KNITTERS' GUILD NSW

November 2026, Vol 41, No. 4

A Good Yarn



MEMBER MAKE:

THE INTRICATE HOUSES OF REYKJAVIK BLANKET

WIN!
Beautiful knitting books from Peribo Publishing.

Plus

MEET DESIGNER LIBBY JONSON, A PROFILE OF THE WOOL INN, NEWS FROM AROUND THE GUILD AND MUCH MORE

Knitters Guild NSW

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NOVEMBER 2026

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A Good Yarn

Next issue will be the February 2027 issue.
Send your content to editor@knittersguildnsw.org.au by 11 January.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi everyone

I hope that those who attended the Gathering in August had a good time and learned a lot. From the photos that I saw, there was a lot of work being done as well as plenty of discussion.

For those of you who managed to get to Fibrefest, I hope that you were able to get the goodies that you wanted, despite the rain.

For all of our members, please do not forget that memberships are due now for next year. Please be aware that there has been a small increase for the membership fees, the first for a number of years. It has been done to cover the increase in costs and to allow us to continue to improve the services that we provide to members.

Now we are looking forward to Christmas and New Year. This can be a time to wind down a little, finish a WIP or two and work out what will be tackled next. I hope that you all are able to have some relaxing time with family and friends during this period and wish all of our members a great Christmas and a happy new year.

Cheers
Raewyn

PRESIDENT
Raewyn Tippett

SECRETARY
Pat McGregor

TREASURER
Mary Carlos

VICE PRESIDENTS
Hannah Smith &
Katherine Ireland

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Louise Douglas-Major, Helen Milne, Marg Rafferty, Louise Sonter

ON THE COVER
Janelle Grange's beautiful Houses of Reykjavik blanket.

Read more about the project on page 18.

GUILD GATHERING 2026

Every two years members of the Guild come together for a weekend of workshops, chats and fun activities. Marg Rafferty reports.











It was with a sense of anticipation that I set out for my first Guild Gathering. Having never attended the event before I wasn't sure what to expect, and was a little nervous about heading into unfamiliar territory.

Of course, I needn't have worried. Even after only a little more than a year as a member, there were plenty of familiar, welcoming faces to help me feel comfortable. It helped that I had travelled with members of my Inner City group but the friendliness of all the attendees was something that was mentioned by more than one participant. Even those who described themselves as introverts who didn't know many people commented on how they were helped to feel at ease: it seems that when you're among knitters, everyone is a friend.

The first night was all about sorting out accommodation, getting our goodie bags, a trivia quiz and lucky door prizes. Naturally, all of this took place while attendees worked on their various projects.

LOTS TO LEARN

Saturday was when classes kicked off. I thoroughly enjoyed learning new cast-ons and cast-offs with Robynn El-Ross in the morning and in the afternoon, Sue Hobbs guided us through steeking. We tried both crocheted and felted steeks and I managed both successfully. It was very satisfying to add these new skills to my crafting toolbox.

There was also the marketplace to enjoy. Bean Town Shu, Butterflys Yarn Craft, Yarniecopia, The Australian Wool Store and The Wool Inn all had stalls with lots of tempting goods available. Our goodie bags each included a $10 voucher to spend at the marketplace, adding to the temptation to leave the event with more than we had when we arrived. With an incentive like that, who could resist?

On Saturday evening it was time for the Show and Tell event. Seeing the work of our members once again reinforced what we already know: we really are a talented bunch! The 40g challenge, a competition in honour of the Guild's 40th anniversary in which participants were asked to create a work of knit or crochet using less than 40g of yarn, was also judged with the prize going to Pat McGregor for her beautiful knitted angel. Of course, an event like this doesn't happen without a lot of hard work. Huge thanks must go to the main organiser, Mary Carlos, who dedicated many hours across many months to making the Gathering happen. Thank you, too, to the many others who assisted at various stages, particularly Hannah Smith who was on hand throughout the weekend to offer help where it was needed.

THANKS TO HODGEPODGE SKEINS

Making the event even more fun for attendees were the prizes on offer. While most of the prizes were purchased by the Guild, organisers were extremely grateful to receive support from Hodgepodge Skeins, whose generous donation made for very happy winners of some of our lucky door prizes.

Hodgepodge Skeins, whose gorgeous hand-dyed yarns are created in the Blue Mountains, offer a beautiful range of yarns are available on bases to suit many different projects, and include sock yarns, alpaca, luxury silk wool blends, mohairs and much more. To see their full range, visit **hodgepodgeskeins.com**.

DESIGNER PROFILE

CLEAN LINES, INTERESTING DETAILS AND GORGEOUS TEXTURES



Truly Myrtle designer Libby Jonson spoke with Robynn Ross about designing, building communities and a lifetime of knitting

Following Libby's daily Instagram posts and watching her YouTube podcasts is like talking to a friend over coffee. In the current world climate, Libby's friendly face and happy voice are a welcome breath of fresh air. She looks right into the camera and tells us about the local weather and her garden, then explains exactly which woolly delight she is wearing, the fibre used, her trousers or skirt pattern, her footwear, earrings and pattern names of designers she used. You can feel the tension leave your body as you listen to Libby's ordinary day of designing and her appreciation of the wonderful space around her.

Libby Jonson is a knitwear designer living in rural New Zealand with her family, running two connected businesses: Truly Myrtle, a pattern label with 100+ modern, feminine knitting patterns and Wardrobe Toolbox, an online membership for knitters who want their garments to actually fit. Wardrobe Toolbox can be described as a 'knitting lifestyle' where members get exclusive patterns, lessons, lots of live sessions and the opportunity to be part of a truly lovely community of women who are obsessed with knitting and making.

SMALL BEGINNINGS

Learning to knit and sew at a young age, Libby made many of her own clothes during her teens and early twenties. She helped pay for university with a little handmade business called "Lib's pjs", making and selling pyjama sets and boxers to fellow students. Later, she was caught up in the corporate world with lots of travel, so didn't pick up her needles or get out the sewing machine for a few years. She finally reached for the knitting again when she became pregnant with her first baby in 2001 and hasn't stopped since.

While living in the UK with baby number four tucked up in a sling, Libby attended 'Knit Nation' in London, which truly changed her life. Her lifelong passion for knitting and sewing took a transformative turn and she returned home to Cambridge to announce to her husband that from now on, "I was knitting." After that, the internet really transformed knitting, bringing together communities from all over the globe. Libby's enthusiasm for the craft of knitting as well as for writing about and photographing knitting had exploded, and the Truly Myrtle blog was created.

