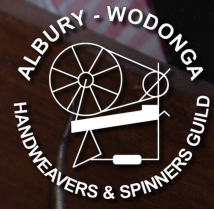

Albury Wodonga HandWeavers & Spinners Guild Inc.

NEWSLETTER November 2014



Albury Wodonga HandWeavers & Spinners Guild Inc. PO Box 629, Albury NSW 2640

President's Report - November 2014

As this is the final newsletter of the year I would like to wish all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Thank you to all who have contributed in big and small ways to make this year an enjoyable, creative and productive time for all at AHW&S Guild.

We will hit the ground running next year so ignore the heat, if you can, and work on a few eye-catching and creative items for display at the "First Friday" in Wodonga in March and the Wangaratta Wool day in April.

Stay Safe, Heather.

Santa's Helpers ...



Wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and New Year!

Committee

President:

Heather Mulqueeny
0260 246579

Secretary:

Ruth Mitchell
0402 019869

Treasurer:

Debbie Carpenter
0400 612237

Newsletter:

Kathy Wheeler
0439 696878

Public Officer:

Helen Spears

Publicity Officer:

Ruth Mitchell
0402 019869

**Library & Equipment
Officer:**

Vicki Law

Last meeting for the 2014 year – Dec 10th

Will be followed by a shared lunch, so please bring a plate of savoury or sweet food to share.

Hostess Duties

December 10th Heather

"The Woolgatherers"



Show and Tell – November 2014

Faye has been doing some solar dyeing. She used wool tops and lichen and fungi with no mordant. The dye was in the jars in the sun for 3 to 4 weeks and produced some interesting colours. She had knitted a cowl with multicoloured acrylic yarns and some mitred squares in commercial yarn.

Pam received a delightful small shawl from the scarf exchange. The wool soy mix she sent was undyed and the pattern was an all over large diamond. Beautifully done.

Vicki has been knitting poppies for ANZAC day.

Kylie has managed to ply her spindle spun yarn and was happy with the result.

Kathy had some very inventive felt pieces with creative inserts. She showed the result of the Strawberry eucalyptus dye pot which turned some old merino fleece into an interesting shade of brown. No mordant required with Eucalyptus. (Article on the Strawberry Gum below)

Debbie knitted a gorgeous toddler dress with a crochet flower. She has finished the lace scarf in Rowan Kid silk haze which was like a pink cloud! She is currently knitting a plum coloured jumper in Inca yarn.

Christine showed the results of the dyeing with food colouring on various skeins of acrylic, wool and cotton which all gave different effects.

Ruth has managed to ply her spindle spun yarn after a couple of attempts.

Strawberry Gum *Eucalyptus olida*

<http://www.daleysfruit.com.au/STRAWBERRY-GUM-Eucalyptus-olida.htm>

Natural occurrence: Montane woodlands near Tenterfield, NSW.

Description: Medium-sized tree up to 10 metres. Forms a crowned canopy in mature trees. The leaves are gray, and new growth has an attractive purple colour. The leaves are typically about 10cm long with two distinct stages: juvenile foliage is a broad-shaped, and adult leaves are slender in mature trees. The leaves also have a strong aroma, somewhat reminiscent of passion fruit or strawberries. The leaves are used for flavouring and perfumery. The bark is stringy, and young branches are smooth. The flowers are cream coloured and are followed by woody seed capsules.

Cultivation: Prefers full-sun conditions. Tolerant of low soil fertility. Prefers well-drained soil. The tree is frost tolerant down to – 8 C degrees. Strawberry gum is ideal for temperate conditions, but can also grow in subtropical conditions. Leaves can be harvested as required. Harvesting the leaves for culinary use and cut-foliage can be done individually or by pruning branches back by 60-80 cm. Regular light pruning also maintains a shorter tree and denser canopy more suited for backyard situations.

Use: The strawberry gum has several uses due to the presence of essential oils in the leaf, and has been harvested commercially for flavouring and perfumery since the 1980s. Strawberry gum leaf is used to enhance the flavour of cooked fruit dishes, and in deserts, spiced jams and confectionary to bring-out the classic “berry” flavour. The leaf is used fresh or dried, and as a ground spice. It can also be used in native herb teas and carbonated beverages.

The main ingredient, methyl cinnamate, which imparts a fruity aroma and flavour and composes of up to 98% of the essential oil, with ocimene being the remainder at 2%. The oil yield is very high, varying from 2 – 6% (fresh weight). When distilling, a natural solvent needs to be added to the still during distillation to prevent methyl cinnamate crystals clogging the still.

[Editors note: The Strawberry Gum grows well in this area. A plant purchased from Daleys Fruit Tree Nursery in 2011 is thriving despite getting very little artificial watering and being used regularly as a boxing bag come scratching post by local kangaroos.]

