

A Good Yarn

Knitters' Guild NSW



World Wide Knit in Public Day



**Group Reports
Meet the Members
Interviews and more...**



August 2024 Vol. 39 No.3

In this issue...

Index August 2024

FEATURES

Epping Group's Biggest Morning Tea	3
Meet Ann Budd	8
President's Report to the Annual General Meeting	9
Craft and Quilt fair	19

Patterns / Feature Stitch

Knit	5
Crochet	6


REGULAR ITEMS


From the President	2
Group reports	12
Guild information	3
Meet the members	10
Retail Members	19
Retail Profile	4



© Knitters Guild NSW 2024 - Designed and published by
Burkill Media Design www.burkill.com.au

 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 President

By the time you read this, another Guild Gathering weekend will be over and I hope we're all hearing what a wonderful time everyone had. It involves a huge effort by a lot of people and isn't possible without some great volunteers with particular thanks to those Guild members who give up part of their weekend to pass on their many skills to the rest of us. Thank you all!

Now we're looking forward to the next big event in the Guild calendar FibreFest! This year's takes place on Sunday 13 October at Wyong Racecourse and we're expecting it to be as successful as last year's event, or even more so if that's possible. (And our FibreFest team, Gail and Jayne, are working really hard to make that happen). Stallholders selling everything we need for our fibre crafts, a catwalk parade, competitions, a huge raffle, and of course food, drink and music. I'm looking forward to it so much and to seeing a huge crowd again this year. Make sure this is in your diary now, and get together with friends for a train trip with knitting and crocheting, or to car share (there's plenty of parking). We will shortly be asking for volunteers to help on the day so if you're planning to attend, please consider giving an hour of your time to helping make this event a success. We can't do it without you!

And before we know where we are, there's our Christmas knitting to be planning. (And I'm sure we'll all find just the yarn we need at FibreFest). I love looking at our Groups' social media pages to see what innovative and wonderful items you've all made.

Best wishes to all

Sally Ogilvie
President



Calling all professional knitters, editors and designers.

I am currently gauging interest in creating a Zoom discussion group for those who earn money from their knitting. The idea is to network, share knowledge and experience, to talk about new trends, intellectual property, marketing, and technology. We can support each other in confidentially solving problems from technical questions through to dealing with difficult customers. We can have guest or member speakers to talk about the business of knitting and aim to help you hit the sweet spot in how much or how little work you want. Let's build a strong and supportive industry here in Australia. Beginners to long-standing professionals are welcome.

If you are interested, write to me, Annabelle Drumm
secretary@knittersguildnsw.org.au



Guild Information

Executive Committee Meetings are held online (via Zoom) on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 7:30pm. Any member is welcome to attend. Please contact the Secretary to obtain the Zoom link, secretary@knittersguildnsw.org.au.

Executive Committee

President

Sally Ogilvie (Woy Woy)
president@knittersguildnsw.org.au
 0404 165 619

Vice-Presidents

Margaret Harradine (Inner City)
 Clare Thornley (The Entrance)

Acting Secretary

Annabelle Drumm (West Ryde)
secretary@knittersguildnsw.org.au

Treasurer

Raewyn Tippett (Newcastle)
treasurer@knittersguildnsw.org.au

Committee Members

Tracey Bonfante (Mid North Coast)
 Mary Carlos (Woy Woy)
 Allyssa Carlton (Macarthur)
 Kathryn Trippett (Blue Mountains)

Sub-Committees

Guild Collection: Merrin Marks (Mid-North Coast) curator@knittersguildnsw.org.au

Information Management:

Clare Hacker (Blue Mountains)
membership@knittersguildnsw.org.au

Charity:

Maureen North (Pittwater)
charity@knittersguildnsw.org.au

A Good Yarn:

Editor: Marianna Thomson (Blacktown)
editor@knittersguildnsw.org.au

Publicity Officer:

publicity@knittersguildnsw.org.au

Website:

Stella Fava (West Ryde)
web@knittersguildnsw.org.au

Workshop Convenor:

Sally Ogilvie (Woy Woy) workshops@knittersguildnsw.org.au

Public Officer

Stefanie Vogt (Inner City)

Contact

Secretary: 0437 239 391
 PO Box 460, EPPING NSW 2121

www.knittersguildnsw.org.au

Epping Group's Biggest Morning Tea 2024

Homemade treats

This event could not have been the success it was without the generous support of the wonderful retail members. Thank you: Bendigo Woollen Mills; Convent & Chapel Wool Shop; Glenheavenknits; Grumpy Ginger and Great Southern Yarns; Jokamamo Yarns; Marlyn Alpaca; Priceline Baulkham Hills; The Knitting Nook; The Wool Inn; Waratah Fibres and Woolworths. Their generous donations were used in the many raffles that were on offer on the day.

In May we raised \$2,012, another fine effort. We had a lavender colour scheme for Survivors of Cancer. Our annual Knitting Competition attracted an exceptional number of items including: hats; beanies; headwear for adult or children cancer patients; wraps and even a crochet topped hand towel and a lady's cardigan. All of these items were donated to the Cancer Council at 75 George Street, Parramatta who gratefully accepted all the items and sent us a certificate of appreciation. Thank you to Alison



Entries in knitting competition

Dwyer, a Cancer Council Company Secretary who gave us an informative talk on the day which was enjoyed by all. Congratulations to Doreen Hunter with her achievement of the Best Beanies, Best Tops (cardigan or jumper) award. Well done!

We also want to thank those members from Epping Group and some from other Guild groups and visitors who attended the event and so generously parted with their cash on the day.

We hope that other Guild members are impressed by the generosity we have expressed of these retail members and support them. Most of their details can be found in the last two pages of this magazine.

Shirley Gregory, Publicity



Alison Dwyer Company Secretary Cancer Council



A Good Yarn Edition Deadlines:

November 2024: 15 October

If you wish to place an ad in the magazine please contact:

editor@knittersguildnsw.org.au



Retail Profile: Luxe Handweaving

Can you please tell us a bit about your business?

I love to weave, and I love gorgeous yarns that are naturally beautiful and interesting, like handspun silks and the variations in tones of grey alpaca. I do what I love and I love what I do: weaving, a little knitting and playing with unique and naturally beautiful yarns while sharing that with others.

How did you come to open a yarn store?

The business came about rather accidentally, as my supplier was going to stop selling yarns. I couldn't imagine living without them and having a vastly reduced range of yarns to create with, so, eventually I was persuaded to take on the business.

What are the fun parts of your job?

I never imagined I would meet so many beautiful people and go to so many places I've not been to before. I love the connections I make, the sharing and caring, learning and teaching and the melting pot of creativity. Something special is in the air when creative people come together, and it's beautiful.

What are some of the challenges to running a yarn store?

Balancing 'work stuff' (pricing, keeping track of inventory, running a website, doing lots of computer work) with creative time, and life in general.

What are some of the benefits of running a local yarn store in regional NSW?

I think people in regional areas have

a closer connection to the land, to basic skills like knitting clothing to keep warm, all of which were vital to survival not that long ago. They know and appreciate a quality yarn, and choose their yarns based on the nature of the yarn rather than its visual appeal.

What are some of the challenges to running a local yarn store in regional NSW?

I sell from home and online, so the only challenge for me is the long drive to areas I'm not (yet) familiar with.

Tell us a bit about yourself. Do you knit or crochet or both? Who taught you?

I've been a maker all my life, but never been very skilled with knitting or crochet. My mother taught me to knit, but I didn't enjoy it.

Over the years I've done macrame, cross-stitch, sewing, beadwork, leatherwork, ceramics, silversmithing, basketry, you name it.

I've recently taken up knitting with the help of a friend, and made a couple of horseshoe lace pattern scarves, which I love.

I fell in love with a woven wall-hanging at an exhibition over 30 years ago, and the maker was there. She encouraged me to go along to the spinners and weavers group she'd started, and taught me to weave. I've been a weaver since and love every minute of it. I recently learned how to spin using a drop spindle and look forward to creating unique yarns of my own.

Do you still enjoy knitting / crocheting even though you work

around it all day?

Yes, I do. I always have a knitting project on the go, and a weaving project. I started knitting to have something to make when I'm on the road and can't fit the loom in the car, and to show the yarns differently. A yarn woven looks quite different from a knitted piece.

