

# A Good Yarn

**Knitters' Guild NSW**



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# A word from the President

It's that time of year again when we hold our Annual General Meeting (3 May) and a new Committee is elected to run the organisation. The full details aren't available as we go to print but we'll publish them in the June issue of KGBites.

I'm stepping off the committee as I'd rather like to try this "retirement life" I've heard so much about – a bit more time to travel, meet with friends, just potter about and of course knit and crochet.

Since the AGM last year, the Guild has had an excellent exhibition at the Craft and Quilt Fair, a wonderful Guild Gathering, and the truly terrific FibreFest. We finished the year with the highest number of members we've ever had so we're obviously doing something right. There is of course always so much more that we could do but we need many more willing hands to do that, so do please volunteer if you can help in any way.

Of course, I won't be totally disappearing as I hope to still volunteer for a few (much smaller) jobs for the Guild.

You can be confident that the new committee will do a wonderful job for the Guild and you all. I wish them the very best and look forward to catching up with them, and many of you, at Guild events across the year.

Thank you all for your friendship and support.

**Sally Ogilvie**  
President



## A Good Yarn - Editor Required

Unfortunately, I have to step down from my role as Editor of our quarterly magazine, A Good Yarn.

It's a wonderful job, and I've really enjoyed it.

Is this something you'd like to do? Plan each issue, find patterns, articles and interviews. No graphics skills are required as we hand it all over to our professional designer.

Help is available along the way, and maybe you'd like to get together with a friend and work on this as a team.

For further information or to discuss the role, please contact me, Allyssa, at [Editor@knittersguildnsw.org.au](mailto:Editor@knittersguildnsw.org.au).





## EASTER SHOW WINNERS

We're proud to announce that the following Guild members were awarded ribbons in this year's Show in the Knitting and Crochet categories. This year, the Show received 237 knitting entries (198 in 2024; 183 in 2023), and 325 crochet entries (220 in 2024; 176 in 2023).

Congratulations to all these winners! We really apologise if we've missed your name from this list, but please let us know and we'll rectify this as soon as possible.

### Abbey Bongers (Southern)

Crochet:

Second – Class 126, Adult Accessories

Third – Class 125, Tunisian Crochet

### Elizabeth Clothier (West Ryde)

Crochet:

Highly Commended – Class 120, Travel, Knee or Afghan, Mosaic

### Fiona Donovan (Inner City)

Knitting:

First – Class 95, Stranded Garment, All-over pattern

Second – Class 96, Stranded Garment, Partial Patterning

Second – Class 97, Adult Garment

### Louise Douglas-Major (Inner City)

Knitting:

Second – Class 101, Scarves and Shawls

Highly Commended – Class 100, Adult Accessories

### Jane Downey (Inner City)

Knitting:

Third – Adult Knitted Accessories

### Bethwyn Garswood (Inner City)

Knitting:

Third – Class 95, Stranded Garment, All-over pattern

### Karen Gaskell (Southern)

Crochet:

Highly Commended – Class 128 Textured Crochet

### Katherine Ireland (Inner City)

Knitting:

Third – Class 92, Child's Garment

### August James (Woy Woy)

Knitting:

Second – Class 525 – Wearable article, Aged Under 20

### Linda King (Inner City)

Knitting:

Second – Class 90, Baby's Shawl

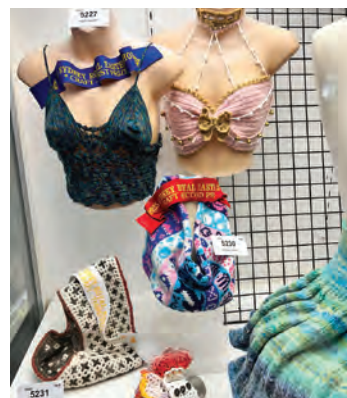
Third – Class 102, Adult Socks



Crochet entries



Abbey Bongers - Southern



August James - Woy Woy



Margaret Rafferty - Inner City



Crochet Rugs, Mosaic



Stranded Garments, Partial Patterning

**Colleen Mawson (Inner West)**

Crochet:

Third – Class 119, Travel, Knee or Afghan Blanket

**Cindy McLaughlin (Inner City)**

Crochet:

Second – Class 125, Tunisian Crochet

**Elizabeth Moss (Newcastle)**

Knitting:

Third – Class 98. All-over Lace, Scarf, Wrap or Shawl

**Gillian Piper (Epping)**

Knitting:

First – Class 96, Stranded Garment, Partial patterning

**Margaret Rafferty (Inner City)**

Crochet:

First – Class 123, Adult Garment

First – Class 125, Tunisian Crochet

Second – Class 120, Travel, Knee or Afghan, Mosaic

Third – Class 116, Stole, Shawl or Wrap

Highly Commended – Class 126 Adult Accessories

Highly Commended – Class 128 Textured Crochet

**Zena Smith-White (Inner City)**

Knitting:

First – Class 97, Adult Garment

**Susan Stephens (Blue Mountains)**

Knitting:

First - Class 92, Child’s Garment

First – Class 93, Sleeveless Garment

First – Class 100, Adult Accessories

First – Class 103, Blanket or Rug

Third – Class 96, Stranded Garment, Partial patterning

Highly Commended – Class 95, Stranded Garment, All-Over pattern

**Selena Thurbon (Newcastle)**

Knitting:

Third – Class 97, Adult Garment

A very big thank you to Abbey Bongers from Southern Group for the photos.



*Knitted entries*



*Crochet Rugs, Mosaic*



*Stranded Garments*



*Crochet entries*



*Gillian Piper - Epping*

## Feature:

# ELIZABETH OKEYELE-OLATUNJI

In 2012, Elizabeth Okeyele-Olatunji started Tunnizze Creation to teach knitting and crochet skills to 20,000 African children by 2030. Based in Lagos, Nigeria, she is a Craft Yarn Council of America certified knitting teacher, instructing not only children but also others, so that they too can pass along fibre skills.

### **Firstly, to introduce you to our members, I'd like to ask who is Elizabeth Okeyele-Olatunji and what does she do?**

Elizabeth Okeyele-Olatunji is a passionate advocate for creativity and craftsmanship, dedicated to passing on needlecraft skills to younger generations. As the Chief Imagination Officer of Tunnizze Creation, she works to inspire and educate young people and communities in Nigeria in the art of knitting and other fibre crafts. Her work extends to empowering breast cancer survivors through knitting, using it as a tool for healing and self-expression. She is also a craft writer, exploring the intersections of fibre, creativity, and personal identity. Through her writing, teaching, and community projects, she champions creativity as a source of healing, expression, and connection.

### **What is it about teaching that you love?**

It's a way to pass down not just skills but also history, culture, and confidence. There's something magical about watching someone's hands transform a strand of yarn into fabric, seeing their face light up when they create something they didn't think was possible. Teaching is about opening doors—to creativity, self-expression, and sometimes even healing.

### **Where did this passion come from?**

From God! I loved working with my hands as a child. I enjoyed creating! It was my escape from a difficult household since it gave me solace. I want knitting and crochet to bring solace to as many young people as possible.

### **What has inspired your love of craft and textiles? Was it from family or something else?**

Teaching allows me to keep these skills alive while helping people find their creative voices. Whether it's a child discovering the joy of making or a breast cancer survivor using knitting as a source of comfort, I find endless meaning in sharing what I know.

### **I understand you have earned many certificates in textiles and knitting. What are these, and how have they helped shape your work?**

My first associate degree is in textile technology, which is not just to deepen my technical knowledge but to strengthen my ability to teach, design, and advocate for the craft. These include training in advanced knitting techniques, textile design, and fibre arts, as well as a professional diploma in education honing my creative education classes and my ability to use 21st-century skills in class. My Knit Level 1 and 2 Certificates from the Craft Yarn Council have given me the confidence to



teach better. Each certification has added layers to my work, allowing me to blend tradition with innovation.

