



# CLIPPINGS

SUTHERLAND SHIRE SPINNERS & WEAVERS NEWSLETTER

VOL. 3- No. 2 January 2017

*It's been a while fellow spinners and weavers, and I apologise again for taking so long. Our members have been busy ecodyeing and details are below. Lots of dates to remember in this letter. Remember to pass on to me anything you think might be of interest to our members. zanzibar2508@gmail.com. Hope you enjoy! Lyn Johnson*

## RECENT NEWS

### ECO DYEING WITH LINDA CHEE

A few of our members (also members of the NSW Handweavers and Spinning Guild) were very fortunate to attend a workshop run by Linda Chee, an eco dyeing expert. Linda used to be a member of the NSW Guild but recently made a tree change to the beautiful Huon Valley in Tasmania where she set up Geckostrands, her textile studio where she creates eco dyed wool, silk and cashmere wearables.

Linda was extremely generous with her time, knowledge and expertise, explaining the preparation of the fibre or fabric prior to dyeing; design considerations; colours given from different dye stuffs; wrapping techniques; and effects that result from the use of different mordants.

Some examples: the leaf of *Eucalyptus cordata* (which Linda brought with her from Tasmania) gives a beautiful orange colour, as does *Eucalyptus cinerea* (commonly known as the Silver dollar gum and readily available in NSW). Leaves of *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney blue



*Alyson's ecodyed weave-it square*



*Iris, Eleanor & Alyson showing off their eco dyed projects*

gum) give yellows and orange. We busily placed leaves onto our prepared fabric and fibre and folded, rolled around a core, and tied up with string before placing into our communal 'cooking' pot. The bundles wrapped around an aluminium core highlighted the yellows; a copper core highlighted the greens;



and the use of a rusty tin can and/or a diluted solution of a vinegary rusted iron liquor gave beautiful greyed effects.

After an hour and 40 minutes we took our bundles out of the simmering pot and then had to muster all our patience to not unwrap them until the next morning (as the longer you leave it before unwrapping, the better the result will be). You can also dye fibre using this method. See below. If travelling to Tasmania, Linda runs private workshops at her studio. Details can be found on her website: [Eleanor Igoe](#)



*Ecodyed scarf by Eleanor*

### EUCALYPTUS DYE WORKSHOP

Last December I participated in a eucalypt dye workshop at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra, tutored by Canberra visual artist, Sally Blake. Sally has been artist-in-residence at ANBG from June to November 2016 on a project studying eucalypt dyes for a eucalyptus dye database, supported by both ANBG and the Australia Council.

By the time of our December 2016 workshop Sally had collected, identified and dyed a range of fibres with nearly 300 different eucalyptus species including angophoras and corymbias. For our dye workshop we used the leaves and bark of four Monaro regional species - *Eucalyptus rossii* (scribbly gum); *E. cinerea* (Argyle apple); *E. mannifera* (brittle gum), and *E. macrorhyncha* (red stringybark).

With these plants we ecoprinted and dyed samples of the protein fibres wool, silk habutai,

organza and raw silk, and the cellulose fibres cotton and linen.

This was an extraordinarily generous and informative workshop thanks to ANBG and Sally's meticulous work, and well worth the trip even despite the 38-degree temperatures that day.



*Scarf bundles cooking*

Sally regularly exhibits her beautiful work and news of her past and future exhibitions as well as a link to her eucalyptus dye database can be found on her website. [Jennifer Weissel](#)



**SSS&W 2016 CHRISTMAS PARTY**

I wanted to mention our Christmas party because I felt it stood out as one that was different to our previous celebrations and had a few new ideas. Thank you Eleanor Igoe for the Trivial Pursuit competition. Thank you Jane for the novel charity draw instead of our usual Kris Kringle. The idea was that anyone who wanted put an amount of money in an envelope and on the front wrote which charity they wanted the money to go to. All the envelopes were put into a bag and one envelope drawn. This resulted in \$149 being donated to the Salvation Army.

Also Jane introduced the concept of a President's cup, and this year it went to the member who stood out as one of the most

prolific. This inaugural cup went to Alyson Keays, who most people would have to agree produces an amazing amount of spun and knitted goods. Thanks go to all the committee and to our hostess Dymphna Vella and her helpers for organising all the food.