Who's your average customer? Is there an average customer?

The average customer would probably be women who have now got time for themselves and appreciates how a yarn feels and how it will wear rather than going for a budget low quality yarn. I'm inspired to see so many young women taking up knitting and crochet, too.

What's your favourite yarn right now?

Oooo, that's a hard one. I suppose it would be two yarns, both of which I'm knitting into a horseshoe lace scarf. The first is a Baby Alpaca/Merino/Yak/Silk fluffy yarn which is so light and soft and makes a gorgeous scarf (I've made this up before and decided to keep it because I made a mistake). The second is a gorgeous honey coloured Tussah Slub Silk yarn with tufts of white. I've woven a scarf in this yarn and it was divine. I wanted to see it knitted, and it's so silkily soft.



Have you had any strange requests?

Not yet!

The tools for both knitting and crocheting have changed over the years. Do you think there is still room for improvement?

I'm constantly hearing about new needles and hooks that are more comfortable to use. Even little things



like stitch markers - how helpful are they in a lace pattern! I'm using circular needles for the scarves I'm knitting. I never could manage long knitting needles. I've recently heard of the Cubic needles and look forward to hearing how people find them. The Knit Pro crochet hooks would be so much more comfortable to use than what I used to struggle with. Tools will always be improved, and that's great.

What do you think the benefits are of being a retail member of the Guild?

The network of so many groups of people who come together to do what they love, to share their knowledge and keep these crafts alive is priceless. I hope to visit many of the groups and participate in their meetings now that I'm close to the end of a very busy first half of the year.

And FibreFest! My goodness, that was such an awesome event last year. I'm looking forward to this year's too.

What project are you currently working on?

I have a black Mulberry Noil silk scarf on the loom, and two horseshoe lace scarves on the needles. I wasn't sure about how the Tussah Slub Silk was knitting up and if I was using the right needles for it, but recently asked a knitter and was encouraged to keep going.

Finally...

A big thank you to all who give their time to the Guild to keep us all connected and keep our crafts alive. My grandmother spun her own yarn and knitted for her nine children. I never got to meet her, but through groups such as the Guild, we find other teachers and holders of knowledge and it's wonderful. Thank you.

David's Stripy Scarf



Designed by **Sally Ogilvie** (with help from David)

My husband wanted a colourful scarf and as he's a graphic designer, he presented me with the following image of his exact requirements. Fortunately, he was very happy with the result!



Yarn: 8 ply (DK/Light Worsted). 3 colours x 90g each.

In the sample:

A = Navy Blue, B = Light Blue, C = Orange

1 Pr. 4.5mm needles.

KB = Knit in the back of the stitch

Finished size: 20cms x 167 cms

Cast on 46 stitches. (multiple of 4 +2) with Colour A

Each row: *K2, KB1, P1* to last 2 stitches. K2

Colour A 18 rows, B 18 rows, C 2 rows
 Colour A 16 rows, B16 rows, C 4 rows
 Continue in this fashion, decreasing Colours A and B by 2 rows, and increasing Colour C by 2 rows until you have worked Colour A 2 rows, B 2 rows, C 18 rows, **THEN**

Colour B2 rows, A 2 rows, C 16 rows
 Colour B4 rows, A 4 rows, C 14 rows
 Continue in this fashion, increasing Colours A and B by 2 rows, and decreasing Colour C by 2 rows until you have worked Colour B 18 rows, Colour A 18 rows. Cast off.

I'd love to see your photos!

Crochet Pattern

Sharing is Caring



UK Terms pattern by Shelley Husband 2015

Hello :) I am asking that you freely share this pattern with your crochety buddies, but don't post it online. I would love to see this pattern be spread about the world by sharing between crochet friends. It is NOT a chain letter! You won't be cursed if you don't share it! There is no obligation to share, only if you want to :)

Please tag any pictures you share on the socials with #sidcbyspincushions so we can see how it goes. Thank you!

Materials

I used 8ply Bendigo Woollen Mills Cotton and a 5 mm hook. My block measures 6". I do tend to crochet tighter than most, so if size is important go down a hook size or 2. A 4 mm hook is recommended with this yarn.

Abbreviations

ss = slip stitch

sp /s = space/s

st/s = stitch/es

ch = chain

st ch = starting chain dc = double crochet htr = half treble crochet tr = treble crochet 2trcl = 2 treble crochet cluster - work 2 tr in the same st or sp, but don't complete the last yo and pull through 2 until the last st beg2trcl = beginning 2 treble crochet cluster - ch 3, tr in same st or sp htr = half double treble crochet dtr = double treble crochet

If you are unsure of any stitches, check out my YouTube Channel.

Begin with 4 ch joined with a ss to form a loop, or a magic circle.

Round 1

ch 3 (st ch), tr, *ch 1, 2 tr*, repeat from * to * 4 times, join with dc to 3rd ch of st ch.

{6 x 2 tr groups, 6 x 1 ch sps}

Round 2

beg2trcl, ch 1, 2trcl over joining dc, *ch 1, skip 2 sts, (2trcl, ch 1, 2trcl) in 1 ch sp*, repeat from * to * 5 times, join with dc to beg2trcl

{12 clusters, 12 x 1 ch sps}

Round 3

ch 3 (st ch), 2 tr over joining dc, *ch 1, skip cluster, 3 tr in 1 ch sp*, repeat from * to * 10 times, join with dc to 3rd ch of st ch.

{12 x 3 tr groups, 12 x 1 ch sps}

Round 4

ch 1, dc over joining dc, *dc in next 3 sts, dc in 1 ch sp*, repeat from * to * 10 times, dc in next 3 sts, join with ss to first dc.

{48 sts}

Round 5

ch 4 (st ch), hptr in same sp as ss, *tr in next 2 sts, htr in next 2 sts, dc in next 3 sts, htr in next 2 sts, tr in next 2 sts**, (hdtr, dtr, ch 2, dtr, hdtr) in next st*, repeat from * to * twice and from * to ** once, (hdtr, dtr) in same sp as first sts, ch 1, join with dc to 4th ch of st ch.

{15 sts along each side, 2 x 2 ch corner sps}

3 |Sharing is Caring by Shelley Husband 2015

Round 6

ch 1, dc over joining dc, *dc in next 15 sts**, (dc, ch 2, dc) in 2 ch sp*, repeat from * to * twice and from * to ** once, dc in same sp as first st, ch 1, join with dc to first dc.

{17 sts along each side, 4 x 2 ch corner sps}

Round 7

ch 3 (st ch), *8 x[ch 1, skip 1 st, tr in next st], ch 1, skip 1 st**, (tr, ch 3, tr) in 2 ch sp*, repeat from * to * twice and from * to ** once, tr in same sp as first st, ch 2, join with htr to 3rd ch of st ch.

{10 sts & 9 1 ch sps along each side, 4 x 3 ch corner sps}

Round 8

ch 1, 2 dc over joining htr, *9 x [dc in next st, dc in 1 ch sp], dc in next st**, (2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in 3 ch sp*, repeat from * to * twice and from * to ** once, 2 dc in same sp as first sts, ch 1, join with dc to first dc.

{23 sts along each side, 4 x 2 ch corner sps}

Round 9

ch 1, dc over joining dc, *dc in next 23 sts**, (dc, ch 1, dc) in 2 ch sp*, repeat from * to * twice and from * to ** once, dc in same sp as first st, ch 1, join with ss to first dc. Fasten off yarn and weave in ends and block.

{25 sts along each side, 4 x 1 ch corner sps}



For more crochet fun, visit <http://spincushions.com/>. If you need to contact me for any reason, please feel free to do so by email : shelley@spincushions.com. Enjoy!

Do you enjoy mending or finishing knitted garments?

Presently, the Guild gets enquiries every month from those needing help with mending a much-loved treasure or finishing work they are no longer able to do themselves. I'd love to build a list of knitters to call upon to help out. Sometimes money is offered, sometimes gift vouchers, and other times may require a favour you know the Universe will pay back.