Over a decade and 100+ patterns later, Libby is living in New Zealand, designing knitting patterns, hosting a live weekly podcast and teaching through Wardrobe Toolbox, the online membership she launched in early 2020.

INFLUENCES ARE ALL AROUND

Libby is influenced by her home and landscape as she lives in the middle of almost nowhere, even though the city seems to creep closer each year. It gets very hot in the summer, so every January she feels the urgency to design more summer garments. During winter it's cold without being completely freezing. As her house is only heated by woodburners, it's perfect for wearing woollies inside and out. She is torn between dreams of making lovely clothes for fancy occasions and useful jumpers to wear while moving animals and gardening.

Working on a challenge motivates Libby. She loves chatting about yarn, knitting and life with others and she loves making things. Discovering the internet in her 40s, she finds the community built around Truly Myrtle very motivating. She is constantly inspired by what her audience and friends make and feels happy sharing her knowledge and expertise with fellow knitters.

UNDERSTANDING FIT

Right now, her priority is to help women understand the 'why' behind fit, not just the fix for one specific pattern. Into her fifth decade around the sun, Libby is really interested in what she wants to wear at this time of her life, how to make adjustments for her mid-life body and how to help knitters build a wardrobe they actually love to wear, not just to possess a pile of finished knitting.

As an extroverted chatterbox, Libby really enjoys being with people, which spills over into her business. She loves getting to know her Truly Myrtle customers and Wardrobe Toolbox members. She is amazed at how effective online chatting is at getting to know someone, so when you meet them in real life, you can't imagine you haven't known them for ages.

The essence of what Libby wants to wear mostly stays the same, but she knows her style is constantly evolving. She feels most comfortable in garments and accessories that are feminine without being fussy. She adores layers, relishing the freedom to roll up sleeves and move, and she finds joy in bringing an outfit together with jewellery and accessories. Libby is drawn to clean lines, interesting details and gorgeous textures.

WHERE TO FIND LIBBY

Truly Myrtle has 100+ knitting patterns (garments and accessories) available through Ravelry and the Truly Myrtle website. Libby also has an email newsletter (the Mini-Mag) delivered weekly, where discounts are advertised and she gives peeks at what she is up to.

Wardrobe Toolbox is a membership that opens twice a year, in March and September. Libby also hosts a weekly live podcast and teaches at knitting festivals once or twice a year.

Patterns | www.trulymyrtle.com and www.ravelry.com/designers/libby-jonson
Membership | www.wardrobetoolbox.com
Mini-Mag | www.trulymyrtle.com/minimag
Podcast | www.youtube.com/@trulymyrtle
Instagram | www.instagram.com/truly.myrtle/
Facebook | www.facebook.com/trulymyrtle

FIRST DESIGNS

The first thing Libby ever designed was a recorder case when she was 12. Very 'rustic', it was made from scratchy, wholesome yarn in earthy colours from her mum's stash, where she played with moving stitches around, slipping them and alternating colours. It had no pattern (which was abundantly clear from the patchwork result) and Libby was experimenting in the fullest meaning of the word.

These days, Libby loves to design and knit sweaters from the top down. Intrigued by various constructions, with a focus on carefully thought-out detail, it is clear that Libby's intense curiosity as a 12-year-old is still a facet of her adult self.

Setting Libby apart from other wonderful knitwear designers is her Wardrobe Toolbox, one of the only (possibly the only), fit-focused knitting lifestyle membership in the world. Libby doesn't just sell patterns or teach knitters about modifications, she brings people together and sees them make friends across oceans, which is so gratifying.









RETAIL PROFILE

COME ON INN

We spoke with Anita Borcherdt of The Wool Inn, a long-time retail member of the Guild, about her store, the community and learned more about why she's stuck with the business for so long.

The Wool Inn began trading in Penrith, at the foot of the Blue Mountains, in 1972. The business has been operated by the current owner, Anita, since 1982.

The store specialises in friendly service and a great selection of yarns, books and accessories, and draws customers from all over Sydney, the Blue Mountains and beyond. Over the years, they have become known as knitting and crochet specialists.

A MUM AND DAUGHTER DUO

Anita's start at The Wool Inn came as a result of her mother. "After completing a three-year cadetship with Grace Bros, my Mum contacted me to tell me that The Wool Inn was for sale. She was a regular customer and loved her visits to the shop. It had been run by a mother-and-daughter team for the previous 10 years, and Mum was very keen to take on the challenge with me," explains Anita.

Anita's Mum thought that the pair could run the shop as a team for five years until she and Anita's Dad retired. "True to her word, they eventually found a lovely spot to retire, and my husband Frank and I bought the business in 1987."

Those five years were very special to Anita. "I treasure the time we spent working together and sharing our passion for knitting and crochet," she says.

ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE

The people Anita works with are a big part of what she loves best about owning and running the store. "Working alongside a small team of passionate knitters and crocheters, and meeting customers from all over Australia and the world, is so interesting, fun and rewarding," she says.

Anita's team includes Bess, the store's regular clinic teacher. She and Anita have worked together for more than 35 years, and Anita is full of praise for Bess' skills. "She has a special skill of being able to knit and crochet both left and right handed," says Anita, just one of her many talents.

Anita also derives a lot of pleasure from choosing new-season yarn ranges that she hopes will appeal to her customers.

Of course, running a store like The Wool Inn is not without its challenges.

"Running a yarn store means keeping a lot of balls in the air! There are rosters, class schedules, stock and special orders, deliveries, and keeping up with the latest trends in knitting yarns and styles," she says.

COMMUNITY AT THE CORE

Anita's long tenure at the store and the loyalty of her customers mean that she has built real relationships with her clientele.

"We know so many of our customers by name," she says. "We know many of their family members, their yarn preferences and the styles of patterns they enjoy."

Many of her customers have been shopping with her since they were young mothers and are now knitting for their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

"We offer classes to teach new skills and improve techniques, while helping knitters and crocheters take on more challenging projects with Bess's guidance," she says. "We also hold free social knitting days, and many friendships have formed over a cuppa and some yarn."

The store caters to crafters at all different levels, and Anita sees great variety in her customers. "We welcome people of all ages and skill levels," she says.

