The YarnSpinner



Newsletter of the Handweavers', Spinners' and Dyers' Guild of Western Australia
Volume 48 No. 07
August 2018



Coming up....

Saturday 11 August 2018: General Meeting of the Handweavers', Spinners' and Dyers' Guild of WA

10am Library & Yarn Area open

Pop-up workshop: Using circular knitting needles with Helen Lovitt-Raison

11am Guest speaker: Martien van Zuilen

12pm HWSDGWA General Meeting

Coffee, tea and soup available.

Contribution deadline the September edition of the YarnSpinner: Saturday 11 August 2018

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 2018

Full \$50.00 Concession \$40.00 Associate \$40.00 Student \$40.00 Family \$75.00 Group \$75.00

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

Web: http://spinweavewa.org/



Dates for your diary

Friday 3—Sunday 5 August	WA Craft Show (plus WA Wood Show), Claremont Showgrounds Exhibition Centre, 9:30am—4:30pm		
Saturday 11 August	HWSDGWA General Meeting, APCH, from 10am Pop-up Workshop: Using circular knitting needles with Helen Lovitt-Raison Guest speaker: Martien van Zuilen		
Saturday 25 August	Spinning Day, APCH, from 10am Spinning Study Group (APCH Studio) from 10:30am		
Saturday 8 September	Guild Annual Showcase: NO EXCUSE (pg.8-9)		
Wednesday 12 September	Denmark Textile Day (pg. 5)		
Saturday 22 September	Spinning Day, APCH, from 10am Spinning Study Group (APCH Studio) from 10:30am		
Saturday 22 to Saturday 29 September	Perth Royal Show (pg. 13)		
Saturday October	HWSDGWA General Meeting, APCH, from 10am		
Saturday October	Spinning Day, APCH, from 10am Spinning Study Group (APCH Studio) from 10:30am		
Saturday November	HWSDGWA General Meeting and Christmas lunch, APCH, from 10am		
Saturday November	Spinning Day, APCH, from 10am Spinning Study Group (APCH Studio) from 10:30am		

Vale Daphne Rowett

A former Guild member, Daphne Rowett, passed away recently. Daphne was a most industrious spinner who taught many to spin, both Guild members and members of the spinning Group at Liddelow Homestead.

Connie Ward

From the President

We are continuing to update the Guild's services to members and as part of this we are getting very close to having electronic payment available for both the Yarn Room and other payments members might want to make in house.

I want to thank Avril Liljekvist for all her hard work in following up with the bank and the supplier of the hardware and software we require to do this successfully. It is not yet in place but will be soon and we will be announcing it at meetings as soon as it is ready. Please be patient with us as we work it all out!

We are continuing to represent the Guild publicly at events like the WA Craft Fair and that is being held on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of August at the Claremont Show Grounds. We have a great group of volunteers and it should be a fun weekend for everyone involved. If you are attending please stop by and say hello and we would love to see you there.

I am sure that everyone has put in their entry forms for the Perth Royal Show and we are looking forward to another excellent display from both members and the public (also known as future members).

We also have our Annual Showcase in September and I know that several individuals and groups are working hard on their entries.

It was unfortunate that our last speaker was unable to join us on the day and we hope to welcome her another time. For our next General Meeting on Saturday the 11th of August we are looking forward to a pop-up workshop from Helen Lovitt-Raison on how to kit on circular needles. Our guest speaker will be Martien van Zuilen, editor of FELT magazine, felt artist, teacher and artisan.

I am very much looking forward to both of these and look forward to seeing you all there.

All the best,

Candace Gibson, President HWSDGWA Inc.

Denmark Textile Day

WHEN: Wednesday 12 September 2018

WHERE: Denmark Riverside Club (bowling club), South Coast Hwy, just

before the bridge into Denmark

COST: \$5 includes morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, door prizes
BRING: Spinning wheel, knitting, or any other textile project you are

working on; items for the display table

RAFFLE: Money tree

CONTACT: Louise (0419 916 131 or sunnyvale1@bigpond.com)

Bev (0427 483 803 or farrall.bh@gmail.com)

Please RSVP by Friday 31 August

Pedal powered knitting

George Barratt-Jones is the founder of Craftz, a "creative community where you can learn hands-on skills from local craftsmen, artists and designers through workshops", in Belgium (see http://www.craftz.be/ for more information).



