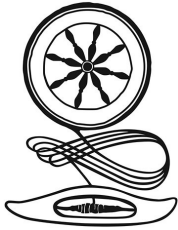


The YarnSpinner



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

Volume 50 No. 6

July 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 August 2020 edition of the YarnSpinner: Saturday 11 July 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

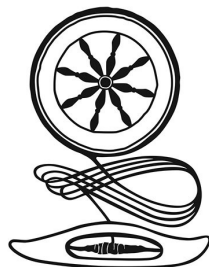
If a person applies for membership after 1 October, their fee will include membership for the current and following year.

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/>



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



Brenda Roy has been dyeing with log wood, pomegranates fustic and indigo, and trying out some colour blending.

Sue Webb has been knitting.

From Sue:

I've finished a few things. I made a cowl, fingerless gloves and a beanie from merino/possum blend yarn died with salmon gum. The beanie was way too big so I felted it in the machine and now it's perfect.

I finished a baby blanket for a friend in Bendigo Woollen Mills cotton (see front cover for photo) and also a pair of felted slipper/ booties for me in fibre solar dyed with leaves and petals from a bunch of flowers.



Shona MacDonald has been busy weaving—more cashmere, in a 2-ply syncopated threading of rosepath that only looked right once off the loom and washed!

Cecilia Jordan has been experimenting with band weaving on the rigid heddle loom (as opposed to an inkle loom).

The verdict: On the plus side it was easy to warp up, and easy to get the extra length I was after. On the minus side It was harder to keep the selvages straight and the width of the band consistent (having a five year old as an assistant wasn't ideal for getting straight selvages either!).

From **Patsy Hills**, a Guild member from Eaton:

A blend of black merino tops (18.5 microns) and merino tops/tussah silk tops (100g) purchased from Mosely Park. It was a joy to spin. It was plied with a soft silver grey. 879 yards when finished. I plan to knit a shawlette/scarf with some.

Stash-busting homespun. A blend of corriedale and merino. Didn't have enough for my size—fits my daughter well.



Ultrafine merino, mulberry silk, black diamond bamboo, suri alpaca and sparkles (215g) Still deciding what to do with it.

My must haves from the Bendigo Show.

I've also done knitting and sewing for charity. with all my time at home.



Continued on the next page...



Anne McAdam has completed a shawl with a range of different stitch patterns in Katia cotton.

Helen Lovitt-Raison has been knitting. From Helen:

A pair of fingerless gloves knitted in Fyberspates Cumulus yarn, pattern Altnafeadh by Kate Davies.



Then there's the first of the Strickmich! Club kits knitted in Manos del Uruguay Fina which is a soft merino and silk fingering. Two colours were used as I couldn't get a second club skein from Germany due to post restrictions but I think it works well.



And finally, I have a test knit T-shirt knitted top-down in Wollmeise Pure.



Wise Owls...

"Share your knowledge. It is a way to achieve immortality."

Dalai Lama XIV

"It takes a lot of courage to show your dreams to someone else."

Erma Bombeck

Keeping a record



In 2019 this scarf was sold on Ebay for 7,500 Euros. So what makes this scarf so special? This is not just a scarf, it is an historical record.

The 'rail delay scarf' was knitted by Claudia Weber, on her daily commute between Moosburg and Munich in Germany. Tired of the constant train delays, Claudia decided to use her knitting to keep a record of them. For one year she knitted two rows per day, using different colours depending on the length of the delay: light grey for no delay, dark grey for under 5 minutes, pink for 5-30 minutes, and red for over 30 minutes or if she was delayed on both trips .

Claudia's scarf became world famous after her daughter Sara, a Munich journalist, posted a picture of it on Twitter. It soon drew 23,000 likes and interview requests from local and international news media.

The scarf has been put to very good use: it was auctioned on Ebay to raise money for the charity Bahnhofsmmission, which helps vulnerable passengers at German train stations. And Deutsche Bahn, the railway company which runs the Moosburg to Munich train, have appointed new staff to improve the punctuality of the line.

Using knitting as a record is an intriguing idea, which has been explored by others. For example Lea Redmond (of Leafcutter Design <https://www.leafcutterdesigns.com/>) has released several journaling pattern,s such as the Mood Scarf (knit rows each day in a colour which matches your mood), and the Sky Scarf (knit rows each day corresponding to the colour of the sky).

Both journalling and knitting have been found to have benefits for mental health and wellbeing—combining them can be powerful.

