

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 0402 832 198 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)
- **Wee Peggy spinning wheel:** good condition, with 3 bobbins and a niddy noddy. Contact Maggie on 0408 957 258 or magnpete@activ8.net.au or
- **Ertol espinner:** With 5 bobbins. \$150. For sale by the Augusta Spinners, contact Allie Neal 0448 863 866 or roryneal@wn.com.au

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: 10 July 2021

Front cover: A table full of beanies, scarves and other warm creations on display at the Spin In, ready for donation to Perth Homeless Support Group Inc. (photo by Bev Wallis)

The YarnSpinner



Newsletter of the Handweavers', Spinners'
and Dyers' Guild of Western Australia
Volume 51 No. 06
July 2021



COMING UP:

Saturday 10 July: Handweavers', Spinners' and Dyers' Guild of WA
General Meeting

09:30am Doors open

10:00am Library & Yarn Area open

12:00pm General Meeting

Coffee and tea available. BYO mug, morning tea/lunch (no food to share please).

**Contribution deadline for the August 2021 edition of the
YarnSpinner: Saturday 10 July 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

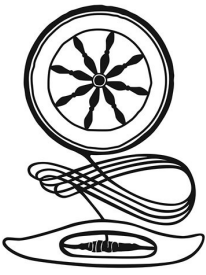
If a person applies for membership after 1 October, their fee will include membership for the current and following year.

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
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Email: Information & Publicity Officer
candacegibson@yahoo.com
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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...

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

Wise Owls...



"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness."

John Steinbeck

*"Spring passes and one remembers one's innocence.
Summer passes and one remembers one's exuberance.
Autumn passes and one remembers one's reverence.
Winter passes and one remembers one's perseverance."*

Yoko Ono

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home."

Edith Sitwell

Notes from the President

Hi Everyone,

What an awesome Spin In on Saturday. As many of who have been involved in events like this you will know it takes months of planning and organising so thank you so very much to everyone involved with making the day run smoothly and helping with the set up and clean up.

When we organise a Spin In we choose a local charity to donate some woolly goodies to. This year we chose Perth Homeless Support Group and I was absolutely overwhelmed by your generosity and to see how many of you who took the time to help those less fortunate than us. A huge Thank You to all who took the time to make something. Bronwyn, Brenda and I delivered everything to their distribution centre and I am sure the recipients will appreciate the beanies, scarves, blankets as the weather turns colder and to be able to deliver handmade items was just so nice. If you would like to know more about Perth Homeless Support their website is Perth Homeless Support Group Inc.

To all of our wonderful Traders Thank you for joining us on the day we are in a fortunate position to have local traders that take the time to be part of our Spin In and it gives us an opportunity to just get a little more stash. I think it is important we support local businesses whenever we can.

It was also good to meet some of our member groups at the Spin In and I hope we can work together to maintain close communications with all of our groups especially our rural groups.

Photos from the Spin In are on pages 6-7 (and the front cover). This year was a bit different as we limited the numbers to the Spin In. This was a hard decision to make at the time but I think it was the right one as the venue was not as cramped and people could move more freely.

I am planning on visiting some of our member groups in the coming months and first on my list is the Tapestry Group. Tapestry gets overlooked quite a bit at our spinning and weaving days and many people do not even know we have a Tapestry group so I hope to promote this a lot more in our community.

Continued on the next page...

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

ernesto neto: SunForceOceanLife

Textile artist Ernesto Neto has created one of his largest ever installations at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, USA. SunForceOceanLife is a crochet labyrinth around 24x16x9m in size, suspended 3.6m in the air. Visitors are invited to climb up into the work.

For more information (and some amazing pictures) go to: www.mfah.org/ or www.designboom.com.



ernesto neto: SunForceOceanLife (photo: www.designboom.com)

The Guild needs you!

Hi Guild Members,

It has been my privilege compile and edit The Yarnspinner for about 7 years now, and I have really enjoyed it....but I think after this year it's time for me to retire.

I am hoping to recruit a Guild member (or members) to take over the Yarnspinner Editor role following the Annual General Meeting in March 2022. This may seem a long way off, but I don't want to suddenly find that we are without an Editor at the AGM.

Between now and then, I'm hoping that someone will express their interest. I can provide information and assistance to anyone who might be interested—you can even try it out, to see if its for you!

Some things to consider about The Yarnspinner:

- The Yarnspinner is currently created using Microsoft Publisher, but you may have other ideas about how to produce it.
- It is published and distributed once a month, usually in the last week of the month (10 issues per year, February to November)
- It is both a printed paper newsletter (posted to some members) and emailed as a pdf, but the Yarnspinner Editor does not do the distribution (unless you put your hand up for that role as well!)
- The Editor role includes writing articles, taking photos, requesting articles and photos from other members, managing the 'For Sale' ads, and staying in touch with the President and Committee about upcoming events.



Please get in touch (my contact details are on page 15) if you have any questions, or may be interested.

Cecilia Jordan
Yarnspinner Editor

The Guild four shaft weaving course will commence on 10 July so if you are interested please contact Sue or myself. Places are limited, further details below.

Be kind to yourself and stay safe.

Jenni

Four shaft weaving for beginners

The Guild is holding a weaving course for beginners only.

Places are strictly limited to ensure you get the most from the course so you must RSVP if you would like to enrol.

Please RSVP to either Sue Greig sue_greig@hotmail.com or Jenni Talbot hwsdg.president@gmail.com.

