



Presidents Report ...

We are well into the year, but it is never too late to say a thank you or two.

Firstly thank you to our outgoing President and Secretary, Kylie and Sue for the work they put in over the last two years. Kylie is now going to oversee the Weaving group that meets every first Thursday and hopes to find more time to weave for herself. In the absence of a secretary Sue has kindly volunteered to forward emails, thus keeping everyone in touch with what is happening. Sue will also remain the contact person for the craft day at Mirambeena held at the end of the year.

Thank you to members who accepted nominations to continue in the roles they have held for a few years now, and to those who have stepped up to accept new roles.

We have enjoyed a few fun and informative organized workshops so far this year and a few impromptu sessions of sharing tricks and skills with each other, all very worthwhile.

Thanks to all who contribute in big, little, large and small ways with time, knowledge, morning teas and companionship to make our guild so good.

Heather.

Winter 2018

Those of us who stayed to brave the cold of our southern winters still gathered on our regular Wednesdays. A lot of socks were knitted, cups of hot tea, coffee and yummy treats consumed, yarn spun and stories told.

We were visited by a young lady from the US on a quest to "Backpack with a Spinning Wheel". Angela regaled us with the stories of her travels, the people she'd worked with and others she'd met on her journey. Read her story on Page 3.

Our scheduled workshops continued through the colder months, and since Julie's Pin Loom workshop there have been little woven squares of all sizes and patterns appearing on the tables each Wednesday.

Bendigo's Australian Sheep and Wool Show has come and gone with quite a few tales to be told by a number of members ...

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The Bendigo Australian Sheep and Wool Show - July 2018

Bendigo would have to be about the biggest event on the calendar for the sheep and wool sector. For us fibre aficionados it's a full on festival of wonderful fleece products, from raw fleeces to roving and yarn to finished creations. Halls and huge tents full of stalls with fibre wall to wall and the best collection of manufacturers representatives all in the one place.

The weather this year was better than last, and the crowds seemed to appreciate that. Our member Julie was there with Joe and their trade stand for Petlyn Products. Julie said the Friday crowds were fantastic, way better than last year. Saturday and Sunday were progressively quieter but she still had difficulty getting away from their stall to check anything out.

Our Jane was working at the Show in the capacity of Steward in the Woolcraft Halls. See Jane's report on Page 7.

Kathy had two entries in the Woolcraft section and won 1st place with each in their respective categories.

Firsts@Bendigo

Firstly as Newsletter Editor I apologise for the delay in producing this Newsletter. Part of the cause lies here, with Bendigo entries requiring as much spare time as I could find.

Most regular members are familiar with my needle felted budgies - well here they are finished and in flight!

The felted portrait however is one I've been working on quietly in the background, dyeing fleece since our Dyeing Day. In June of 2017 we had to put down one of our English Leicester ewes, "Roman", who had given up her fight with cancer, and I promised her I'd make something special with her last fleece. Then earlier this year Ethel

Stephenson, pioneering EL breeder, crafter and owner of the stud my foundation ewes came from passed away at 92 years of age. It seemed fitting to add her to the picture, and I'd like to think that Ethel still looks out for her beloved sheep. The portrait is a combination of wet felting and needle felting. Both entries were made entirely from Roman's last fleece, and both came First in their respective categories.



Backpacking with a spinning wheel ...

We had an international visitor at the Guild Rooms in May. Angela Thresher from the USA had set out to see if it were possible to backpack around the world with a spinning wheel. I asked Angela to tell us a little about her adventure:

“My relationship with spinning didn't start until the (northern hemisphere) spring of 2016 after I had participated in a five day shearing course put on by one of the extension centers of the university where I was working on my masters degree. I had heard about it through the grapevine of the animal biology department where I was working and thought it would be a great opportunity to try something that is quite rare in the United States. It also never hurts to gain a new skill, or at least a deeper understanding of how it worked!

