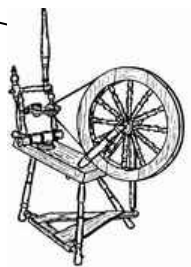


The Crossfibres

May 2011



Hello Everyone!

It's *more* than time to catch up on all the latest (N) ewes....

My Antarctic trip was a fabulous success and I have been enjoying re-living it almost every day, with publicity, public talks, demonstrations and interstate travel all combining to make this such a busy and fulfilling time. When I first decided to go to Antarctica and had to pay the early bird deposit, the trip was 15 months away. Preparation for the trip – practicing spinning in cold conditions – began 8 months before the day of travel. Now



it is 4 months since I have returned, the trip has come and gone, yet the adventure continues as I traverse

Australia. I have just returned from Sydney where I spoke to the **Handweavers and Spinners Guild of NSW**. It was a great success both personally and for Mawson's Huts Foundation. In July, I will be going across to Adelaide to address the **South Australia Handweavers and Spinners**, and that is going to be an exciting trip too. It includes a visit to the Adelaide Museum where there is a floor of Mawson items, where I



can compare my yarn to the actual balaclava! December will see me in Tasmania again, to Hobart this time, for the Mawson's Huts Foundation/Australian Antarctic Division Dinner and Auction. The balaclava will be auctioned here. SO --Anyone out there wanting to be taught spinning had better enroll while I am available to teach the class!!!

While we are talking about travel, **Barbara McGibbon** and her husband John have now embarked on their world trip, visiting England, Ireland, Europe and coming back via Asia – cruising most of the time. Yes, she took her spinning wheel....so when she returns, we shall see where Barbara has spun *her* yarns....



Ann Taylor has spent a bit of time travelling, too - domestically. Destinations like Flinders Island, Strachan in Tasmania, King Island (where the crayfish lunch caused a sensation: Yum!) and lately Pt Macquarie compel her to leave her wheel at home because the planes are too small for extra luggage! She tells me her next trip, this month, is to Cape York and Torres Strait.



Maybe bring back some fibre, Ann?

As for the rest of us, our travel is mostly in the local areas, and usually at a market or event. I will be attending **more Markets**, during the first half of each year. It is actually quite enjoyable sitting and spinning between customers, sort of "enforced" spinning which allows me to catch up on commissions and orders while attending to the woolly needs of each client. Customers buy yarn and garments, but they also

commission hand-done garments! I will also take a range of spinning equipment with me from now on – bobbins and hooks, knitting needles etc. so that we have a complete range. As always, all of you are very welcome to join me at the Markets. Pauline Pekala continues to be a faithful and ready assistant and I value her help and company. I will list the markets at the end of this edition.

Burrinja Gallery has had the **Alice Springs Beanie Festival Touring Exhibition** at their centre, in April and May, and they showcased some fabulous work in knitting and in crochet using all kinds of materials. There are some really talented people out there, with such imagination! The Hungry Caterpillar made his 3D appearance as one of the beanies, there were animals in 3D, people in 3D and I think my favorite was the Tea Party Hat – Cups, Saucers, Teapot and Sugar bowl and Creamer- all on the brim of the hat! Fascinating! Where would you wear it, though? Melbourne Cup? Nah....



Anyway, The Gallery asked me to run some **Knitting and Crochet workshops** for them on a couple of their weekends. Students booked in, bought the kits and were taught their topic, with personal instruction for the four hours of each workshop. All went away happy, if not with the finished project, then certainly with the skills to complete it at home. And the inspiration to even do another one!

A Demonstration was held at Vermont Sth Community House on the morning of **Australia's Biggest Morning Tea**, where about 30 people came to share tea, coffee and homemade scones. While they snacked, I spun! And while I

spun, we chatted – there is now a class out there on Wednesdays 1-3pm! 6 new spinners are waiting to be taught! (They have just had lesson.1 of4)

There have been lots of new students this year already, and it is exciting to open **2 new venues**: on the western side of the city: Maribyrnong and Spotswood

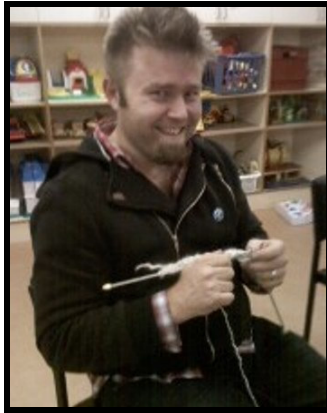
Welcome to New Spinners:



More new spinners.....



