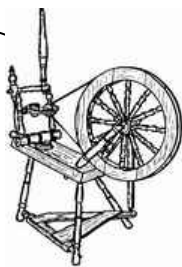


The Crossfibres

November 09



Hello Everyone!

Here is the latest ewes....

It is hard to believe how quickly another year has gone. Already I am planning for next year and eager to incorporate all the ideas you have for items and events you would like to attend. I understand that some of you come only for the social aspect, and I encourage that – lots of social interaction fosters friendships and ignites creativity. Others of you come to increase your knowledge and expertise by attending events and I encourage that too – sharing of knowledge allows growth and improvement of skills. These are things we can all do together in the happy and friendly, welcoming atmosphere that is the hallmark of Crossfibres.

We welcomed a new team to the Royal Show in September for **Sheep to Shawl**. Teresa Bennett brought Jen and Sarah with her from the Guild, to join our three other teams in competition for the **new trophy**. The fleece was



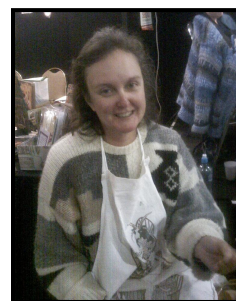
supplied by The Black and Coloured Sheep Breeders (Helen Wright of Kan-B Colours) and was absolutely perfect for spinning. The X-Factor completed their garment in the now record time of 3 hours and 15 minutes, followed closely by the Spinning Butterflies at 3 hours 16 minutes. The crowd was



Teresa, Jen and Sarah
"The X-Factor"
hard at work

attentive the whole time and we continued to provide information and entertainment as well as and answer questions, for the entire afternoon. The Woolley Wombles and the Spinning Superstars stayed with the clock until they were finished and at the end we had four lovely shawls displayed on the back wall.

We also welcomed **Karen Taylor** from Gembrook, who responded to our invitation to participate. She decided that Sheep to Shawl this year would be her first Competition and joined us on the bus for the journey. Her team achieved a satisfying Second place – only one minute behind the winners!



Carolyn Rogers came to Arrabri in May, and she gave a brilliant presentation of Felting. There are several techniques which she demonstrated and there was a bit of audience participation too, with Stella assisting Carolyn with the rolling procedure. Did you know that several kinds of fibre can be felted together to special effect? And that your end product is actually quite a bit smaller than when you started?

Actually, some of Carolyn's techniques I used in my part of our **Bendigo Project** for this year. With the theme of "Spinning a Yarn", there was lots of discussion, the final decision including a number of ideas from all 4



Crossfibres groups. We suspended from the ceiling a spider web with the words in it (a la Charlotte's Web) and had the presentation on 2 levels. Top level is the Library where we read yarns, the lower level is the spinning and knitting people where we manufacture yarns. I did a very silly thing by signing our "Crossfibres" name to the story accompanying the project because that would have given the judges an idea of our ownership. The presenters removed it prior to judging, though. Whew! We didn't win, or place, but we participated and enjoyed the challenge.

We have been to **Mont DeLancey** for our annual Crossfibres day and enjoyed our first sunburn of the season! It was a gorgeous day, warm in the afternoon and we had plenty of attention and enquiries about spinning. **Jean Kroese** again won the 100gm Skein Contest (alternatively known as The Longest Thread), surpassing her record from last year with a whopping 46m, more than double her nearest competitor!, and took home the first prize

of a jade coloured embroidered (with a spinning wheel, of course) hand towel, and sheep chocolates. Jean's record will be hard to beat, but be warned: You all have a year to practice...

In July at Mont DeLancey, they celebrated **Bastille Day**, and had the French and English (re-enactment) armies in attendance, complete with firing rifles, together with a representative of the French Consulate. There was a flag raising ceremony, and the storming of the (hay bale) Bastille. We watched a lot of this from the comfort of the marquee, sitting at our wheels, dressed in French style, and facing the "battle zone". My French heritage surfaced in every "Bonjour".

