



KG Bytes

From the President

Yesterday I wrote to all Group Convenors advising them to cancel Group meetings for the time being. This is a drastic step to take as we all enjoy meeting up with our knitting and crocheting friends but I don't think any of us want to be responsible for making another member sick, particularly as we have many members who are considered to be in the 'vulnerable' category. I've met members for whom this is their only, or main, social event of the month so we must remember them over the next few weeks. If your Group doesn't have a social media presence, maybe now is the time to consider setting one up – start a group on Ravelry, and/or a Facebook group where members can chat, discuss their current WIPs and indulge in some Show and Tell. Use Skype or Zoom to have face-to-face conversations, particularly with those who are isolated in their homes alone. If you need any help in setting up these alternative 'meeting places', please contact us for assistance. And please let me know what arrangements you've made so that I may publicise them to members.

The Guild has had to postpone many activities and events that we had planned for the next few months. As soon as we receive the go-ahead from the Government, rest assured that we'll work as hard as we can to re-schedule them.

We want you all to be safe and secure. Please take care of yourself and each other.

Sally Ogilvie

Executive Committee Meetings

Committee meetings, which are open to all members to attend, will not be held at SMSA in Pitt Street until further notice. We will advise you as soon as these are resumed.

Workshops

Finishing Techniques 2 workshop which was to take place on 28 March, and Dorset & Yorkshire Buttons planned for 4 April have both been cancelled. If you have booked and paid for a place at either of these two workshops, you will receive a full refund at the beginning of next week. You will also be contacted when they're re-scheduled so that you can receive priority booking.

The two workshops we had planned for May, but had not yet opened for bookings, have also been postponed.

As soon as we are able to hold workshops again, we're hoping to schedule as many of these as we can, depending of course on the availability of the tutors.

Other Guild Activities

As well as workshops booked over the next couple of months, we also have the Annual General Meeting which was to take place at Sydney Mechanics School of Arts on 2 May. We will contact you all shortly about alternative arrangements for this.

On 13 June, we were planning a WWKIP event at the Powerhouse Museum and it currently looks as though that will also be cancelled or postponed. WWKIP Day started in the Northern Hemisphere to be in the middle of their summer so how about we organise a summer event in Sydney, to be held at the end of the year, when we may be able to knit and crochet outside? Let us know your views and suggestions for possible venues and dates.

Shows Cancelled

As well as the Sydney Easter Show being cancelled this year, we believe all Shows across the State have also been cancelled. If you've been rushing to get that entry finished in time, you can take a breather – and tell yourself that you already have next year entries completed. Most Shows state that the entry must have been completed within the previous 18 months, so pack it carefully away and pull it out for the 2021 Shows.

The Guild was scheduled to have a stand at the Easter Show this year on Easter Sunday and Monday. The theme was "Recycling, Upcycling and Reusing" which we thought was particularly topical at the moment, and as part of the display, members have been scouring op. shops for cassette and video tape to knit and crochet items.



We particularly liked this bag crocheted from video tape by Diane Scaysbrook.

We're hoping that we'll have the same opportunity at the Show next year, so do keep producing items for us. How about shopping bags made from old T-shirts, coasters and bowls from tape – we're sure

you have lots of ideas and we're really looking forward to seeing what you come up with.

We also had a stand booked at the Sydney Craft & Quilt Fair from 17-21 June. We haven't been notified yet whether this will be going ahead.

FibreFest

Our biggest event of each year, in terms of numbers attending, is of course FibreFest, which this year is scheduled for the weekend of 24/25 October. Planning for this is currently underway and we do hope it will be able to go ahead. Put it in your diary now and we'll keep you posted.

Magazine

The Guild Magazine will be with you all as scheduled by the middle of May. If you're the person in your Group responsible for submitting your Group report, please send it to the Editor by 15 April. This next issue will have its new name so if you haven't yet cast your vote for your preferred choice, please do so now at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SJWRTHK> Voting will close on 2 April.

If you're stuck at home

* Have you thought about completing the Guild's Knitting Certificate? All details and the instructions can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/vyd8gqe>

It's free to download and complete, with a \$19 fee being payable if you'd like it to be assessed and receive your certificate. It's unlikely that most of us would need to buy additional yarn for this – a bit of searching through your stash should give you what you need.

* In the last issue of KGBytes, we put out a call for scarves for the homeless in Sydney. Whether the event at the Town Hall will still go ahead on 7 July we don't know, but we DO know that the homeless will be needing scarves and other warm clothing over the winter months. So think about making a scarf - or two or three.

* The Guild keeps a supply of blankets to be sent to those in need in NSW after fires and floods. We recently distributed over 100, leaving our storage unit completely bare for the next emergency. If you would be able to contribute a blanket to our stock, that would be wonderful. Or perhaps you could make some squares now to complete blankets with friends when you next meet up.

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