George created the Cyclo Knitter to make waiting for the train in winter more fun. He set it up on a station platform, and gave commuters a chance to knit their own scarf using pedal power, while they waited for their train.

This amazing machine connects a bicycle to a circular knitting machine using bicycle tyre innertubes as drive belts, so with fast pedalling a 1.5m scarf could be completed in about five minutes.

For information on the making of the Cyclo Knitter go to:

https://imgur.com/gallery/LBofgnr

To see a video of it in action go to: https://vimeo.com/253411516

Sharing Table—Saturday 14 July

Giuliana Bond followed up the Hairpin Crochet pop-up workshop with a colourful scarf.



Jan Hunter wove a plain weave rug using her handspun from fleece from the Orkney Island where the sheep, believe it or not, ONLY eat seaweed.

Sue Greig knitted a garter stitch beanie using her bits and pieces, wove two plain weave scarves (one ball of Bendigo Bloom was enough for both warps), the blue scarf has a 100% wool weft, and weft for the Burgundy one was Tencel/merino. Sue also spun a hank of merino/alpaca/silk blend.



Anthea Loton a beginner spinner, produced a generous skein of Corriedale – well done Anthea!! It looks great!

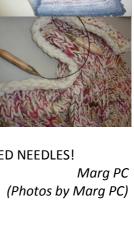
A handsome skein of Falkland wool/Tussah silk from Southern Cross Fibre was spun and chainplied by **Bronwyn Crognaw**.

Joanne de Baughn did our sharing table proud! a) Snowmelt shawl, spun, dyed and knitted using a



collection of wools and silk/wool blends from different sources (see front cover). b) a shawl, 22.5 degrees pattern by Martina Behm; wool made into a blank, dyed, washed, wound into a ball and them knitted up. (c) a crocheted rag rug using cotton fabric and a 10mm

hook. d) a huge throw-rug using chunky singles, a large quantity of art yarn and VERY LARGE DOUBLE POINTED NEEDLES!



From the Library



Artful Color Mindful Knits Laura Militzer Bryant

Here is a guide to working with hand dyed yarns using the Magic Number to create a colour repeat. Learn why and how to make those colour repeats stack, argyle and blend beautifully.

Spinning Hand Dyed Fibre Katie Weston

This booklet contains a multitude of dyeing techniques, colours, shades, and tones. Written from the perspective of a hand dyer who spends her days experimenting with colour, and her nights spinning the results.





Knit One Below Elise Duvekot

This book introduces a new and exciting way for knitters to combine colours, weights, fibres, and types of varn into versatile fabrics. The technique alternates one simple action, working into the stitch one row below the stitch on the needle, with a knit or a purl.

Anne McAdam

Spinning Study Group 2018

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: http://www.nsweave.org.au/learn/accreditation/

The group meets every 4th Saturday of the month in the Studio at APCH (from 10:30am). If you would like to be part of this please contact Candace Cranston (0424 984 883 or candacegibson@yahoo.com). You will be emailed a copy of the course notes so you can have a look. The study group is held every month until December.

Guild Annual Showcase: NO EXCUSE

The theme for the 2018 Guild Annual Showcase is that there is no theme. Perhaps in previous years you didn't like the theme, or couldn't think of a way to demonstrate it in your work. Well this year there is no set theme—there is NO EXCUSE for not entering this year!

So start knitting, spinning, dyeing, felting and creating for the Guild Annual Showcase on **Saturday 8 September 2018**.

CATEGORIES, PRIZES and TROPHIES

General Notes:

- Two items can be submitted per member per category.
- Items cannot be entered in multiple categories.
- The item must have been completed by the entrant within 12 months of the entry date.
- Entrants are encouraged to attach an artist's statement to their entries, using the year's theme as inspiration if possible.
- Entries can be marked as not for judging if desired.
- Items must be submitted and prepared for Judging between 10:00 and 10:30am on the competition day.

