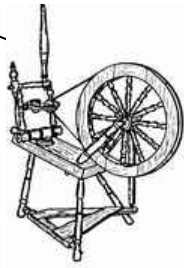


The Crossfibres



May 2008

Hello to All

How the year has flown! And what great things we have accomplished so far! The January meeting was held at Chesterfield Farm (to accommodate the teaching in the morning) and was extremely well attended. We welcomed several new faces to that meeting including **Stella Black** (right, who I was teaching) and her mum **Ronda, Mo Hay, Carolyn Jones, and Ann Buckmaster**. These students discovered all about our group project for the Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show Craft Section and our trip to Churchill Island for the Sheep to Shawl Competition as part of the Working Horse Festival on Easter Saturday. Cheer squads welcomed!



February saw Pat and Ria enter more items for competition, this time in the **Berwick Show**. I entered some skeins, too – and I was the only one of us to receive nothing! What a buzz! The students outstrip the teacher! This is exactly how it should be!

Your Roving Woolly Reporter (Pat) says: “Berwick Agricultural Show has been and gone and competition in the Art Craft Pavilion was pretty stiff, however a strong contingent of Crossfibres Girls, Marion, Denise, Ria, Pat, and Noreen gave the locals a run for their money. Congratulations to Denise (Left) for 1st prize in Felting, Ria for 1st and 2nd in the spinning skeins section, Noreen for 3rd in the patchwork section, and Pat winning the Vasa knitting competition and will now represent Berwick at the Port Phillip Group final. Well done everybody good luck for the Pakenham Show.”



Ria reports on Pakenham:” Well, it was hot at 40 degrees and there were no horses to be seen, (which was a good thing, as both animals and riders would have wilted in the heat!) but to make up for them not being there, there was this wonderful art and craft section to wander through.

All the usual crafts were represented: the school sections where you could see the works of budding artist, from the individual drawings to class projects. The pastry cooks, the general painting and photography, and the usual assortment of cakes, pickles, and preserves were also on show. For the first time, I saw exhibits from home-brew beer makers on one of the tables. (As a non drinker, I didn't know that there were so many different tastes in this area.)

The Craft pavilion was a popular area, as they had the air conditioner going and it was a pleasant atmosphere in which to study the spinning and knitting, of which there were many entries and many prize tickets. The judge seemed to be impressed with the entries, as she awarded several additional trophies.

Outside was the usual dog show, the sheep, goats and fowls. In this area were related crafts, from the Gembrook Craft group with their stall of knitting and embroidery for sale, plus related items of needles and patterns, to 3 ladies doing their spinning in the shade of a tree. They looked very serene despite the heat. See you at the next show”

In February, **Beryl Farr** came to speak to us about '**Preparing Articles for Showing**' and '**What Judges Look For**'. It was most informative -- in summary: Read the schedule; use proper construction techniques; garments may be modeled, so make sure they are wearable (neck bands must fit over the head, buttons go through the buttonholes, etc); enter in the correct section. For the judges, they look for effort and difficulty, originality and creativity as well as balance, cleanliness and construction. Samples of washed and unwashed fleece are to be supplied with the article. For skeins, ensure they are washed, reskeined, tied loosely, and re-twisted - remember the samples.

March saw more behind the scenes work done on the **Bendigo project**.

The Echidna (At right, by Ria) is fabulous, as is the Blue Tongue Lizard (Edith) and also the Platypus (Sue W). We are eager to see the Dingo taking shape (Tracey E) and the Emu has begun nicely (Kathryn). The background cardboard is being prepared (Marion) and the knitted wattle (Logie) is going to look lovely against the crocheted trees (!) and the TV Towers! Pat has chosen a lovely frame for the embroidered song. **We have the 10th May** meeting to pull all the loose ends together.



Sue Weston took capable charge of the Monday evening in March while **I was in Sunbury**, shed-handing (Roustabout) for Five Mile. We shored 1100 superfine merinos in 3 days with 3 shearers. It was fast and furious -- the shearers work really hard, especially when the first day in shed was 40degrees! I loved it! Oh, and since all of the sheep are white, there is no room for the **gorgeous little black and white 2yo ewe** that David (Grower) wanted me to put in the back of my car and bring to Boronia....If you already have sheep, one more will not make much difference, and you will save her from the freezer! **Please offer her a home – call me.**



Sheep to Shawl was fabulous fun! It put all our skills to the test, and, you know, we did very well! The black corriedale sheep who gave her fleece for us did so in a very relaxed manner. Colin, the shearer, used blades (as per contest rules) and the sheep was almost asleep at his feet while he was cutting! Did we hear snoring?! The actual fleece seemed to spin itself so the challenge became organizing the spinning and plying within each team, quick enough to keep the knitter well supplied. We did it. Jacqueline Hendry (Chelsea Heights class), Ria T and Barbara Mac formed #1; Lee André, Melissa Ryan and Marion formed team #2. Beryl, Carol

and Annie were the winners, however, finishing their shawl in 3 hours 14 minutes. Second place was Crossfibres 2 (Marion) with 3hours 52 minutes, and third place to Crossfibres 1 (Ria) at 3 hours 55 minutes. Even though the winners have the trophy, I think we have the better prize – the rest of the fleece!

Sheep and Wool Show Bus Trip – I have booked 48 seats, as requested, and we will be going up and back in the one day. (All accommodation in Bendigo is insisting on a 3 night booking, which is useless to us). At **\$73.00 return**, the cost is marginally more than last year but this still includes dinner and now dessert at the RSL Club, and entry to the Show as well. Choose your dinner and dessert when booking. [PS: we have lots of room for purchases...luggage compartment is under the bus!!]. NOTE: This does **not** mean that Tracey can bring home a bigger alpaca!



Oh yes, early booking will allow me to plan a bus pick up and drop off route. We may be able to collect you on the way through, and drop you closer to home. Good, eh?

By the time you read this, we will have also been to **Empire Day (17/5) at Gulf Station** (Yarra Glen), where Queen Victoria's birthday is celebrated in Turn-of-the-Century style. We will have dressed for the occasion and taken our wheels with us for a lovely day of social spinning and spreading the woolly word to the revelers. Perhaps the Queen will have sat and honoured us with a spin....



On Monday night 19th May, **Russ Corran*** will speak to us on **Maintaining Your Wheel**, and give us some anecdotes of the days of manufacturing. Bring your questions, and take advantage of having access to the manufacturer himself! He will have his Dad's book available too.

IMPORTANT: RSVP for this Marion 0409250969

NOW –

Join me in welcoming our new Crossfibres:

Doncaster Group:

Linet Daskalou,
Marilyn Ellis,
Melissa Beenham,
Pandora So,
Pat Lynch
Jenny Coppens.

Japara 2

Sonja Irvine
Judy Ann Cross
Maureen Jaworski

Private lessons

Linda Clements



Sue Sweetland

19 May* G/S "Maintaining your Wheel"

23 June

23 July

18 August G/S "Dyeing in Colours"

22 September

20 October

17 November

22 December

10 May Due date for Wombat Stew (Bendigo)

14 June

12 July

09 August Due Date for Royal Show

13 September Due Date for Stringybark

11 October 100gram Skein contest

08 November

13 December **Chesterfield Farm**

Special Events 2008:



Bus Trip to Bendigo Wool Show 19th July, all day \$73.00 INCL

Blacksmithing Festival Mt Delancey, Lilydale, 10 Oct, Demo all day

Stringybark Festival Rowville 25/26 October, Demo all day

Chesterfield Farm Spin Day 13 December All Day

Regards,