(Laugh for the day: One observer of our spinning asked me if I could spin straw into gold – referring to the fairytale – and he was answered by another observer that "If she could, do you think that she would be here?")

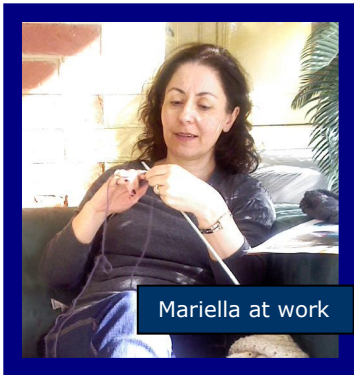
Did any of you catch the **radio interview** on Friday June 5th? Eastern FM had me in their studio to explain about spinning and fibre, and to give my opinion on related craft topics. I must say that I have always imagined radio hosts as being able to do 30 things at once with all the buttons and knobs and coordinating the broadcast, being able to think minutes ahead to press the correct lever. Well, it's TRUE. They do! It was a very interesting experience. I hope they ask me back!

And of course, by now, we have been to **Alexandra for their Centennial of Rail**. As pioneers, we showed off our skills, dressed in costume, and received wide interest. As a special blessing, we also received 2 wool fleeces from Jenny Butterfield, who wanted her unused fleeces to go to good homes. We also received some Alpaca fleeces from Kereth Farn, which we shared and I still have 2 to place. Call me if you would like one. (They will be given as we received them, unsorted and still in the feedbags). Officially, we have received a "Thank you for Your Participation" letter.

There have been several demonstrations at **Lilydale library** this year and one at **Boronia Library**, which produced a newspaper article in the Knox Leader. (You can find this on the Website) Currently, there is a display at **Arrabri Community Centre** in Bayswater. There have been Guest Speaking spots at craft groups. And we have again been available for **Gulf Station** and the school groups learning about farm life 1800s. Thanks to Ann and to Jean for taking on the task of teaching the group on the day I



could not attend. You did a great job, much appreciated by staff and students, and especially by me. (As always, all Crossfibres are welcome to join me at functions and special days. I will let you know when things are on, in plenty of time to arrange displays etc.)



Mariella at work

Knitting Class, held in Doncaster, was a new venture for this year. Four lovely ladies came to the first class, with their projects and questions and we had a great time exploring the end use of yarn. Projects were completed and satisfaction achieved. Mariella is now doing a wrap sweater in moss stitch – a lovely soft Lavender colour. Linda is attempting a Kaffe Fassett sweater using the trademark 20 colours, Rosslyn is completing her baby jacket, Paula is perfecting the cast on, knit and purl stitches and Sophia is beginning another sweater.

Filming for the Website was completed in September in Doncaster and will be up on the screen before the end of December. The effect will be “interactive” and will include the Newsletters and some Testimonies as well as full details of regular events, with an RSVP button to register your attendance at these events. This will assist me in planning for feasibility, transport and seating etc.

Coming up in March is a new venture – something untried for us - and that is a market stall at the **Wandin Primary School Harvest Festival**. They like to promote Natural things at this event and The School has suggested we bring our items to sell, while promoting spinning and Crossfibres. The stall space will cost approximately \$30. (We may have to bring our own tent – I have to find out about that) and this cost will be divided by the number of people participating. If you want to come, and sell some of your skeins, or balls or finished garments, toys, etc, then you will look after your own merchandise and keep your profits. If you would like to participate, but cannot attend, then Crossfibres will take a 10% commission for selling your items. All items are to be carefully double-labelled. (The Same information twice; once for the buyer to accompany the purchase, once for the records of the seller). Call me with an indication of your commitment, and your intended items, which should be in by early February (our first meeting for the new year). Of course, you are welcome to come and just spin – maybe do orders on the spot!

Both the **Gembrook Spin in** and the **Lang Lang Spin in** were good gatherings of industrious spinners with plenty of demonstrations and fibre people to speak to. Beryl Farr, the lady who came to speak last year about preparing your articles for Showing, welcomed us for her event, and we proceeded to spin in good company.

