



President's Report 2017

It's been a busy year for the guild and as a new committee we've been trying a few new things to increase our numbers and our presence in the community.

We are now meeting weekly, which has seen more people coming regularly to play and learn.

We visited Rachel's and Debbie's houses, had Dianne McNamara come to help us with our looms, Joan Assmussen discussed her basket weaving and we had a go at making string from grass plants. Julie gave us a carding workshop here and we went to her farm to learn about shearing alpacas. We also had Carol Fenselau (Rachael's mum) come and show us some of her amazing button collection.

Wodonga Tafe textile/design students came and spent 3 weeks with us learning some basics of fabric construction, from dyeing and spinning to weaving. We participated in LambEX at QE2 Square and also attended the craft fair at Mirambeena which all helped to raise awareness of our group in the wider community.

Sue, Amanda and I went to Melbourne for a meeting regarding the combined conference that has been missing for a few years. It was agreed by all there that we would like them to continue and a committee was set up to start plans for the next one. Amanda kindly volunteered for it, but so far not much has happened.

Once again we had a fantastic weekend in Yerong Creek with our friends from Tumut, where we were briefly flooded in (unfortunately the water went down all too quickly).

The last couple of months have seen us out at Noreuil Park and we've had two evening sessions at Albury Library, the first of these was a bit mind blowing – we had more participants than we have members!

It's been a fun year and we hope to have more workshops and learning opportunities for our members and start to see more new members in the coming year.

I'd like to thank Heather and all our members for their help and support in the past year, I really appreciate it. Thank you.

Committee 2017 - 2018

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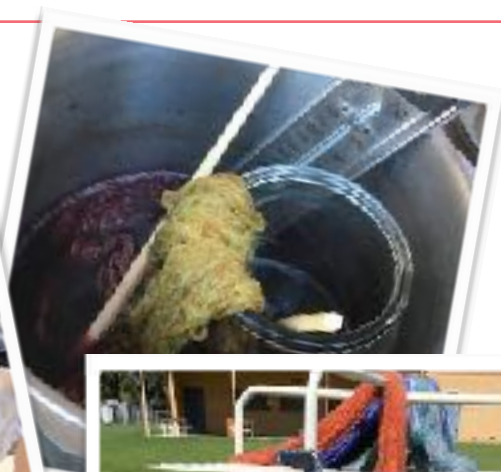


FACEBOOK

[www.facebook.com/
AWHSB](http://www.facebook.com/AWHSB)

Workshop Fun

Since our last Newsletter, we have had a number of fun workshops. Late March saw our **Dyeing Day** which is always a great hoot. There were simmering pots of natural dyes, and beeping microwaves cooking various fibres in wondrous colours!



In late May our own Ann ran a **Nuno-Felted Scarf Workshop**. More photos in the "Steps for making a Nuno-felted scarf" on page 3.

And then there was our **Mystery Workshop ...**

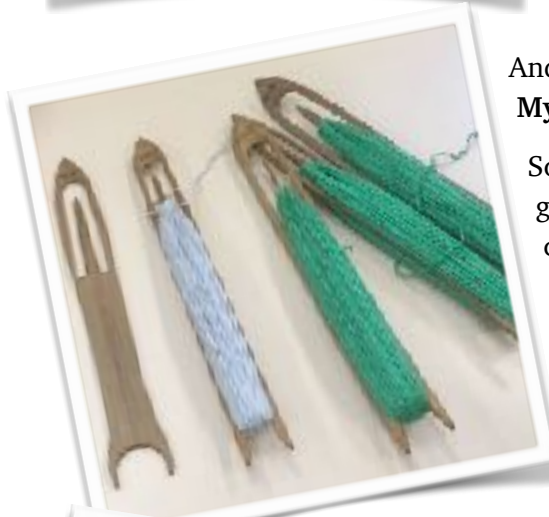
Some time ago the guild was given a collection of "bits and pieces" from a family cleaning up the back shed. Amongst the items were some beautifully crafted

wooden shuttles and very tactile wooden

wedges. They have remained in our store room until this year when Ella recognised their purpose and offered to run a **Mystery Workshop** to enlighten us all.

