



# KG Bytes

July 2017

## From the Executive

### Camp 2017!

Need I say more?! This was a great success and a huge congratulations goes to Sally Ogilvie and her team for creating such a memorable event.

There were plenty of workshops, socialising, shopping and even the odd bit of touching various knitted and crocheted items while being worn!

It has to be said that Norah Gaughan was the highlight of Camp for a lot of people. She is such a lovely person. She is not only an incredible designer, but was easy going and happy to be part of Camp.

Sally Ogilvie has written a more detailed message to members that is attached to this edition of KG Bytes.

### Additional Norah Workshops

I was very fortunate to be able to take Norah on a road trip visiting our Guild Groups to deliver her additional workshops in the week after Camp.

A big thank you to Anna in Newcastle and Antoinette in Canberra for putting us up.

The additional workshops were very successful and if you followed us on Facebook you would have seen some photos of Norah not only delivering the workshops, but also of Norah enjoying some of the iconic Australian sites.

We were able to squeeze in a visit to the Blue Mountains, the Sydney Opera House and even the Big Merino in Goulburn – all the essentials really!

There were many moments of people learning a new hint or trick and sometimes it was a very simple change to how we knit. There was a few people who experienced that “ah hah” moment when Norah said that if you are working a cable that requires stitches to be held at the back ... well, then slip them from the back so you don't have to jiggle the needle from the front to the back. I know it's simple, but it was new to me!

I also learnt to “respect the swatch”. No longer will I avoid swatching because I always felt I wanted to cast on and knit, rather than spend time swatching.

Norah pointed out that her whole career has involved swatching and that's how she creates new designs. She was even able to swatch in the car to work out a design for yarn she picked up along the way.

Norah is now safely at home in the States, with her stash of vegemite, Tim Tams, Haighs chocolate and even a few (or more) skeins of yarn.

### Group Information Session

Our next Group Information Session is scheduled for 10.30am Saturday, 29 July 2017 at the Sydney Mechanics



*Norah enjoying her first night at Camp*

School of Arts, 280 Pitt St, Sydney. This is a great opportunity to share ideas, hints and tips to get the most out of Guild Group meetings. We will also be discussing ways to share our achievements, ideas and events across the whole Guild.

Please contact Sharon (our wonderful Secretary) at [secretary@knittersguildnsw.org.au](mailto:secretary@knittersguildnsw.org.au) before 26 July to let her know if you and other members are attending, this information helps us with catering.

## Group Meetings

### Blacktown, 12<sup>th</sup> August

Progress review for Knitting Level 1, Stage 1 of the Certificates of Achievement.

### Blue Mountains, 19<sup>th</sup> August

Learn Intarsia with Merrin and enjoy a retail visit from Evelyn Reynolds.

### Epping, 7<sup>th</sup> August

We are looking forward to a presentation by Rod Byatt from the Handweavers and Spinners. Rod is well known for his braids in a variety of techniques.

### Inner City, 12<sup>th</sup> August

Katrina from Pirate Purl Yarns will be visiting the Group with her yarn. We will also have a sharing session on helpful hints and easy techniques and patterns that give you lots of “Bang for your Buck”.

### Kiama, 15<sup>th</sup> July

This month Kiama will be holding “Christmas in July”. Members have been asked to bring along a knitted beanie or scarf for an auction. Proceeds will be used to purchase items for the Homeless Hub.

### Pittwater, 1<sup>st</sup> August

This meeting is all about sample square and crocheting the squares together.

### Pittwater, 15<sup>th</sup> August

This meeting is all about double knitting with Delwyn. (p.t.o.)

## Queanbeyan, 12 August

We will be enjoying a visit from Adagio Alpaca Mills.

## Workshops

*Bookings are open and be made via the Guild website.*

### Using Ravelry Like a Pro - 22 July

This workshop is for anyone who's heard of Ravelry, but isn't quite sure what it's for, or for those who've signed up for an account but don't really know where to begin.

