

A Good Yarn

Knitters' Guild NSW

World Wide Knit in Public Day



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



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A word from the President

Welcome all members

Thank you for allowing me to be your President for this year. I look forward to meeting a number of you at FibreFest in September.

I hope that all of our members have stayed safe and sound during the unprecedented weather events that we have had over the past few months.

At this time, we will have had the cruise for this year. I would like to thank Merrin Marks for organising this again for our members.

We are looking forward to FibreFest at the end of September. I am sure that it will be a fantastic time. I hope that a lot of you will be able to attend this event, and some will be wearing the FibreFest shawl.

We are also looking forward to next year when we will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Guild. We will have more details in the coming months about this. If any of you have suggestions as to what you would like to see organised for next year, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We also have the Guild Gathering happening in late August in 2026. We are starting to organise tutors for workshops and further details will be available next year. If you have any workshops that you would particularly like to do, please let me or the secretary know.

We will keep you informed of things happening or when we are looking for volunteers for events via KGBites so we encourage you to read this each month.

Stay safe and happy knitting or crocheting over the next few months.

Raewyn Tippett



President - Raewyn Tippett

Secretary - Pat McGregor

Vice Presidents - Hannah Smith & Margaret Harradine

Treasurer - Mary Carlos

Committee Members - Bryony Mika, Katherine Ireland, Peter Jacob, Marilyn Woodcock



President's Report - Annual General Meeting 2025

Every year in the Guild brings its highs and lows but I'm pleased to report that in 2024 the highs far exceeded the lows. The only 'low' is that unfortunately the Kiama group closed at the end of the year as, despite running for over 20 years and having more than 30 members, they were unable to persuade three people to stand as Group Officers. But on the 'high' side of the ledger, a new group was started early in 2024, the Virtual group, which now has 21 members plus many from other groups who also attend their meetings. And the Guild finished the year with 1072 members, which I think is an all-time high.

Earlier at today's AGM six members were awarded Guild Stars for the great contribution made this year – Abbey Bongers, Mary Carlos, Caroline Craig, Jayne Kelderman, Pat McGregor and Robynn Ross – but there were of course others who were essential to the smooth running of the organisation. All the Executive Members, which includes Kathryn Trippet who was responsible for putting up our display at the Craft & Quilt Fair and Allyssa Carlton, who became editor of A Good Yarn when Marianna Thompson stepped down. And Marianna did such a wonderful job for which very many thanks. Clare Hacker who handled all Guild membership matters, Stella Fava who rebuilt the back end of our website and is currently working on updating the front end, Maureen North who handled all our telephone calls and email enquiries, all those members who helped at the Easter Show, FibreFest and the Craft & Quilt Fair, and those who gave their time freely to teach at the Gathering, or to run around all weekend to ensure everything went smoothly. I think it was agreed that the Gathering was the best we'd ever held and FibreFest attracts up to 2000 visitors.

I've stepped down this year after being very actively involved in the Guild for 15 years. I joined in 2008, and by 2009 I was a Committee Member. Many of you may remember that time and how essential we thought it to join the committee with the aim of bringing the Guild into the 21st Century. From 2011 to 2013 I was the Guild Treasurer followed by three years as President. When I finished that three years I was happy with what we'd achieved and thought that would be the end of my "Executive Career" but you may have noticed that there isn't a rush

of members vying for these positions so in 2019 I was back again for another three years. Nobody else would take the job. From 2022-23 the Guild had no President and I was then asked if I'd consider standing yet again, but for the last two years I've been actively looking for a replacement. I'm so pleased this year that we found one and I wish Raewyn the very best in her new role. I'm now going to try this retirement lark I've heard so much about. Maybe I'll get a bit more knitting and crocheting done.

I'm very proud of what the Committees I was a part of have achieved. We put the membership database online so that we could accept membership applications, renewals and payments digitally (prior to that, everything had to be by post and only cheques were accepted). That change also meant that we could correspond with all members easily, and hence KGBytes (our monthly digital newsletter) was born in 2015. We updated what was then the Guild Magazine (now A Good Yarn) taking it from a small mainly black and white issue to a full-sized and full-colour one. We launched ourselves on social media, opening accounts with Ravelry, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We ran a competition to replace the Guild logo. We gave all members name badges. We took the Guild residential weekends to a new level, with international guests and many more workshops. We held our first FibreFest in 2016 to mark the Guild's 30th Anniversary. We introduced Guild Cruises. We started holding workshops online, thereby making them available to every Guild Member. And the Executive Committee now also meets online, so wherever you are in the state (or the world), you can be a part of it, and the Guild has benefitted greatly by that change, as seen by the members joining the Executive Committee today.

We aim to do everything as professionally as possible but it's sometimes forgotten that we aren't a large corporation, as we were recently described on social media by a non-member. We're a community organisation run by the members for the members and the knitting and crocheting community in general. We are all working for the Guild in what I laughingly call my "spare time". But every year I've had to report that we are

desperately short of volunteers. In 2024, 19 members ran the Guild. Nineteen out of 1072 members, although I appreciate that some of you are busy running your own groups. Nineteen people looked after membership, the website, the Guild's finances, KGBytes, A Good Yarn, FibreFest, the Gathering, the Craft & Quilt Fair and Easter Show, workshops, donations to the Guild, public and media enquiries, our storage unit, badge-making, our social media accounts. This is an impossible burden to place on such a small number of people. In an ideal world, we'd have back-ups for each of these jobs. After all, people get sick, take holidays, have other commitments. But we have enough of a problem recruiting ONE person for a role. The likelihood of recruiting two is remote. So I ask you all again: Do please consider volunteering when asked, so that the Guild will survive and grow.

The last 16 years of heavy involvement with the Guild has certainly been an interesting experience, and I'm very grateful to you all for giving me this opportunity. I've made many, I hope, lifelong friends and as an added bonus, my knitting has improved considerably. With the approval of the new Executive Committee, I hope to continue producing KGBytes and organising workshops, both jobs I enjoy and which don't involve massive amounts of pressure.

Next year we will celebrate our 40th Anniversary. We are one of the biggest, if not THE biggest Knitters' Guild in the world, surprisingly. We have so much to be proud of. Marea Terry was a founder member of the Guild and a close friend of Margo Chick, the Guild's Founder. Not long before she died about six years ago I asked her what she believed Margo would have thought of the Guild in its current form, with its number of groups and many and varied activities. "She'd be drinking champagne and dancing in the streets". Maybe that's how we should celebrate our 40th Anniversary next year?

I'll certainly be there, cheering on the Guild from the sidelines.

Thank you all for your encouragement, support and friendship.