The shuttles or needles (perhaps they have another name) and wedges turned out to be for making netting - fishing nets, net bags, hammocks etc. Thanks to Ella we had the opportunity to revisit an old craft and have a try at it, although hard to master, netting could be used in many ways, not just catching fish.

Thanks Ella for an interesting **Mystery Workshop**.
Heather Mulqueeny.



Steps for making a Nuno-felted scarf

Ann Leonard

[Materials required: 25-30g fibre (feltable or mostly feltable), silk fabric, netting (fly screen wire or similar), bubble wrap, pool noodle and spray bottle.]

- Lay out your fibre on top of a large piece of bubble wrap. For our scarves, we laid out the fibre just over 1.8 metres in length, and about 450mm wide. We used about 25 to 30g of fibre, with the fibres running length-ways only.
- Place your piece of silk fabric on top of the fibre and fold over the fibre so that it meets in the middle, 'sandwiching' the fabric.
- Lay your netting gently over the fibre to keep it in place for the wetting down.
- Using **hot** water with a small amount of detergent, damp down the sandwich to completely wet the fibre. Gently rub in the direction of the fibres with a gloved hand (freezer bag over your hand) to remove all air bubbles.
- Gradually increase the pressure of the rubbing over the entire area to start the felting process, then gently remove the netting.
- Using your noodle, roll up your scarf and the bubble wrap from one end to the other.
- Place your noodle onto a towel and start rolling, back and forwards to arms- length.
- Start with 100 rolls (or 150 in winter) from each end, then turn scarf over, tidy or finish off your ends as desired, and repeat rolling again from each end.
- Check whether felting has been achieved after each 4 lots of rolling. The number of rolls required will vary depending on the type of fibre, temperature, force used and the length of your arms! This may have to be repeated several times until the fibre has felted.
- Felting has been achieved sufficiently when you cannot pick up individual fibres with your fingers (the pinch test). Gather up your creation and throw down onto the table a couple of times to 'set' it.
- Rinse scarf in **hot** water, with a splash of vinegar added to neutralise the detergent. Then submerge in **cold** water for a minute or two (this closes up the scales of your fibres).
- Press using a warm steam iron, pulling into shape as you go. Iron in the direction of the fibres while stretching the scarf-width ways to its full size.



String Bag & Net Making

Net making is an ancient technique and there are numerous ways to tie the knots. Ella showed us two ways, one of which she'd learnt as a child. Here is a simple tutorial from RopeWorks (<http://www.ropeworks.biz/archive/arch.html>) - one way of probably many ways of making nets:



Before you start - fill the Knitting Shuttle

STEP 1: Fill the shuttle with twine. Start by tying a single hitch around the tongue of the shuttle and then pass the twine through the notch.

STEP 2: Turn the shuttle over, loop the twine around the tongue and then through the notch.

STEP 3: Continue turning the shuttle from side and looping the twine around the tongue until the shuttle is filled.



DIAMOND MESH NETTING:

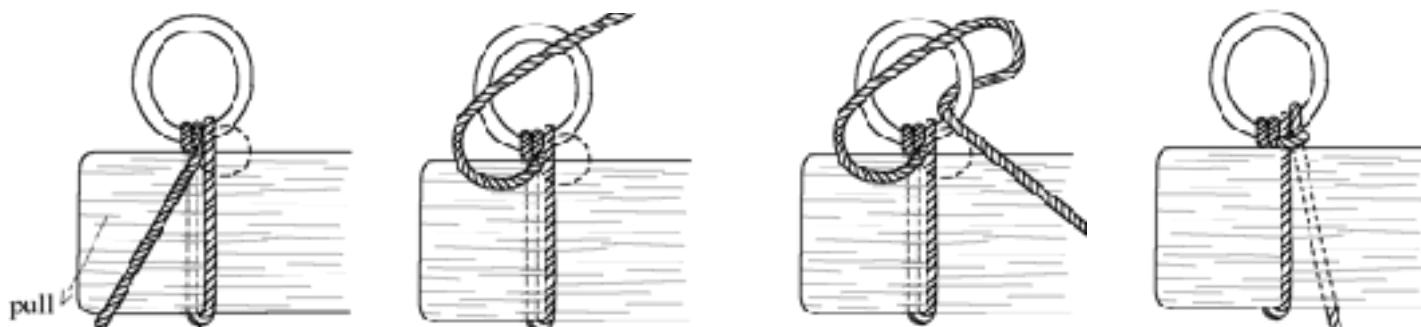
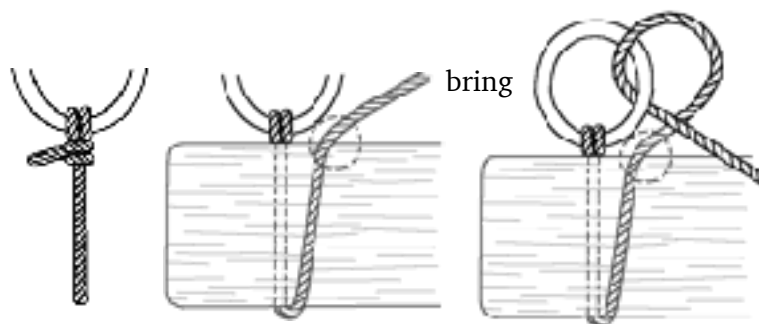
Diamond mesh netting is the easiest of the two forms of mesh to make. Square mesh netting will be dealt with latter.

Casting On: To start diamond mesh netting the first row of mesh loops is cast on to a loop of some kind. The kind of loop used depends on the project; a ring, grommet, frame, or loop of twine may be used. The following directions are for casting on to a ring but the same steps may be used for any starting loop.

STEP 1: Tie the end of the twine to the ring with a clove hitch stopped with two half hitches.

STEP 2: Place the twine behind the gauge then the twine in front of the gauge and to the right. *(The dotted circles in each of the diagrams is used to show the position of the thumb and finger of the left hand)*

STEP 3: Reeve the twine through the ring from the front to the back so that an overhand loop is formed.



STEP 4: Pull the twine to the left to tighten the twine around the ring and the gauge.

STEP 5: Lay the twine across the ring from left to right.

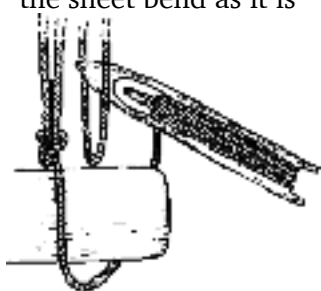
STEP 6: Reeve the twine through the ring from the back to the front.

STEP 7: Place the twine behind the gauge; then pull the twine downward to tighten the twine around the ring. This forms a lark's head knot around the ring.

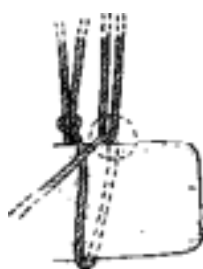
String Bag & Net Making *continued.*

KNITTING A ROW OF MESH:

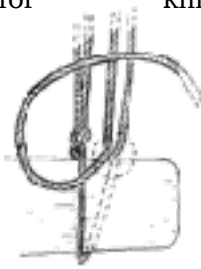
Netting is made by knitting rows of mesh using a shuttle and a gauge. The gauge is used to determine the size of the mesh, and the shuttle is used to hold the twine and form and tie the mesh loops. The basic knot used in netting is the sheet bend. The following diagrams illustrate the tying of the sheet bend as it is used for knitting



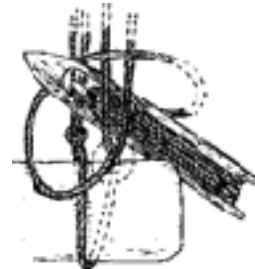
STEP 1: Bring the twine down and up the back of the gauge. Then pick up the next loop by passing the shuttle through the loop from front to back.



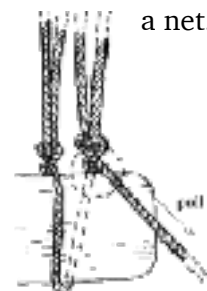
STEP 2: Pull the twine to the left to tighten the twine around the gauge. Use the thumb and finger of the left hand to hold the twine in place.



STEP 3: Lay a loop of twine over the loop just picked up.



STEP 4: Pass the shuttle in back of the picked up loop and the through the loop that was laid on top.



STEP 5: Pull the twine downward and slightly to the right to tighten the knot.

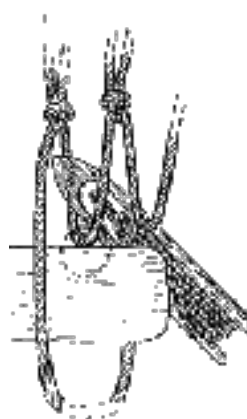
STEP 6: Repeat steps 1 through 5 for each loop in the row.

STARTING A NEW ROW:

STEP 1: When the end of a row of mesh is reached, slide the accumulated loops off the gauge, turn the work piece over so that the running end of the twine is on the left side of the work piece.



STEP 2: Wrap the twine around the gauge from front to back; pick up the first loop by passing the shuttle through the loop from back to front.

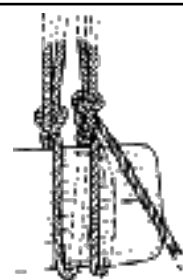
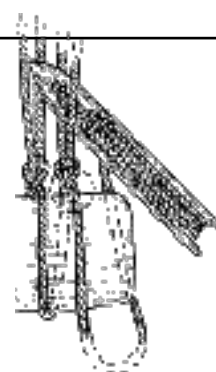


STEP 3: Knit the loop in place by following the directions for knitting a row of mesh.

ADDING A LOOP:

For some projects it is necessary to increase the width of the netting part way through the project. The width of the netting is increased by adding loops of mesh.

A loop is added by picking up the same loop a second time so that two loops are formed in the new row of mesh are tied to the same loop in the previous row of mesh.



Gifted Fibre

A generous donation of beautiful fibre supplies has been gifted to us by the daughter of a former member. Some has been set aside for classes and training, and the rest is available from the Guild rooms to purchase for a donation. The funds raised will go towards our Guild's running expenses, workshops, guest presenters etc.



A note from the Editor

Firstly, I'd like to apologise for the delays with our Newsletters, and this issue is gonna be a bumper ... Also please excuse any errors or omissions - not only have we all been busy, we are running on a winter skeleton crew while some are away in warmer climes, and illness and circumstances have depleted the proof-readers ranks.

Bendigo Australian Sheep and Wool Show 2017

As many Wednesday regulars know, I've been busily poking needles into small, colourful felted birds for the last few months. In fact they have stolen every bit of spare time and then some between my real-job work hours, family and tending to my fur-fleeced-and-feathered-babies. In the end it was all well worth it! "*The Waterhole*", 26 needle felted Gouldian finches flocking around the felted banks of an acrylic and resin waterhole complete with ripples, won 1st place in it's Class at the **2017 Bendigo Australian Sheep and Wool Show**! A perfect score from the judges was just as thrilling. Many thanks for the kind comments and Likes on FaceBook and many thanks to the Bendigo judges.

I've set myself a high bar to reach for next year's Show ... and ideas are already popping up demanding consideration.

I hope all my fibre friends that did the Bendigo pilgrimage, buyers and sellers, had a wonderful time there!

Needle Felting Workshop

I hope to be running a needle felting Workshop at the Guild rooms later this year. Watch our calendar for details.

Kathy Wheeler, editor.



Show & Tell - April

Amanda – Woven silk and bouclé scarf

Heather – Spun skein of silk and wool. Pink/white stripe knitted child's jumper.