### Knit Like a Viking! – 5 August

Back by popular demand! Learn how to knit a wire bangle, the Viking way.

Angharad Rixon will teach you to knit two stitches of an ancient wire knitting technique, known as Viking Knit.

The workshop includes materials and each participant will make their very own Viking Knit bangle to take home. *(I can highly recommend this workshop, it was great fun and I can't stop wearing my bangle that I made in January! Cynthia)*

### Sock Techniques with Sue Grandfield – 28 October

Sue Grandfield is a highly acclaimed designer and tutor. With designs included in the Wollmeise Sock Club and many more, we're very pleased to announce that Sue will be delivering a workshop on various sock knitting and construction techniques.

This is a "hands-on" workshop and participants will get to knit a half scale sock in DK yarn and receive a pattern for a full sized, adult sock worked in sock yarn.

## 2018 Workshops

Our lovely new Workshop Convenor, Diane Schnebli, is working with the Executive to plan the workshops for 2018.

If you have a suggestion, know a potential tutor, we'd love to hear from you. Drop me an email at [president@knittersguildnsw.org.au](mailto:president@knittersguildnsw.org.au) or feel free to contact Diane directly at: [workshops@knittersguildnsw.org.au](mailto:workshops@knittersguildnsw.org.au).

## Guild Events

### Yarn Expedition to Melbourne – 6 September

Don't forget about Maitland Group's, "*Yarn Expedition to Melbourne*" ... just for the day on Wednesday, 6 September. Members are flying in to Melbourne where we have hired a bus (and driver) to take us to Woolbaa and Yarn + Co, with lunch in-between.

The bus will depart Tullamarine at 8am. After the last visit, members will be dropped back to Tullamarine Airport around 3pm. Members are responsible for booking and paying for their own flights. We are offering everyone the chance to join us on the bus at a cost of \$25pp.

If you are already in Melbourne, please feel free to join us on the bus. To book your seat on the bus, just visit the Guild website and follow the link.



**A Yarn Expedition  
to Melbourne**  
A visit to Yarn & Co  
and Woolbaa

**Wednesday, 6 September 2017**  
The Maitland Group is organising a day trip to Melbourne to visit Yarn & Co and Woolbaa, with lunch in between. Would you like to join us?

**See below for more information**

### 2017 FibreFest – 22 October – Bus from Blacktown

The Blacktown Group has decided to subsidise the trip to Singleton for the 2017 FibreFest and seats are now \$40 per person for members of any Group.

If you are interested in securing your seat on the bus, please contact Caroline on 0403 453 707 or [carcraig@tpg.com.au](mailto:carcraig@tpg.com.au).

### 2018 Guild Cruise – 21-24 September 2018

Back by popular demand, the Guild will be hitting the waves again in 2018.

This time, they are sailing on the "Pacific Explorer" which is a Food and Wine themed cruise between 21 and 24 September 2018, departing from and returning to Sydney.

Costs and additional details will be in the next edition of the magazine.

### The Wool Inn – Discount Code

Even shopping online, you are still eligible for the 10% Knitters Guild discount from The Wool Inn.

All you have to do is enter the special code: **7d14ce001b**. This code is valid up until 14 January 2018, so don't throw it away.

We encourage everyone to pop by The Wool Inn, either online or in person and thank Anita for her generosity.

### A Suggestion was Made ....

I was pleased to receive a suggestion for a Guild event while I was at Camp.

A member wrote to me with an idea of a train trip for knitters and crocheters. This idea is still in its infancy and is anticipated for 2018, but with discussions with the Queanbeyan members, perhaps an overnight excursion between Sydney and Canberra can be organised.

We thought we could enjoy a train journey to Canberra, enjoy a night out with the Queanbeyan members, including the opportunity for some retail therapy with some indie dyers and then return to Sydney the next day.

As mentioned, no dates yet, we're still in the early stages of planning, but if you like the concept, I'd love to hear from you. It's always nice to know if I'm going to have some company on this train journey.

(p.t.o.)

