



Hello Everyone!

More (n)ewes for you.....

Let me start this edition of the newsletter by wishing you a **Happy New Year!** At the rate the time is flying, it will indeed be New Year before we know it and we need to be ready. There will be lots happening in 2012 – and it takes a bit of planning...so hold on and -- um ---Come for a Spin!

At the end of June, I drove over to **South Australia**, for my first visit there and my second interstate Guest Speaking about Antarctica. Bev Bills and the SA Guild were very keen to hear all about the practice, the preparation and the details of the trip, and I was very happy to re-live the experience for them, which they all enjoyed. I visited the **SA Museum**, saw the Mawson exhibits, had photos taken of the comparison of yarn for the balaclava, and chatted with **Mark Pharaoh** of the "Friends of Mawson" group there. **ABC Radio "Country Hour"** asked me to come and be interviewed for their program, so Drew Radford's conversation with me was aired on July 1. I made time to go to Glenelg beach too, and collect some fresh salty air to go with the seashells....



(The SA Guild owns their own premises, making good use of all the rooms in their building. The front is the shop where people can come in and browse, there is a kitchen and adjacent dining area, a back craft room, and a stage and big hall used for the meetings. They are very well provisioned.)

This all happened after my first interstate trip to the **Sydney Guild**, where president Ann Beatty and her group looked after me very well and also loved hearing about Antarctica. At the forefront of technology, they have begun a new thing – they simulcast their meetings! This means that members from all over the country can tune in on their computers, attend the meeting and not have geography get in the way!



There was one day that I felt very extravagant, I have to say. On 16th June, I caught the 7am plane to Sydney, arrived and was walking at Circular Quay by 9am, attended the **Mawson's Huts Luncheon** where I met and chatted with Jack Thompson, had a brilliant lunch, spoke with many Mawson's Huts supporters, left the city centre at 310pm, caught the 5pm plane back to Melbourne and walked back through my front door at 830pm. How special is that?!

Back in time for **Bastille Day** at Mont Delancey, it was a cold and miserable day; raining and soggy. But that is good for business – Ann and I sold a few scarves while listening to French Accordion music, spinning and keeping busy at the DRY end of the marquee. We were treated to a piece of cake by the people sitting next to us – a reward for all our hard work of spinning, they said. The weather did not stop the troops, though, and the straw bale Bastille was stormed -- Literally as well as liquidly!

July also meant **Bendigo**, and the Sheep and Wool Show, so we hired the bus from our good friends at Budget in Bayswater. We arrived about 10am-ish and most of us melted away into the crowd, eager to see our own special interests. I went to visit Mandie Chandler from **Ewe Give Me the Knits**. Mandie is a Majacraft Dealer and she was hosting Glenys and Owen Poad (Majacraft manufacturers). I spent part of the morning with them, helping to sell Wheels, demonstrating and answering Antarctic questions – I gave a short talk –before I met with **Carolyn Rogers from Ripples on the Pond**. We talked felting, which is her specialty, of course. I caught up with Wendy Dennis, and John Conlan and amazingly –because I did not expect him to be here in Bendigo – Richard Ashford. The list of who else I did NOT get a chance to talk to, is even longer! It was the best Bendigo day for a long time – we all agreed. Good company at dinner with like-minded people, and we all bragged about our day!



The Royal Melbourne Show was a really big thing for us this year. As well as me helping with the fleece judging, and organizing the **Sheep to Shawl Contest**, we were asked to provide knitters and spinners for each of the 11 days of the show, being part of the **"Click Go the Shears"** event, shearing each day - sheep, alpacas, goats – seven shows, and we were required to demonstrate and explain our part of the process- which we all did to great accolades. It was a shame that

no other spinning group wanted to join us and be part of showcasing our craft. Crossfibres is more than adequate for the task. Thank you to Pauline Pekala (The Basin), Melinda Dixon (Selby, who is expecting her 3rd baby in January) Melissa Prime (Vermont south), Frances Brennan (Spotswood, and drop spindle), Melissa Ryan (Narre

Warren), Jake Laurie (Selby, who caused such a positive stir with his crochet) Chris Winkett (Doncaster), Carolyn Rogers (Ripples on the Pond), Lynne Fielding (Blairgowrie), Jenny Timms (Mitcham), Judy Laing (Vermont Sth), Katherine Hoey (The Basin), and Ann Taylor (The Basin)



