

Handweavers Spinners and Dyers Guild of Tasmania Inc

President's Precis April 2019

Guild phone number: 0418 48 58 68

Guild Closure Thursday 25th April - ANZAC Day

The Yarn Store, Library and Group will be closed on Thursday 25th April - ANZAC Day

State Meeting: Remembering and recording our history.

A proposal to remember and record the Guild's history was heard at the recent State Meeting. The original idea was to complete it as a 50th Anniversary Project. My thanks to Jillian for summarising this so succinctly. There is a role and a space for all current groups to contribute – when the time comes I look forward to your input.

With the approach of the 50th anniversary of the Handweavers, Spinners and Dyers Guild of Tasmania, concern has been raised that there is a need to recognize and capture some of the stories and experiences that have helped to make the Guild what it is today. If we don't make the effort now, as members pass away, a lot of this valuable history may be lost forever.

We need to consider how this may be achieved. We are looking for ways to capture this experience and need the help of all our members, past and present. This is more than just providing an over view of the history such as that recorded in the Textile Journeys publication. We want to develop an archive of stories, photographs (appropriately labeled and people identified), events, learning, projects, textiles produced, achievements and so on.

It is important to recognise that the HWSD Guild is not just comprised of groups but of individual members. For some members, Island Yarns (and maybe the website) can be their only form of communication. We need to capture some of the history from this perspective as well as from groups and branches.

Ways we can help this project move forward, include starting conversations and discussions with others, members and non-members alike, and starting to write down, video/digitally record the experiences and share with others. Dig out old photos. This way we can start to collate what may only be snippets, but can become part of our history on which others may expand or build.

Oatlands Heritage & Bullock Festival 2019 – 10 & 11 August

Guild members are invited and encouraged to participate in this year's event. If you think you'll be going please let Karen know ASAP because the organising committee needs to know numbers and the skills being demonstrated for their planning.

Karen Mathieson 0411 894 293 karenmathieson@me.com

Cascades Female Factory Open Day (South Hobart) 12 May 9.30am to 4.00pm

We have been asked to demonstrate at this event again (NB Mothers' Day). It would be wonderful if a number of Southern Guild Groups could be represented. It's a very special place for all Tasmanians not just those who have female convicts in their ancestry. Bring wheel, chair, thermos and refreshments, any completed spun items for display, and RUG UP WELL, it is an outdoor (upstairs) and undercover event in upper South Hobart. Contact Eva Ruzicka 0407391317 eva@ruzicka.id.au to indicate if attending because if the event is cancelled due to poor weather (as happened last year), then we can let you know.

Council of the Ageing Tasmania (COTA) is offering individual assistance to people over 50 to help them get more value out of their digital equipment. Either bring along to the COTA Headquarters in Hobart or, if you live in Wynyard or Dover or places between, give COTA a call. If you can organise five individuals to get together, they can likely get a volunteer to go to you and run a “pop up” IT Help stall in your area. The sessions are totally personalised and deal with your particular questions. Contact COTA on admin@cotatas.org.au or phone (03) 6231 3265.

Island Yarns

Eva would very much like to feature stories from our groups. If you can drop her a note via email (see above) or even the Guild's PO Box we'd all like to know what you've been up to. Was there something really special shown during Show and Tell? Did you participate in a local event? What have you been celebrating? Stories don't have to be wordy – short and sweet is fine.

Bicheno 2019

The last Island Yarns contained the information and booking forms for Bicheno. There have been some questions asked about the price rise and cut off dates. I have summarised the situation as clearly as I can.

- In the past the Guild has been given access to the Conference Room free of charge.
- Last year there was a change of ownership of the Motel and the suggestion that the Conference Room might be converted into Backpacker accommodation. The management team at the Motel convinced the new owners that they should retain the conference facility. However, the Conference Room must now "pay its way". Consequently, we must now pay for hire of the room on top of our accommodation and meals.
- Up to this point live-in attendees only paid for accommodation and meals. Day visitors were charged a small daily fee (\$10) to cover the incidentals that inevitably arise.
- The decision to spread the new charge across all attendees has been approved by the committee.
- Consequently all attendees are being charged \$19 per day to cover the cost of hiring the Conference Room. For Day Visitors this equals \$19 + \$6 = \$25 per day. (We reduced the incidentals from \$10 down to \$6).
- Everyone pays their attendance costs - including the Yarn Store Officer, the organisers, and those who share their skills.
- Two days is made up of:
 1. Saturday
 2. Friday afternoon + Sunday morning
- A cut-off date for booking (28th August) was chosen to give organisers a degree of certainty when finalising plans during the last two weeks before the event.
- The limit on numbers is a safety issue. The conference room is advertised as holding 135 people. As a rule of thumb we halved that to account for the equipment we all bring into the hall.
- The next stage of planning will be the Workshops and, as in the past, Groups will be asked to participate.

As you can see *the future of this venue is in doubt* – we are very dependent on the business choices of the owners and management. If you know of alternate facilities the committee would be very grateful if you'd let us know.

My best wishes to you all,

Margaret Miller

Phone: (leave a message) 0417 259 399

Email: president@hwsdguilddtasmania.org