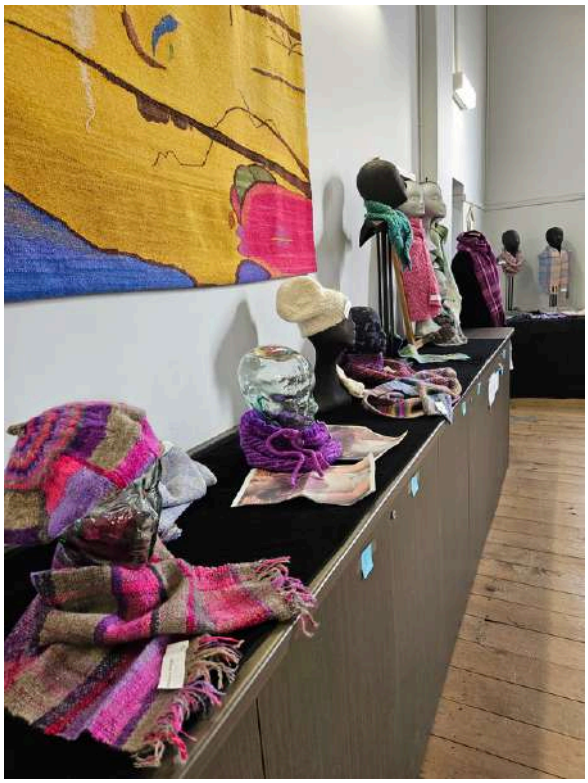
HSWGSA Guild News

ISSUE AUG-SEPT 2025



The entries for the 2025 International Scarf Exchange were on display (exclusive, for one day only!) at the July meeting. This year it was hosted by the HAWGSA and organised by Kirsten and Ali D-G. Please check the website if your are interested in joining in next time.
left: entries from our guild members, Far left bottom Ali G-D, left top: Lindy M, and left bottom Kirsten O-S

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members, the Committee apologises for the delay in sending out the Guild News and the lack of quorate meetings for July and August. Unforeseen circumstances have occurred, and we have found ourselves in breach of the Constitution. This means we have not put out the nomination forms at the prescribed time and members may potentially not be able to get their nominations in by the end of August. To remedy this, nominations will be accepted on the day of the Annual General Meeting. This has been agreed by the Returning Officer and myself.

I have a suspicion that our September meeting, we also will not be Quorate due to the Royal Adelaide Show. If anyone wishes to throw their hat in the ring for our Committee, the Gallery Committee or to volunteer for some of the many jobs required to run the organisation, please consider and come forward. You can speak to anyone on the Committee to see what is involved. We run on volunteers and the more the merrier to spread the load.

As you will recall from our SGM in June it was unanimously agreed to do away with the Early Bird element of our membership and therefore the renewal fees are $70 per member and $110 for Family membership. The renewals will commence in September either at the Guild meetings with cash or card or on our website. We look forward to welcoming you all back for another interesting year at the Guild.

Rowena W
HSWGSA President

Donations

A big thank you and appreciation to all of those who have made donations, this month. There was a generous donation to the Guild of a warping loom, inkle loom and carpet wool by Rita Koehler, a past member. Please see Monty if you are interested in purchasing.

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

It's that time of year again, nominations for the Guild committee are out! Please consider being part of the committee if you appreciate the Guild and want it to continue. It is only through the assistance of volunteers that we are able to continue the Guild. Below are the descriptions of the roles of Guild Committee members, There are four office bearers and 5 committee members for a total of 9 people.

If you are interested in being part of the committee please fill out the form on the next page and either place it in the pigeonhole of the returning officer or hand it to her directly at the September meeting. The returning officer is, of course Janet M. Committee members do need to have been paid Guild members for at least 12 months prior to standing.

Secondly we are also calling for expressions of interest for the Little Glory Gallery sub-committee, There are three office bearer positions (Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer) and 8 other positions which are again, all open to expressions of interest.
If you are interested in being part of the Little Glory Gallery sub-committee please fill out the form on page 5 and place it in the pigeonhole of the current sub-committee secretary or hand it to her directly, the secretary is Mignon M.

You can also email either of these forms to info@spinweavesa.org, in the subject line please add 'ATTN: Janet or Mignon.

The AGM is October 4.

The **President** chairs the General Meetings and the Committee Meetings. They keep the Common Seal safe, maintain the Key Register and oversee the smooth running of the Guild.

The **Vice President** supports the President. This might include chairing the General Meeting and the Committee Meeting in the President's absence.

The **Secretary** gives notice of meetings, ensures that Guild records are kept including policies, records of members and a register of minutes of meetings and of notices. They also check the mailbox, and answer emails.

The **Treasurer** is expected to ensure that all monies received are paid into a banking account. They also need to keep accurate records of receipts and payments, ensure financial budgets and statements are prepared, and present audited accounts.

As a **Committee Member** you will be one of five members. Your input is valuable to support and assist the Office Bearers, to uphold the Constitution of the Guild, make decisions, discuss issues and to help out when needed. One committee member also needs to be on the Little Glory Gallery Committee.

The Handspinners & Weavers Guild
of South Australia Inc.
Incorporated in South Australia ABN: 88 025 513 346

All correspondence to: PO Box 163, Torrensville Plaza, SA 5031
Guild Hall: 196 South Road, Mile End, S.A. 5031, phone (08) 8352 4843
Email: info@spinweavesa.org *Website: spinweavesa.org*

HANDSPINNERS AND WEAVERS GUILD OF SA, Inc
NOMINATION FORM
OFFICE BEARERS TO BE ELECTED AT THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Office Bearers for Election will be
President (3 years maximum term)
Vice President (3 years maximum term)
Treasurer (3 years maximum term)
Secretary (3 years maximum term)

We the undersigned nominate -..... (block letters)

For the position of - .....

Proposed by a Financial member - .....

Seconded by a Financial member - .....

I agree to act if elected - .....

Name ..... (block letters)

Signed .....

NOMINATION FORMS MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE SECRETARY OR RETURNING OFFICER NO LATER THAN
One calendar month before the AGM

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HANDSPINNERS AND WEAVERS GUILD OF SA, Inc
Expression of Interest for volunteering on the Gallery Sub-Committee

Gallery Committee
Chairperson
Secretary
Treasurer
And up to 8 committee members

I ..... (block letters) am interested in volunteering on the Gallery Sub-Committee.

I agree to act if selected - .....

Name ..... (block letters)

Signed .....

Please forward your expression of interest to the current Secretary of the Gallery Sub-Committee
The list of names of the Gallery Sub-Committee is to be submitted for approval to the first meeting of the Guild Committee following the Annual General Meeting.

LITTLE GLORY GALLERY

Despite the disgusting weather we are all challenging ourselves. This time of year is great for hibernation but there is too much happening at the Guild to stay at home. Along with a number of Wednesday night spinners, I've put my name down for the Tour de Fleece. It's great fun competing against yourself to finish off a range of projects. Many members have entered a range of categories in the Royal Adelaide Show and are also busy completing these items and hopefully walking off with a range of wonderful awards.

Three spinning wheels are keeping me busy and I hope to complete all challenges that I've set myself: my jacket is finished and in use; I'm halfway through spinning and plying all 40 sample yarns from Yarnchambers and I'll complete spinning, plying and dyeing of my FinnX lamb fleece.

The LGG is full of many items and we are all busy getting ready for the RA Show which becomes a focus for retail activities at this time of year. Rosters have been drawn up and filled and a plan of action devised to transport gallery contents to the Ram Shed at the show. This is a great opportunity to display and sell our offerings while potentially attracting new members to the guild.

The Show provides an ideal opportunity to promote the work of the Guild more widely in the community and invite potential new members and customers. The Gallery welcomes new volunteers to assist in the shop and maintain coverage of the roster. The gallery is now open for members on Tuesday morning and on Wednesday evenings (6-6.15).

-Glenda

UPCOMING MEETING

The next Guild Meeting will be this coming Saturday, September 6th. Doors will open at 9.30 for the kitchen, fibre sales, trading table, equipment room, library and fleece sales. T**he Little Glory Gallery will be not be open** due to the Royal Adelaide Show. The meeting will start at 11, please note that there will not be a speaker this month, it has been delayed. There will also **not be an afternoon crafting group**, as we will all be at the Show.