"We have noticed a larger number of young people learning from the internet and YouTube. They have learnt so much from the helpful videos, tips and techniques available online," she explains.

Over the years, some memorable customers have become regulars.

"One had a passion for long-beard mohair and would wear his mohair knitted trousers and knee-length jumpers almost year-round," she says. "Each winter, he would come in for a new outfit in the latest colour!"

A CRAFTING HERITAGE

Like many of us, Anita's skills in crafting were handed down to her by her mother.

"I knit and crochet, and I was taught by my Mum when I was around seven or eight years old," she says.

"Mum migrated from The Netherlands, where knitting was part of the culture and simply something everyone learnt. She told me about her experiences knitting socks for soldiers during World War II when she was just 11 years old."

Despite being immersed in fibre arts during her work days, Anita still derives enjoyment from crafting in her spare time.

"It is my enjoyment and relaxation at the end of almost every day," she says.

"I try to knit or crochet something to wear, or a shop sample, in almost every yarn type we have in store."

Right now, Anita is enjoying knitting and wearing finer yarns. "I find my patience level is increasing, and I am not in such a rush to finish garments," she says.

"My next garment will be Malabrigo Susurro, a beautiful silk, merino and linen blend."

Anita usually has two projects on the go and likes to alternate between them.

"Currently, I'm working a Sunflower Mandala CAL, which incorporates a wide variety of stitches. The other is the PetiteKnit Anker's Summer Shirt, which has been in my queue for a while," she says.

After so long in the business, Anita is keenly aware of how the tools used for knitting and crochet have evolved.

"They certainly have improved, particularly the quality and variety of circular needles and ergonomic crochet hooks," she says. "Interchangeable needles have been a boon to so many knitters, with many opting for the flexibility of circulars in preference to pairs."

THE WOOL INN AND THE GUILD

The support of Knitters Guild members is very much valued by The Wool Inn.

"We appreciate the opportunities to showcase our products at events such as FibreFest, The Gathering, and Guild group visits to our store," she says.

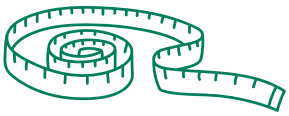
Groups who visit the store receive a warm welcome. "We provide morning tea and a talk about the latest yarns and products, or a demonstration on the subject they are interested in. They have a place to sit and chat — or shop, of course!"

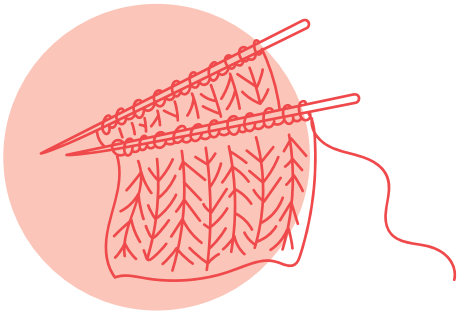




THE WOOL INN

The Wool Inn
can be found at
Shop 14, NK Centre,
450 High Street,
Penrith.
Visit the-wool-inn.com.au/shop to learn more.





GROUP REPORTS

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GUILD.

BLACKTOWN

In July our group had a workshop run by Hripsime Ansourian on 'Crochet Lace Edging' where we learned to make a repeating pattern of the sweetest bunch of grapes.

We celebrated the Guild's 40th anniversary in August with delicious catering, a small competition, and wearing our anniversary beanies. An interesting take on 'yarn cake' won the competition, but we all won in the end with yummy sweets and savouries provided by a wonderful local caterer. The workshop was on Reading Knitting charts, led by Caroline Craig.

September's meeting saw us learning short row colour work with Sue Hobbs, a very interesting technique that you will find in a lot of Woolly Wormhead's patterns. On the weekend after our meeting we were joined by some Epping group members for a bus trip down to Bowral, where we visited Castle Handmade and the Tulip Festival. Both were absolutely lovely and we had beautiful weather. The weekend after that was FibreFest and we joined together with the Blacktown Library Knitting Group to travel to Wyong on the train.

Jacinta Wood



The group enjoyed an outing to Bowral



The 40th anniversary luncheon was delicious

BLUE MOUNTAINS

It has been another fun, busy and productive three months for our group as we continue to meet on the third Saturday of the month at Panthers Glenbrook. The first Sunday of the month social gathering also continues to be popular with members.

We welcomed Marianne from Jokamamo to our meeting in August.

For our September meeting, group member Susan conducted a Steeking Workshop. She conducted a demonstration and then encouraged us all to 'have a go.' Also at our September meeting we held a "One Skein Challenge" with winners chosen by popular vote.

A significant highlight was The Great Bowral Yarn Crawl on Saturday September 12th. Thirty-five members and guests travelled from Penrith to Bowral by coach. After a stop at Victoria House Needlecraft we continued on to Bowral where we were all made very welcome by Liz at Castle Handmade. We also had plenty of time to enjoy Bowral at our leisure. The trip was so successful that members requested it be a yearly event.

Jan Marshall, Secretary



A visit to Bowral was a highlight



The group enjoyed a visit from Marianne of Jokamamo Textiles

CAPITAL REGION

With winter in full swing, we celebrated Christmas in July in the Capital Region. For our July meeting, we had Christianna, Maureen and Liz show us some simple Christmas decorations with plenty of time to make our own before the end of the year. We also checked in with our goals for 2026 to see how our members were going. Some members had already earned their chocolate reward, while some found the reminder very helpful to keep them motivated. In August we had a detailed look at Double Knitting projects completed by Lucy and Esther, and our members attempted to complete a small Double Knitting swatch. In September, we held our annual destash event which is a lot of fun for all involved. Our vendors had streamlined their stash of high quality items, and collectively had over 300 items for sale. Both vendors and customers were happy with the end results.

Lauren Clancy, Convenor

CLARENCE VALLEY

NO REPORT RECEIVED

CROCHET TURRAMURRA

Recently we have attracted some new members which delights us, and it has been interesting to learn what items they enjoy making. Selina enjoys freeform crochet so we know that she will love the workshop that Rhona Feeney will present in October on Scrumbling. Another new member, Marilyn has been engaged in very fine crochet edgings for handkerchiefs which are much sought after by her in-laws in Colombia.

