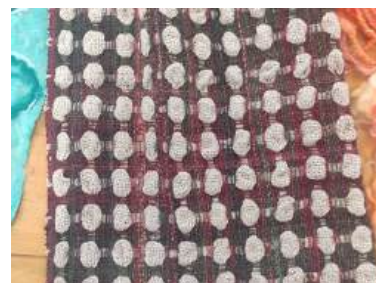




HSWG SA GUILD NEWS

DEC 2024-JAN 2025



The November Show and Tell was full of inspirational work. Left to right top row Helen, Shirley and Enken. Second row Shelley and Bev show off their double deflective weave. Bottom row Ali and Carol.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members, welcome to our December Guild News.

Since the AGM in October, I have become the President, and it has been a busy couple of months. In November I took time to visit most of the meetings that occur through the month. It was a pleasure to see so many faces I have not met before. I spoke to all groups I visited introducing myself and talking about some interesting improvements we hope to make.

I have also spoken to the office of Tom Koutsantonis, M.P. for West Torrens, and they will print our Guild News. This is a positive move for those of us who like the printed word. We will have fifty copies printed and priority will go to those who do not use email.

We are all enthusiastic about the Guild, and following the survey, which you were all invited to fill in, the response was incredibly good. We have a big job to attempt to improve on some of the less positive comments that came through. I will be discussing with the Committee items we need to address. This is now post Covid, where we lost many members, and our activities were seriously curtailed. However, we are rebuilding, and this year has seen a number of younger members joining and enjoying the fibre crafts movement. This has been a positive year with a successful Royal Adelaide Show, History Months Spinning in the Adelaide Arcade, Fibre Feast and our Spinning in Public Day. All showcasing what the Guild does and has to offer.

I have a very enthusiastic Committee to work with, and we are busy looking at some improvements to your experience when visiting the Guild, especially on Guild days.

One of our decisions has been to tweak the times for our meetings. On Guild days, beginning in February, we will open the doors at 0930. This means that Mary and her team will be ready for sales at the Yarn Table and Nancy and Claire will be ready in the kitchen. The Gallery opens at 1100. We will bring our meeting forward to 1100 and following that we hope to have short talks, demonstrations, and workshops. If anyone would like to participate in this please come forward; we are always looking for volunteers.

The International Scarf Exchange is coming along with many packages arriving at the Guild. The theme for this year is "Affinities", so get your fibre in, and let's see what comes of this exciting event.

This year we have heard of the passing of two of our Life Members, Jo Mewett and Maria Korps, and we send our condolences to their families. We also rejoice in the service that both women gave to our Guild and hope the same enthusiasm and commitment can be maintained in the future.

We have had a complaint from Craig Hargraves regarding parking. Please only use our carpark or the street during the week. Weekends the carpark adjacent to our building can be used except for reserved parks.

If you have any queries or comments please see me on 7th December at our Christmas shared lunch. I will be happy to chat and hear your comments.

Rowena Wiggins
President



FROM THE EDITOR

When I first volunteered to help with the Guild News I did so because I thought that I had something to contribute. I have aimed to write the news that I want to read: Information about fibre, spinning, weaving, felting and braiding, hints and information that can only come from experts; people with knowledge that comes from experience. But also a focus on what makes the Handspinners and Weavers Guild of South Australia unique and special. Bringing the spotlight onto what members are working on (the everyday as well as the special occasions) and the vast array of talent we possess.

I want to thank from the bottom of my heart the members who have come forward with information or ideas for articles, especially those people who do it for every edition. It would be a very lonely job without you. I also want to invite all members to come forward, if you have information that should be published send it in; if you want to see more articles or different articles, send them in. Everything, everything sent in by members will be published so long as it adheres to the core values of the news: accuracy, inclusivity, respect for others, education and positivity. Oh, and fibre related, that's important too. I know that there was limited space for publishing in the past but the beauty of a digital news is that there is no limit to the number of photos or articles that can be published.

If you would like to help with the news but don't have anything specific in mind let me know, I am sure that I can find something to suit you.

The role of the news is not only to inform and hopefully inspire but to maintain community and act as a bridge between members. It should be reflective of the guild as a whole and what we want to achieve. To that end the more of us who are involved and contribute the better we will achieve our aims.

As I put together this 2024 December-January News I am excited by how much we have going on, about how active and involved members are and I look forward to seeing what we will do in 2025. Thank you for sharing this year with me.

Thank you

Phoebe
hswgnewssa@gmail.com

If you have missed an edition or want to share it, all recent editions of the news are now available on the website, I have been assured that the links have been updated.

OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
2024

AUGUST
SEPTEMBER
2024

JUNE
JULY
2024

APRIL
MAY
2024



DECEMBER MEETING

The next Guild Meeting will be this coming Saturday, December 7th. Please note that there is a changed time and doors will now open at 9.30 for the kitchen, fibre sales, trading table, Equipment Room, Library and fleece sales. The Little Glory Gallery will open at 11. The meeting will start at 11.

For the Christmas meeting we will have a **shared lunch** after the meeting. If you give your plate to Nancy and Claire in the kitchen when you come in they will be in charge of logistics.

Please bring a plate of food to share and something to serve it with. Something seasonal and festive is appreciated as we celebrate the end of the year together.

It would be appreciated if you could include a card listing any dietary restrictions catered for in your dish (vegetarian, vegan, dairy-free, egg-free, gluten-free). There will be cards available.



Memberships

Firstly, thank you all for your patience in the takeover period. It seems there are some members who have paid, but have not received their cards. If you are one of them, please get in touch. I'm still working on updating the records and have discussed a combined Membership and Library card in the future. This would depend on a few factors, including – and mostly – financial. How would we check that members are up-to-date with their fees with a permanent type of card? If you tried to use it in the Gallery or Library and hadn't paid up, the card would self-destruct and you would get covered in purple dye. I've yet to run that suggestion by the Committee, but I'm sure they'll appreciate the extra security measure. Maybe

-Andy, memberships

The annual Christmas raffle will be running.

1 ticket \$2

3 tickets \$5

I have been asked about getting a finer micron roving in. I have decided as a trial to have a couple of kilograms of Nundle Woollen Mill natural Merino which is 17.5 microns.

It will cost \$10.35/100gms for the Members price, and Non Members price will be \$13.45/100gms. If successful, it may be a permanent order from Nundle Woollen Mill.

I have also been able to buy AAA Mulberry silk at a great price. This will be \$15.15 per 100gms for Members and \$19.70 for Non Members, while stocks last.

We have plenty of colours in 19.5 microns from Nundle, First Edition silk combinations and lots of dyes available in Landscape and Earth Palette.

Come and get your supplies at the December meeting.

-Yarn Table





Mystery Item. Here is the mystery item for the month, What is it, what does it do, where can we find another one? Please come in and have a guess, If you need closer examination to make a decision the mystery item will be in the Equipment Room on Guild Day. Guesses to Monty who has been taken with giving Freddo Frogs for the best answers. \$2 coin for scale.

December Fleece Sellers – Bennett and Gregor

A chance encounter with some handspinners and weavers at a craft teachers' inservice conference in the early 1970's started us off in coloured sheep. The instructors were keen to see a regular supply of quality fleece for their work, and we had just purchased a hobby block near Williamstown on which we could raise some sheep.



It wasn't too long before we shifted our enterprise to the Gregor family's farm at Reeves Plains, and the flock expanded from there. We tried some coloured Lincolns, and white Border Leicesters, but our country was too dry for them and their fleeces too open to the weather and dust. We have settled on South Australian strongwool Merinos and Corriedales as the mainstay of the flock, selecting sheep on long staple and soft handle.

We have consistently won major awards for our fleeces, here, interstate and overseas. At first our primary interest was supplying best quality fleece wools, both coloured and white. From this we then produced carded felting batts. Then came a range of 12 shades of millspun 8 ply knitting yarns. The yarn enterprise wound up when the mill in Kyneton, Vic was closed when the CSIRO sold its small batch scouring plant, meaning no scoured fleece was available to the mill. We now have a range of seven natural colours of silky soft, combed wool tops. Our tops and carded batts are all made from our own fleeces, and all processing is done in Australia, so we can control the quality of the product and know that it is our wool.

We will have 7 colours of tops, 4 colours of felting batts and fleeces of all colours including white.

We have a square-up account for card users.

We sell at various craft events, markets, HSWG group meetings, by mail order, and from our wool room at home in Gawler by appointment.

Please email <bennettandgregor@gmail.com> with your requirements, and we will gladly help out.

Jeanette's Xmas Tree Decoration Ball

I weighed a completed bell and it was only 6 grams so you can use up small quantities of wool.

3.75mm crochet hook, different wools may require different size.

Bell (any colour of your choice)

1. 6 single crochet (sc) into magic circle.
2. 2 sc in each sc. Join with slip stitch (12)
3. 1 chain, 1 sc (2 sc in next stitch, 1 sc) repeat to end of row. Join with slip stitch (18)
4. 1 chain, sc all the way around join slip stitch
5. rows 5 -10 as row 4
11. 2 sc in each sc. Join slip stitch
12. 1 sc in each sc. Join slip stitch. sew in cut end

Ringer:

I crochet but you could use ribbon with small bell or button. Chain 11 turn miss 1 sc then sc 12 into next sc. This makes a bobble effect, sew to make a ball.

I found that if you turn bell inside out it is a more realistic shape. Sew ringer to inside top of bell. Decorate top with ribbon, small sprig of holly or anything you find in your craft box. Sew loop at top to hang on tree.

Other ideas:

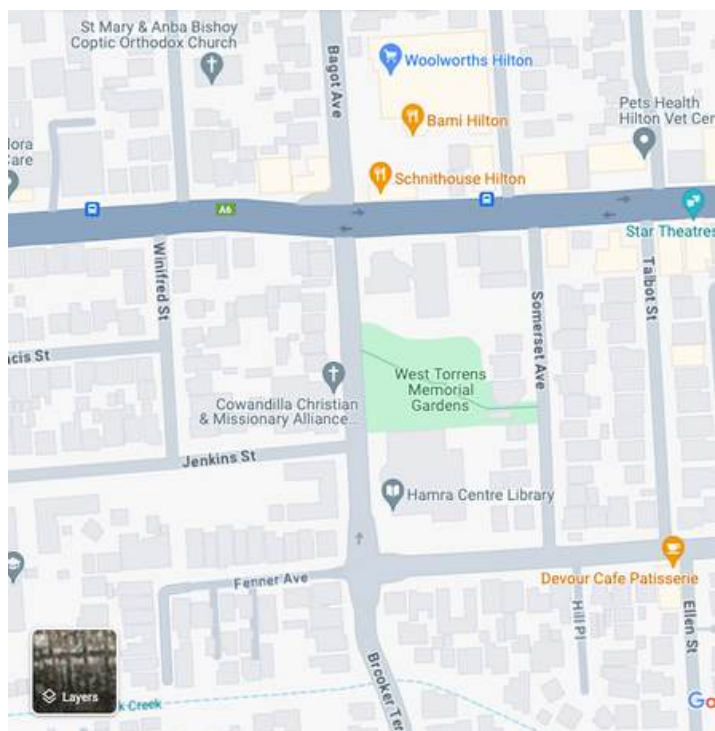
Make 2 bells for larger ornament.

Hat; Use same pattern. but less rows in 5-10 section. Do not turn, decorate with ribbon band or stick tiny flower around brim. Put tree hanger on brim so hat lies flat on tree.

Happy crafting, Jeanette



JANUARY MEETING



The Annual Picnic In The Park replaces the January meeting

When: Sat 11 January, from 10:30am

Where: West Torrens Memorial Gardens, 163 Sir Donald Bradman Drive, West Torrens. It is between the Council Offices on Sir Bradman Drive and the Library on Booker Terrace. There is parking at both buildings.

There are lots of shady trees to sit under. Bring your own comfy chair unless you want to sit on the grass.

Bring your lunch/snacks/something to drink (there is a coffee shop with a 4.4 Google rating across the road) plus something crafty to work on.

In the event of inclement weather:

If it rains meet at the Guild

If it is over 40°C the picnic will be cancelled.



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER MEETING

At the October meeting we voted in a new committee and president, welcome to everyone.

At the November meeting the guild voted on three motions:

- We will go ahead with the plans detailed on (page 00) for changes to the guild building.
- The doors will now open at 9.30 and the meeting start at 11. This will give more time for future activities and talks following the meeting
- We will put members emergency contacts in a book and place it next to the first aid kit. This book will have members' name, member number, emergency contact and their name. This is in case of an emergency so that someone can be notified.

There has also been a call for everyone with a door key to re-sign the key register. If you have a key and haven't signed please bring it to the next meeting or email info@spinweavesa.org

Show and Tell for October. Left Andy shows off his belated birthday braid scarf. Spun on spindles on the train. Middle is Shirley's handwoven scarf with a silk warp and Bendigo wool weft. Far right is Helen showing of her experiments in lightweight felt scarves. Made from wool and silk handkerchiefs.



