

A Good Yarn

Knitters' Guild NSW



May 2023
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This Month's Cover

Left - right

1. Shetland Vest - First prize in the Sleeveless Garment section and Winner of the Margot Chick Award
2. Southern Barbara's winning tea cosy
3. Woy Woy August James with her First Prize winning shawl
4. Susan Stephens Blanket - own design - third prize in the Blankets section
5. Susan Stephens Vest for nephew George.
6. Epping Kerrie Dowsett - Blacktown show
7. Northern Tablelands Teddy Bears' Picnic show entry
8. Susan Stephens Teacup and saucer - second prize in the Creative Knitting section.

 Ravelry: [/groups/knitters-guild-nsw-inc](https://groups.ravelry.com/knitters-guild-nsw-inc)

 Instagram: [knittersguildnsw](https://www.instagram.com/knittersguildnsw)

 Facebook: [kgnsw](https://www.facebook.com/kgnsw)



A word from the Vice-Presidents

By now the Annual General Meeting will be over and you will have a new committee in place to continue the growth and advancement of the Knitters' Guild NSW. Unfortunately, personal reasons prevent me from continuing on the committee. Hannah is also stepping back this year for similar reasons. Sometimes life gets in the way of our other plans.

Many of the incoming committee members are not new, so the Guild will be steered by a very experienced team, with a sprinkling of newcomers to learn the processes. Incoming President, Sally Ogilvie, is certainly very experienced and knowledgeable. The only way the Guild will continue to flourish is with involvement of members and it is wonderful to see both new and old members continuing to be of service.

Last year was a big year for the committee but we managed to cope with each problem as it arose. The membership database is now up to date, the website is being updated and new software is being installed. The Knitters' Certificates have been completed and are in the process of being tested, and FibreFest has moved to a bigger and better venue to bring you a more enjoyable experience.

Remember, if you would like to help but don't want to commit fully you can always volunteer to be a test knitter for the Knitters' Certificates or help on the day at FibreFest. Keep an eye on KGBytes - there is often a call out for volunteers to help at various events or do some charity knitting.

By now your winter knitting is probably well under way, and we always find that an enjoyable part of what can sometimes be a miserable part of the year. Keeping in touch with your local group is always a way to hear about new patterns, yarns and ideas. Just sitting, knitting and chatting with friends is always a lovely way to spend a few hours. We hope you continue to enjoy and learn through membership of your local group and participation in Knitters' Guild events..

Best Wishes,

Julie Hogan and Hannah Smith
Outgoing Vice-Presidents, Knitters' Guild NSW



A Good Yarn Edition Deadlines:

August: 15 July | **November:** 15 October

If you wish to place an ad in the magazine please contact: editor@kgnsw.org.au

Sydney Easter Show 2023



We're proud to announce that the following Guild members were awarded ribbons in this year's Show in the Knitting and Crochet categories.

Susan Stephens, a Blue Mountains Member, won the Margot Chick Award for the Best Exhibit in Hand Knitting. She made Susan Crawford's Jeannie from the Vintage Shetland Project, using Susan's 50% silk and 50% cashmere yarn – at 46 stitches and 46 rows to 10cm!

August James, a Woy Woy Junior Member, won the WH Davies Trophy for the best exhibit in an Under 20s class.

Tracey Bonfante (Mid North Coast):
1st – Class 119, Pram, Cot Cover or Bunny Rug (Crochet)
HC – Class 120, Travel, Knee or Afghan Rug (Crochet)

Fiona Donovan (Inner City):
HC – Class 95, Stranded Garment (Knitting)

Jane Downey (Inner City):
1st – Class 123, Child or Adult Garment (Crochet)
1st – Class 128, Adult Crocheted Accessories (Crochet)

Sonia Forsyth (Capital Region):
HC – Class 101, Adult Socks (Knitting)

Karen Gaskell (Southern):
HC – Class 123, Child or Adult Garment (Crochet)

Margaret Hardwick (Katoomba):
1st – Class 97, Lace Scarf, Wrap or Shawl, 3ply or thicker (Knitting)
2nd – Class 128, Adult Crocheted Accessories (Crochet)

Deborah Horne (Inner West):
HC – Class 95, Stranded Garment (Knitting)

August James (Woy Woy):
W H Davies Memorial Perpetual Trophy for the most meritorious exhibit in an Under 20s class.
1st – Class 525, Wearable article, knitted or crocheted, 14-19 years
3rd – Class 527, Creative Item, knitted or crocheted, 14-19 years

Colleen Mawson (Inner West):
3rd – Class 120, Travel, Knee or Afghan Rug (Crochet)
HC – Class 102, Blanket or Rug (Knitting)

Susan Stephens (Blue Mountains):
Margot Chick Award - Vintage Shetland Vest
1st – Class 92, Child's Pullover (Knitting)
1st – Class 93, Sleeveless Garment (Knitting)

2nd – Class 103, Creative Knitting (Knitting)
3rd – Class 95, Stranded Garment (Knitting)
3rd – Class 102, Blanket or Rug (Knitting)
HC – Class 95, Adult Garment (Knitting)

Elizabeth Stevens (Inner City):
HC – Class 100, Scarves and Shawls not included in other Classes (Knitting)

Raewyn Tippett (Newcastle):
1st – Class 103, Creative Knitting (Knitting)
3rd – Class 94, Textured Garment (Knitting)



Susan Stephens' winning vest



Easter Show judging: crochet

By Abbey Bongers

Abbey Bongers and Sara Aylett judged the crochet for the second year running in 2023. The show splits the crochet judging up by category numbers, 'odds and evens' so there's an even split of categories. This means each judge does a blanket category and an over 70s category and so on. The biggest category was Class 120: Travel, Knee or Afghan Rug with 37 entries, closely followed by Class 124: Creative Crochet with 32 entries. Creative crochet is tricky to judge as there is a vast array of creativity and a little bit of head scratching... 'What is this?' was a common thread.

The Class 120 blankets were tough to judge this year. Our process tends to start with examining each item and starting with a yes and a no pile. The no pile gets anything with unwoven ends, unblocked, damaged (two blankets had holes in them this year) and anything with tension problems. That filtered out about half the entries. Then it's down to the serious competition where we must pick the winners. We ended up choosing a corner-to-corner artistic blanket (Marisa Stephens of Blue Haven with 'Farmer and his dog') as both the Class winner and recipient of 'Best in Show', the Marea Terry cash prize supported by the Guild. The crochet in that blanket was PERFECT and the subject matter was so well suited to the show.

Only a handful of entries in some categories meant we couldn't award the full suite of prizes – only two hankies for example. There are some categories that fluctuate a fair bit like Tunisian Crochet (Abbey's favourite) which only had four entries this year.

We were both very impressed with the under 20s categories this year. There were a few entrants that would give the adults a run for their money.

We'd like to encourage our members to enter for next year. Why not get your guild group motivated to enter? Dropping off and collecting exhibits is a breeze and other people can do it on your behalf. The public still love seeing the handmade efforts of the locals and be inspired to keep up what many consider a dying art (although we beg to differ!)



Easter Show class winner and recipient of 'best in show', the Marea Terry cash prize supported by the Guild



Southern's Barbara Horsley's winning tea cosy



TEA TexStyle Awards 2023

By Hannah Smith

The Technology Educators Association (TEA) is a professional association for teachers, including textile teachers. The TEA run the annual *TexStyle* awards each March for the HSC major works from the previous year. The Guild sponsors a prize for excellence in knitting and/or crochet for an entire garment or a garment featuring a knitted or crocheted component.

The shortlisted entries are on display at Gallery 76 (76 Queen St, Concord West) until the end of May 2023. The gallery is very close to Concord West train station. After May the shortlisted entries will be available online, and last year's winners can be found here: [Virtual Texstyle Exhibition](#)

This year's winner is Chelsey Wilson of St Mary Star of the Sea College, Hurstville for *Great Barrier Reef*, a textile artwork featuring hyperbolic crochet. Chelsey has won \$250 to spend on yarn, patterns, tools or books of her choice to be presented at her local Knitters' Guild group.

Hyperbolic crochet is a three-dimensional structure assembled by regularly increasing stitches of a crochet row to create a ruffling effect. The technique is commonly used in crochet artworks to add textual detailing, shaping and emphasis as well as line and direction. The visually fascinating lines which hyperbolic crochet creates is used in many famous hanging art projects.

Second place was shared between Satsuki Ota-Jones of Presbyterian Ladies College, Sydney and Indi Rippon of Whitebridge High School. Satsuki's work included a crochet shrug as part of her *Folklore Faires*, and Indi's entry was a textile artwork called *Coral Bleached* featuring crochet.



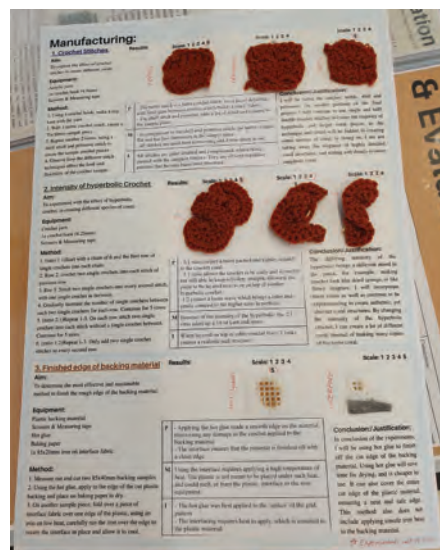
Satsuki Ota-Jones - Folklore Faires



Indi Rippon - Coral Bleached

As members, all the winners can also access our learn to knit programmes.

We welcome these talented young women to the Guild and hope to see more of their work in the future.



Hyperbolic crochet - presentation



Chelsey Wilson - Great Barrier Reef

Guild Information

Executive Committee Meetings are held online (via Zoom) from 10.00am on the third Saturday of the month, except December. Any member is welcome to attend but please advise the Secretary. secretary@knittersguildnsw.org.au.