### **What is the biggest misconception about knitting that you have come across, and how do you deal with this?**

One of the biggest misconceptions about knitting is that it's just a passive, repetitive hobby—something to keep hands busy rather than a deeply creative, intellectual, and even revolutionary act. Many people see it as old-fashioned or only for a certain demographic, not realising that knitting is a powerful tool for self-expression, problem-solving, and storytelling.

I deal with this by showing—rather than just telling—how knitting can be imaginative and dynamic. In my teaching, I encourage students to push beyond patterns and explore their own ideas. Through my writing, I highlight knitting's role in identity, history, and healing. In my community work, I demonstrate how knitting can be a source of empowerment, whether for young children discovering their creativity or breast cancer survivors finding comfort in the rhythm of the stitches.

Knitting isn't just about making things—it's about thinking, feeling, and connecting. Once people experience that, the misconception quickly unravel

### **You're known as the Chief Imagination Officer. Where did this title come from?**

As a knitting teacher for children, they always ask me what they can make with their first swatch! And this swatch always comes with a lot of mistakes. So, to keep them still focused on learning, I have to think of a project that can be made with their swatches. The title Chief Imagination Officer came from my belief that creativity is at the heart of everything I do. Whether I'm teaching, writing, designing, or passing on needlecraft skills, my goal is always to spark imagination—both in myself and in others.

I didn't want a title that felt rigid or corporate; I wanted something that captured the spirit of exploration and play that drives my work. Knitting and fibre arts aren't just about following instructions—they're about dreaming up new possibilities, pushing boundaries, and seeing what happens

when you trust your ideas. Chief Imagination Officer reflects my role in inspiring that kind of thinking, whether I'm working with young children, experienced knitters, or anyone looking to discover the magic of making.

### What programmes do you have in place at the moment?

1. Knitting for Young Creators (Jos, Nigeria) – A hands-on program introducing children to knitting and other needlecraft skills. The goal is to make fibre arts accessible, fun, and a part of their creative learning experience.
2. Knitting for Breast Cancer Survivors – A therapeutic knitting program designed to help survivors find comfort, relaxation, and joy in making. Knitting has been shown to have meditative and healing benefits, and this program is about using craft as a tool for recovery and self-care.
3. "If You Can Think It, You Can Knit It" (Vogue Knitting Class) – A workshop that teaches knitters how to transform their ideas into designs with confidence. This class is about encouraging creativity, breaking away from rigid patterns, and embracing the joy of imaginative knitting.
4. Book Project – Knitting Time is Happy Time – While not a formal program, this book is an extension of my work in knitting and storytelling. It explores the deeper meaning of knitting beyond just technique, weaving in themes of creativity, time, and joy.

### What do you want to see happen for the younger generations in regard to textiles and craft?

I want to see younger generations reconnect with textiles and craft in a way that feels natural, exciting, and relevant to their lives. Too often, these skills are seen as outdated or unnecessary in today's digital world, but they offer so much—creativity, problem-solving, patience, and even emotional well-being.

I'd love to see more young people view knitting and sewing not just as hobbies but as powerful tools for self-expression, storytelling, and innovation. Imagine a world where children grow up understanding the value of making things with their hands, where craft is woven into education, and where young designers and makers push the boundaries of textile art in new and unexpected ways.

I also want craft traditions to be preserved and passed on, especially in places where they are at risk of fading away. There's something deeply meaningful about learning



a skill that connects you to generations before you. But I don't just want to preserve the past—I want young people to reimagine craft in ways that reflect who they are and where they want to go.

Most of all, I want them to have the confidence to create, whether that's a simple stitch or an entirely new approach to fibre arts. Creativity is a muscle, and the more we nurture it, the more it grows.

### What's your ultimate goal with what you do?

My ultimate goal is to create a world where creativity through textiles and craft is seen as essential, not optional. I want to inspire and empower people—especially younger generations—to embrace making with their hands, not just as a skill, but as a way of thinking, storytelling, and even healing.

At the heart of it all, I want to:

1. Pass on needlecraft skills – Ensuring that knitting, sewing, and fibre arts remain alive and vibrant, not just as traditions but as evolving, creative practices.
2. Foster imagination and confidence – Helping people trust their creative instincts, break away from rigid rules, and see craft as a space for self-expression.
3. Use craft for healing and connection – Whether it's teaching breast cancer survivors how to knit or showing young people how making can be a tool for mental well-being, I want craft to be a source of comfort and joy.
4. Redefine how craft is valued – Advocating for fibre arts as an intellectual and artistic practice, not just a hobby or domestic task. I want people to see knitting and sewing as powerful, meaningful work.

Ultimately, I want to leave behind a movement—a generation of makers who see textiles not just as fabric and thread, but as a canvas for imagination, identity, and change.

Where can we find you online?

[www.facebook.com/TunnizzeCreation](https://www.facebook.com/TunnizzeCreation)

## Feature Stitch

# ENTRELAC

Entrelac is a way of knitting a patchwork design where the squares are knitted diagonally in rows. It's an unusual way to create a patchwork pattern, but once you have mastered the basic principles you can make pieces in a variety of stitch patterns and colourways.

It can be worked in a single colour while using lace, cable or textured stitches. In fact, you can take your pick from cable patterns, moss stitch, garter stitch, or any other textured stitch to create your item.

Entrelac can be worked in stocking stitch and using two or more colours emphasises the woven look of the finished piece. Start the base row of triangles in one colour and then work the side-edge triangle and the first row of purl squares in the second colour.

Entrelac is formed from a base row of triangles, then a purl row of squares with a side triangle on each end, and a knit row of squares. These two rows are repeated to form the required size, and the piece is finished with the top row of triangles.

There are many ways to knit entrelac, so there is no one right way to do it. The following instructions are just one way to get started and have been created from various sources. Although it seems complicated, it is not difficult with these easy-to-follow instructions at each stage.



### Base Row of Triangles

Cast on 24 stitches using the two-needle cast on method, using the first colour yarn (Yarn A).

- 1st Row: K2 & turn the work.
- 2nd Row: P1, slip the next stitch purl wise (Sl1P) & turn.
- 3rd Row: K3 & turn the work.
- 4th Row: P2, Sl1P & turn
- 5th Row: K4 & turn the work.
- 6th Row: P3, Sl1P & turn
- 7th Row: K5 & turn the work.
- 8th Row: P4, Sl1P & turn
- 9th Row: K6 & turn the work.
- 10th Row: P5, Sl1P & turn
- 11th Row: K7 & turn the work.
- 12th Row: P6, Sl1P & turn
- 13th Row: K8 & do not turn. This completes the first triangle!!

Leave these 8 stitches on the RH needle and repeat these 13 rows twice more. You will have three interlinked triangles on your needle. Break Yarn.



### Creating the Left Side Edge Triangle

With the wrong side (WS) of the work facing, join in the second yarn (Yarn B) to begin creating the left-side edge triangle.

- 1st Row: P2 & turn the work.
- 2nd Row: K2 & turn
- 3rd Row: Purl into the front & back of the first stitch, then P2tog & turn the work.
- 4th Row: K3 & turn
- 5th Row: Purl into the front & back of the first stitch, P1, then P2tog, & turn the work.
- 6th Row: K4 & turn
- 7th Row: Purl into the front & back of the first stitch, P2, then P2tog, & turn the work.
- 8th Row: K5 & turn
- 9th Row: Purl into the front & back of the first stitch, P3, then P2tog, & turn the work.

- 10th Row: K6 & turn
- 11th Row: Purl into the front & back of the first stitch, P4, then P2tog, & turn the work.
- 12th Row: K7 & turn
- 13th Row: Purl into the front & back of the first stitch, P5, then P2tog, do not turn.

This completes the left-side edge triangle. Leave these 8 stitches of side triangle on the RH needle.



