



KGBytes

First Steps in Tunisian Crochet, with Abbey Bongers

Abbey's August workshop was incredibly successful and booked out within 24 hours. So for those of you who missed out last time, Abbey has very kindly agreed to repeat her Beginners' Tunisian workshop. It is aimed at beginners to Tunisian crochet but will also assist those who are familiar but 'rusty' with their Tunisian skills.

Learn about the forward and return pass, common terminology, where to put your hook and the basic stitches. Abbey will focus on the common things that beginners often struggle with when learning Tunisian crochet. Once you have put these basic skills into practice you'll be able to start tackling some projects.



Materials: 6mm Tunisian hook (can use a standard crochet hook without an ergonomic handle), and any 8-ply yarn.

Date: Saturday 16 October 10.00am

Cost: FREE

To Book: <https://www.trybooking.com/BUKWT>

Finishing Finesse, with Ann Budd

Through more than 45 years of knitting, which included editing and writing knitting books, Ann has a number of tips and tricks to ensure her knitted projects have a professional look. In this class she will share some of her favourites for casting on, casting off, joining a new ball of yarn, counting rows, picking up stitches along necklines and heel flaps, weaving in ends, and blocking. All materials will be provided.

Date: Saturday 30 October - 10.00am

Cost: \$20

To Book:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BULAI>



All our workshops, talks and virtual tours take place via Zoom. Bookings are made through Try Booking and you should receive immediate confirmation of your booking together with the Zoom link. If there are no available places, you may choose to go on the Waiting List in case a vacancy arises. You'll then receive an email from Try Booking inviting you to book a place. If you find you are no longer able to attend, PLEASE cancel your place so that it becomes available to another member.

Aussies Knitting for War-Affected Kids (AKWAK)

The container of items, including all those knitted and crocheted by Guild members, is now on its way to Syria and will be distributed in a number of camps. If you're interested in the figures of items donated, and how they're distributed, please see the full details on Pages 3 and 4.

How to attract a woman!

On the tiny Peruvian island of Taquile, a man's worth isn't measured in his ability to hunt or fish, but in his ability to knit. For nearly 500 years, men on this tiny Peruvian island have attracted partners by knitting elaborate Andean hats.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/knittingmanliness> to read the whole story.



GROUP AGMs

It's coming up to that time of year again when all Groups must hold their AGMs. Constitutionally, these are to be held in November. As with last year, we appreciate that all Groups may not be meeting in November but you can hold your AGMs via Zoom, or other online meeting place, or by email. If holding an AGM is going to be a problem, please let Pat, the Guild Secretary, know by the end of November.

A Good Yarn - November 2021

Please remember to submit your Group reports to Editor@knittersguildnsw.org.au by **15 October** for our next issue of A Good Yarn.



Welcome to new Retail Members

We are continuing our introduction to some of the Guild's newest Retail Members.

Castle Handmade (Joined the Guild in March 2021)

Castle Handmade is owned by Liz Castle, based in Wingello, and prides itself on being "For all things crochet". They stock yarn (of course), hooks, stitch markers, patterns and complete kits. When they don't have the restrictions of Covid regulations, they run classes and demonstrations from a beautiful studio (do look at the photographs on their website).



Visit www.castlehandmade.com.au using the Coupon Code GUILD10 until 15 October to receive a 10% discount available to Guild members only.

Three Mums Yarn (Joined the Guild in May 2021)

The three mums - Kate, Ruth and Penny - of Three Mums' Yarn are known to many of us in the Guild as individually they are long-standing members of the Queanbeyan group. But as well as being Guild Regular Members, their business is now a Retail Member. Three Mums' Yarn produce their own beautiful hand-dyed yarns and stitch markers. Take a look at their beautiful mini-skein sets of 6 x 33g balls in a range of wonderful colours, and a new range of self-striping yarns launching this month. Visit their website at <https://www.etsy.com/au/shop/ThreeMumsYarn> and use the Coupon Code GUILD10 until 15 October to receive a 10% discount available to Guild members only.

Three Mums



Yarn

Contact Information

President: President@knittersguildnsw.org.au
Secretary: Secretary@knittersguildnsw.org.au
Membership: Membership@knittersguildnsw.org.au
Editor: Editor@knittersguildnsw.org.au

News from the Groups

Many Groups are meeting virtually during lockdown. If you wish to attend a Group, check with the Convenor to see if they are holding meetings via Zoom or other platforms.

Epping: Our 13 Sept first Zoom meeting was a great time for 10 attendees to chat and knit. Most stayed online for 2 hours. We decided to make this a monthly event with the next meeting booked for Monday 11 October at 10.00am. Contact our Secretary, Anne Moore, at tgmoore@bigpond.com if you don't already have the recurring link.

Shirley Gregory

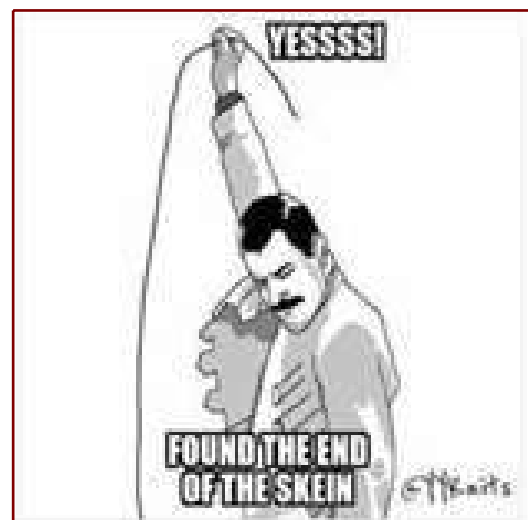
Ku-ring-gai: 24th October - The Group has continued to meet via Zoom. We have continued our meetings, Show and Tell, as well as chatting and supporting each other.