We are very grateful for the members and visitors who run workshops for us. Ronah Tutte travels from the Blue Mountains to join us and recently ran a workshop on corner-to-corner crochet. Her promise that it did not require any sewing appealed to us and every one embraced this method, with dishcloths, sample squares and several rugs being made – Maggie's in graduated tones of green, Janelle's in stunning shades of pink, and Pat H and Marilyn using variegated colours for theirs. Flushed with success we have now moved onto mastering Bavarian crochet which we learnt in another of Ronah's workshops.

In September we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Knitters Guild NSW with a wonderful morning tea, quizzes and games, which were organized by our amazing Convenors – Pat H and Di S. The table setting looked amazing with floral porcelain cups and plates, and mouth-watering arrangements of sandwiches and cakes. We are most grateful to the Guild for funding this celebration and for the time and energy that our Convenors spent in setting everything up.

A. Murphy, Secretary





Marilyn's crocheted edges on linen handkerchiefs



Pat's corner-to-corner rug

EPPING CROCHET

The group continues to meet monthly and share lots of social and project work. Hilda shared her beautiful crocheted blanket she is making for charity.

Lesley Wilkes



Hilda's crochet blanket for charity

EPPING

Thirty-eight Epping members celebrated the Guild's 40th Anniversary by lunching together at Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club. A great time was had by all and those in attendance.

Education has taken many forms in the last quarter. A number of felted items have now been completed from Louise Sonter's workshop. Yvonne Fazzolari has a keen, core group working on their vintage patterns. Maria Stagno and Tricia Southwell are leading a large group to knit/crochet to complete a collection of hot water bottle covers by the end of October. These are destined for Ukraine, where they face a harsh winter. As usual there are many talented and eager volunteers.

Anne Moore's three "Teach the Public to Knit & Crochet" all-day Sunday sessions have now been completed for 2026. A big thank you to all the volunteers and of course Anne, the organiser. While there were many keen participants, and as a result some new members, it's disappointing when a place in class is booked then the participant just doesn't turn up without advising us. Maybe charging a small fee would reduce this problem? Some keen volunteers recently had to just go home. If advised then places would've been given to the many people on our wait list.

Our resident, inhouse, retired CSIRO librarian Linda Whitford has introduced the Dewey system for our library & assets. Lynda and Louise Sonter work together on this task. Each book or asset will have a lending card inserted.

Shirley Gregory, Publicity



40th anniversary luncheon



Michelle's beautiful child's felted slippers

GOULBURN

Another wonderful three months have passed with a wide array of projects being started and finished. Some highlights from our workshops include knitting with beads and brioche knitting.

We have continued to have guests from other groups join us who we welcome enthusiastically. Additionally, our weekly, casual Knit and Natter at the local library continues to be a hit for both members and the general public alike. The people we knit (or crochet!) with continue to be the best part of our meetings; from the casual chat and piece of wisdom to the carousel of highs and lows during show and tell.

Christina Wall, Publicity Officer

INNER CITY

We have been making octopuses for premature babies at Ronald McDonald House. Presentations were made to the Group by members Som and Jen on Double and Mosaic Knitting and Nalbinding at the August and September meetings respectively, which were very informative and greatly appreciated.

On 5 September, a group of members led by our Convenor Bryony caught the train to Bowral to visit the Castle Handmade yarn store, and everyone enjoyed it, and of course some yarn was purchased. Bowral's Charity Shop and bakery were also highly recommended.

We have been slowly working through the Patty Lyons workbook and we are currently completing Chapter 4.

The Group is still expanding and we have over 70 members at last count. Some new members particularly enjoyed the Gathering and everyone who attended spoke about it in glowing terms. Many expressed thanks to Mary Carlos, the Gathering's main organiser.

At our September meeting, experienced crocheter but relatively new knitter, Tali, shared her completed Birdie Cardigan, impressing everyone with the result. Well done, Tali, on your first knitted garment.

Katherine Gardner, Secretary



Tali's Birdie Cardigan

INNER WEST

The group has had a busy quarter, with a workshop on mending facilitated by Andrea McFarland, a swap meet in with members sharing yarns, accessories and other crafting items they no longer needed, and a session on practical tips for troubleshooting both knitting and crochet.

The group's charity partners, Aboriginal Women & Children's Crisis Centre visited in August and provided a detailed update about the donations we had provided in June, letting the members know what items were most popular, and encouraging them to continue to support this charity and provide more hand-made donations for both children and adults.

Cheryl Dolan, Secretary.



Beanies were a popular donated item



The mending workshop with Andrea was popular

KATOOMBA

We have had a very productive few months with many Fibre Fest knitted shawls being made. With Christmas fast approaching it has been a busy time with crochet gnomes, knitted scarfs, mittens and throws. Next year we have many interesting workshops in the pipeline.

Ronah Tuite, Convenor

MACARTHUR

The Macarthur Branch members have once again been busy and creative in the last few months. Our group enjoyed two 40th Anniversary Celebrations in order that the Monday and the Saturday meetings could both enjoy some cakes and treats. Thank you to the Guild for your financial contribution – it was much appreciated.

Since the celebrations we have worked on Elizabeth Zimmerman's famous Baby Surprise Jacket (BSJ). This was worked over two meetings and all those who participated have created a unique jacket. The use of different yarns created quite individual designs. Thanks particularly to Alex who left her knitted jacket unsewn, so all could see why it is named a 'surprise'.

As we have several new members, granny square crocheting was revisited. Once again Sue Smith provided instructions, inspiration and assistance.

The Guild Gathering at Stanwell Tops was attended by five of our members. They participated in various classes and all thoroughly enjoyed their time.

Alison Wootten, Publicity Officer



Lurlaine and Sue modelling their granny square creations



The group worked on the Baby Surprise Jacket



Delia and Allyssa cutting the anniversary cake

MAITLAND

Members continue to meet and create extraordinary items that always inspire and encourage others to learn new skills and to perhaps jump outside their comfort zone. This month accessories were on show, including a backpack and an Emotional Support Chicken.

Cynthia Mulholland, Treasurer



One member created a beautiful backpack



A very pretty emotional support chicken

MID NORTH COAST

We would like to congratulate the Guild for the organisation of The Gathering this year. Three of our members enjoyed attending the workshops and getting to know other groups and members.

In the past two months we have been working on making a variety of knitted squares for some charity blankets, which are currently being crocheted together by one of our talented members.

We have had workshops on colour theory and ways to record/journal our projects. Both workshop discussions were well received and the PowerPoint presentations will become a resource

for revisiting the topics in the future.