Month	Fleece Seller	Speaker
September	Bennett and Gregor	no Speaker
October -	Lucinvale Coated Spinning Fleeces	Skein Machine
November	Wonoka Station (New Seller)	
December	Radstock Romney (New Seller) and Judy Roberts Alpaca (New Seller)	Leslie Brewer-Romney Sheep

Bennett and Gregor are the fleece sellers for September, they gave an insightful speech in June about their farm and the current challenges facing farmers. In case you missed it, they have a particular focus on coloured sheep but also on local production and get all their tops and batts scoured and produced in Victoria.

I'm not receiving the Guild News Email, what should I do?

if it's not in your spam folder email info@spinweavesa.org with the subject 'not receiving emails' and address to the Membership officer. The Guild News email list comes from the membership list, so if you're not getting the emails there's a good chance that something is not right in the membership list.

I want to go along to a guild group but I'm not sure what to do

Come along! you are welcome to join any guild group that meets throughout the month. Some groups specialise in specific textile arts while some welcome all members. see the list at the end of this newsletter for more information. If you are worried about just 'turning up' don't be, there are email contacts on the group list or you can email info@spinweavesa.org.

I enjoy coming to Guild Saturdays but I don't know anyone, how do I start talking to people?

That's fantastic, one of the best features of the guild is meeting and speaking to other people who are just as passionate about fibre as we are. There is a 'Buddy Bench' in the Dining room, sit down here to make friends and influence people.

There is also an afternoon group after the Guild meeting, we spin weave, felt and fibre craft together, we're all friendly and it's a great way to meet more members. Make a cup of tea and pull up a chair. Note there won't be a group in September due to the show.

JUNE/JULY MEETING RECAP

The big news for the July meeting was that the roof has been finished, I know that she got (no less than three) rounds of applause on the day but thank you again to Fay for overseeing this, and coming in to the guild everyday for the duration.

Spotted at the Guild: Margaret and her Sheep jumper. This was made about 20years ago, with mohair from Margaret's own Angora goats. Look at the stitch definition!

It was announced that we were opening the doors on a Wednesday for Sala and everyone was invited to come along and show off their skills. Wednesday weavers and felters were joined by spinners for the event. Fay and Bev demonstrate on the left.

Felicity asked that we make a donation to the Farmer's relief auction being hosted by the Agricultural Society. 2025 has been a year of severe drought in South Australia and many farmers are doing it very tough. The membership voted to make a donation, and several individual members donated handspun handknitted items as well. I am very pleased to be able to let you know that these items made more than $1000 on the auction day. It is important to remember that our community goes beyond the guild walls, and that we are part of a larger whole.

In July Suzie Horne gave use a talk about her own fibre journey, from first coming across and then falling in love with Finn Sheep. One thing she mentioned that has stuck with me is the difference in rooed fleece and shorn fleece. Rooed fleece is fleece that comes off the sheep naturally, it can be plucked in spring. This fleece is 'sealed' at both ends unlike shorn shearing which results in a cut on one end. This difference changes the water absorbing characteristics of the wool. Below is an aran jumper spun from the fleece of her first ram.

ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW

It's that time of year again, the Royal show is upon us. We look forward to a week of agricultural celebration, Little Glory Gallery sales and corn dogs.

Little Glory Gallery
Thank you to the LGG sub-committee, they do an amazing job organising for the show every year, with special recognition to Deidre and how much she contributes.

Thank you to all of the members who have volunteered their time and energy to the show setting up, supervising and sales on the day.
If you are volunteering please contact Deidre (info@spinweavesa.org) to pick up your ticket.

When working the guild stall please arrive 10minutes before your shift starts so that everyone is ready for changeover.

Please also remember that it is a guild stall, if anyone shows interest please invite them to a meeting or to a group, everyone is welcome on Wednesday nights 5.30-8!