Sally Ogilvie
President – 2024/25



All the fun of the fair



This year's Craft & Quilt Fair was a chance for the Guild to showcase our work and help curious crafters learn knitting and crochet

The Sydney Craft & Quilt Fair took place at the ICC Sydney from 26 to 29 June this year. We had a spectacular total of 32 volunteers who worked very hard, each for three hours, and were kept very busy answering questions about the Guild, requests for pattern names and many other enquiries. In fact, it seemed that most visitors wanted, simply, to learn to crochet. The extra number of volunteers needed was to support the organisers who, after consultation with the Guild, created a Knitting Lounge. This was provided as a comfortable area where visitors to the Fair could sit and, with the support of the Knitters' Guild, learn some aspect of knitting or, as was even more popular, learn to crochet.

I hope it was an enjoyable event for all who participated. We, once again, had a double space allowing us to have a wide-ranging display of items in both knitting and crochet. We were adjacent to the Knitting Lounge to allow our volunteers to converse with and help visitors in both areas. 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, along with more yarn and a hook to enable them to keep up their newly acquired skill.

With magazines and information to help with promotion there was a great deal of interest in the Guild and the FibreFest event to come. There was also considerable interest in the distribution of our groups throughout the State.



Meredith helping a crochet student.

A particular thank you to Bryony and Judith Mika and Louise White for the huge amount of hard work in setting up the stand in the very early morning, 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:

Caroline Craig and Diedre Hibberd (Blacktown), Pat Hicks (Crochet Turramurra), Barbara Bajuk and Louise Sonter (Epping), Gillian Stegmann, Katherine Ireland, Cindy McLaughlin, Margaret Harradine, Louise White, Fiona Donovan, Karen Gooch, Gabrielle Weidemann, (Inner City), Helen Zammitt (Inner West), Ronah Tuite, (Katoomba), Sue Cannon, Janelle Grange, Cathy Aggett, Zandra May, Debra Stenmark, Julie Beynon, Meredith D'Alton, Delwyn van Weeran and Dianne Clark (Pittwater), Johanna Steriovski (Southern), Elissa Buttsworth and Boni Maywald (Virtual), Sally Ogilvie and Mary Carlos (Woy Woy)

A further thank you to Diane Clark and Johanna Steriovski (with Emma, a friend of the Guild) for their hard work, and fantastic efficiency in dismantling the Guild stand at the end of the Fair on Sunday evening.

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



Johanna (Southern Group) on the stand.



The Knitters Lounge, where curious crafters could learn to crochet

Designer Profile: Dominique Trad

By Robynn Ross



Frost for Great Southern Yarn.

Dominique is a knitwear designer specialising in accessories such as shawls, cowls, hats, and scarves. Her patterns are available on Ravelry, Payhip, and Lovecrafts, and many would know her from the 2018 Fibrefest shawl she designed for members, which she was so excited to see modelled on the day. You can also find some of her pattern samples displayed at The Wool Inn in Penrith.

With a background in economics, teaching, and writing medical standards (which she admits seems a bit incongruous), Dominique draws on all that experience and knowledge when designing and writing patterns. She always considers the resources of knitters carefully so as not to waste their time, yarn, funds, or their skills. Teaching made her aware of how differently people learn and use information, which is why her patterns are consciously written for people with a variety of learning styles and varying levels of experience. Writing medical standards (especially the procedural kind) required a great deal of care and close attention to provide workable, specific instructions for people to be able to follow independently. This attention to detail is evident in Dominique's patterns.

Knitter enjoyment and joyful creation motivates this designer. Living in the peaceful Blue Mountains, surrounded by nature and a me-made culture, provides an inspirational environment in which to create. Dominique focuses mostly on shawls to deliver that joy, as she finds them to be accessible knits that can be made by anyone and used by everyone. They can be worn for warmth as well as self-expression, passed down as heirlooms, made as thoughtful gifts, and used as everyday comfort items.

Dominique's philosophy on the making of shawls is closely aligned with Prayer Shawls. They are a low-pressure, high-reward knit as you don't have to know a great many finishing techniques or have exact tension. The sizing is often easy

to adjust and yarn substitution is fine, so whatever your budget, skills, or body type, you can make something special. Many people knit shawls when they are travelling, grieving, taking care of someone, or commemorating important moments. Dominique loves the idea that a knitter can wear a representation of those feelings and memories out in the world and feel comforted and empowered. Bringing people together with knitting is a very rewarding part of her work, too. Hosting Knit-alongs over the years with both known and mystery



Snoqualmie for Nomadic Knits Magazine & Spincycle Yarns.



Gatsby for Cat & Sparrow AU

patterns has given Dominique much joy as she sees knitters encourage each other and share their ideas and progress.

At the beginning of Dominique's knitting journey, she started knitting sweaters for herself and began making adjustments to shape and fabric, adding information that was missing from the pattern or changing what she found frustrating. That prepared her for what she wanted to deliver as a designer when she started writing patterns for knitters like herself – she didn't want to get lost, didn't want to have to figure out stitch counts, and didn't want to feel that adjustments were impossible.

Dominique feels that her brand is recognisable in the way her patterns are written, not so much in the look of the designs. Perhaps that reflects her interest in creating a good variety of knitting adventures for herself and fellow knitters. If you like lace, mosaic, colourwork, intarsia, or shawls of specific shapes you don't want to have to work too hard to make, Dominique has something for you! Inspired by nature, fibre, colours, textures, and her environment, she is constantly experimenting, growing ideas, and allowing designs to develop from that. She likes a wide range of looks from lacy and lyrical to clean geometric or colourfully playful and always looks for the simplest way to make them, because



Diamondback Cowl for Spincycle Yarns.

knitting should be a pleasure. Dominique does the work, so you won't have to.

Most important to Dominique is to make a positive impact in our wonderful knit world, which is why she often collaborates with fibre growers, dyers and local yarn stores. She recently released 'Gatsby', a new hat design which she's very excited about. After enjoying the privilege of trying a new locally produced non-superwash fingering-weight yarn, fabulous for a colourwork hat and with the help of Cat & Sparrow Fibres Australia, who came up with a couple of colourways for her Art Deco vision, Dominique designed a hat that looks much more impressive than the work it takes to knit. It won't bore experienced knitters, is easy for beginners, and highlights a locally made yarn, so it ticks all her boxes.

For Dominique, the sample photography is a challenge, and her least favourite part is advertising the finished design for sale. The beauty of being an independent designer is that she can communicate directly with knitters, offering the kind of thoughtful detail she believes will give them the best experience, but that also means having to run a business. As an artist, she is really just passionate about the designing.



FibreFest Shawl 2018 for NSW Knitter's Guild

People connect to Dominique's designs as they are approachable and thoughtfully crafted patterns - the knitter experience is always a priority. Her designs are known for their clarity and inclusivity, offering full written instructions, charts, and tick sheets to accommodate various knitting preferences and learning styles. She encourages knitters to honour their own creativity when using her patterns and to enjoy the process of knitting their unique item.

Dominique shines as a designer because the purpose of her patterns is not just to provide a set of instructions to recreate a sample, but is written to make you discover your skills, fall in love with your creativity, and have fun with your knitting. How you feel on your knitting journey with one of her patterns matters to this designer just as much as a successful finished object.

You can find her patterns online here:

Ravelry: Dominique Trad

Payhip: Dominique Trad

Lovecrafts: Dominique Trad

And connect with Dominique here:

Instagram: Dominique Trad

Facebook Group: Domknit Friends



The homestead and the family, with some of the Polwarth flock.

Heritage and history in south west Victoria

Sixth generation farmer, Tom Dennis, spoke with A Good Yarn about the Tarndwarncoort property, sheep and, of course, the yarn.

Can you start by telling us a bit about Tarndwarncoort?

It's an historic place with a wool story that charts the evolution of sheep in south west Victoria since 1840 in the one family. Tarndie (because shortening words is a national sport!), is the birthplace of the Polwarth breed of sheep and these days we run a yarn label focussed on Polwarth wool for craft use. The homestead complex has a Woolshop open three days a week and accommodation for woolcrafters to spend some time in wool country. I'm the sixth generation custodian and together with my partner Jason and with the help of my parents Wendy and Dave Dennis, we run only a small flock of 120 Polwarth sheep on 60 acres around Tarndwarncoort Homestead. Our purpose is conservation – of the 1848 homestead, of the Polwarth sheep and of woolcraft skills.

What are the fun parts of your business?

A fleece can take a thousand paths. There are so many variables in what can happen to wool once shorn. For the last 50 years, Tarndie has focussed on getting the wool we grow into the hands of crafters, something which many regular woolgrowing operations miss out on. We get to enjoy the quiet connection to nature and farming and also travel to yarn events in different parts of the country and meet loads of interesting people. We also host about 3000 visitors to Tarndie each year and there's no one yet that hasn't had something interesting to talk about!

What are the biggest benefits derived from your business for you and the local and broader communities of knitters and crocheters?

It seems like an exchange of benefits. After 50 years of offering wool it's comforting to see familiar faces and names. If we can share the magic of Polwarth wool – its good staple length,

soft handle and lofty construction – and if crafters enjoy the process and end product then that's a happy outcome. The overarching benefit we hope to achieve comes back to



With more than 180 years of woolgrowing, heritage is at the heart of Tarndie



The Tarndie homestead offers accommodation for those keen to spend some time in wool country.

conservation: by supporting our yarn business, customers also support the repairs and preservation of the 1840s homestead and generate trade for local wool processors. The Homestead is a great place for crafters to gather too, so we host Crafty Sundays monthly for any woolcrafter to join in, plus a range of workshops and accommodation. Hopefully we can create an enthusiasm for conserving the Polwarth sheep, woolcraft skills, old farmhouses and in-person real life connections.

What are some of the challenges?

It's hard not to dwell on the fragility of the Australian craft wool supply industry. The trend since the 1960s for closures in processing might be why so many of us have a disproportionately large stash of yarn, but we are still in a position where we can produce yarn entirely in Australia – it's just not easy or "cheap". Our challenge is to keep supporting those processors as much as we can. We also need to keep the Australian wool flock from shrinking to a point where, as seems to be the case in America, wool is a cottage industry with limited access to shearers, wool brokers, auctions, scourers, top makers etc. In our business, we think about balancing a heritage product with contemporary demands. Our goal is to keep customers interested in Polwarth yarn when there's so much change in other products.

Tell us a bit about yourself. Do you knit, crochet or both? What keeps you motivated to keep producing yarn?

While we all have some ability to use our yarn, we probably get our kicks out of pulling all the fibres together to produce a ball of wool.

Joining the right rams with ewes to get a fleece that has the colour, length, crimp and appeal at shearing is a quiet thrill. Conservation lies at the heart of Tarndwarncoort. One aspect we're particularly interested in is "preservation of purpose" where we can maintain 185 years of woolgrowing. But there's obviously no point in growing wool if nobody wants it, so seeing crafters take up our Polwarth yarn motivates us no end to keep the flock. Hand in glove with conserving the Polwarth flock is playing a part in conserving woolcraft skills. Each time we come across a skilled crafter, we learn about what they do and it builds our own knowledge, but in reality, we spend all our focus organising the fibres pre-hook/needle/shuttle/bobbin.

What excites you most about the yarn you produce?

Colour is always the first thing I respond to, but as I continue to learn about all the different paths wool can be led down, it has been exciting to go back to first principles. This year we've hosted a program of skills where crafters dedicate themselves over 10 months to make a jumper from a freshly shorn fleece. There's something deeply satisfying to see hands in action transforming wool into clothing.

What are the best ways to contact you?

Our website is the best place to start – the Online Store has all our yarn and fibre products. You can also see availability and rates for a woolly stay with us, too! Otherwise email info@tarndie.com or tag us on Instagram @tarndie. Plus, of course, we'd love you to just turn up in the Wool Shop – it's open to the public on Thursday, Friday and Saturdays from 10am to 1pm.

Is there anything else you think our members should know about Tarndwarncoort?

We'll be hosting two to three teams in the International Back to Back Wool Challenge (an annual event that challenges teams of wool crafters from around the globe to create a jumper directly from a sheep's back to a human's back) on 21 March 2026. It's turning into a wonderful event with market stalls, demonstrations, a bar and food to accompany the jumper-making athletes! It would be a great reason to visit the Great Ocean Road region.



Some of the Tarndwarncoort range

Photo Credits: C McConville

On the road with the Epping group



A fun day out was enjoyed by all with stops in Penrith and Leura

For several of the thirty-four bus travellers, the trip was similar to one taken in May 2016. With an 8.30am start, the first stop was at The Wool Inn, Penrith. Here we upgraded our stash with a Guild discount and enjoyed a complimentary morning tea. Anita, the proprietor, thanked me after the visit for making The Wool Inn our first stop.

The next stop was Leura, to visit The House of Wool and to browse the shops around Leura Mall. Twenty-five of us did the optional lunch at Bygone Beauties, Treasured Teapot Museum & Tearooms. As twenty people committed to the in-house lunch menu, we were treated to an informative, witty and thoroughly entertaining teapot talk. Maurice Cooper OAM delighted us while we enjoyed our loose-leaf tea or filtered coffee with our handmade shortbread. While the collection of teapots totals 12,000, their website states there are 3000 on display and they are regularly rotated.

During our time on the bus, there were three quizzes. The first one focussed on the history of knitting. Raquel Saez was certainly way ahead of everyone with her history

knowledge, well done! Maybe, a future education topic? It was our youngest regular attendee Ellie Watson (21) who won the crochet multiple-choice quiz. The last knitting quiz, which included short answer questions, was well answered, with a number of people receiving prizes. Two lucky door prizes meant that many people were treated to a prize on the day. Some people received a 50% discount off their next Devonshire tea at the Teapot shop. Thank you, Maurice for donating these prizes.

Three members of the Inner-city group joined us, including Margaret Harradine, the Guild Vice President; Convenor, Bryony Mika and Judith Mika. Also, Maralyn Iwanczuk from West Ryde and a few friends made up the numbers. Many climbed the stairs or had the staff bring down items at the House of Wool. I myself did not get to the House of Wool. Feeling weary, I was happy to browse around the museum. I bought the house tea and some cards, then rested, chatting to other attendees.

A lovely day was had by all with Maurice at The Treasured Teapot shop saying, "We will see you again in eight years" and why not?!

Shirley Gregory, Publicity



Getting That Yarn at The Wool Inn



Maurice Cooper Entertaining Us - Teapot Museum.



On the Bus!

GROUP REPORTS

News from around the branches

Blacktown Group

In May we celebrated our lovely Convenor, Caroline Craig, being a recipient of the Guild Star Award for her service to the guild.



Blacktown - Caroline Craig receives her Guild Star Award.

Our June meeting fell on Worldwide Knit in Public Day and the Blacktown group met up with the Blacktown Library knitting circle at Blacktown Workers Club. We had several people from the public come and talk to us about our crafting – a great opportunity for visibility and spreading the news of our wonderful group.

In July we had a workshop of Joining Squares with Deanne, a very practical way to get those crochet and knit squares for donation blankets together quickly and neatly. Our Workshop and Event Planner, Dierdre, finished her test crochet for the FibreFest shawl and it looks absolutely fabulous.

Jacinta Wood

Blue Mountains

Our April meeting on Easter Saturday gave the perfect opportunity for us to eat chocolate eggs, chat about all things crafty, and draw inspiration from each other through Show and Tell.

May was a busy month for our group. Members attended The Fibre Frolic Festival at Mulgoa as attendees, workshop participants, workshop facilitators, and event volunteers. Our stand at the event was successful in



Blue Mountains - Susan and her 2025 prize winning entries

promoting KGNSW as well as specifically promoting our group.

The guest speaker for May was member Susan who displayed her 2025 award-winning show entries. Susan shared her experience of entering the Royal Easter Show and The Hawkesbury Show, encouraging other members to participate.

The planned June workshop “Crochet for beginners” was postponed until the July meeting.

Jan Marshall, Secretary

Capital region

Capital Region have had a very busy schedule of activities over the past three months. In May we had an excursion to Blackwattle Yarns at Murrumbateman where Angela gave a yarn dyeing demonstration, led a colour theory workshop and gave a fibre and yarn suitability talk. After a delicious lunch and a visit to the alpacas, there was some yarn purchasing.

At our May meeting De-Arne led a workshop on understanding crochet charts and the following weekend we had a stall at the Old Bus Depot Markets annual Wool Expo where we displayed work, talked to many crafters about the Guild and promoted our Kids workshops. Our raffle with items donated by members was very successful with winners from interstate as well as locally.

In June the meeting demonstration was on colour pooling, unintended, planned and assigned led by Liz and Christianna with samples to see up close to and a short presentation on the big screen using our projector. June also saw our very successful Kids Learn to Knit or Crochet workshops where members taught 35 children over two sessions in small groups.

Guild central supported this by paying the rent on our venue and Capital Region provided all the yarn, needles and hooks as well as printed handouts. The success of these workshops means we expect more entries in the Junior section of the Canberra Show in 2026 and have increased the value of the prizes as well. Our Secretary Liz delivered a large bundle of blankets, children’s and baby clothes to Roundabout, a local charity for families in need who were this year’s charity knitting focus.

Christianna Cobbold, Convenor



Capital Region - Rebecca helping one of our juniors at the Old Bus Depot Markets.

Clarence Valley

Our Group has been busy challenging our imagination with free form knitting. Philippa completed a very nice bag and others are still on the go – we await the finished items.

Brioche was next on the agenda – trial and error for some of us and we were fortunate to have very patient tutor in Evol to help us along. Jenny H. determined to complete her beanie. Amidst all this business we have had a display of our work at the Ferry Park Gallery at Maclean for the month of June, providing an opportunity to highlight the Knitters’ Guild.

Our latest work has been drop stitch lace using 2, 4 and 8 ply. In July we will have our retreat at the Seelands B&B near Grafton, where we will enjoy relaxation, sharing and of course a lot of knitting. In August we will be felting – hats, bags, etc. – and looking forward to what we can achieve.

Jenny Moar, Secretary

Epping crochet

This year the crochet group has concentrated on socks and with the combined efforts of crocheters and knitters from the Epping Guild group we produced a Tunisian crochet rug. Our youngest member, Elle, finished an adorable hippo.

We continue to meet monthly

Lesley Wilkes

Epping

Continuing our sock education, Maria Stagno introduced her toe up sock knitting lessons with a PowerPoint presentation, great notes and samples. Both Yvonne (top down) and Maria (toe up) sock knitting experts gave one-on-one sock knitting tutoring during their presentations and this continues still, every Monday. For World Wide Knit in Public day a number of us joined the Southern Group and caught a train to Wyong. Sally Ogilvie joined the train as well. We did the comfortable 10-min walk to the Grumpy Ginger yarn shop. Such a great day for about 15 of us, including an Entrance group member. We enjoyed lunch at their attached café, out in the sun or in their training room.

While our annual Biggest Morning Tea did not attract our usual numbers, we still raised \$1100. With a Grey/Orange colour scheme for Brain/Leukemia cancer we were treated to hats, beanies, scarfs, gloves, shawls, door-stops, chickens and tea cosies. An outstanding entry of a stunning grey lace shawl by Jo-Anne Mattar, took the winning prize. Morning tea, which was provided by members, was really lovely. Thank you, Daphne Ferguson, for providing the trivia quiz which was enjoyed by all. Brenda Horne's table won the quiz. Erica Forrest won the lucky door prize, provided by Coles, of a basket of fruit including a \$50 Coles/



Epping Group - The Epping group enjoying Knit in Public Day on the train trip to Wyong.



Epping Group - The Biggest Morning Tea items in grey and orange to show support for brain and leukemia cancer.



Epping Group - Jo-Anne Mattar wear her Biggest Morning Tea winning shawl.

Myer voucher. Thank you for all those who donated. Tricia Southwell was presented with flowers for organising the day.

Two of our three planned Community Learn to Knit/Crochet Sunday sessions have been completed. They were well attended and enjoyed by all, so thank you to our volunteers.

Shirley Gregory, Publicity

Goulburn

Many members have enjoyed taking part in, eavesdropping into, and watching participants get involved with our program officer, Karen, as she led us through making a perfect pair of socks. Working through the process of taking proper measurements and tackling the awkward nature of heels. This tutorial was beneficially spread across various meetings in order to focus on one aspect at a time.