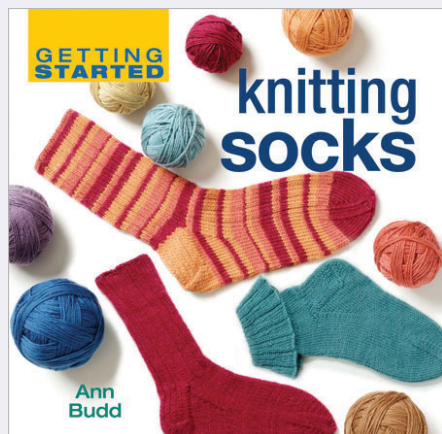
If you are able to help, write to me, Annabelle Drumm secretary@knittersguildnsw.org.au

Meet Ann Budd

by Robynn Ross

Ann is an internationally renowned knitwear designer and teacher from Colorado, U.S.A. We first met Ann when she was the Knitters Guild NSW's major drawcard at the Guild Gathering in 2015 at Stanwell Tops, where she demonstrated techniques and taught workshops. Ann was made the Guild's first Honorary Member.

Ann says that she learnt to knit by accident in 1968 when her family moved to Switzerland, near Zurich, during her father's one-year sabbatical. Attending the local school which included home-making classes for the girls, her teacher managed to teach her how to knit without Ann being able to speak German. Of course, it was the Continental style of knitting. Ann felt an oddball in not knowing how to knit at first, as her classmates had all



knitted themselves cable and lace knee socks in Grade 4. Ann's first completed project was a baby bootie that would have fit her father.

When her family returned home, Ann was heavily influenced by the woman's lib movement. This caused her to steer away from a career that was then perceived in society as 'woman's work', so she majored in natural science in college and went on to get a master's degree in geology. Of course, she knitted through it all, mostly in private. She gave most of her handknitted creations



to her family and didn't make a thing for herself.

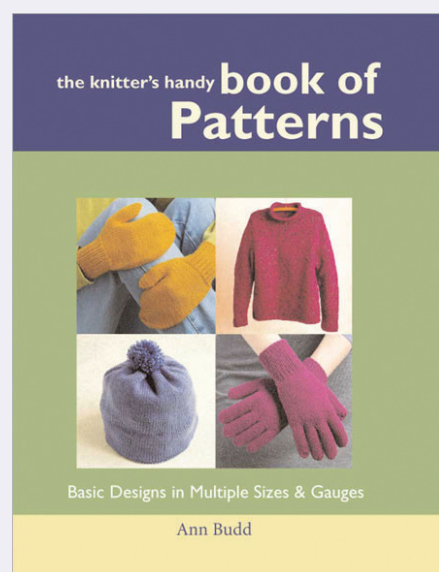
After working a few years as a geologist, Ann decided it wasn't the right fit for her and chose to follow her creative passion. Being at the right place at the right time enabled her to be hired by Interweave Press as an editorial assistant for Handwoven Magazine. She was delighted when Interweave Knits Magazine was established and jumped at the opportunity to be involved with it. To 'fill out' the magazine she started to design patterns. Later she worked in the book department and edited many of the knitting books published in the early 2000s, which was a small step to progress to writing books on her own.

Ann has authored more than a dozen books, including The Knitter's Handy Book of Patterns, The Knitter's Handy Book of Sweater Patterns, The Knitter's Handy Book of Top-Down Sweaters, and three sock books - Getting Started Knitting Socks, Sock Knitting Master Class and New Directions in Sock Knitting.

Somewhere along the way she started travelling to teach workshops at knitting shops, retreats and guilds. For a few years she hosted Knit for Fun Retreats across the U.S. and Canada. When Covid put an end to public gatherings, Ann adapted her workshops to online Zoom sessions. Because travel wasn't involved, she could develop more in-depth classes with multiple meetings over several weeks. Lately her most popular classes have met over several weeks and focus on knitting custom fit socks, skirts and sweaters. She loves being able to help guide knitters through designs of their own.

Nowadays, Ann is travelling less as she finds herself slowing down in both designing and teaching. She is not sure if she is entering a retirement stage because while she is spreading the gospel of knitting to others, she will continue to 'work' if it gives her pleasure. It still does and of course, she will always knit for entertainment.

Check out Ann's easily navigable website. Just going through her catalogue of patterns should inspire you to try something different and well-constructed. Her instructions face-to-face, during online zoom lessons and in her books are easy to follow. It will be so good to see her again at the 2024 Guild Gathering.



You can learn more at Ann's website www.annbuddknits.com; click on 'connect' to sign up for her monthly newsletter that features new patterns and upcoming classes. You'll also find her designs on Ravelry (<https://www.ravelry.com/designers/ann-budd>).



PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 4 May 2024

Our Guild was founded in 1986. The first newsletter issued stated the aims of the Guild as “to foster interest, teach, encourage expertise, to record the past as well as the present and to create and experiment while maintaining the traditional”. These are the sentiments expressed in slightly different wording in our Constitution too. So how did we do in 2023?

We certainly fostered interest – we finished the year with 1,014 members. This growth is continuing this year. At the last Exec committee meeting held in April, we ratified 28 new members. Groups all around the state held workshops, and the Guild itself organised 9 during the year. We recorded the past and the present via the pages of A Good Yarn. And attendance at any Show and Tell held during the year will prove that members are certainly embracing creativity, together with continuing to learn about and produce the traditional.

But I believe the Guild shouldn't just be about learning and producing great knitted and crocheted items. For most of us, this is our hobby – albeit for many of us an obsessive one. Hobbies aren't just about learning and keeping the crafts alive, they should be fun. We want every member to enjoy attending a meeting, or a class, or a Guild event. In 2023 we held the Guild Cruise and a great time was had by all. And what about FibreFest? We held this for the first time in Wyong on the Central Coast, and estimate over 2,000 attended. We'll be there again in October but in the meantime, there's the Guild Gathering in August, a weekend which definitely embraces the aims of the Guild to teach and encourage expertise, but mixed in with lots of socialising, competitions, games and more than a little eating and drinking.

I'd like to see us provide the members with many more of these events. We, and I am sure many of you, are not short of ideas for activities the Guild could organise. We're not short of money. We're not short of members to attend. BUT we are short, desperately short, of volunteers to organise these events. In 2023, main Guild activities

were organised and run by 19 people – 9 on the committee, and 10 non-committee members. These 10 have Guild jobs that are on-going so aren't able to volunteer to take on more. Clare Hacker for instance is currently looking after all our membership matters, which is a large and time-consuming job, but she additionally produces KGBytes each month. Marianna Thomson edits A Good Yarn, a big enough job in itself leaving no time to take on more.

These volunteers look after not only membership, KGBytes, and A Good Yarn, but also our finances, our website, our social media presence on FB and Instagram, workshops, FibreFest, the Gathering, the Cruise, Guild stands at various exhibitions and shows across the state, such as the Craft and Quilt Fair, the Easter Show, the Dungog Knitters Picnic etc. And we mustn't forget those who volunteer to run their local groups.

We could obviously do so much more if more members would give us just a little of their time. This was well and truly brought home to the Guild last November when the Ku-ring-gai group had to close after 29 years because not one of their 33 members would volunteer to take on the role of Convenor. This was so sad, and I have to admit that it made me a little angry that members were happy to enjoy the group over those years but were unwilling to make a contribution to ensure its future. Fortunately we also started 2 new groups – one in South Grafton and the new Virtual group, which already has over 20 members (but of course, as across the Guild, any member may attend).

I don't think I should have to say this but I think it's necessary. May I ask members not to send our volunteers abusive or critical emails because a minor mistake may have been made or the volunteer hasn't done her job to this particular member's satisfaction? It's hurtful and insulting. And invariably comes from members whose contributions to the Guild are so small as to be immeasurable.

So I would like to say a Huge Thank You to our volunteers, not just to Clare Hacker and Marianna Thomson who

I mentioned previously, but to Abbey Bongers, Stella Fava, Robynn Ross, Merrin Marks, Caroline Craig, Stefanie Vogt, Hannah Smith, Gail Clark, and to all the Executive Committee members who committed so much time to making this a successful year. I'd particularly like to thank those who are stepping down today - Samantha Pearce, Gerri Ricci, who has worked so hard on our certification process, Pat McGregor, who with Hannah Smith organised a wonderful stand at the Craft and Quilt Fair, and who volunteers to help in so many ways, and to Jayne Kelderman, for organising the most wonderful FibreFest and being my right-hand woman for the Gathering. Both Pat and Jayne have been excellent Vice-Presidents who I've relied on enormously. And thank you so much for those who are standing again today – Raewyn Tippet, Allyssa Carlton, Tracey Bonfante and Kathryn Trippett.