Members have also shared some beautiful projects and it's always a pleasure to see what our members are making.

Rebeca Mendez, Convenor



A member's cute cat blanket



Steeked colourwork in progress

MUDGEE

Mudgee group marked the 40th Anniversary of NSW Knitters' Guild with a celebratory luncheon at our local golf club. Despite the fact that we were few in number, we toasted the Guild and enjoyed a very pleasant meal in good company. Those of us who had completed our anniversary beanies, wore them with pride, notwithstanding being indoors and not requiring their warmth to battle adverse weather conditions.

Our August meeting fell on Granny Square Day, so naturally our workshop centred around the crocheting of granny squares. A simple granny square is fundamental to most crocheters' arsenals, it is always useful to revisit the technique to remind ourselves of the multitude of variations that can be introduced.

In September, we once again welcomed Sue Sharpe to our meeting. While Sue is formally a member of Southern Group, she often joins in our meetings when she is visiting family in Mudgee. On this visit Sue filled us in on her recent visit to Alice Springs to attend the Beanie Festival. She also told us about her attendance at the Yarn Ball in Wollongong and displayed both her sequin and wool scarf and her husband's tie that had been made for the occasion.

Sally Colley, Publicity



A group celebrated the 40th anniversary at the local golf club



Granny squares were the focus in August

NEWCASTLE

Excitement reigned in the Newcastle group when the entry "Sisterhood," created by our member Catherine Lee and her friend Sue Thomson of Erina won at Australian Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo. The outfit honours the suffragists, activists and feminists who fought for women's rights and helped secure the freedoms many women enjoy today. Purple, green and white were the symbolic colours of the UK suffragettes and became widely adopted as the colours of feminism during the twentieth century. Black provides contrast and symbolises the hard-won nature of these gains. The outfit was loosely inspired by an early twentieth-century suit.

Sue and Catherine used many techniques in the various parts of the project, which included a hat, skirt, top, badge, bag and collar. The pair used different types of felting as well as knitting, spinning, weaving, fulling, sewing, crochet and embroidery.

Our Wednesday meeting in August saw the close of the challenge to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Knitters Guild. The theme was any item using red yarn, as the traditional anniversary colour for a 40th celebration is red or ruby.

Vivien Brown won first prize for her knitted red lace scarf. Second prize went to Di Callinan for her knitted beret and third prize was given to Anne Hutton for her crocheted bouquet of flowers. Very fitting articles for a celebration, congratulations to the winners, and a big thank you to all our entrants: it was a difficult choice.

The Saturday group had a challenge to knit or crochet an item with one skein. The winners were Luigina Barile for her chevron knitted scarf using variegated yarn, Amy Woods and Sheila Tweddle who both knitted socks. It was wonderful to see how much can be done with one skein of yarn.

Kate Zimmerman, Convenor



Member Catherine Lee and her friend Sue Thomson had a big win at the Bendigo show



Vivien Brown's red lace scarf won the anniversary challenge.

NORTHERN TABLELANDS

We have continued with our three gatherings a month and have welcomed some new interest although in winter our regular numbers are usually reduced. A decision has been made for our Armidale Show entry for 2027 and some are busy already with their contribution. Worldwide Knitting in Public Day was celebrated at a local mall coffee shop while International Crochet Day was enjoyed at our local Farmers Market. We followed this up at the next month's market to continue to highlight our group.

Ingrid Chaku, Convenor



The group displayed their work at the local farmer's market

PITTWATER

The Pittwater Knitters' Guild has continued to flourish with well attended meetings and a plethora of beautifully made knitted and crochet items. Our "Show and Tell" is one of the many enjoyable features of our meetings with so many beautifully made garments, crochet and knitted blankets, hats and cute knitted toys.

Our workshops have been varied and educational. Highlights have been a workshop on colour by Di and Roz from School of Design, I-cords by Pat, an intarsia crochet workshop by Judy and a lace workshop by Cathy. Barb has continued to teach the crochet flower of the month and we were all pleased to celebrate her big birthday with a delicious cake made by Cathy. The donations to charities have continued from our generous members. Nine of our members have continued to teach knitting and crochet to the Brigidine schoolgirls every Monday, who are knitting squares for a blanket to be donated to a local nursing home. This has been a rewarding and pleasant experience for all involved.

Gill Ashley, Secretary



The intarsia crochet workshop was a big success



Janice and her Hungry Caterpillar



Sue BW in her Signatur Handknits jacket



Patty's crochet cardigan

SOUTH GRAFTON

No report received.

SOUTHERN

Between our regular meetings, Southern Group members enjoyed lots of winter wool events this quarter, with members visiting Bendigo for the Australian Sheep and Wool Show, joining workshops at the Guild Camp, knitting the night away the Finzah Yarn Ball in Wollongong and shopping at FibreFest (which got a bit rowdy on the train trip home with lots of NRL fans!). For those that attended the ball, we had such a good time we have already booked our tickets for next year! (finzah.com). Despite all these extra outings, we did manage to fit in two workshops on Provisional Cast On and Judy's Magic Cast On and plenty of show and tell.

Gemma Lawrence, Convenor



Andrew at the Finzah Yarn Ball



Gemma and Sheridane at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Here at Southern Highlands Group we have been working on shawls and some members wanted to learn how to knit top-down in the round. Much fun was had by all learning new techniques.

Debra Whaley

THE ENTRANCE

The Entrance group recently gathered for a delightful double celebration, marking our 13th anniversary alongside the impressive 40th anniversary of the Knitters' Guild, NSW. Our talented committee members set the stage for a wonderful afternoon with a delectable high tea spread that kept everyone well-fed as warm memories and stories were shared across the tables. Looking around the room, the exceptional skill of our members was on full display through a wide and varied range of showcased crafts, from delicate lace to beautifully structured garments. To top off a memorable day, members were treated to surprise gift bags featuring charming handmade cloths and artisanal soaps—a thoughtful gesture that perfectly captured the generosity and tight-knit community spirit of our group. Here's to celebrating many more milestones and shared stitches together!

Rachel Harris



The group celebrated the 40th anniversary with a high tea

VIRTUAL

NO REPORT RECEIVED

WEST RYDE

It is hard to believe we are in October and heading towards Christmas. Our members have been busy with some lovely projects to share during our show and tell.

13 of our members attended The Gathering which everyone enjoyed. It is always a good weekend where you can always learn something new.