A very special Thanks to **Allan Oldfield** from Christchurch New Zealand who – though here for the wood chopping team, visited and stayed with us often at the shearing shed. Allan, aged 20yrs, is a blade shearer who SPINS and became part of our demonstration team, talking with the public, helping us answer questions. His spinning improved out of sight over the week! He also joined us for the Sheep to Shawl Contest, taking

Stephanie's place when she could not come at the last minute. Allan kept the yarn up to the ladies

on the team (Ann and Erica) and they achieved **SECOND PLACE!** So Allan went home with a prize, just not the wood chopping one he tried for!)

The Wandin Silvan Field Days were on 14 and 15 October – both gorgeous, blue-sky days, which kept all the visitors outside in the fresh air, rather than inside the General Interest tent where we were. So there were few sales but lots of spinning time. And I can tell you that BARBARA is back! She and John came to check out the stand on the Saturday, and Barbara stayed with me for a while, telling me about their round the world trip. They have had some adventures! Barbara will be coming to Crossfibres the Basin on Saturday 19th November.



Crossfibres in July was memorable for Pauline showing us her new crochet skills. This lovely pink and white throw rug is her favorite project. Jean modelled her fingerless gloves, and Katherine is knitting a curly scarf.

I found out belatedly (as in too late to tell many of you, even on internet) that the **BCSBAA Day** had moved venues and weekends. Now in Cranbourne, the hall is much bigger and much friendlier. Most of the usual stall holders were there, and though I went just to help Fran with her lambs, I ended up doing something else that I really enjoy – taking photos. I became the photographer for the day, the raffle prize collector and the resident Antarctic spinner. While there, I made a connection with someone I had not seen since Grade 10! Lynne Fielding was my best friend in those days and we had lost track of each other. And – you will never guess – she spins! She has had her wheel since Grade 10! Lynne became part of the team for the Royal Show.



This lady, **Joanne Bailey**, I met for the first time in September. She is the overall winner for the photo competition that was on the Antarctica Website and she is wearing her prize. I knitted and crocheted a matching hat and scarf, using the “Antarctic Sunrise” Yarn (from the Tamar Valley Spinners) and not only did it fit perfectly, she was stunned by the colours. Her winning photo had similar colours....I asked Joanne how she came to be in the contest – she said her partner picked up a flyer about it at last year’s Royal show...(So being out in public has definite benefits!)

As you well know, I never tire of speaking about Antarctica. To date, I have done 21 One Hour presentations at various clubs and libraries and am taking bookings into 2012. Each talk is unique, more information added each time, and sometimes I share different information, depending on the questions asked. After 1st December, when I have returned from Hobart and the Centenary dinner and Auction, I will have more to say! Oh, and **ANYONE CAN COME TO THE DINNER** (Hobart Grand Chancellor Hotel) and **ANYONE CAN BID ON THE ITEMS** – just thought I’d tell you that.

Also – I have **fridge magnets** available for purchase, more fundraising for Mawson's Huts. You can buy a picture of me with the penguin and keep it on your freezer door! How appropriate! \$4 each

Welcome to New Spinners:



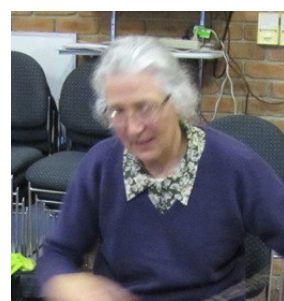
Alice Ryan (Kensington)



Jenny Timms (Mitcham)



Fiona Burnes (Kensington)



Jean Leeman (Vmt Sth)



Marcella O'Connor (MBNG)



Dawn Bagley (Spotswood)



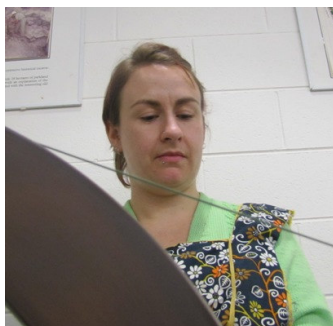
Sina Brown-Davies (Caulfield)



Evelyn Street (Vmt Sth)



Margaret Mason (Highbury)



Jade Barrow (MBNG)



Judy Laing (Vmt Sth)



Margaret McKenzie (Vmt Sth)



Erica Bird (Spotswood)



Mina Chiovitti (Vmt Sth)



Susan Viviers (Yarra Junct)



Ken Jacka (Yarra Junct)

And also:



Melissa Prime (Vmt Sth)



Frances Brennan (Spotswood)



Glory Toom (Spotswood)

Not pictured here this time: Maureen Purser from Yarra Glen, and Sue Lincoln from Kilmore (who came down to Melbourne especially for me to teach her!)