The Guild has come a long way from that first newsletter in 1986 – we now have not only a monthly newsletter but a glossy full-colour quarterly magazine, we have a large internet presence with our website, Facebook and Instagram, we have 27 groups and over 1,000 members, we teach, and we organise great events (and would love to organise more). And now much does all this cost you? The 1986 newsletter I referred to previously shows that membership then cost \$20. \$20 in 1986 is equivalent to \$61 in 2024. And you are currently paying \$30 as you have done for the last 13 years, with the exception of 2021 and 2022 when it was actually REDUCED to \$25.

I think our Founding Fathers (or perhaps that should be Founding Mothers) would be proud of us. Thank you to all of you who made a contribution.

Sally Ogilvie

President



Meet the Members

Annabelle Drumm



Meet our newly appointed Acting Secretary for the Guild, Annabelle Drumm. She is a member of West Ryde.

Q: What's your knitting superpower?

A: I would say design is my strength. From the moment I decided I wanted to design knitwear, the ideas started to pour out. There must be more than 100 designs on my notepad by the bed, (sigh). If only I could knit faster.

Q: What's the most recent technique you have learnt?

A: I love learning pretty much every day. When evenings are my own, I pour over the Youtube channels of Russian and Indian knitters to learn their patterns. The most recent technique I learnt was from Suzanne Bryan called Ladderback Jacquard. It's a lovely way to carry floats a long distance without them showing through the colour work or making the fabric thicker. Very cool. I'll have to find an excuse to incorporate that into a design soon.

Q: What's next on your 'learn to do' list?

A: Zips, slip pockets and wrangling mohair.

Q: How long have you been knitting?

A: I learnt to k and p as a child but got distracted with sewing. I decided to get serious about knitting during the Covid lockdowns.

Q: 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?

A: As a designer, I'm still working on what I call my 'sausage factory'. That is, finding an efficient way to carry garments through the processes at different stages. For each, I need to plan ahead, talk to manufacturers, maybe order wool that will take a month to arrive, do the draping (pattern template), grading, writing, working with tech editors and photographers, then marketing. The actual knitting is only a small part of the process. If I come across a challenge, it might take some time to resolve so, I find working on a second or third piece helps the answers come to me. Discipline is required to prevent the temptation of casting on a new idea.

Q: You notice a small mistake – do you rip back or carry on?

A: Ha! I used to carry on. With stage costumes you can get away with gaffer tape and safety pins when necessary. With knitting though, as I continue working, I keep looking at that one mistake with lips pursed up like a chook's bum. Ripping back has become my habit with the mantra 'I can do it better this time.'

Q: Why do you enjoy being a member of the Knitters' Guild NSW?

A: I love the camaraderie and seeing what others are working on. It's great to get to the group meeting and ask a question knowing there is literally collectively, centuries of experience in the room to help find the answer. I love the attitude of most members where it's not about service to self, it's about spreading the passion. There's so much scope to grow interest in the public eye. There are loads of people out there working a brain dead job for money, not love, who would be keen to get creative. It can be a low cost hobby for beginners, something they can do on the train and the more people we get crafting, the stronger our own manufacturers, retailers and dyers become with increased business.

Actually, there's scope to grow all sorts of projects inside the Guild. I am thinking, once I get myself up and running, it would be good to create a group to support Designers not just for technical knowledge but for growing a self-employed business as well.

Q: What are your favourite colours?

A: I am a Spring Colour girl so I like fresh pure colours, light to dark. More recently, aqua has appeared on my needles a fair bit. I'm about to do a new collection using clean urban blues, greens and whites. After that I've got something to work on that will be a rich, deep red with metallic highlights.

Q: What would we see in your stash?

A: Quite a lot of leftovers in 8-ply 100% wool. When I started, I was buying second hand wools and silks which were discontinued so they are of no use for new designs. They might be staying in the stash until I have the time to make something just for fun.

Q: When you're not knitting or crocheting you are....

A: Often at the theatre because I moonlight as a Theatre Critic. I am also Custodian of a Heritage listed property at the moment. I spend a fair bit of time maintaining the property and dreaming up what colours I would use to restore it, if it were mine!

Ravelry <https://www.ravelry.com/designers/annabelle-drumm>

Clare Thornley



Clare Thornley is a member of The Entrance Group. As the owner of Fibre Arts Shed, Clare has been a retail member of the Guild since 2014 and an individual member for just over a year. She is currently one of the Guild's Vice-Presidents.

Q: What's your knitting/crochet superpower?

A: I think that I have the same superpower as all knitters and crocheters - using a small stick or two or four, I can turn a ball of yarn into something that I can wear!

Q: What's the most recent technique/ tip you have learnt?

A: I have recently completed a couple of projects that were sideways construction - it was interesting to learn the pros and cons of that sort of construction.

Q: What's next on your 'learn to do' list?

A: I would like to learn Tunisian Crochet.

Q: How long have you been knitting/ crocheting?

A: I learnt to crochet and then knit from my grandmother and my mother when I was quite young, maybe nine or 10.

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

A: Every yarn has its purpose and its project.

Q: 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?

A: I prefer to have one big/more complicated project on the needles and then a second 'mindless' project in my handbag/backpack at all times.

Q: You notice a small mistake – do you rip back or carry on?

A: It depends on if I can drop the stitches back to fix it or if it will affect the overall construction of the item. I have ripped back garments to change the fit - which is something that my grandmother also used to do. I am also fine with small imperfections in my work - as long as they don't negatively affect the overall look of the item.

Q: Why do you enjoy being a member of the Knitters' Guild NSW?

A: It is so fascinating to be with people who also value knitting and crocheting. There are many different people from many different backgrounds who enjoy knitting and crocheting for so many different reasons. It is fantastic and inspiring!

Q: What are your favourite colours?

A: At the moment, I love knitting with naturally coloured wool.

Q: What would we see in your stash?

A: Yarns spun by us in our mill - we spin non-superwash, woollen-spun yarns in both natural and dyed colours.

Q: When you're not knitting or crocheting you are...

A: Living in the world of cricket! Both of our boys are cricketers and I have a 'day job' working for Cricket NSW. I love knitting at the cricket!

Marilyn Woodcock



Marilyn Woodcock is the Secretary of the Virtual Group and a new member of the Guild. She lives in Highfields near Toowoomba, Qld.

Q: What's your knitting/crochet superpower?

A: My knitting could be described as very basic, but I enjoy doing it and creating garments for my family. I intend to learn to crochet one of these days!

Q: What's the most recent technique/ tip you have learnt?

A: I recently knitted a blanket for a new baby and, by following the instructions, learnt a new and tidy way for the edging.

Q: What's next on your 'learn to do' list?

A: I would love to try to do some lace knitting but have a few projects to finish first. I'm receiving lots of ideas for all kinds of projects from the group members.

Q: How long have you been knitting/ crocheting?

A: I can't remember when I learnt to knit but probably about 60 years ago!

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

A: I have learnt along the way and am still learning! Never too old to learn!

Q: 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?

A: I am presently knitting some baby jackets to donate to charity. I also have a couple of rugs which need finishing off. This is one of my weak points: finishing off!!

Q: You notice a small mistake – do you rip back or carry on?

A: Yes, if I notice a mistake, I have to pull it out even if no one else would notice it!!

Q: Why do you enjoy being a member of the Knitters' Guild NSW?

A: I am enjoying my membership as I am learning so many tips. The camaraderie is always a positive, too!

Q: What are your favourite colours?

A: My favourite colour is any shade of blue. I like bright colours too but don't tend to knit them very often.

Q: What would we see in your stash?

A: There are lots of bits of wool in my stash; I really need to sort it out properly!!

Q: When you're not knitting or crocheting you are....

A: When I'm not knitting I am usually sewing. I do a lot of Japanese stitching, Sashiko, and make blankets, table runners, etc. I also enjoy gardening and catching up with friends.

In Memoriam – Raelene McAdam

On Saturday 22nd June 2024, Raelene McAdam passed away. A Life Member of the Macarthur Group, she was instrumental in the foundation of that group and was a highly valued and talented tutor and craftswoman. Knitting, spinning, weaving, dyeing, and all things fibre, there was nothing she couldn't do. But her true passion was teaching, and she generously shared her incredible wealth of knowledge with everyone. If there wasn't a lesson plan created already, she was always the one to do it. Raelene was a tutor of the Macarthur group for most of the time (around 19 years), except for the last couple of years when ill health caused her to stop teaching.



She was a kind and thoughtful friend to all and will be sorely missed.



GROUP REPORTS

BLACKTOWN

May's workshop saw many of us finishing the crochet project on a 2-pointed star with a bear's head, which was started in April by our facilitator, Tina Huang.

We also received some sad news. Vanessa Linton, a previous long-time member (2013-2020) of the Blacktown Group, had passed away after a short illness in ICU at Nepean Hospital. She was only 48. Her family asked if we could knit or crochet flowers for her funeral, and many of us did. She also left all her yarn and books to her friend who brought them to our meeting. We were able to purchase a lot of the yarn, and a good collection of books on yarn were donated to our library.

The money raised was given to her family to help with funeral expenses.

For World Wide Knit In Public Day about 20 of us enjoyed visiting The Australian Wool Store at Castlereagh where Kathryn provided us with scones, jam and cream for morning tea. It had been raining so hard that the Richmond Bridge was closed. Traffic was terrible, so only about half of the group continued on to Fibre Frolic at Kurrajong via the Windsor Bridge.

Both venues were good places to visit and we enjoyed a lovely lunch at the Village Kitchen opposite Fibre Frolic.

July saw some members volunteer to help at the Guild Stall at the Craft and Quilt Fair. It was constantly busy and there was a lot of interest in the patterns behind some of the display, as well as in learning to crochet or asking where they could actually attend meetings.

No workshop was planned for July. Members were happy to sit, enjoy each others' company, crochet or knit and natter and enjoy the usual scrumptious morning tea.

Geraldine Ricci, Convenor

BLUE MOUNTAINS

Hello Fibre Friends from the Blue Mountains' Group.

We hope everyone is staying warm through the colder months and wish you all yarny goodness during 'Fibre Season'.

Our little group continues to grow; we seem to have new faces each meeting, and we welcome all the visitors who take the opportunity to spend time with us. The skill and expertise in our group never ceases to amaze and we are so lucky that we can tap into that knowledge and learn and grow in our hobby. Our group has had a quiet few months as we prepare for our 25th Birthday Party in November. Each meeting we share what we are working on and the diverse array of beautiful items is always lovely to see. Our group members are so supportive and we love seeing progress on WIPs, people who have learnt something new and the selection of colours, fibres and crafts that are being worked. We have a blocking workshop coming up and are looking forward to hosting Ann Budd in August.

Claire McCurley, Convenor

CAPITAL REGION

It has been a busy three months for the group starting with the Wool Expo weekend at the Old Bus Depot Markets on 18-19 May where we promoted the Guild to the large number of people attending. We chatted with people about their knitting and crochet, assisted with some problems and provided information about our group and its activities.

Our giant Knitting Nancy was popular and Lynette met one of the visiting sheep when it paraded past our stall. At our regular meeting we had the first of our two-part mini workshop on knitting socks. This one focused on how to measure to get the best fit and what adjustments you can do to get socks to fit you. The second session in June was about the different ways of knitting socks including dpns, magic loop, tiny circulars, two circulars and two-at-a-time socks on two circulars. Members were able to try out the different methods at the stations we set up and find out the pros and cons of each method to work out what might work best for them. Our June meeting also was the final collection for our Winters Hats for Winter Heads project, and our Secretary Liz McNally handed over 66 beanies to the Night Patrol. The Salvation Army were very appreciative of the donation at this coldest time of the year in Canberra when nighttime temperatures are often around zero or below. July was another big month for us as we held our first Live Out Retreat at the Lions Youth Haven in Kambah. Over the weekend of 6-7 July, 21 members enjoyed two workshops by Robynn Ross (Cast-On Bind-Off

and Slipped Stitch Colourwork) and two crochet workshops by De-Arne Crawford (Granny Squares and Mosaic Crochet) as well as lots of knitting, crocheting and chatting. Delicious morning and afternoon teas and lunches were provided, and the venue was very comfortable. We appreciate the effort that our fellow Guild members, Robynn and De-Arne put into preparing and presenting such enjoyable and informative workshops. Our regular July meeting featured Teresa on beading your knitting and crochet projects and she showed off some of the beautiful shawls she has beaded including some she designed herself. Liz and Christianna assisted in showing some of the tools and techniques involved to enthusiastic members.



Capital Region - Knitting Nancy at the OBD markets Wool Fest



Capital Region - Liz delivering our beanies to Vinnies Night Patrol



Capital Region - De-Arne leading the Granny Squares workshop

Christianna Cobbold, Convenor

CLARENCE VALLEY

Our group has been working on Broomstick Crochet. After a little practise we seemed to manage it with some good results; some using 4-ply and some 8-ply with different finishes.

Our next challenge was Tunisian Crochet and we felt it was a very useful stitch and suitable for different applications – bags, hand towels, dish cloths etc. using wool on cotton.

Our next project is Fair Isle followed by Nordic Stranded Knitting.

Some of our group have been busy knitting jumpers to keep the cold at bay. Our Show and Tell is always interesting to see what everyone is making. Lou has been busy creating wonderful crocheted sea creatures for a mobile for her new grandchildren. Jenny H has been creating knitted frogs (so cute!). Judy always has several scarves on the go. Evol is busy creating a jumper of beautiful coloured modular squares.

August sees us at our annual weekend retreat at the Seelands B&B where we relax and share so much about knitting and crochet – looking forward to a great get together.

Jenny Moar, Publicity

CROCHET TURRAMURRA

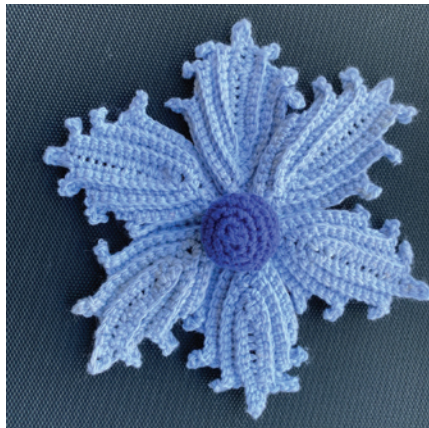
During the past three months our group has been learning new techniques and has had interesting creative challenges. A workshop by Pat McGregor, making a double border/edging for Tunisian crochet, was a success as this technique is particularly good to stop Tunisian work from curling.

Maureen North demonstrated some ideas using crocheting half granny squares and mosaic crochet. Please see Maureen's beautiful blanket using this method.



Crochet Turramurra-Maureen's mosaic pattern

We enjoyed making Wendy Diver's Irish Flower Brooch with variations.



Crochet Turramurra-Wendy's brooch

The most exciting part of every meeting is Show and Tell. We are all constantly delighted with various scarves and blankets that the group members produce and are eager to inspire other members with their ideas. We also appreciated seeing the Stephen West Project 10 craft leather bag that was Janelle's latest indulgence. Pat Hicks, our diligent Convenor, made an unusual and beautiful wall hanging in orange and yellow that she adapted from a doily pattern.

Cathy Aggett deserves to be commended for her outstanding work as our Champion Crocheter. Please see one of Cathy's blankets that she made for several members of her family.



Crochet Turramurra-Cathy's work

Our group welcomes new members even if they are knitters only. We always have spare time to teach new members basic crochet stitches and include them slowly in our future projects. Don't worry if you do not have a hook, there will be a few to borrow to get you started. There will also be lots of crochet books and magazines to browse and discover the scope of this interesting craft.

Lana Mirkovic, Treasurer

EPPING

An all-day event on 2 June had 30 Learn to Knit or Crochet members of the public attend, with crochet being the most popular. Thank you to the eager, talented volunteers from our Epping knitting and crochet groups and the West Ryde Group.

