

Albury Wodonga HandWeavers & Spinners Guild Inc.



PO Box 629, Albury NSW 2640 | eMail: awspinnners@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - October 2015

Welcome to all the new faces we are seeing at our meetings and welcome back to those who have returned after holidays away or work commitments.

Judging by our show and tell section at our meetings the wonderful, colourful work that almost every one is producing is enough to rival spring itself! Keep up the good work it is inspiring to see what every one is spinning, weaving, knitting, crocheting, felting etc it often sows the seeds of an idea for the next project!

Heather.

October 28th Workshop ...

Due to the closure of the Guild rooms for the Albury Show the workshop planned for the 28th of October will be held at Debbie's place, 17 Clive Court, Table Top, from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

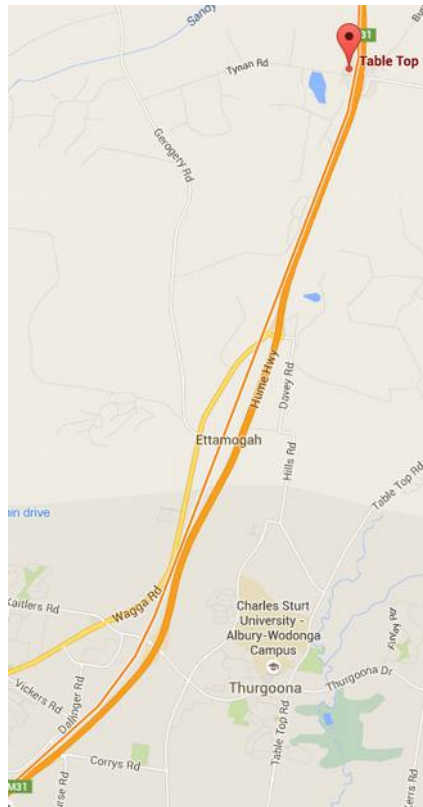
Please bring a savory or sweet dish to share for lunch.

Directions:

Travel north out of Albury on the freeway and:

1. Turn left into Tynan Road, cross the railway tracks.
2. Turn left into Willow Way and drive to the end.
3. Turn left into Lake View Drive and go to the end.
4. Turn left into Lara Lake Road.
5. Turn left into Clive Court.

Just in case, Debbie's phone number: 0400 612 237.



Committee 2015-2016

President:

Heather Mulqueeny
0260 246579

Secretary:

Position vacant.
Volunteer nominations welcome.

Vice 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:

Position now vacant

Hostess Duties

November 11th Pam Jowett

December 9th Heather Mulqueeny



Show and Tell – October 2015

Faye is knitting a pale green beanie for her great grand daughter born last week.

Ann has a bronze medal for master's netball despite her injured hand.

Kylie has made a yarn balance following ideas in the Spinoff website, used to determine length of yarn in a given weight (I think)

Robyn has knitted a tiny blue teddy and is now going to knit his sister.

Pam is knitting a vest using commercial yarn (it looks handspun!)

Kathy reported in that she bought a tapestry loom. We are looking forward to seeing the first project!

Rachael has purchased a rigid heddle loom and a wool winder and reports that she is addicted to spinning, judging from the textured greens and the bamboo/silk/merino mixes that her boys helped her dye we think she just might be a little addicted.

Ruth has knitted a very neat “gull wing shawl” and had a lovely skein of lamb's wool in a beautiful shade of purple to show us.

Heather has completed her “Travel knitting” another pair of socks, blue variegated from Bendigo woolen mills.

Debbie is crocheting granny squares in a lovely range of colours.

Christine showed us a very attractive knitted rug, of textured squares in shades of browns and russets that she has finished.



The Albury Show 2015



Rod and Rhonda Doig will be having a display of their alpacas at the Albury Show and the Guild will be there to support them and promote Spinning and Weaving with a display of our own.

A roster of volunteers was drawn up at the October Meeting and we plan to rotate members doing demonstrations and providing information through the Saturday and Sunday of the Show.

The theme is alpacas, naturally!

Dyeing Day November 18th

Our last dyeing day was great fun, so we're running another one! The theme is simple – natural dyes with avocado skins or the colour Purple.

Purple dyes for protein fibres such as wool and silk can be food colouring, acid dyes (Landscape is a very good Australian brand acid dye) and, yes, natural dyes! If you work with cellulose fibres – cotton, flax etc, chemically reactive dyes give the stronger colour. Acid dyes and chemically reactive dyes can be toxic and should be handled and disposed of with care.

Easy to use and non-toxic, food colouring usually comes in primary colours so you may need to mix your own “purple”, which means you can control the depth or shade, to the blue side or the red. Exciting!