WEAVING: THREE COMPETITION CATEGORIES

- Off loom weaving
- 2 Shaft, Rigid Heddle, or inkle loom weaving
- Multishaft manual loom weaving (excl computerised, mechanical, dobbytype looms)

Each of the above sections receives a certificate, and prize money or voucher. Judge to decide the best overall entry. The member submitting that entry then receives the LYN WARING TROPHY

SPINNING: TWO COMPETITION CATEGORIES

- 5 ply and under (14wpi or more)- minimum skein 25gr
- over 5 ply (less than 14wpi)- minimum skein 50gr

A skein made from handspun fibre, with attached sample and description of fibre and intended use. Each of the above sections is to receive a certificate, and prize money or voucher. Judge to decide the best overall entry. The member submitting that entry then receives the **CECILE DORWARD TROPHY**

FELTING:

Judge to select the best entry, which receives a certificate, prize money or voucher, and the **BARBARA FREW TROPHY**.

DYEING:

Natural or chemical dyes permitted. The entry may be a skein or item of commercial or handspun fibre and will be judged on the quality of dyeing only. Judge to select the best entry, which receives a certificate and prize money or voucher.

KNITTING/CROCHET:

Any handstitched item made from Handspun yarn, spun by the entrant. Judges to select the best entry, which receives a certificate, and prize money or voucher.

MIXED MEDIA:

An item made using predominantly any, or a mixture, of the core crafts of weaving, spinning, dyeing or felting, which can include any material, including (but not restricted to) recycled or up-cycled materials. The item can be in any form from garment, decorative, domestic, to sculptural. To be judged by all Judges together. Best entry receives certificate, and prize money or voucher.

NOVICE/JUNIOR:

Any item as per above categories, made by a first-time entrant or member under 18 years of age. Judges are to select the best Novice entry together, which receives a certificate and prize money or voucher.

GROUP or COLLABORATIVE ENTRY:

A group entry is to be a single item or cohesive set of items showcasing any mixture of the Guild's core crafts of weaving, spinning, dyeing or felting, where a group is defined as three or more individuals (who do not need to be an official Guild group). Items may also be partly crocheted or knitted. Note: items entered as a group entry CANNOT be also entered individually. To be judged by all Judges together. Best entry receives certificate, prize money or voucher and **TURNER COTTAGE TROPHY** (donated by Frank and Isobel McKay).

PRESIDENTS AWARD:

An entry chosen by the President of the day receives a certificate, prize money or voucher and **JOY SKINNER TROPHY**

POPULAR VOTE:

Members are to cast a vote for their selection. Votes are to be counted and the winner announced. Winner receives certificate and prize money or voucher and **ANNE RAIN TROPHY**

PATRONS CHOICE:

Patron to select their favourite entry, which receives a certificate, and prize money or voucher.

That blocking pop-up...

Notes from the pop-up workshop on blocking by Frog Delacroix and Helen Lovitt-Raison.

Reasons to be blocking:

- You want your knitting to look its best. After all, you spent....months knitting this!
- You're knitting lace
- Even out stitches in your finished product
- Make the finished pieces match the schematic before stitching them together
- Because you can

Blocking (or, when applied to English shawls, dressing) your knitting adds the final finish to your project. When knitting lace, it can look like nothing much before blocking but will bloom like a flower when stretched out. It is worth it and you should try. Having said this, you cannot block acrylic yarn. An iron will melt it into shape but that's about it!

Things you will need (not all are essential – depends on the piece(s)).

For wet blocking:

- Your pattern
- · A basin of warm water and some wool wash
- Somewhere open, flat and free of foot (and paw) traffic, preferably at a height that won't make your back ache while performing the task
- Stainless steel pins (available from hobby shops)
- Blocking mats (or those interlocking mats for camping available from Bunnings, Kmart, Target, etc for around \$10-\$15 a set)
- Blocking wires or something strong and flexible that can give you clean curves or straight options
- A tape measure

For dry blocking:

- Your pattern
- A tape measure
- An ironing board
- An iron (steam iron if you have it)
- A spray bottle or a damp tea towel

Continued on the next page...

If you have your pattern handy, there should be somewhere that tells you the size of the finished piece, a schematic for garments is good but doesn't always follow, the measurements of your shawl in its finished state.