Good luck to everyone who entered the spinning/weaving/felting/kumihimo competition categories, it has been so much fun to discuss ideas and entries with people and it will be good to see everyone's final products. I would like to put some of the entries on display in the cabinet after the show, if you are happy to have your work displayed please let me know! (hswgnewssa@gmail.com). Results are not out yet but will be available here

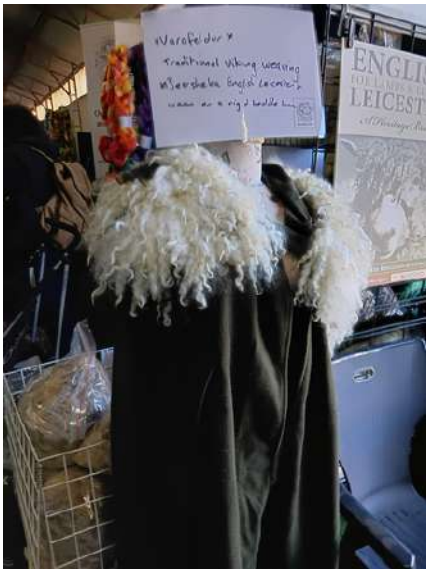
Arriving at the showgrounds, I was struck by the sheer scale of the event, initially it was a little overwhelming, but so exciting. At first, I didn't realise, but parking was inside the showgrounds, so it was a short trip to the first of many of the Woolcraft sheds. I have to say I have never seen a display of this size dedicated to fibre arts (and sheep). So many stunning displays of fibre and arts, from knitting, to weaving, hand dying and machine knitting, there was something for everyone.

It was fantastic to see so many independent retailers, and best of all a few of our home-grown vendors as well. There were so many new sellers to speak to and explore their wares so in the interest of 'research' ( ), I begun my exploration. I picked up different fibres from WoolnWire and Kathys Fibres, some pre-dyed Polwarth from Gotland Fibres (she had a set up like a pick and mix, fantastic), patterns from Veralovesknitting and stitch markers from Mavis Handmade. The goodies on offer were endless.

Many other guilds and groups were in attendance proudly showing their hand spun wools and woven items. The Newstead Spinners Group had a selection of hand spun on offer and I couldn't help but rifle through the hanks; some beautiful work was on offer. In the middle of the exhibition pavilion, the Bendigo Spinners and Weavers had offerings of more hand spun or woven goodies and even some turned wood shuttles.

On the main stage between fashion shows, the Windwheel Spinning Group presented a showcase of Windwheels, a wheel I hadn't seen before but found to be intriguing as it was much smaller than a traditional but also had an oscillating wheel creating both momentum and tension. Walking through the stands, I was presented with so much variety it became a sea of fibre related vendors. Ashford had a full display of their wheels, looms and accessories, and Petlyn had their combs and heddles on offer, both with special show prices/offers.

Hand made fashion was a huge part of the show's vibe, not just on the runway but everywhere you looked people proudly wore their handmade creations; I felt underdressed compared to the sea of creativity around me. I loved seeing everyone wearing their best scarves, shawls and jumpers and many more buying some there. It was inspiring and something we need to see more of.
One thing I wasn't expecting to see was historical recreations of Varafeldur, a traditional Viking woven cloak using a Rigid Heddle and locks of wool, or a homemade wheel constructed from a simple welded frame, a bike wheel and the flyer section; the people showcasing their work and talent with pride was wonderful to see.



My second day kicked off with a mission to buy wool for a pattern I bought the day before from VeraLovesKnitting as part of the Bendigo Project. I had my mind on a particular green tween I saw at GOR Wollen Mill, however in trying to find the store again I got distracted and found myself at Aveley Finn sheep instead. While talking to the owners I found out they had several people from Adelaide come visit, showing off their various knits made from wool purchased at Adelaide's Fibre Feast. How awesome is that?

Finally, I made it to the sheep stalls and boy was I happy that I made sure to see them. The mix of breeders and agricultural school displays was fantastic to see. Exploring the judging area, I paid close attention to the different wool types, textures and staple lengths, and of course, that unmistakable lanolin scent was throughout the judging bays. It was eye-opening to learn that some of the fleeces I thought were dirty or too greasy were actually award winners.

Walking around the stalls, I learned about a variety of sheep breeds which are now all on my list of fibres to try, Lincoln being the top of the list with its beautiful lustre and almost spiralled structure. Of course, Marino was heavily represented but the feature breed for this year was White Suffolk; Other breeds being shown were Charollias, Southdown, Valais Blacknose, Dorpers, Australian Whites and Cheviots from France. Then I met a new friend, Huxley, the Angora goat, he just wanted head scratches and love, I really wanted to take him home, but he looked like a troublemaker and I'm not sure he would have fit in my small car.

