



From the Executive

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone has had a lovely Christmas and New Year and managed to squeeze in some crafty time. I know the weather has been hot in most part of the state, but I'm sure that hasn't stopped the most dedicated of Guild members. I would love to see your summer knitting projects and share them with other members. If you have a holiday or summer knitting/crochet photo, please send it to me at: president@knittersguildnsw.org.au.

Financial Reports

Now that we're in 2018, it's time for Helen, our wonderful Treasurer to start compiling the annual finances ready for the AGM in May. Once your Group has approved your December minutes, including the Treasurer's Report, could you please send along all financial (ie Treasurer's) reports for 2017 to Helen at treasurer@knittersguildnsw.org.au. If you have any queries, Helen would be happy to answer them, just email her.

Items for KG Bytes

KG Bytes is proving to be very popular among our members and we love hearing from you and including your information. If you would like to include something in KG Bytes, could you please forward it to the President at president@knittersguildnsw.org.au by the 7th of the month.

Group Meetings

Epping Crochet, 12th February

Bring completed Irish Crochet projects for Show and Tell. We'll be starting a Tunisian scarf, so please bring along a 6mm Tunisian crochet hook and 4 ply yarn.

Kiama, 20th January

Happy Knitting for 2018 to everyone. This month our group will work on our program for the upcoming year, whilst enjoying a Show and Tell of items members have been working on. Members contributing items for the upcoming Kiama Agricultural Show will finalise their entries.

Ku-ring-gai, 22nd January

The group will start 2018 working on UFOs and on the first of a series of stash busting projects.

Group Meetings (cont)

Pittwater, 16th January

Tips on knitting and crochet to share. On our second meeting on 6 February, Maureen will be giving us a mini workshop on Crab Stitch which makes a very neat crochet edge.

Queanbeyan, 10th February

We are working on our plans for the train trip from Sydney to Canberra for the "Celebration of Wool" weekend, we hope you can join us.

Guild Events

Yarn Express to Canberra: 18-20 May 2018

Have you booked your accommodation for the Yarn Express to Canberra? If you would like to join us on a train trip from Sydney to Canberra to enjoy the Old Bus Depot Markets' "Celebration of Wool" on the 19th of May, then book your accommodation and let me know at president@knittersguildnsw.org.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. If you are interested, please contact Merrin Marks at cruise@knittersguildnsw.org.au.

Annual General Meeting - Save the Date

The 32nd Annual General Meeting of the Guild will be held at 11am on Saturday, 5 May 2018 in the Mitchell Theatre, Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney. Not only do we have the formal AGM duties to perform, but it is also a great opportunity to catch up with fellow Guild members to knit, crochet and share hints, techniques and more. Put it in your diary, we hope to see you there.

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.

Workshops

2018 Workshops – Bookings now open!

We have five workshops and one Yarn Tasting available now. Book your place online by visiting the Guild website and clicking on the image of the workshop or event you are interested in. This will take you to the booking page.

February Frolic, 3 February @ SMSA

\$30 members / \$35 non-members

Back by popular demand. Learn four techniques in one day. You will learn to knit from charts, the basics of colourwork, knitting with beads and various buttonhole techniques. There will be homework for this event. After registering, you will be contacted with the details. To book direct: www.trybooking.com/TKNY

Contemporary Crochet, 24 February @ SMSA

\$30 members / \$35 non-members

Learn four fantastic crochet techniques in one day! Tunisian Entrelac, African flowers, chainless foundation and crochet texture is on offer. There will be homework for this event. After registering, you will be contacted with the details. To book direct: <https://www.trybooking.com/TKNY>

Yarn Tasting, 3 March @ SMSA

\$5 per person

Three amazing indie dyers will be showcasing their own creations and providing us with an opportunity to squeeze and buy. Dyers include: Reaction Dyeworks; 24 Mile Hollow Yarn; and The Australian Woolstore. Each of these dyers have an Etsy store if you wish to preview their yarn. To book direct: www.trybooking.com/TLBP

Finishing Techniques, 7 April @ SMSA

\$30 members / \$35 non-members

Finishing is so good. Beautiful yarn, superb knitting, but how is your finishing? Knowing the art of finishing is not only enlightening but is the secret separating the 'homemade' from the 'hand crafted'. Learn the joy of sleek shoulder lines, invisible seams and picking up stitches without leaving a hole. Learn why you should swatch first and why and how to block your completed work. There will be homework. After registering you will be emailed the details. To book direct: www.trybooking.com/TLCN