We are hoping to again meet in a limited way in October as lockdown restrictions ease. Our Group Secretary, Jenny Bevan, has produced a wonderful monthly newsletter including photos of works completed and suggestions from members about books, TV viewing and activities. Although nothing is the same as meeting in person, these measures have assisted us to remain strong as a group.

Gayle Parker

Pittwater: October - With lockdown still in place, we are still meeting on 5th and 19th via Zoom. Another newsletter is planned for October containing members' Show and Tell, a recipe and lots of fun. We are planning a picnic in October and making teddies for our local ambulance station. If you wish to join our Zoom meetings, email Judy, our Convenor.

Pat McGregor



Akwak

Project year 20-21

Thank you
everyone for your
incredible
contribution to the
Syrian IDP children

514 blue bags/
1/2 a 40' container



Total items
109,775



1531 super-big
clothes packs



3746 soft toys

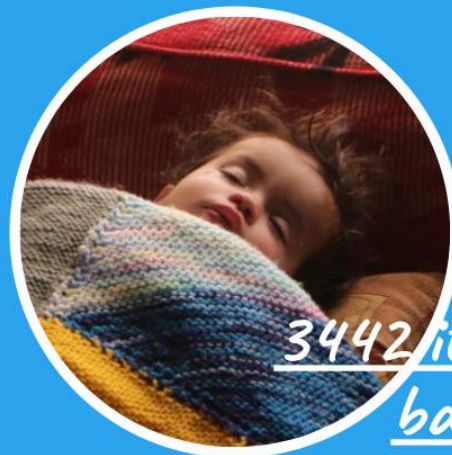
1031 blankets &
quilts



467 infant packs



1600 gift bags



3442 items mother/
baby clinic



Akwak

Project year 20-21

Wrap-up Report

We are thrilled to provide you with a final wrap-up of our project years 20-21. Take a bow everyone - your commitment, generosity, hard work and indeed passion has delivered the most magnificent result for the Syrian IDP children.

On the first page is a "highlights" snapshot. Our tally is bursting with items and it's impossible to report on everything, but you can see the astonishing final figure of a total of 109,775 items made or bought for the children. What an achievement! Amazingly, this would under-represent the true number as a whole lot of gear was simply not captured in our tally process, especially in the rush towards the end when we were trying to pack and finalise through lockdowns.

How does this translate to the situation of the Syrian kids? The clothes packs are always the "lead items" and with a total number of about 2,000 clothes packs, that means we will be able to completely kit out all of the kids in about 5 medium-large IDP camps (400 kids per camp) or 10 medium camps (200 kids per camp). As we get closer to the distribution time, the camp situation will be examined to work out the best possible allocation. First and foremost, priority will be given to camps which have not received any aid at all for winter. We are very happy with this process and proud to contribute this way. Looking after 2,000 children so comprehensively is a real achievement and each and every person who has contributed should be so proud of what they - you - have done

Big clothes packs for 2-14 year-old children

This year we kitted out the kids more comprehensively than we have done before, expanding the range of knits and adding extra bought clothes to make our packs a fantastic and complete 'deep winter' pack. They are substantial and of the most beautiful quality, filled with hand knits lovingly made in quality wool yarns. So many years' wear will be had from every single item and most importantly, keep a child warm and protected through the worst of winter.

Gift bags

The gift bags are amazing and we hope they bring real joy and lots of entertainment and stimulation for the kids. It was a big project, to commit to doing these, especially such a big number of them. But we wanted to make sure every child over 2 who got a clothes pack also received a gift bag too. Most of the IDP kids will not have had any sort of present or gift since they lost their homes. No child should live like that. We are very proud to have thrown ourselves at this challenge and to have achieved it with resounding success. Each gift bag has 10-15 top quality items: a stationery set and exercise books, activity toys and sporting items, puzzles, construction toys, soft toys, accessories and so on per pack. They are wonderful, and we are very happy that we have done these.

Infant packs - newborn to 2 years

The infant packs are sensational. We received close to 1,000 infant garments and were able to add 2 knitted garments per pack for fast growing babies. An amazing array of items were included in the packs, from wraps to bibs, growsuits, singlets, soft toys, tag toys and so on. Every single pack also included a quilt or a blanket too. We were ambitious for these packs as we could hardly imagine anything harder than bringing new life into an IDP camp in winter, and we achieved the most wonderful packs equal to our ambition. Thank you one and all.

Mothers & babies clinic

The items for the mothers and babies' clinic deserve mention. We have packed about 20 or so big blue bags of baby (newborn, including premature babies) items which will be taken to a mothers' and babies clinic in the safe zone just inside the Syrian/Turkish border. Items include the full range of knits, other clothing items, blankets and nappy bags. A fabulous range and number of these have been bagged up and the clinic can decide how best to allocate them, although there is such a number that a great many new babies to the clinic will be beneficiaries. We are similarly happy our aid has been expanded this year to items for this clinic.

The hard work and generosity of you all has filled about half of a 40' container. It's huge, what Akwak has done and achieved. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being the most magnificent group of people to keep company with on this journey, striving to help give the most disadvantaged kids in the world a better life. Thank you one and all.