I wrapped up the second day with a trip back through the woolcraft sheds, you know, in case I missed something … for the 'research', and I'm glad I did a second pass while it was less crowded as it gave me opportunity so speak to the various owners and give a few things a try. At Elizabeth Calnan Textiles/Looms & Spinning Wheels, I was able to try one of the small Flex looms. I'm not a weaver myself but getting to play with the loom has piqued my interest a little; they are re-sellers of wheels, looms and accessories from Lojan, a brand focussing on sustainability in their production.

Stopping by the exhibit pavilion again, the Newstead Spinners had presented a woven, felted and knitted diorama to the show theme of 'Where the road takes us' and were highly commended in the team category. Possibly my favourite little game though was at Half Baked Hand Dyed who had a fun activity offering people the chance to design a self-striping sock yarn by placing pegs on cards with various colour combinations and giving it a name. Who could resist that? My contribution was a purple, green, yellow and grey combination I named Cheerful Macaron.

In all, there was so much to see and it's definitely a good idea to give yourself two days there if you can; Friday was my first day and it was packed, later I found out Fridays are traditionally the busiest day of the show so keep this in mind if you want a slower pace. Due to the volume of people, I couldn't get near some stalls at first and it took me a good few hours to see all 7 woolcraft sheds. I hadn't even been able to find the sheep stalls or sheering shed on the first day. Perhaps the Sunday was slower? But if you're planning the trip, keep in mind it's a big day. I will go again myself one day as it was a wonderful experience, but maybe I will give my bank account time to recover

Outside of the event, it was a great excuse to see Bendigo again as I hadn't been there for a while. The city itself is beautiful and full of history. I was able to drop by Bendigo Woolen Mills (just a heads up, their knitting needles are much cheaper than everywhere else), Bendigo Pottery, the art gallery and have a lovely wander around the city gardens. It's become a much bigger city than I remember but still has that country feel to it. Also, they have actual pints in Victoria.

-Toyah P

NATURAL DYEING

Jill joined the Guild in 1976 and has been experimenting with natural dyes ever since. She has been generous enough to share her knowledge with us in this regular column.

I started this time with known subjects. Walnut skins – that is the outside husk that surrounds the nut proper. It starts out green and dries to black on the nut. I used 6 nuts, soaked for a couple of days. It's substantive, so the dark skein is what you see is what you get – strength of dye varies depending on how much material is used. The other skein I mordanted and put into the semi-exhausted dyebath. In a stronger concentration the colour becomes more of a cinnamon shade.

The lower skein is cotton mordanted with Alum/cream of tartar and tannin – being creative, I used weak green tea (tea bag) then the skein went into a bath of brown onion skins, well known for producing varied shades of orange/yellow on protein fibres. As can be seen, a good result, but a little variegated because there was little room for the skein to move about in the jar with 15 g of dried skins. They just don't compact well!

Next I tried cotton mordanted with Alum/cream of tartar and tannin – this time using 1 cup of very weak teabag tea in 2 litres of water – I did several skeins at once. First the fabric went into the madder – the tannin part is the darker result – sorry, don't do ironing 😉 then the skein went into the bath, so concentration of madder was getting weaker. Encouraging result. . .

What might happen if I tried Eucalyptus cinerea? Here's the result – top row. Wool skein with alum/cream of tartar mordant, and a cotton skein mordanted as above. What a difference! I used wool ties on the cotton skein just to see what happened.

The second row is more wool skeins dyed with madder. L-R Alum/CoT + copper (my trusty 50c piece) Then Alum/CoT + teabag tannin and then the Turkey Red experiment, which is still not quite right.

Bottom line more skeins of cotton all mordanted with Alum/CoT and teabag tannin, madder dyebath. L to R plus Iron; plus Calcium hydroxide (sub. For hard water) and the last one the Turkey red experiment – once again still not quite right.

For the Turkey Red (reputedly difficult, deservedly so).I followed a simple recipe I found online – where else?
https://shepherdtextiles.com/dyeing-with-madder-root
Soaked and chopped madder root, add vinegar to ph5 then heated to about 70°C twice, overnight cool and soak between heatings. Then added warm water and some of the soaking liquid from calcium hydroxide (aka pickling lime). First try produced what I think was a big exothermic reaction when the calcium was added which cracked the bottom of my biggest jar and flooded the laundry, the bench and me. Started over, using my smaller saucepan, added the pre-mordanted Alum/CoT plus tannin skeins and got the above results.
Next step – try again, until I get it right.