“The course did not turn me into a shearer (I can shear a sheep but I don't have the competitive drive needed to be a successful shearer) but it reignited a long seated interest in making. Having grown up in the farming community of Cashmere, Washington State, working in Malawi, Africa as a Peace Corps Volunteer, and working on an International Agricultural Development masters degree in central California meant that I have spent most of my life making something, in one form or another.

“Making to me does not always mean that you are creating something tangible. Often you are, but there is so much more to it than that. I have made art, textiles, yarn, drop spindles, fences, buildings, educational curriculums, books, articles, photographs, gardens, and homes, but I have also made friends, experiences, memories, music, laughter, networks, and knowledge. To me a maker is someone who is always striving to learn, not just the best way to do something, but different ways to accomplish the goal, and especially why each person does it differently. Who we are, the culture that has shaped us, and the environment around us, influences everything we do even if we don't recognize it.

“I didn't mean to get philosophical on you, but when people ask me what I do as a 30 year old American backpacker with two university degrees who carries a spinning wheel around the country, this is what I try to explain. I call myself an integrated animal management specialist with a focus on developing countries, but it is so much more than that. It is the reason that I so enjoy meeting groups like the Albury Wodonga Handweavers and Spinners Guild, and am extremely grateful for the opportunity to participate in your meetings and meet the members. You never know what you will learn from someone who you would never have had the chance to run into in any other way.

“Anyways, to everyone that I met at the three meetings I made it to in May, thank you so much for welcoming me in and letting me learn from you. It will stay with me for always and influence all of the next steps that I take!

“If anyone wants to stay in contact my email in angela.m.thresher@gmail.com, you can friend me on Facebook (Angela Thresher, I'm with a baby camel in the picture), or look me up on instagram as either @thewildpurpleowl (my fiber account) or @aussieangie (my Australian travels account). And maybe we'll run into each other at the Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show in July!”

Indeed, Angela did make it to Bendigo, as Shirley Unthank from Karoa Fibres Corowa reported “Also Angela came and saw us again (at the Karoa Fibres stall at Bendigo) and showed us the beanie she had made with our top that she brought at Corowa Market.”

Good luck on your journey Angela :)



Show & Tell - April 2018

Amanda: Table runner - double cotton with vertical floats (*not wide enough but my big loom was occupied!*)

Pinky: Toddlers cape, commercial wool, crochet.

Kathy Porta: Spun and dyed alpaca yarn and fleece

Pam: Handspun shawl - 1 ply wool, 1 ply silk, "*for our exchange student from Brazil to give to his mother. Being a boy he doesn't need a scarf*".

Jane: Black alpaca 2ply (34 wpi) "*yummy and soft*".
Purple silk merino 2 ply lace triangle shawl.

Jenny Hayden: Jumper.

Bev Hooker: Bobbin lace.



New Books in the Library

Thanks to the generous donation by Rosemary Paton's family and a few other members we have quite a few more books on our library shelves. Some of the titles include:

Knit One, Felt Too. *Kathleen Taylor*

Exploring Felting. *Joan Fisher*

Hand Felted Jewellery and Beads. *Carol Huber Cypher*

Knitting Brioche. *Marchant*

Australian Yarn Art. (*Various Authors*)

Felt. *Robyn Steel-Strickland*

Felt Craft. *Sue Freeman*

Beaded Ornaments to Knit.

Members are welcome to borrow a book or three, write the details in the Library Book, ask Robyn to sign, and return them in no more than 4 weeks. Enjoy!

Show & Tell - May

Jane: Three superb hand knitted scarves from her own single ply hand-spun, including one made from our beach themed art batt.



Pinky: A chunky art yarn core-spun single by Pinky who spun this from a batt she made using her own botanical dyed and natural coloured fibres.



Ella: A hand-spun single by Ella using roving from First Edition Fibres; another luscious hand-spun yarn - roving from the Victorian Hand-weavers and Spinners guild; and Walnut dyed hand-spun.



