

# Handweavers Spinners and Dyers Guild (Tasmania) Inc.

## President's Report for 2017-2018

First of all, my thanks to all the Committee Members and volunteers who assisted in the multiple activities of the Guild in the past financial year. Truly, this is an organisation that is an immense pleasure to be a part of and to be associated with. As always my enthusiasm for new ideas has been tempered by the experience of longer serving committee members with much wise counsel and diplomatic words over a cup of tea to ensure the foot in mouth or stepping into "it" syndromes have been largely avoided. As a very young to the organisation President, Doris Banks, Maureen Hudson, Joy Rees, Ailsa Richard, Shirley Tongs and Ken Wagstaff are particularly thanked for their sage advice and "corporate knowledge". As an outgoing President, I hope to continue to serve with this band of lovely people and recommend committee participation to everyone.

Our Secretary Margot Wilson will not continue in that role. She has proven a real asset in keeping information flowing. My thanks to her for her service over my term as President and it is wonderful to see she will be continuing to assist with particular events. Our Treasurer Ken Wagstaff is continuing, to the best of my knowledge, and I must congratulate him for coping with me coming up to him and asking for money for looms and other items by calling very impromptu Executive meetings as opportunities arose. He has been very supportive in the matter of negotiating the increased rent at Guild Headquarters and when I've raised issues around managing Guild assets. My thanks go also to Lorraine Wagstaff for managing the membership and reporting via Ken to the committee. Our membership is steady and slowly continues to attract new members. I should also note that Jillian Brammer as the Projects officer has made an invaluable contribution to Guild policy that values our workshop convenors and what they bring to the table.

Secondly, as many of you may know, my other half's broken ankle has morphed into a medical condition requiring 2-3 hourly nursing care and I'm it, so no attending of any meetings or Guild and related events for the foreseeable future until an effective resolution is found or nursing care sourced. Don't believe for an instance I'm being angelic about this – he's going to take me out to a *very* delicious lunch once he can easily drive again!

Please accept my apologies for not attending today's AGM. My grateful thanks to Alan Shaw as previous Past President in offering to conduct the election today and also to our wonderful Vice-President, Don Waller, for taking the Chair much as I promised him some time ago he'd never have to. Don has been very supportive in getting me around various groups from time to time and on various issues around the committee table.

The past year has been a productive one for the Guild in addition to our usual events, open days and meetings. I must acknowledge especially the work of Maree Cowen for the Royal Hobart Agricultural Show exhibit and all who volunteered to set up, organise, be there over the week and to pack up. The Show CEO personally visited and wanted to know if we'd be back, to which of course we said, yes! And must be said how much Guild members appreciate the efforts of those who contribute to the organisation of the Tasmanian Craft Fair, the Bicheno Weekend and Poatina, let alone St Distaff's Day and Ross Summer Day.

I must also acknowledge the contribution of Margaret Miller in taking on facilitating the efforts of Guild members who have undertaken the technical training course run by the New South Wales Guild. Participants are scattered around the State. It provides an opportunity for Guild member to run workshops and to teach with confidence in the proficiency of their skills. Her quiet encouragement will reap rewards for the Guild in later years.

It has been my practice to ask Committee members to contribute to the President's Report. Particular highlights received your Committee at the time of writing are as follows.

***Vice President, Committee Member, and Archivist: Don Waller***

By June this year all Guild meeting minutes from 1985-2010 will be hard bound in volumes and shelved in the Guild library. In the process, 40 years of accumulated dross has been discarded. Any documents containing names and addresses have been professionally shredded. Library expansion will absorb the newly available space. Archiving activity in 2018 will focus on hundreds of photographs and historical project documentation. Whilst 35 kilos of paper has been shredded, some has been kept aside as the outgoing President is determined to craft the extraneous papers into spun fibre. The mind boggles somewhat.

***Equipment Officer: Di McPherson***

The equipment continues in good shape and recently benefitted from a tidy up in the store. Added to stock in the past year have been some 3 Ashford Knitters Looms with accessories and a Saori Piccolo loom. The latter proved its worth at the Royal Hobart Show in allowing easy demonstration of weaving techniques with the added benefit of sample work being able to be cut off as each person used the loom. It has proved particularly popular with children. A kind donation of eight plastic storage tubs and a new engraving tool has vastly improved the efficiency of the store. Di leaves the position of Equipment Office with the store in good shape for her successor.