-Jill B

Beginning Dyeing

I wasn't going to add this to the News, but there's space so I might as well!
I've heard numerous people who have never dyed before express an interest in trying (hooray, dyeing opens up a world of possibilities) but they are not confident to start alone. So, I started thinking about where I would recommend starting. The joy of dyeing, as far as I'm concerned, is in playing. In experimenting with colour, in having an idea of what you want but being open to possibilities. I am not Jill, I tend to use acid dyes so I'm going to recommend starting with acid dyes and overdyeing.

Start with a skein of yarn in colour you don't love, if you can't find anything in your stash try the op shop. The only thing to be careful of is the fibre, protein fibres (animal fibres) and plant fibres require different dyes (the guild sells both types). Then, keeping colour theory in mind choose a colour to dye over the top. By this I mean, if your base yarn is yellow will you add blue to make a shade of green or pink/red to make coral or orange? This method can give the most amazing results, and it inherently invites experimentation because the stakes aren't high. The colour is already on the 'meh' pile, it's hardly going to get worse, but if it does, overdye again!
You can use a microwave (I would strongly recommend a seperate, dyeing microwave), I have a stainless steel soup pot from the op shop that has performed gallantly for years. The Guild also has a dye room which can be used.
Left is my most recent morning of fun. All of these skeins started out the front/bottom blue/grey colour, and I just had fun throwing different shades on top. I added (bottom to top) Gaywool Cornflower, Landscape Kingfisher, a mix of Gaywool Cornflower and Daisy, Gaywool Daisy, Landscape Raspberry and top is Landscape Grevillea.
I hope you feel empowered to have some fun playing with colours!

-Phoebe

VALE MARGIT POSCHARNIK

It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of Margit. She joined the Guild in 2010 and received the Craftsmanship award in 2022. Vale Margit.

Our much loved Guild member who was a spinner, knitter and weaver Margit Poscharnik has passed away, Her daughter notified me on Wednesday 16th of July. Margit had been unwell for some time. She was a Little Glory Gallery volunteer. I got to know Margit better as we did weaving together with Bev Bills. She was a generous, lovely, kind person with her friendship and skill sharing. We had long conversations on the phone and our text messages were at times long and many. We talked about lots of other things too. I have giant jars she gave me so I could do my solar dyeing in, memories come in all shapes,sizes and situations.

Her handspun and knitted socks didn't last long on the shelves, and her jumpers were beautifully spun and knitted. Margit was an extremely good weaver and tried all sorts of weaving.

Margit will be missed very much.

Mary Dodd

The Spinner
by Mary Ainge De Vere

The spinner twisted her slender thread
As she sat and spun:
"The earth and the heavens are mine," she said,
"And the moon and sun;
Into my web the sunlight goes,
And the breath of May,
And the crimson life of the new-blown rose
That was born to-day."

The spinner sang in the hush of noon
And her song was low:
"Ah, morning, you pass away too soon,
You are swift to go.
My heart o'erflows like a brimming cup
With its hopes and fears.
Love, come and drink the sweetness up
Ere it turn to tears."

The spinner looked at the falling sun:
"Is it time to rest?
My hands are weary,--my work is done,
I have wrought my best;
I have spun and woven with patient eyes
And with fingers fleet.
Lo! where the toil of a lifetime lies
In a winding-sheet!"

SPIN IN PUBLIC DAY

Spin in Public Day is celebrated by spinners and spinning guilds around the world. Last year our guild celebrated by holding a fantastic (If I do say so myself!) open day where we invited the public to come into our guild and try. This year will be different, not an Open Day as such but a Spinning Day.
We will have Spinning, spinning games and competitions, and a celebration of all things spinning, we deserve it!

It is always held on the third Saturday of September, which falls on 20/9 this year. So mark the date in your calendar and come down for a day of spinning fun.

From the official Facebook page
"Worldwide Spin in Public Day was started by a bunch of like-minded spinners to celebrate an art that they all love - the art of spinning fibers into yarn. This site's main purpose is to help organize spinning in public events on the third weekend of September every year. This educates the public about our love of spinning, opens minds and hearts to what we love and allows us to meet new people, get together, and just have a really fun day!
2009 was the first year for Worldwide Spin in Public (WWSIP) Day and we hope to continue to promote many more. As time goes on, this site will have more features for you to use.
Enjoy Worldwide Spin in Public Day and feel free to send us your suggestions at spininpublicday@gmail.com."