If you are wet blocking, your piece(s) will need to soak for around 20 minutes or so to become good and wet. Don't agitate the pieces or you may get unintended fulling/felting if the pieces aren't super wash treated. Once this stage is complete, you need to remove excess water – I use a gentle spin cycle on my front loader because I trust my machine - but most people squeeze out water using towels and some pressure.

Your prepared piece(s) should be good and damp but not dripping. The wetter they are, the longer it will take to dry them. For some items, all you need to do from here is push them lightly into place and make sure your measurements (from the pattern!) are good before allowing them to dry — where there's ribbing or textured patterning that would be damaged by the blocking process for instance. Otherwise, read on!

You have to start somewhere on the piece so pick an obvious point. For a garment, you might pick the centre back neck, for a shawl, the centre spine of the triangle or a point of an asymmetric piece.

Socks are a special case and some "block" their socks by wearing them. There are specialist sock blockers for this process though and they come in various sizes so check that before purchase to avoid disappointment. If you have these, you just pop the sock onto the blocker and put them somewhere to dry.

The labour intensive time is pinning out all the relevant points of your piece using wires if you have them or a plethora of pins if not. During this stage, you may want to step back occasionally to see how you're going. Don't forget your tape measure here. It's an invaluable tool to let you know if sides are evenly stretched. Do not be afraid of moving pins. As you block you may find you need to adjust your piece to lay the way you want it to. This is especially true of the asymmetric and curved shawls that are currently popular.

Don't forget in all of this, it is up to you how firmly the blocking happens. Some people block shawls so ferociously that threads snap and some people barely tweak the edges. Ultimately, if it looks good to you and you or the intended recipient will wear it as it looks, this stage is done. All you need to do is leave the piece(s) to dry and then unpin them and take arty photos for your social media followers!

Do also remember that if you have blocked firmly, there may be some light shrinkage once you remove the tension. That's normal. Also remember that when rewashing any of your knitted items after wearing them, the blocking process should be repeated.

Dry blocking involves the smoothing over of pieces before joining them together such as pieces of a jumper, cardigan or suchlike. The various pieces can either be pushed into shape or lightly pinned and they are then steamed and allowed to dry off before measuring and repeating as necessary to size.

REFERENCES

http://www.yarnharlot.ca/2014/03/blocking-a-little-sweater/

http://eunnyjang.com/knit/2006/12/how to be happy.html

http://techknitting.blogspot.com/2008/03/why-block-hand-knits-heres-why-and-how.html

https://www.craftsy.com/knitting/article/how-to-block-socks/



"Maybe you can fix that bit with blocking" (Source: It Itches by Franklin Habit)

Anv good knitting reference book should have instructions on blocking your finished Craftsy also work. have some classes and information the on process and YouTube the interwebs and generally are excellent resources but why not talk to your Guild colleagues as well. Likely someone there can help.

> Frog Delacroix and Helen Lovitt-Raison

WA florg on show



This tapestry is the latest creation of the Tapestry in Company group at the Guild (woven on our wonderful big loom!).

It was designed by Stephnie Cantoni from a photo taken by Antoinette Carrier of a *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* in bloom. The weavers were Jenny Archibald, Lauren Bloom, Stephnie Cantoni. Janis Hunter, Anne Miller,

and Sharon Smith and from the first idea, it has taken about 4 years to complete. It will be hung at Kings Park in their Administration Centre for the duration of the Spring Festival. We are not yet sure of its final resting place!

We would welcome new weavers and meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month between about 10.00 am and 2.00 pm.

Janis Hunter (photo by Marg PC)

Theme for the Perth Royal Show: BEES!

The Perth Royal Show will be held at the Claremont Showgrounds, **Saturday 22 to Saturday 29 September = 2018**. The theme for the Creative Crafts and Cookery exhibition and competition is: BEES.



Finished items must be delivered to the Showgrounds on **Tuesday 11** (8:00am to 4:00pm) or Wednesday 12 (8:00am to 6:00pm) September.