World Wide Knit in Public Day was fantastic! There were 14 members and 7 visitors distributed throughout a warm area in the Soldier's Club, huddled up near the fire. Everyone was continuing their knitting and crochet projects while constantly being distracted with delightful conversations and the tantalising aroma of the nearby cafe. Overall, a very successful day, as it is every year!



Goulburn Group - The Goulburn group enjoying World Wide Knit in Public Day at the Soldiers Club.

With the tutorials and the World Wide Knit in Public Day, another three amazing months have passed.

Christina Wall, Publicity Officer

Inner City

In June, Bex Huxlands was our guest speaker. Bex is a Vintage Pattern collector and knitwear specialist. Her website, SubversiveFemme.com has a focus on vintage patterns from the 1920s to the 1960s.

Bex promotes vintage patterns because of their originality and variety of knitting techniques that are new and fun to learn. While knitwear construction has moved on, she believes the techniques found in older patterns are worth retaining for their connection to the past and our heritage. She also says that there is something very satisfying about nailing a vintage knitting pattern! Bex explained her tips for tackling vintage patterns and shared patterns and a display of her vintage collection trunk show garments. One keen member tried on and modelled a Sirdar pattern!

As part of her presentation we learned that the Alexandria area where the Inner-City Group meets was the home of the Australian Woollen Mills last century. You can find Bex on Instagram as @bexthefemme.



Inner City - In June the group enjoyed a visit from vintage knitting expert, Bex Huxlands.



Inner City - Bex Huxlands with Bryony Mika.

Following the meeting, members of the Group moved on to the Alexandria Hotel for lunch in the beer garden and shared our passion for knitting and crochet in public for World Wide Knit in Public Day.

Katherine Ireland, Secretary

Inner West

Over the past three months we have been focused on knitting experiences. Our first meeting was about sharing knitting disasters, pitfalls and annoyances. Thankfully, much advice was forthcoming with many and varied solutions. We also met at one of our favourite knitting and crochet suppliers, Skein Sisters, to see firsthand their latest range. Deb and Janine always make us feel welcome.

At our June meeting we put the finishing touches to our items for charity.



Inner West - Donations for the Benevolent Society.

However, this year we donated our items to The Benevolent Society (at its request) as they are in the best position to decide to where the need is greatest. We handed over 41 items knitted and crocheted by our friends, the Southern Group, and us.

This year we celebrated World Wide Knit in Public Day at Marrickville Library. Over the course of the day 12 of us attended and generated a lot of interest especially with two children. Carol helped them through the basics with a set of needles and yarn that she had prepared. One of our convenors, Helen, on holiday in northern Queensland, celebrated the day with friends by knitting on a beach and in a restaurant.

Louise Zaluzny, secretary



Inner West - Convenor Helen, celebrated WWKIP day on the beach while holidaying in Queensland.

Macarthur

The Macarthur ladies have had a fun-filled few months. We've enjoyed lessons, a day out and a retailer visit. We have certainly been spoiled with variety!

In May our new member Sue Humphreys gave us lessons on Intarsia. We were provided with a graphed pattern, and all knitted our own coloured creation. The lessons were a great success, and we all now have a square to use for our future blocking lesson.

Our group had an extraordinary meeting this year on 14 June in order to hold our Knitting in Public day on the same day as the global knitting community. We had a wonderful time at Jamaica Blue Cafe at Narellan, and proudly displayed our new banner. We even got a mention in our local newspaper, The District Reporter.

On 28 June, we had a visit from Lee Gibson-Brown from Bumblebee Knits and Yarns, one of the Guilds retail members. Lee brought in a fantastic array of her beautiful yarns, all hand dyed. Many of our members added to their stash – it was hard to resist.

More interesting lessons are planned for the next few months.

Alison Wootten, Publicity Officer



Macarthur Group - World Wide Knit in Public Day at Jamaica Blue Cafe in Narellan.



Macarthur Group - A square produced from Sue Humphreys' intarsia lesson.



Macarthur Group - A visit from Lee Gibson-Brown from Bumblebee Knits and Yarns.

Maitland

Since our last report, members have been busy creating for themselves, for charity and for fun. We also enjoyed an outing to the Grumpy Ginger yarn store where yarn was explored, purchases made and a wonderful time had by all.

Our day finished off with a wonderful lunch at a nearby hotel and a quick visit to a handmade chocolate shop. The top three items for a successful outing were achieved ... yarn, friends and chocolate!

Cynthia Mulholland, Treasurer



Maitland - The Maitland Group made an outing to the Grumpy Ginger yarn store.

Mid north coast

We had both sad and happy events this quarter. Our workshops in May and June had to be cancelled due to the flooding in the Mid North Coast which affected Port Macquarie.

However we had a very enjoyable event for World Wide Knitting in Public Day. Our members knitted amongst the books in the library, where we chatted with borrowers who were interested to see what we were making. The library also had a beautiful display of our work for 10 days.

Jennifer Smith, Secretary



Mid North Coast - The Mid North Coast group celebrated Knit in Public Day at the library.

Mudgee

Our members were very happy to take the opportunity of a get-together, in addition to our monthly meetings, when we participated in Worldwide Knit in Public Day in June. The weather being unpredictable, but since it trended towards cooler rather than warmer, we opted for an indoor venue. Hence, we gathered at Club Mudgee, where we were comfortably accommodated,

and able to access all the facilities. We had plenty of space and were also able to mount a much-admired display of previously knitted or crocheted items.

Sally Colley, Convenor

Newcastle

May began with our participation in Craft Alive in Newcastle just prior to Mother's Day. Our volunteer members were enthusiastic and excellent ambassadors for knitting and crochet.

Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to our extremely capable, generous and exemplary secretary, Alison Ferguson, as she starts a new adventure with her family in Victoria. Her ready smile and considerate manner will long be remembered by all who knew her. We are very grateful to Catherine Lee for stepping in to continue the good work until November. Alison was also our Knitnews editor and, happily, Valerie Kadarusman has taken on this task. We are extremely appreciative of all our volunteers.



Newcastle - eleventyonewindmills' Lisa Wicks of gave a presentation on using circular needles



Newcastle - A Day with Jane Slicer-Smith

Valerie, an accomplished and dedicated knitter, gave an enlightening demonstration on Fair Isle knitting at the Wednesday May meeting. Dazzling the members with her many and varied projects. As well, she showed how she used a variety of techniques that knitters can use.

On Saturday 31st May the Saturday group had their stash sale with proceeds going to our designated charity NOVA for Women and Children.

Lisa Wicks, of eleventyonewindmills.com, gave a presentation on using circular needles to both the Wednesday and Saturday groups in June. It should not be presumed that all knitters are familiar with the advantages of using circular needles for many different projects in various ways.

World Wide Knit in Public Day was held at Wallsend Library, a comfortable and welcoming community space. It was rewarding to be able to interact with the library patrons and staff.