Eleanor Goldfinch who came along to our monthly meetings has very sadly passed away.

Eleanor was a member of Epping but loved coming along to our meetings with Yvonne.

Eleanor will be very sadly missed by her family, West Ryde ladies, and all other members of the guild.

Jean Smith, Convenor

WOLLONGONG

Our group has had some great adventures during the past quarter. For our July meeting, several members enjoyed a road trip to Bowral where we visited the beautiful Castle Handmade store. Stash enhancement activities were stealthily engaged in! We then explored the vintage market, Dirty Jane's, followed by lunch and knitting in public at The Press Shop.

In August we occupied two tables at the inaugural Yarn Ball hosted by our local yarn store, Finzah. The Ball was held on International Granny Square Day. What a wonderful night. Loads of games, trivia (one of our tables won), music and a wonderful three-course dinner. We can't wait for next year's Ball.

In September, we welcomed four new members and had show and tell. While it's not until September 2027, we already have eight members and four friends booked for the Guild cruise. We are all very excited.

Iman Aziza, Convenor



Members attended local yarn store, Finzah's, inaugural Yarn Ball

WOY WOY

In August we celebrated the Group's ninth Anniversary but made our usual small party bigger and better to include celebrations of the Guild's 40th Anniversary. We're fortunate to number a professional chef among our members, Jane Bowtell, and she made us a wonderful Croquembouche birthday cake which we washed down with fizzy (non-alcoholic) grape juice. We gave prizes of gift vouchers, yarn and books for the three competitions we ran on the day – a Knitting Bingo game, with a Woy Woy theme, asking members to accurately guess the number of stitches in a knitted sock, and holding the 40g challenge, where we knitted or crocheted anything we fancied using no more than 40g of yarn. We had a wonderful turn-out of members and I think a fun time was had by all, but we certainly didn't get much knitting or crocheting done that day.

Sally Ogilvie, Convenor



VALE ELEANOR GOLDFINCH

On 23rd September, Epping Crochet Group, Epping Group and West Ryde Group lost our much-loved Eleanor Goldfinch.

Eleanor was a Life Member of the Guild having been a Founding member (#6). She had a personal relationship with many of our members around the state and with many of the yarn traders who support the Guild. She was also on the Macknit (Machine Knitters) committee for a very long time.

As a left-hander she learned to knit right-handed as patterns are written for right-handers, but she always crocheted left-handed.

Eleanor's passion was attending the Shows where hand knitting and crochet and machine knitting were displayed and judged. As well as entering her own work, she encouraged other members to enter the Royal Easter Show and local shows. She would take entries and later pick them up again to make it easier for other members to put things in shows. She stressed that we must all support the shows as she worried about the decline in Show entries in general.

Eleanor willingly volunteered to help at every activity, including week-end getaways, the Biggest Morning Tea and even the return to our meetings after Covid. I could not have been the Convenor for many years without her help and wisdom.

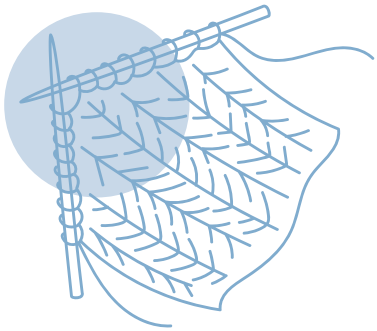
With her passing we lose a great font of knowledge about the Guild, about all aspects of knitting and crochet and yarns and machine knitting and a broad general knowledge of many more things. She will be missed for a very long time. May she rest in peace.

Anne Moore
Epping Group Member and former Convenor

BOOK REVIEWS

WORKING WITH COLOUR

With these books of patterns for knitters you can create beautiful projects with stranded colourwork or intarsia.



COLORWORK KNITTING FROM HEAD TO TOE

BY CARMEN JORISSEN

In this beautiful book, colourwork enthusiast Carmen Jorissen has created a collection of 20 gorgeous accessories to suit a range of different skills, from beginner to advanced. The book includes simple hats, more intricate mittens, as well as socks and cowls. The techniques are clearly explained and supported by video tutorials that can be accessed through the QR code provided in the book.

As well as the patterns, there is advice for those new to combining colours, and instructions for how to manage your tension and gauge when knitting colourwork. The book is also peppered with tips throughout, all based on Carmen's extensive experience as a colourwork designer.

RRP: $52.99



KNIT THE CITY BUILDING BLOCKS

BY JAKE HENZLER

Australian designer Jake was inspired to begin designing colourwork blocks while living in Denmark. What began as a project to create a handmade souvenir of his time in the city grew to become a collection of intarsia charts inspired by the architecture of London, Paris, Copenhagen, Sydney, Amsterdam, Prague and New York.

In this book, you'll find instructions to create blankets of different sizes, cushions or other accessories and homewares that capture the character of these iconic cities. You can follow the colours suggested by Jake or use the templates provided in the book to create your own designs using a palette of your choosing. Whatever option you decide on, you'll have a beautiful and unique project to treasure.

RRP: $49.99



WIN!

We have one copy of each of these books to give away to our members thanks to Peribo Publishing.

To enter, send an email to editor@knittersguildnsw.org.au using the subject line "Book giveaway" and tell us in 25 words or less which book you'd like to win and why. The deadline for entry is 8 January and judging will take place on 9 January 2027. Winners will be notified by email and the results published in the February 2027 issue of *A Good Yarn.*

AUGUST WINNERS

Thanks to all those who entered the competitions in our August issue. The lucky winners were:

Adagio Mills pattern winners –
Cathy Aggett, Fiona Sams and Gemma Lawrence
Weekend Makes Crocheted Toys –
Karen Gooch
Knitting Peter Rabbit –
Melissa Russell

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR

Volunteers from around the Guild brought knit and crochet to life for visitors to the Sydney Craft & Quilt Fair in July. Pat McGregor reports









The Sydney Craft & Quilt Fair took place at the ICC Sydney from 15 to 18 July. Across the four days a total of 28 volunteers worked very hard, each for three hours; some volunteers covered more than one session, and they were all kept very busy. In past years most visitors wanted to learn to crochet but this year there were many more requests to learn to knit, too.

The volunteers also supported an area organised by Expertise Events, who, after consultation with the Guild, created the Knitters Lounge. It was a comfortable area where visitors to the Fair could sit and rest, or with the support of the Knitters' Guild, learn some aspect of knitting and crochet or even learn from scratch. The organisers had provided random amounts of yarn and a basket of knitting needles which were very useful. The visitors were encouraged to take away their sample, with the yarn, a hook and pattern to enable them to keep up their newly acquired skill.

Once again we had a double space allowing us to have a wide-ranging display of items in both knitting and crochet. We were adjacent to the Knitting Lounge to allow our volunteers to converse with, and help visitors in both areas.

There was considerable interest in the Guild, and we distributed magazines and Guild information about our next event, being FibreFest.

A huge thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who were there to cover the four days of the Fair. An event like this, representing the Guild, cannot be done without lots of assistance and this year our helpers were:

Helen Still (Capital Region); Shirley Gregory, Barbara Bajuk and Adriana Corona Mothe (Epping); Pat Hicks (Crochet Turramurra); Sally Ogilvie (Woy Woy); Diedre Hibberd and Caroline Craig (Blacktown); Kayleen Barns and Johanna Steriovski (Southern); Margaret Gibson, Leonie and Alexis Beasley (West Ryde); Cathy Aggett, Ronda Collins, Melissa Hickey, Janelle Grange, Jenny Lemon, Geraldine Callaghan, Meredith D'Alton, Janice Jordan, Gill Ashley and Julie Beynon (Pittwater); Hannah Smith, Louise Douglas-Major, Kris Howard and Fiona Donovan (Inner City).

A particular thank you to Hannah Smith and my daughter, Amanda, for the set-up of the stand; they created the display, and, once the Fair closed those in place on the Saturday afternoon – Louise Douglas-Major, Julie Beynon and Gill Ashley – took down the stand. Both these days required everyone to be very organised and committed to working efficiently.

It is worth remembering that to create these events there is a large amount of work that happens behind the scenes. The fact that this work is not seen shows the success of the event.

ON THE COVER







Janelle Grange's Houses of Reykjavik blanket was a project that, despite her attempts to resist it, became an obsessive make that occupied her for nearly five months.

Q. What's the name of the pattern you followed?
A. It is the Houses of Reykjavik blanket by Stephen West. There is also a shawl version of this pattern.

Q. What inspired you to make this item?
A. It seemed to keep popping up on my Facebook feed and I did try to resist. I didn't like the colours he had used, so I started thinking what colours I would use IF I made it! I started to think that it would work well if I took the name literally and used colours that represented Scandinavian houses, around a blue lake with black volcanic sand (The Blue Lagoon near Reykjavik), with mountains behind the houses, and then the night sky with the Northern Lights. It would be like an abstract landscape. I have been to Reykjavik so that was further inspiration.

Q. How long did it take you to create?
A. It took just under five months – I did become quite obsessed.

Q. What were some of the challenges of making it?
A. Choosing colours that I was happy with. There was yarn all over the floor being rearranged into different orders.

The chevron brioche was a challenge as I have not done that before and then after much concentration and relief that I had finished that section, and moved on to the next section, I realised I had done it wrong. I had started picking up the stitches for it in the wrong place and so the increasing and decreasing were in the wrong position and the blanket would never have sat flat. It all had to be undone and started again. At least this time I had had experience with the technique.

Also, managing the last section, the sky, on two circular needles joined with a connector, and a stitch count of 928. I had to work at a table.

Q. What yarn did you use?
A. It is all Bendigo 8ply yarn, leftovers and stash, except for a small amount of three colours of Rowan Felted Tweed (also leftovers) in the lake section.

Q. If you had to give a three word description of the process, what would it be?
A. Exciting, interesting and big.

Q. What do you love most about the finished product?
A. I love how the colours worked out and the weight and quality of the yarn. It feels lovely to use and is cozy and warm.

Q. Would you make it again?
A. No, I don't need two, and I have other projects lined up.

Q. What will your next crafting challenge be?
A. The current Stephen West MKAL.

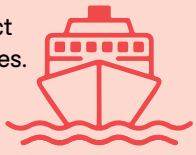
Q. Is there anything else you'd like us to know about the project?
A. It is a big project but a great stash buster and a lovely worthwhile blanket to enjoy. It also reminds me of my visit to that beautiful country.

THE GUILD CRUISE IS COMING IN 2027

The fifth Knitters' Guild Cruise will set sail from Friday 17 September to Monday 20 September 2027 on the Carnival Splendor. The cruise is like a floating version of the Guild Gathering – a fun bunch of knitters and crocheters gather together to learn and interact and have a great time away over a weekend.

Cruise fares include accommodation and food. To find out more and book your spot visit **www.shorturl.at/RjFr4** and make sure you select the **17-20 September 2027 sailing**.

You can read more about the Guild Cruise and what to expect and how to take part by reading the October issue of KG Bytes.



GUILD INFORMATION

Executive Committee meetings are held online (via Zoom) on the third Tuesday of each month from 7.30pm. Any member is welcome to attend. Please contact the Secretary to obtain the Zoom link by emailing secretary@knittersguildnsw.org.au

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Katherine Ireland (Inner City)

SECRETARY
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Helen Milne (Capital Region)
Marg Rafferty (Inner City)
Louise Sonter (Epping)

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KGBytes Editor
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RETAIL MEMBERS

Recently, the Guild welcomed this new retail member.

Bean Town Shu

Bean Town Shu is based in the outskirts of the Canberra area and works with recycled or scrap timbers to create tools and accessories for fibrecrafters. Like many crafters, Shu has failed to stick to one craft but has fortunately found great synergy between woodworking and knitting/spinning. She chooses to work with scrap and recycled woods to reduce her environmental impact. These woods are primarily hardwood and come in a variety of species, grains, shapes and sizes, meaning each piece is truly unique.

The product line is constantly expanding but currently includes shawl pins, i-cord tools, nostepinnes, yarn swifts, yarn kebabs (holders), knit and crochet blockers and spindles.

Instagram: @bean.town.shu
Email: bean.town.shu@gmail.com

RETAIL MEMBERS

WITH THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING RETAILERS WHOSE MEMBERSHIP HELPS SUPPORT THE GUILD.