Executive Committee

As at 5th May 2023

President

Vacant

president@knittersguildnsw.org.au

Vice-Presidents

Julie Hogan (Macarthur), Hannah Smith (Inner City)

Secretary

Patricia McGregor (Pittwater)

secretary@knittersguildnsw.org.au

Treasurer

Raewyn Tippett (Newcastle)

treasurer@knittersguildnsw.org.au

Committee Members Robynn-El Ross (Southern Highlands), Margaret Harradine (Inner City), Jayne Kelderman (Mid North Coast), Maureen North (Pittwater), Gerri Ricci (Blacktown)

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Retail Profile: Grumpy Ginger Yarn Co.

I am Aleashia, a qualified Environmental Scientist with a passion for knitting. I was that weird kid knitting on major construction sites in utes and sheds. This all changed when my daughter came into my life. She was a life changing factor and that want and desire to work long hours, away from home for career progression, disappeared overnight.

My husband, Jarrad worked hard to get us into a position where I could start my dream to do what I love and be close to my family, where I could be an active part of our daughter's life.

We stumbled across the old cottage at the Wyong Milk Factory and felt that it was perfect for this. We had a hard sell to the owner to let us start our adventure back at the start of 2022 as they had other plans for the cottage, but with persistence, we changed their mind. Several months of hard work and renovations later, we had our suppliers and shop ready.

The Grumpy Ginger Yarn Co. opened in March 2022. The day of the opening was an emotional rollercoaster. On one hand, I achieved my lifelong dream of opening an amazing space for like-minded people who like to have a yarn (pun intended). On the other hand, I snapped the tendons in my knee and had to go into emergency surgery that week.

I was off my feet for several weeks, but with the support of my husband and my non-knitting/crocheting friends, they opened and ran my little shop for me.

Since then, the shop has been a hive of fun and activity. We have undertaken charity knits and crochet days, with many social groups frequenting the shop. We are about to have two different designers during April and

June focusing on crocheting and knitting. They will be undertaking workshops and participating in social events during their visits. We have created an environment that is homely and welcoming; where crafters can come to be inspired and gain guidance if needed.

We specialise in hand-dyed yarns. We focus not only on the bigger well known names, but also on some of the lesser known names within the industry. We target mainly dyers here in Australia. We have two imported hand-dyed fibres which are currently exclusive to us, being Arcane Fibre Works (Canadian) and Boredom Kills Design (German), with Arcane Fibres being one of my personal favourites.

Even with owning the business I still have a great passion for knitting. However, I struggle to find the time. I think this makes me enjoy my knitting time even more. I love to knit items for my daughter such as jumpers, tops and blankets and for myself and gifts. I love to knit shawls.

We hope you can come and join us in my dream soon.



Facebook: [Grumpy Ginger Yarn Company](https://www.facebook.com/GrumpyGingerYarnCompany)
Instagram: [Grumpy.Ginger.Yarn](https://www.instagram.com/Grumpy.Ginger.Yarn)
Website: www.grumpyginger.com.au

NEWS

2023 Guild Cruise

28-31 July on board Carnival Splendor
3 nights out of Sydney and back
<https://www.carnival.com.au/itinerary/3-day-getaway-cruise/sydney/splendor/3-days/ct2/?itinportcode=syd&military=N&pastGuest=N&senior=N&numGuests=2&evsel=&hideSailingEvents=true&locality=7¤cy=AUD&sailDate=07282023&roomType=IS>

Only 12 weeks to go and about 40 crafters registered!! We're looking forward to a fun time of workshops, lots of knitting in public and quizzes and prizes. There is still room for more people to come along for the fun. Please contact me as below for booking details as we are centralising the bookings through a Guild member travel agent.

Newsletter 1 has recently been sent to those who have already booked, if you haven't received it or if you haven't had a response to general enquiry emails please contact Merrin Marks at merrinmez@gmail.com.



Instagram:

The Guild's Instagram account is now very much active, thanks to Southern member Abbey Bongers. Find it at: [@knittersguildnsw](https://www.instagram.com/knittersguildnsw) Groups and retailers: send relevant photos and content about upcoming events to be featured. Contact Abbey: abbey-made@gmail.com or private message the Guild page: [@knittersguildnsw](https://www.instagram.com/knittersguildnsw)

Advertise in A Good Yarn

If you wish to place an ad in
the magazine please contact:
editor@kgnsw.org.au



FIBREFEST 2023

by Knitters Guild NSW

SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER
10AM - 4PM

WYONG RACE CLUB &
FUNCTION CENTRE

Howarth St, Wyong NSW 2259
A short 5 min walk from Wyong Station

More Information:
www.knittersguildnsw.org.au

FREE ENTRY

Stalls (Yarn & Craft)
Demonstrations
Fashion Parade
Food & Drink
Great Music
Stunning Location

Great day out
for the whole family!



Knitting Pattern

RETRO STYLE BEANIE

Original Knitting Pattern by Knitwits and Yarns

Details

Method - Knitting in the round

Skill Level - Beginner

Yarn 3-4 x Cleckheaton Country 8ply (DK) 50g

Total Needed

150-200g (5.3-7 oz)

288-384m (310-420 yds)

Needles - 50cm (20") 8mm (US 11)

Circular Needles

Materials: Stitch marker

Tapestry Needle

Scissors

Pom Pom maker

Double Pointed Needles

(If required)

Gauge: Stockinette Stitch with 8mm (US 11) needles 12.5sts/18rows = 10cm (4")

Abbreviations:

cm Centimetres

C1 Colour 1

C2 Colour 2

C3 Colour 3

C4 Colour 4

K Knit

K2tog Knit next 2 stitches together

st(s) Stitch(es)

* Repeat whatever follows the * to the stitch marker

Pattern/Colour Schemes

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| <p>1.</p>  | <p>Rib
14 rounds C1
Body
16 rounds C2
2 rounds C1
4 rounds C3
2 rounds C1
2 rounds C2
Crown
11 rounds C2
Pom Pom
C1</p> | <p>2.</p>  | <p>Rib
14 rounds C1
Body
14 rounds C2
3 rounds C3
3 rounds C1
3 rounds C4
3 rounds C2
Crown
11 rounds C2 Pom
Pom C1/C3/C4</p> | <p>3.</p>  | <p>Rib
14 rounds C1
Body
16 rounds C1
4 rounds C2
4 rounds C1
2 rounds C2
Crown
2 rounds C2
4 rounds C1
5 rounds C2 Pom
Pom C1</p> |
| <p>4.</p>  | <p>Rib
14 rounds C1
Body
16 rounds C2
3 rounds C1
2 rounds C2
3 rounds C1
2 rounds C2
Crown
11 rounds C2 Pom
Pom C1/C2</p> | <p>5.</p>  | <p>Rib
14 rounds C1
Body
10 rounds C1
1 round C2
1 round C1
8 rounds C2
1 round C1
1 round C2
4 rounds C1
Crown
11 rounds C1 Pom
Pom
C2</p> | <p>6.</p>  | <p>Rib
14 rounds C1
Body
14 rounds C2
5 rounds C3
7 rounds C2
Crown
11 rounds C2 Pom
Pom C1/C2/C3</p> |
| <p>7.</p>  | <p>Rib
14 rounds C1
Body
12 rounds C1
4 rounds C2
2 rounds C1
4 rounds C2
4 rounds C1
Crown
11 rounds C1 Pom
Pom
C2</p> | <p>8.</p>  | <p>Rib
14 rounds C1
Body
12 rounds C2
2 rounds C1
3 rounds C3
2 rounds C1
3 round C2 Crown
11 rows C2</p> | <p>9.</p>  | <p>Rib
14 rounds C1
Body
22 rounds C2
Crown
11 rounds C2</p> |

Materials

Pattern Scheme Yarn Estimations

1. 2 balls C1, 1 ball C2, 1 ball C3
2. 1 ball C1, 1 ball C2, 1 ball, C3, 1 ball, C4
3. 3 balls C1, 1 ball C2
4. 2 balls C1, 2 balls C2
5. 2 balls C1, 2 balls C2
6. 1 ball C1, 2 balls C2, 1 ball C1
7. 2 balls C1, 2 balls C2
8. 1 ball C1, 1 ball C2, 1 ball C3
9. 1 ball C1, 2 balls C2

Sizes

Width: Small 52-55cm (20.5"- 21.5"),
Medium 55-58cm (21.5"-23"), Large 58-
61cm (23"-24")

Length: From cast on edge to top of
crown; Beanies 1-7 measure 27cm
(10.2")

Beanies 8-9 measure 24cm (9.5")

If you would like a longer or shorter
beanie then simply increase or decrease
the number of rows in the "body" of
your beanie. Please note this may
change the pattern scheme.

Instructions

Brim

Using 8mm (US 11) circular needles
and 2 strands of yarn, cast on 56, 58,
60sts in the round using the long tail
cast on method.

Join into the round and place a stitch
marker on the first stitch, begin to work
in the round. Move the stitch marker
after every row.

Round 1: *K1, P1* repeat between * to
stitch marker.

Repeat Round 1 a total of 14 times or
until rib measures 8cm (3")

Body

Scheme 1-7 (standard retro with pom pom)

Round 15-38: K all stitches to stich
marker (changing colours according to
your chosen pattern scheme)

Round 39: Decrease 0, 2, 4 stitches
evenly across round (56sts remaining)

Round 40: K all to marker



Scheme 8-9 (shorter style without pom pom)

Round 15-34: K all stitches to stitch
marker (changing colours according to
your chosen pattern scheme)

Round 35: Decrease 0, 2, 4 stitches
evenly across round (56sts remaining)

Round 36: K all to marker

Crown - (All sizes and schemes)

Round 1: *K5, K2TOG* repeat between
* to stitch marker (48sts remaining)

Round 2 and alternative even rows: Knit all

Round 3: *K4, K2TOG* repeat between
* to stitch marker (40sts)

Round 5: *K3, K2TOG* repeat between
* to (32sts)

Round 7: *K2, K2TOG* repeat between
* to stitch marker (24sts)

Round 9: *K1, K2TOG* repeat between
* to stitch marker (16sts)

Round 11: *K2TOG* repeat between *
to stitch marker (8sts)

Cut yarn and thread through remaining
stitches. Draw up and fasten securely.
If desired, make a pom pom using a
pom pom maker or your preferred
method.

