

# Albury/Wodonga Handweavers and Spinners Guild Inc.

NEWSLETTER May/June 2014



Albury/Wodonga Handweavers and Spinners Guild Inc. PO Box 629, Albury NSW 2640

## President's Report

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 9th April, and the Committee for 2014 was elected. Thank you to the outgoing committee members, Christine, Liz and Alison for all they have done for the guild over the last few years.

The annual fee will remain at \$30.00 and a gold coin donation for tea/coffee on Meeting Days and Workdays will continue.

Again this year, our Meetings will be the 2nd Wednesday, and our Workdays will be the 1st and 4th Wednesday of each month.

There are many activities of interest happening this year; the scarf exchange, a display of our work at the Victorian Spinners and Weavers Guild in Melbourne and our group entry in the Bendigo Wool and Sheep Show to name a few.

Look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

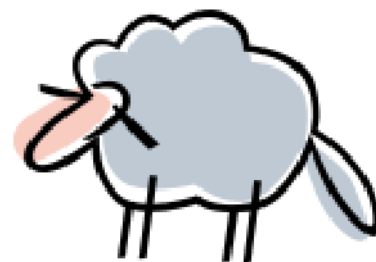
Best Wishes, Heather.

## Incoming Committee:

President:	Heather Mulqueeny 0260 246579	Public Officer:	Helen Spears
Secretary:	Ruth Mitchell 0402 019869	Publicity Officer:	Ruth Mitchell 0402 019869
Treasurer:	Debbie Carpenter 0400 612237	Library &	
Newsletter Editor:	Kathy Wheeler 0439 696878	Equipment Officer:	Vicki Law

## Hostess Duties:

May 14	Maureen and Debbie
June 11	Kathy and Vicki
July	Helen
August	Liz
September	Christine



## For Sale:

### 2 x Ashford Traditional spinning wheels.

Excellent condition. Each wheel includes 4 x bobbins, lazy Kate and a niddy noddy. \$200 each.  
Phone Mal Goldie on 02 60232593.

### 18" Four Shaft Druva Table Loom.

Complete. 8 dents per 1" reed. Asking \$35.

Contact: Faye Humann on 03 57522054 or 0409 521161

Delivery possible.

## Show and Tell

*At our last meeting on April 9th, 2014:*

**Audrey** showed some home spun, hand knitted and hand dyed leaves for our nest. She had also dyed some plaits of wool with coffee which will go into the nest.

**Rhonda** discussed the Alpaca section at the Wodonga show. Kathy, Julie and Rhonda were all very much involved in showing and organizing the event.

**Kathy** showed a 9 stranded plait of wool roving for the nest. She also had a skein and fleece of alpaca which was dyed with River Red gum bark. The colour was a beautiful rose/mushroom shade. She also showed the superb needle felted Gouldian finches.

**Alison** showed some lovely, finely crocheted items that her grandmother had done.

There was also a mitred square blanket done by Marie. Also on the crochet theme was a cute cat rug and an interesting crochet shroat which could be worn in different ways.

**Liz** showed a nuno felted scarf in subtle pink tones. It was made of silk and merino.

She is currently knitting a jacket using wool from her own alpacas which has been commercially spun.

**Pam** has been knitting cute chickens which hold an Easter egg inside.

**Faye** had dyed some skeins of wool in beautiful earthy shades using chestnut and walnuts. Faye also has an 18 inch loom for sale.

**Debbie** had finished a sweet little knitted boys vest as well as 2 knitted berets. She also brought in a very smart intarsia jumper with a hearts and cat design which she had knitted many years ago for her daughter.

**Heather** has been experimenting with the spindling and showed some very finely spun yarn using a very small spindle. She has finished a very handsome cabled jumper.

**Ruth** finally finished a guitar strap which was done in gold and black cotton on the inkle loom in a celtic design.

## From the Editor:

Firstly I would like to thank Alison Park, our outgoing editor, for her work on the Albury Wodonga Handweavers and Spinners Guild Newsletter.

Secondly, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Kathy Wheeler and I joined the Guild this year. I come to the Guild from a web publishing background, and prior to that print media and advertising.

My interests in spinning and weaving comes from my desire to learn new skills to add value to the fleeces shorn from my beautiful alpaca herd, and incorporating them into mixed media art and sculptural pieces.

I enjoy hand dyeing and painting cotton and silk, merino roving and alpaca fleece. I was excited to find the Guild also has members with experience with natural dyes, and have published a book on the subject! Natural dyes are my passion since first experimenting with onion skins and tea bags three years ago.