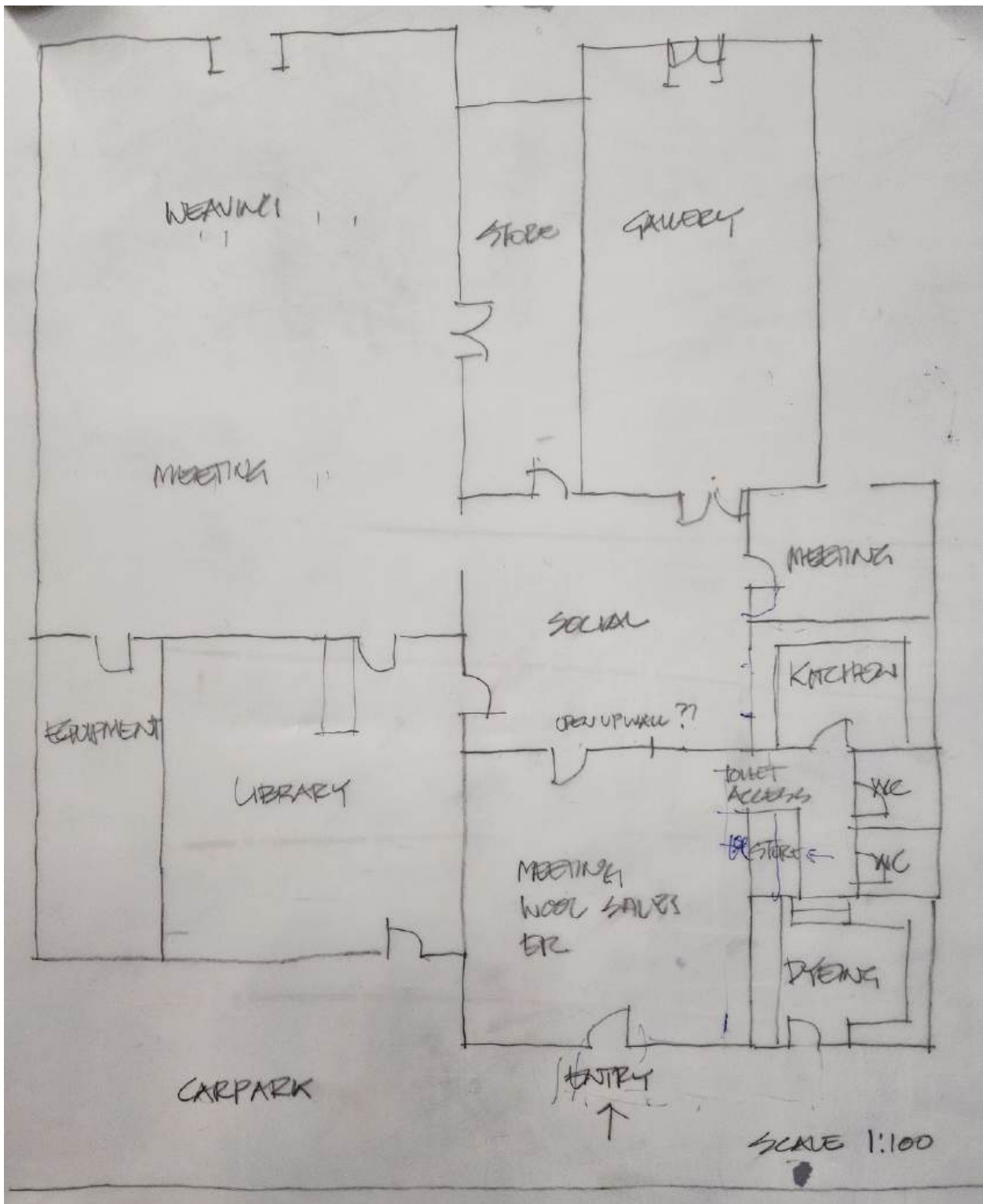
L-R Jo bought her first wheel, good choice, I hope it's going well!
Felicity shares her art yarn: English Leicester spun with silk and, spotted at the October Meeting Marina in her fully handmade outfit, including bag and recycled woven jacket.



HALL PLANS

Changes to the guild hall were voted on at the November meeting. There was an overwhelming vote in favour of the plans below. These changes will be implemented in stages

The first step will be to build an accessible entrance at the outside library door. This ramp will be more accessible for those in wheelchairs and with walking aids. After this the fibre room including cupboards will be moved into what is now the library. This will be a lot of work as it includes the security system as well as cupboards and furniture. This swap means that the false wall between the now library/to be fleece room and the toilets can be removed. What we have now will be replaced with 2 separate accessible stalls. This is an exciting change and will make the hall more open and user friendly.





MEET THE COMMITTEE

Introducing the HSWG committee, and officers as decided at the 2024 AGM. Welcome to both new and returning members. If you would like to contact the committee please email info@spinweavesa.org.



Rowena Wiggins – President

My reason for joining HSWG was to meet people with similar interests and improve on my skills. I am a knitter and spinner but also dabble in other fibre crafts. I learned to spin and weave at evening classes in the UK in the 1970's. I enjoy all the workshops that are provided and have found new skills in felting. Since retiring I can spend more time on honing my skills and spend my days in pure bliss with yarn in hand. Knitting is still my passion.



Robyn Dennis – Vice-President

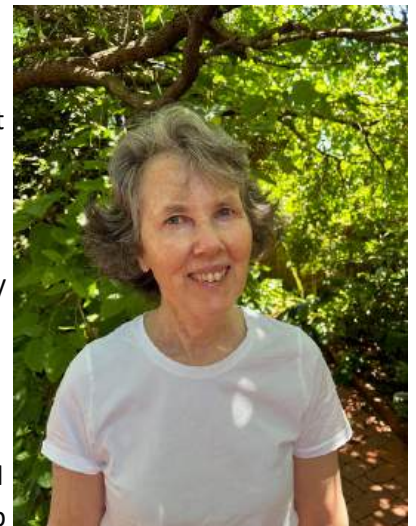
Robyn is overseas at the time of writing the News, however I, your intrepid and resourceful editor have this picture of her spinning in public at our open day in September. Well done me.

Felicity Brake – Secretary

I grew up on a farm near Hamilton in Victoria. It was a hobby farm, but we managed to have 1500 corriedales and merinos on 165 hectares. My mother was an art and textile teacher at the local high school and took up spinning in the 1970s. She taught me as she learned. Mum's wheel was a traditional Huon pine Gaspero, which I remember took at least a year on order. I inherited it and have managed to find a jarrah Gaspero Alice upright, which is more portable and lovely to spin with. My favourite type of spinning at the moment is novelty or art yarn. I also have a Country Spinner, the electric version of which I am still undecided about.

I love spinning to the point of not knitting. I recently had the opportunity to try machine knitting, with the goal of using my chunky homespun. So far I've managed two socks with commercial wool, and Deidre assures me that the large holes around the heel can be reduced ... I am not so sure. I love our happy Tuesday spinning group and look forward to seeing everyone each week.

I have two adult children. They and my husband are accepting of all crafts and the associated paraphernalia. There is a little tit for tat, as we also have 23 bicycles and loads of helmets etc., which comes from being married to an aerodynamicist specialising in go-fast bikes. I studied Science and have an MSc and a PhD that I finished 8 years ago. I love to help in the organisations I am involved in and volunteered for the various Parent Associations as our children grew up. I am currently a Councillor for Cookery at the Royal Adelaide Show – an involvement that began seventeen years ago when I offered to help.





MEET THE COMMITTEE



Committee Member – Kirsten Ohlhaber-Surikow

My professional background is language teaching, but all my life I have been interested in wool. When I came to Adelaide, I discovered hand spun wool and bought a spinning wheel. I did a short course for beginners, but I didn't really take to it. Life got busy professionally with little time for craft. When I retired, I turned my attention again to wool and re-joined the Handspinners and Weavers Guild and properly learned how to spin. I was introduced to felting through one of the members of the spinning group and was almost immediately 'hooked'. That was four years ago and since then I have been a member of our Wednesday felters group, now renamed: The Felt Collective.

Committee Member – Sharn Rowland (Workshops)

My Nan taught me the basic knitting stitches at the age of five and I made the traditional wonky scarf for a doll. My creativity was put on hold for a few years until my early teens when I found a pattern for a cabled 'bobble hat' in a book of crafts. That started a lifetime interest in all things woolly. I *had* to learn how to spin because it was less expensive to create my own yarn, and first joined the Guild in the 1970s. Retirement has been wonderful, allowing me to indulge my creative urges and I have dabbled in natural dyeing, other forms of dyeing, felting, fancier knitting and travel to a few workshops and courses. Rigid heddle weaving is next! I volunteered as workshop co-ordinator because I consider it an important role within the Guild and to assist members to pass on and share their knowledge.



