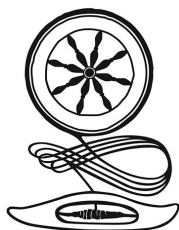


# The YarnSpinner



Newsletter of the Handweavers', Spinners'  
and Dyers' Guild of Western Australia  
Volume 50 No. 8  
September 2020



## NEXT MEETING:

**Saturday 12 September 2020:** General Meeting of the Handweavers', Spinners' and Dyers' Guild of WA.

**09:30am** Doors open

**10:00am** Library & Yarn Area open

**12:00pm** HWSDGWA General Meeting

**Contribution deadline for the October 2020 edition of the  
YarnSpinner: Saturday 12 September 2020**

DISCLAIMER: Opinions expressed in correspondence in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Guild

## Alexander Park Craft House Guild Groups

### **SPINNING GROUP: 4<sup>th</sup> 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 9:30am**

Anyone is welcome to join us! Contact Brenda Roy 9381 4870 or [brenda@cadplan.com.au](mailto:brenda@cadplan.com.au).

### **TAPESTRY GROUP:**

Stephnie Cantoni [stephniecantoni@bigpond.com](mailto:stephniecantoni@bigpond.com) or Jan Hunter [wsf.jmhunter@bigpond.com](mailto: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

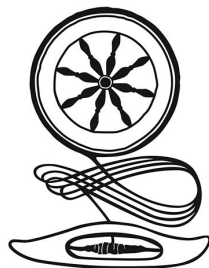
If a person applies for membership after 1 October, their fee will include membership for the current and following year.

**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](mailto:candacegibson@yahoo.com)  
Web: <http://spinweavewa.org/>



## Coming up...

Saturday 12 September	HWSDGWA General Meeting, APCH, 12pm (doors open from 9:30am)
Saturday 26 September	Spinning Day, APCH, from 9:30am
Saturday 26 September— Saturday 3 October	Perth Royal Show (see page 14)
Saturday 10 October	HWSDGWA General Meeting, APCH, 12pm (doors open from 9:30am)
Saturday 24 October	Spinning and Traders Day, APCH, from 9:30am (more information to come)

## Welcome back!

### Alexander Park Craft House is open!

The APCH Committee will provide extra cleaning services and hand sanitiser for all users of APCH, and Guild members are asked to:

- Bring your own cup and spoon for making tea and coffee
- Bring food for yourself only (not food to share)
- Enter and exit through the marked doors
- Please don't come if you feel unwell.

Looking forward to seeing you at APCH!

## Scarf Exchange—now online!

For those who participated in the 2020 Scarf Exchange (hosted by the Handspinners and Weavers Guild of South Australia), or anyone interested in seeing the amazing range of beanies, shawls, cowls and scarves created, all of the items are now on display in an online exhibition.

Go to: <https://sites.google.com/site/scarfex2020/online-exhibition>

*Contributed by Margaret Jordan*

## Sharing Table Saturday 25 July



**Sue Greig** brought us a beautiful scarf woven in plaited twill from merino/Tencel hand dyed from a Canadian fibre artist and a very novel wool beanie knitted from the left over warp thrums from a blanket woven for her daughter-in-law.



**Brenda Roy** brought a drawstring bag woven in "ancient Rose" overshot of linen acquired in the dim past from who knows where which was such a painful warp that 80 % was cut off and the snarling beast thrown in the bin with great satisfaction! (see front cover for photo).







**Helen Lovitt** knitted a poncho in Bendigo luxury 8 ply from the 'Cusp' pattern in Brooklyn Tweed's *Capsule Book*, and lovely 'sockettes' in left-over yarn in 'Intersections' from *52 weeks of socks*.



**Marg PC** also brought socks - three pairs. One pair cuff down with afterthought heel, one toe up with regular heel and toe, and 'left over' socks where she used up odd balls separated with 'fluffy' and changed the stitch



pattern with each colour change from 'A la Carte' sock pattern book. As well as socks Marg showed us her twill runner of hand-spun vegetable dyed wool now ready for last year's showcase entry! and a "lockdown" oddment double bed blanket knitted from boucle and textured wools, mohair and alpaca.