Attach pom pom to the crown of the
beanie allowing roughly 2cm (1")
from the apex for each anchor point to en-
sure a stable base.

Original Knitting Pattern by Knitwits
and Yarns
Instagram - @Knitwitsandyarns

Contact:
Brendan Girak
Email - brendan.girak@gmail.com
YouTube - Knitwits and Yarns

"REMEMBER TO TAG #RETROBEANIE
ON INSTAGRAM SO I CAN SEE ALL YOUR
AMAZING BEANIES!"

Meet Brendan Girak

By Robynn Ross

Brendan Girak is the young man behind Knitwits and Yarns, who began to knit at 21 and in the last decade, slowly progressed to the point where he designs and releases his own knitting patterns.

With a degree in entrepreneurship attained straight after high school, Brendan has a creative and active brain, but feels as though he lacks that killer entrepreneur instinct. He speaks paternally about his knitting as he does not want to push it to be something it isn't. At 27, he quit his job and begun studying primary teaching, where his enjoyment of working with children inspires him to have the ultimate goal of using his degree to teach knitting in schools and other institutions.

Being diagnosed with ADHD and constantly needing to have something in his hands has been influential, as he loves the movements of knitting and the sense of accomplishment it provides at the completion of a project. Brendan steers away from complicated designs because he feels that the benefits gained from knitting are achieved through the simplistic movements of the craft.

Brendan rarely used other designer's patterns, which means he has learned a lot through experimentation and making mistakes, especially with sizing and gauge. He sees designing as basic maths with gauge as the ultimate tool. His first attempt at creating his own design resulted in an oversized Rastafarian beanie, with his current design style focusing on oversized jumpers and shorter styled beanies.

Brendan's designs are unisex in nature, as he is motivated to design knitwear that appeals to men, so they will knit and wear them, like he does. He is currently exploring cable designs and colour work, where he practices on beanies to sharpen his technique before proceeding to jumper designs.

Neutrals, browns and greys are his go-to colour choices as they complement his designs well. His idea of perfection in a knitted garment is 'subtle' not 'extravagant', as he measures the colours chosen against his penchant for actually wearing them. Brendan aims to create simple designs that include a unique design element, such as a plain stocking stitch jumper with cable or colour work on the chest – easier for him to design and knit, but still visually appealing.

Authenticity is important to Brendan. On social media, he showcases content that he is actually working on and the places where he knits, whether slouched in a bean bag or riding an exercise bike. People connect with his authentic lifestyle and the way he uses his platform as an archive of his work as he talks about what he is doing at that moment. He sees male knitters as a rare breed and hopes that his simple, fashionable and comfortable garments set him apart from mainstream designers and perhaps inspire other men to take up the needles.

Brendan's business 'Knitwits and Yarns' is more of a lifestyle brand with the intent to showcase knitting. It has slowly become a small business as more patterns begin to be released and sold, but that entrepreneurial push is still in the background because he just wants to knit and create. His social media followers have



The "Checkmate Sweater" pattern.

been created organically by just following his knitting journey and Brendan feels he may turn them away if he was continuously promoting his patterns for sale. He is far more interested in promoting knitting rather than promoting a business, believing that the more patterns he releases, the more sales he will make, so in theory, the 'business' will look after itself.

Currently living in the southwest region of Western Australia with nature literally at his doorstep, Brendan is inspired to get outdoors to become a much more active person. Knitting can be a relatively sedentary hobby, so it's important to keep that balance. His workspace doesn't need to be flashy, as Brendan knits everywhere. You can picture him on the floor lounging in a bean bag with knitting all around him and his laptop (streaming sports) in front or taking his knitting on a nature hike. He likes to be comfortable when knitting and chairs simply do not do that for him. Eventually he would like to have a more creative workspace with shelves and a board he can brainstorm on, but for now, this suits him just fine.



With Clare Eardley from the Kai Fella Foundation, with the prototypes of the Kai Fella Sweater. The jumper Clare is holding was the first prize for a raffle that raised over \$5000 to support young males' mental health.

Website - www.knitwitsandyarns.com

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/knitwitsandyarns/>

Ravelry - <https://www.ravelry.com/designers/knitwits-and-yarns>

Crochet Pattern

My Crochet Chums Seagull

Yarn

Aldi So Crafty Knit & Purl Amigurumi Yarn - described on the box as "Light" - Equivalent to DK.

MC: 20g approx of Pale Grey for Body.*

CC1: 15g approx of Mid Grey for Body, Legs and Wings.

CC2: 5g approx of Dark Grey for Wings and Tail.

CC3: 5g approx of Blue for Body.

CC4: 5g approx of Yellow for Beak and Feet.

CC5: 5g approx of Orange for Hat.

CC6: Small amount of Black for Eyes.

* White can be used for **MC** if you prefer.

100% Cotton 25g = 57.5m

A cotton yarn works well for Ami as it gives good stitch definition and creates a firm structure so body parts hold their shape well. Any cotton/cotton mix DK should give similar results.

Hook

3 mm

Other Supplies

Yarn needle, toy stuffing, stitch marker/waste yarn.

Tension

Tension is not critical for this project but stitches should be tight enough to avoid stuffing showing through.

Size

Approx 20cm (8in) from top of hat to feet.

Pattern Notes

Unless otherwise specified this pattern is worked in the amigurumi style, in a continuous spiral without slip stitching or turning chains.

Use a stitch marker or waste yarn to keep track of the first stitch of each round.

If you do not want to make a Magic Ring you can start each piece by making a chain of 2 and then work the first round into the second chain from the hook.

If you would like to start with a Magic Ring but don't know how, you can find a Photo Tutorial at: <https://www.mycrochetchums.com/magic-ring-photo-tutorial.html>

Colour changes take place on last yrh of previous stitch.

The Seagull is made of multiple separate pieces sewn together. Unless otherwise stated, finish each piece by pulling the yarn through the last loop and leave a long tail for sewing. Any loose tails at the end can be easily woven in.

Increasing and decreasing

The "invisible" techniques below are recommended to give your amigurumi a neat finish:

Invisible Increase: Work 1 dc in FLO of next st and 1 dc in both loops of same st.

Invisible decrease: Insert hook in FLO of the two stitches to be decreased, yrh, pull through both front loops, yrh, draw through two loops on hook.

UK Crochet Terms - Abbreviations

This pattern is written using UK Crochet Terms - they are NOT the same as US ones - please familiarise yourself with the UK terms to avoid your character's shape distorting!

The "dc" abbreviation used in this pattern refers to UK double crochet. The equivalent stitch in US terms is single crochet - if you are used to US patterns you need to work single crochet everywhere this pattern says "dc". If you work US dc (equivalent to UK Treble) the finished item will be elongated and the stuffing will show through.



Stitches & Abbreviations used in this pattern:

beg	beginning
BLO	work in back loops only
CC	contrasting colour
ch	chain
ch-sp	chain space
dc	double crochet (US sc - single crochet)
dc2tog	work two double crochet stitches together to reduce by 1 stitch (US sc2tog)
FLO	work in front loops only
MC	main colour
rem	remaining
rep	repeat
sl st	slip stitch
st(s)	stitch(es)
yrh	yarn round hook (US yoh - yarn over hook)

Head & Body

Worked from top of Head down. Stuff as you go.

Rnd 1: With MC and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. 6 sts

Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st around. 12 sts

Rnd 3: [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. 18 sts

Rnd 4: [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. 24 sts

Rnds 5-10: Dc around.

Change to CC3.

Rnds 11-12: Dc around.

Rnd 13: 1 dc, change to MC, 23 dc. 24 sts

Rnd 14: Dc around.

Rnd 15: 2 dc, change to CC3, 22 dc. 24 sts

Rnd 16: Dc around.

Rnd 17: 3 dc, change to MC, 21 dc. 24 sts

Rnd 18: Dc around.

Rnd 19: 4 dc, change to CC3, 20 dc. 24 sts

Rnd 20: Dc around.

Rnd 21: 5 dc, change to MC, 19 dc. 24 sts

Rnd 22: Dc around.

Rnd 23: 6 dc, 7 ch, starting in second ch from hook, 6 dc down ch, 18 dc. 30 sts

Rnd 24: 6 dc, 6 dc in the unused back loops of chain, 2 ch, 24 dc. 36 sts

Rnd 25: 12 dc, 3 dc in 2 ch-sp, 24 dc. 39 sts

Rnd 26: 12 dc, [2 dc in next st] 3 times, 24 dc. 42 sts

Rnd 27: 12 dc, 3 dc2tog, 24 dc. 39 sts

Rnd 28: 12 dc, 1 dc2tog, 1 dc, change to CC1, 1 dc2tog, 15 dc, 1 dc2tog, 5 dc. 36 sts

Rnd 29: 11 dc, 1 dc2tog, 1 dc, 1 dc2tog, 15 dc, 1 dc2tog, 3 dc. 33 sts

Rnd 30: 10 dc, 1 dc2tog, 1 dc, 1 dc2tog, 13 dc, 1 dc2tog, 3 dc. 30 sts

Rnd 31: 9 dc, 1 dc2tog, 1 dc, 1 dc2tog, 12 dc, 1 dc2tog, 2 dc. 27 sts

Rnd 32: 9 dc, 1 dc2tog, 1 dc, 1 dc2tog, 10 dc, 1 dc2tog, 1 dc. 24 sts

Rnd 33: 8 dc, 1 dc2tog, 1 dc, 1 dc2tog, 9 dc, 1 dc2tog. 21 sts

Rnd 34: 7 dc, 1 dc2tog, 1 dc, 1 dc2tog, 7 dc, 1 dc2tog. 18 sts

Rnd 35: [1 dc, 1 dc2tog] 6 times. 12 sts

Rnd 36: 6 dc2tog. 6 sts

Fasten off. Weave yarn tail through FLO of last 6 sts and pull up to close hole. Weave in end.