Committee Member – Fay Harding (Fleece sellers/Maintenance)

I have been crafting since three years old – knitting, sewing and embroidery. When I asked my mother to teach me how to crochet she replied, 'You know enough already!' I replied, 'OK I'll ask Auntie Irene,' (my mother's sister) which is what I did, so then I learnt crochet as well. I have been a member of the Guild since 1980. I've been a Committee member for a few years in the early 80's and again over the past few years. I have been a Gallery Committee member since the late 90's, then Treasurer since 2000 and currently continue. My first love is hand spinning but at one stage I managed to fit in some weaving on a rigid heddle kit which I purchased for \$20. It fits in a small cardboard box and is assembled by screwing the pieces together, has plastic heddles and, so far, has worked fine for me. But, I have a larger box containing a much larger loom and plan on unpacking that and having a go on that in the not too distant future.



Relatives on a farm at Kaniva had a flock of coloured sheep, seven of which were mine. We commenced with corriedale/merino cross but bred with a few different breeds. Our sheep were 'Heinz Variety' but we were breeding them for spinning and it worked well. I still have some fleece from then (over twenty years ago) which will just require a bit more work for spinning. Back in the 1980's the Guild held a fashion parade showcasing items we had made. I received 1st prize for a short sleeved cardigan I had knitted from my hand-spun yarn. I think the prize was donated by the Commonwealth Bank. Apart from the above I continue to bushwalk, travel and occasionally fit in some 'bird watching'.



MEET THE COMMITTEE

Karina Irvine - Treasurer



I started at the HSW Guild as Treasurer 7 years ago. At that time I was crafting my skills with my Mum as a felter and attending the Wednesday felting group.

I enjoyed going annually to the Grampians textures to expand my knowledge and doing workshops in all different kinds of felting techniques.

My proudest moment was in 2017 when I won the Scarf of the Year at the National Wool Museum in Geelong.

Life has become busy over the last few years and I am hoping to settle back into my studio and start creating again.

Alison Byrne -Committee Member (Library)

I've been interested in textile crafts for as long as I can remember and learnt to knit, embroider, and make bobbin lace as a kid. Like many, I gave it all up during my teenage years but came back to knitting in my mid-twenties, just as knitters from around the world were finding each other and forming a virtual world-wide knitting community on the internet for the first time. Fast forward fifteen years, I joined the guild in 2019, hoping to learn to weave and meet other like-minded souls. It didn't take long before I caught the spinning bug too, and four spinning wheels and a house full of fleece later, one could say I'm well and truly hooked!

My other lifelong passion has been for books, so taking up the role of Guild Librarian earlier this year has been the perfect way to combine my interests. I currently work part-time as a bookseller, and have recently started studying towards an MA in Archaeology, with a focus on ancient textiles and textile production. I'm looking forward to a productive year ahead as a member of the Guild committee as we strive to continue to keep the ancient crafts of spinning and weaving alive and well into the 21st century and beyond!



Phoebe Grieve -Committee Member (Guild News)



Several years ago I joined a fibre co-op as a knitter. Well, the evil ladies there introduced me to the dark art of dyeing and since then I've been unstoppable, falling further and further into fibre arts. I'm still enjoying finding more fibre and ways to use it.

There is no end to what you can make and how you can make it. I love being part of the guild, it is a unique place to meet other people with a shared passion and to share and learn from each other. The internet is good but there is nothing like talking and sharing in person. And because I'm the editor I'm going to cheat and use this group picture of the committee from the October 2024 AGM.



VALE TO TWO MEMBERS MARIA KORPS AND SHARON COOMBE

Sharon Coombe was a member of Handspinners and Weavers Guild of SA. It is of great sadness that I share with you that Sharon was involved in a fatal car accident recently and is no longer with us.

Sharon loved spinning her much loved wool and planning her many rugs and throws and spending many a Tuesday morning with members just chatting about projects and wool. Sharon always had an air of contentment and happiness. This was so very evident also when she was spinning and truly enjoyed her mornings at the guild.

Sharon was loved by all and will be sadly missed.

-Ros

We have received sad news today of the death of Maria Korps Member No 470 on 11/11/2024 peacefully in the QEH, I understand she was 86. She was our Equipment Officer, and did an excellent job at repairing wheels for resale along with anything else that required attention. She along with her husband Hugo who died quite a while back attended to this job for many years. She has been a member of the Guild for 41 yrs having joined the Guild 11th Jan 1983, and a Life Member. She was also an excellent spinner and knitter. She also was an excellent organic gardener. She visited the Guild a few months back with, whom I think was one of her nieces visiting from Austria.

Maria was one of the first people I met at the Guild, around eighteen years ago. She was always so friendly and enjoyed a chat, and was a skilled, and modest, craftswoman. I once helped her carry in a rather large rug woven from handspun Elliotdale. Cucumbers? No way! When she was growing up in Austria, she had to pick the green goblins in her neighbour's garden to earn a few schillings. I could sympathise when she told me how scratchy the plants were!

left: Maria spinning,
Right: Suzanne
Braker, Mary
Schmidt, Maria &
Kath Clarke.
Pictures provided
by Bev Bills



Maria joined the Guild in January 1983, spinning on Tuesday mornings with Neta Cooney and all the other spinners.

Maria later became Equipment Officer for many years up until Monty took over a few years ago. Maria made sure all the wheels were working proficiently and the looms had all the parts. She kept the books meticulously and accounted for every bit of equipment, whether on hire or sold or was a loom or a hook.

Maria was a committee member, and she and husband Hugo were regularly on the Gallery roster for the Little Glory Gallery. She helped out at the Royal Show, Craft Fairs and Maria and Bev Bills would visit schools to demonstrate spinning and weaving to young school children, giving them hands on with much delight and wonderment.

Maria and Hugo were both awarded Life Membership, and later Maria was awarded a Service Award for her dedicated years of Service to the Guild.

Maria died on the 11th November, aged 85, in TQEH, a week after having a fall.

She will be remembered by her friends for her dedication, her knowledge of how our equipment worked, was put together, making sure it worked well, and provided members the ability to hire equipment. Thank you Maria.

-Bev Bills



ALICE SPRINGS BEANIE FESTIVAL 2024

The 28th Beaniefest was a great success with 7228 beanies entered from 520 makers from around the world, and 5000 visitors in four days.

5441 beanies sold for \$243,455 which is a record breaking. There were 120 volunteers who travelled across Australia and also Canada to be there.

There were 5 workshops held for Indigenous beanie makers in Ali Curung, Santa Theresa, Tennant Creek and Titjikala. Twelve artists from these communities travelled to the Festival to run their own workshops teaching visitors how to needle felt their own beanies with fabulous results.

There were workshops in some local schools, Yirara College, Braitling School, and the Steiner School. Those kids had such fun and their beanies were in the Exhibition.

Donated beanies were sold at the Festival to make dollars to help run the Indigenous workshops and others were donated to the Special Care Nursery at Alice Springs Hospital, the Purple House, the NYP Women's Council (both local Indigenous organisations) the remote Indigenous School of Kintore, the National Mental Health Foundation and the Alice Springs Hospital Drivers.

I had a most enjoyable time meeting up with other beanie makers from around Australia and had successful sales. After the mound of beanies were set out I couldn't find any of mine until Sunday, but other people obviously did, as they sold.