Sandra Tedesco and Debra Parkinson from the Smocking Arts Guild spoke to us about the Wee Care Program they support. This group of ladies smock, knit and sew articles for full term babies, premature babies and still births. Each year thousands of items are made and distributed wherever they are needed throughout NSW. This group meets at the Epping Creative Centre on the 1st Thursday of each month. If anyone knows of another good speaker please let us know and we can line it up for a future 1st Monday of the month meeting.



Epping-Anne's blue denim free form cardigan and woven bag



Epping-Christina's top down child's cardigan and beanie



Epping-Hazel's emerald green knitted jumper

In May we raised \$2,012 at our annual Biggest Morning Tea; another fine effort. A special thank you to our new in-training, BMT coordinator, Tricia Southwell and her team. See report in this issue.

Twelve ladies attended Maria's Mosaic Knitting class and I'm sure this newly acquired skill will be evident in upcoming garments. Margo and Christina delighted us with their completed child's top-down cardigans, from a previous education session.

Whether our members are knitting for charity, or themselves, or family and friends we are all treated to view items at our monthly Show and Tell.

Shirley Gregory, Publicity

EPPING CROCHET

Since our last report we continue to meet for social crochet every Monday. We attend a monthly meeting on the second Monday of the month and discuss ideas and do education if required.

The group helped at a community workshop in July. A number of children and adults attended and were shown basic skills.

We all continue to do crochet for charity: beanies, blankets for children, babies and elderly as well as toys, cardigans, scarves and jumpers

Lesley Wilkes, Secretary

GOULBURN

Well, it has been a quiet few months after our local show, which was held in March - so not much to report. Fifteen members along with five guests did participate in World Wide Knit In Public Day (8 June) by sitting in front of the warm fire at one of our local clubs, knitting/crocheting, chatting and drinking copious amounts of coffee and tea.



Goulburn - WWKIPD 2024



Goulburn - WWKIPD 2024

Stephanie Lanzetti, Convenor

INNER CITY

This Inner City Group took the opportunity of World Knit In Public Day to undertake some more charity knitting, this time producing three beautiful lap rugs for cancer patients. Despite it being a drizzly day we set up camp with our colourful knitted bunting at trendy local haunt Backyard at the Alex. Our presence was well noted by the other diners and some even offered to help drape the bunting around the trees!

This month we held the Great Inner City Destash where members bought and sold items from their stash including yarn, tools and this year there were even some pre-knitted garments on sale. Unsold yarn was donated to



Inner City - WWKIPD

The Sewing Basket, where it will raise funds for Achieve Australia.

Jo Hewitt and Kaye Stefanovic, Co-Convenors

INNER WEST

At our April meeting we explored the history of Afghan blankets and several members brought in examples of ones they had knitted.

At our May and June meetings we put the finishing touches to our items for the local women's refuge. This year, having been inspired by our exploration of Afghans, our donation included two blankets. The squares of the blankets were knitted by our members and joined using baseball stitch. Because our usual charity, Elsie Women's Refuge, was closed for renovation, Marion Centre at Lewisham gratefully received our donation. We handed over 60 items knitted by our friends, the Southern Group and us.

Unfortunately, we were unable to meet as a group to celebrate World Wide Knit In Public Day but that did not stop a couple of our members taking up their needles in an art gallery and Bunnings.

We rounded off the last three months with an introduction to entrelac.



Inner West - Carol knitting in public



Inner West - Helen knitting in public



Inner West - Marion donation

Louise Zaluzny, Secretary

KATOOMBA

Katoomba Group has had an excellent quarter with great meetings and catch ups. A number of members have been making the same shawl project and we are looking forward to seeing them all together next month. Every meeting we have a Show and Tell and get to enjoy each others' successes and commiserate over the occasional loss to yarn chicken. It's interesting to see the other projects members are working on. We have seen some excellent hand warmers (the perfect weather for them), some beautiful beanies and wondrous shawls.



Katoomba-Anne Stanley's gorgeous hand warmers



Katoomba-Anna Fundelic's beautiful beanie

Margaret Hardwick, Convenor

KIAMA

No report received.

MACARTHUR

The Macarthur Group has experienced some good times, plus some sad times over the last few months.

As has been noted in an In Memoriam article, our group lost one of our long-term and much loved members, Raelene McAdam. I have been very personally honoured to know and learn from Raelene, and I'm the second generation in my family to do so. My mother also had the good fortune of knowing and learning from Raelene when they met at the Spinners and Weavers Guild in Macksville many years ago. Raelene greatly inspired my mother, and I feel blessed to have learnt some new knitting skills thanks to Raelene's passion for educating.

How can we forget Raelene wearing the vest she knitted from the knotted together strings off tea-bags. She thought of everything - then created it.

Vale Raelene.



Macarthur-Raelene in her knitted 'tea-bag string' vest

On a happier note, our ladies met at the Tahmoo Inn for our Knitting in Public outing on 22 June. As usual, there were some incredible Show and Tell items on display. Those who attended enjoyed a lovely lunch - some indulged in a cocktail - and as with any of our gatherings, there was loads of chattering intermingled with the laughter.



Macarthur- Ladies at the Tahmoo Inn

More images can be seen on our Facebook page - Knitters Guild NSW - Macarthur.

Alison Wootten, Publicity

MAITLAND

Our group are all very busy working on individual projects or working on items for their favourite charities and endeavours.

In May we met for a 'knit-in' with morning tea and lunch at Raymond Terrace. It was well attended and a noisy event, as usual.

Our Knit in Public get together was at East Maitland Library in June. These are such enjoyable days.

We also continue to get together for a 'knit and natter' session every Friday morning at the local golf club - coffee and cake is included, of course.



Maitland-crochet poncho, design and made by Carol

Carol Wilks, Convenor

MID NORTH COAST

Mid North Coast Group had a wonderful World Wide Knit In Public Day that was held in the library at Port Macquarie. It was nice to see some non members joining in which was lots of fun. As part of WWKIPD we had a 'Winter' theme display in the library cabinet, which engaged lots of interest. We have some amazing crafters in our group; we not only show cased knitting and crochet but also felting and some spinning.



Mid North Coast-Winter theme library display



Mid North Coast-World Wide Knit In Public Day

Jayne Kelderman, Member

MUDGEES

With the advent of winter weather, our members have been beavering away at projects aimed at fighting the cooler temperatures. Scarves has been popular during our 'what's on your needles' afternoons. The patterns vary from old favourites, which are known to work well and knit up nicely, to newer patterns gleaned from magazines or books shared by members during our meetings.

Other activities we have engaged in are techniques or stitches requested by members. We have had instruction on linen stitch, which looked very effective in our swatches.

Another afternoon, our Secretary, Barbara Gow, guided us through the steps of knitting with the magic loop technique. Most of us found it preferable to use this method employing circular needles rather than trying to juggle multiple double-pointed needles, certainly if there were a considerable number of stitches involved. Again, our swatches were on the smaller side, and showed the suitability of this method in the construction of dolls' clothes, sleeves on baby jackets or similar, but all members could see how this technique could be applied to so many articles: socks, beanies, mittens/gloves or bottom-up jumpers.

Although we may not always use the styles, stitches or procedures we learn, we are always very appreciative of the generosity of members in sharing resources and knowledge.

Sally Colley, Convenor

NEWCASTLE

Our biennial knitting and crochet exhibition took place on 3-4 May and was a great success. About 300 people visited to explore the exhibition of fabulous knitting and crochet by members, to purchase knitted and crocheted items and support our fundraising for Mentor Support Network (MSN) and to have a cuppa with soup or sweet treats. When the finances were all in we were delighted to discover that over the last two years we had raised almost enough for five MSN scholarships. A fabulous outcome. For 2024-2026 our charity will be NOVA, a local charity supporting women and children - particularly those escaping domestic violence.

We attended Craft Alive and were delighted to recruit several new members. We also participated in World Wide Knit In Public Day - unfortunately the weather was not cooperative.

Three mini-workshops have been

offered by our members. Katrina Kellett (Pirate Pearl) described her wool dyeing business. She showed several samples, described varieties of woollen yarn and suggested what to use for desired outcomes. Lisa Wicks (eleventyone windmills) described her business producing hand-made knitting and crochet accessories and displayed her products. Both can be found online. In July, Kay Temm put together a display that gave members samples and directions for making a variety of crochet flowers.

We are adding 'top tips and ideas' to our monthly newsletter. Good to share techniques to make our projects turn out even more wonderful.