Beak

Worked from front to back. Stuff as you go.

Rnd 1: With CC4 and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. 6 sts

Rnd 2: 2 dc in next st, 5 dc. 7 sts

Rnds 3-7: Dc around.

Fasten off. Leave a long yarn tail to sew the Beak to the Body once you've made all the parts.

Wings - make 2

Worked flat as a circle and folded into shape at the end.

Rnd 1: With CC1 and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. 6 sts

Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st around. 12 sts

Rnd 3: [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. 18 sts

Rnd 4: [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. 24 sts

Rnd 5: [3 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. 30 sts

Change to CC2.

Rnd 6: [4 dc, 2 dc in next st] 6 times. 36 sts

Fasten off. Fold in half to form semi-circle, stuff lightly and stitch closed around the curved edge.

Legs - make 2

Worked from bottom of leg upwards. Stuff lightly as you go.

Rnd 1: With CC1 and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. 6 sts

Rnd 2: Working in BLO, dc around.

Rnds 3-9: Dc around.

Fasten off. Leave a long yarn tail to sew the Leg to the Body once you've made all the parts.

Feet - make 2

Worked from back of Foot to front. Don't stuff.

Rnd 1: With CC4 and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. 6 sts

Rnd 2: [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times. 9 sts

Rnd 3: Dc around.

Rnd 4: [2 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times. 12 sts

Rnd 5: Dc around.

Rnd 6: [3 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times. 15 sts

Rnd 7: Dc around.

Fasten off. Flatten foot in half and sew the open edge closed, weave in end.

Tail Plumes - short - make 2

Worked from tip to base. Stuff lightly as you go.

Rnd 1: With CC2 and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. 6 sts

Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st around. 12 sts

Rnd 3: 6 dc2tog. 6 sts

Rnds 4-5: Dc around.

Fasten off. Leave a long yarn tail to sew the Tail Plume to the Body once you've made all the parts.

Tail Plume - long - make 1

Stuff lightly as you go. Worked from tip to base.

Rnds 1-5: Work as for the short Tail Plumes above.

Rnds 6-7: Dc around.

Fasten off. Leave a long yarn tail to sew the Tail Plume to the Body once you've made all the parts.

Eyes - make 2

Rnd 1: With CC6 and working into a magic ring, 4 dc, sl st in beg dc to join. 4 sts

Fasten off.

Hat

Made in two parts - hat and bobble.

Hat

Made from top down. Stuffing added later, before Hat is sewn to Head.

Rnd 1: With CC5 and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. 6 sts

Rnd 2: 2 dc in each st around. 12 sts

Rnd 3: [3 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times. 15 sts

Rnd 4-7: Dc around.

Rnd 8: Working in FLO, dc around.

Rnds 9-10: Dc around.

Fasten off. Fold brim of Hat out and up. Leave a long yarn tail to sew Hat to Head once you've made all the parts.

Bobble:

Made from top down. Stuff as you go.

Rnd 1: With CC5 and working into a magic ring, 6 dc. 6 sts

Rnd 2: [1 dc, 2 dc in next st] 3 times. 9 sts

Rnd 3: [1 dc, 1 dc2tog] 3 times. 6 sts

Fasten off. Sew Bobble on top of Hat. Weave in end.

Making Up

Using the photographs as a guide, pin the pieces together first, checking from all angles to make sure you're happy with the positioning, then use the long yarn tails or a length of yarn with a yarn needle to stitch the pieces together.

Sew the Beak onto the Body so that it sits just above the top coloured stripe.

Sew the Eyes either side of the Beak, a couple of Rnds higher and about 6 stitches apart.

Sew the Wings either side of the Body, attaching them just above the lowest coloured stripe.

Sew the Tail Plumes in place on the Seagull's bottom, with the longest one in the middle.

Sew the Legs on to the base of the Seagull, set forward slightly to enable him to sit down.

Sew the Feet onto the bottom of the Legs, making sure that the seamed edge is facing forwards.

Sew the Hat onto the top of the head at an angle.

Embroidered Details

Using the photos as a guide with a yarn needle, use MC to embroider the single stitch highlight on the Eyes.

All done!



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GROUP REPORTS

BLACKTOWN

Several Blacktown Group members enjoyed success at the Blacktown Show in March - congratulations to our prize winners Bernie, Carol and Caroline; and well done to all entrants on their beautiful work.

We kicked off 2023 with a couple of interesting and educational workshops - one on mending, presented by Gilda Bortolus; and a two-part class on two at a time socks presented by Caroline Craig. Caroline taught us how to do the Turkish cast on during our April meeting and we look forward to part two!

Katherine Flanagan, Secretary

BLUE MOUNTAINS

Easter already? We must be having too much fun because the year is flying by! It has been great getting back together after the holidays, seeing familiar faces and welcoming some new ones.

We started the year off with a members' market - a great opportunity for destashing when an impulse buy never did end up telling you what it wanted to be, or finding inspiration in unexpected places. But as virtuous as sharing one's stash is, at our April meeting it's a treat to be welcoming our first vendor of the year, with a visit from Hodgepodge Skein!

We've enjoyed a couple of workshops, the first focusing on different cast-on and cast-off methods hosted by Susan Stephens. You may have spotted some of her work in the Cabinet of Excellence at this year's Easter Show, and we're grateful that she never passes up an opportunity to share her skills with the group. If you're interested in stranded knitting, be sure to keep an eye out for her colourwork classes.

Our other workshop was perfectly timed for Easter: making surprisingly simple Easter bunnies. These cuties are made from a simple square of garter stitch and a pom-pom. We've included the link below for any other



Blue Mountains Easter bunny workshop

groups who would like to try it out. <https://web.archive.org/web/20140531195821/http://www.lebenslustiger.com/serendipity/archives/303-Square-Bunny-Knit-Pattern-2.html>

Until next time, happy crafting!
Luke Shilson-Hughes, Secretary

CAPITAL REGION

At our March meeting we delved into the science of fibre, using several basic ingredients and techniques to find out what our 'mystery yarns' were made of. Great fun looking at the effects of bleach and burning strands to look at types of ash and smell. In April our discussion centred around different short-row techniques and a comparison between types of shoulder-shaping. We had an amazing Show and Tell at both meetings! In May we celebrate our 10th birthday with cake and a workshop with Jane Slicer-Smith on fitting garments.

Liz McNally, Secretary



Capital Region Yarn testing

CLARENCE VALLEY

2023 has started with a busy couple of months. As planned, we have all attempted producing a bag with wonderful results. Helen's raffia crochet bag - made with three different coloured raffia - was a great hit. Philippa's knitted string bag was a success, and is great to carry veggies and other groceries. Gay felted her bag - it had its own handle incorporated; a great bag to take to town. Evol made several bags using mitred squares and as usual with great colours. Some of us are still working on our bags.

Next, we started on cowls. Evol produced a brioche, two-colour cowl with a twist. Jenny made a cowl with hand-dyed wool in a lace pattern - big enough to wrap around twice - with a twist as well. Philippa made a cream coloured alpaca cowl of 4x4 stocking stitch which sat so well around her neck.

Late March our group met with Cynthia and seven of her Maitland Group members at the Star Hotel in Macksville for a day of fun and knitting. Cynthia's group had an early start for their four hour trip - ours was less than two. Lots of Show and Tell and great sharing of knitting skills. Good food and lots of laughter - a great day out. We are so thankful for the effort made by Cynthia and her friends.

Next month we are on to socks and slippers.

Jenny Moar, Publicity.

CROCHET TURRAMURRA

We started the year with lots of chatting and lots of plans for the year ahead. We are going to have a CAL to be held over the next few months where we make 30cm squares in any choice of pattern. These will be joined to make a blanket (or blankets!) and donated to charity. We have had a couple of great workshops already. The first of these was a cast-on cluster which could be used for two patterns, one of which was a sideways scarf. We may repeat this later in the year as a lot of interested members could not attend that day. Our next workshop was Double Filet Crochet with Pat. Pat brought two blankets made with this technique and roused a lot of enthusiasm. We welcome anyone who is interested in crochet and would like to join in our fun. These photos show some of our work from last year.

Janelle Grange, visitor (from Pittwater)



Crochet Turramurra

EPHING

Recently we were treated to a collection of regular attendees and Epping Group entries to the Blacktown Show. Many of these items won major awards; such a treat to be able to see these entries. A number of Guild members gained high rankings with a first, second or third ribbon displayed on their item. Special commendations to both Kerri Dowsett and Jill Francis.



Epping Maria Stagnos fingerless gloves with Icord trim and embellishments



Epping Stasia Szymanski charity items using her stash

Our monthly education sessions culminated recently with Maria Stagnos, presenting a pair of fingerless gloves at Show and Tell. These outstanding gloves incorporated Maria's February's 'I-cord session' and March's session 'Thumb Gusset for Fingerless Gloves'. With Maria's usual finesse for style, a crochet flower and heart embroidery for embellishment were added. A basic simple fingerless glove pattern was transformed into something special.