Margaret Williams (Basin)



Jake Laurie (Selby)



Wendy Railton (Basin)



Maraid Conlon (Maribyrnong)



Dot Dickson



Peter Dickson



Sharon Croft (All Maribyrnong)

And...

Scott Smale

From
Dandenong

Spotswood class begins on Monday 6/6. **Vermont South** Class pictures next edition

NOTE: I am still looking for a Doncaster Venue – any ideas?

Saturday 11th June is **World Knit in Public Day** and we have been invited up to Monbulk to join in their program from 10am till 2pm at Little Red's Craft Cupboard, 41 Main Rd, Monbulk. The idea is to knit a 20x20 8ply square to be sewn into blankets for needy children. Buy a kit for \$9.95 and join in the fun! More information at littleredscraft@gmail.com

Bastille Day, on 10th July will prove to be another great day of history and sharing, N'est-ce pas? We are there by invitation! Venez chez Mont Delancey, arrive about 9am bring your wheel to FILE LA LAINE (French for 'spin wool') and begin to and enjoy all things French. A toute a l'heure....

We will be going up to the **Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show on Saturday 16th July**. There are 4 seats left on the bus of 12, so first in best seated! Cost is \$100 for the day including an evening meal at the RSL Club, and admission to the Show. Bookings must be confirmed by 30/06. CALL ME to reserve your place. You can pay by directly to the Business account:

Bendigo Bank: 633-000 acct:127905024 Add your name and "BUS" to the deposit.

RASV Sheep to Shawl Competition is on Sunday 2nd October at the Showgrounds. We will be going in on the bus, and it will be \$40 each -- we are paying for the driver. (The Show gives us free admission, being part of the entertainment) We had 4 teams last year, and it was a great day of showing off our skills and good natured responses to the general public. It is easy being part of a team, and there will be beginners teams for this year! I am sure that the X-Factor will attend to defend their trophy!

My brief sharing of the experience of my Antarctica trip at the February Basin Crossfibres was – um- just the tip of the iceberg! I have been doing numerous **talks and presentations** since, and if you have not had a chance to come and hear, then please visit www.SpinningYarninAntarctica.com for the latest venue and times. There is still time to be involved and contribute to the Mawson's Huts Foundation. You also can buy a DVD of the presentation (filmed live in February at Knox Library), and of the actual Spinning... (Filmed live in Antarctica)



My very next trip is Sydney again for the Mawson's Huts Foundation. The next Event is the **Documentary Luncheon**. On 16th June. One of the Guest Speakers is **Jack Thompson**, who will be narrating the documentary. Mr Thompson is well known for his historical portrayals: Clancy in Man from Snowy River, the Defence lawyer in Breaker Morant, the head Shearer in Sunday Too Far Away....It will be a buzz to hear what he has to say about Mawson's Huts! Ticket sales close on Thursday 9th June. Anyone want to come with me?

As promised, here are the markets attended for 2011: Kallista 5/3, Kallista 2/4, Kallista 7/5
Mont Delancey 12/3, Gulf Station 14/3, Wandin Nth Prim Sch Harvest Festival 20/3
Heritage Fruits Doncaster 27/3, Yarra Junction Market 26/3
Burrinja Gallery 9/4 and 10/4, Burrinja Gallery 30/4 and 1/5, Selbyfest 16/4, Churchill Island 23/4.
Let's use the rest of the year to build up our stock for next year, and remember, if you have some items to add to the stall, I will be very pleased to sell them on your behalf.

We are halfway through the year already!
Please note these events and times for spinning and enjoying:

<u>Crossfibres:</u>	<u>Events</u>
Mont Delancey: 7/7, 4/8, 1/9, 6/10, 3/11,	World Knit in Public Day 11/6 Monbulk 10am
The Basin: 9/9, 13/8, 10/9, 8/10 , 19/11	Bastille Day 10/7 Mt Delancey, Wandin 9am
Selby: 21/7, 18/8, 22/9, 20/10, 17/11	Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show 16/7 Bus 730am
Doncaster: 27/7, 25/8, 29/9, 27/10, 24/11.	RASV Sheep to Shawl Comp 2/10 8am
	MarketDay My Delancey Wandin 8/10 from 9am
	Wandin Silvan Field Days 14/15 Oct 830am

There will be more events to add later, but for now, I think that will do nicely. Remember to have a look at the website for the Antarctica tour dates.

Regards,