24 MILE HOLLOW YARN CO
Kandos
W | 24milehollowyarnco.com.au
E | 24milehollowyarnco@gmail.com

ADAGIO ALPACA MILLS
Hawkesbury
W | adagiomills.com.au
E | info@adagiomills.com.au
FB | facebook.com/adagioalpacamills
INSTAGRAM | @adagiomills

ADORKABLE HANDMADE
E | adorkablehandmade@gmail.com
INSTAGRAM | @adorkablehandmade

AUSTRALIAN ALPACA YARN
Alpaca Ultimate
W | australianalpacayarn.com.au
E | sales@australianalpacayarn.com.au
FB | facebook.com/alpacaultimate/

BELLEVUE PARK WOOL
W | www.bellevuepark.com.au
INSTAGRAM | @bellevue_park_wool

BENDIGO WOOLLEN MILLS
4 Lansell St
Bendigo VIC 3550
P | 03 5442 4600
W | bendigowoollenmills.com.au
E | info@bendigowoollenmills.com.au

BONNIE'S DAUGHTER
Maryville
W | bonniesdaughternaturaldye.com
INSTAGRAM | @bonnies_daughter

BUMBLEBEE KNITS & YARNS
P | 03 5442 4600
W | bumblebeeknits.com.au
E | info@bumblebeeknits.com.au
INSTAGRAM | @bumblebeeknitsandyarns

RETAIL MEMBERS

Continued from previous page

BUTTERFLYS YARN CRAFT
Hurstville
W | butterflysyarncraft.com.au
E | butterflysyarncraft@gmail.com
INSTAGRAM | @butterflysyarncraft

CASTLE HANDMADE
Shop 21 Springett's Arcade,
302 Bong Bong Street
Bowral NSW 2576
P | 0416 307 408
W | castlehandmade.com.au
E | info@castlehandmade.com.au

CONVENT AND CHAPEL WOOL SHOP
52 Louee Street,
Rylstone
W | conventandchapelwool.com
E | conventandchapel@gmail.com
INSTAGRAM | @conventandchapel

CRAFTY CREATURES AU
5 Bottlebrush Avenue
Bli Bli QLD 4560
INSTAGRAM | @craftycreaturesau

CRAFTY FROG
4/107 Marconi Cres
Kambah, ACT
W | craftyfrog.com.au
E | shop.crafty.frog@gmail.com
INSTAGRAM | @craftyfrog.com.au_

ELEVENTYONE WINDMILLS
Newcastle
W | eleventyonewindmills.com.au
INSTAGRAM | @111windmills

FABRIC GARDEN
Level 2, Andrews House
15/185 Military Road
Neutral Bay
W | fabricgarden.com.au

FIBRE ARTS SHED
Central Coast
P | 0422 160 506
W | fibreartsshed.com.au

GLENHEAVENKNITS
W | etsy.com/au/shop/glenheavenknits
E | glenheavenknits@gmail.com

GLENORA WEAVING & WOOL
Berry
P | 0424 868 200
W | glenoraweaving.com.au
E | glenoraweaving@gmail.com
INSTAGRAM | @glenoraweaving

GREAT OCEAN ROAD WOOLLEN MILL
W | gorwm.com.au
E | hello@gorwm.com.au

GRETA'S @ KILLARA
5 Marian Street
Killara NSW 2071
W | gretaskillara.com.au

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145 Alison Road
Wyong NSW 2259
W | grumpyginger.com.au
FB | facebook.com/Grumpy.Ginger.Yarn
INSTAGRAM | @grumpy.ginger.yarn

HODGEPODGE SKEINS
W | hodgepodgeskeins.com/shop
E | kaz@hodgepodgeskeins.com

JOKAMAMO TEXTILES
W | jokamamotextiles.com

KAALUND YARNS
W | kaalundyarns.com.au

LUXE HANDWEAVING
Toronto
P | 0417 399 353
W | www.luxehandweaving.com
E | Linda luxehandweaving@gmail.com
INSTAGRAM | @luxehandweaving

MAKE N SIP
Shop 1, 32-34 Coronation Parade,
Enfield
W | makeandsip.com.au
INSTAGRAM | @make_n_sip

MARLYN ALPACA
Thornleigh
P | 02 9481 0949
W | marlynalpaca.com.au

OBSESSION YARNS
W | obsessionyarns.com.au
E | obsessionyarns@gmail.com

ONE STITCH TWO STITCH
Kellyville Ridge, NSW
W | onestitchtwostitchco.etsy.com
E | angieschroder.42@gmail.com
INSTAGRAM | @onestitchtwostitchco

SET ON SEWING & CRAFT
Shop 2, Ron Alt Lane
Toukley, NSW 2263
P | 02 4397 2373
W | setonsewingandcraft.com.au

SIGNATUR HANDKNITS
P | 0427 064 834
W | sigknit.com
E | jane@sigknit.com
FB | facebook.com/SignaturHandknits
INSTAGRAM | @signaturhandknits

SPUNOUT FIBRES
Hill End, NSW
P | Ann: 0409 823 045
E | spunoutfibres@gmail.com

TERREY HILLS EMPORIUM
Terrey Hills
E | terreyhillsemporium@gmail.com
INSTAGRAM | @terreyhillsemporium

THE AUSTRALIAN WOOL STORE
P | 0408 880 441
W | theaustralianwoolstore.com

THE WOOL INN
Shop 14, NK Centre
450 High Street, Penrith
W | the-wool-inn.com.au/shop/
E | shop@the-wool-inn.com

THIS LUSH CORNER
Snowy Mountains, NSW
W | thislushcorner.com

THREE MUSCATS FIBRE FARM
Wattle Ponds, NSW
W | threemuscatsfibrefarm.com.au
INSTAGRAM | @threemuscatsfibrefarm

THREE TREES FIBRE CRAFT
W | threetreesfibrecrafts.com.au
FB | facebook.com/threetreesfibrecrafts
INSTAGRAM | @threetreesfibrecrafts

VIRGINIA FARM WOOL WORKS
P | 0448 866 789
W | virginiafarmwoolworks.com.au

WARATAH FIBRES
Bundanoon
P | 02 4883 6138
W | waratahfibres.com.au
E | helen@waratahfibres.com.au

WOOL 2 YARN
Mornington
P | 0404 753 840
W | wool2yarn.com.au

WOOLSHED @ MANUKA
Shop 2B, Manuka Court
11-17 Bougainville St
Manuka ACT 2603
P | 02 6295 0061
W | woolshed.com.au

YUMMY YARN AND CO
29 Talbragar Street
Dubbo NSW 2830
P | 0431 754 909
W | yummyyarnandco.com.au