### Creating the Purl Row of Squares

Still using yarn B and with WS facing, \*pick up & purl 8 stitches evenly along the base edge of the triangle. TURN the work.

- 1st Row: K7, then slip the next stitch purl-wise (Sl1P) & turn the work.
- 2nd Row: P7, P2tog, & turn (note- these 2 stitches will be 1 each of Yarn A & Yarn B)
- Repeat rows 1 & 2 – six (6) times.
- 15th Row: K7, then slip the next stitch purl-wise (Sl1P) & turn the work.
- 16th Row: P7, P2tog, & **do not turn.** \*

Repeat from \* to \* once more.

Note: - Slipping the edge stitches purl-wise makes it easier to pick up stitches along the sides of the squares and triangles. Pick them up under both loops of the edge stitch.



### Creating the Right-Side Edge Triangle

With the wrong side (WS) of the work facing and still using Yarn B, pick up and purl 8 stitches evenly along the next edge of the base triangle, then turn the work.

- 1st Row: K7 & then slip the last stitch purl wise & turn the work.
- 2nd Row: P6, P2tog & turn
- 3rd Row: K6 & then slip the last stitch purl wise & turn the work.
- 4th Row: P5, P2tog & turn
- 5th Row: K5 & then slip the last stitch purl wise & turn the work.
- 6th Row: P4, P2tog & turn
- 7th Row: K4 & then slip the last stitch purl wise & turn the work.
- 8th Row: P3, P2tog & turn
- 9th Row: K3 & then slip the last stitch purl wise & turn the work.
- 10th Row: P2, P2tog & turn
- 11th Row: K2 & then slip the last stitch purl wise & turn the work.
- 12th Row: P1, P2tog & turn
- 13th Row: K1 & then slip the last stitch purl wise & turn the work.
- 14th Row: P2tog & turn the work – note – you will still have one stitch on your needle.

Break yarn. This completes the right-side edge triangle.

### Creating the Knit Row of Squares

Using Yarn A and with RS facing, slip the stitch from the previous row onto the RH needle, then pick up and knit 7 stitches evenly along the edge of the right-side triangle. You will now have 8 stitches on the RH needle. Now turn the work.

- \*1st Row: P7, then slip the next stitch purl-wise (Sl1P) & turn the work
- 2nd Row: K7, slip the next two stitches one at a time purlwise onto the RH needle, then knit the 2 slipped stitches together tbl & turn.
- Repeat rows 1 & 2 – six (6) times.
- 15th Row: P7, then slip the next stitch purl-wise (Sl1P) & turn the work.
- 16th Row: K7, slip the next two stitches one at a time purl-wise onto the RH needle, then knit the 2 slipped stitches together tbl, **& do not turn.**

With RS facing & leaving the 8 stitches on the RH needle, pick up & K8 along the edge of the next square in the row below and turn the work. \*

Repeat from \* to \* twice.

### Create the Left Side Triangle

Change to Yarn B & with WS facing.

- 1st Row: P2 & turn the work.
- 2nd Row: K2 & turn
- 3rd Row: Purl into the front & back of the first stitch then P2tog & turn work.
- 4th Row: K3 & turn
- 5th Row: Purl into the front & back of the first stitch, P1, then P2tog, & turn work.
- 6th Row: K4 & turn
- 7th Row: Purl into the front & back of the first stitch, P2, then P2tog, & turn work.
- 8th Row: K5 & turn
- 9th Row: Purl into the front & back of the first stitch, P3, then P2tog, & turn work.
- 10th Row: K6 & turn
- 11th Row: Purl into the front & back of the first stitch, P4, then P2tog, & turn work.
- 12th Row: K7 & turn
- 13th Row: Purl into the front & back of the first stitch, P5, then P2tog, do not turn.

This completes the left side edge triangle. Leave these 8 stitches of side triangle on the RH needle.

### Creating the Purl Row of Squares

Still using yarn B and with WS facing, \*pick up & purl 8 stitches evenly along the base edge of the square below. After you have picked up the stitches – TURN the work.

- 1st Row: K7, then Slip the next stitch purl-wise (Sl1P) & turn the work.
- 2nd Row: P7, P2tog, & turn
- Repeat rows 1 & 2 – six (6) times.
- 15th Row: K7, then Slip the next stitch purl-wise (Sl1P) & turn the work.
- 16th Row: P7, P2tog, **& do not turn** \*

Repeat from \* to \* once more.

### Create the Right Side Triangle

Still using Yarn B, with WS facing, \*pick

up & purl 8 stitches evenly along the base edge of the square below. After you have picked up the stitches, turn the work.

- 1st Row: K7 & then slip the last stitch purl-wise & turn the work.
- 2nd Row: P6, P2tog & turn
- 3rd Row: K6 & then slip the last stitch purl-wise & turn the work.
- 4th Row: P5, P2tog & turn
- 5th Row: K5 & then slip the last stitch purl-wise & turn the work.
- 6th Row: P4, P2tog & turn
- 7th Row: K4 & then slip the last stitch purl-wise & turn the work.
- 8th Row: P3, P2tog & turn
- 9th Row: K3 & then slip the last stitch purl-wise & turn the work.
- 10th Row: P2, P2tog & turn
- 11th Row: K2 & then slip the last stitch purl-wise & turn the work.
- 12th Row: P1, P2tog & turn
- 13th Row: K1 & then slip the last stitch purl-wise & turn the work.
- 14th Row: P2tog & turn the work.

This completes the right-side edge triangle. Note: you will still have one stitch on your needle. Break yarn.



### Top Row of Triangles

With the RS facing, slip the 1st stitch onto the RH needle, and using Yarn A \*pick up and knit 7 stitches evenly, from along the side edge of the triangle from the row below. TURN the work.

- 1st Row: P8 & turn the work.
- 2nd Row: K7, Slip the next two stitches one at a time purl wise onto the RH needle then K the 2 slipped stitches together tbl & turn.
- 3rd Row: P6 & P2tog, turn the work.
- 4th Row: K6, Slip the next two stitches one at a time purl wise onto the RH needle then K the 2 slipped stitches together tbl & turn.

- 5th Row: P5 &P2tog, turn the work.
- 6th Row: K5, Slip the next two stitches one at a time purl wise onto the RH needle then K the 2 slipped stitches together tbl & turn.
- 7th Row: P4 &P2tog, turn the work.
- 8th Row: K4, Slip the next two stitches one at a time purl wise onto the RH needle then K the 2 slipped stitches together tbl & turn.
- 9th Row: P3 &P2tog, turn the work.
- 10th Row: K3, Slip the next two stitches one at a time purl wise onto the RH needle then K the 2 slipped stitches together tbl & turn.
- 11th Row: P2 &P2tog, turn the work.
- 12th Row: K2, Slip the next two stitches one at a time purl wise onto the RH needle then K the 2 slipped stitches together tbl & turn.
- 13th Row: P1 &P2tog, turn the work.
- 14th Row: K1, Slip the next two stitches one at a time purl wise onto the RH needle then K the 2 slipped stitches together tbl & turn.
- 15th Row: P2tog, turn the work.
- 16th Row: Slip the next two stitches one at a time purl wise onto the RH needle then K the 2 slipped stitches together tbl and leave this stitch on the RH needle. \*

This completes the first triangle. Repeat from \* to \* twice.

That completes this sample of Entrelac.

Cut yarn and thread through the last stitch to fasten off.



## Retail Profile: Obsession Yarns

### Can you please tell us a bit about Obsession yarns?

Obsession Yarns is a one-woman creative force! I channel years of small business and creative experience into my little business. I love to think that I bring joy and inspiration in the form of soft, colourful skeins and cute accessories to fibre lovers around the world.