**Gail Campbell** had woven a wonderful bedspread of cotton in double weave adapted from a runner pattern in the Jan/Feb 2020 Handwoven magazine.

So a table full of beautiful things from left-overs as well as some new beauties! Thanks everyone for sharing your work.



**Brenda Roy**

## Sharing Table Saturday 8 August

**Marg PC** spun this gorgeous fibre consisting of a silk and merino blend acquired from the Guild shop which was plied with merino carded by Marg. Marg also knitted these unusual socks. The blue has a daisy pattern knitted into the fabric and the fibre is Patonyle. The spiral sock can be knitted shaped or flat. See Marg for further details.



Two scarves and shawl were woven by **Karita Greatwich**. The lovely blue denim shawl was made with two shades of 8/2 cotton, measures approximately 50cm x 2.8m and the weave is Swedish Linen. The two woollen scarves each measure 2.5m x 25cm



and the weaves are variations on undulating twill. Very soft and warm.



**Gail Hamilton** knitted this gorgeous shawl—yarn from Dingo Dyeworks, pattern Stillness Mical by Helen Stewart. Amazing colours.

**Margaret Jordan** wove this bookmark in the Star of Bethlehem pattern in tencel at 25 epi. The pattern called for the use of sewing silk and was much finer, so the pattern was adapted, reducing the number of repeats, but is still wide for a bookmark at 8x16cm plus fringe.



*Margaret Jordan*

## A woolly good idea...

COVID-19 restrictions have meant a big increase in takeaway food, as restaurants have been required to close their doors and serve takeaway food only, or people prefer to eat at home rather than out. A lot of takeaway food is served in expanded polystyrene packaging (EPS), most of which goes to landfill (and does not biodegrade).

But what if there was a natural, compostable alternative to EPS packaging? What if we could wrap food in wool?



The insulative wool layer is wrapped in compostable plant-based plastic to make it 'food safe' (Photo: Planet Protector Packaging).

In July 2020 the ABC reported on research being undertaken by Planet Protector Packaging, an Australian company creating wool thermal packaging. Low quality wool "offcuts" (which would usually be thrown away) is being used to create packaging which keeps food warm, thanks to the insulating properties of the wool. Wool is also being used to package items such as pharmaceuticals, which need to be kept at a constant temperature.

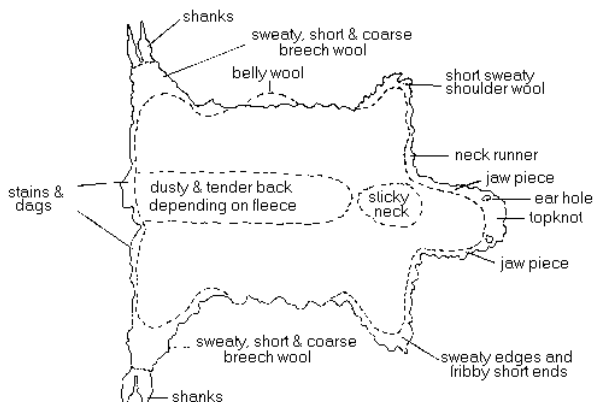
Wool packaging has the advantage of being compostable (just throw it into your compost bin or garden when you're

finished!), and it is hoped that creating a demand for the wool offcuts will benefit tofarmers.

So watch this space – next time your order takeaway, it might arrive wrapped in wool!

Source:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2020-07-24/wool-packaging-could-replace-plastic-for-sustainable-food-wrappi/12486782>

