

NOVEMBER 2016

My Goodness! The year has flown by and we have accomplished so much since the **last** newsletter last November. Where do I start? Perhaps with our usual visit to **Chesterfield Farm**, and a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon of spinning. We filled bobbins leisurely and thoroughly. Taking that break at the end of the year is always a bit of a wrench for me and I look forward to the annual dyeing day in January, when we have the whole afternoon to play and experiment with colours and timing and combinations. We transformed many skeins from bland, non-colour to brilliant multicolour! We met Melinda's daughter Lorelei, and Meryl Thompson and the day finished with a splash of red coloured fluid into my garden.



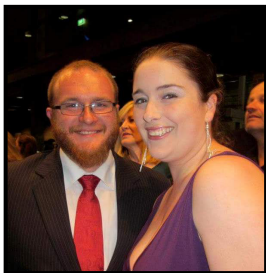
In December, I took a big leap of faith and began my journey into the world of Pets and Dogs, by attending **Dogs Day Out** in Cranbourne. Accompanied by Linden, the two of us spoke to many dog owners about fibre, spinning and collecting fur. The overwhelming response was one of joyous wonder! The Owners were very pleased to have someone to provide such a service and many orders have resulted. This year, Dogs Day Out is on the 11th December and I will again be there, with an empty car, ready to accept the next lot of orders!

The **SpinningPetsYarn website** became active just after the Dogs Day Out, and has had many visitors and contacts since. As of July this year, I added another page to cover all the amazing publicity (June 2017). On that one day of 29th June, there were 13 back-to-back radio and TV interviews to juggle, beginning with Channel 7, and culminating, 5 days later, in a radio interview with the Micallaef Show on Radio **DUBLIN!!** It all started at **THE AGE**, who saw that I was going to do a pet spin demonstration at **Boronia Library** and who ran the story on the Monday morning. In other print, the story went to "That's Life!" magazine, and just recently to "Seniors Magazine".....and it's not over yet! You can read more on the media page: www.spinningpetsyarn.com.au



My interview at **Radio 3WBC** will be up on the website in the new year.

January saw me open an **ETSY shop**. That was fun, and as with anything online, pictures are the most important aspect of displaying your work. I can now use a photo cube! And I have sold my Fibre Sandwich yarn to a lady in USA! <https://www.etsy.com/au/shop/FancySpinningaYarn?>



Those of you who joined us a couple of years ago at the Theatre night will remember my son **Matthew and his partner Rowena** – They were married on 22nd January. Very quietly, family only, at the Registry Office, the ceremony was simple and elegant, followed by a special lunch in the city. Their Engagement Party was the next night, on purpose, to surprize all their friends. And yes, it worked! They *were* surprised! And now both of my boys are settled.....

In April, **Ronelle Welton of Cloverleaf Corriedales**, spent the afternoon with us, brought STUNNING fleeces to show us, many of which were prizewinning ones. As a spinner herself, Ronelle knows what she wants for a fleece. More importantly, she knows what *every* spinner wants in a fleece and it was our privilege to “relieve” her of most of them! Cloverleaf Corriedales continue to show and to win prizes, a testament to Ronelle’s skill as a breeder. Her sheep have names.....and she does not have a dog—when she wants her sheep, she just calls them..... and they come.



As a Committee member of **EMACH** – Eastern Makers and Creators Hub), we were asked to give workshops during the holidays, in addition to attending the Knox Festival. So the enrollments came, I taught, the students learned and Crossfibres has grown again by several more! Hadn’t realized how much I missed a class situation (as opposed to one on one) and it was a joy!

July saw us back on our bus for the **Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show** and a day of fibre activity. As well as our usual stalls and sights, this time we were meeting **Katerina Simpson** from Canberra, who put it out on Facebook that she wanted to join a group for dinner on Saturday night, so we invited her to join us. Her first time at Bendigo, she had driven down from Canberra by herself, intending to fill the car for the return trip! A more excited crafter would be hard to find! (Noelle and Katerina sat together) and yes, she made it back safely to Canberra, wool to the roofline of the car!



The Vikings (of all ages...) came this August with their LUCETs and we all had a turn making the cords. Some found it to be a challenge, and some found it quite easy, yet we all came away each with our own personal lucet, so we could try this at home. We invited the Vikings to come with us to Stringybark, where they taught anyone who wanted to learn the Lucet, and had a great time doing it! They are hoping to join us again next year.

The Royal Melbourne Show

---- asked us to return to spin for the 11 days, so with a staff of 20 and some of you doing multiple days we covered the whole time and loved every minute. **David Stickland** – who visited us 2 years ago, showing us how to knit a sweater in one piece – came down from Ballarat; **Veronica Priver** came up from Gippsland, new student **Lucy Verberg** joined us New client **Flora Lees** (wheel repair) came from Healesville for the day to join us on stage. . It was great to catch up with **Christopher Fox**, and we found out that **Kieran Matheson** is an apiarist (bee keeper) who used to teach grade 5s. We spoke to, literally, hundreds of people all of whom wanted to hear about spinning Pet Fur....and who did not want to shave their dog..... Why?