### How did you come to open a yarn store?

In 2020, my freelance makeup business came to an end thanks to a well-known virus, and after a soul-searching trip to Scotland, I became obsessed with knitting. I tried dyeing yarn which caught on very quickly, as I realised I could use my knowledge of colour on this new medium, and the results were amazing! After quickly realising I had way too much yarn from all my experimenting, I opened an Etsy store. This took off after a year or two, and I've progressed to my own website, slowly building my inventory to offer a great range of needles and accessories on top of my yarn releases.

### What are the fun parts of your job?

I love creating new colours and just letting the creativity run wild in the workshop! Sometimes things don't go as planned, but sometimes they go better than planned!

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

Being a sole trader, I do everything. Any small business owner will tell you the same! From marketing, social media management, website creation and upkeep, accounts and bookkeeping, stock, quality control

and I haven't even started talking about the actual product I make yet!

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

Well I'm in the ACT, so technically I'm within NSW! I love Canberra, it's such a beautiful city. We have some fabulous community here, with lovely people who love creating! It's my honour to provide this service for them.

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

I do find as there are only a few of us here, it can be quite isolating. So I have to make an effort not to become a crazy yarn creating hermit lady!

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

I only started knitting in 2020! Since then I've finished over 200 projects. Safe to say, it took over my spare time and creative endeavours completely. I had a few lessons with a local knitter, and then I taught myself mostly from YouTube and Stephen West patterns! Lots of trial and error was involved, that's for sure. I've more recently taken up spinning which I'm loving, and also taking a trial and error approach, learning as I go. I'm looking forward to a course in April. I wish I could jump back in time and take spinning lessons from my dear Nanna.

### Do you still enjoy knitting/crocheting even though you work around it all day?

Absolutely. I am very careful not to bring my personal passion for knitting into my business. I don't knit



for commission. I rarely knit with my own yarn as I have a pretty specific taste for clothes. With work, I tend to focus on channelling all of my creative inspiration into the colours I create. It's a different vibe.

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

I would say there is definitely not an average customer! My amazing yarnies are a huge variety of age, personality, style and amazingness. I am so hugely grateful for them all.

**What's your favourite yarn right now?**

Ooohhh personally I love Woolfolk Merino and anything grown in Scotland. If I was choosing from Obsession Yarns, I'd have to say the new Brushed Lace Merino/Nylon. It's like a cloud!!!

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

Without doubt! I am so excited to see what creative ideas come out of the

community. I think from hand crafted to 3D printed there is so many exciting things happening.

**What are the benefits of being a retail member of the Guild?**

It makes me feel like I'm part of something beautiful! I love reading about what the members are creating and what they're interested in, and I'd love to attend an event one day soon!

**What project are you currently working on?**

I've got a couple going at the moment. Early Morning Rain is a beaded lace shawl by Mindy Ross on Ravelry. I'm using a miniball set from Wee County Yarns in Scotland. I'm really loving the slow-going nature of beading and lacework, plus I'm so excited to see the yarn bloom when I wash off the natural remaining oils! My other is a spinning project using gorgeous Polwarth fibre from Tarndy! It's a white and vibrant green flash of colour.



# Guild Information

**As at 2 May 2025**

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](mailto:secretary@knittersguildnsw.org.au)

## Executive Committee

**President**

Sally Ogilvie (Woy Woy)  
[president@knittersguildnsw.org.au](mailto:president@knittersguildnsw.org.au)  
0404 165 619

**Vice-President**

Margaret Harradine (Inner City)

**Secretary**

[secretary@knittersguildnsw.org.au](mailto:secretary@knittersguildnsw.org.au)

**Treasurer**

Raewyn Tippett (Newcastle)  
[treasurer@knittersguildnsw.org.au](mailto:treasurer@knittersguildnsw.org.au)

**Committee Members**

Mary Carlos (Woy Woy)  
Allyssa Carlton (Macarthur)  
Kathryn Trippett (Blue Mountains)  
Hannah Smith (Inner City)

## Sub-Committees

**Guild Collection:** Merrin Marks (Mid-North Coast) [curator@knitters-guildnsw.org.au](mailto:curator@knitters-guildnsw.org.au)

**Information Management & Membership**

[membership@knittersguildnsw.org.au](mailto:membership@knittersguildnsw.org.au)

**Charity:**

Maureen North (Pittwater)  
[charity@knittersguildnsw.org.au](mailto:charity@knittersguildnsw.org.au)

**A Good Yarn:**

**Editor: Allyssa Carlton (Macarthur)**  
[editor@knittersguildnsw.org.au](mailto:editor@knittersguildnsw.org.au)

**Publicity Officer:**

[publicity@knittersguildnsw.org.au](mailto:publicity@knittersguildnsw.org.au)

**Design & Publishing – Burkill Media Design** [www.burkill.com.au](http://www.burkill.com.au)

**Website:** Stella Fava (West Ryde)  
[web@knittersguildnsw.org.au](mailto:web@knittersguildnsw.org.au)

**Workshop Convenor:** Sally Ogilvie (Woy Woy) [workshops@knitters-guildnsw.org.au](mailto:workshops@knitters-guildnsw.org.au)

**Public Officer**

Stefanie Vogt (Inner City)

## Contact

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

[www.knittersguildnsw.org.au](http://www.knittersguildnsw.org.au)

# GROUP REPORTS

## BLACKTOWN

In February, we were visited by Abbey Bongers, who led a workshop on 'Introduction to Tunisian Crochet'.

March was spent preparing for the 101st Blacktown Show, which had some amazing hand-knit and cro-chet entries this year.

Our April workshop was on vertical increases and decreases, run by local member Hripsime Ansourian.

People not engaged in the workshops enjoyed some knitting and nattering time with delicious snacks and lovely friends.

**Jacinta Wood, Member**

## BLUE MOUNTAINS

The year began on January 18th with the ever-popular Summer Members Market, providing an opportunity for members to destash, shop, and showcase their other crafts.

During the February meeting, group members conducted a spinning workshop that offered insight into the art of spinning and encouraged other members to try this new skill.

Kathryn Trippett from The Australian Wool Store attended the March meeting. As well as showing her range of yarns and accessories, she provided details of her upcoming guided tours to Japan. Kathryn also encouraged us to participate in Sarah Schira of Imagined Landscapes' 2025 gnome knitalong.

**Jan Marshall, Secretary**



*Blue Mountains - Kathryn Trippett's Visit*



*Blue Mountains - Spinning Workshop*

## CAPITAL REGION

The past three months have been busy for Capital Region Guild members. The Canberra Show in February showcased entries from guild members, some of whom won prizes. We also had a stall where we were able to promote the Guild, our free knit and crochet classes for kids and attract new members.

At our February meeting, Christianna presented a session on the free version of Knit Companion to assist members who want to try out this app. In March, Lauren took us to the next level in Brioché knitting following the introductory session she presented last year.

The April meeting was a highly informative session on buttonholes where Lee demonstrated five different buttonholes and gave us tips and tricks for getting the neatest ones for different garments and button sizes.

We have used our projector for all these demonstrations, which was purchased with assistance from the Guild subsidy fund. This ensures that everyone can see in close-up what our demonstrators are showing with their hands on the large screen.

Show and share, afternoon tea and chat are vital parts of every meeting. Planning continues for more major activities as well as mini workshops and demonstrations at regular meetings for the rest of the year. Attendance at

monthly meetings continues to increase, and new members are welcomed at every meeting.

**Christianna Cobbold, Convenor**



*Capital Region - Lee Demonstrating Buttonholes*

## CLARENCE VALLEY

Our Group has been working on knitted shells, finding uses for so many different ideas and integrating lace patterns within the shells. Cables and reversible cables have been on our program, and Judie produced some great socks with cables and some with a lace pattern.

Our next project is free-form knitting, and hopefully, we will produce some interesting items with a lot of imagination.

**Jenny Moar, Secretary**

## CROCHET TURRAMURRA

It was great to see everyone again after our summer break, and many of our members have been very busy, especially working with cottons. We admired shawls, baskets and bags, cardigans and socks. We are always interested in recycling ideas. In December one of our members had a supply of Christmas baubles which she challenged us to think of reusing. Someone with pesky brush turkeys in her garden thought that she could use hers to scare them away. It's unlikely to be successful though!

