

# QSW&FA

queensland spinners, weavers & fibre artists



FEBRUARY 2018

# Clippings



LEADING  
ACTIVITIES AT  
COOKUP: Eco  
Dyed paper



**QSWFA has many groups that cater to all interests. Our groups share skills, ideas and projects and we meet regularly at Fibrecraft House, 12 Payne St Auchenflower. All members are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there!**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> General Meeting</b> 10am 11am 11.30-1pm 1pm-3.30 pm	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month 3/2/18</b> Morning Tea and Guest Speaker Announcements and Showcase Shop and Library open Craft Time
<b>Basket Cases</b> 9.30am-4pm	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month 4/2/18</b> Making & Weaving with natural & other materials
<b>Rolling Possums</b> 6pm-9.30pm	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month Feb. only 13/2/18</b> Technique & experimental felting
<b>Weavers Group</b> 10am-1pm	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the Month 7/2/18</b> Discussion
<b>Night Owls (General Craft)</b> 6.30pm-9pm	<b>Every Wednesday</b> Bring your own project
<b>Under 40s Craft Anything</b> 6.30pm-9pm	<b>1st Thursday of the Month 1/2/18</b> Bring your own project
<b>Book &amp; Paper Group</b> 9.30am-mid afternoon	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the Month 12/2/18</b> Craft and Discussion
<b>Wednesday Mid Week Craft</b> 10am-1pm Noon-12.30pm	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the Month</b> Spinning and other crafts (all levels) <b>14/2/18</b> Emporium open on request <b>28/2/18</b>
<b>Tuesday Mid-week Craft</b> 10am-1pm Noon-12.30pm	<b>Alternating Tuesdays from above</b> <b>6/2/18</b> Spinning and other crafts (all levels) <b>20/2/18</b> Emporium open on request
<b>Felters Group</b> 9.30am-2pm	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month 8/2/18</b> Let us help with your project
<b>Hand Knitters</b> 10am-1pm	<b>3rd Wednesday of the Month 21/2/18</b> Demystifying knitting stitches & patterns
<b>Dye Hardz</b> 10am-1pm	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month 16/2/18</b> Experimental dyeing techniques.
<b>2nd General Meeting</b> 10am 11am 11.30-1pm 1pm-3.30 pm	<b>3rd Saturday of the Month 17/2/18</b> Morning Tea Announcements and Showcase Shop and Library open Craft Time
<b>Off the Page</b> 10am-3pm	<b>4th Monday of the Month 26/2/18</b> Craft & Critique Discussion
<b>CLIPPINGS REPORTS due 3<sup>rd</sup> FRIDAY of the Month; Layout 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend. {Desperate? Inform Editor to save space for Monday}; Needs to be proof-read (emails in &amp; out) before printing Friday and Mailout 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.</b>	

# WEAVERS' INTEREST GROUP

6 Dec 2017

Heather opened the meeting with Apologies from Dana, Jill, Marijke, Carolyn and Clare who sent Best Wishes.

As well as our End of Year luncheon the day was for planning the program for 2018.

The outline is as follows:

**February:** THRUMS: Bring and discuss various uses for what can sometimes be valuable yarn.

**March:** INKLE LOOM and the many products that can be produced. Bring examples and ideas.

**April:** DOUBLE WEAVE discussed. Bring examples, yours or commercial.

**May:** WAFFLE WEAVE: How to draft mock 7 shaft. Bring examples.

**June:** TAPESTRY WEAVING WORKSHOP: until 3pm. Bring lunch. Requirements: Frame of any size, 2/20 wool, tapestry bobbin, scissors, ruler, masking tape.

**July:** RAG WEAVING: Research and discuss.

**August:** ETHNIC WEAVING: Research and discuss.

**September:** DYEING FOR IKAT: until 3pm. The dye baths will be provided, 1 for the warp and 1 for the the weft. Bring your washed cotton.

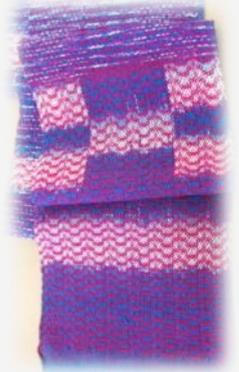
**October:** INLAY AND THEO MOORMAN TECHNIQUES:

Discuss and bring examples.