For the first time ever, we had 2 sections of the **Sheep to Shawl Competition**: The advanced team competed against the clock and their last year's timing to try to re-win the trophy, while 3 teams of beginners struggled to spin, ply, knit and sew up their efforts and win the new trophy! X-Factor was the first to finish, but not within the required time, so the trophy is not awarded this year. Congratulations to the "Three of Us" team (Frances, Glory and Jenny) who will each share brag time for the trophy. All participants have received a gift

certificate from **The Sassafras Woolstore** – Thanks for your support, Heather.

Which reminds me, participants, **redeem your prizes by 30th November**.

New spinner **Fiona Burnes** has a wool shop in Kensington, called **ONABEE**. I encourage you to pay her a visit when next you are nearby, and check out her supplies. She is always on hand to help and encourage.

Another first for this year, Katherine Hoey (The Basin) is in the "**Right on Theatre Company**" and is often on stage, so a group of 10 of us went to see "The Princess and the Pea" in August. Though not on stage this time (due to injury) Katherine joined us at our table and was able to see the show the way the audience does! And what an enjoyable evening it was! Jean and Hans, Pauline and Ted, Linda and Ken, Matthew and Rowena and me, we had lots of laughs and singing and great entertainment. We will all go again, and encourage you to join us for the next show.

Crossfibres Doncaster is back! At the same venue, would you believe? All that time I found no suitable hall, and The Bulleen and Templestowe Community House have welcomed us to their timetable on Thursday night once a month and will continue to have us in classes when they return to their refurbished building! Hurray!

I am in the process of doing the events for 2012, so if you have something special that you would like us to do, tell me. I will see what can be done. Katherine suggested **themes for each meeting** at The Basin, and that sounds good to me! In February, come with stories of your very first project.

Coming up to November, mark this in your calendars:



Chesterfield Farm, Scoresby, Saturday 26th November

From 10- 4pm. This is our last function for the year. ALL Crossfibres, Clients, and Private Lesson Students are not only welcome to attend, but ENCOURAGED to come and meet and spin with like-minded people, sisters in craft, spend the day with us in a rural environment, relaxing and doing what we enjoy most – Spinning. Families welcome, too, (Admission charges will apply to them though, whereas we have only our usual \$10 fee, paid to me, for the venue). Pies and pasties are available, they make great coffee.

On a personal note, my son **Richard** and his fiancée Erica, were married on 22 October, at the Arboretum in Boronia, in all that RAIN! We were under the rotunda. (Whew!) The Ceremony was lovely, and Rich and Erica had such beaming faces! Mine was tear-streaked, of course, (Praise God for waterproof mascara!) and the reception was at Enzo's Restaurant in Mt Waverley. I *loved* how Erica's Workmates held up score cards (like at the Olympics) for the Bridal Waltz!

Rich and Erica now live in Mt Waverley, and me and my 38 spinning wheels can spread out a bit....



I will be doing **Markets** for the first half of the year, so remember that if you have items, yarns, garments that you would like to sell, I can include these for you, selling on commission. If you would like to be part of the whole process, I would love to have assistance at each one. Pauline will tell you how much fun it is – she is a regular!

Our first Crossfibres for 2012 - the "Very first project" theme, will be:

Wed 8th Feb, 1-3pm, Vermont Sth,
Saturday 11th Feb, 12noon- 4pm, The Basin
Monday night 13th Feb, 730- 930pm, Maribyrnong
Thursday night, 16th Feb, 730-930pm, Selby
Thursday night, 23 Feb, 730-930pm Doncaster
There will be no Mont DeLancey in Feb.

The rest of the dates will be on the Website shortly, www.spinningayarn.com.au

See you at Chesterfield farm – call me to book in, please – and wish me well for the mawson Centenary dinner and auction,

Regards,