In February, we had a workshop to make a teapot trivet. The session was run by Wendy Diver, who had very cleverly written us up a pattern, having seen only a sample.

Most of the trivet is in a simple double crochet stitch, which cleverly twists around to provide an insulating space below the trivet and a decorative finish on top. It looks particularly striking in the colours that Wendy chose for her sample, red and white. In the photo you will see that the trivet also looks great in other coloured wool and cotton.

In March our member Di Scaysbrook, who has a talent for making crocheted handbags and carry bags, conducted a workshop teaching us an easy method of threading beads into a project. The trickiest part was getting the beads to

all sit on the front of our test square, as some had a strong desire to settle on the back of the work. Luckily for us Di had instructions to cover that too.

**Anne Murphy, Secretary**



Teapot trivets

Reusing Christmas



Capital Region - Threading beads into a project

## EPPING

This quarter, a large volume of Wrapped with Love squares was completed by our group and generously put together by Ann Archer and Doreen Hunter. A great effort by all! A total of ten beautifully completed wraps (blankets) were donated to Lorraine Sutton from Wrapped with Love.

Lorraine spoke of where and how the finished wraps are distributed, i.e. to other charities working directly with communities in need, locally as well as worldwide. Lorraine spoke of the many facets of the Wrapped with Love story, including its history and how it all works now. We were assured that each square has a place somewhere. Some wraps incorporate a label with a single kangaroo as a symbol of origin, and this could be seen in the many wraps Lorraine brought in for display.

Lorraine spoke of a group of retired architects who designed, then as a group, knit their blankets. An example of their work was on display. Our group were thanked directly by Estia Health Ryde, where our blankets were donated.

Yvonne Fazzolari's top-down sock knitting education was well attended by

20+ knitters. We await a Show and Tell of socks very soon. Yvonne's samples are an inspiration.

And a late thankful mention to Anne Moore, who stepped down in 2024, having completed six years as our Convenor with one year in the middle as our secretary. And thank you, Anne, for many years as organiser of our long-running Biggest Morning Tea.

**Shirley Gregory, Publicity**



Epping - A great use of left over yarn by Starsia



Epping - Our 10 Donated Wrapped with Love Blankets



Epping - Wrapped with Love Samples



Epping - Yvonne's inspirational top-down sock collection

## EPPING CROCHET

*No report received.*

## GOULBURN

The past three months have been packed to the brim with all sorts of amazing activities.

In February, we had the Goulburn Hobbies Expo, which is turning out to be a wonderful annual event with a growing turnout each year! We, as a group, showed off both our amazingly crafted items and our amazing members, hoping to entice a few more people to come our way. It also provided the opportunity to intermingle with fellow local hobbyists and was easily considered a wonderful experience.

Quickly leading on from this was the Goulburn Show, which, with the dedication of our Convenor, Bev, and a solid group effort, turned out just fantastic. We had a large range of knitted and crocheted garments and toys strewn along our tables, which was successfully rostered the entire weekend. Showcasing and selling some items along with all forms of knitting paraphernalia.

Numerous members were skilled enough to win prizes ranging from the Grand Champion (Bev) to the People's Choice (Jenny), to name just two. Entering everything from cardigans to tea



Goulburn - Goulburn Hobby Expo



Goulburn - Goulburn Show Grand Champion



Goulburn - Goulburn Show Tea Cosies



Goulburn - Goulburn Show People's Choice Winner

cosies, we definitely had our best work on display, and discussion has already begun on next year's show!

Overall, we have had a fantastic time both with a continuous stream of activities and with the tutorials throughout our meetings.

**Christina Wall, Publicity Officer**

## INNER CITY

The Inner City Group has had a great start to the knitting season, with several of our members receiving places at the Royal Easter Show.

We have had a workshop on colour theory by designer Fiona Donovan. She provided insights from her work in television and film and guidance on developing a colour palette from images using apps and AI tools.

In May, we have charity beanie knitting for Hats for the Homeless and the annual destash. Bex Hulands will be giving us tips and tricks on knitting vintage patterns in June.

We meet on the 2nd Saturday of the month and would warmly welcome members from other groups.

**Bryony Mika, Convenor**

## INNER WEST

At our first two meetings of the year, we looked at casting on and casting or binding off. We all have

our favourites depending on what is called for (stretchy, rib, I-cord, toe-up socks, etc) but it was so interesting finding out about the many alternatives available. With regard to YouTube and websites, Very Pink Knits, Woolly Wormhead, Ysolda and Arnall-Culliford Techniques were often mentioned. If you enjoy having a book to refer to, 'Cast On Bind Off' by Leslie Ann Bestor was also popular and is still available. Of course, there are many, many more resources out there. These are just the tip of the iceberg.

Like every group, our favourite part of every meeting is 'Show and Tell'. We have some very talented knitters, and some of the designs presented (and tweaked) were by Andrea Mowry, Thea Coleman, Stephen West, Yumiko Alexander and Joji Locatelli to name a few.

During our February meeting, Judy gave an enthusiastic review of the Australian Yarn Show recently held in Canberra. It sounded fabulous and worth noting down the dates for next year (7th and 8th March). For those of you who receive the weekly Skein Sisters newsletter, you would have seen Judy's beautiful intarsia blanket in the 7th April edition.

Finally, an update on Helen's Chinese Zodiac project. Please see the photo below of 'The Year of the Snake'. Happy knitting and crocheting everyone.

**Louise Zaluzny, Secretary**



Inner West - Helen's Year of the Snake

## KATOOMBA

The Katoomba group has had an excellent quarter, welcoming some new members and visitors. Last month, we had a terrific workshop led by Ronah, who taught us how to make tissue pack covers.

We've also seen some fabulous finished products and heard tales of travel adventures from members

**Margaret Hardwick, Convenor**



Katoomba - Crochet tissue pack covers

## MACARTHUR

The ladies in the Macarthur Branch have started the year being busy, creative and on a winning streak.

Our first lessons were provided by our crochet guru Sue Smith, who showed us how to create a Corner to Corner crochet square. Once again, Sue's lessons were enhanced by great notes, samples, plus one-on-one tutoring during the session. Thanks again, Sue.

Once again, our Monday in March visit to the Wool Inn at Penrith was a great day out. Anita and the staff are always very welcoming and provide a fun lesson—then they let us loose in the shop. Members return with fantastic yarn and patterns to add to their 'stash', which will be worked over the following months.

The Camden Show was held recently, and our members can certainly hold their heads high. There were entries in both the knitting and crocheting sections, which included items ranging from children's garments, cot covers, blankets, teapot cosies and coat hanger covers.

Congratulations go to:

- Silvana Flint won 10 awards: First Prize – 6, Second Prize – 2, Highly Commended – 2
- Lurlaine Shennan won 8 awards: First Prize – 3, Second Prize – 1, Highly Commended – 4
- Sue Humphreys won 3 awards: First Prize – 1, Second Prize – 2
- Elke Birt won 3 awards: First Prize – 1, Second Prize – 1, Highly Commended – 1
- Nikki Fox won 2 awards: First Prize – 1, Second Prize – 1
- Kathleen Wall won 2 awards: First Prize – 1, Highly Commended – 1

Well done ladies. Looking forward to 2026 entries!

Macarthur - Camden Show Winning Entries:



Silvana's Entry



Elke's Entry



Sue Humphrey's Entry

**Alison Wootten, Publicity**

### MAITLAND

Members of the Maitland Group continue to meet and inspire, encourage, and empower each other to broaden their skills and create meaningful projects.

Our next outing is to the Nundle Woollen Mill at the end of April. We will share photos in the next magazine.