Info: https://www.perthroyalshow.com.au/competitions/competition-entries/creative-crafts-cookery/

Or contact the Competition and Event Coordinator on 6263 3142 or cookery@raswa.org.au or creativecrafts@raswa.org.au.

Blues for the Bush

The Blues for the Bush festival will be held on 21-22 September 2018, at the Charles Darwin Reserve, Perenjori, about 4.5 hours from Perth. It will include a concert (ticketed event) and open day, which will be free to attend and offer something for everyone: activities for the young, and young at heart, inspiring talks, guided tours of Charles Darwin Reserve, workshops and much more.

This year's theme is Textiles and organisers would like to include spinning demo/workshops to show people what can be done and let them have a go. They have a few spare spinning wheels, but are seeking volunteers to come with their spinning wheels to share this wonderful past time.

For more information contact Ange Dring on 0400 927 800 or 9951 1036.

From the Yarn Area

- ♦ Undyed fibres: Perfect for dyeing: Merino/Silk tops 60/40, Merino/ Cashgora/Silk – 50/25/25
- ♦ Accessories: small scissors, stitch markers, and stitch holders
- ♦ Fine merino and blended rovings in exciting colour combinations
- ♦ Landscape Dyes
- ♦ Luscious hand dyed tops and 3D Turkish Spindles by Dyeing 4 Ewe
- ♦ From local craftsman Collin Correia: lovely hand turned Niddy-Noddys in a selection of sizes, hand carved Lucettes, and interesting drop spindles and Turkish spindles
- ♦ Large selection of threads and yarns (Bendigo Woolen Mills, cotton, sock, variegated, undyed merino/alpaca/silk) for knitters and weavers
- Support and Turkish spindles and support bowl from Frank Williams
- ♦ Cones of Tencel, wool blend and cotton in gorgeous colours
- ♦ Knitting accessories
- Treetops Perth, Heavenly Wools NZ, First Edition merino silk Vic, Space Cadets arty batts - WA
- ♦ Hand dyed silk rovings, cocoons & rods
- ♦ Alpaca rovings and small packs of fleece, all in natural colours Perth
- ♦ Melanian wool rovings in natural colours WA
- Hand turned drop spindles by Franks Williams NSW
- ♦ Large selection of other fibres (undyed) to try

Don't forget to look in the cupboards for goodies that don't fit on the tables.

Happy spinning, weaving and dyeing—Sue & Jo

Office Bearers and Convenors

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AUDITOR	David Williams		
PATRON	UNFILLED	5	

FOR SALE

- <u>Alpaca Fleece</u>: 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
- <u>Ashford Traditional spinning wheels</u>: Two wheels available, plus some extra bits and pieces. \$175 each. Contact Walter Wallenborn 0419 937 499 (Mundaring)
- <u>Warping Board</u>: Handmade, probably 50 years old, sturdy and reasonable condition \$30 Contact Tracy Barker 0418 946 972 or tracy@barkerandhale.com.au
- <u>ZUCA frame</u>: slightly damaged ZUCA frame in purple. Flashing wheels and extendable handle, all good but for one bent front leg that could be straightened. This frame (in undamaged state) currently retails for US249 (on sale US\$189) see www.zuca.com.au/shop/zuca-sport/sport-frame-only/zuca-sport-frame-only-purple-flashing-wheels/. Frame only, no bag included. All offers considered. Call Helen Lovitt Raison 0408 272 496
- 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
- <u>Four shaft able loom</u>: 60 cm wide. Handmade from hardwood, possibly jarrah. Age unknown. Reasonable condition though some TLC needed. Contact Sue on 0419 937 019 or *suewebb23@gmail.com*
- <u>Leclerc Table loom</u>: 4 shafts, weaving width 15 inches (38 cm). Excellent condition. \$200 ONO. Contact Giuliana Bond 9330 3310 or 0412 022 807

WANTED

• <u>Spinner</u>: to spin 180g of wool tops from Nundle Woollen Mills into sockweight wool. Happy to pay \$25 per 100g. Contact Anne Miller on 0412 700 508 or magnobook@hotmail.com

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 September YarnSpinner: 11 August 2018

Front cover: From the sharing table—'Snowmelt' shawl knitted by Joanne de Baughn (Photo by Marg PC)