



CLIPPINGS

SUTHERLAND SHIRE SPINNERS & WEAVERS NEWSLETTER

VOL. 4- No. 2 August 2018

Just a quick little newsletter after our AGM at the end of July. We have some good news - our very successful Winter Wool Fair and some sad news - the passing of some longtime members. Remember if you have anything you think our members might find interesting please email me zanzibar2508@gmail.com. Hope you enjoy!
Lyn Johnson

RECENT NEWS

The Illawarra Felters Fibre Muster at Gerringong 11 - 12 August 2018.

This dynamic group held a very successful two day fibre festival over the weekend just gone. Our group had a table, amongst many other traders such as Feltfine, Virginia Farm Woolworks, Liz Calnan, Glenora Weaving Supplies, Waratah Fibres, Yarn Hub and Come in Spinner.

The raffle which had two great prizes of an exquisite hand spun, hand knitted shawl and a beautiful felted blanket raised over \$1300 for the Farmers in drought stricken NSW.

This event was a great way to showcase their members' work and promote the fibre crafts.

Felt bombing outside the Gerringong Town Hall



SSS&W 2018 Annual General Meeting

We held our AGM on 31 July. Prior to the meeting beginning our treasurer Alyson spoke to the group to highlight the fact that since there has been a substantial rental increase for the hall from Sutherland Council the membership fees and any profit we make from the wool fair does not cover this increase. There are options to tackle this problem, from increasing the membership fees or a weekly donation. There will be special meeting in the future to decide on this issue.

The new office bearers and positions are:

President: Karen Severn

Vice President: Jane Sherborne Higgins

Secretary: Helen Moore

Treasurer: Alyson Keays

Committee members: Helen Thomas, Lyn Johnson, Susan Duyker, Judy Jaeger

Public Officer: Cathy Fisher

Equipment officer: Will Ashkenazi

Assistant: Bruce Hudson

Hostess: Julie Stevens, **Assist:** Debbie Keegan

Publicity Officer: Iris Horoch

Exhibition Officer: Helen Thomas

Membership Secretary: Eleanor Igoe

Librarian: Kay Jackson,

Assist: Diane Stevenson,

Newsletter: Lyn Johnson

Webmistress/Social Media: Jenny Gormley

Workshop Co-ordinator: Sue Duyker

Assist: Jan Harrison

Several reports were read out and it was agreed that the group had had a very busy and successful year.

After the official part of the meeting, Eleanor welcomed the two Guest speakers: Chris Larsson and Allie Briggs from **Cotton Australia**.

Chris gave us a brief history of the cotton industry in Australia - it started in the 1960's with American growers settling around Walgett in NSW. Now there are 1 - 200 farms in Australia, with 60% in Queensland and the balance in NSW. The industry employs 10,000 people with around 431,000 hectares planted to cotton.

According to Chris, Australian cotton farmers lead the world in yield, quality and water efficiency and low contamination of crop. The vast majority of the crop is genetically modified to resist herbicides, and the crop is sprayed with a hormone to trick it into opening up the boll for picking. He maintains the farmers only use

as much water as they have to, and if it is a dry season they often won't plant any crop. A recent 4 Corners documentary on the ABC presents a very different picture, however, with farmers around Brewarrina shown to be stealing water from the Darling river.

Picking of the crop is only done by machine - manual picking is not viable as the plant is quite spikey.

Ginning removes the seeds and processes the cotton into bales. The cotton is spun in Asia and is very high quality. China represents 50 - 70% of our market, all spinning is done in Asia. Australia is in the top four exporters in the world for cotton, but at what price for our water availability.



Chris Larsson presenting his informative talk

2018 WINTER WOOL FAIR

This year's Winter Wool Fair was one of our most successful ever. Over 500 people attended our event and our kitchen made a HUGE amount of profit. There are lots of people to thank for this success.