In collaboration with the Newcastle Machine Knitters we hosted A Day with Jane Slicer-Smith on Sunday 13th July. Grants from both the Knitters Guild NSW and Macknit contributed to enabling this event to take place. For this we are extremely grateful. Attendees' heads were spinning with the amount of knowledge gained about the endless subject of knitting to fit as we went on a design journey with Jane. She encouraged us to be adventurous and go beyond simply following instructions so we can create garments to fit and flatter us, the wearer.

Kate Zimmerman, Convenor



Newcastle - The Group took part in the Craft Alive, Newcastle event.

Northern Tablelands

No report received.

Pittwater

April saw the start of our CAL which is a top, easy enough for both beginners and experienced crocheters to make.

Our library cabinet display this quarter is 30-minute crafts so are items we



Pittwater - The group's library cabinet focused on 30 minute crafts.



Pittwater - The Pittwater group celebrated World Wide Knit in Public Day at Belrose Super Centre store.

could crochet or knit in around half an hour. These included such things as bottle holders, bookmarks, cup warmers, headbands and cushion decorations.

Trauma teddies were done for Concord hospital.

Our workshops continue to provide a fantastic education experience. This quarter we had a wonderful presentation on Ravelry to help us all get the most out of using this website. We had Brioche knitting and double knitting, both proving to be very popular with many of our members.

WWKIP day saw fantastic support from our members and a very enjoyable few hours were spent sitting and knitting outside of Spotlight at the Belrose Super Centre. Passersby were keen to hear our story and showed interest in what we were all making.

We also supported the Craft and Quilt Fair at the end of June with our booth having prime position near the entrance. The Knitting Lounge or should I say Crochet Lounge as many people who stopped by, wanted to learn to crochet, was very busy with chairs being brought in from the nearby café to accommodate the eager learners. One of our experienced members spent most of the morning patiently teaching crochet to young and old.

Susan Cannons

Southern

The Southern Group used our April meeting to make some Easter bunnies out of squares and then in May had a break from workshops to enjoy the cooler knitting weather and catch up on some Show and Tell. In June we hosted our Biggest Morning Tea, with another successful silent auction of quality yarns raising well over \$700. Thank you to all who contributed.

Like many groups we also made the most of WWKIP Day. Joined by members of the Epping Group, we took the train to Wyong to visit Grumpy Ginger, enjoying some lunch and taking home some treats.

Gemma Lawrence



Southern - The Southern Group raised more than \$700 for the Biggest Morning Tea.



Southern - The Southern group's Patricia showing off her crocheted bag.

Southern Highlands

The Southern Highlands Knitting Guild group has been active, finishing beanies and giving them to various groups in need. We've also made fingerless mittens, producing some lovely examples. We have a great program of events to be undertaken for the remainder of 2025 and if you're very lucky you will hear about them as the year progresses!

Kate Mitchell

South Grafton

No report received

The Entrance

The last three months have been busy for us all. The Entrance Group have offered some interesting workshops for our members and have more planned. In September, we will be talking about Continental Knitting as an aid to colour work. Thanks to Susanne Wittkopp, our workshop coordinator, who also guided us through granny square chicken making; this activity was lots of fun. Susanne and lots of volunteers also headed up the local Central Coast show where there was lots of work on display - congratulations to those winners. The event was a lovely reminder of how great it is to be part of such a talented group.

Worldwide Knit in Public Day saw our members gathering together at Brunch & Brew at The Tuggerah Super Centre. Chatting to our members we realised that they knit in public almost every day - no special event needed!

Welcome also to our new members and our existing members who continue to enjoy our monthly meetings.

Prue Smee, Convenor



The Entrance - The Entrance group celebrating Knit in Public day.

Turramurra Crochet

Winter is a great time to crochet with wool and our members have been making good use of their skills creating scarves, vests, shawls and rugs. Maureen has been making colourful Izzy dolls for Concord Hospital and Wendy is using all her wool remnants to make an impressive table runner.

We've been fortunate to practice our skills in several workshops: Sharmini taught us to make a stylish napkin ring using triple treble stitch, Ronah encouraged us to use our own creativity to choose stitches for covers for tissue packs and Lana is teaching us Tunisian crochet with a wave effect.



Turrumurra Crochet - Wendy's table runner made from wool remnants.

We love having visitors and are hoping to see you!

A. Murphy, Secretary

Virtual

The Virtual Group continues to meet monthly on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm via Zoom. The Group now has 23 members and we are often joined by members of other Groups. This creates lots of discussion and new ideas for knitting and crocheting!

Marilyn Woodcock, Secretary

West Ryde

West Ryde ladies have been enjoying our get togethers discussing what we are knitting and crocheting.

Show and Tell is a fun part of the night with lots of questions being asked. We also have a help desk in case anyone has questions or needs help with their project.

Our charity for this year is knitting beanies for the seafarers who come into Sydney ports on the tankers, etc, daily.

Once they are knitted and collected, we will post them to the Marine Pilot's Association to give to the seafarers.

Jean Smith

Wollongong

Our group goal right now is to try and get more interest and participation happening so we can continue to share our love of knitting, crochet and all things yarn related. We're in the process of updating our Facebook page to encourage engagement with current members and help to increase the presence of the Guild locally.

We held a belated WWKIP Day event in June at Collegians Balgownie in place of our usual meeting. Staff were generous with their support of the group and curious about what we were

doing. It was a small group gathering but we had fun sharing our knitting projects, chatting and building new friendships. So much fun in fact, we forgot to take a photo of us! Instead, we have some photos of the projects some of us were working on that day. Ailsa is busy making a Moby sweater in navy blue for her dad's 80th birthday. Debra was working on a gorgeous cowl and has since made a matching hat with the leftover yarn. We are very much looking forward to the next few months and what the group has to offer our local yarny community.

Iman Aziza, Interim Convenor



Wollongong - Ailsa is working on a Moby Sweater for her dad's 80th.



Wollongong - The group celebrated Knit in Public day at Collegians Balgownie.

Woy Woy

Our monthly catch-up at BBF Café in Woy Woy is always a highlight, and June's gathering brought a fiery twist! We explored how to identify unlabelled yarns using burn tests, observing how different fibres react when exposed to flame. It was both educational and surprisingly fun to see how yarns behaved – whether as a single strand, in a bunch, or knitted into swatches.

One fascinating discovery was how dramatically the same yarn can burn depending on its form. If your group is curious, we highly recommend knitting swatches beforehand – the contrast is well worth seeing!

Nardia Sly, Convenor

Guild Information

As at 21 May 2025

Executive Committee Meetings are held online (via Zoom) on the 3rd Thursday 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

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Margaret Harradine (Inner City)
Hannah Smith (Inner City)

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Patricia McGregor (Pittwater)
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Committee Members

Katherine Ireland (Inner City)
Marilyn Woodcock (Virtual)
Peter Jacobs (Southern Highlands)
Bryony Mika (Inner City)

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Public Officer

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Meet the Members

Every member of the Guild has a story to tell about craft and what it means to them. This issue, four knitters and crocheters share a little about themselves.