A large bundle of our charity knitting was included in a couriered shipment to Orange. A response was received by the organiser summarised below:

"Admin Officers at Ronald McDonald House most excited and very appreciative. Thanks to those who donated. Very pleased about the winter items, initially most appreciative about the baby items as their second most common stays are from the high-risk pregnancy clinic. They provide baby kits that have similar things to the Hospital (Red Cross) baskets that other mothers get in some hospitals. I.e: baby wraps and blankets, burp cloths, tiny soft toys, baby jackets and hats, etc. They are going to let us know about the rest when they have completed unpacking - it's been like Xmas!!"

Shirely Gregory, Publicity

EPHING CROCHET

Our Crochet Group has embarked on new projects this year. The first was an octopus amigurumi toy suitable for babies. Our photo shows those finished by March. In March we made crocheted pot holders, which were double thickness, and in April we worked on corner to corner squares to be made into a knee rug for charity. The next projects are tea towel toppers.

Anne Moore, Publicity



Epping Crochet octopus amigurumi toy suitable for babies

GOULBURN

The first three months of 2023 saw our members knitting and crocheting up a storm!

Three of our members participated in a Stephen West KAL, and when they were completed, we were fortunate enough to have a show put on for the big reveal!

Even though the same shawl was knitted – how different (and gorgeous) do they look with the different colour choices?



A big event for us is our local show which was held over two days in early March, and we were very well represented with several of our members competing over a number of categories. As always, our group members were also busy over the two days manning a Knitters' Guild stand. We showcased our skills with lots of items on display, ran mini lessons as well as holding a guessing competition - how much yarn (metres) was in a jar.

Our members were very successful in multiple areas, with one of our members Narelle Shinfield, winning First Prize in her category as well as Reserve



Champion with the above Stephen West shawl! Well done Narelle!

There were so many other great garments; it is a shame we can't show them all here – but here are a few in the gallery below.

We are now sitting back getting ready for our winter knitting!
Stephanie Lanzetti, Publicity

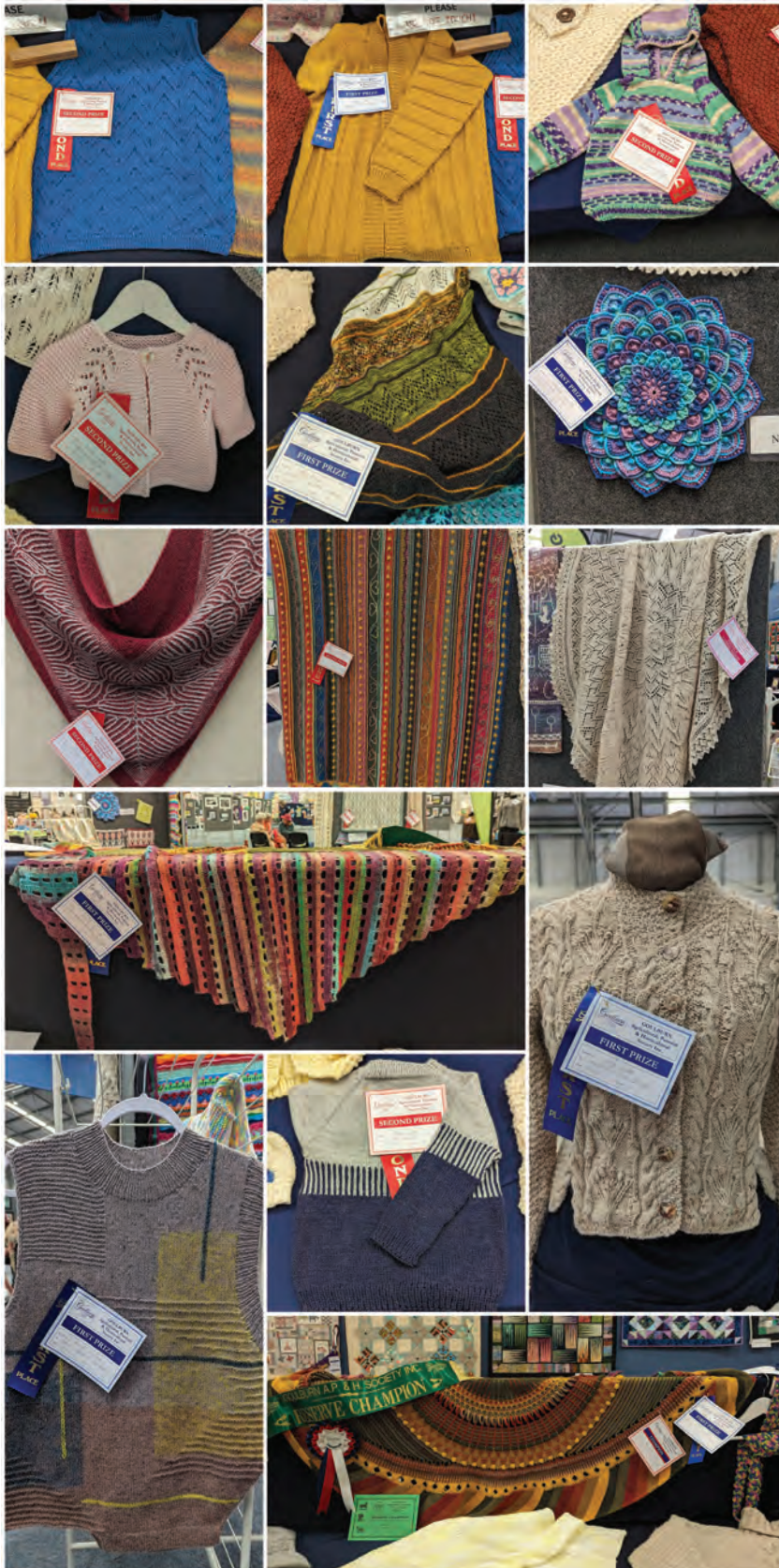
INNER CITY

The January meeting hosted a presentation and small display of stock for sale from staff at The Sewing Basket, a group of not-for-profit stores run by Achieve Australia. Members browsed a selection of treasures including fabrics, yarns, embroidery and notions.

Jo-Anne Hewitt and Kaye Stefanovic, Co-Convenors



Inner City The Sewing Basket bargains



INNER WEST

We've had a great start to the year welcoming Fiona, Monika and Morag to our group. They're passionate about knitting and crochet and have already brought fresh ideas and a wealth of knowledge.

In January we discussed yarns suitable for summer knitting and what you need to consider when knitting or crocheting with cotton and linen, including how to care for garments fashioned from these yarns.

In February we brought our knitting and crochet problems to the meeting, hoping that someone could help us out. We were not disappointed: covering topics such as adjusting a bottom-up pattern to top-down; what to take into account when substituting yarn; how to better navigate Ravelry and more.

Over the Christmas break we'd all had a chance to review our stash, so in March we explored ways to turn leftover yarn - that you simply can't throw out - into beautiful small projects such as jewellery etc. Acrylic got a mention as being ideal for yarnbombing.

It was thrilling to look into the crochet

and knitting cases at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and see ribbons next to two of our members. Colleen received Third Prize for her crocheted blanket (Travel, Knee or Afghan Rug) and a Highly Commended for her pop blanket in the knitted section. Deby received a Highly Commended for her Fair Isle multicoloured sleeveless top. Go girls!

Louise Zaluzny, Secretary

KATOOMBA

It has been a quiet quarter for the Katoomba Group: our venue for March was overrun by a flock of Elvies in celebration of the Blue Mountains Elvis festival. The following month saw our group pause to celebrate the Easter/school holidays break.

Of course the knitting continues even though we have not met as much, and we are very excited to be meeting again in May. There have been some very gorgeous projects that have been completed over the last quarter, including Luigi and Goomba made by our crochet guru Ronah Tuite, and a dog coat made by Margaret. A trip to the Sydney Royal Easter Show Arts and Crafts preview was a great opportunity to see all the beautiful items by members of all the different groups. There are so many amazingly talented knitters and crocheters.

Margaret Hardwick, Secretary



Katoomba Luigi and Goomba made by Ronah Tuite



Katoomba Peggy trying on her new coat made by Margaret

KIAMA

We celebrated our 21st Birthday in February with a High Tea. Several of the inaugural members were present on the day. It was a lovely afternoon sharing memories and acknowledging the friendships that have formed over time. There was a display of members' projects over the years, some of them prize-winning entries in local shows. Sue Daley, a founding member of the Kiama Group, spoke about how the Kiama group started: it is a good story especially the way Sue tells it. A journalist from the The Bugle, Kiama's local newspaper, came along and wrote a story on our group which was published soon after. It was great to have the skills and experiences of our craft acknowledged. Pat Southwell was the winner of our major lucky door prize of the blanket members knitted squares for. The blanket was knitted in the Kiama Town Flag colours of blue, green, yellow, white and black. This blanket won first prize in the Kiama Show in the category "Knitted item not previously mentioned".



Kiama Sue Daley - Inaugural Member

Our group has a strong focus on supporting various charities throughout the year by donating knitted items or fundraising. These include Wrapped with Love, Bay and



Kiama Group Projects



Kiama Blanket 2023 show and prize at 21st Birthday

Basin Uniting Church and Australians Knitting for War-Affected Kids.

We have been working on a list of workshops for the remainder of this year. These will be taught by members of our group where possible.

Anne Phillips, Convenor and Iman Aziza, Secretary

KU-RING-GAI

Another quarter for the group of friendship, sharing skills and welcoming new members.

The group continues to meet at Turramurra Uniting Church at 9.30am on the fourth Monday of each month and for social knitting at a local cafe at 9.30am on the second Tuesday of each month (contact Convenor for details).

One of the group, Heather Laurie, has opened a yarn store: The Knitting Nook at Dural. We wish Heather all the best in her new venture. It is wonderful to have a local yarn store where one can see and touch, receive friendly advice and



Ku-ring-gai Sue, Heather, Lesley, Jenny at The Knitting Nook



Ku-ring-gai The Knitting Nook visit Heather and Margo



Ku-ring-gai The Knitting Nook visit Jane, Trisha and Denise



Ku-ring-gai The Knitting Nook visit L-R Shaun, Robina, Victoria, Cathy, Ann, Jenny, Ann, Janelle and Sue (partly obscured)

be tempted to explore new yarns and techniques.