Note: I really enjoy hearing you explain, lovingly, your craft to a very interested public! You take great care to be kind and thorough. We made a big impression with our craft, spinning the dog fibres and being the only constant “live” demonstration in the Farmyard Pavilion. A big THANK YOU to all of you!

Amusing Note: we had to sign in to the Farmhouse Pavilion each day. When Kieran came, the lady taking the signatures told me “One of your spinners has arrived: He’s MALE” (Shock, horror!)

Also in September, the Mawson's Huts Foundation ran an **Antarctic Festival** weekend on 9, 10, 11 September and because I was in Horsham with Maths, I could not go so I sent a video message and a SAMOYED ladies shoulder cape for them to auction at the Gala Dinner. I was told that it raised \$450 for the Foundation, and I am chuffed! Next Festival is in 2yrs, and they will make room for me to spin again!



October, and we had 2 special guests.

Anne Miller who showed us her "Spirit" blanket, crafted and knitted from the fibre spun for her ---Belgian Shepherd.

Alison Thomas, who brought her Groodle "Millie" to meet us and have the fur assessed. That will spin beautifully!

STRINGYBARK Festival in Rowville is always a special treat: 2 days of craft and "sustainability" things. We were there, in the foyer, to speak to the public. We were part of the EMACH display and workshop area, the Vikings joined all of us and the festival goers were offered opportunities of felting, sewing, drop spinning, Lucet and clay work. The Pet Spin stand was well examined by all – Thanks to Katherine, Kaye, Barbara Mac and Natalie Oakley.



I write this at the end of a busy weekend, on Saturday, having returned home from the **Heritage College Festival** where we had been asked especially to come to show our skills. They arranged for some sheep to be shorn so we could spin and then they would auction our work at the end of the day. The Border Leicester/Texel fibre was lovely, and flew into the machine! We finished the day with 4 skeins totaling 340gms – which sold for \$45. Elenore is holding up our day's work.

On Sunday, with **EMACH**, it was our first foray into the realms of weekend trading, The **Belgrave Big Dreams Market** was cold and damp, we were rained on, but undaunted, the EMACH team pulled it together -- one of many to come, I expect. I found that lots of people in Belgrave bring their dogs to the market, so I began handing them my flicker, asking owners for some fibre and spinning it up right then and there, so they had something viable in their hands, to brag about and to see timing and quantity and possibilities. There will be a few more people putting in orders.....

DOGS DAY OUT at KCC Cranbourne on 11 December. I am excited to be able to make more markets, lessons, classes and yarns now that I am leaving World of Maths after 4 years of presenting. I will miss the travel and the interaction with other education professionals but with another bag of fluff on my doorstep every time I come home, I am keen to take up the challenge of making **SpinningPetsYarn** my main focus.



And of course, you would be very welcome to join me at any or all of the extra activities we do – markets, displays etc. There are opportunities all the time, usually free and/or benefit for you, for extra spinning and speaking to the public. We can all have fun and be productive at the same time.

And now, here are our new spinners.....

Smiling in Achievement!



Winnie Dougal



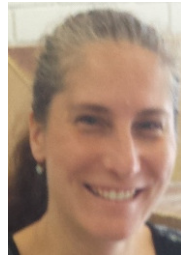
Judi Seath



Ligia Prado



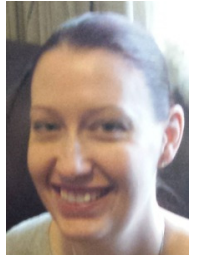
Krysia Parkinson



Angela Stopic



Cathy Rowe



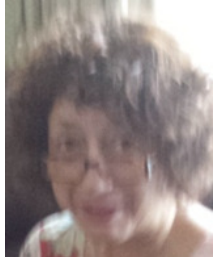
Nicole Spencer



Noelle Taig



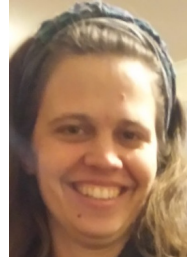
Rachel Bowen



Marie Wilson



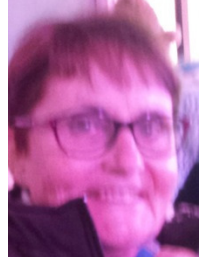
Bree Harrington



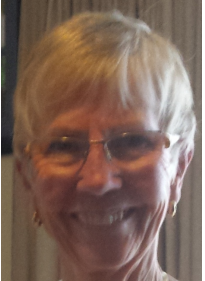
Alison Elliott



Kiri Bear



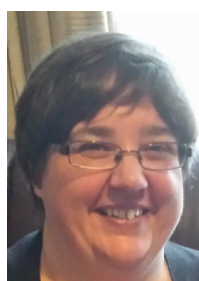
Barbara Knell



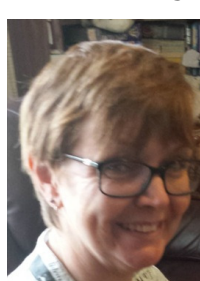
Sandiy Pelling



Lucy Verberg



Lisa Keep



Peri Dix



Coming up

DOGS DAY OUT

Sunday 11th December

KCC Park, Cranbourne

Arrive 830am/bring wheel

Collect Enquiries/Spread the Word

RSVP 7th Dec

www.spinningpetsyarn.com.au