



# NEWSLETTER - February / March 2017

## A message from our President

The year already seems to be flying by and it won't be long until school holidays are upon us again!

We had a very successful evening session at the Albury Library last month with nearly 30 new faces coming to see what we do and have a try. Thank you to everyone who was able to help out - it was a great night.

Our next session is this coming Thursday (30th) from 5pm. Anyone who would like to come is very welcome. We are thinking we'll have up to 10 come this time round (a lot less hectic) and I have sent an email to those who passed on their details to let us know if there is anything specific they would like us to bring.

Wodonga show was on again and we spent a lovely day spinning among the alpacas. We had a guild wheel set up and had a few children and a couple of dads have a go at spinning. We also had a lady from Nepal (who had only been in Australia 7 weeks) come and spin. Unused to a treadle wheel, her husband pedalled while she did an amazing long draw technique. I had to chuckle as husband got told off for going too fast. Thank you ladies for a lovely day.

## “Coming up this week we have our dying day ...”

Coming up this week (29th March) we have our dying day. Please bring prepared fibre, fabric or yarn (washed and damp) and any dying equipment you may have.

Don't forget our FaceBook page - anyone can post pictures or interesting articles to share with our fellow fibre fanatics. And you can share our page to your friends if they're interested.

### Committee 2016 - 2017

#### President:

Kylie Quinlivan  
0427 419732

#### Secretary:

Sue Braun  
0457 138460

#### Treasurer:

Debbie Carpenter  
0400 612237

#### Vice Treasurer:

Ann Leonard  
02 6026 2703

#### Newsletter:

Kathy Wheeler  
kathyw@albury.net.au  
0439 696878

#### Public Officer:

Julie Hofer  
02 6026 3835

#### Publicity Officer:

Sue Braun  
0457 138460

#### Library & Equipment Officer:

Rhonda Doig  
02 6026 3330



**MAIL**

PO Box 629  
Albury NSW 2640



**EMAIL**

[awspinnners@gmail.com](mailto:awspinnners@gmail.com)



**FACEBOOK**

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

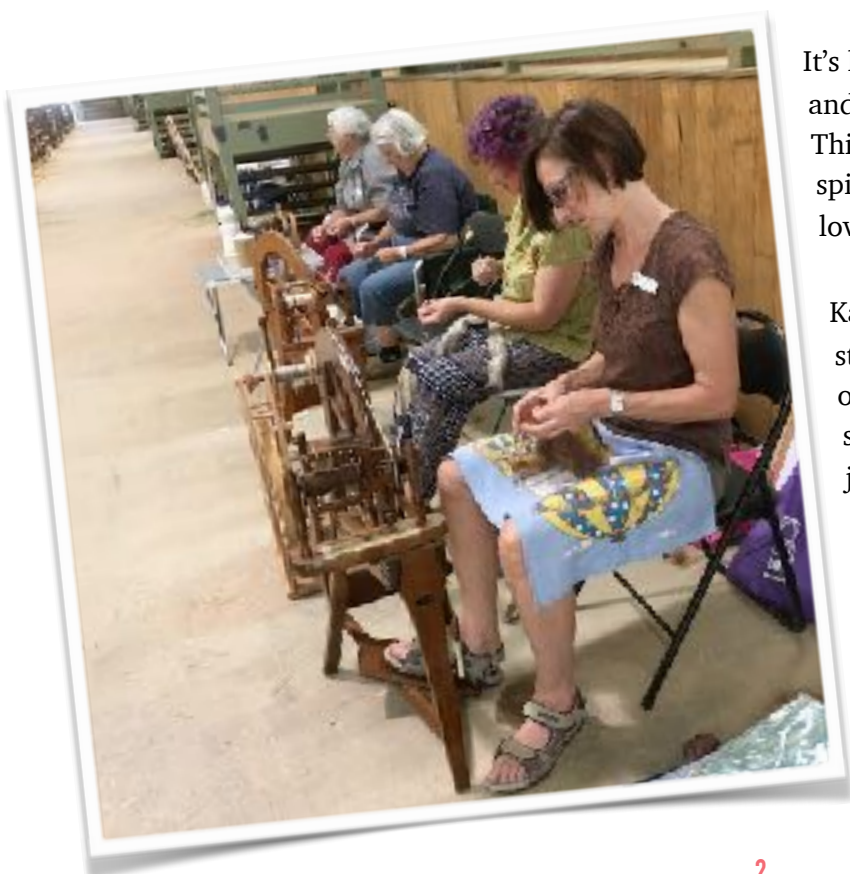
## Spinning in the Park

Autumn in Albury is a wonderful time to be outdoors enjoying the fine and cooler weather - the hottest part of summer is over and winter has not get set in. So for our regular Wednesday Guild day we gathered our spinning wheels, fleece and fibre projects, and met by the river at **Noreuil Park**. It was a lovely relaxed morning, with coffee, tea and snacks just a short walk away at the cafe. The park is a popular and busy place with lots of mums and families with prams and kids, joggers, exercise groups and walkers stopping by.

**Noreuil Park** was named after the French village of Noreuil, where the soldiers of the 'Albury Battery' (13th Battery – 5th Field Artillery Brigade), in April 1917, although surrounded, had stood their ground and played a major role in driving back the enemy. The ex-servicemen of the Albury Battery, working on a Commonwealth grant project, had cleared the area along the Murray River and in 1919 Albury Council after consultation with the ex-servicemen, named the newly created park on the banks of the Murray River, 'Noreuil Park'.



## And at the Wodonga Alpaca Show



It's hard to believe that another year has passed and the Wodonga Show has come around again. This year we had an even better turn out of keen spinners and weavers to promote our Guild and a lovely day with lots of visitors passing through.

Kathy W. and Kathy P. also worked as fleece stewards and had the opportunity to get hands-on with some wonderful squishy softness in both suri and huacaya fleeces. When the fleece judging was complete visitors were allowed to browse the fleece entries. Our Pam was heard to say she needs more fleece like a hole in the head, but she wants them all!!!

## Show & Tell - February

**Heather** - has woven linen blend placemats and tabled the latest "Textile" magazine for everyone.

**Amanda** - has finished her orange stripe scarf.

**Faye** - has crocheted a pram cover and a child's jumper. She also showed a cotton string bag together with the pattern for those interested. Faye also said she has a bag of lichen for dying.

She stressed that the lichen is from rocks and doesn't destroy anything when picked.

**Pam** - has knitted a vest from Rhonda's alpaca fleece

**Jane** - has knitted a shawl and scarf from alpaca

**Debbie** - has made her first wearable article from handspun alpaca fleece and musk ox fibre (quivet) that she purchased in Canada. Single yarn.

**Kyle** - now has a counter balance loom and produced lace which she dyed. Also made a shrug on her knitting machine which was made from mohair, wool and acrylic which she dyed after making and heat set.

**Sue** - has woven a sampler of different types of yarn – wool, silk, acrylic, mohair – for future reference.

**Kathy** - picked and carded some of her English Leicester yarn

**Ann** - is continuing carding her alpaca fleece

**Rachael** - warped silk, "binder" weft sample.

**Robyn** – has knitted a child's jacket in aqua wool and a baby's "balaclava" with ears – very cute.



## Show & Tell - March

**Ann** - showed her Suri fleece (from Billy)

**Rhonda** - explained that her daughter and granddaughter are coming out from France for 5 months and she will not be attending many meetings for the rest of the year.

**Heather** - is knitting a shawl with her handspun singles in natural colours

**Christine** - has knitted 2 pairs of socks

**Kathy** - presented her colourful felted finches made from her English Leicester wool. She will be entering a "flock" of the birds in the Strong Wool Section of the Bendigo Wool Show in July.

**Catherine** - showed a sample of her tatting

**Pam** - has finished her Scarf Exchange scarf – yarn was Navajo ply

**Jill** - passed around her carded Suri x Lama fleece

**Robyn** - is knitting a baby's poncho and showed the booties and babies hats she has made

**Kylie** - has been experimenting with her 4 shaft floor loom and showed the cushion covers she has made using her own designed pattern. She has also been making balls of jumbo, fulled yarn.



## From Pam's Archives ...

### WOOLCLASSING FOR HAND SPINNERS - NOTES FOR DISCUSSION

Bill Sharrock

The wool fibre has many unique characteristics all of which combine to create a product capable of broad utility. Most of these characteristics are capable of being selected for by the breeder and favoured by the user.

Providing a fibre has two ends then it is said to have a use. The competent classer in the past was capable of creating literally hundreds of lines. Today all the wool shorn in one season in Australia could go into as few as 50 lines. Of course this would not be desirable nor would it be practical. The main point remains that wools are more similar in performance than traditionally believed. Objective measurement has convinced the industry of this.

#### The Important Characteristics of Wool.

These are related to its ability to be home spun then processed further:-

##### 1. Fibre Diameter

Generally the finer the fibre the greater the length of yarn that can be produced from a given weight. Fibre diameter can now be measured scientifically. The unit of measurement being microns. For the laymen, the relationship between crimp frequency and fibre diameter is very good. The greater the crimp frequency the finer the fibre. Conversions are available.

##### 2. Fibre Length

Given two samples of wool identical in every characteristic with the exception of length, that sample of greater staple length will spin the longest and finest yarn. The shorter sample will produce a more bulky yarn with reduced overall length. N.B. As a general rule there

is a positive relationship between length and fibre diameter. The finest fleece tends to be the shortest while the coarsest is the longest.

#### Wool Follicles (Length and Fibre Diameter)

On casual inspection a sample of wool taken from one part of the sheep may appear even in length and fibre diameter. The fact is, a staple of wool could be composed of fibres varying from 10-30 microns and varying in length from 25mm to 100mm.

Primary, Secondary and Secondary derived follicles are responsible for this length and fibre diameter variation. Primary follicles tend to be the longest and coarsest while the Secondary and Secondary derived follicles are much shorter and finer.

##### 3. Natural Spring in Fleece.

The home spinner will tend to concentrate on a type of fleece and a technique that produces a yarn of the desired conformation.

As earlier mentioned the fine fleece will most likely produce the greater length and the shorter fleece the greater bulk. However, neither fine nor short fleeces are popular. Both are difficult to handle rarely producing the desired conformation.

The longer the fleece the quicker a learner spinner can achieve a fairly consistent yarn. At least this would be so on the basis of the ease longer fibres interlock (spin) compared with shorter fibres.

However, the competent spinner tends to concentrate on a fibre mid-way along the length spectrum, as they also concentrate on fibre diameter. The one key characteristic that spinners look for in a wool is what can be termed spring or sponginess.

This "spring" can be determined by breed or type of sheep together with seasonal effects.

WOOLCLASSING FOR HAND SPINNERS - continued ...

Ideal Types:

Border Leicester/Merino Cross (50/56/58<sup>s</sup>)  
(30-25 microns) (100-150 mm.)

Cheviots, Downs Drosses e.g. Dorset/Merino  
(56<sup>s</sup>/58<sup>s</sup>)

Dorset/Border Leicester Cross (27-25 microns)  
(75-125 mm)

Identifying Natural Spring:

Fibres within the fleece of a springy or spongy fleece are not densely packed together as with the finer and better quality merinos.

Crimp formation is often less clearly defined, certainly with the downs types. These fleeces should be light in natural grease, be free of heavy dust, be bulky in appearance but not necessarily heavy in weight.

N.B. All fleeces are capable of home spinning, all give varying end results. And as you are aware, individual operations create many varying results from similar samples.

Other Characteristics:-

Handle - Soft - harsh to the hand

Character - Evenness of crimps

Colour - Natural pigment in the fibre, genetic and environmental reasons

Lustrous Fibres - Fibre sheen. Poor felting properties.

Plus many more

*Q. What is the best way to spin a lamb's wool? A. Give Downs or British breeds. Down is worst. Dorset.*

*Q. What is the best way to spin a lamb's wool? A. Give Downs or British breeds. Down is worst. Dorset.*

*Q. What is the best way to spin a lamb's wool? A. Give Downs or British breeds. Down is worst. Dorset.*

*Q. What is the best way to spin a lamb's wool? A. Give Downs or British breeds. Down is worst. Dorset.*

## Expressions of interest

Maggie Ravenscroft asks if anyone is interested in some Bond wool from the Tumut High School flock. It has virtually no vegetation or dirt in it and it is \$8- a kilo. Maggie could send a sample if anyone is interested. It spins up beautifully.

Maggie can be contacted on 0428569961.

## Program, March - August 2017.

Please note: Workshops have yet to be finalised and added.	
March 29	Dyeing workshop – food colouring
April 5	Casual Workday
<b>April 12</b>	<b>AGM</b>
<i>April 14-17</i>	<i>Easter</i>
April 19	Casual Workday
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<b>Wangaratta Wool Day Venue (Milawa)</b>
April 26	Navajo spinning workshop – Pam Jowett
May 3	Casual Workday
May 10	<b>Business Meeting</b>
May 17	Casual Workday
May 24	Casual Workday
May 31	Felting scarf workshop – Anne Leonard
June 7	Casual Workday
<b>June 14</b>	<b>Business Meeting</b>
June 21	Casual Workday
June 28	
July 5	Casual Workday
<b>Weekend 7-9 July</b>	<b>Craft Alive, Wodonga</b>
July 12	Casual Workday
<b>Weekend 14-16 July</b>	<b>Sheep and Wool Show, Bendigo</b>
July 19	Casual Workday
July 26	
August 2	Casual Workday
<b>August 9</b>	<b>Business Meeting &amp; Guild's 47<sup>th</sup> Birthday</b>
August 16	Casual Workday
August 23	Casual Workday