Newcastle - Lisa Wicks



Newcastle - Katrina for talk

Katherine Heinrich, Convenor

NORTHERN TABLELANDS

Increased advertising of our meetings and focused activities has resulted in increased membership. In the last three months we have focused on granny squares, tension swatches and choosing yarns, needles and hooks.

In spite of the long weekend, we had a good response to World Wide Knit In Public Day with an enjoyable morning at one of the local cafes.



Northern Tablelands-WWKIPD

Ingrid Chaku, Secretary

PITTWATER

Pittwater has welcomed a number of new members this month, growing the group to 52 - five new since April, with another two - three pending. We've been busy with workshops by Janelle Grange on Fair Isle knitting, Pat McGregor is giving an introduction to Tunisian entrelac crochet, and Judy Thomas is giving us a presentation on Arne & Carlos creations.

The group has a cabinet at Mona Vale Library where we display items in the hope of enthusing others to knit and crochet. Displays based on a theme are usually there for two months, the last one being toys and our next display will be many varieties of bags.

Pittwater meetings are held at Pittwater RSL at 1pm on the first Saturday of the month, and we welcome anyone who has an interest in knitting and/or crochet.



Pittwater-Members at one of our Saturday meetings



Pittwater-Landscape Shawl (entrelac crochet) by Martin Up North



Pittwater-Janelle with a stunning jumper she made more than 20 years ago!

Cathy Aggett, Member

SOUTH GRAFTON

Since our last report the local Ag Show has been held.

We were very pleased to see both First and Second Prize in the Needlework class we sponsored (Miniature Shetland



South Grafton - show winners



South Grafton - Second Prize at the Easter Show

Shawl) awarded to Janice (our Conventor) and Nancy (member).

As well, Janice took out First lace in lace knitting.

Barbara was also awarded two Firsts and the Needlework Champion.

Nancy also took prizes in Lapidary.

At the Royal Easter Show Janice was part of the Second Place winning team in the state-wide wool award.

Our Liquorice Allsort tea cosy knitting was a fun exercise and we have also completed our Sashiko workshop. You can

see the gorgeous colour combinations our ladies employed in their cosies.



South Grafton - liquorice allsort tea cosies

The starting of that project led to much fun, frustration and laughter when it proved to be a bit tricky to get right!

Coming up we have a dyeing workshop and a tartan knitting one.

Barbara Roberts, Treasurer

SOUTHERN

It has been a busy few months for the Southern Group, with lots of events and activities.

We started the month of May with our Biggest Morning Tea, which included a silent auction of some very lovely yarns that were donated. Then we joined the staff of St George Hospital for a morning of knitting to promote Palliative Care week, followed by a stall at the Sewing Basket's Big Basket Sale in Marrickville and a knit-in and lunch at the Hazelhurst Art Gallery for World Wide Knit In Public Day. We also finished off our 35th anniversary celebrations with the launch of our history book, which includes some great pictures of members past and present.



Southern - launch of KGNWS Southern Group 35 year history book, Gemma Lawrence

We haven't stopped learning either, with workshops on Foundational Crochet, lace and knitting in the round. It has been great to see members motivated to try new skills, with Ruth finishing her socks in the round this month and Guy incorporating an Orenburg lace pattern into a knee rug.

But the highlight of the last few months

has been meeting new people coming along to our meetings. We have had new members join, visitors come along with friends and a member from The Entrance transfer to our group. So great to meet new knitters and crocheters and see their creative designs at what is becoming a very productive show and tell.



Southern Group members at Hazelhurst Art Gallery, World Wide Knit in Public Day

Gemma Lawrence, Convenor

Southern Group Member, Beryl has been sharing her copies of A Good Yarn with a long-standing pen friend in Wales. In May she was thrilled to receive all the way from Wales a beautifully crocheted Asher the Ox, pattern by Erinna Lee, and featured in the February 2023 edition of AGY (Vol 38, No. 1). What a wonderful pen friend and great to see that our international readers are enjoying our featured patterns!



Beryl with Asher the Ox from Wales

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Our lace knitting sessions are coming to a close, with our new ladies enjoying success and completing a top-down child's jacket using new techniques. These jackets will be donated to a local organisation as the Aussie Superfine wool was bought from our funds. Group projects work for us as newer members feel a bond with the more experienced knitters. Knitting on circular needles to complete an accessory and slip stitch knitting samples will be tried next - it is time to be more adventurous!

Robynn Ross, Convenor

THE ENTRANCE

Over the last few months, The Entrance Group has gone from strength to strength. Our numbers are growing and our new venue is buzzing each month. In May, we celebrated Mother's Day by holding a high tea. In June we had an enthusiastic group of members celebrating World Wide Knit In Public Day in a local shopping centre. July of course with its winter chills was the time for us to celebrate Christmas in July. Along with this we have welcomed Ricky Day from One Crafty Lady and Claire Thornley from Fibre Arts Shed. We were impressed by the accessories and the beautiful yarn that was on offer. Our group is keen to make flowers for the upcoming Orchid show in September, and some of our members are able to go to The Gathering in August. Among our informative sessions, we were able to learn about the content of some yarns and to determine the fibre - thank you Sue. Noelene gave us an excellent demonstration on blocking our knitted garments. We look forward to a busy few months ahead and welcome new members and old to our group. Bring your own cup, your current project and get ready for another exciting few months.

Happy crafting.
Prue Smees, Convenor.

VIRTUAL GROUP

The Virtual Group commenced in January 2024, with meetings on the second Monday at 7pm and the fourth Wednesday at 10am. The numbers have slowly increased for the evening session but decreased for the morning session. As a result, it was decided to suspend the Wednesday session. If the need arises, it can always be resumed.

Julie Beynon from Pittwater Group gave a very interesting and helpful service on how to ensure we take care of our hands, neck and shoulders.

Show and Tell sessions have been very interesting and created lots of discussion and tips for future projects. A crochet workshop is planned for September.

Marilyn Woodcock, Secretary

WEST RYDE

West Ryde continues to grow, now up to 40 members. A group of us met up for World Wide Knit In Public Day at a local shopping centre food court. Lots of knitting, lots of conversation, and food and coffee in plentiful supply - the perfect day!



West Ryde - WWKIPD

We also had a destash event at our last meeting which was well supported. Someone's unwanted (because yarn is never trash) yarn can be someone else's treasure.

Beth Clothier, Convenor

WOLLONGONG

No report received.

WOY WOY

For World Wide Knit In Public Day we enjoyed a morning at our local Spotlight store to promote the Knitters' Guild NSW and our group.

Members donated generously to our charity donation collection for a local children's charity, We Care Connect and agreed to knit or crochet 100 pairs of mittens for next winter's charity collection.

There was great interest in our Guild sponsored beginners crochet class which created a long waitlist encouraging us to consider running another before too long.

Despite many other knitting or crochet groups in our area, our group continues to grow in membership and we are pleased with attendance at our monthly coffee meet up and regular meeting.



Woy Woy - beginners crochet class July 24



Woy Woy - charity donation

Ruth Herman, Convenor

Craft & Quilt Fair 2024

This event took place from 3 to 6 July at the ICC Sydney. We had a total of 23 volunteers who worked very hard, each for three hours, and were kept very busy either answering questions about the Guild or teaching the making of Granny Squares or other requests; and there were many.

I hope it was an enjoyable event for all who participated. I negotiated a double space this time which allowed us to have a wide-ranging display of items in both knitting and crochet and many examples of Granny Squares, to show that not every Granny Square has to be part of a rug. Previous FibreFest shawls were on display too. With the rise in popularity of crochet we offered a 'have a go' at making a Granny Square and this feature kept all our volunteers busy with very happy visitors taking away their sample, with more yarn and a hook to enable them to keep up their newly acquired skill.

We enjoyed a visit from Shelley Husband, one of our Honorary Members and Granny Square expert and Kate Ceberano, the renowned quilt designer.

With magazines and information to help with promotion there was a great deal of interest in the Guild and the FibreFest event to come, particularly as there was almost no yarn or accessories to be purchased at the Fair. Also a lot interest in the location of groups around the state.



