

**HANDWEAVERS SPINNERS AND DYERS GUILD OF TASMANIA INC.**  
**PRESIDENT'S PRECIS FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2017**

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Two for one, again with President's Precise as work ran away with time again. Do I say often enough how much the Committee really appreciates Convenors passing on this information to your group members? Please continue to do so, and thank you.

Time? Well a great team of volunteers are starting to draw breath after a very successful exhibition of the Guild's skills and products at the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania's 2017 Agricultural Show at the Glenorchy Show Grounds. It was certainly a big combined effort and an even bigger thank you to everyone who contributed to it.

Personally, I took on exploring, from scratch, a dye theme of "if you can eat it, we can dye with it" and ended up dyeing lots of samples of all sorts of stuff in the fridge and pantry. Fortunately I have an undercover dyeing area outside the house – red cabbage plus bi-carb of soda stinks to high heaven! About two months of very concentrated experimentation in between work and sleeping and lots of exploring what is on offer on Pinterest to avoid costly mistakes and a houseguest for a fortnight into the bargain who loved playing with food dyes. So no President's Precise for last month but we now have some boxes of samples for a really good show and tell at St Distaffs Day and Ross and at any dyeing workshops into the future. It will be fun if members can add to the collection. I know Maureen Hudson can – she had the most wonderful collection of skeins of onion skins and other vegetables to add to the Show exhibition.

At the Show a wonderful group of volunteers led by Maree Cowen created a colourful and interactive exhibition with beautiful dyeing samples, felted, knitted and woven items. We had interactive jelly dyeing, spinning and weaving, demonstrations of weaving and spinning and a delightfully nostalgic trip down memory lane with an old shearing machine, photos from the State Archives of shearing and sheds in Tasmania, plus the Guild's wheels were on display, as well as a Depression Era rigid heddle loom. The "touch and feel" display of wool types in their miniature wool bales (thank you Josieane and helpers and Shirley for the bags) was very popular. We even had the latest Ashford equipment and White Gum Wool on display. Vivian from the Yarn Store helped up make up "candy floss" bags of scrap tops that artfully covered defects in the building's structure (we later sold most of these to felters at Deloraine). It was a delight to see one of the Guild's oldest wheels in a glass display case with a featherlight shawl as a point of interest.

**Meantime, from the Committee:**

➤ *A reminder from our indefatigable Treasurer, Ken Wagstaff, that if you have people who are a part of your Group, they need to be paid up members in order to be covered by the Guild's public liability. Can Group Convenors please convey a request to all members to check if they have paid up? Subs are usually due each January with the AGM in March but you need to pay to be covered by Guild insurance so don't wait until then if your membership has lapsed.*

**Library:** Anne is carefully scouring the shelves for books and magazines that are not really within the keeping of what the Guild does. We have a lot of craft publications and some of them, whilst lovely books, may well do with going into other people's libraries. If nothing else, we need the space. So the surplus will be taken the Ross Summer Day and people encouraged to assist with re-homing at a very modest contribution. As always, where there are double ups of publications, we will continue to send these around the State. And it is

timely that we're getting around to putting in bookplates to acknowledge gratefully the contribution of books to the library.

**Yarn Store** – Treetops Silk Harmonies are back! Finally, they've got the packaging right so we can sell coloured silks without damage to the stock. Vivian and Glenys have been working like troopers to get ready for Deloraine, and then sold a wonderful amount of stock over the whole of the Tasmanian Craft Fair. The Yarn Store will close for Stocktake on 18<sup>th</sup> December so make sure you get all your purchases done before then.

**Island Yarns** – Tara reminds people that as Guild Events occur she doesn't always receive photos or words. It would be a shame not to retain a record all the Guild goings-on given the diversity of activities we get up to. So if you have an Open Day or workshop or do a display, could people please allocate a person to be responsible for sending something in for IY?

*And now, for your diary.....*

## **Guild Headquarter's Christmas Party 14 December, 2017**

Guild Headquarters at St George's Church, Cromwell Street, Battery Point.

Parking will be reserved upon request for our more elderly and frail members so let us know. The usual Santa Sack (value of items no more than \$5)(*and may we add, if no contribution, then no presentation*), raffle and door prizes, bring a plate for lunch and bring your wheel/needles/spindles/looms etc and something special for Show and Tell. Do you have some work or item at you feel most proud of this year? Rooms will be open from 9:30am.

## **St Distaff's Day – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2018**

On the Westbury Common/Village Green, Lonsdale Promenade, Westbury

Old trees, dappled sunlight, green lawns, spinning wheels and lots of friends. What's not to like? Bring your wheel and workbag, a chair and lunch and celebrate the formal start of the fibre year. An old tradition that Robert Herrick immortalised in his poem, "St Distaff's Day" where ploughmen and spinners played pranks on each other – "Partly work and partly play", as a way of celebrating the last holiday of Christmas, and then return to the serious business of ploughing and spinning as work the next day.

## **Summer Day at Ross - 20 January 2018**

The theme is "LEFTOVERS"

Everyone has them. Those half balls of yarn, thrums from the end of weaving, bits of felt from a project and so on. We're not talking about recycling here, just using up those odds and ends that we keep 'just in case' or just throw into a plastic bag or the cupboard. They can also be cones of yarn, fleece dyed etc, bought for one project but with a surplus when that project is completed (or someone else's leftovers!!!!)

Now is the time to resurrect your discard stash and make something to bring to Ross Summer Day. Items need to have some elements of leftovers – 10% or more and we're aiming to see if someone can achieve something with 100% leftovers.

## **And very early notice - Poatina – May 23-27, 2018**

Inquiries to Di Kearney on [pedikearney@bigpond.com](mailto:pedikearney@bigpond.com)

So that's all the news.

Happy fibre-working from all of us at the Committee,

Eva - 0407 391317 or [eva@ruzicka.id.au](mailto:eva@ruzicka.id.au)