Jo's sons did a great job of keeping up with tradition while Jo went to support her brother in Western Australia. The boys were entered the Beanie Hall of Fame for helping out over the last twenty eight years. They were there from the beginning, as youngsters getting under her feet then helping with set up as they grew. Tall lads are a big help putting up all the bunting, flags and big beanie.

Dates for next year, June 20-23, 2025. Is the Beaniefest on your bucket list for next year, if so book ahead.

The web page is beaniefest.org Facebook: Alice Springs Beanie Festival



-Shirley Jones





BEANIE FESTIVAL CHALLENGE

I am very pleased to announce a Beanie competition, with the winning entries being sent to the Alice Springs Beanie Festival to represent the Guild. The Beanie Festival is a chance for people to show off their skills and use their imagination to create works of art. An anonymous donor has offered to pay the entry costs.

What is a beanie?

The Alice Springs beanie festival defines a beanie as ‘any hat that provides warmth and sits well on the head’

How many beanies can be sent?

As a group we can send a maximum of 2 beanies to the International Beanie Competition and 10 to general sales ‘Beanie Central’.

What is Beanie Central?

Beanie Central is the heart of the festival. This is the place where thousands of beanies are sold over a two day period. They are piled up on every surface and hung from the ceiling. They range from plain mens beanies to glamorous embroidered or felted sculptural pieces. For more information see [here](#).

What is the International Beanie Competition?

These beanies go on display in the hall. They are for sale but are also judged and can win awards with up to \$200 in prize money. The theme for this year is ‘Sporting Headgear’. Here is a list of the categories, all entries are automatically judged in all categories. See [here](#) for more information

Will I get my beanie back afterwards?

No, all beanies we send to the festival are done so with the expectation of being sold. However, the maker sets the price and people are encouraged to set value their work. When pricing keep in mind that beanies at ‘Beanie Central’ attract a 30% commission from the organisers, those in the International Beanie competition have a 50% commission. If any beanies don’t sell they will be returned. Members will keep any proceeds from their sales.

How will our competition work?

We will host our competition at the March Meeting. If you would like to enter please bring your beanies along! Entry is open to all members, so please spin, felt, weave, or create your headgear in preparation. If you are knitting or crocheting please use handspun yarn. Members are encouraged to be as imaginative and creative as you like. You can enter as many as you like. We will have a vote for the top 12 beanies, with 2 of these chosen to go into the exhibition.

What if I want to enter but don’t want to sell my beanie?

I’m sorry, all beanies entered are done so with the expectation of being sold.

How will we know what happens to the beanies in Alice Springs?

Shirley goes to the Beanie Festival every year and will update us on events. She will be our roving reporter.

Why are we doing this?

To show off our talents and to be part of one of the biggest fibre events in the country.

Good luck to everyone and I look forward to seeing everyone’s creation in March.

Thank you
Shirley and Phoebe





PERSONAL PROPERTY AT THE GUILD

The Guild welcomes members who may wish to leave private property, both for their own use and others, at the Guild. However, there is limited space so not all items members might wish to leave at the Guild may be able to be housed. Please also be aware that if you leave personal items at the Guild that they are not covered by the Guild insurance.

Final approval for Private Property at the Guild rests with the committee. The Guild hall is large but it is not large enough to house equipment for all members. If you have personal equipment at the Guild, whether it is for your own use or others' please label it and fill in the private property agreement below. It is a requirement to do this as it acknowledges that you accept the limitations and restrictions in place. Please give your completed form to a committee member, leave it in the Secretary's pigeonhole or email the completed form to info@spinweavesa.org

If you have done this previously please do it again, as these records need to be updated. The committee will have a working bee in the hall in January so please action this as soon as possible.

- Only current members of the Guild may leave Private Property at the Guild.
- Guild Membership must be maintained by the owners while private property is on Guild premises.
- If the item is not being used by the owner, the owner must agree that another Guild member may use it in an appropriate fashion.
- If requested to remove their property from Guild premises, the owner shall have three months to remove the item. If not picked up within this time, the owner must agree that the property is gifted to the Guild.
- The owner must agree that after six months of no contact with the Guild, ownership of the property will be gifted to the Guild.
- Once an item is gifted to the Guild, the item becomes Guild property and the Committee has the right to keep the item for communal use, sell the item, donate the item to a relevant cause, or dispose of/destroy the item.
- You can find the form and this information online at <https://spinweavesa.org/private-property/>

Agreement: Private Property at the Guild

I agree to the following conditions for leaving my private property at the Handspinners and Weavers Guild of South Australia:

- a. I understand that the Guild's insurance policy does not cover my property.
- b. I agree that other Guild members may apply to the Guild Committee to use this property in an appropriate fashion if I am not using it.
- c. I agree to remove the property if I cease to be a member of the Guild.
- d. If I fail to remove this item within three months of being asked to remove it, then I agree to the item being gifted to the Guild, at the discretion of the Guild Committee.
- e. I agree to gift the item to the Guild if I fail to maintain contact with the Guild over a six-month period, at the discretion of the Guild Committee.
- f. I agree to inform the Guild Committee within a month of any change to contact details.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Description of item left at Guild:

Please include brand markings, size, and any other identifying details.

If you've read any one of Jenny Dean's books, you could probably grow most of the plants in your backyard, barring the tropical ones. A lot of these are bedding/border plants that will blend in with any planting scheme or cottage garden – you don't need to have a separate dye garden. Regular dead-heading or a couple of harvests a season will give you a plentiful supply. If using dried flowers, I store them in a nylon fruit bag at the back of the washing line. The netting (fine mesh) material makes sure they get air (to prevent mould) and the harvest is permanently in the shade (to prevent sun-bleaching).

Marigolds: although both *Tagetes* and *Calendula* will produce dyes, the former give you the deeper colours. Snap the waning flowers off to encourage more and store in a bag (netting, to let the air in) somewhere in the shade. Any variety of *Tagetes* will do. If you grow *T. minuta*, the flowers are small and white, but you can dye with the leaves. This plant grows to around two metres, so you'll have plenty of material. Note that the leaves can cause skin irritation, and that the plant resembles marijuana. I certainly don't grow this where it's visible from the street. It also produces thousands of seeds and has very real weed potential (which it does overseas). Remove the flowering heads before they start to go to seed and bury deep to prevent them growing.

Tansy: flowers, leaves and stems can all be used, and I've managed to get shades of yellow, green and blue from this one. Note that it can spread quite a bit, but harvesting will control this.

Yarrow: another spreader, or runner. The flowers however come in shades ranging from white to deep red, with everything in between, which is another good reason to grow them. Use the stems and the leaves.

Dahlias: from bedding dahlias to tall decoratives, these never fail to put on a show. Snip the fading blooms off and dry them in a bag a few at a time. They're quite fleshy, so if you pile in a whole heap, they may go mouldy before they dry. Any colour except white will give you a rich dye in shades of yellow, red-brown and bronze (mordanted, with alkaline modifier).



Coreopsis: the most common bedding variety is grandiflora, and this produces flower after flower. Be careful when dead-heading though, as the stems are quite brittle and you can easily pull off a chunk of the plant. Shades produced are similar to those of dahlias.



Dyer's marigold: (*Anthemis tinctoria*): a low, spreading plant with grey-green leaves and heaps of yellow flowers. Looks after itself.