**Cynthia Mulholland, Treasurer**

### MID NORTH COAST

This year has started with plenty of enthusiasm, with many new projects starting and finishing. With so many talented members, there is always a variety of inspiring projects that are knitted and crocheted.

Our Tuesday group has decided to have fewer workshops, so we have more time for show and tell, which has enabled us to discuss the patterns, yarns and methods in more depth that our ladies have chosen. It also gives time to discuss problems encountered and how we managed them. If we cannot solve it then there is always someone who can.



Mid North Coast - Saturday Group with their current and finished projects



Mid North Coast - Saturday Group items for family and donation

Our Saturday group has also been very busy knitting and crocheting. At our last meeting we had a workshop on sleeves and how to avoid holes, and this method also adds strength when picking up stitches at the underarm. Rebeca led the workshop and made it easy to understand. Our Saturday ladies have produced some beautiful pieces over the last few months for family and donation.

**Carol Lansdowne, Convenor**

### MUDGEE

For the Mudgee group this is a short reporting period since we did not reconvene after the Christmas break until February.

Our first meeting for the new year was a very pleasant and social occasion: we shared both afternoon tea and samples of our personal knitting/crocheting endeavours. Scarves, beanies and mittens (smaller projects that were easier to complete in the warmer months) were the order of the day.

At that meeting, we also finalised arrangements for a trip to the nearby twin towns of Kandos and Rylstone. While this was a very social occasion, with lots of chatting over morning tea and lunch, the excursion enabled members to purchase not only knitting yarns but also notions like buttons, ribbons, and elastics—all things we find hard to access in Mudgee.

Our final highlight of the day was a visit to the Convent and Chapel Wool Shop.



Mudgee - Members outside Convent and Chapel Wool Shop



Mudgee - Members with Gemma from Convent and Chapel Wool Shop



Mudgee - Members admiring the Ten Stitch Rug

Always a delight to admire the many fibres available and also have the opportunity to meet with fellow Guild member Gemma Ellsmore and take advantage of her wisdom concerning yarns, patterns and designs.

**Sally Colley, Convenor**

### NEWCASTLE

Our Stash Sale in February was a lively event and saw a great exchange of yarn and books finding new homes. Di Bridger, our treasurer, and her assistant, Carolyn Dean, did a marvellous job in organising the event which ran very smoothly indeed. Square was a great boon as it meant members could use their choice of credit cards or cash.

A number of our members were successful exhibitors in the Newcastle Show held in February. One member, Liza Moss, won first prize in several classes. As the Newcastle Knitters Guild provided the first prize in twelve categories, it was rewarding to see Liza's winning entries. It was particularly satisfying to hear of the Primary and Secondary School winners' excitement about their achievements.

And we are very pleased for one of our members and talented craftsperson, Lisa Wicks ([eleventyonewindmills.com.au](http://eleventyonewindmills.com.au)), who was a finalist in the 2025 Australian Yarn Awards for Online Store of the Year.

A very popular event in March was Blanche Smith's mini-workshop on the long-tail cast-on for knitters.

This cast-on is a great addition to any knitter's skill set but will be of particular use for our lace fundraising blanket for the 2026 Exhibition in April.

The Ranunculus top-down pullover by Midori Hirose KAL was started by the Saturday Group with a number of garments finished and some still in progress. The variety of yarns and finishes used has seen some lovely individual knits. Our photos show Kerri Smith displaying her unique sleeve finishing knitted for herself. The other is Vivien Brown's version for her granddaughter.

At our April 9 meeting, Liza Moss gave a very informative presentation on Ravelry and it's wide and comprehensive uses. Many of the members present will be considering how to use this rich database to track and inform their future projects.

**Kate Zimmerman, Convenor**



Newcastle - Vivien Brown's Ranunculus



Newcastle - Kerri Smith's Ranunculus

## NORTHERN TABLELANDS

During the last couple of months our group concentrated on our show entry - The Very Hungry Caterpillar - for the Armidale show held in early March. We were very successful in not only receiving first prize for our section but also being declared as

Best Open Item. It is our intention to donate the display for use in a local childcare centre.

Along with the recent Armidale Autumn Festival, we also ran a community event to knit or crochet autumn leaves.

**Ronda Collins, Member**



Northern Tablelands - Armidale Show Entry of A Very Hungry Caterpillar



Northern Tablelands - A selection of autumn leaves

## PITTWATER

The Pittwater Group started the year by supporting a local yarning festival. We were very happy to see a local initiative showcasing knitting and crochet. It turned out to be a wonderful success, and we gained several new members as a result.

We have also had some lovely workshops given by our very talented members. Judy researched and presented on a range of different ways to join fabrics, both knitted and crocheted. This has been quite useful for us pulling together all the squares for the rug donations! Pat also showed us blocking techniques, as several members did not understand the benefit or purpose of blocking, so it was very well received.

Another project that we started as a group was a knit-along cushion cover. We used a simple pattern with just a few new

techniques for those who participated. Everyone chose their own colours, and the results were varied and spectacular!

We were also contacted by Ann Wilson Funerals with a request to knit or crochet poppies for an Anzac Day display at our local War Vets here in Collaroy. They supplied the yarn and tea and coffee, and we set about to produce a final total of 212 poppies! It was great to see so many members happily sitting, chatting and producing all the poppies. Well done to our team.

**Linda Tremain, Convenor**



Pittwater - KAL Cushion Cover



Pittwater - Poppies for Anzac Day



Pittwater - Yarning Festival Display

## **SOUTH GRAFTON**

The Grafton Ag Show is coming up in May, and some of our members are busy preparing items for the competition. The photo is of one such item - a tunic-style jumper with a picot hem. Our Group sponsors a class in the Handicrafts Section where a miniature Shetland Shawl is knitted from the pattern supplied in the schedule. We offer prize money for first and second.

The recent cyclone Albert caused problems for many people, including ourselves. Some members were flood-bound for a few days, and in view of the bad weather, one of our meetings had to be cancelled. A picnic in a local park had been organised for the day.

Our group recently enjoyed two knitting workshops. The first one was double knitting, led by Barbara. Robyn made the pretty green and white check, that is in reverse colours when turned over. Several squares were made by our members.

The second workshop was a mosaic knitted bookmark, led by Marcii. Several members took part. The pink and black



*South Grafton - Double Knitting*



*Tunic Style Jumper with Picot Hem*



*South Grafton - Knitted Mosaic Bookmark*

bookmark was knitted by Barbara. A smaller needle size gives a clear pattern.

**Janice Kent, Convenor**

## **SOUTHERN**

With the new year it is a great time to celebrate our newer members who have joined us at Southern Group. We have really enjoyed getting to know them and seeing their creations at Show and Tell. Here are just a few from: Leslie (Crocheted shawl), Johanna (Cotton top), Linda (Steven West Shawl) and Sonia (Crochet Dress). We look forward to showcasing some more from our new members in upcoming reports.

For February, we had a bumper Show and Tell after the holiday break, and in March we brought out our Unfinished Objects (UFO's) from hiding. Some had been neglected for quite a long time but may now have a chance of being finished!

**Gemma Lawrence, Convenor**



*Southern - Joanna's Cotton Top*



*Southern - Leslie's Crochet Shawl*



*Southern - Sonia's Crochet Dress*



*Southern - Linda's Stephen West Shawl*

## **SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS**

The Southern Highlands group decided that cable stitch would be an interesting stitch to work with in early 2025. Peter Jobson, one of the group's knitting experts, led the cable stitch workshops. They were such fun. We (especially me) discovered how simple it was to knit something of great beauty and interest. Peter made it all look so easy.

Cable stitch makes for a very warm jumper. The most famous use of the cable stitch must be that used in Aran sweaters. On the Wikipedia website ([https://en.wikipedia.org/Aran\\_jumper](https://en.wikipedia.org/Aran_jumper)) is a description of the Aran jumper which originated from the Aran isles just off the Irish main coast - a place where fishing was the main source of both food and income. Aran cable patterns were specially designed to bring good things to the wearer and each pattern is rich in folkloric history. The Aran garments were knitted from wool straight off the sheep's back - the wool still heavy with lanolin. There is no denying that a weighty Aran jumper, complete with its beautiful wave-like pattern, is like wearing a cosy blanket.