Iris Horoch for doing such a wonderful job with the promotion and publicity

Karen Severn and **Jane Sherborne Higgins** for the set up and overall organisation;

Jenny Gormley for organising the raffle prize; **Helen Thomas** for putting together the group display

Alyson Keays and **Eleanor Igoe** for processing all the member's credit card

sales

Wendy Cashman and her kitchen helpers, **Helen Rosner**, **Jeanette Hanscombe**, **Dympna Vella** and for delivering fantastic morning and afternoon teas and sandwiches. Wendy also made some very cheerful tablecloths and aprons for herself and the helpers which were very bright and cheery. **Frances Gammie** for taking the food orders Our twin members, **Gail** and **Julie** for manning the raffle table.

Sue Duyker for the great radio interview on ABC radio on the Saturday morning, and the story in the local paper.

I hope I haven't forgotten anyone.

Figures from the Fair were:

Members' Sales: \$2610.50

Raffle money for Amelie House: \$1260.25

Profit from the Kitchen: \$1141.40

This year group members made up starter kits for new starter kits for new knitters, weavers or felters. This proved quite popular with children and adults alike. We also welcomed a new trader - Liz Calnan who is the Australian agent for Louet spinning wheels and looms.

This was the first time we had displays showing some of the work we produce in our workshops, such as eco dyeing and shibori weaving. A great way to showcase our member's work.



Wendy Cashman and her kitchen helpers in their cheerful aprons



Dympna Vella and Kay Jackson at their tables



Lyn Johnson got very excited about our Wool Fair!!



Eco dyeing display



Our new trader Liz Calnan and her Louet looms and spinning wheels



The SSS&W felting, knitting and weaving kits

Vale Tua Jorgenson

It was a great shock to hear of the passing of our dear friend and colleague Tua Jorgenson following a tragic fall at her new home in Dunbogen in June this year. I have known Tua for nearly 30 years,

however, her long connection with many of our Guild members goes a long way back. Tua had been weaving all her life and had extended this craft by attending Strathfield TAFE where Warril Evans was her teacher. From there, she explored all aspects of our craft becoming a beautiful spinner and weaver using her yarn to create so many exquisite and unique items.

Tua was also well known to us for her 'rag weaving'. She held workshops showing this skill to many local groups as well as classes for NSW Handweavers and Spinners Guild where she was a long time member prior to her recent retirement. Tua



Tua from a family photograph

was involved in so many of our activities such as the biennial bus trip to likeminded crafts people. **Karen Severn**

Vale Claudia Nunez

For those who remember, in 2012, we had a Mexican fibre artist called Claudia Nunez

join our group for a year while she was in Australia with her family. Claudia was an expert nuno felter. We taught her how to spin and she made many friends while she was here. We were very saddened to discover last week that she had died after a long battle with ovarian cancer. She would have only been in her later forties/early fifties.



Claudia with Pam Boler and Jeanette Hanscombe

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE:

Our president, Karen Severn, announced at the AGM that since it is the 50th anniversary of the group next year, it is fitting that the challenge is "The Golden Fleece" so the colour range is from golds to ochres to amber. Put your thinking caps on!

WHAT'S ON

21 August and 28 August: Spindling workshop with Alyson Keays & Diane Stevenson - Learn to spindle and then ply on your spindle. Bring a spindle and roving/top \$2 per person

Until 2 September, Seed Language Exhibition - Sophie Munns at Timeless Textiles Gallery Newcastle More information

5 & 6 September: Reel to Reel Craft Festival, 7pm at Chauvel Cinema, 249 Oxford Street, Paddington, \$27.50 per session

Until 15 September: Local Colour - Experiments in Nature, UNSW Galleries, Cnr Oxford Street & Greens Road, Paddington, 10am - 5pm Tues to Saturday More information

Until 26 September: Painting with Thread - Exhibition of Woven Tapestry at Australian Design Centre More information

Until 14 October: Reigning Men - Exhibition of mens' fashion 1715 - 2015, Powerhouse Museum \$13 - \$20 More Information

Call for Interest: Sussex Inlet Chamber of Commerce is organising a Viking Festival in 2020 and is looking for spinners and weavers, interested in the Viking crafts being involved. **Please email laurencebrowne@bigpond.com**