## Do You Have an Idea?

If you have an idea for a Guild event, we would love to hear from you. We're particularly interested in events that can be held in different parts of the state. If you have an idea, please contact me at [president@knittersguildnsw.org.au](mailto:president@knittersguildnsw.org.au).

## Other Events

### Aussies Knitting for War-Affected Kids

A group of Australian knitters and crocheters is currently organising the collection of warm clothing to be delivered to children affected by the conflict in Syria.

They would love to receive clothing (hats, scarves, socks, hats, sweaters) for newborns to mid-teens. The group has

a NSW address for delivery of items and they will all be hand-delivered to the children in Syria by one of the knitters in October – so we can be assured they will reach their final destination.

If you're interested in making something for this very good cause, there are further details on Ravelry (<http://www.ravelry.com/groups/aussies-knitting-for-war-affected-kids>).

Please note that the items must be made from wool or predominantly wool blends.

Hang onto anything you make for the time being and we'll give you further details of delivery etc in a future issue of KG Bytes.

# Guild Camp 2017

## *A letter from Sally Ogilvie*

I'd like to thank those of you who submitted a Feedback Form after Camp. The comments you leave are invaluable in planning the next Camp and other Guild events.

**Our Lucky Prize Draw winner was Chrisi Thomas-Pike from West Ryde, who is now enjoying a \$50 voucher very kindly donated by Bendigo Woollen Mills.**

I'd like to clarify a few of the most frequent points made in your feedback and respond to some queries.

A number suggested Norah's talk should not have taken place at a time when it clashed with workshops.

I entirely agree that was NOT a good idea of mine but I hadn't realised that so many of you would want to attend. That mistake will not be made again! However, a couple of you suggested that NO talks should have taken place at the same time as workshops. I deliberately chose to do that so that there would be an activity taking place, with no number restrictions, for those of you not attending a workshop in that session. Unfortunately you just have to make a choice – attend a workshop or go to a talk.

I know some of you were disappointed you weren't able to have a place in three workshops as you'd requested. Logistically this just isn't possible. Workshop places were limited by the number of rooms available and the

number of students each tutor is willing to teach. Over the weekend, we had 336 workshop places – incidentally, the largest number we have ever had at Camp.

If the first 112 members who registered had been allocated three places each, it's unlikely that anyone else would have wanted to come along, as they weren't able to get into at least one workshop. The weekend would not then have been financially viable, and we certainly wouldn't have been able to afford an international guest.

To provide three workshop places for each person attending, we needed at least eight meeting rooms plus one for the marketplaces, something that is not possible at any of the sites we know of.

A large number suggested that Norah's books should have been available for purchase. I have asked the Executive to re-consider the purchasing of books by our visiting guest before our next Camp weekend.

Some asked why we had limited the number of retailers to seven in light of the fact that we had plenty of space for them. We don't charge our Retail Members for a stand at Camp but it's very expensive for them to attend. They have travel and overnight accommodation costs and some have shops that are closed for the day.

They told me they find it worthwhile but although we are their absolute target

market, there is a limit to how much 170 people will spend. We want to ensure that the cost and inconvenience to the retailers is outweighed by the trade they receive.

Finally, and very many of you mentioned this, a map of the site would have been very useful.

Although I had originally intended to put one in every bag (particularly as I got lost the first time I visited) unfortunately the only one available was not legible when printed on A4 paper. It would have to be an A3 colour copy. I've suggested to the site that they look at this problem and also improve their own signage around the area.

I've also passed onto the owners of the site other comments and suggestions we received, such as the poor lighting at night.

Finding venues to hold this event is extremely difficult and we'd love to hear from you if you know somewhere suitable. It must be able to provide sleeping accommodation for about 150 people, ideally with each bedroom having its own bathroom. It should have at least 5 meeting rooms including one which will hold up to 200 people. Also, if you have great ideas for workshops and/or talks for the next Camp, please let me know. Email me at [SallyPOgilvie@gmail.com](mailto:SallyPOgilvie@gmail.com) and I'll ensure that everything gets passed onto the Executive.