There is an abundance of cable stitches to knit, some more complex than others, and all are beautiful to behold. Without doubt, a sumptuous beginning to our knitting year.

**Kerry Anderson, Member**

## **THE ENTRANCE**

During the last few months, we have been busy learning new techniques and embracing some new ideas. We've looked at different cast-on methods, Tunisian crochet, making therapy chickens and simple cable work. We will soon embark on colour work with the help and expertise of Susanne Wittkopp, our Work-shop coordinator. Exciting times are ahead.

We continue to go from strength to strength with our workshops, show and tell, and the friendly community we have built in our group. Our Coffee Catch-up on the third Wednesday of the month continues to be well supported.

Visitors are always welcome to join us at either event. The next three months will be full of new ideas and a refresh of old ones. Plus lots of knitting and chatting along the way.

Cheers

**Prue Smee, Convenor**



*The Entrance - Chicken Making Workshop*



*Relle O'Brien with her Therapy Chickens*



*The Entrance - Linda Gonzalez proudly displays her latest rug*



*The Entrance - Marissa Olson with her beautiful cape*



*The Entrance - Show and Tell Goodies*

## VIRTUAL GROUP

The Virtual Group continues to meet on the second Monday of the month and new members are always welcome! There was no meeting in March due to the effects of Cyclone Alfred causing chaos with connectivity.

General discussions have been held regarding charity items to be made by members of the Group. Further discussion is to be held at the April meeting.

If anyone would like to attend this Group, please email: [kgvirtual00@gmail.com](mailto:kgvirtual00@gmail.com) for the zoom log on details.

**Marilyn Woodcock, Secretary**

## WEST RYDE

West Ryde meetings so far this year have been relaxing with chatting, knitting, crocheting and a great selection of show and tell. Our group is growing with many new members coming along - the more the merrier.

The Blacktown Show brought some great prizes to some of our ladies. Beth Clothier won five 1st prizes plus Best in Show. Beth produced a variety of goodies, including a crochet bag, knitted cushion, scarves and shawls. Kerry Dowsett won 1st prize for socks, 2nd for a lady's top, and Highly Commended for a baby blanket. Eleanor Goldfinch won Best in Show for a machine-knitted rug.

We would like to congratulate them all on a wonderful result!

**Jean Smith, Convenor**



*West Ryde - Beth's Blacktown Show Entries*



*West Ryde - Kerry's Blacktown Show Entries*

## WOLLONGONG

*No report received.*

## WOY WOY

The Woy Woy group has had a wonderful start to 2025. We are enjoying the last of summer days with our well attended Saturday Knit and Natter at a local cafe.

We also had a visit from Fibre Arts Shed, who showed us some amazing yarn and talked us through the process of reducing yarn waste in their factory.

One of our members, Nigel, has created an amazing Dr Who inspired scarf and proudly modelled it for the group.

**Nardia Sly, Convenor**



*Woy Woy - Nigel and his Dr Who Inspired Scarf*

## A GOOD YARN CONTENT CALL

Do you have an idea for an article for the magazine? Is there a topic you'd like to see in the magazine? Have you attended any interesting fibre exhibitions that you think our members would like to hear about? Perhaps you have a favourite stitch you'd love to introduce to our members? We are always looking for content for the magazine, so please contact [editor@knittersguildnsw.org.au](mailto:editor@knittersguildnsw.org.au) to discuss your ideas.

Are you a designer? Do you have a knitting or crochet pattern you would be willing to let us publish in A Good Yarn? Obviously, full credit will go to you, with links to your social media/website/Ravelry page, etc included. Please email [editor@knittersguildnsw.org.au](mailto:editor@knittersguildnsw.org.au) for further details.

# Meet the Members

## David Bowyer

David Bowyer is a member of the Newcastle Group. He has now been active



in the Guild for 7 years. His knitting usually involves a lot of colour, as you can see in the photo.

He likes to use traditional patterns and techniques in new ways. He taught himself to knit as a child, and his first projects were baby booties, as these don't take too long to make!

He likes to have several things on the go, including a complicated piece and a bit of TV knitting. He finds that complicated pieces are best made while listening to audiobooks. Making lace while listening to Game of Thrones was a particular joy for him.

He has found that boy-friendly patterns are particularly hard to find. The Knitters' Guild has helped a lot with trying new techniques (e.g. Entrelac and knitting backwards), and he is in AWE of the talent out there. He is encouraged to keep having a go at different things and to continually improve.

He loves blues and reds and has discovered that black lace is infernal to make. His stash has a lot of fine fibre in many colours. Hint: tapestry wool is DK. Op Shops have a lot of it, and it is great for finding a particular colour.

When not knitting, he cooks for his family and helps Dean Katherine Bowyer, who is the FAB Anglican Dean of Newcastle. PS, She doesn't knit.

In the photo, the jumper is based on Piet Mondrian and uses an old Patons pattern as a base. The scarf is fair isle with a colour twist.

## Katrina Kellett

Katrina Kellett has been a member of the Newcastle Group since 2014. Having learned to knit from her mother as a child, she picked up the needles again during an extended stay in Germany in 2012 and was looking to improve her skills. Joining the local Guild provided project challenges, informal mentoring, and firm friendships, as well as access to inspiring stitchers from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. Katrina was hooked.

Around this same time, she noticed she couldn't access the same kinds of beautiful hand-dyed skeins of yarn she had seen in Europe. In August of 2014, with a small group of others from the Newcastle Guild, Katrina took an excursion to the Nundle Woollen Mill and witnessed the production and dyeing of yarn...and the seed of an idea germinated.

During attendance at a crochet workshop as a part of the Guild Camp



in August of 2015, Katrina struck up a conversation with a strikingly dressed stranger about the beauty of the shawl she was wearing. This red-hatted lady explained her shawl was hand-spun and knit from Polwarth fibres. She said the words, 'this fibre is better than nooky'. Katrina had never heard of Polwarth and wondered what kind of animal it might be, but if handling it was better than sex, well it seemed it deserved looking into. Having given the shawl a good grope, the kind stranger instructed Katrina to write the words 'Wendy Dennis, Tarndie' in the margin of her workshop notes.

After her return from camp Katrina was reviewing her notes and found the scribbled words. She typed them into her search engine, not expecting to find much, and the screen of her laptop filled with images of bluestone buildings and stunning countryside. She saw a link that said 'accommodation' and discovered that not only could she buy this 'better-than-sex' fibre, she could actually go stay where it was produced. She did and the die was cast. And now, 2025 marks a decade since Katrina began hand-dyeing and selling Australian yarn under the name Pirate Purl Yarns.

## Susanne Wittkopp

Susanne Wittkopp is currently a member of the The Entrance Group.



**Q: What's your knitting/crochet superpower?**

A: Cabling, entrelac and having a go

at new challenges - all inspired by my time with the guild.

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

A: My recent trip to the Shetland Islands taught me to knit with two circular needles in the round, which I find so much easier than using the tiny needles in my original knitting style. I was also introduced to steeking - the deliberate cutting of a knitted fabric. Scary at first but rewarding when you gain so much versatility to adjust the project you are working on.

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

A: I wish to continue improving my Fair Isle knitting skills by incorporating embellishments such as embroidery and beading into my future projects.

**Q: How long have you been knitting/crocheting?**

A: My mother taught me to knit at age 8 and my first project was a red scarf. I taught myself to crochet by doing mystery CALs (Crochet A Long). I put down the needles when life got busy raising children and working. My knitting was basic, and I picked it up around 20 years ago. I was reluctant to join the guild as I thought they were all old women. How wrong I was, and now I'm the older member! I really enjoy looking for opportunities to help and encourage our members to step outside their comfort zone and just have a go.