*Jean Benson's knitted nativity scene*



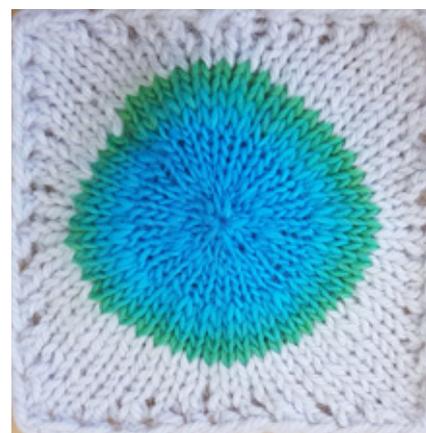
*Alyson at Christmas Show and Tell*

**PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE REMINDER**

Our Challenge for the WWF 2017 is Children (of all ages). This topic gives great opportunity to demonstrate the skills of our group. I see a lively exhibition full of colour and a great diversity of objects whether they be delicate babies items, colourful items for young children, something to capture the imagination of older children, whacky whatever for the rest of us. We can make clothes, toys, room decorations, rugs and blankets and whatever your creative minds can come up with.

Again in keeping with the theme, the raffle prize, instead of being a huge spectacular like last year, will be two or three smaller items One being a pop rug made up of many knitted squares. The second a Baby Box consisting of perhaps, booties, hat, little knitted or felted toys, and possibly a few sewn items to give a wide selection of useful baby items and possibly a toy as third prize. *Jane Sherborne Higgins*

*Iris Horoch has been running a workshop to help people with this project. Contact her if you need any help.*



**FAREWELL BETTY COLLINS,**

Betty Collins, one of our lovely lifetime members, passed away on Christmas Eve after a very long illness. Many of us attended her memorial service where we heard beautiful words from Frances Gammie about Betty's commitment to SSS&W and the Guild.

Over the years she gave many workshops and was always eager to learn and teach a new aspect of our craft.

**HOMEMADE EXPO: SENIORS'**

**ART, CRAFT & FOOD**

**Wednesday 8 March 2017**

**Sutherland Entertainment Centre**

**10am - 2pm**

This is an Expo showcasing local seniors'

talents and crafts including woodworking, pottery, painting, crochet, knitting, quilt-making, card-making, calligraphy, singing, dance groups, cake/biscuit making competition.

Arts and crafts organisations are offered a table to display and sell their quality items Our group has been invited to participate in this event, so if you have any items you would like to sell, this is an opportunity. This can be discussed at our first meeting back.

**NSW HAND WEAVERS AND SPINNERS GUILD 70TH BIRTHDAY**

24th and 25th June 2017

Karen Severn is on the committee to present to all a wonderful two day event

of displays, trades, exhibition and dinner (Saturday night) Sales Hall at Burwood RSL. Exhibition of Members work to be displayed and judged at Fitzroy Hall, Fitzroy Street (next door to Woodstock) Burwood Entries to be received by 1st May. Please go to Guild website [www.nswweave.org.au](http://www.nswweave.org.au) for full details. **70TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER & AWARDS NIGHT AT CLUB BURWOOD** (opposite Burwood Station) 6.00pm Saturday 24 June 2017 (Cost TBA) To reserve a seat or a table for your group contact Susie John [susiej@iinet.net.au](mailto:susiej@iinet.net.au) All venues are within walking distance from Guild rooms. Parking available at the RSL.

**SSS&W HINTS** (from a very old SSS&W booklet from Christa Clemensen)

**Cloudy ammonia in the rinse water used instead of fabric softener is cheaper and will whiten cream coloured garments.**

**Soak wool in cold water overnight before washing for whiteness. Marjorie Hopkins**

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

**8 - 25 February** Deconstructed Exhibition at Barometer Gallery, Paddington. Work by Liz Gemmell, Barbara Rogers & Beth Hatton More Information

**14 February** - SSS@W Spinning Study Group

**3 - 4 March** - Bothwell Spin In, Bothwell Tasmania More information

**8 March** - Home Made Expo: Seniors Art Craft and Food, Sutherland Entertainment Centre 10am - 2pm

**10 - 13 March** - Yandiah Spinning Weekend,

**18 - 23 March** - Grampians Texture, Halls Gap Victoria More Information

**11 April** - **SSS&W Birthday, Como School of Arts, Novara Crescent Como**

**22 April** = 37th Robertson Wool Festival More Information

**24 - 25th June** - NSW Hand Weavers & Spinners Guild 70th Birthday See details above