Here are a few tips you can use for dyeing purple with food colouring:

“Sometimes the red fraction of the dyebath will seem to disappear when the vinegar is added (especially with Wilton Violet). This is because the red is sticking to the pan rather than to the yarn.

*“To prevent this, mix the dyebath and **soak the yarn overnight** without adding vinegar. The next day, heat the yarn and the dyebath to 160 degrees F (70C) and slowly add the vinegar while bringing the dyebath to 180 F (80C).*

“Because the red food coloring has had time to move into the fiber, it will bond there, and not on the pan.”

More info at: <http://www.dyeyouryarn.com/purple-formulas.html>

[The red component is also a bother with chemically reactive dyes. It can be stubborn to dissolve, and given half a chance can separate out and ruin your dye batch. The powder also likes to escape unseen into the air only to surprise with splashes of red colour you next time you wash the clothes you were wearing to dye with ... Ed.] [If you have had trouble with purple dyes in the past, you may like to prepare your fibre the night before dyeing day as per the instructions above.]

Purple Dyes from nature!

While there are a lot of sources of natural purple dyes, most are either seasonal, and/or not light-fast. Purple cabbage, carrots, ink berries, blackberries, mulberries etc are all sources of purple to pink dyes, and while most are colourfast (won't wash out) they are not that light fast and will fade to grey or brown if exposed to bright light. One that caught my eye, and was a practical option, is Logwood. Logwood has good colourfastness and is also moderately light-fast.

Avocado skins and pits are a readily available source of natural dyes for pinks to red maroons, BUT with the addition of an iron mordant, inky blues, purple and blacks can be achieved. Here are some links to dyeing with avocado methods, mainly for the pinks and reds, with tips for the darker blues, purples and black:

<http://hookedanddyed.com/2014/05/28/natural-dye-avocado/>

<http://www.cuesa.org/recipe/plant-dye-avocado-pits>

Most methods work best if extra time is taken to prepare or extract the dyes, so if you would like to try an avocado dye on the 18th of November, it might be a good idea to start preparing your avocados now!

Terms to dye for ...

Mordant: Most natural dyes require mordants. Mordants are generally metal salts. The most commonly used mordant these days is alum (Aluminium Potassium Sulphate). It is commonly used in the treatment of drinking water and is considered “safe”. Iron and copper are less commonly used but are safe if handled with care. Chrome and tin are quite toxic, difficult to safely dispose of and not recommended these days.

Tannin is a plant based mordant that can be added as tannic acid, or can be naturally present in dyes using for example eucalyptus, pomegranate, tea, grapes or wine.

Modifiers: Vinegar, citric acid and cream of tartar are examples of modifiers. Modifiers alter the PH of the dye solution which can subtly or dramatically alter the colour!

Modifiers are not mordants generally speaking so if you want your colours to be more permanent you will also need a mordant.

Suppliers List

Karoa Fibres Corowa

Email: karoa@ipstarmail.com.au

Phone: 02 6035 1727 Mob: 0427 302 209 / 0427 334 611

Fairfield Finns

1275 Bacchus Marsh Road, Bullengarook, Vic, 3437

Ph: 0345 289 428 Mob: 0407 884 446

Bendigo Woollen Mills

4 Lansell St. Bendigo 3550

Ph: 03 54424600

Tarndwarncourt Polwarth Wool (Wendy and David Dennis)

41 Roseneath Rd. Warncoort, Vic, 3243

Ph: 03 5233 6241

First Edition Fibres and Yarns

16-18 Charles St. Euroa. / PO Box 201 Euroa Vic. 3666

Ph: 03 57 95 3578

10-4 Gallery Glenrowan.

<https://www.facebook.com/tentofourgallery>

Kajiko Fibre Works (carding etc)

www.kajiko.com.au

Locally made



Wooden spindles

\$15.00 each,
contact Heather
02 60 246579

For Sale

Electric Spinning Wheel for jumbo spinning. \$150. Contact Faye Hoffmann on 0409 521161

For the Diary:

Oct 31 st , Nov 1 st	Albury Show
November 5 th 2015 to February 24 th 2016	Christmas at the Johnston Collection, Melbourne. https://www.johnstoncollection.org/house_museum_tours

Workshops, Work Days and Meeting Days:

October 28 th	Rooms closed (Albury Show) Workshop meeting Debbie's.
November 4 th	Rooms closed (Albury Show)
November 11 th	Meeting, Remembrance Day
November 18 th	Dyeing Day with purple colours and avocado pips and skins
November 25 th	Christmas Lunch out OR workshop at the Guild rooms – to be decided
December 2 nd	Casual Workday
December 9 th	Last Meeting for the Year, followed by a shared Christmas Lunch
February 3 rd 2016	Return, Casual Workday