Rhonda – Has completed her woven green alpaca scarf. Also showed the spun alpaca wool she dyed at our recent dyeing day.

Catherine – Knitted baby's cardigan and knitted multi-coloured squares blanket in progress

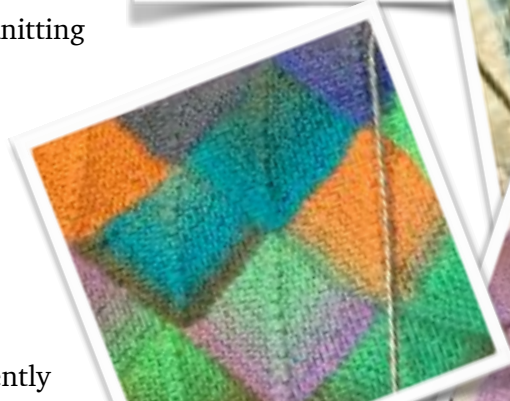
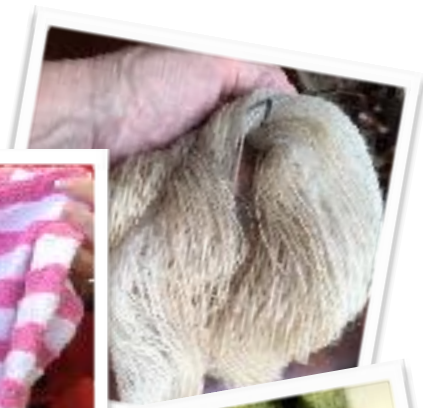
Kathy – Wet felted shawl (moulded on resist) and knitted merino cross hat

Jane – Lace shawl knitted ("Jane Austin" knitting pattern) using home spun alpaca.

Ella – Spun and plied "fluff". Currently using a knitting pattern from the Guild's book.

Debbie – Wanted to know how to make felted slippers. Julie will make Debbie a suitable resist.

Kylie – photos of her 8 shaft loom she recently purchased and repaired. Yak and silk yarn she bought at the "Lost Trades" fair in Kyneton and knitted into scarf.



Show & Tell - May

Amanda - Essendon Scarf photo

Ella - semi-single cardigan ply.

Heather - baby cardigan pink. Size 2

Robyn - angora blue baby garment, sundry baby poncho and beanies

Jill - lacy silk shawl

Pam - cream matching beanie and scarf

Kathy - Tunisian crochet cowl, wet felted shawl won prize at the Strong Wool breeders Assn Inc. "best use of strong wool"



Show & Tell - June

Pam – shawl made from wool spun at Harrierville weekend together with pattern for shawl

Debbie – pink and orange felted scarf made at recent felting workshop and the completed “heart” jumper for granddaughter

Ella and Sue – showed their felted scarves also made at the workshop

Pinky – bought in “Bruce” – the spinning wheel she made herself.



Show & Tell - July

Kathy W – a photo of the Felted Gouldian Finches she has made for the Bendigo Wool and Sheep Show, they are exquisite. Best of luck with your entry Kathy.

[*“The Waterhole”, needle felted Gouldian Finches, won 1st place in it’s class at the Bendigo Australian Sheep and Wool Show. See P6.]*

Chris – lovely skein of black alpaca she has spun, excellent work for one new to the craft.

Debbie – a felted scarf made with an electric sander (saves all that rolling) giving her time to spin a mix of Yak, Silk and Merino and knit 3 pairs of socks.