Bryony Mika

Bryony is a member of the Inner City Group, where she holds the role of Convenor. She's been a member of the Guild for 1.5 years and in May 2025 she became a member of the Guild's committee.

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

I did a top down colorwork jumper for the first time and used German short rows and magic loop on the sleeves.

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

I would love to have a go at lace knitting.

How long have you been knitting/crocheting?

I learnt from my mum as a child but didn't take it up again until I was in the 2000s where I made a couple ill fitting/wonky garments. I took it up again during the Delta COVID lockdown and have continued on since then.

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



Bryony in her recently completed colourwork jumper

How to fix mistakes – my mum always fixed them for me when I was a child and as an adult I couldn't read my knitting to understand what I had done and what to do about it. I did a Fix your Knitting class at Skein Sisters (fortunately one week before the Delta lockdown) which gave me more confidence. I also did Anne Budd's Fix Your Knitting workshop at the Guild Gathering in August 24, which was very helpful.

Do you like to focus on one or two projects at a time or do you have more projects on the go than there are days in the week?

I like having a couple of projects on the go so I can work on them when I have the capacity – for example, I knit socks at work as they are a good size to carry in a project bag, and I have simple projects for situations where I don't have to focus – like at the P&C meetings at my kids' school. I save the more complicated projects for home.

You notice a small mistake, do you rip back or carry on?

Depends how much of an issue it will be and how much effort it will be to fix. I have had experiences where I made things worse when trying to fix and then had to take the mistake back a lot further to rectify.

What do you enjoy about being a member of the Knitters' Guild NSW?

We have really lovely supportive people in our group which has helped me to stick with knitting and try new things. I love seeing all the projects people are working on and feeling inspired. I am the convenor now and love putting on skill-based workshops for our group.

What are your favourite colours?

I love earthy natural colours like sage green and lichen.

What would we see in your yarn stash?

I don't have a stash as I like to know what to knit first and then get the yarn so that I will have the right amount – but I do have a few projects patiently waiting for me with some beautiful hand dyed yarn.

What do you like to do when you're not knitting or crocheting?

I love gardening and baking – mak-

ing things from scratch. I have had a go at eco dyeing and printing and would love to do some more. I have been growing flowers from seed and collecting gum leaves to eco print on silk and woollen garments I buy from charity shops. My husband and I have two teenage daughters and a pound puppy and we love bushwalking and antiques.

Jenny Whiting

Jenny Whiting has been a member of the Guild for around 15 years and belongs to the West Ryde group. She has recently taken on the role of Convenor of the Guild's Designers' Forum, an online space where budding and experienced knitting and crochet designers come together to learn and share their experiences in pattern design. Get in touch with Jenny if you'd like to be part of the forum's Zoom meetings and WhatsApp chats.



Jenny in the Warm Embrace Cowl

What's your knitting/crochet superpower?

Using scraps of pretty much any yarn to create things – especially hats.

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

I recently learnt Tunisian crochet. I'm not a convert but incorporating some into 'normal' crochet projects could be interesting.

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

Over the last few years, I've started designing crochet patterns, so learning how to grade garment patterns is next on my 'learn to do' list.

How long have you been knitting/crocheting?

I learnt to knit from my Grandma when I was about seven and to crochet from my best friend when I was 10. I mainly crocheted in my teens and knitted in my twenties. After that, both dropped off for about 20 years and

it was only crochet that really came back, sparked by the desire to make a nice hand-made gift for someone close. Since then, I joined the Guild and haven't stopped!

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

I can't think of anything in particular – learning and developing as a knitter/crocheter is a journey and it's not possible to know everything at the beginning. Just do what you enjoy – there are no rules.

About your WIPs (works in progress): Do you like to focus on one or two projects at a time or do you have more projects on the go than there are days in the week?

I tend to have one or two main projects going at any one time but there are always some smaller ones that pop up and get interspersed as the mood takes me, hats for example, and new design ideas to try out, and of course, those forgotten WIPs in the naughty corner! So I guess quite a few!

What do you most like to make?

I really enjoy freeform and now rarely use patterns for anything, although I do write them. I love making hats, jumpers and tops – just about anything really, as long as the crochet's not too tight – my elbow objects to amigurumi. So far, the main things I've designed are hats, cowls and shawls but I am contemplating garments next.

You notice a small mistake, do you rip back or carry on?

Depends whether it matters to the stitch pattern or appearance of the final piece: I'm not obsessive about this. If it's hidden in fluff and no one will spot it, why worry? If it's in a design sample that people will scrutinise, I'll absolutely rip it back – it has to be as perfect as I can make it. If one mistake slips through the net and is noticeable and annoying (as happened in earlier years on a jumper), wear a brooch, do some decorative surface stitching. Otherwise just go with it as a part of the piece's creation story – there's always a way.

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

I love the wonderful people in my group and the sense of community around knitting, crochet and lovely yarn. I enjoy being able to share what I've learnt over the years with others as they grow their skills, and it's al-

ways fun to pick up new things myself.

What are your favourite colours?

Brights, especially blues and greens together and pinks and reds together, and I do love a chartreuse. Playing with, and combining, colours often drives what I make, and choosing colours that will best show off a new design is all part of the fun.

What would we see in your yarn stash?

A very eclectic mix of lovely hand-dyed and art yarn alongside all sorts of random fancy yarns and bog standards, mainly collected from op shops and the Sewing Basket. Having this diversity on hand allows me to feed my creative whims pretty instantly!

Tell us about what you like to do when you're not knitting or crocheting.

I'm still working full time (but not for much longer) but love gardening, walking and learning more about native plants.

Marg Rafferty

Marg Rafferty joined the Guild in 2025 and is a member of the Inner City group. She recently took on the role of editor of *A Good Yarn*.



Marg with her winning entry from the 2025 Easter Show

What's your knitting/crochet superpower?

Curiosity. I love learning new techniques and tackling new challenges. I'm also quite stubborn and will keep trying something until I get it right.

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

While I've been crocheting for many years and learned to knit as a child, I am definitely not as confident with

needles as I am with a hook. This year I challenged myself to improve my knitting and so I've been making socks. Learning to knit on circular needles using the magic loop has opened up a whole new world.

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

Stranded colour work. There are so many beautiful patterns I want to try.

How long have you been knitting/crocheting?

I learned to knit when I was about eight or nine but put it aside until very recently. I learned to crochet at 11 and dived back into it with a vengeance about 14 years ago.

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

You have to swatch if you want things that fit. When I began working with yarn I was always so excited I just wanted to begin, so skipped the boring swatching. Mistakes were made.

About your WIPs (works in progress): Do you like to focus on one or two projects at a time or do you have more projects on the go than there are days in the week?

I generally have three active WIPs going: one big thing like a blanket, one complicated thing like a tricky lace and one small, easy thing I can take with me. Having said that, I recently completed a child's knitted cardigan that I started more than 20 years ago!