***Island Yarns Editor: Tara Ulbrich***

It has been an informative and entertaining year for Island Yarns. Our little zine is more than a newsletter with people from all over the state sharing their knowledge and experiences. The job of editor culminates in quarterly bursts of time and energy but has been a fun way to build connections with Guild Members. Although I have accepted nomination for 2018, and assuming I am voted in, I would like to hand the role on to a fresh new editor in 2019. It would be wonderful if people could start thinking about and talking to each other, to find a willing weaver/spinner/dyer who also likes emailing and can learn a simple desktop publishing program. I would be available to show how I have worked the role or the new person could run with inspiration and their own skill set?!

***Librarian: Anne Frost***

It has been another busy and satisfying year in the Guild library, and wonderful to see so many members regularly borrowing resources. Many thanks to the members who return their books on time - it makes the task of Librarian so much easier. Last year we almost ran out of shelf space, and it was rapidly becoming very difficult to squeeze new books on the shelves without damaging what we already have. This led me to carefully evaluate each book in the collection, and the "weeded" books were then reviewed by several members before offering them to other groups or individual members at the Ross Summer Day, with the remainders donated to the Salvation Army. I'm happy to say that it's now much easier to browse the collection. Please remember that as new books are added to the library collection, they are featured on the Guild web page.

***Project Officer: Jillian Brammer***

Workshops:

- Art Yarns - Vivienne Crawford (6 participants).
- Learn to Spin - Margaret Miller and Maureen Hudson over 2 Saturdays (10 participants).

- Learn to Weave - Joy Rees and Jillian Brammer assisted by Margot Wilson over 2 Saturdays (7 participants).
- Poatina Weaving Retreat organised by Di Kearney in May (24 participants). Theme - Fabric for a Garment. A follow up session on Garment Making with Pat Jones hosted by Northern Branch in June.
- Backstrap Weaving - Laverne Waddington. Total 17 participants. Workshops in Deloraine and Hobart.
- Workshops with Mr Tanji, Master Weaver, Dyer and Principal of the Hataota Weaving School in Tokyo. 4 Workshops covering paper spinning, use of shaped sword and Ondule Reed for weaving, Itajime dyeing with natural dyes and bundle dyeing. Organised by Di Kearney and Joy Rees. (Over 50 participants in total.)
- Two sessions at the Catholic Care Centre, Safe Haven for Refugees. Jillian Brammer, Margot Wilson, Jutta Roper, Jeanette Hyland and Joy Rees facilitated weaving. 8 looms prepared. Much appreciated and has resulted in a request to visit to Battery Point to experience spinning in August 2018.
- Percentage dyeing workshop held at Joy's studio for the weaving group. Organised by Jillian Brammer and Joy Rees, assisted by Jutta Roper (10 participants with 3 extras on the follow up session).

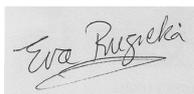
### ***Yarn Store: Vivienne Crawford***

Another busy year making sure the Yarn Store is stocked with lots to inspire and cater for members' creative endeavours. The Yarn Store also travelled to Bothwell, Bicheno and Deloraine and at each location, stock was highly sought after and sold well. Income is up although the Financial Report appears to show a less favourable current asset figure for 2017 compared to the last year, this is simply a timing issue as a lot of stock has just been purchased for the New Year and this year we are holding a much larger range of stock for the weavers.

In signing off, I acknowledge that others may wish to verbally add to this report at the AGM and with the concurrence of the Chair, please do so. There will be much left out and some people unacknowledged I'm sure (for which I'm mortified to have omitted you and please accept my apologies), given the circumstances in which this report is being written.

A big issue for the Guild over the past few years has been communication. In this sense, I must acknowledge the work of Valeri Pain in managing our website and for Brian Marriott in stepping in during Valeri's well-earned break. We hope we've been more communicative via the website, Island Yarns and the President's Précis sent out after Committee meetings. We have welcomed the feedback, good ideas and questions and I'm sure I speak for all the Committee in saying it has been a pleasure to serve.

With kind regards to all,



**President**

14 March 2018