In March the group's social meeting was at The Knitting Nook, followed by coffee at the cafe next door

We are looking forward to the next quarter's knitting and workshops.

Gayle Parker, Convenor

MACARTHUR

The Macarthur Group has had a productive start to 2023. Our January meetings were catch ups; getting ourselves back into our knitting routine.

In February we were given lessons on Finishing Techniques by Iris Horoch. The lessons were well received by all who attended. Even those of us who are long-time knitters learnt a few new tricks and tips. Iris also provided a very comprehensive booklet giving extra tips, plus links to useful websites.

Our group thanks Iris for her time, and sharing her passion and skills with us over the two February meetings.

Our one meeting in March was a visit to The Wool Inn at Penrith. As usual, Anita was welcoming and generous with her time as our ladies enjoyed browsing the new yarns and patterns.

The local Camden Show meant our CWA hall was in use for our next March meeting. However, the Macarthur Group were proud sponsors of three awards at the Camden Show. Each winner was given membership to the Knitters' Guild, plus a voucher for The Wool Inn. See

pictures of the winning articles.

The youth (16 - 21 years) winner was Sofie Kourembes.

The Juvenile (Under 16) winner of the best crochet article was Juliet Plummer. The Juvenile (Under 16) winner of the best knitted article was Giovanni Marra.

We hope these young winners will join our group, and hopefully via them, we can encourage more young people to join in.

In April we have a public holiday on our Monday meeting date. Our Saturday meeting will now be a catch up, plus



Macarthur winners from the Camden Show

Show and Tell, as our planned guest is now unable to attend.

The year is passing again way too quickly!

Alison Wootten, Publicity

MAITLAND

While we all continue to meet, socialise and share our skills and knowledge at our regular meetings and gatherings, we also managed to squeeze in a trip to Macksville to meet with the members of the Clarence Valley Group on the 27th of March. Over lunch at a beautiful riverside pub we all shared our projects both in progress and upcoming. We finished the day with promises to catch up again.

Cynthia Mulholland, Treasurer



Maitland Macksville visit with Clarence Valley Group

MID NORTH COAST

Mid North Coast Group have been busy planning our workshops for the rest of the year. We have created a public Facebook Page that will interact with the many community groups in the Mid North Coast area, letting them know of our upcoming activities.

In the last couple of months we have held workshops on beaded knitting, knitted and crocheted Easter





Mid North Coast (above) Will and Merrin shows Will's result from a workshop

craft, mosaic knitting and chevron crochet.

Our upcoming workshops are:

- 26th April - Blocking
- 13th May - Towel toppers and crochet hangers
- 23rd May - Casting on

If you are visiting the Mid North Coast you will be most welcome to come along and meet our lovely group.

Tracey Bonfante, Convenor

MUDGEES

At our February meeting, the first for 2023, we spent our time sharing personal projects we had been working on over the break. It is always heartening to see garments completed or progressing.

At our March meeting, we held a workshop learning a slip stitch, Whirl on the Matrix, which one of our members had been using in a scarf pattern. Designed originally to be knitted from both ends of one ball of graduated yarn, our members improvised, using two contrasting yarns to replicate the pattern. It was pleasing to see the effect the slip stitches had in our coloured swatches.

We also brainstormed patterns for a future workshop on felting. Patterns for hats, oven mitts, scarves or slippers were suggested and shared so that items could be knitted prior to the workshop at which we will complete the felting process. Also provided for another future workshop were details of stocking stitch squares to which Swiss darning will be added, and the squares combined to construct blankets for charities.

Sally Colley, Convenor



Mudgee Slip stitch patterns

NEWCASTLE

Members have been kept busy this quarter with a range of opportunities. There have been workshops – Crocheting String Bags (by member Anne Hutton); Tunisian Crochet (by member Kelly Lonergan <https://hazennainspired.com>), and Selecting Colours (by retired art teacher Sue Richardson.) We held

a Random Knit in Public event at a local park on a Saturday in March, and about 12 of us sat around knitting and crocheting and talking.

Donations of yarn continue to arrive with great regularity. The yarn is either sold (at low prices to members with money raised go to our charity for the year Mentor Support Network) or given away to members using it to crochet or knit for charity.

And now a book review. Member Alison Ferguson has had her first novel Grey Nomad published by Brio Books. "When seventy-year-old knitter Joyce Campbell steps onto an alien spaceship for the first time, her lifelong dream is fulfilled. But when the ship launches and she zooms away from her husband and all she knows, Joyce is cast off into an adventure she could never have imagined." And yes, with some help from her knitting she manages to save earth from alien races. In the acknowledgements Alison writes: "My thanks to the delightful members of the Knitters' Guild NSW who inspired me to create the character Joyce who knits a whole lot better than I can." The book is available from Brio Books and Booktopia.

Katherine Heinrich, Convenor



Newcastle Alison's latest knitting



Newcastle Grey Nomad Cover

NORTHERN TABLELANDS

Since the commencement of 2023 our group has been busier than ever. Our entry in the Armidale Show at the beginning of March was a Teddy Bears' Picnic for which we received First Prize in our section. Some members also successfully entered individually.

While working on our various individual projects at meetings we have identified special topics and speakers for various times during the year.

At our recent Autumn Festival some of us enjoyed highlighting our group by crafting in the park. In the last two meetings we have been poppy making for an Anzac Day wreath.

Ingrid Chaku, Secretary



Northern Tablelands Autumn Festival in Armidale

PITTWATER

Our group continues to meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month, as well as the first Saturday of the month.

Over the last three months we have had some great meetings and some wonderful Show and Tell sessions.

We have organised a KAL and a CAL to be worked on over the year with the plan to donate some blankets to charities. We had a great workshop on how to make neat buttonholes, both horizontal and vertical, with Barb. We learnt I-cords with Pat. We had an interesting workshop with Sally on Mosaic Knitting, and an easy way to join knitted squares with Maureen.



Pittwater Mary Musgrave from Pittwater Group with Kath Gunn, Women's Resilience Centre, Mona Vale

Mary recently assisted the Mona Vale Branch of the Women's Resilience Centre with a donation of crocheted brooches for their volunteers to wear on official occasions. The Centre assists women suffering from domestic violence. Following emails and a visit to the Centre to discuss a possible design and colour scheme, the final product proved to be a winner and will be proudly worn by the volunteers. The Centre was extremely grateful to the Pittwater Group for their time and generosity and have added the group to their list of supporters.

Melissa decided that crocheted pasta would be a fun resource for the kindergarten where she works. Not only did she learn new skills, Melissa also had a lot of fun. She made a variety of pasta pieces, but it was the spaghetti and meatballs that the children liked best. The meatballs were made from a crochet button pattern which came from last year's Guild Gathering. I am sure the children, and the generations of children yet to pass through the centre will love it.

Janelle Grange, Secretary



Pittwater Spinach spaghetti and farfalle pasta in crochet by Melissa Hickey

SOUTHERN

April 2023 was the 35th anniversary of the Southern Group of the Knitters' Guild NSW!

Our very own Gemma Lawrence organised Sarah, Nurse Unit Manager of St George Hospital's Special Care Nursery (SCN) to come and speak to us and take receipt of a box of handmade accessories for the babies. The SCN is a regular recipient of handmade items from members of our group, and Sarah was able to tell us what kinds of things the SCN can make use of. It was so good to hear from her directly and we hope that her visit will rekindle the connection



Southern celebration cake



Southern founding members Fay Ellsworth and Beryl Mercia



Southern Sarah and Gemma



Southern cake cutting - founding members Fay Ellsworth and Beryl Mercia

we have with this very special place.

We put on a display of special hand knitted and crocheted makes for all to see. Barbara Horsley brought along an impressive range of award-winning tea cosies and several members brought along hand knits they'd made literally decades ago that look freshly made!

Two of the founding members of our group were present: Beryl Mercia and Fay Ellsworthy. Together they cut our celebration strawberry and cream cake and spoke to us about our group's history. Fay remarked that while she hadn't been to a meeting in a long time, the group feel was just like it was when it first started. We are a very social and inclusive bunch of makers.

Robynn Ross from the Guild committee also came along for a visit. She remarked that Fay Ellsworthy was the reason she joined the Guild and learned that there really was more than one knitting cast-on method!

In Easter Show news, two of our members have taken out ribbons at the show this year. Barbara Horsley has taken out the top gong (again!) for her latest creative tea cosy and Karen Gaskell with a highly commended for her crocheted granny square coat.

Sheridane Kumanidis and Abbey Bongers, Co-Convenors

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Having some interested visitors certainly jazzed our group up. One new member who has never held needles before, is starting the new Stage 1 Certificate to trial it for the Executive Committee, while several others have caught the 'show bug'.

Congratulations to Shonagh Moore for her 4-ply baby shawl entry in the Moss Vale (Second Prize) and Robertson Show (HC), plus her Champion Knitter award and prize money to go with her First Prize for her 8-ply Celtic knot jumper.

Maria Stanley was gobsmacked with her Second Prize for First Time Entry in the Moss Vale show for her diagonally knitted cardigan and 1st prize for her Alice Starmore jumper. Her red 5-ply knitted in the round cardigan with complicated cable won First Prize, plus the CWA prize money for Excellence in Knitting, plus the Steward's Choice award.

At the Bowral Show, Robynn Ross went home with four ribbons from five entries for gnome villagers, mittens and a cotton lace shawl.

We are enthusiastically planning for our 2024 show entries now.

Robynn Ross, Convenor

THE ENTRANCE

The Entrance Group are excited to announce that we have returned to our old stomping ground: Long Jetty over 55s Club. It's been an adventure trying to find a 'forever home'. Along with our wonderful chats and camaraderie our ladies are producing some amazing garments we see in Show and Tell. Linda showed us her cushion using Mosaic Crochet. (See photo).