2014 Scarf Exchange

Christine has received a note with her scarf from the 2014 Scarf Exchange saying:

Photos from the 2014 Scarf Exchange Exhibition will be displayed online at www.coloniallakebooks.com.au/scarfexchange2014.

However, it may take a little while before the photos are posted on the site.

[Editors note: Not there yet ...]

Overseas News

Extract from the Oct/Nov Guild News of Christchurch Guild New Zealand which was in the Weavers Forum newsletter.

It was so lovely to see Margaret Stove, a previous Guild member, recognised with the award of a Queens Service Medal in the New Year's Honours List. This was so richly deserved; Margaret is such a great ambassadress for our craft.

Margaret has written books for Ashford on fine lace knitting. I think that we may have one or two of her books in our library.

Pam

Last Meeting for 2014

December the 10th is our last meeting for the year. Amongst topics for discussion are promotional material for the Guild – a **brochure, stationery, website and FaceBook** presence. Ideas and suitable original photographs and articles are welcome.

There will be a general work day on Wednesday December 3rd.

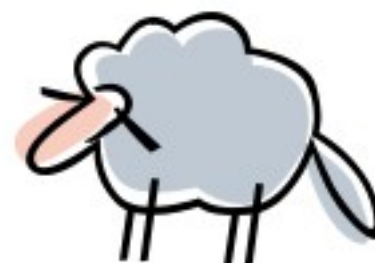
Sharing Day October 2015

WANTED: Expressions of Interest in forming a Committee to organise the 2015 Sharing Day. Ideally three or more volunteers to co-ordinate and organise this major event. Sharing day may be postponed or cancelled if dedicated volunteers can't be found.

Christmas Ideas

With less than a month to go ... there are lots of cute ideas for Christmas fun at:

- Ravelry - <http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/search#query=christmas>
- An extremely cute Santa Clause Star:
<http://justjen-knitsandstitches.blogspot.com.au/2011/11/crochet-santa-stars.html>
- And a koala in a Santa hat:
<http://gentlestitches.com/2013/11/28/free-patterns-for-small-christmas-gifts/>
- Christmas tree decorations:
<http://lisaauch1.hubpages.com/hub/christmas-crochet-patterns-free>
<http://www.pinterest.com/bfiset/crochet-christmas-decorations/>
<http://www.pinterest.com/explore/knit-christmas-ornaments/>



For Sale

A number of Spinning wheels are available for sale.
All in good condition with accessories. Priced from \$120 - \$125 each.

Two basic Ashford Spinning wheels are being sold by
Mal Goldie 60232593 malcolmgoldie@tpg.com.au

One Ashford is being sold by Elizabeth Crapp 0400264440.

One Ashford is being sold by Janet. Phone 0419 495474 for details.

Fibre Suppliers for Spinning	Locally made
<p>Karoa Fibres (Corowa) Email: karoa@ipstarmail.com.au Phone: 02 6035 1727 Mob: 0427 302 209 / 0427 334 611</p> <p>Fairfield Finns 1275 Bacchus Marsh Road, Bullengarook, Vic, 3437 Ph: 0345 289 428 Mob: 0407 884 446</p> <p>Bendigo Woollen Mills 4 Lansell St. Bendigo 3550 Ph: 03 54424600</p> <p>Tarndwarncourt Polwarth Wool (Wendy and David Dennis) 41 Roseneath Rd. Warncoort, Vic, 3243 Ph: 03 5233 6241</p> <p>First Edition Fibres and Yarns 16-18 Charles St. Euroa. PO Box 201 Euroa Vic. 3666 Ph: 03 57 95 3578</p>	 <p>Wooden spindles</p> <p>\$15.00 each, contact Heather 02 60 246579</p>

For the Diary:

March 14 th to 19 th , 2015	<u>Grampians Fibre Forum</u>
August 28 th – 30 th , 2015	Cobram and District Spinners and Weavers Inc hosts the 2015 Victorian Spinners and Weavers Guild Weekend Workshops. Like their FaceBook page for updates: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Handweavers-and-Spinners-Guild-of-Victoria/272841322813930

Workshops, Work Days and Meeting Days:

Wednesday 26 th November, 2014	<i>Christmas Lunch at St Ives on the Causeway.</i>
Wednesday 3 rd December, 2104	<i>Casual Workday</i>
Wednesday 10 th December, 2014	<i>Last meeting for the 2014 year. The meeting will be followed by a shared lunch, so please bring a plate of savoury or sweet food to share.</i>
Wednesday 4 th February, 2015	<i>Return. Casual Workday</i>