What about the more well-known dyes: alkanet, madder, weld, woad... All of these can be grown easily. If you want to grow the first one, alkanet, make sure you get *A. tinctoria*. There is one nursery in Australia (ask not, for I shall not tell thee) selling a different variety that will not give you the potential purple and black shades. You have to be a dedicated dye-plant dude to even source this one, and you're more than likely not to find it. Madder grows very well in the local climate, but will send roots everywhere. If you plant it in a container, make sure it is well-draining or the roots may rot during winter dormancy. Woad is more than happy to produce leaves and seeds, but the latter in copious amounts. Don't grow this one where it's likely to escape and become a weed. Seriously. I've never had much luck raising weld from seed, but others have. I'll keep trying.

-Andy B

L-R Alkanet
tinctoria, dyer's
Madder, Woad





NATURAL DYEING -INDIGO -BLUE GOLD

I've been putting off trying the alchemy of the indigo vat for far too long, so decided I'd give it a try. We all know (!) that the standard Indigo/sodium hydrosulphite combination works, but what about trying some of the more "out there" options?

First off, the fruit fermentation – this is a variation of the 1-2-3 fructose/indigo vat introduced by Michel Garcia (see below for details). Further searching suggested that stewed fruit could be used instead of fructose – again, see website below. This source has a handy table giving the fructose content of a variety of fruits.

So far, most unfortunately this recipe hasn't worked for me – it just sat there in its jar and sulked. No idea still what has gone wrong – the indigo was old (bought from Commission Dyers for all you long-time members); it could have been synthetic (threw away the container before I thought to check); maybe the temperature was too cool, or my lime wasn't the correct type! I'm going to strain off the blue liquid and try adding some hydrosulphite. It's really too precious to throw away. Motivation deserted me; have not got around to it yet.

At the same time I started a yeast/indigo vat. Details are in the Gerber reference below. Wouldn't you know it – this also sulked. The yeast got off to a flying start, but I think I was too enthusiastic with the measure of sugar. I know the indigo was natural, as I'd just bought it. So I think the alcohol content (yeast + sugar + water = alcohol) got too high and killed the yeast. Based on my husband's brewing activities, this is a possible reason for the lack of action.

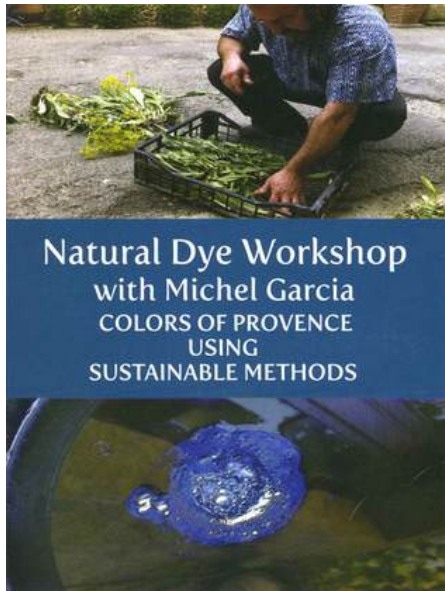
Now I have strained off the liquid, filtering it through paper coffee filters and a paper towel in my old sieve, scraped off the blue residue and made up a new jar with less sugar and the same amount of yeast – it's now on top of the water heater, outside in the sun. It seems to be developing the "flowers" on the top. Fingers crossed.

It should be noted here that my white T-shirt is still white, but my fingers were positively Ancient Briton. Thank goodness for White King and soap.

Several days later – still no action – the liquid should be turning a clear-ish yellow, so I've added another teaspoon of sugar. Next, I removed two by now dead large moths, probably responsible for some re-oxygenation of the contents of the jar. Oh, and a couple of dead leaves which blew in. Now I'm still waiting for the 'yellow' liquid to appear. Once again – distinct lack of success, and had to remove another large moth. I gave the contents of the jar good stir at this point (in desperation) and left it to settle. Disillusion is setting in.

So, to sum up – no lovely blue samples to show, or over-dyeing surprises. Now I'm out of inspiration – I am asking anyone who has successfully performed these feats of alchemy to please share them. In the meantime I'll keep trying. Mr Gerber also has several other methods which I don't know if I'm game to try at this stage - but the hydrosulphite is now looking more attractive. So much for trying to avoid chemicals.

-Jill



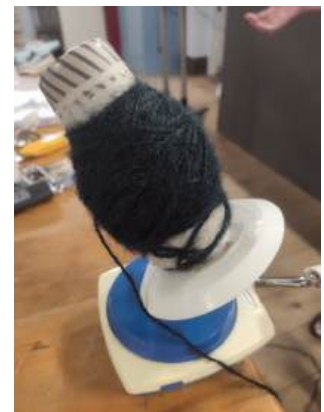
CD – *Natural Dye Workshop with Michel Garcia: Colors of Provence Using Sustainable Methods*

(I think there's a copy in the Library).

<http://www.sheepcabana.com/?p=1218>

Gerber, Frederick H: *Indigo and the Antiquity of Dyeing*

Winding Yarn on to a Cone



We were treated to a lesson on winding yarn onto cones this month. First you need to fit the cone to your ball winder. This might involve cutting (left) or adding a rubber band for stability. then, simply wind the yarn onto the ball winder as usual.

This is great for storage, organisation, machine knitting or art yarn spinning.



Photos of Gallery: The new floors in the Gallery are perfect and provide a welcome opening up of the space. A reminder that the Gallery closes on 18th December and will reopen on the 15th of January in the New Year. These photos from the Gallery might seem unseasonal – but remember it is winter somewhere in the world and I’m packing up some handspun socks to post to Germany. After reading Elizabeth Zimmerman’s *Knitters Almanac: Projects for Each Month of the Year*, I’ve been reflecting on the seasons. Her chapter titles provide a clue to the way she organised her knitting life: August - Christmas: “Fiddle-Faddle in the Wilds”. December: “Hurry-Up Last Minute Sweater”. While we have mostly learned to accommodate traditional foods, and adapt them for the unforgiving Australian climate, we need to adapt our craft activities accordingly. We need to make sure our creative activities can be carried with us when we depart for days on the coast and shift from woollens to lacy cotton items, small toys and animals, and perhaps put our energies into new decorations to brighten up our surroundings.



Photos from our big day out:
 A group of friends had the opportunity last week to visit an award-winning Corriedale farm near Strathalbyn. The photos reflect the delight and good humour of the group who enjoyed going back to the source of materials, looking at the same scenery where the sheep spend their days, and then handling the wool clip that was on display. Needless to say, we all carried away our Christmas stash of wool to share with spinners across town and to plan new projects. Festive greetings to all and (as its considered bad luck to wish Happy New Year before the bells at midnight), here’s wishing you A Happy New Year when it comes!



CHOOK-A-LONG

Hønsestriik, or Hønsestriik, or 'chicken knitting', originated in Denmark in the 1970s. It is a distinctive type of stranded colourwork, with vibrant, often highly contrasting colours, combined with non-traditional patterns and symbols with political and cultural meaning. Hønsestriik was devised by Danish knitting designer Kirsten Hofstætter (1941-2007) and spread via her books, starting with 'Hønsestriik', first published in 1973. Hønsestriik developed as a protest against the capitalism of yarn producers who, at the time, required the yarn purchase with the pattern. But Hønsestriik also challenged the concept of following a pattern strictly from beginning to end, or the idea that everything (or everyone) can be fit into standard sized "boxes". The main concept behind Hønsestriik is therefore to think "out of the box" and find ways of creating individual knitting design usually with the materials and shapes of your own choice. Hofstætter's intention was to free knitters from reliance on mass-production and to inspire people, particularly women, to express themselves through making. It is a style of knitting at once feminist, anti-authoritarian and anti-capitalist, an early form of craft activism.