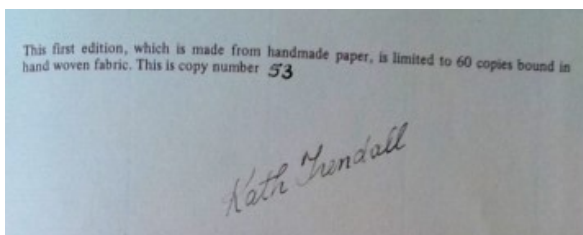
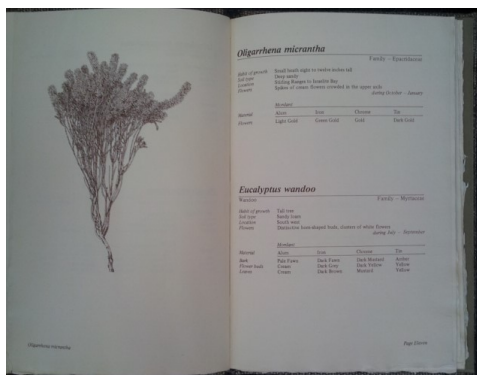
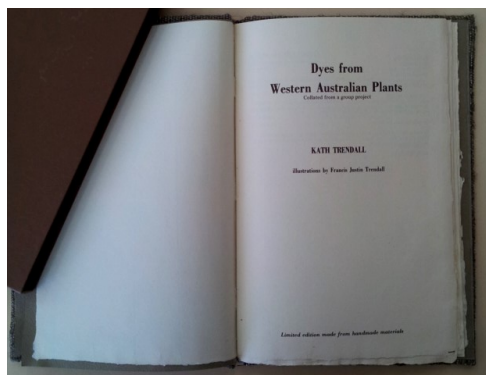




## From the library

I am offering a book from the library and two from the archives as new orders are taking a long time to reach me.

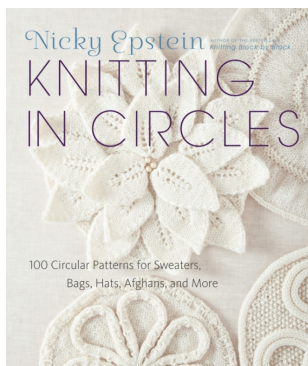
In memory of **Kath Trendell** the following books are from her personally published collection. They have beautiful illustrations, hand woven covers and are numbered - works of art in themselves.





## ***Knitting in Circles* Nicky Epstein**

Here is a book offering 100 circular patterns for sweaters, bags, afghans, hats and wherever your creativity will take you. The instructions are clear with beginner patterns to start with. There are projects which feature everything from cables to rich colourwork, delicate lace, and over-the-top embellishments in Nicky's signature style.



**Anne McAdam**

## Complexity

Complex Weavers is a group of weavers is “*dedicated to expanding the boundaries of handweaving*” by challenging their skills and imagination, and by sharing information and innovations with fellow weavers. This year Complex Weavers is holding its biennial exhibition: Complexity.



There are some amazing, inspiring works on show – to see them all online go to:

<https://complexityexhibition.org/>

More information about Complex Weavers is available at:

<https://www.complex-weavers.org/>

### **Winner of the First Place Award and Complex Weavers Award:**

Hexagonal Cellular Symmetry by Melanie Olde. Woven in nylon monofilament and stainless steel.

Photo source:

<https://complexityexhibition.org/>

## Super cotton!

Clothing can be pretty bad for the environment. Each year Australian's produce an average of 23kg of fabric waste per person, most of which is made of synthetic fibres (which break down into tiny plastic particles which can pollute the soil and water). Plus, the dyeing of fabric on a commercial scale uses a large amount of water and often fairly toxic chemicals.

But what if we all wore more natural fibres, and they didn't need to be dyed at all?



Landline reports that the CSIRO is working on a new kind of cotton plant which makes colourful cotton that doesn't need dyeing. Instead of producing the standard white (or sometimes greenish and brownish) bolls of cotton, this new breed could produce bolls of whatever colour was in demand. Scientists are currently having early success with purple and orange, and are working towards the 'holy grail' – black.

In addition to breeding cotton with in-built colour, the CSIRO are also working on breeding new 'super-cotton' varieties to produce fibre that is more wrinkle resistant (less ironing – yay!) and with greater elasticity, to make cotton that can compete better with synthetic alternatives.

Watch the Landline report at:

<https://www.abc.net.au/landline/cotton-conquest:-australian-scientists-discover/12400460>

More information available at:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-27/csiro-scientists-grow-coloured-cotton/12395250>

<https://cottonaustralia.com.au/news/cotton-industry-research-featured-on-abc-landline>

***Contributed by Jenni Talbot***

Thank you

**A big thankyou to everyone who have contributed photos, stories and ideas to the Yarnspinner while APCH has been closed.**

I've missed Guild meetings and spinning days, but it has been lovely to stay in touch with the members who sent emails, text messages and letters—I couldn't have kept the Yarnspinner going without you!