I enjoy crochet, but find knitting a challenge. Inspiring pieces I have seen in Fibre Art magazines and FaceBook feeds does make me want to try again, and I'm sure if I get stuck there is plenty of help available from fellow Guild members.

So please excuse any newbie mistakes while I find my way, and if anyone has anything spinning, weaving, fleece or fibre related they want to learn or share, let us know for the Newsletter!

## Newsletter Contributions

Can be emailed to [awspinnners@gmail.com](mailto:awspinnners@gmail.com) or the editor at [kathyw@albury.net.au](mailto:kathyw@albury.net.au)

## **Wodonga Show**

*Sat 29th March*

Christine, Heather, Pam and Debbie were our much appreciated volunteers for the Wodonga Show.

The display table at the public entrance to the Alpaca shed was felt to be in a good position to engage with the show visitors, with live spinning demonstrations thanks to our dedicated volunteers. Thanks also to Debbie for the photo!

We have plans for improvements next year, sweeping up the dust and possibly having a bigger and more interesting display.

There was a lot of interest shown by the passing visitors and this is all good exposure for our Group.

Julie, Rhonda and Kathy were also present and busy in their roles organizing and showing the Alpacas. Kathy also assisted with stewarding at the alpaca fleece judging after which with fellow spinners discussed which of the array of fleeces and colours they'd really like to spin.



## ***“All things knitting”* Workshop with Marg Lynch**

*Wednesday April 2nd*

We were lucky to have Margaret Lynch as a guest speaker at our guild in April. Marg's knitting and crochet is legendary, as she wins many prizes at district shows and with the CWA.

Marg brought along a vast array of her work from large rugs to tiny baby clothes and displayed them to us along with a commentary on the processes involved. She then spent some time showing us a few seaming techniques and had suggestions on perfecting the finish and how to neaten buttonholes, amongst other things.

Our thanks to Marg for spending the morning with us and so generously sharing her passion and knowledge of knitting and crochet.

Heather.

## For the Diary:

<b>Saturday April 26th, 2014.</b>	<i>Wangaratta Wool Day.</i> Time 10am to 3pm. Venue-Our Lady's Primary School Hall, White Street, Wangaratta.
<b>Sunday May 4th, 2014.</b>	<i>Strong Wool Breeders Association.</i> 27th Annual Sheep and Wool Fair. Benalla Show-grounds.
<b>Wednesday 4th June, 2014-Saturday 2nd August, 2014.</b>	<i>Affiliated Groups Exhibition (Victorian Guild).</i> Victorian Guild, Nicholson Street, Carlton North.
<b>Friday August 15th, Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th, August 2014.</b>	<i>Affiliated Groups Conference.</i> Hosted by Waverley Spinners and Weavers at Mt. Eliza. Further details later.

## Workshops, Work Days and Meeting Days:

<b>Wednesday 23rd, April, 2014:</b>	<i>Workshop</i>	We will be continuing to work on the Guild's entry* for Sheep and Wool Show and Affiliated Groups Exhibition at the Victorian Guild.
<b>Wednesday 7th May, 2014:</b>	<i>Workshop</i>	
<b>Wednesday 14th May, 2014:</b>	<i>Meeting</i>	

### \* Woolcraft at the Australian Sheep & Wool Show

#### Sheep and Wool Show and Affiliated Groups Exhibition at the Victorian Guild

This year's theme is "A Riot of Colour inspired by Australian Native Birds" and the 2014 Featured Breed is merino.

(<http://australianwoolcraft.com/2014/02/10/2014-theme-a-riot-of-colour-inspired-by-australian-native-birds/>)

Our entry birds nest is being worked on and we'd love your contributions. Knitted, crocheted, felted or woven. Any technique of working with wool is welcome.

Pick your favourite Australian bird, take it's colours in merino wool or roving (or merino blend) and create an egg or two for our nest, or flowers to decorate it! Stark black and whites from our magpies and Willy Wag Tails, add a splash of vibrant red for our winter Robin Red Breasts or a kaleidoscope of colours like our Rosellas and Lorikeets. Nature had a marvelous way of blending colours and there's bound to be a combination that appeals to you!

Any size would do, after all birds eggs come in a wide range of sizes. So pick something that is comfortable for you to work with. A chicken's egg is a good reference. And keep samples and notes of your materials to add to our entry worksheet.

### "The Woolgatherers"