Many are taking part in knitting for our two charities. We Care Connect, require acrylic knitted children's garments for ages birth onwards. Our AKWAK cause is for woollen garments for children in Syria and beyond. Thank you so much for your dedication. If you would like to help we will happily supply yarn for these causes.

We are sponsoring a knitting and crochet competition at the Central Coast regional show. Many of our members will be manning our stall. We will be at the local market in Tumbi Umbi, Mingara, on Sunday May 7th, for Mother's Day, with donations going to AKWAK.

This year is zooming along; it won't be long until we have knitted all of our stash! It's always wise to be on the lookout for more!!



The Entrance Linda's zebra mosaic cushion

*Thoughts to Ponder ...
My knitting is in a constant state of competition with the household chores. After years, and years of*

painful juggling, I have almost completely decided to give up on the house work. The way I see it, I can always clean up the house when I am old, but I'll never get this knitting time back.... Remember, dusting requires the same arm movement, whether it has been a week or a month! (At Knit's End.. Stephanie Pearl - McPhee)

Happy knitting and crocheting to all.
Prue Smee, Member

WEST RYDE

Meetings continue monthly with some keen new members. This year we've incorporated an 'official' help desk. Members bring along a troublesome project, or something they are not quite sure about. We discuss it, and then the person with the most suitable knowledge base to help will assist. We have a separate table set up, away from the general chatter, where participants can concentrate on their project and guidance. It has been well received. A number of ladies also enjoyed a train trip to Berry Markets in early April. We West 'Riders' like a good train trip... hours of good conversation and dedicated knitting (or crochet) time with a nice lunch and coffee somewhere for good measure.

Beth Clothier, Convenor

WOY WOY

Membership is continuing to grow at a steady rate helped by knitting in public in the local Deepwater Plaza, and word of mouth about our welcoming and informal group. Two very interesting workshops were given by members on mosaic crochet and edging stitches. Thanks to our generous members, a large collection of wearable garments and personal items have been delivered to our adopted charity: We Care Connect.

We have congratulated and celebrated our youngest member, August, for receiving two prizes and a trophy for her first time entries in the Royal Easter Show. A First Prize for her crocheted shawl, together with the WH Davies Memorial Perpetual Trophy for 'The most meritorious exhibit in an under 20s section' plus Third Prize for her crocheted balloon dog toy.

Ruth Herman, Convenor

Meet the Members

Janice Ferrett

Janice Ferrett is a member of the Macarthur Group. Janice is the current Convenor of the Macarthur Group.



I joined the Macarthur Group about 15 years ago when my son started driving himself to the myriad of sports that he played. The Macarthur Group was the closest, and is located in an area close to my heart as it's where my dad played golf when I was a child (I was very good at washing golf balls). These days in retirement Camden is where we now live.

What's your knitting/crochet super-power? Sometimes it's a superpower and sometimes it's not as I am instinctively left-handed – my left-handedness drove my dressmaker mother nuts and she taught me to knit right handed. I am also a self taught left-handed crocheter but I mostly knit.

What's the most recent technique/tip you have learnt? I have always looked upon knitting as lots more techniques to learn. When my children were small and my time was limited I always liked to tackle difficult projects even though they would take a long time to complete. My mother-in-law was widowed young and was an exceptional knitter so my children always wore lots of hand-knitted garments but not made by me.

I am the keeper of a small library of books for our group so I can always refer to stitch and technique books for inspiration.

What's next on your 'learn to do' list? I am keen on exploring more slip stitch knitting techniques because I always enjoy playing with colour.

How long have you been knitting/

crocheting? I learnt to knit as a child but started to knit more in high school because I attended a girls high school and we used to knit at lunchtime.

What do you know now that you wish you'd known when you started out?

I wish I was taught the finer points of tension and garment sizing much earlier instead of just believing that following a commercial knitting pattern to the letter would produce a garment that fitted properly.

Some years ago I completed an online formal knitting course through city and guilds in the UK and this taught me lots.

WIPs (work in progress) – do you like to focus on one or two projects at a time or do you have more projects on the go than there are days in the week? I try not to have too many knitting projects on the go at once, we have a rarely used billiard table, which has become the staging point for my various textile pursuits.

You notice a small mistake – do you rip back or carry on? Sometimes I undo mistakes but it depends on the circumstances.

Why do you enjoy being a member of the Knitters' Guild NSW? I really enjoy being a member of the Guild and our own group. I have attended quite a few events and gatherings run by the Guild over the years and it's always inspirational to see where other members interest lies - I especially like to see what some of our younger members wear at Guild events as they are a lot more internet savvy than me and in touch with knitting trends world wide.

What are your favourite colours? My favourite colours are autumn tones and definitely not pink.

What would we see in your stash? I have acquired an extensive stash these days but I am attracted to fancy yarns that create texture.

When you're not knitting or crocheting you are.... I enjoy my garden and especially like to grow spring bulbs.

Jennifer Hughes

Jennifer Hughes is a member of the Blacktown Group. She has been a member of the Guild since 2020.

What's your knitting/crochet super-power? I will keep on and try to find out.

What's the most recent technique/tip you have learnt? Turkish cast-on.

What's next on your 'learn to do' list? Probably something hat- or sock-related.

How long have you been knitting/crocheting? Crochet for over ten years. I started knitting around the end of 2019 and was working on a wrap to wear to work, but a certain virus meant it spent most of its freshly minted time as a fancy house shawl.

What do you know now that you wish you'd known when you started out? Relax. (Actually, I technically knew this, but it took a while to really work it into my craft).

WIPs (work in progress) – do you like to focus on one or two projects at a time or do you have more projects on the go than there are days in the week? The ones on my hook? The ones on my needles? The ones in my sewing stash? Or the ones in my head?

You notice a small mistake – do you rip back or carry on? Usually a frog or tink.

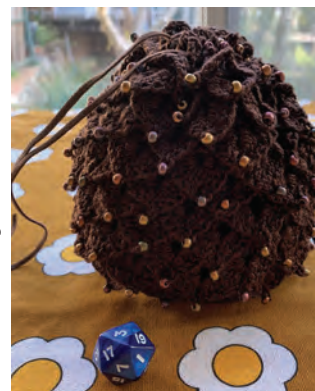
Why do you enjoy being a member of the Knitters' Guild NSW? There is always something to learn .. or be reminded of.

What are your favourite colours? I like them all!

What would we see in your stash? Natural fibre.

When you're not knitting or crocheting you are.... Sewing.

Dragon Egg dice bag I made for a D&D Dungeon Master



Retail members

Introducing new retailers

Brindabella Yarn Craft

Boutique online retailer of knitting, crochet and fibre arts bits and bobs. Products include adorable Katrinkles wooden wraps per inch tools, rulers, row counters, darning kits, sock blockers and pom pom makers. All orders are lovingly gift wrapped and we pride ourselves on our friendly and fast service.
www.brindabellayarncraft.com.au
fb.me/brindabellayarncraft
Instagram @brindabellayarncraft

Three Trees Fibre Crafts

Inspired by the Australian environment and a desire to showcase local fibres I am constantly exploring ways to interpret the local beauty - in particular creating colourways around themes that tell a story. Local yarn stores and online:
www.threetreesfibre crafts.com.au
Instagram and FB:
threetreesfibre crafts
E: welcome@threetrees-fibre crafts.com.au

24 Mile Hollow Yarn Co, Kandos

Hand-dyed Yarn, fibre and patterns. Dyed with low impact acid dyes and a mix of immersion, dip dyeing and steaming. Bases from Australian suppliers. Available from selected yarn stores or online. W: 24milehollowyarnco

Adagio Mills, Hawkesbury

Producing beautiful Australian alpaca yarn, rovings and garments in our own mill in the Hawkesbury of NSW from Australian Alpacas. Fibre processing services and accessories are also available. W: www.adagiomills.com.au E: info@adagiomills.com.au Facebook: adagioalpacomills Instagram: adagiomills

Australian Alpaca Yarn - Alpaca Ultimate

Luxury high quality Australian Alpaca Yarn. 1-8 ply balls and cones available in a range of colours from our online store. facebook.com/alpacaultimate/ W: www.australianalpacayarn.com.au E: sales@australialpacayarn.com.au

The Australian Wool Store

Specialising in unique, colourful hand-dyed yarns and a carefully curated range of commercially dyed yarns available only from The Australian Wool Store. KnitPro accessories. W: theaustralianwoolstore.com/ P: 0408 880 441

Batik Oetoro, Gateshead

An Australian, family-operated

business, Batik Oetoro has been providing dyes, fabric paints since 1972. W: BatikOetoro P: 02 4943 8808

Beadoodads

Specialising in stitch markers and progress keepers. Around 90 different ones to suit all tastes. Choose large or small nylon coated wire loops, rings or lobster clasps. Knitting and travel kits available too. W: Beadoodads E: beadoodads@gmail.com

Bendigo Woollen Mills

Quality Australian Yarn. Natural Fibres 2 - 12 Ply. Made in Bendigo, Victoria. Contact us for a free shade card. W: Bendigo Woollen Mills E: info@bendigowoollenmills.com.au P: 03 5442 4600

Birdhouse Fibres

Creating beautiful hand-dyed yarns from Sydney's Northern Beaches. Specialising in responsibly sourced luxury yarn bases in a large range of tonal and variegated colours. W: Birdhouse Fibres E: hello@birdhousefibres.com

Blackwattle Yarn

A carefully curated selection of luxury yarns and fibres, hand-dyed on our farm in Murrumbateman, NSW. Inspiring and catering to knitters, crocheters, spinners and fibre artists. Online or at local selected yarn stores. W: Blackwattle Yarn

Castle Handmade

For all things crochet - Classes, Supplies, Patterns and more. We host a range of crochet classes and sell a large variety of crochet supplies. Located in the Southern Highlands, NSW. W: Castle Handmade

Convent & Chapel Wool Shop, Rylstone,

Artisan brands, luxury local and imported yarns and knitting accessories. Hand-dyed yarn and lace specialists in a rural atmosphere. W: Convent and Chapel Wool Ph: 0409 564 747

Crafty Frog, Kambah, ACT

A specialty shop with good quality yarns, fibres and tools from suppliers worldwide. Bricks-and-mortar store with friendly, knowledgeable staff and integrated online shop. Always happy to try and source products. W: Crafty Frog

EleventyOne Windmills, Newcastle

Your ultimate online destination for yarn-craft tools and accessories. Hand-made stitch markers, jewellery, spinning tools, fibre and project bags. I am also a stockist of a great range of knitting retail products including needles, gadgets, and other goodies. W: eleventyonewindmills.com.au Instagram: @111windmills

Euro Sew and Knit Wholesale Only.