**Please don't stop the contributions coming.** The virtual sharing table will continue, so even if you can't make it to the meetings or spinning days, please send photos of your latest finished projects, with some information about the fibre/pattern/techniques.

I'm also always looking for...

- 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](mailto:ceciliajordan@rocketmail.com) or 0406506941. I look forward to hearing from you!

*Cecilia Jordan*

## Did you know...

**All of the cotton plant is used, there is no waste:** The fibre is the primary reason for growing cotton. But the seeds are used for animal feed and human use (cottonseed oil). The plant stalks are tilled back in the soil after harvesting.

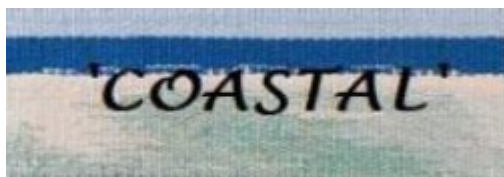
Source: <https://barnhardtcotton.net/blog/16-facts-about-cotton-that-you-dont-know/>



## The 2021 International Scarf Exchange

The 29th International Scarf Exchange is being hosted by a 'consortium' of groups resident in the Shoalhaven area on the south coast of NSW. They are Berry Spinners & Weavers Inc, Nowra Spinners & Weavers Inc and Wool Road Spinners & Weavers Inc, with help from Murramarang Spinners & Weavers Inc.

The aims of the Scarf Exchange are to preserve the skills of spinning, weaving, knitting, crochet and felting, expand the wool craft network and to challenge each crafter to produce their best original work. The theme chosen for 2021, which you may interpret in any way you wish, is very apt for our location:



Participation involves you selecting, and sending to us, **150grams of washed and prepared fresh natural fibre which must be free from any contamination or strong odours. Please ensure that all fibre is very clean and already combed or carded. Also ensure it has not absorbed any odours including mothballs or similar as this may trigger asthma.** Please contact the co-ordinator if you are unfortunate enough to receive fibre that does not meet these standards. It will be returned to the sender.

Your fibre will be crafted into a scarf, wrap, gloves/mittens or socks, by another randomly selected participant in the exchange. You will also be sent another participant's fibre that you need to craft into a scarf, wrap, gloves/mittens or socks, using a method of your choice, adding extra fibre, or colour as you wish but please take into account any preferences expressed by the sender of the fibre.

**Registration is from 1 August 2020 until 30 November 2020.**

*Continued on the next page...*



### How to participate:

1. An entry form needs to be printed and filled out. Please ensure you take a photo or photocopy for your records.
2. The entry fee is to be paid either by cheque in Australian Dollars (AUD) included with your entry form or by electronic funds transfer (eft) - instructions on the entry form (ENTRY FEE to help cover postage of both exchange fibre and finished item to you: Australia AUD\$20 New Zealand AUD\$30, USA AUD\$40, rest of world AUD\$50).
3. Send your fibre in a resealable bag with a fibre sample in a small separate bag, and a printed copy of your entry form to the address below **before Monday 30 November 2020**:  
International Scarf Exchange  
Wool Road Spinners & Weavers Inc  
PO Box 141, Huskisson NSW 2540  
Australia
4. You will receive an exchange package of fibre plus a crafter sheet by the end of January 2021 and will then have 4 months to spin, dye, knit, crochet, felt or weave it into a wonderful creation to showcase the best of your fibre art talents.
5. Deadline delivery date for return of your finished item, your crafter sheet and any excess fibre to the Wool Road Spinners & Weavers Inc is **Friday 29 May 2021**.
6. A virtual exhibition of all finished items is planned. Details to follow.
7. Finished items will be returned to participants by the end of July 2021.