Saturday September 20
11.30 Bring a plate for a shared lunch
12-3 Let the Spinning begin!

TOUR DE FLEECE RECAP

Tour de Fleece was held over July (5/7/25-3/8/25) and those athletes involved spun, knitted and wove for life, liberty and glory! Just joking, there was no ultimate winner as the final race was with ourselves, which was good for those of us whose riders limped to the finish lines, or found alternate routes. We all created our own goals but checked in regularly and were on hand with encouragement for each other. It was great to see our pile of yarn grow as the month went on.

Far left and left- the race is on! below -Some of the The tour de fleece winners. clockwise Brooke's yarn, Robyn's Jumper, Mary's amazing bits and pieces scarves, Lea's textured jumper and the best type of washing, new yarn!

ALICE SPRINGS BEANIE FESTIVAL 2025

We left Adelaide in inclement weather but as the kilometres flew by the change steadily increased. By Sunday morning 14 June the sun was shining and we ventured into Wadlata Outback Centre for lunch It was busy and they were a person down on the waiting staff, but cheerful and helpful. Glendambo was our next night stop followed by Cadney Park and Desert Oaks Roadside stop. Being in our motor home we had facilities on board. We arrived in Alice Springs on Wednesday 18th June. I stopped by Witchetys to register while Christopher booked into the caravan park across the road.

6811 beanies were sent in and 6276 for the staggering sum of $258,146. This was the first time that over a quarter of a million dollars of beanies have been sold at Beaniefest.

There were five workshops held for the indigenous beanie makers in Ali Xurung, Santa Teresa, Ampatawitja, Yuelumu, Fregon and Tithakala Eight artists from these communities travelled to the Festival to run their own workshops, teaching visitors how to needlefelt their own beanies.

Workshops were also held in some local schools, Ross Park, Larapinta and Gillen Primary Schools. Those kids had fun and their beanies were all in the exhibition.

2026 will be the final and last Beanie Festival in this format The Committee and Jo Nixon have come to the end of their time with the Festival. Dates for next year June 19 to 22 June, 2026. Why not put the Beanie Festival on your bucket list for 2026 and be there for a raging time!

Shirley Jones
Beanie Hero

CHOOK-A-LONG REMINDER

Hönsestrik, or Hønsestrik, 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. Hønsestrik was devised by Danish knitting designer Kirsten Hofstätter (1941-2007) and spread via her books, starting with 'Hønsestrik', first published in 1973. Hønsestrik developed as a protest against the capitalism of yarn producers who, at the time, required the yarn purchase with the pattern. But Hønsestrik 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 Hønsestrik 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. Hofstätter'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 Hønsestrik 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 running 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*

TERIC

Felicity brought the hazards of using Teric to clean fleece to our attention. Teric can be used to clean raw fleece and is known to be extremely effective because of its emulsifying, wetting and dispersing properties

However, it is rated Category 1 for eye damage, and the MSDS says to use eye protection -goggles, but it also says that you should wear chemical-resistant gloves to handle it, dishwashing gloves do not offer enough protection.

It is also rated Category 2 for aquatic hazard for both short term and long term. This means that in any form (i.e. diluted) it is not to be drained into the sink/ toilet or put into soil as it will contaminate ground water.
The commercial sewage systems in place cannot clear this surfactant and it will damage our water environments.

Please consider your use of all other detergents, especially those that use phosphates, SLS and SDS. (SLS and SDS are banned for use in Europe).

Teric and other toxic chemicals can be left at Disposal sites for free.
Campbelltown
Campbelltown Council Works Depot
6 Newton Road, Campbelltown
Opening hours: Monday - Friday 8am - 3pm
North Plympton
Adelaide Waste and Recycling Centre
181 Morphett Road, North Plympton
Opening hours: Monday - Friday 7am - 4pm, Saturday 8am - 3pm, Sunday 10am - 3pm
Edinburgh North
Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority - Recovery Centre
Gate 3, Bellchambers Road, Edinburgh North
Opening hours: Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm, Weekends 9am - 3pm
Heathfield
Heathfield Resource Recovery Centre
32 Scott Creek Road, Healthfield
Opening hours: Monday - Friday 7.30am - 4pm, Weekends 9am - 4pm

NATURAL DYEING WORKSHOP

In which Marg gives her review of a recent Natural Dyeing workshop.