Australia has a new wholesaler for the fantastic range from Prym. Check the range of knitting needles, crochet hooks and everything to make knitting and crocheting enjoyable. Sales to retailers only, ABN required. W: www.eurosk.com.au E: service@eurosk.com.au

Fibre Arts Shed, Central Coast

Suppliers of raw materials and tools to fibre artists, incl. wool, luxury and plant fibres as yarns and tops. Locally grown/processed fibres available. Fibre (wool/alpaca) processing service available. W: Fibre Arts Shed P: 0422 160 506

glenheavenknits

Hand-dyed natural fibres for when only the best will

do. www.etsy.com/au/shop/glenheavenknits E: glenheavenknits@gmail.com

Greta's @ Roseville

At Greta's @ Roseville, you will find a range of fabulous yarns, including "Greta's Hand-Dyed Yarn", beautiful hand-dyed yarns in extensive colours and bases. 72 Pacific Highway, Roseville NSW 2069

Grumpy Ginger, Wyong

Grumpy Ginger Yarn Co. is a community hub for all walks of life. We offer classes, conversation, and creative inspiration! We have many unique hand-dyed and commercially dyed yarns, handmade and commercial accessories and locally made products and gifts. Facebook: Grumpy Ginger Yarn Company Instagram: Grumpy.Ginger.Yarn W: www.grumpyginger.com.au

Hive & Gobbler

Destination store in the Hunter Valley nurturing mindful creativity, slow-living and sustainability ideas. Open 7 days in Dungog. SUPPLIES - WORKSHOPS - EVENTS - ONLINE SHOP. W: Hive and Gobbler

Hodgepodge Skeins

Hodgepodge Skeins is a creative hand-dyed yarn studio located in the Blue Mountains; it's just a one woman show. I love to create combinations that I imagine and draw inspiration from my surroundings. Wool sourced from our Australian mills and it's 100% Australian. My colourways are unique and stirring to create with. I hope you love them as much as I do and that it brings you joy. W: Hodgepodgeskeins.com E: kaz@hodgepodgeskeins.com

The House of Wool, Leura

Australian hand-spun, hand-dyed yarns and well-known quality yarns. Workshops available. W: www.thehouseofwool.com.au

I Wool Knit, Bungendore

Online yarn shop for quality yarns, patterns and accessories from Australia and Europe. Fast and secure shipping Australia-wide. Free local pick-up. W: I Wool Knit E: sales@iwoolknit.com.au

Retail members



Jokamamo Textiles

Sumptuous hand-dyed merino, silk, BFL and cashmere yarns. Self-stripping yarns ready to ship and dye-to-order and matching mini-skeins. Free winding service on request. We stock quirky, fun project bags. W: Jokamamo Textiles

Kaalund Yarns

Kaalund Yarns manufactures in Australia luxury yarns produced from Australian wool and Australian alpaca. Products can be purchased online or from select local yarn stores. W: Kaalund Yarns

The Knitting Nook, Dural

Sourcing amazing yarn from Indie dyers and small businesses mostly in Australia, The Knitting Nook is proud to be a part of building a warm and inclusive crafting community. W: theknittingnook E:heather@theknittingnook.com.au

Lily and Maude *new*

Little Bird Makes

Hand-dyed luxury yarns inspired by the unique and vibrant colours of flora and fauna of Southeastern Australia. W: Little Bird Makes

Luxe Handweaving *new*

Quality luxurious yarns to organic hand-spun yarns – silks, alpaca, camel, yak, llama, merino, cotton, linen – all ethically sourced. FB: Luxe Handweaving E Linda: luxehandweaving@gmail.com Ph: 0417399353

Lyrebird Yarns

Helen Keenan, fibre artist in the Blue Mountains, selling my unique yarns, shawl pins, buttons and knitted and woven accessories at local markets, FibreFest, Ironfest and Winterfest. Spinning classes at studio. W: Lyrebird Yarns

Marlyn Alpaca, Thornleigh

Quality alpaca yarns, carded alpaca top, alpaca felts and blankets from our much loved flock of individually named alpacas. W: Marlyn Alpaca P: 02 9481 0949

Natural Yarn Co

All natural hand-dyed yarns, inspired by Australian flora and fauna. Mother and daughter duo combining an on-line store and also serving the Macarthur area and South-West Sydney. E: naturalyarnco@outlook.com.au W: www.naturalyarnco.com.au

Obsession Yarns

Obsession Yarns – home of gorgeous hand-dyed yarns and unique, beautiful handmade stitch markers for knitting and crochet. Based in Canberra and online. W: Obsession Yarns E: obsessionyarns@gmail.com

SipKnitYarn

Select from our range of accessories to enhance your crafting experience. Our Amish-style swifts pack into neat cocoons for storage. Our Yarn Boxes, in two sizes, are like "a yarn bowl with a lid". We have five timber types in our range of Rotating Yarn Butlers. As well as our five Blanket Pattern Books we have downloadable blanket patterns and free video tutorials. Our Craft Themed Tote Bags make great gifts W: SipKnitYarn

Spinners' Cotton

Premium-quality, 100% Australian cotton fibre. Spinning and carding tools, books, DVD tutorials, accessories, demonstrations and workshops on hand spinning and dyeing cotton. W: spinnerscotton.com.au P: 0439 408 159

Spunout Fibres, Hill End, NSW

Spunout Fibres are suppliers of natural coloured fleece and fibre, tops and yarns made from coloured sheep and alpacas for spinners, weavers and knitters. E: spunoutfibres@gmail.com P: Ann: 0409 823 045

Stitchy Witch Co

Stitchy Witches Wool Company is a new online yarn and accessories store. We offer a unique range of yarn from well-known brands to

independent dyers, as well as a varied range of accessories, notions and fantastic project bags from Australia and all corners of the world. W: www.stitchywitches.com.au Facebook & Instagram: @stitchywitcheswoolco

This Lush Corner, Snowy Mountains, NSW

A socially and environmentally responsible yarn store. You'll find a variety of handcrafted goods, kits, yarns, patterns, tutorials and more. W: This Lush Corner

Tarndwarncourt

The home of Polwarth wool since 1840 in south-west Victoria. Range of home grown yarns and top milled in Australia/NZ available online and Farm Shop. Workshops. Crafty Sundays. Accommodation for a hand-crafted stay. W: www.tarndie.com

Three Cats Yarn

Beautiful yarns dyed by hand in Sydney's Inner West and shipped all over Australia. E: info@threecatsyarn.com.au W: www.threecatsyarn.com.au

Three Mums' Yarn

Established by Capital Guild members, Three Mums' Yarn produces quality hand-dyed yarn. Find us at W: Three Mums Yarn.

Virginia Farm Wool Works

Offering equipment and fibres to spin, dye, felt, knit, crochet and weave. Spinning classes and wheels, looms, wool, silks, selected fleeces and blended fibres. W: Virginia Farm Wool Works P: 0448 866 789

Waratah Fibres and Yarns, Bundanoon

Hand-dyed fibre and yarn. Workshops in skein painting. Open day first Tuesday of the month, also by appointment. Discount to Guild members. E: helen@waratahfibres.com.au P: 02 4883 6138

The Wool Inn, Penrith

Visit us instore or online. Wide range of products (7,500+) including yarns,

needles, books, accessories, and looms. 10% discount for current Knitters' Guild members. Group visits welcome.

W: The Wool Inn P: 02 4732 2201

Wool 2 Yarn, Mornington

Luxuriously soft alpaca yarns and hand spinning tops from our beautiful fibre. We specialise in colourful silk blends and natural colours. Australian Grown Australian Spun Australian Made. W: Wool 2 Yarn P: 0404 753 840

Woolshed @ Manuka

We welcome everyone. We love natural fibres: their beauty, adaptability and individuality. We support small businesses supplying specialty yarns and accessories and offer something unique, including a range of classes. W: Woolshed P: 02 6295 0061

YARN CRAFT TOURS by Gourmet Journeys

Join fellow yarn lovers as we leisurely discover the fabulous yarns and flavours of the world. The 2023 fully escorted road trip explores New Zealand's glorious Sth. Island in Spring. Future tours incl Shetland/Norway, KAN, Tas and Japan. Let our experienced team take care of it all for you. Contact us: W: www.gourmetjourneys.com.au E: anne@gourmetjourneys.com.au m: 0421 019 879

YarnHub

Hand-dyed yarns in wool, linen, cotton, silk. Unusual yarns such as Habu stainless steel, paper yarns, leather, hemp, nettle. Invite us to your event. W: The YarnHub P: 0401 693 409

Yummy Yarn and Co, Dubbo

All your favourite yarns such as Patons, Cleckheaton, Panda, Debbie Bliss, Noro, Heirloom, DMC, Vinnis Colours Nikkim, KPC Yarn, Lily Sugar 'n Cream and more. W: Yummy Yarn and Co P: 0431 754 909