Dates: 10 & 24 July, 14 & 28 August, 11 & 25 September
Time: 12:30 to 3:30
Place: Alexander Park Craft House
Cost: \$260.00 Guild Members. If you are not a member please contact Jenni Talbot Guild President on hwsdg.president@gmail.com or 0488 941 751

You will need a 4 shaft table loom, if you do not have a loom you can arrange to hire one from the Guild. Cost to hire is at \$15.00 per month and \$50.00 deposit.

If you have an 8 shaft table loom you can use this but will only be taught on 4 shaft.

If you do have a loom please check with Sue Greig prior to commencement of classes to see if it is suitable (i.e. does not need any repair or maintenance).

The cost of the course includes yarn and a training manual.

A close-up image of a 4 shaft table loom. The loom has four vertical shafts and is threaded with red yarn. The background is dark, making the red threads stand out.

HWSDGWA Spin In



Photos by Bev Wallis (thanks Bev!)

Heavy metal knitting

In the depths of the Finnish winter of 2018, during a radio interview about local handcrafts professionals in Joensuu, Finland, the phrase “heavy metal knitting” was coined by a journalist. The discussion sparked the idea of a knitter as a lead performer in a band playing heavy metal music...and so Heavy Metal Knitting began.

Finland is famous for both knitting and heavy metal, with over 50 heavy metal bands per 100,000 citizens and hundreds of thousands of knitters.

Heavy Metal Knitting was initially conceived as a national competition, but as word spread online and it’s popularity grew, it was quickly expanded to the Heavy Metal Knitting World Championships.

The first qualification round of the 2019 competition attracted 26 acts from 13 countries from all around the globe – all aiming to win the very first title of the Heavy Metal Knitting World Champion. In the end 12 acts from 8 countries made it to the finals, held in Joensuu. The first ever World Champions were Giga Body Metal of Japan.

Covid ruined things in 2020, but in 2021 Heavy Metal Knitting is back – this time as an online competition.

Heavy Metal Knitting 2021 will be held on 9 July – to find out more and see photos and videos, go to: <https://heavymetalknitting.com/>



2019 3rd place winners—9” Needles of USA (photo: heavymetalknitting.com/)



2019 champions—Giga Body Metal of Japan (photo: heavymetalknitting.com/)

From the library

***Botanical Inks* Babs Behan**

Learn how to transform foraged wild plants, plants, garden produce, and recycled food into dyes and inks with *Botanical Inks*. The book shows you how to extract environmentally sustainable colour from the landscape and use it to create natural dyes for textiles, clothing, paper, and other materials.

Botanical Inks covers dyeing and surface application techniques, including bundle dyeing, Shibori tie-dyeing, hapazome, indigo sugar vat dyeing, wood-block printing, screen printing, and more. It also shows you how to turn your new inks, dyes, and technique knowledge into wonderful projects, from a simple bundle-dyed scarf to a block-printed tote bag.

The process of turning plants into print can help you reconnect with nature, find a creative outlet and develop a mindful sense of presence. It also promotes an awareness of sustainable practices and how to reduce our impact on the planet.

Babs Behan is the founder of *Botanical Inks* – an artisan natural dye studio based in Bristol. Her work ranges from natural dyeing for textiles, clothing and paper products, to surface application techniques, including Shibori tie-dyeing, bundle dyeing with flowers and block printing. She runs regular workshops, as well as guest courses at University of Plymouth and Daylesford Organic Farm.



Sue Todd

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.

On the second Saturday of the month in August and October APCH will be open for members to gather, craft, and use the library and Yarn Area.



Spinning in the classroom

Guild member Tara Counsel brought learning to life recently at her children's school, with some spinning demonstrations.

Her daughter's pre-primary class have been learning about different fibres, and how they get from paddock to clothing. Her son's year 3 class have been learning about machines/devices that have been used for a very long time and how they have changed. What better what to demonstrate all this than through spinning!

Tara brought in some raw fleece from merino and alpaca (from her own and neighbour's farms).



Tara in action.

She described how wool is processed, used her carders to show how to prepare the fibre for spinning and demonstrated spinning on her wheel. And to finish, Tara showed the lazy kate, discussed why you needed to ply, and displayed some of her own knitting to show what you can do with finished fibre.

Tara reports that she and the kids had a lovely time, and all the kids got to feel the different fibres and watch the spinning wheel in action.

It sounds like Tara has inspired the next generation of potential Guild members!



Fibres and tools on display.

Workshop news

I have created a small group to organise workshops. So far we have Maggie Webb, Betty McKeough and me organising weaving workshops. If you are a spinner and would like to organise courses for your craft, please let me know.

Our first workshop on offer for weavers is a Bhutanese weaving course for beginners run by Wendy Garrity who lives locally. Wendy learnt this technique while living in Bhutan some years ago and has adapted it to a scale that is easier to learn from scratch. It is traditionally done on back strap looms however the course will be taught on table looms. You can bring your own loom or hire one from the guild. It will need to be warped up according to Wendy's instructions before the course.

Hills Weavers have done her course twice and enjoyed it very much. She has also taught the course in the States and provides a book to support her teaching. She ran tours to Bhutan until COVID stopped all that. You can look at her website if you'd like to get an idea of the style of this technique: textiletrails.com.au. Weavers who have completed her course will be able to bring samples to the Tuesday weaving group. Wendy is happy to accommodate anyone who has already done her course and would like to extend their skills.

The workshop would run over 3 days and cost would be reasonable since there are no travel costs.

If you are interested in doing the course please contact Brenda on brenda@cadplan.com.au or Maggie on magnpete@activ8.net.au

Brenda Roy

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/