The day was divided into two sections, each with four big pots of plant material simmering away. These ranged from common household materials such as red onion skins and eucalyptus cinerea to exotic items such as yerba mate and betel nut. It seems Andy will give everything a go, often sourcing materials from Indian and Asian groceries. The fibres were divided into five sets for each dyeing pot. These were either no modifier or a modifier that was alkaline, acid, copper or iron.
It was an incredibly interesting and productive day! We each received two colour charts showing the 40 different colours we produced.
Andy is so knowledgeable and a great experimenter. His blog, hedgerowweaver.com is fascinating.

GUILD GROUPS

top: John giving a Spindle tutorial on Wednesday night. middle: the girls on with their tapestry weaving after completing a Tapestry Weaving workshop earlier in the month, and below Barb with her first completed tapestry

Felt Collective
Meet on the first Wednesday of the month from 10.30. Bring materials, equipment, lunch. Contact Kirsten kohlhabersurikow@gmail.com

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. PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING IN SEPTEMBER DUE OT THE SHOW

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 5.30-8. 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.

PROPOSED WORKSHOPS 2025

Good news, new workshop Announcements!!
To make enquiries or to book email: hswgworkshopsa@gmail.com or speak to Sharn in person at the Workshops desk at the monthly guild meeting. Please note that Sharn will not be at the September meeting.

Little Looms- Weaving Beyond Plain Weave

With Ali Giles-Damjanovski

Handspinners and Weavers Guild SA

A program of 3 half day workshops

Sunday 5th October
Sunday 26th October
Sunday 30th November
9:30am– 12:30pm

This series of three half day classes gives those weavers who have small looms a chance to move past weaving plain weave scarves. If you have a rigid heddle loom, knitters loom, Katie loom, Samplit loom, or any other small loom that gives a plain weave cloth- **then these workshops are for you.**

Learn to weave Boutonne and Brooks Bouquet
Leno and Danish Medallions Spanish Lace and Soumak

Fee members $95
affiliate $110
non-members $155

Enrolment is for all 3 workshops and includes $5 for printed notes. Online payment only as I will be overseas

Tuesday October 21st 11am-2 pm

Workshop tutor: Marina Morach

This workshop is beginner friendly
No previous experience is required!
Learn a simple, inexpensive weaving technique using adapted chopsticks to create strips of fabric that can be joined to create many items eg bags, mats, runners.

Learn to Weave with Chopsticks ????

DATES TO REMEMBER

August	**30** Adelaide Royal Show starts
September	**6** September Guild Meeting 6 Sheep to Shawl Competition **7** Adelaide Royal Show finishes **20** Worldwide Spin in Public Day
October	**4** October Guild Meeting AGM **5** Little Loom Workshop 1 **21** Learn to Weave with Chopsticks **25** Little Loom Workshop 2
November	**1** November Guild Meeting **18** Needle Felt a Gnome Coffee and Cake **30** Little Loom Workshop 3
December	**6** December Guild Meeting

Coffee and Cake Demo
Needle Felting : a Christmas Gnome

Tuesday 18th November 2025
10:30am-11:30am

With Louise Davies - *Tangletwine Fibre*

Registration closes November 1st 2025

Interested in finding out what is involved in needle felting ?
Enjoy a cup of coffee/tea and cake as Louise demonstrates how to needle felt a Gnome (just in time to make a few for Christmas).
She will show you how, with a multi-needled tool, dense shapes can be created with core wool and then decoration applied using single needles for fine detail.
This is a dry felting technique. Have a go
Felting tools and supplies will be available to try and for purchase.
Learn more about Louise & Tangletwine Fibre at tangletwinefibre.com

To Book : Cost $5.00

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

top left: woven SALA display
top: hats and sock handspun by Glenda and macine knitted, jacket by Marina.
Left: Carolyn's finished jumper for her daughter, front is what she does in Adelaide and back is what she does in Arnhem Land.

Government of South Australia

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