... and more Workshops

Twined Knitting, 12 May @ SMSA

\$30 members / \$35 non-members

Twined Knitting is a traditional Scandinavian knitting technique dating back at least to the 17th century in Sweden. It's called tvaandsstickning in Swedish and tvebandsstriking in Norwegian – both meaning 'two-end knitting' because traditionally both ends of one ball of yarn is used. It differs from stranded knitting but the two are often worked in conjunction. This may just be the best wearing sock heel and is good for mittens, slippers, hats, trims on garments and bags – just for starters. In this Workshop you will learn the twined knitting stitch and decorative stitches. To book direct: www.trybooking.com/TLCT

An Introduction to KnitCompanion @ SMSA

\$30 members / \$35 non-members

If you have a tablet or smart phone and knit or crochet, then you really should be using KnitCompanion. KnitCompanion is an app that manages your patterns, charts, rows, stitches all in one place. This workshop will teach you the basics and provide you with an overview of the free version of the app. To attend this workshop, you will need to bring your own tablet and have downloaded the free version of KnitCompanion. To book direct: www.trybooking.com/TLDD



Can You Spare a Blanket?

The Guild keeps a store of blankets that can be used in emergencies, such as floods and bush fires. We have some, but we need more. The blanket can be any size (adult or child), any fibre or style (knitted or crocheted or both). Contact curator@knittersguildnsw.org.au for drop off/pick up and time arrangements.

Membership Matters

Renewals for 2018 closing soon!

Thank you to those members who have already completed their renewals for 2018. Your patience during this renewal season, with the unprecedented problems encountered this year, PayPal foremost amongst them, has been appreciated.

Please note that all renewals need to be finalised before 31st January 2018. There are a number of members who have made direct deposits for which no form has been received to date. May we ask then that you either renew online via Guild Website <http://www.knittersguildnsw.org.au/membership-new> scroll down and click link for Existing Members Renewal and indicate Offline payment option or complete and return a form, which can be downloaded at the abovementioned link. The return of forms ensures that information held by the Guild is current.

Proof of Membership 2018

This is a reminder that, upon renewing, members should receive one of two things. Members who renew online should have received an email with the Subject line Subscription for Regular Plan Confirmation, usually on the same day as they renewed, to which a PDF Invoice/receipt is attached. Members who renew by mail should be in receipt of either an email with the Subject line Receipt for Renewal of Knitters' Guild membership with a PDF Invoice/receipt attached or will receive a printed copy of Invoice/receipt in the mail. All members are able to access a copy of their Invoice/Receipt from the Guild website after logging in and following these steps: 1) Click on the red box that will show in the upper left/right hand corner (depends on browser) 2) Scroll down to My Details 3) At User Profile screen select Subscription History 4) In the far right column, alongside the Active status will be an Invoice No. This is linked through to the PDF. It is to be noted that Membership No. may not yet show on Invoices/receipts. Clare is presently manually re-entering this information from other sources to all online renewals. This should be completed by the end of January.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email membership@knittersguildnsw.org.au.

Other News ...

Congratulations Betty

Betty Cornish, a member of Northern Beaches has recently celebrated her 60th wedding anniversary with husband, Ian. A celebration was held, and members of the original bridal party also attended. Betty even received a certificate from the Queen! Congratulations Betty, we wish you many more years together.

I'm Only Here Because of Handknitted Socks!

Caroline from The Entrance has submitted the following story she thought you might like to read.

The Entrance Branch had hired a bus and driver, Peter, to take us to Fibrefest 2017 at Singleton. I was 'riding shotgun' in a single seat, on the left hand side of the driver when he suddenly stated that he wouldn't be here except for a pair of hand knitted socks.

Tell me more, I say.

Peter's mother was born in Somerset, England, and in time, migrated to Australia with her family. During the World War II she knitted socks for the soldiers who were fighting overseas. Before they were dispatched, she placed a small piece of paper with her name and address, in each pair of socks.

Peter's Dad lived in Ballarat, Victoria and was the eldest of six children who were all placed in a Catholic orphanage in the town where they were lovingly cared for. World War II saw Peter's Dad serving his country overseas, and while there, he received a pair of beautifully hand knitted woollen socks, and he carefully placed a small piece of paper with a name and address in his wallet for safekeeping.

Returning from war service to Ballarat, Peter's Dad decided to look up this kind lady who had knitted the socks. She lived in Sydney, NSW.

Yes, as they say, lightning struck, and yes, they married, and that's how we had their son, Peter driving us to Fibrefest 2017!

I think the moral of this story is that if you include your name and address on a hand knitted article that you are donating to be sent to faraway places, you never know what might happen!