And speaking of Shows, I had an email from **Tracey Enright** yesterday, to say the articles that she submitted for the Lilydale Show won prizes in those sections! Congratulations! And **Pat McAleese** was successful at Bendigo, The Royal Show, Lilydale, and Yea.

Since we last saw her, **Maria Godden** has been to a wedding –hers! She met her (now) husband earlier this year and took things very excitedly. Her grown children approve and her spinning buddies are just as excited for her. Still living in Greensborough, Maria will be a Crossfibre for a while yet! Hopefully we will all meet Mr Vandenberg At Chesterfield farm.



PTO for our new Spinners and Knitters.....

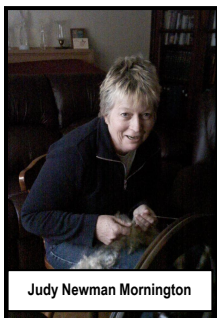
Join me in welcoming these new **Spinners**:



Kate Short Selby 5



Robyn Bowker Selby 5



Judy Newman Mornington



Leticia Moore Rowville

And also

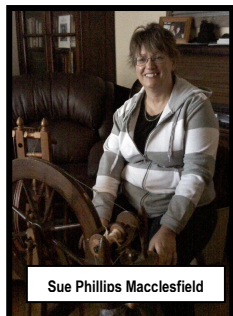
Renee Howell (Bendigo)
Sylvie Mander (Mt Evelyn)



Amy Laker-Bruni Selby 6

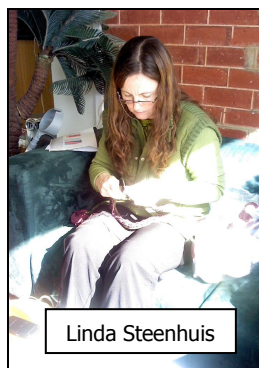


Prue Licht Selby 6

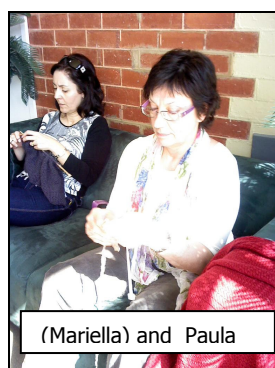


Sue Phillios Macclesfield

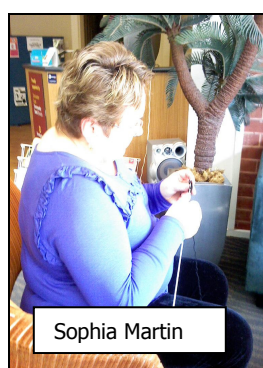
And we have some new **Knitters** too:



Linda Steenhuis



(Mariella) and Paula



Sophia Martin



Rosslyn Jones

The events and timetable for 2010 appear overleaf
THERE ARE NO EVENTS IN JANUARY

Next year is going to be quite exciting! At time of printing, I am waiting to hear about **Churchill Island and the Sheep to Shawl Competition down there**. Depending on numbers interested, I will organize **a bus for Bendigo** and there is a possibility of a trip to an **alpaca property**. We still have **Mont Delancey** and **Chesterfield Farm** to come and, of course, **Gulf Station**.. And as always, if there is something special or particular that you are interested in and would like to happen, I will do my best....

Marion



Timetable for 2010

There are no events in January

Month	The Basin Community House	Selby Community House	Doncaster Try Activity Ctr	Bayswater Arrabri Comm Ctr	Special Event
January	0	0	0	0	
February	13	15	25		
March	13	22	25	TBA	Wandin Primary Harvest Market (Stall)
April	10	19	29		3 rd Churchill Island??
May	8	17	27		
June	19	21	24	TBA	
July	10	19	29		16/17 th Bendigo
August	21	16	26		
Sept	11	20	30		19 th RASV Sh2Sh Comp
October	9	18	28	TBA	9 th Mont Delancey
November	20	15	25		
December	11	11	11		11 th Chesterfield Farm All Welcome

Minimum numbers required for each venue, so Call to confirm your attendance – 0409250969