nest
(photo: Peter O, aussie-bee.com.au)

More information:

www.worldbeeday.org.au/

www.aussiebee.com.au/

Perth Craft and Quilt Fair 2021

Where: Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre

When: Wednesday 14 July to Sunday 18 July, 10am – 4pm

Cost: \$21 for a one day pass if you buy it at the door (discounts for concession card holders, and if you buy tickets on line)

The Guild will have a stall, so come along and check it out!

For more information go to: www.craftfair.com.au/wp/Perth/

Busy bees

20 May is World Bee Day—a day to appreciate, cherish and celebrate all that bees do for us and our planet.

Bees are essential for biodiversity and food security...and of course some of them make delicious honey. We need bees!

We are all familiar with the European honey bee, which we often see in our gardens. These make our commercial honey. But Australia also has a wide variety of native bee species.

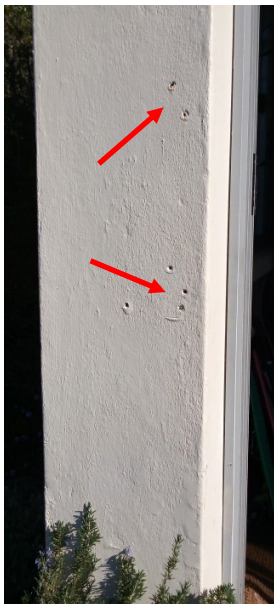
Our biggest bee, the Carpenter Bee, found in northern NSW and QLD, can be up to 2.5cm long. We are also home to the world's smallest bee—the Quasihesma bee found in Cape York, QLD, is only 2mm long!



Carpenter bee (photo: Peter O, aussiebee.com.au)



Quasihesma bee (photo: aussiebee.com.au)



Some native bees live in large swarms and make elaborate hives, and others are solo. Some are stingless.

At my house we made a little 'bee hotel' hoping to attract some native bees...we succeeded, but only by accident! The bees ignore the bee hotel and every year they lay eggs in some holes drilled into a brick column (which used to have screws in them, attaching a hand rail to the house). The adult bee puts little wax caps over the holes to protect the pupae while they develop, and then when they are ready to emerge the baby bees break through and fly away.

Column holding up my front verandah—the accidental bee hotel!



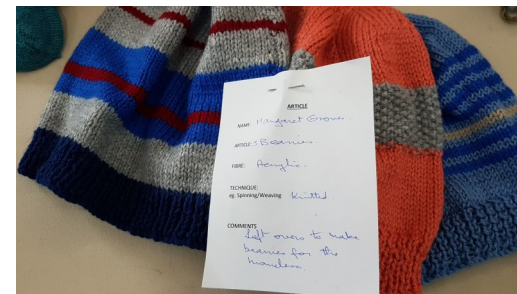
Two more beautiful woven scarves, this time from **Bron Croghan**. Both woven on a rigid heddle loom, one using handspun Southern Cross warp and a hibiscus dyed weft (left) and the other using handspun, hand dyed yarn a range of beautiful colours from natural plant dyes.



Lots of socks from **Myléne**! She has knitted a colourful range of fair isle and textured socks, some beaded, in 4 ply wool/nylon. I love the leaf detail on some of the tops!



From **Margaret Grove**, a trio of knitted beanies in acrylic yarn—Margaret is using up her stash to make beanies for the homeless.



And on the front cover, from **Kjerstin Bjelland**, a woven scarf in linen and wool, with a fabulous collapse weave texture. It was 3.5m long on the loom, and only 2.5m after being washed and tumble dried!

(Photos by Rae Flannagan)

Wear your pet



Irene Lerman (Photo: Tony Luong/ The Guardian)

Irene Lerman was born in Soviet Union, where every girl was taught to knit, as warm clothing was needed and in short supply.

In the 1990's Irene moved to the USA, where clothing was plentiful and cheap, so she abandoned knitting... until she adopted a cat. Mittens the ragdoll cat had to be brushed regularly, which left Irene with lots of soft, silky hair which she collected in a shoe box.

With the help of antique carding brushes, a spindle and lots of trial and error Irene managed to spin the cat hair into useable yarn. And so began her pet hair business.

She set up a shop online, and soon had customers sending her their pet hair, with requests for knitted items ranging from handbags to dream catchers. Irene requests a photo of each pet, so she can look at it while working and feel connected to the animal.

All the money Irene raises goes to a pet rescue centre and other animal charities. Her online shop is called PetHair2Knit-Wear.

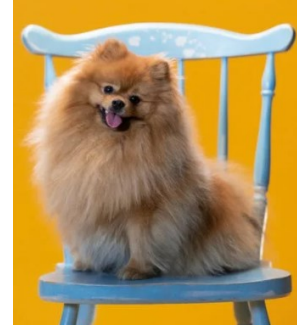
Source: www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2021/apr/30/experience-i-knit-with-pet-hair

If you're interested in more information about spinning and knitting with pet hair, check out the Guild library.



One of Irene's creations
(Photo: PetHair2KnitWear)

Did you know?



Chiengora is the term used for yarn spun from dog hair.

The word is a portmanteau of chien (the French word for dog) and angora. It is up to 80% warmer than wool.

(source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiengora>)

A Natural Dyes Interest Group?

Are there any members out there interested in forming a natural dyes interest group?

The suggestion is that we meet in the studio on 4th Saturday spinning days. The studio is available morning and afternoon on those days.

At some point we might want to use the dye facilities and dye together but to start with it would be a group sharing their work and their experiences rather than a hands on 'workshop' format.

If you think you might like to be involved , you could ring me or come to the next Spinning Day at 11am for an exploratory discussion.

Looking eagerly for any fellow natural dyers!

Brenda Roy
0437 904 223

Wise Owls...



"Owners of dogs will have noticed that, if you provide them with food and water and shelter and affection, they will think you are God. Whereas owners of cats are compelled to realize that, if you provide them with food and water and affection, they draw the conclusion that they are God."

Christopher Hitchens