You notice a small mistake, do you rip back or carry on?

It depends but I nearly always rip back if it's crochet. I'm still figuring out how to fix my knitting, so I'm less confident about undoing my work to correct mistakes. Something to learn!

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

It's an opportunity to connect with a community, to learn more and to be inspired.

What are your favourite colours?

I love all colours and find it incredibly hard to pick, but I'm often drawn to greens and blues.

What would we see in your yarn stash?

Wool, alpaca and other natural fibres for garments and accessories, cottons for homewares and above all, lots of colour. I'm trying to be better at buying yarn intentionally, but I have a substantial stash I need to work through. So much pretty yarn, so little time.

Stephen Crook

Stephen Crook, a member of the Inner West group, has had a long association with the Guild and wrote about a recent experience that demonstrates the way knitting can connect us to people in unexpected ways.

I had a strange reminder recently that even the smallest events from your distant past can catch up with you. Out of the blue I received a message from a work colleague whom I hadn't seen for nine years or more. She said that I had been mentioned on the ABC Radio National program, Australia All Over with Ian Macnamara (Macca). It seemed too bizarre to be true so I listened to a podcast of the show. Sure enough, when mentioning an event called "Beanie Week" that was coming up, Macca wondered out loud "if that bloke", and mentioned me by name, was still around as it has been a long time, describing me as "the man who knitted a beanie that featured beans 'growing' out of it". He hoped I was well, and said he'd like to track me down.

To say I was gobsmacked would barely begin to describe my reaction! Coincidentally, only a few weeks prior, the said bean-ie had resurfaced from the depths of a cupboard where it had rested out of sight and out of mind for decades. I had a vague memory that it was made as a novelty item for a Knitters' Guild exhibition, probably last century. The exhibition had a theme around plants or some such. I had no recollection of any contact with the media about it and couldn't believe it made it onto somebody's radar, let alone that it was recalled and discussed on national radio nearly 30 years later!

A few days after listening to the podcast, I sent an email to the Australia All Over just to say that I was still alive and knitting. Within an hour I had a reply from Ian McNamara himself, asking if I could come into the ABC studios the following Sunday when the next programme was to be aired. Sunday came and I found myself sitting in the cavernous atrium of the ABC's studios with only Jemima, Humpty, Little Ted and Big Ted to keep me company. Soon I was led up to the studio where I met Macca, had headphones plonked on my head and found myself talking to Australia. It was very surreal. Macca cleared up the mystery of how he knew about this little beanie: In 1996 his mother wrote an article in the St George Leader covering the Knitters'

Guild display at the Arts and Crafts Exhibition. It seems she asked me some questions about my beanie. At that point I had been knitting for about eight years. Almost 30 years later Macca read out the article on air. He was interested to know if the Knitters' Guild was still going and I was happy to report that members from my group in the Inner West had proudly knitted in Marrickville Library the previous day as part of World Wide Knit in Public Day. The interview touched on the benefits of knitting, that Australian wool is available from mills and local wool shops, and how the Knitters' Guild welcomes knitters of all skill levels. Both Macca and I wore hand knitted beanies while we chatted, me in my bean-ie and Macca in a plumed beanie sent in by a listener.

It was a brief and very unexpected moment in the public arena, but when you're talking about something you love, it can't help but be fun.



Stephen in his 'bean-ie'



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by Knitters Guild NSW

SUNDAY 28th SEPTEMBER
10AM - 3PM

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More information:
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W: conventandchapelwool.com

Crafty Frog
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EleventyOne Windmills
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Fibre Arts Shed
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Great Ocean Road Woollen Mill
W: gorwm.com.au
E: hello@gorwm.com.au

Greta's @ Roseville
72 Pacific Highway
Roseville NSW 2069
W: gretaroseville.com.au

Grumpy Ginger
145 Alison Road
Wyong NSW 2259
W: grumpyginger.com.au
FB: facebook.com/Grumpy.Ginger.Yarn
Instagram: @grumpy.ginger.yarn

Hodgepodge Skeins
W: hodgepodgeskeins.com/shop
E: kaz@hodgepodgeskeins.com

The House of Wool
142 Leura Mall
Leura NSW 2780
W: thehouseofwool.com.au

Jokamamo Textiles
W: jokamamotextiles.com

Kaalund Yarns
W: kaalundyarns.com.au

Luxe Handweaving
Toronto
P: 0417 399 353
E: Linda.luxehandweaving@gmail.com
FB: facebook.com/luxehandweaving

Lyrebird Yarns
E: helen@lyrebirdyarns.com
FB: facebook.com/lyrebirdyarns

Maker Moran
W: makermoran.com.au
E: makermoran@gmail.com
Instagram @makermoran

Marlyn Alpaca
Thornleigh
P: 02 9481 0949
W: marlynalpaca.com.au

Obsession Yarns
W: obsessionyarns.com.au
E: obsessionyarns@gmail.com

Set on Sewing & Craft
Shop 2, Ron Alt Lane
Toukley NSW 2263
P: 02 4397 2373
W: setonsewingandcraft.com.au

Signatur Handknits
P: 0427 064 834
W: sigknit.com
E: jane@sigknit.com
FB: facebook.com/SignaturHandknits
IG: @Signaturhandknits

Society Knits
W: societyknits.com.au
Instagram: @societyknits

Spinners' Cotton
P: 0439 408 159
W: spinnerscotton.com.au

Spunout Fibres
Hill End, NSW

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

Stitchy Witches
W: stitchywitches.com.au

Tarndwarncourt
Warncoort VIC 3243
W: www.tarndie.com
E: info@tarndie.com

This Lush Corner
Snowy Mountains, NSW
W: thislushcorner.com

Three Trees Fibre Craft
W: threetreesfibrecrafts.com.au
FB: facebook.com/threetreesfibrecrafts
Instagram: @Threetreesfibrecrafts

Virginia Farm Wool Works
P: 0448 866 789
W: virginiafarmwoolworks.com.au

Waratah Fibres and Yarns
Bundanoon
P: 02 4883 6138
W: waratahfibres.com.au
E: helen@waratahfibres.com.au

The Wool Inn
Shop 14, NK Centre
450 High St
Penrith NSW 2750
P: 02 4732 2201
W: the-wool-inn.com.au/shop

Wool 2 Yarn
Mornington
P: 0404 753 840
W: wool2yarn.com.au

Woolshed @ Manuka
Shop 2B, Manuka Court
11-17 Bougainville St
Manuka ACT 2603
P: 02 6295 0061
W: woolshed.com.au

Yarniecopia
W: yarniecopia.com.au

Yazzy's Yarn
W: yazzysyarn.com.au

Yummy Yarn and Co
29 Talbragar Street
Dubbo NSW 2830
P: 0431 754 909
W: yummyyarnandco.com.au