**November:** SURFACE DESIGN: Pickup, Rya etc. Look at commercial product examples

**December:** TEA TOWEL SWAP and discussion to be set up earlier in the year. End of year luncheon and planning for 2019!

**Show and Tell:** Philip showed several examples of Shibori both warp and weft that were produced in a



Kay Faulkner workshop.



Leslie had pictures of Morocco.



Annette had a circular cardboard loom beret and a scarf.



Jenny had a purse made up of offcuts.

Heather showed 2 scarves in 25 Shades of Brown using Fustic with various mordants.

Two more scarves *Northern Lights* were created after 5 ball dyeing.



Included here is the **Dye Hardz' Master** plan for 2018. I include it as an introduction to another Group you might like to participate in. I've been finding so many happy members belong to 2 or more of our sub groups. It also points out it's about everyone contributing to get the best of out every session no matter which group and 'Be Prepared!'. (Ed's note)

2017 has proved to be a busy year: we experimented with new dye techniques, our newer members generously volunteered to lead workshops and we experimented with a new meeting day!



Well, two out of three isn't bad! Thankyou to everyone with your patience as we adjusted to the idea of an alternative meeting day, however throughout the year it proved time and again to be a challenge for many of our group members to attend.

Fancy us letting 'life' get in the way of a creative dye session with friends! At our November 'review' we voted to return to a Friday meeting date for 2018. However, so that we can share and pace our creative energy across the month (as many QSWFA members attend 2 or more groups), we have nominated the **Third Friday of the Month to be our meeting day** for our 'Dye Hardz' activities.

If this selection of day coincides with a significant public holiday etc. we will endeavour to come up with a solution that will work for our group whether it be a re-schedule or replacement activity.

Our Activity Leaders have volunteered for the 2018 schedule and we always encourage a 'Second

in Command / Buddy' to volunteer too. This '2IC' may just be someone to bounce ideas off via a few emails and a phone call, they may just be needed to arrive early to help set up the room on the day or they may take a full role in partnering for the creative activity. In the 'Activity Outcomes', some of our creating will result in 'apparel items' (scarves / t shirts / hand crafted item) and others indicate 'samples'. The sampling may be t-shirts or appropriate sized cotton pieces that you can create into garment or homeware items (Heather always makes great use of her 'sample pieces' to inspire us). Where relevant, silk scarves may be purchased independently or from our QSWFA Emporium on the day.



The Activity Leader will provide advice prior the workshop as to what fabric sampling would best suit an activity. As always, we need to be mindful of the capacity of our containers / vats, equipment availability and workspace regarding volume of items to be dyed etc. So, we may restrict ourselves to only one or two items with these items being dyed after we have all gained from our key learning activity. The sampling should be white or cream.

**Please note:** In April we are preparing a special mordant activity with pure wool yarn (to continue with in July). While summer is on, keep an eye out for a sale on white or cream wool at your local "Spotlight" or "Lincraft". You will need a maximum of 250gms and this can be made up from any combination of ball sizes.

Naturally, some activity days will seem like 'controlled chaos' and other days like 'creative leisure'. Neither reflects the organisation of the presenter or



those attending. It is just that some activities will demand a tight, energetic schedule and others require a steady preparation and 'wait around' processing time.

All dyes and fibre contents have their quirks and mystery, and that is what brings us together month after month! Tricia Smout is going to coordinate our 'email what to bring and RSVP's' for the group; email [ts@triciasmount.com](mailto:ts@triciasmount.com) for our schedule.

Our 'Thanks' go to Helen King for the work she has done in the past few years for us in that role.

**It is important to RSVP whether you are attending or not attending 7 days prior the Dye Hardz meeting.** This influences the preparations for room layout, dye and mordant calculations and how much equipment must be sourced etc. Plus, it is a courtesy to our Activity Leader.

We do not want to disappoint group members with postponing or cancelling an activity due to a 'perceived' low attendance number. Please note: Some dye and chemical products have a short shelf life once a packet is 'opened'. If necessary, the Activity Leader via email consultation has the discretion to postpone an activity if numbers are too low. If this were to happen, we will try to re schedule the activity for another month.