Deb: Pineapple stitch crochet scarf in Bendigo 8ply.

Robyn: Two pairs of baby booties with bead ties, a child's pullover and child's cardigan and beanie all knitted for charity.



Show & Ooops ... June

Ok, Due to the change in Show and Tell, it seems somehow no one recorded descriptions so no info to put with the photos. So we'll just show them instead!



Faye



Julie



Julie



Bev



Jane



Kylie



Robyn W.



Pinky



Larissa

Show & Tell - July

Debbie kindly organised photos for July's Show and Tell as our usual photographer(s) were not in attendance.

Robyn C.: Baby jacket and beanie - Wangaratta wool.

Jane: Weaving.

Deb: Bendigo 8 ply Bloom cardigan/jacket.

Gail: Extreme knitting.

Elaine (guest): Felted pieces.

Faye: Man's cardigan.

Rachael:
Hand spun skeins.



Bendigo July 2018 - Jane's Experience

"I was invited to be a steward at the Australian Wool and Sheep Show at Bendigo by one of the woolcraft committee members.

"I participated in the judging process as a steward and learnt many new processes. There were 60 or more people involved in the judging process with more than a thousand entries. There were two judges and two stewards for each category with set down sections to judge for each entrant.

"The judging took place on Wednesday. On Thursday I assisted one of the two window dressers, with dressing of the competitors entries in the display boxes around the room. This was amazing.

"The standard of the entries was top class. I would encourage all of our guild members to strive to make something that can be judged in a show. But my advice would be, to make sure that you read the schedule very carefully. If you make a mistake with what you enter in each category your beautiful work might not get judged.

"I am looking forward to going again next year to learn more."

Show & Tell - August

Back to (almost) the old format!!!

Viv: Silk fabric strips.

Heather: Cowl scarf in matching colours.

Debbie: Knitted socks.

Jane: Brown lace wrap with red beading; woven blanket.

Faye: Woven green wooden runner from her archives.

Robyn: Crochet shawl; pin-loom squares; crochet small hot water bottle cover.

KathyW: Ethel Stephenson wool portrait; budgies.



Albury Wodonga Hand Weavers and Spinners: Our Birthday celebration cake!!!

And as usual a lovely spread of yummys shared by all.

Albury Wodonga Handweavers and Spinners Guild Program - August to December, 2018

Please note: Workshops are a Work In Progress - watch your Guild emails for notifications.

August 15	Casual Workday
August 22	Casual Workday
August 29	WORKSHOP – Felting with Ann Leonard
September 5	Casual Workday
September 7, 8, 9	Yerong Creek weekend
September 12	Business Meeting
September 18 - 20	Henty Field Days
September 19	Casual Workday
September 26	WORKSHOP
September 29	Jindera - Celebrating 150yrs of Settlement
October 3	Casual Workday
October 10	Business Meeting
October 11	Twilight Market
October 13 - 14	Holbrook Quilt Showcase, Open Gardens & Art show 10am - 4pm. AW Members doing a demo.
October 17	Casual Workday
October 24	Casual Workday
October 31	Rooms closed (Albury Show prep)
October Shows: Royal Melbourne Show 22nd Sept - 2nd Oct; Corowa Agricultural Show 14th Oct; Royal Geelong Show 18th - 21st Oct; Benalla Spring Show 19th & 20th Oct; Rutherglen Agricultural Show 21st Oct; Cobram Show 27th & 28th Oct; Euroa Show 27th & 28th Oct;	
Friday 2nd/Saturday 3rd November - Albury Show	
November 7	Rooms closed (Albury Show cleanup)
November 10	Holbrook Show
November 14	Business Meeting
November 17	Arts & Crafts Fair Mirambeena (10am-4pm)
November 21	Casual Workday
November 28	WORKSHOP
December 5	Casual Workday
December 12	Business Meeting Last meeting for the year, followed by a shared Christmas Lunch.