The technique may have found inspiration from fair isle patterns, but with the Hønsestriik patterns personalised to the maker and wearer. Icons are clearly identifiable every day objects, animals and people. It often included words, names and sentences. Colours are bright and contrasting.

We are going to run a Chicken knitting make-a-long (a chook-a-long) from now, December 2024 until the November 2025 guild meeting.

Everyone is welcome to join. Your creation must be inspired by Chicken Knitting; this can be as literal or esoteric as you like. We encourage knitting, crochet, weaving, tapestry weaving, braiding and felting or any other fibre arts you can think of. It must be something wearable.

We will have a WhatsApp group to share information and ideas and to inspire each other and share resources/updates. There is no obligation to join the group to be part of the chook-a-long but everyone is welcome. Contact Mandy or Enken to be added.

In November 2025 we will have the grand unveiling, with an exhibition and if possible, a fashion walk.



For more information

-Anna Bauer *Alterknit Rebellion*

Inspiration

-start with a basic pattern and adapt it to your ideas, such as Ann Budd's *Handy Book of Patterns*

[knitting chart](#)

-cross stitch patterns

-Andrea Rangel: *AlterKnit Stitch Dictionary*



EQUIPMENT LIBRARY

The Equipment Library is exactly what it sounds like: a library of fibre equipment available for all members to use while at the Guild. These items cannot be borrowed and will not leave the Guild. An update on how we're going: we have a space and have started our collection.

I would also like to thank all members who have made donations of handspun yarn, needles, fabric, patterns and project bags which we have been selling as kits in the Little Glory Gallery. The profits from these are going straight into the equipment fund. Thank you also to members who have donated equipment directly. It will be great, once it's up and running.

We are now ready for volunteers to act as 'librarians'. Equipment librarians will be responsible for loaning out equipment to members, ensuring details and that equipment is returned in the same condition that they are loaned. Please email hswgnewssa@gmail.com or speak to Phoebe or Barb at the meeting.

We hope to get everything up and running in early 2025.



You may have noticed the extra spinning wheels in the hall. All members are welcome to use these while at the Guild. This means that members will not have to bring spinning wheels to the Guild every time you want to spin. For those on bikes or public transport, and those who come after work or have difficulty getting their wheel in and out of the car, this hopefully means that you're able to come more often. Bring your own fibre and bobbin to use with one of these wheels (I bring everything in a ziplock bag as above, small enough to fit in your pocket!). Ashford bobbins are available for \$5 from the Equipment Room if you don't already have a collection.

The wheels are also for sale: \$130 for the Ashford Traditionals with 4 bobbins and a Lazy Kate. You will have noticed that there are other wheels for sale in the Guild Hall too, available through the Little Glory Gallery. Try before you buy!



DISTAFF DAY

Distaff day also known as Roc Day is the first day after the 12 Days of Christmas. Christmas celebrations lasted 12 days, and during this time very little actual work was done in favour of feast days, festivities and the Epiphany. Distaff day falls on January 7 and represents the first day back to regular daily duties, including spinning.

According to Robert Herrick, Distaff Day was a day for mischief and highjinks when it fell on the same day as 'Plough Day' (men had a few extra days off; they went back to work the first Monday after Epiphany). Men would try to distract the women from their work by stealing and burning flax and spindles and distaffs (or distaves), while women would often retaliate by soaking the men with water.

Records of Distaff Day started in the Late middle Ages, the 14th Century and continued until the Industrial Revolution when spinning moved from the domestic sphere into factories.

Some spinners and guilds have claimed Distaff Day as a modern spinning holiday, when spinners get together for spin-ins, demonstrations, and spin together events. Some individuals have specific traditions for the day: emptying bobbins, cleaning and waxing wheels, trying something new, or starting a challenge. One YouTuber keeps a bit of fluff from every project and spins it together for a commemorative skein (with a distaff of course). For me, I like to pull something special from the stash and use it. Those special fibres, blends or colours that are sometimes hoarded for 'one day'.

I hope that all of you have a tradition or decide to start one for Distaff Day, maybe without setting fire to any flax.

"St Distaff's Day or the Morrow After Twelfth Night."

Partly work and partly play
You must on St. Distaff's Day:
From the plough soon free your team;
Then come home and fother them;
If the maids a-spinning go,
Burn the flax and fire the tow.
Bring in pails of water then,
Let the maids bewash the men.
Give St. Distaff all the right;
Then bid Christmas sport good night,
And next morrow every one
To his own vocation.
- Robert Herrick



Further Reading

<https://jillianeve.com/distaff-day-fun-and-fire/>
<https://www.horse-round.com/post/what-does-st-distaffs-day-mean>
<https://spinoffmagazine.com/saint-distaffs-day-rocks/>
<http://www.thebookofdays.com/months/jan/7.htm>



INTERNATIONAL SCARF EXCHANGE 2025

The 33rd international scarf exchange has started. Fibre was due in on November 30 and the next step is logistics and organisation before the fun starts.

If you have entered please consider keeping us (the guild news) updated on how you're going. What fibre did you send in, what did you receive? How will you decide what to do with the fibre you're working with?

For those who aren't familiar with the scarf exchange and want to consider joining for next year the details are below.



The International Scarf Exchange is a campaign which aims to preserve the skills of spinning and weaving and related textile crafts. Our theme for 2024-2025 is "Affinities – inspired by an artist."

"In art terms, affinities are visual connections which may be deliberate or accidental. Taking inspiration from works of a favourite artist, explore aspects that most appeal to you, such as use of colour, composition, motifs, pattern or rhythm. By analysing, extracting, modifying, and reinterpreting selected elements, translate them into patterns, compositions, forms and decorative elements using your exchange fibre. The visual affinities – or connections – to the sources may be bold or subtle, a personal reflection of each artist's relationship with the work of the artist from whom you take inspiration."

How it works

Each crafter will send 150 - 200 gms of clean, carded or combed fibre to the event organiser – Handspinners and Weavers Guild of South Australia (HSWG SA) for 2024-2025. HSWG SA will receive your fibre and exchange it for another entrant's fibre, then post the exchanged fibre to you. Your new fibre package will include 150 - 200 gms of fibre ready for you to spin or felt and craft into an item. When you have completed your crafted item you will post it back to HSWG SA. All items will be displayed in the "International Scarf Exchange Exhibition" which will be held in the HSWG SA Guild Hall in mid June 2025. An item will be returned to you from the fibre that you sent in. Many friendships have been formed through this exchange and we hope to see more blossom in 2025.

It is very important that your submitted fibre is clean, carded or combed, and free from any contamination or strong odours, including mothballs or similar as this may trigger asthma. Please note: HSWG SA reserves the right to return any fibre packs to the sender if the fibre doesn't comply with the above conditions.