L-R Shelley Husband, Deidre Hibberd and Cathy Aggett

A particular thank you to Kathryn Trippett and Joanne Brooker, from Blue Mountains Group, for the huge amount of hard work in setting up the stand, the appearance of which was complimented over and over again.

A thank you, also, to all the wonderful volunteers who were there to cover the four days of the Fair: Janelle Grange, Lene Knezevic, Cathy Aggett and Meredith D'Alton (Pittwater), Sally Ogilvie and Di Spinks (Woy Woy), Ronah Tuite (Katoomba), Annabelle Drumm and Kerry Dowsett (West Ryde), Gerri Ricci and Diedre Hibberd (Blacktown), Barbara Bajuk, Lesley Wilkes, Ann Archer and Heather Watts (Epping), Pat Hicks (Crochet Turrumurra), Boni Maywald (Virtual), Lyn Turnbull (Inner City), Cookie Lloyd (Wollongong)

It is worth remembering that to create these events there is a large amount of work that happens behind the scenes. The fact that this work is not seen shows the success of the event.

Pat McGregor



Knitters' Guild Stand

Retail Members

INTRODUCING NEW RETAIL MEMBER

Finzah Yarn Studio is located in Cringila; a small, vibrant and friendly shop, just south of Wollongong, NSW. Yarn stockists of Noro, Katia, Fiori, Malabrigo, Fiddlesticks, Bellissimo, Tulip, Clover, KnitPro and more. With new stock arriving weekly there is always something to keep crafters inspired.

We offer classes in crochet, knitting and embroidery.

From the enjoyment of hosting our first WWKIPD this year we have decided to host a social knit/crochet on the first Saturday of each month starting in August - get in touch for more details!

You can find Finzah at:
5/15 Lake Ave Cringila
NSW 2502
P: 0466903734
W: finzah.com

24 Mile Hollow Yarn Co, Kandos

W: www.24milehollowyarnco.com.au/
E: 24milehollowyarnco@gmail.com

Adagio Mills, Hawkesbury

W: www.adagiomills.com.au
E: info@adagiomills.com.au
Facebook: [adagioalpacamills](https://www.facebook.com/adagioalpacamills) Instagram: [@adagiomills](https://www.instagram.com/adagiomills)

Australian Alpaca Yarn - Alpaca Ultimate

Facebook: www.facebook.com/alpacultimate/
W: www.australianalpacayarn.com.au
E: sales@australianalpacayarn.com.au

The Australian Wool Store

W: theaustralianwoolstore.com/
P: 0408 880 441

Avalon Fabrics and Craft

4/24 Avalon Parade, Avalon NSW 2107
P: (02) 9918 2978
W: www.avalonfabrics.com
E: info@avalonfabrics.com

Batik Oetoro, Gateshead

3/11 Nevin Close Gateshead NSW 2290
W: www.dyeman.com P: 02 4943 8808

Beadoodads

W: www.etsy.com/au/shop/beadoodads
E: beadoodads@gmail.com

Retail members

Bendigo Woollen Mills

4 Lansell St Bendigo VIC 3550
W: www.bendigowoollenmills.com.au
E: info@bendigowoollenmills.com.au
P: 03 5442 4600

Birdhouse Fibres

W: <https://birdhousefibres.com.au/>
E: hello@birdhousefibres.com

Blackwattle Yarn, Murrumbateman

315 Patemans Lane Murrumbateman NSW 2852
W: <https://blackwattleyarn.com.au/>

Brindabella Yarn Craft

W: www.brindabellayarncraft.com.au
fb.me/brindabellayarncraft
Instagram: @brindabellayarncraft

Bumblebee Knits & Yarns

E: info@bumblebeeknits.com.au
W: bumblebeeknits.com.au
Instagram: @bumblebeeknitsandyarns

Call of the Yarn

W: <https://www.calloftheyarn.com/>
E: support@calloftheyarn.com
Facebook: @calloftheyarn

Castle Handmade, Southern Highlands

W: www.castlehandmade.com.au
P: 0416307408

Convent and Chapel Wool Shop, Rylstone

52 Louee Street Rylstone NSW 2849
W: <https://conventandchapelwool.com/>
P: 0409 564 747

Crafty Frog, Kambah, ACT

107 Marconi Cres Kambah ACT 2902
W: www.craftyfrog.com.au/

EleventyOne Windmills, Newcastle

W: www.eleventyonewindmills.com.au
Instagram: @111windmills

Euro Sew and Knit

W: www.eurosk.com.au
E: service@eurosk.com.au

Fibre Arts Shed, Central Coast

W: www.fibreartsshed.com.au/
P: 0422 160 506

glenheavenknits

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

Glenora Weaving & Wool, Berry

W: www.glenoraweaving.com.au
E: glenoraweaving@gmail.com
Ph: 0424 868 200
Instagram: @glenoraweaving

Great Ocean Road Woollen Mill

W: <https://gorwm.com.au/>
E: hello@gorwm.com.au

Greta's @ Roseville

72 Pacific Highway Roseville NSW 2069
W: www.gretasroseville.com.au/

Grumpy Ginger, Wyong

145 Alison Road Wyong NSW 2259
Facebook: Grumpy Ginger Yarn Company
Instagram: Grumpy.Ginger.Yarn
W: www.grumpyginger.com.au

Hodgepodge Skeins

W: www.hodgepodgeskeins.com/shop
E: kaz@hodgepodgeskeins.com

The House of Wool, Leura

142 Leura Mall Leura NSW 2780
W: www.thehouseofwool.com.au

Jokamamo Textiles

W: www.jokamamotextiles.com/

Kaalund Yarns

W: <https://kaalundyarns.com.au/>

The Knitting Room, Mona Vale

Shop 20/7 Bungan St Mona Vale NSW 2103
P: 0433 833 453

Luxe Handweaving, Toronto

W: www.luxehandweaving.com
E: luxehandweaving@gmail.com
Facebook: Luxe Handweaving
P: 0417 399 353

Lyrebird Yarns

W: <https://www.lyrebirdyarns.com/>

Marlyn Alpaca, Thornleigh

W: www.marlynalpaca.com.au
P: 02 9481 0949

My Creative Garage (new)

W: <https://www.mycreativegarage.com/shop>

Natural Yarn Co

W: www.naturalyarnco.com.au
E: naturalyarnco@outlook.com.au

Obsession Yarns

W: <https://obsessionyarns.com.au/>
E: obsessionyarns@gmail.com

Set on Sewing & Craft

Shop 2, Ron Alt Lane
Toukley NSW 2263
P: (02) 4397 2373
W: www.setonsewingandcraft.com.au

Spinners' Cotton

W: <https://spinnerscotton.com.au/> P:
0439 408 159

Spunout Fibres, Hill End, NSW

E: spunoutfibres@gmail.com
P: Ann: 0409 823 045

Tarndwarncourt Warncoort VIC 3243

W: www.tarndie.com
E: info@tarndie.com

This Lush Corner, Snowy Mountains, NSW

W: <https://www.thislushcorner.com/>

Three Cats Yarn

W: www.threecatsyarn.com.au
E: info@threecatsyarn.com.au

Three Mums' Yarn

W: www.threemumsyarn.com.au/

Three Trees Fibre Craft

W: www.threetreesfibrecrafts.com.au
Instagram: Threetreesfibrecrafts
Facebook: Threetreesfibrecrafts

Virginia Farm Wool Works

W: www.virginiafarmwoolworks.com.au/
P: 0448 866 789

Waratah Fibres and Yarns, Bundanoon

W: <https://waratahfibres.com.au/>
E: helen@waratahfibres.com.au
P: 02 4883 6138

The Wool Inn, Penrith

Shop 14 NK Centre 450 High St Penrith NSW 2750
W: www.the-wool-inn.com.au/shop/
P: 02 4732 2201 Use c2317e6fbf to receive 10% off online orders (excluding postage). Valid 01/01/24 to 31/01/25.

Wool 2 Yarn, Morningside

W: www.wool2yarn.com.au/home
P: 0404 753 840

Woolshed @ Manuka

Shop 2B, Manuka Court 11-17
Bougainville St Manuka ACT 2603
W: <https://woolshed.com.au/>
P: 02 6295 0061

Yummy Yarn and Co, Dubbo

29 Talbragar Street Dubbo NSW 2830
W: www.yummyyarnandco.com.au/
P: 0431 754 909