### For more information or an entry form:

- Contact Co-ordinator Denise Stevens at email: [internationalscarfexchange2021@gmail.com](mailto:internationalscarfexchange2021@gmail.com)
- Got to <https://www.nswweave.org.au/articles/2020/07/international-scarf-exchange-2021/>
- Contact the Guild information Officer (details page 15)

# Royal Show update

**The 2020 Perth Royal Show will go ahead!**

**Claremont Show Grounds, 26 September—3 October 2020**

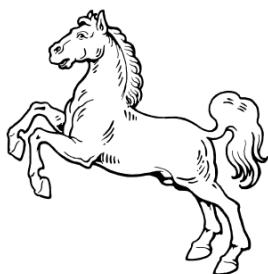
From Natalie Raynor, Manager - Competitions, Events and Education,  
Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia:

*“With the impact of COVID-19 and just over two months until gates open, this year’s show will be quite unlike any other. Our competitions are an integral part of the overall show experience and our RASWA staff have been working hard to deliver a programme of core competitions which highlight the talent of our exhibitors.*



*As such, I am delighted to inform you that the Perth Royal Craft and Cookery Show competitions will feature at the Perth Royal Show in 2020.*

*The support of all our competitors is critical for the success of the Perth Royal Show. With your attendance the Show can continue to meet its ongoing social responsibilities to educate and entertain the people of Western Australia and celebrate the best in Western Australia”.*



The theme of this year’s Craft and Cookery Competition is: **From the World of Horses.**

The Royal Show is a great opportunity for Guild members to showcase their talents, and increase the prominence of our crafts.

For the Craft and Decorated Cakes Class List, or more information go to:

- The Royal Show website (<https://www.perthroyalshow.com.au/>)
- The Guild RAS Representative (details page 15)
- The RAS Competition and Event Coordinator (6263 3142 or [creativecrafts@raswa.org.au](mailto:creativecrafts@raswa.org.au)).

# Office Bearers and Convenors

## COMMITTEE

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Avril Liljekvist	0449001103	avril.liljekvist@gmail.com
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<b>SECRETARY—General</b>	Jenni Talbot	0488941751	jennitalbot@outlook.com
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<b>4</b>	Sue Webb	0419937019	suewebb23@gmail.com
<b>5</b>	Shona MacDonald	0419685506	shona.macdonald@gmail.com
<b>6</b>	Brenda Roy	0437904223	brenda@cadplan.com.au

## CONVENORS

<b>MEMBERSHIPS</b>	Memberships will go to the Librarian to be incorporated with the Library database.		
<b>YARNSPINNER DISTRIBUTION</b>	<b>TO BE CONFIRMED</b>		
<b>YARNSPINNER EDITOR</b>	Cecilia Jordan	0406506941	ceciliajordan@rocketmail.com
<b>LIBRARIAN</b>	Anne McAdam, with Gwen McLeod	0415223922 0439916947	anne.mcadam111@gmail.com gwenmcLeod@live.com
<b>YARN AREA</b>	Sue Greig Sue Todd	9448 0840 0411831814	sue_greig@hotmail.com suetodd@aapt.net.au
<b>EQUIPMENT HIRE</b>	Sue Greig	9448 0840 0411831814	sue_greig@hotmail.com
<b>APCH REPRESENTATIVE</b>	Rachel Meissner	0439595928	rmeissner07@gmail.com
<b>RAS REPRESENTATIVE</b>	Jenni Talbot with Helen Lovitt	0488941751	jennitalbot@outlook.com
<b>INFORMATION &amp; PUBLICITY</b>	Candace Cranston	0424984883	candacegibson@yahoo.com
<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT &amp; EVENTS</b>	Helen Lovitt-Raison, with Candace Cranston	0408272496	furrywithruffles@gmail.com
<b>SPEAKERS</b>	Kirrin Lill	0400229947	kirisamba@gmail.com
<b>WORKSHOPS</b>	Kirrin Lill	0400229947	kirisamba@gmail.com
<b>HOUSEKEEPER</b>	<b>TO BE CONFIRMED</b>		
<b>SHARING TABLE</b>	Brenda Roy	0437904223	brenda@cadplan.com.au
<b>WEBSITE EDITOR</b>	Candace Cranston	0424984883	candacegibson@yahoo.com
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	Janis O’Loughlin	0411212986	janis.47@bigpond.com
<b>AUDITOR</b>	David Williams		
<b>PATRON</b>	<b>VACANT</b>		

## 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:** \$18.00/100gms linen 10/2 natural dyed yarn, \$15.00/100gms ecru/peace silk. Contact Ann Richardson aerichar@gmail.com or 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 September YarnSpinner: 12 September 2020**

*Front cover: From the sharing table—bag made from fabric woven by Brenda Roy*