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

A: The importance of swatches and blocking. These two skills are so important for making the project look finished and AT THE RIGHT SIZE.

**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: My preference is to concentrate on one project at a time, though I quite often have some small side-lines happening which entertain me while I am resting my hands from the repetition of the main project.

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

A: Stephen West has a mantra -> "Keep on knittin Kitten" which I have adopted as my own, unless...

Natural Shetland wool can't be un-

pulled due to the fibres sticking to each other, so I resort to the scissors when circumstances become dire.

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

A: Since joining the guild, I have been inspired by the many talented knitters who were willing to share their wonderful knowledge and skills. I also enjoy witnessing the growth of talent and confidence from our new members. You never know who you will learn something from. I have enjoyed a cruise and the gatherings organised by the guild.

**Q: What are your favourite colours?**

A: Purples, greens, blues, aqua - all hues and combinations of.

**Q: What would we see in your stash?**

A: Like many members - far too much. There is quite a bit of good quality yarn from a variety of suppliers awaiting a suitable project and recently, I have started amassing shetland wool as I love the history, texture and characteristics of the natural product.

**Q: When you are not knitting or crocheting, you are...**

A: Ballroom dancing, where I get to showcase the shawls I have made. If not dancing, then you may find me enjoying leisurely walks along the shores of the lakes of the Central Coast or learning to improve my sewing skills with a group of talented people based in Toukley.

*Photo is the Stephen West Mystery KAL Geogradient with beads.*

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*If you wish to place an ad in the magazine please contact:  
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## 24 Mile Hollow Yarn Co, Kandos

W: [www.24molehollowyarnco.com.au/](http://www.24molehollowyarnco.com.au/)  
E: [24molehollowyarnco@gmail.com](mailto:24molehollowyarnco@gmail.com)

## Adorkable Handmade

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

## Adagio Mills, Hawkesbury

W: [www.adagiomills.com.au](http://www.adagiomills.com.au)  
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E: [sales@australialpacayarn.com.au](mailto:sales@australialpacayarn.com.au)

## The Australian Wool Store

W: [theaustralianwoolstore.com/](http://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](http://www.avalonfabrics.com)  
E: [info@avalonfabrics.com](mailto:info@avalonfabrics.com)

## Bendigo Woollen Mills

4 Lansell St Bendigo VIC 3550  
W: [www.bendigowoollenmills.com.au](http://www.bendigowoollenmills.com.au)  
E: [info@bendigowoollenmills.com.au](mailto:info@bendigowoollenmills.com.au)  
P: 03 5442 4600

## Blackwattle Yarn and Fibre

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

## Bumblebee Knits & Yarns

E: [info@bumblebeeknits.com.au](mailto:info@bumblebeeknits.com.au)  
W: [bumblebeeknits.com.au](http://bumblebeeknits.com.au)  
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bumblebeeknitsandyarns/>

## Castle Handmade

Shop 21, Springett's Arcade,  
302 Bong Bong Street, Bowral NSW 2576  
W: [www.castlehandmade.com.au](http://www.castlehandmade.com.au)  
P: 0416 307 408  
E: [info@castlehandmade.com.au](mailto:info@castlehandmade.com.au)

## 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/](http://www.craftyfrog.com.au/)

## EleventyOne Windmills, Newcastle

W: [www.eleventyonewindmills.com.au](http://www.eleventyonewindmills.com.au)  
Instagram: [@111windmills](https://www.instagram.com/111windmills)

## Fibre Arts Shed, Central Coast

W: [www.fibreartsshed.com.au/](http://www.fibreartsshed.com.au/)  
P: 0422 160 506

## Finzah Yarn Studio

5/15 Lake Ave Cringila NSW 2502  
P: 0466 903 734  
W: [finzah.com](http://finzah.com)

## glenheavenknits

W: [www.etsy.com/au/shop/glenheavenknits](http://www.etsy.com/au/shop/glenheavenknits)  
E: [glenheavenknits@gmail.com](mailto:glenheavenknits@gmail.com)

## Glenora Weaving & Wool, Berry

W: [www.glenoraweaving.com.au](http://www.glenoraweaving.com.au)  
E: [glenoraweaving@gmail.com](mailto:glenoraweaving@gmail.com)  
P: 0424 868 200  
Instagram: [@glenoraweaving](https://www.instagram.com/glenoraweaving)

## Great Ocean Road Woollen Mill

W: <https://gorwm.com.au/>  
E: [hello@gorwm.com.au](mailto:hello@gorwm.com.au)

## Greta's @ Roseville

72 Pacific Highway Roseville NSW 2069  
[www.gretasroseville.com.au/](http://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](http://www.grumpyginger.com.au)

## Hodgepodge Skeins

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E: [kaz@hodgepodgeskeins.com](mailto:kaz@hodgepodgeskeins.com)

## The House of Wool, Leura

142 Leura Mall Leura NSW 2780  
W: [www.thehouseofwool.com.au](http://www.thehouseofwool.com.au)

## Jokamamo Textiles

W: [www.jokamamotextiles.com/](http://www.jokamamotextiles.com/)

## Kaalund Yarns

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

## Luxe Handweaving, Toronto

Facebook: Luxe Handweaving  
E [Linda luxehandweaving@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.luxehandweaving@gmail.com)  
P: 0417399353

## Lyrebird Yarns

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

## Maker Moran

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[@makermoran](https://www.instagram.com/makermoran)

## Marlyn Alpaca, Thornleigh

W: [www.marlynalpaca.com.au](http://www.marlynalpaca.com.au)  
P: 02 9481 0949

## Obsession Yarns

W: <https://obsessionyarns.com.au/>  
E: [obsessionyarns@gmail.com](mailto:obsessionyarns@gmail.com)

## Set on Sewing & Craft

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

## Signatur Handknits

W: [www.sigkmit.com](http://www.sigkmit.com)  
E: [jane@sigkmit.com](mailto:jane@sigkmit.com)  
FB/IG: Signaturhandknits  
P: 0427 064 834

## Society Knits

W: [@societyknits](http://www.societyknits.com.au)

## Spinners' Cotton

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

## Spunout Fibres, Hill End, NSW

E: [spunoutfibres@gmail.com](mailto:spunoutfibres@gmail.com)  
P: Ann: 0409 823 045

## Stitchy Witches

W: [stitchywitches.com.au](http://stitchywitches.com.au)

## Tarndwarcoort Warncoort VIC 3243

W: [www.tarndie.com](http://www.tarndie.com)  
E: [info@tarndie.com](mailto:info@tarndie.com)

## This Lush Corner, Snowy Mountains, NSW

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

## Three Trees Fibre Craft

W: [www.threetreesfibrecrafts.com.au](http://www.threetreesfibrecrafts.com.au)  
Instagram: Threetreesfibrecrafts  
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## Virginia Farm Wool Works

W: [www.virginiafarmwoolworks.com.au/](http://www.virginiafarmwoolworks.com.au/) P: 0448 866 789

## Waratah Fibres and Yarns, Bundanoon

W: <https://waratahfibres.com.au/>  
E: [helen@waratahfibres.com.au](mailto: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/](http://www.the-wool-inn.com.au/shop/)  
P: 02 4732 2201

## Wool 2 Yarn, Mornington

W: [www.wool2yarn.com.au/home](http://www.wool2yarn.com.au/home)  
P: 0404 753 840

## Woolshed @ Manuka

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Bougainville St Manuka ACT 2603  
W: <https://woolshed.com.au/>  
P: 02 6295 0061

## Yazzy's Yarn

W: [yazzysyarn.com.au](http://yazzysyarn.com.au)

## Yummy Yarn and Co, Dubbo

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W: [www.yummyyarnandco.com.au/](http://www.yummyyarnandco.com.au/)  
P: 0431 754 909