



# CLIPPINGS

SUTHERLAND SHIRE SPINNERS & WEAVERS NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2- No. 3 March 2016

*It's been a while fellow spinners and weavers and I apologise for taking so long with another newsletter. I am including a story about a talk that goes back a few months but was very interesting. Lots of shows and events on. Remember, anything you think would be interesting for our members send to me at zanzibar2508@gmail.com. Hope you enjoy! Lyn Johnson*

## RECENT NEWS

Back in September last year Iris organised a very interesting talk by a friend of hers from Melbourne, Chris Durbridge, to come and talk to us about her trips to the remote indigenous community of Mapuru in east Arnhem Land two day's travel from Darwin. She attended basket weaving workshops with the elders for seven days.

The trips are run each year by Ceres Global, a project of Ceres Community Environment Park in Brunswick Victoria, and provide the opportunity to learn about Yolngu culture from Indigenous leaders who are passing on their traditional skills and knowledge in basket weaving and bush survival skills

Chris is actually President of the Machine Knitter's Guild of Victoria and was attracted to the workshop opportunity, not only to learn about the basket weaving but also to find out about the community's way of life.

The elders make their baskets out of pandanus palm fronds. The leaves are carefully split to make fine, flexible strips and boiled up with local plant material and things like ash to make a variety of beautiful colours. Basket weaving for ceremonies used to be men's business, but most basket weaving is now done by the women in the community.

The weaving is a combination of twining and coiling and they use kurrajong bark to make a very strong string.

Chris hopes to go again to maintain ties with the community. She has been three times already and had quite a few examples of the woven baskets for us to look at.

Thank you Iris for organising such an interesting talk.



Samples of Mapuru woven baskets



**SUCCESS AT ROBERTSON SHOW**  
*Our members were very successful in winning several prizes in the recent Robertson Show.*

*They were Karen Severn, who entered seven items and amongst others won the following: 1st in any item hand spun, any fibre; 1st in spinning handspun knitted/crochet article; 1st in weaving article or garment from 50% handspun*

*Alyson Keays got 3rd price in Hand-spun garment any fibre/blend for her shawl (pictured). 1st in the Handspun & knitted/crochet any fibre/blend for her lace cardigan and Champion Spinning Exhibit.*

*Lynne Peebles was awarded Most*

**Successful Exhibitor weaving and Champion Weaving Exhibit.**

*Jan Harrison also won two 2nd prizes (details not available) Congratulations Girls!!*



Most Successful Exhibitor award, "Posh Cocky", - the design was taken from an old tin tile

**HOW CRAFT BREAKS DOWN-SOCIAL BARRIERS**

Last year Karen Severn and Lynne Peebles travelled via train enroute to a tapestry exhibition on the north side of Sydney. They both worked on their current projects- Karen was knitting and Lynne was completing a weave-it square. It started a conversation that involved many people in the vestibule area of the train. I think it is amazing that people who normally sit and stare at their phones or read a book became engaged with the other people on the train. I spoke to Lynne about this and she has penned some prose to describe the event.

**TRAIN TRIP**

*We'll go by train we planned, lets meet by 10.10  
That should allow the linkup to reach our journeys end  
By luck here comes that South Coast train with only three stops left  
To get us into Central for the next stage of our trip.*

*It's rather packed already, "sit here" I said to Karen  
I'll sit beside this gentleman across the aisle from you  
This friendly couple facing us and the gentleman and his wife  
I interrupted rudely, "You must be all from Probus, a fun day out for all?"  
"No" they quickly answered; we got to know each other when we sat upon this seat  
The atmosphere was friendly so we continued on this theme  
By Hurstville we'd become best friends with not much change at Tempe  
We'd nearly booked their B & B; it's just beside the beach  
With Karen's expertise, and her training from the planes  
I expected her to walk the aisle to offer her assistance  
Except the ladies facing her helped keep her thoughtfulness  
It did not take her all that long to find that they were twins.*

*Ahead of time at Central we parted from our friends  
We're pleased we got their emails for an invite to be sent  
To see our finished hand craft goods for next year's big event  
We'd taught them how to weave and knit, our samples passed around  
At platform 9 our train to catch, outstanding well planned time  
A choice of purple elegance, the many vacant seats,  
We slumped and dumped into our seats, verbally exhausted  
We had demonstrated to our max, promoting woolly things  
Unable to produce more work we watched the world go by  
Certainly a difference to up in that blue sky  
And should we go to Newcastle? Or meet our friend as planned  
Hornsby is the very next stop; let's have that cup of coffee  
Lynne Peebles*

**UPDATES**

**WEAVE IT SQUARES FOR WINTER WOOL FAIR REMINDER**

Lynne Peebles is co-ordinating a rug for the Winter Wool Fair raffle next year. We need 8ply 100% wool yarn. It can be variegated and have flecks but no mixtures. Feel free to use up your scraps in different colours. Also **no crepe yarns** as they have too much stretch and don't work well with weaving.

To make the blanket Lynne needs over 300 squares and we are about half way. Lynne also needs quite a bit of time to complete the dyeing of all the squares so the sooner we get them in the better.

**TRAUMA CATS**

Kris Supierz asked the group to knit some 'trauma' cats for Doctors without Borders - group of medicos who perform plas-

tic surgery to help children from Pacific Islands. The cats help calm the children. She posted the picture opposite on her facebook page recently, which showed all the cats our group knitted for Kris. We should be proud of ourselves for such a generous donation.

**SPINNING STUDY GROUP**

Our next meeting is Tuesday 8 March and Eleanor will be demonstrating how to make a confetti yarn, which is an art yarn that has a tweedy look. Bring along 3 empty bobbins, a small amount of plain roving/



sliver, some bits of contrast colours and a pair of scissors. This will also provide an opportunity to revisit plying.



**WHAT'S ON (FOR YOUR DIARY)**

**March**

- 3-6 Show: Stitches & Craft Show 10-4.30 Rosehills Gardens Racecourse
- 4-6 Show: Moss Vale Show - Entry forms in by 29th, articles by 9am Tue 1st
- 4-6 Show: Castle Hill Show - Castle Hill Showground
- 4-6 Show: Newcastle Regional Show
- 8 Spinning Study Group
- 11 Goulburn Hand Weavers and Spinners exhibition opening and fashion parade 2-3pm
- 11-12 Central Coast Handweavers and Spinners Exhibition and Fair
- 11-14 Event: Yandiah Retreat contact Berry Spinners & Weavers
- 17-30 Show: Royal Easter Show - more information
- 26 Event: Open Day, Hand Weavers & Spinners Guild - 10am to 2pm

**April**

**No Spinning Study Group**

- 1-2 Wauchope Show
- 2 Blacktown Show
- 8-10 Bathurst Show
- 9-14 Event: Context Art Workshops, Hazelbrook
- 12 SSSW Birthday - Exhibiting President's Challenge
- 14-17 Heritage Festival: Club on East as guests of Continuum Art Society
- 15 Heritage Festival Launch: Host Sutherland Shire Historical Society at Sutherland Memorial School of Arts
- 16 Heritage Festival: Open Day, Woronora Memorial Park
- 19 Committee Meeting

SEE THE ATTACHMENT FOR DETAILS OF EVENTS FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR.