

HANDWEAVERS SPINNERS AND DYERS GUILD OF TASMANIA INC.
PRESIDENT'S PRECIS FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017

Two for one this time with the President's Preci. Do I say often enough how much I do really appreciate Convenors passing on this information to your group members? It's great that you do, and thank you.

Update from Island Yarns: With Spring on the way so is the Tasmanian Craft Fair at Deloraine. As you all know, we have a whole venue to use and the need to fill it. With **only six or so weeks** to go before the event, it is time to get serious about creating! Tags for your items will be sent out to your group leaders around the end of August - with extra going to Viv Crawford, Cathy Littlejohn and Dean Rivett in case more are needed. Some will also be taken to Bicheno this weekend.

Collection points for goods to be sold are with Doris Banks 03 62231860, Cathy Littlejohn 63271957, and Dean Rivett 64252131. Or, goods can be delivered directly to Annette on the 7th October. Entry forms and conditions are on the website and have been sent to each groups' emails.

Contact: Allison Smith 0405494427 and Ineka Smith 63973640

Meantime, from the Committee: A thank you to all who contributed to the delightful 46th Birthday party at the Guild Headquarters in August. Doris made some beautiful orchid buttonholes for Life Members, Margot and Jutta contributed a delicious cake that could be eaten by just about everyone (and was, very yummy), and our star attraction, Sylvia Parr, gave the most interesting talk on her involvement with the Guild. She may not have thought what she has done as all that important, yet her evolution into fibre production at all levels – craft and professional – and her designs and work for show and tell were a revelation and delighted those present to hear it. Thank you again to Don and Di for organising the projector and screen so we could all enjoy a slide presentation at the same time as a talk.

➤ *A reminder from our indefatigable Treasurer, Ken Wagstaff, that if you have people who are a part of your Group, they need to be paid up members in order to be covered by the Guild's public liability. Can Group Convenors please convey a request to all members to check if they have paid up? Subs are usually due each January with the AGM in March but you need to pay to be covered by Guild insurance so don't wait until then if your membership has lapsed.*

Library: Anne has subscribed to the Australian Yarn Magazine and renewed Felt magazine. New books - two copies of "The Handweavers Pattern Directory" by Anne Dixon, and "The Weavers Idea Book: creative cloth on a rigid heddle loom". In the latest Spin Off magazine there is an advert for a book published by Interweave titled "Easy weaving with little looms and a copy will be purchased. "Cast on/Bind off" is also on order – all you ever wanted to know about getting a start and finish that enhances all the hard work in between.

Equipment – Do any Guild members have a fibre picker for sale? Contact Di McPherson if you have any information so she can pass it on.

Yarn Store – New tops in shades of Azalea, Chartreuse (think lime with a zesty "pop") and a marvellous multi-grey, orange, white, lime, salmon gum – you might think that won't work but it really does! As well Merino/15% silk tops in mid/dark blue blend shade 17/20, a wonderful blue-based rainbow shade 17/18, a light rainbow blend shade 17/21, as well as in

Merino a “mid-kelly” green called “Clover”. Black is back in stock with a big range of 2-3 ply Bendigo for the weavers.

Island Yarns – Tara sends her thanks to the many contributors to the Spring Edition. Since beginning as editor there’s been a noticeable increased offerings from right across the State with a diversity of voices in each edition. Tara would like some feedback:

Is the font too small? Is too much jammed onto a page? What would make it better? What do you like? etc.

Sometimes Guild Events occur and she doesn’t receive photos or words. It would be a shame not to retain a record all the Guild goings-on given the diversity of activities we get up to. So if you have an Open Day or workshop or do a display, could people please allocate a person to be responsible for sending something in for IY?

Exhibition 2018 – **So far, there has been no response from anyone in the South!** There has been no response to requests for ideas or indeed for a leader to form a group and develop an exhibit. Is this what we really want? To hide our lights under a bushel? Please don’t think the Committee will do everything in the absence of others as they are already committing significant volunteer time to keeping the Guild working well.

Archiving – Don has presented the first Volume of bound Minutes of the General Meeting Minutes, beautifully done and a well presented permanent record. Well done! We do note however that the Minutes prior to 1985 are missing and are putting out now a call to Guild members to have a fossick around in your paper and see if anyone can find any. The work of archiving continues on and we thank Don for his diligence and the feedback of the Weaving Design Group in reviewing photos to identify the people in them is really appreciated.

Royal Hobart Show In October – It’s all beginning to look very exciting with Maree developing up the show display. We will have Guest Speakers, and some really different and themed demonstrations from weavers, spinners, dyers and felters. Maree has done a marvellous job bringing it all together and has a floor plan ready. There will be a wool fibre display and interactive activities for Show visitors.

We’re seeking your help with volunteering some time. A roster will be pinned to the Notice Board at Guild Rooms, Battery Point and you can contact Maree on 0418 399804 or on mareecowen@bigpond.com

- Volunteers for setting up on Friday 20th to Monday 23rd October, 2017. A few hours helping set up, moving items from the Guild to the Showgrounds, gophering when we find we’ve forgotten something, some energy and ideas to assist in the layout and setting up.
- Volunteers for Wednesday 25th to Saturday 28th October, 2017. Ready and willing to demonstrate skills and to engage with people, and help keep an eye on exhibits to deter little sticky fingers.

50th Birthday – We’re getting together in November so keep those good ideas coming.

And now, the news....

SUMMER DAY AT ROSS 20 JANUARY 2018 - THEME

“LEFT OVERS”

Everyone has them. Those half balls of yarn, thrums from the end of weaving, bits of felt from a project and so on. We're not talking about recycling here, just using up those odds and ends that we keep 'just in case' or just throw into a plastic bag or the cupboard. They can also be cones of yar, fleece dyed etc, bought for one project but with a surplus when that project is completed. (or someone else's left overs!!!)

Now is the time to resurrect your discard stash and make something to bring to Ross Summer Day. Items need to have some elements of leftovers – 10% or more and we're aiming to see if someone can achieve something with 100% left overs.

Back Strap workshops with Laverne Waddington from Bolivia

Eight people from the north and ten from the south participated in two days each to learn how to use a Backstrap loom to make bands (in the first instance). We were all grateful that we could sit on chairs to do this and not on the floor!

Weaving on a backstrap warp was a challenge for many of us, but a rewarding experience, as we learnt to manipulate the warps provided by Laverne to create patterns following the drafts she provided. Guidance was structured from simple to complex and we were all well supported. We learnt how to make our own heddles, how to wind warps ourselves and how to weave using a backstrap loom.

Overall we all had a great time and the support provided by Laverne was amazing and much appreciated by all. A workshop that is thoroughly recommended to others.

Photos will be forthcoming as we complete the bands we started in the workshops and will be sent to the Blog on the Guild Website.

Snow on the Ground!

And with snow on the ground can I say it's not too early to plan for the Guild Headquarter's Christmas Party?

14 December, Guild Headquarters at St George's Church, Battery Point. Parking will be reserved upon request for our more elderly and frail members. The usual Santa Sack (value of items no more than \$5-10), raffle and door prizes, bring a plate and bring your wheel/needles/spindles/looms etc and a special Show and Tell. Dare I suggest we theme it for Christmas?

So that's all the news.

Happy fibre-working from all of us at the Committee,

Eva

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