Your fibre can be of any type or colour. If you send white or natural fibre your partner may dye the fibre UNLESS you specify you would like it left in its natural state. Your fibre must be sent in a resealable plastic bag. Any fibre left over will be returned to you along with your item, after the exhibition. Entry fees cover administration and postage costs for all Australian entrants. International entrants, you will need to pay for the return postage of your crafted item. HSWG SA look forward to receiving your entry and hope you enjoy your challenge. Remember, if you receive an item that's not 'you', perhaps gift it to someone else.

Event Co-ordinators are Kirsten O and Ali G



GUILD GROUPS



Left; Pauline crocheted the very hungry caterpillar and its food for a very lucky one year old.



Right; Mandy with the Summer top she made with two colours, spun at the Tuesday group.



Left and below; Marina upcycled some nice fabric and made shoulder bags.



Below; Wendy O also finished weaving her plaited twill knee rug using her hands-spun alpaca in natural colours. Used in both the warp and weft



Felt Collective

Meet on the first Wednesday of the month from 10.30. Bring materials, equipment, lunch. Contact Kirsten kirsten.ohlahaber@internode.on.net

First Saturday Social

After the Guild meeting on the first Saturday for a chat and craft. All welcome; spinning, weaving, knitting, crocheting, felting, braiding or dyeing.

Spin to Make

Meet on the second Saturday of the month. 12-3.

Spinning Get Together

Group meets every Tuesday 9-1. Spinning skills are taught, beginners please arrive at 9.30.

Sun Felters

Meet on the third Sunday of the month from 9.30am. Basic skills required, bring your own materials and equipment. Contact Helen for more information 0428 459 672.

Weavers Anonymous

A problem solving group who meet at alternate Guild meetings or via Facebook.

Weaver Birds

Group meets every Wednesday 10.30-2.30. Bring your portable loom or other equipment or book a Guild floor loom.

Weavers Study Group

A working group at the Guild meeting in Feb and Aug to exchange samples.

Why Wednesday!

Meets every Wednesday 5-8.30. We come directly after work so bring dinner and have a chat before we get started. All crafts welcome, and we're happy to get people started spinning.



WORKSHOPS

Please email Sharn at hswgworkshopsa@gmail.com for more information or to register your interest. You can also speak to Sharn at the Workshop table at Guild meetings.

PROPOSED WORKSHOPS 2025

Some are tentative at present, dates and topics may change.

Register your interest to be emailed once details are confirmed

*Class has been confirmed

FEB 2025

*Sunday 9th Dye cotton and cellulose fibres with Mary Dodd

*Saturday 22nd Spinning the breeds with Andy Barrett

MARCH

*Saturday 15th Learn to spin luxury fibres with Andy Barrett

APRIL

*Sunday 6th Mosaic Magic (mosaic knitting) with 'Dear Pru'

MAY

*Sunday 4th Bread & Jam taster (hat featuring basic brioche and stranded knitting techniques) with 'Dear Pru'

JUNE

Saturday 28th Natural Dyeing with Andy Barrett

JULY

AUGUST

Saturday 16th Learn to spin silk with Andy Barrett

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 27th Learn to drop spindle with Andy Barrett



Dye Cotton and Cellulose Fibres

Saturday February 9th 2025

For anyone who did Mary's cold dye workshop last summer this is a 'can't miss' follow up. For those who missed Mary's last dyeing classes get in quick so that you don't miss this one.

Spin the Breeds Workshop

Saturday February 22nd 2025

9.30am-12.30pm

While there are plenty of locally produced fleeces available, how about spinning some socks from the only naturally black sheep in the world? Not soft enough for undies? Then what can you do with long wool?

This workshop is suitable for all levels of spinners and will introduce some of the less well known but easily available fibres and how to spin them for best results.

Mosaic Magic

Sunday 6th April

This workshop will be taught by Adelaide based teacher Pru Raymond.

Float free, fuss free colourwork: is that a thing? Let Pru Raymond teach you the ingenious colourwork technique invented in the 1960s by Barbara Walker: Mosaic Knitting. This class will also feature how to decrease and increase when working mosaic colourwork patterns.



DATES TO REMEMBER

| | |
|----------|---|
| December | <p>7 Guild Meeting</p> <p>10 Final Tuesday Spinners meeting before Christmas</p> <p>18 Final Why Wednesday! meeting before Christmas</p> <p>18 Last day for Little Glory Gallery before Christmas</p> |
| January | <p>8 First Why Wednesday! meeting after Christmas</p> <p>11 Picnic in the Park (in lieu of January Meeting)</p> <p>14 First Tuesday Spinners meeting after Christmas</p> <p>15 First day for Little Glory Gallery after Christmas</p> |
| February | <p>1 February Guild Meeting</p> <p>9 Dyeing Cotton Workshop</p> <p>22 Spinning the Breeds Workshop</p> |
| March | <p>1 March Guild meeting</p> <p>2 Fibre Feast; the Guild will have a stall</p> <p>15 Learn to Spin the Luxury Breeds Workshop</p> |
| April | <p>5 April Guild meeting</p> <p>6 Mosaic Magic Workshop</p> |
| May | <p>3 May Guild Meeting</p> <p>4 Bread and Jam Taster Workshop</p> |

Heat Policy

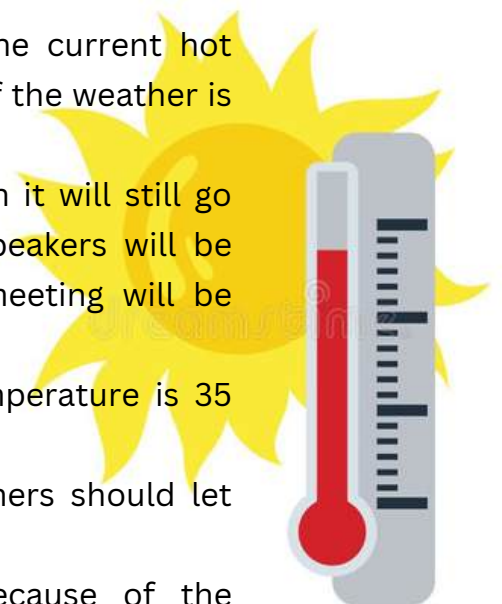
This summer is forecast to be hot, so a reminder that the current hot weather policy is that it is advised not to be in the building if the weather is over 40°C.

-If the weather is to be over 35°C for a Guild meeting then it will still go ahead but in a reduced form. Fleece sellers and guest speakers will be invited to reschedule, and the agenda of the business meeting will be compacted as much as possible.

-The Little Glory Gallery will be closed if the forecast temperature is 35 degrees or higher.

-Guild groups make their own decisions and group conveners should let members know their policy.

-Workshops will continue regardless of temperature because of the complications of contacting participants and tutors who may be coming from some distance





NOTICEBOARD

Weaving Classes with Bev Bills

Beginners to advanced 2, 4, 8, 16 shafts, inkle, rug and tapestry weaving.
Various yarns available, wool cotton, some linen and seine twine for tapestry weaving.
Classes at Studio B, 5 Whaddon Rd, Brooklyn Park, Mon 9.30-2.30, Sat 1-4.
Contact Bev on bbills@bigpond.net.au, 0415 616 900 or 8443 6102

Loom Sale

Some of the Guild looms are up for sale.

All reasonable offers considered. If you're interested or want more information or pictures contact Ali G at ali@alisongiles.com



Government
of South Australia

This Guild News was kindly printed by the Hon. Tom Koutsantonis MP, Member for West Torrens