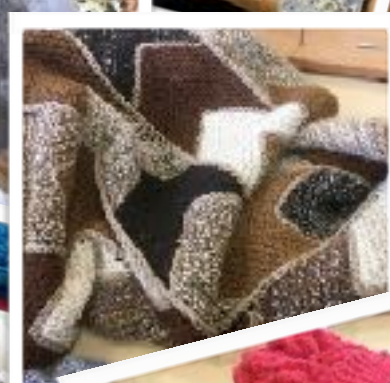
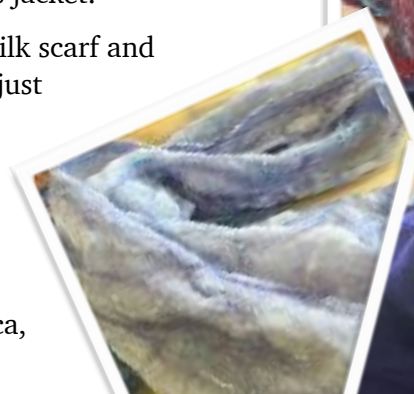
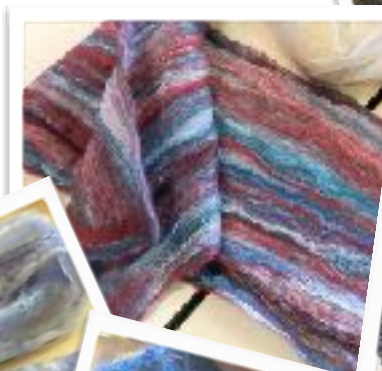
Amanda – showed us her felted scarf made in the workshop with Ann.

Faye was also wearing a felted scarf and wearing a lovely hand woven sleeveless jacket.

Ann brought along a felted silk scarf and some silk caps and fibre she just couldn’t resist, bought at Craft Alive from ‘Unique Stitching’

Kathy P – had a huge number of skeins of beautifully spun cream Alpaca, (time to get knitting) and a knitted rugs in shades of brown Alpaca.

Heather – skeins of Cashmere and silk and also wool and silk, not quite enough to make anything. And a family set of 3 beanies, small, medium and Large.



For Sale

Majacraft Little Gem spinning wheel for sale. Includes wheel in bag, no tears, excellent condition, bump 1kg Bendigo wool. 6 bobbins, spare drive band.



The only reason for sale is owner has an electric wheel & not using this one.

\$1050.00

Call Pam Jowett ph 0427212152 or pam@retirecom.com.au

Eric Lewis spinning wheel, made from Murray pine timber, very heavy wheel to carry, but spins very well, includes 12 bobbins, 2 bobbins racks, lazy Kate, 2 spare mother of all.

The only reason I am selling, is I have an electric spinning wheel & not using it.

\$1550.00

Call Pam Jowett, 0427212152 or

pam@retirecom.com.au



From the Back Room

(And not for sale)

The Guild has acquired various pieces of equipment over the years - most in working order and available for Members to hire. Some pieces are just beautiful to look at ...



Two silk worms were having a race ... they ended in a tie.

Program, August - December 2017.

<i>Please note: Workshops are a Work In Progress - watch your Guild emails for notifications.</i>	
August 2	Casual Workday
August 9	Business Meeting & Guild's 47th Birthday
August 16	Casual Workday
April 23	Casual Workday
August 30	Spinning silk – Jane Manning
August 31	Albury Library Monthly Meeting downstairs in the foyer - 5pm to 7pm
September 6	Visit by Janet Day - Workshop
Weekend September 9th - 11th	Yerong Creek Weekend
September 13	Business Meeting
September 19th - 21st	Henty Field Days
September 20	Casual Workday
September 27	Trip to Tallangatta Craft Op Shop - TBC
September 28	Albury Library Monthly Meeting downstairs in the foyer - 5pm to 7pm
October 4	Casual Workday
October 11	Business Meeting
October 18	Casual Workday
October 25	Needle Felting – Kathy Wheeler
October 26	Albury Library Monthly Meeting downstairs in the foyer - 5pm to 7pm
November 1	Rooms closed (Albury Show prep)
Weekend 3-5 November	Albury Show
November 8	Business Meeting
Saturday November 18	Arts & Crafts Fair Mirambeena (10am-4pm)
November 22	Casual Workday
November 29	Workshop TBC
November 30	Albury Library Monthly Meeting downstairs in the foyer - 5pm to 7pm
December 6	Casual Workday
December 13	Last meeting for the year, followed by a shared Christmas Lunch.
February 8, 2018	Casual Workday