As a group over the years we have created some exceptional quilt / doona covers to donate as raffle prizes for our QSWFA fund raising. We have a 3 'quilt raffle prizes' pieces noted in our activity plans. This will provide for the classic

indigo (always requested) and some other colour variations.

As always, we invite people with all levels of experience to join us in our activities. As we explore the familiar and research new methods, we are all learning together. A working knowledge of dyeing offers a dynamic freedom of expression in our textile art – so share the love! Some our 2018 activities have been prompted by a magazine article or book, sometimes it is just knowing that one of our team is skilled in a technique and we can all benefit from their tuition on the day - watching how they control their workspace, their hands, their equipment.

Heather Barber has nominated again to be our

'Treasurer'

and as with previous years, we will ask each member to contribute \$20 to the 'kitty' to cover our expenses for the consumables of dye and ink products, mordants, chemicals, as well as purchasing equipment if replacements are required (e.g. paint brushes, screens etc.)

Heather will collect this \$20 fee from each group member on the first meeting they attend for the year.

With your own equipment we again encourage you to label everything using permanent markers and/ or nail polish for your name or initials. In the mix and match of a busy day, it is so much easier to identify and return items. As a precaution always have a dust mask (or better-quality mask), an apron, a small hand towel and gloves in your kit.





We may try to fit in a short 'what's in your kit / can't do without' chat over lunch one day. I will continue to be identified

as 'Leader of the Pack' for 2018 and I thank the group members (especially Kym) who deputised for me so many times during 2017.

For 2018 I have offered to continue writing the 'Dye Hardz Report for Clippings' and when I am at the keyboard "The Adventures of Dyeanna" will be part of the story.

However, (and again I thank those who wrote up our 'Clippings Report' in my absences during 2017) if I am again absent a 'Report' volunteer does not have to create a Dyeanna mystery – just the facts and a few photos!

It is going to be an exciting 2018 for our group. Thankyou for reading this far and I look forward to sharing with you the fun and conversation as we 'splish & splash' with dye and 'squish & squash' fabric for it to yields to our creative hands and minds.

Ciao and enjoy a safe and happy holiday season and see you on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February.



Yvonne Ritson

# VERY IMPORTANT REQUEST.

## TREASURER NEEDED...

Board Profiles: Karen Alpert,  
Treasurer

Long-time members will know that this is not my first term on the Board; I've been a member of the group since 2003 and was president from 2005 to 2008. In the past few years I have also been teaching the Beginning Spinning workshops. My day job is as a finance lecturer at University of Queensland, where I earned my PhD in 2004.

I came onto the Board in July to fill the Treasurer position vacated by the resignation of Allison Exley. When I took on the position, it was with the understanding that I was only available until the end of 2017. This is because I will be on leave from the beginning of 2018 through early November, with a good portion of that time being spent overseas. The job of Treasurer really isn't onerous. Sandra Perry takes care of all the bookkeeping and prepares monthly financial statements. The Treasurer needs to be able to interpret those statements and discuss them at the monthly board meeting. They also need to approve outgoing payments (mostly online). Anyone who might be interested in taking this on, please contact me

([treasurer@qldspinners.org.au](mailto:treasurer@qldspinners.org.au)). I will be in Brisbane until early April to assist with the transition.

# THE BASKET CASES

Our Christmas party was held on Sunday December 3 and a good time was had by all with a wonderful shared lunch and Secret Santa. Floss & Jill had turned their hands to making three Christmas trees out of basketry fibre



and these decorated our festive table. We did manage to do some basket weaving in-between the food and festivities.

**Therese** spent the morning cutting out lots of blue foil card stars in all shapes and sizes. These were for the Graduation at the school where she teaches.

**Jill** continued experimenting with small forms of diagonal plaited paper strips.

**Angela** had found an old wire frame from a lamp shade and she began covering it with leaf stems from the Golden Rain tree which had been soaked in hot water over



night. **Kathleen** wove a 4 over 4 basket for the first time, with instruction from Jill. She used Alexandra palm

inflorescence strands as spokes and banana fibre and

Watsonia leaves for the weavers. She also learned to make rope using the Watsonia leaves.



**Doris** worked on a small basket using brightly coloured, plastic coated wire.

**George** started a

4 over 4 with Bangalow palm inflorescence fibre.