Source: Knitting Magazine April 2020, Issue 205

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/16/world/europe/germany-train-delay-scarf.html>

<https://www.euronews.com/2019/01/17/train-operator-buys-rail-delay-scarf-by-frustrated-german-commuter-for-7-500>

From the library

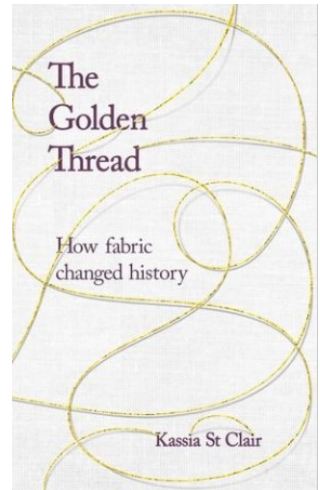


***Mend and Patch* Kerstin Neumuller**

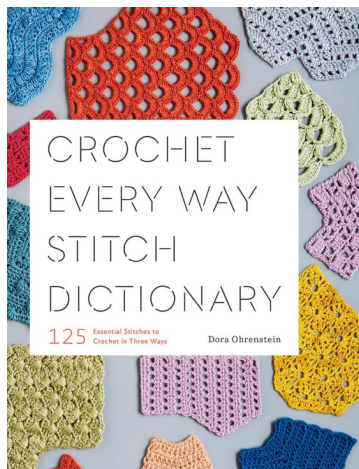
Throwing away holey, yet beloved, clothes can sometimes be one of the saddest things, but what if you were able to fix those holes and extend their life? With *Mend & Patch*, you can learn to take care of your clothes, mending, patching and repairing so you can cherish all your garments. Find out emergency tips for mending in a hurry, enhance your clothes with decorative 'mends' and learn to mend for and with different materials, including leather, cotton, wool, silk and of course, denim.

***The Golden Thread* Kassia St Clair**

All textiles begin with a twist. From colourful 30,000-year old threads found on the floor of a Georgian cave to what the linen wrappings of Tutankhamun's mummy actually meant; from the Silk Roads to the woollen sails that helped the Vikings reach America 700 years before Columbus; from the lace ruffs that infuriated the puritans to the Indian calicoes and chintzes that powered the Industrial Revolution, our continuing reinvention of cloth tells fascinating stories of human ingenuity.



With a cast that includes Chinese empresses, Richard the Lionheart and Bing Crosby, Kassia St Clair takes us on the run with escaped slaves, climbing the slopes of Everest and moonwalking with astronauts. Running like a bright line through history, *The Golden Thread* offers an unforgettable adventure through our past, present and future.



Crochet Every Way Stitch Dictionary Dora Ohrenstein

(from Yarn magazine Issue 58 2020)

The author gives detailed instructions for 125 crochet stitches in 3 different directions. - increasing, decreasing and no shaping. Shaping can occur on the edge of an item or internally and this book explains how to handle both. The chapters are organised into groups of stitches which share certain characteristics. There are closed stitches, lacy stitches, textured, shell and classic ones, and the ripples and waves of her undulating stitches. US terms are used but there are graphs which are easily understood.

Anne McAdam



Yarnbombing in Looe

At the mouth of the Looe River in Cornwall sits the tiny town of Looe. There are two ways to cross the river, from the east side of town to the west: for 50p a man in a dinghy will take you across (my four year old's preferred method) OR you can walk across the bridge.

When we visited Looe in September last year the handrails on both sides of the 70m bridge had been yarnbombed—a very colourful feature in the otherwise muted grey and blue tones of the town.

There were other yarnbombed landmarks scattered throughout the town, all made by a group of local women to honour a friend who had recently died. A beautiful memorial.

Cecilia Jordan

Guild day trip to Bailup Downs

Firstly, my personal apologies to the Guild and its members for the lateness of this story reaching you!

Back in November last year a few of the Guild members hit the road to visit John and Geraldine Bennier's Afrino sheep farm, Bailup Downs, just east of Gidgegannup. Some of you might recall John and Geraldine coming to visit us at the Guild the previous May, where John gave an interesting and informative back story to the uncommon Afrino sheep and why he has selected it as his preferred breed. John, now in semi-retirement, has been breeding sheep for over 50 years - including Merinos and Poll Dorsets - but it wasn't until 2006 that he purchased his first Afrino rams from a stud in Mukinbudin.



Weighing a fleece

Afrinos originated in South Africa, the result of a mix of Merino (25%), Ronderib Afrikaner (25%) and South African Merino (50%). Though having been bred there successfully since 1976 it wasn't until 2004 that Afrinos were first introduced to Western Australia.

John favours the breed for a number of reasons: they are hardy, dual purpose (producing both meat and Merino-like wool) and - most uniquely - are bred to be bare breached, so do not require mulesing.

But there was but one main reason we had come to visit - to feel up the fleeces! John had prepared a number of them for us to inspect. It was interesting to note the differences between them, in terms of staple length and colour. After giving the fleeces a thorough look over, picking out the favourites and loading up the car boots with our newly purchased woolly goodness it was time for a shareplate lunch!

Since our visit I've kept in touch with John and Geraldine.

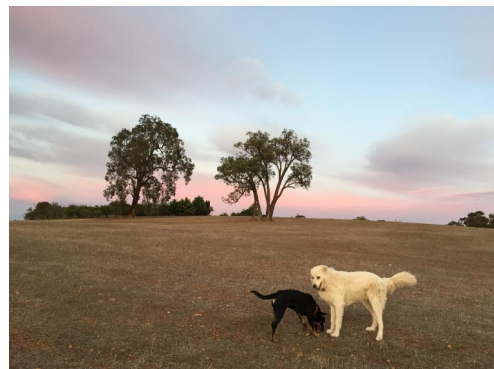


A shared lunch



They have managed fine with the road blocks and social isolation recently imposed on them ("we are pretty much always isolated up here anyway") and have been busy with lambing, which started on 4 May. This season has been mostly successful (the lambing ewes are in the paddocks surrounding the house!) however the stormy weather has proved challenging for the sheep, who are thankfully good at finding shelter. The lambs are also susceptible to predation by foxes and eagles; while the eagles are difficult to control the foxes are kept at bay by Casper the Maremma. Casper, Sooti (the elder sheepdog) and Bossi (new edition sheep dog) also have the company of Gentle, a young foster ram who recently broke his leg jumping a fence, but is now on the mend.

Kirrin Lill



Bossy and Casper...and Gentle the ram

The yarn shop that comes to you

To me this sounds like something out of a fairytale—or maybe an Enid Blyton adventure.

Carole and Colin Wareing are the proud owners of the Emma Maye, a narrowboat that is not only their home, but their business as well. From the decks of the Emma Maye they run a wool shop.

Known as 'The Wool Boat' they cruise the inland waterways of England and Wales and bring their floating wool and yarn shop to towns and villages along the canals. For those who live along the canals, they even do home delivery.

What a unique take on the idea of a local yarn shop!



Source: <http://www.thewoolboat.co.uk/>
<https://www.southportvisiter.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/west-lancashire-wool-boat-celebrates-11235993>



Yarn gives Newfoundland a reason to smile

Artist Nina Elliott, also known as “The Rock Vandal”, has been yarnbombing since 2015.

This year she has put her skills to use decorating her hometown of Twillingate, Newfoundland, Canada.

A 2km section of road has been transformed with her knitted and crocheted creations, with the hope that they will give locals a break from the stress of COVID-19 restrictions, and an excuse to get outside, get some exercise, and smile.



Elliott works in health care, so knows firsthand the impacts of COVID-19, and the importance of finding activities that are safe, and that can be enjoyed “together, but apart.”

The changeable Newfoundland spring weather means Nina’s creations have to be tough – she uses acrylic yarn, and firmly staples her creations together.

Nina said reaction in the community have been very positive.

While she was installing the new pieces people would drive by honking or stop to tell her how much they enjoyed her art.

See more at the Rock Vandal website www.rockvandal.com/streetart or Instagram page www.instagram.com/rock_vandal/

Source: www.cbc.ca



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/>

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.

Office Bearers and Convenors

COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Avril Liljekvist	0449001103	avril.liljekvist@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT 1	Candace Cranston	0424984883	candacegibson@yahoo.com
VICE PRESIDENT 2	Helen Lovitt-Raison	0408272496	furrywithruffles@gmail.com
SECRETARY—Committee	Gail Hamilton	0438382739	gburchell1@bigpond.com
SECRETARY—General	Jenni Talbot	0488941751	jennitalbot@outlook.com
TREASURER	Charmaine Pedrick	0401342278	pedrickc62@gmail.com
COMMITTEE 1	Kirrin Lill	0400229947	kirisamba@gmail.com
2	Janis O’Loughlin	0411212986	janis.47@bigpond.com
3	Rachel Meissner	0439595928	rmeissner07@gmail.com
4	Sue Webb	0419937019	suewebb23@gmail.com
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 DISTRIBUTION	TO BE CONFIRMED		
YARNSPINNER EDITOR	Cecilia Jordan	0406506941	ceciliajordan@rocketmail.com
LIBRARIAN	Anne McAdam, with Gwen McLeod	0415223922 0439916947	anne.mcadam111@gmail.com gwenmcLeod@live.com
YARN AREA	Sue Greig	9448 0840	sue_greig@hotmail.com
EQUIPMENT HIRE	Sue Todd	0411831814	suetodd@aapt.net.au
	Sue Greig	9448 0840	sue_greig@hotmail.com
		0411831814	
APCH REPRESENTATIVE	Rachel Meissner	0439595928	rmeissner07@gmail.com
RAS REPRESENTATIVE	Jenni Talbot with Helen Lovitt	0488941751	jennitalbot@outlook.com
INFORMATION & PUBLICITY	Candace Cranston	0424984883	candacegibson@yahoo.com
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS	Helen Lovitt-Raison, with Candace Cranston	0408272496	furrywithruffles@gmail.com
SPEAKERS	Kirrin Lill	0400229947	kirisamba@gmail.com
WORKSHOPS	Kirrin Lill	0400229947	kirisamba@gmail.com
HOUSEKEEPER	TO BE CONFIRMED		
SHARING TABLE	Brenda Roy	0437904223	brenda@cadplan.com.au
WEBSITE EDITOR	Candace Cranston	0424984883	candacegibson@yahoo.com
ARCHIVES	Janis O’Loughlin	0411212986	janis.47@bigpond.com
AUDITOR	David Williams		
PATRON	VACANT		

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 August YarnSpinner: 11 July 2020

Front cover: From the virtual sharing table—Baby blanket in Bendigo Woollen Mills cotton, by Sue Webb