**Floss** worked on weaving the God's eye on another melon basket.



Jill B.

George brought some lovely crackers she had made to our Christmas lunch, so we asked her for the recipe.

[ Editor's note: perhaps we could aim for a mini mag of Christmas party or all year favourites' recipes to share for next January as a starter to our 50<sup>th</sup>???

## from: **The Basket Cases**

George's SEED CRACKERS

½ cup sunflower seeds

¼ cup linseeds

¼ cup sesame seeds

2 tbs pepitas

1 tsp celtic salt

1 cup wholemeal flour

scant ½ cup water

⅓ cup coconut oil

Mix dry ingredients in a bowl, add water, then oil & mix to form a dough. Divide dough in ½ & roll each piece between 2 sheets of greaseproof paper till 3mm thick. Transfer to baking trays, remove top sheet of greaseproof paper. Bake at 180°C fan forced for 15 – 20 mins. till brown & crisp. Transfer to wire rack to cool, then remove bottom piece of paper. Break into pieces & store in airtight container in refrigerator.

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 10.30am**  
**Alana Brosgra**

Illustrator and Art Therapist

Invite friends who would be interested in the topic at this Saturday meeting, \$5 per person.

After chatting and then meeting with Alana recently I am very excited and appreciative that she is able to make a presentation for us as our first Guest Speaker for 2018. Whilst Alana is currently studying Art Therapy she has begun to make a path for herself in her art works, speaking presentations and delivering workshops.

Based in Brisbane, Lani's art focuses on storytelling, promoting awareness around mental health, and using art to healthily communicate emotions and thoughts.

As creative people ourselves we are expressing ourselves through our art and crafts, an outlet we may have grown with or are growing into....

Art therapy involves the creation of art in order to increase awareness of self and others. This in turn may promote personal development, increase coping skills, and enhance cognitive function. It is based on personality theories, human development, psychology, family systems, and art education. *From The New Medicine*

Please make welcome Alana Brosgra in February.



Thank you  
Michelle Hanley

### **Lani's Art by Alana Brosgra**

'A Brain Experiencing Dementia'  
2017 original

This short quote is taken directly from the article and video: "Dementia is a terrible disorder," says Associate Professor Olivier Piguet from Neuroscience Research Australia.

"There is a progressive loss of nerve cells and at the moment there is nothing to stop this process.

"If we look at the analogy of an orchestra, the frontal lobes being the conductor, your conductor is becoming less efficient. Part of the

orchestra is starting to play different tunes.”

This analogy of a brain being affected by dementia really captured my imagination.

Here, I have created the confused and nonsensical conductor (or the frontal lobe, which is the yellow part of the brain perched on his shower cap) who is sending his musicians (the rest of the brain) either to sleep or causing them to play awfully out of tune with each other.

Dementia is a horrible disease to experience but this analogy gives us some basic understanding of what the brain is actually doing. And it's wonderful that art can put a pause on or alleviate some of the distress that this disease creates. “

## GUEST SPEAKER

### Presentation for March



## Topic: Felting Convergence 2017

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March  
10.30am

QSWFA member Jonna McFadyen and the Felters' group are planning a slide show with samples and stories from the Felting Convergence held at Toowoomba in September last year.

Invite friends who would be interested in this special presentation.

Normal Meeting Fee = \$5 for Members and friends. Looking forward to all new visitors.

Please contact me if you have a topic that you or a colleague would like to present at one of our Guest Speaker Saturday meetings (or another suitable date). I would love to hear from you to fit in speakers of interest to QSWFA members.

Michelle Hanley

0428 147724

[hanley.mich@gmail.com](mailto:hanley.mich@gmail.com)

### Southern Hemisphere Felting Convergence

Convergence is a gathering of felt makers from the Southern Hemisphere and other parts of the world. Sharing knowledge about felting is the underlying theme. It has become customary to hold a Convergence every two years, alternately in Australia and New Zealand.

The 14th Southern Hemisphere Convergence was held in 2017 in Toowoomba, Australia. The next convergence will be held in 2019.

# SHOWCASE

Saturday meetings are the time for QSWFA members from all the different interest groups to put their latest creations on show for the rest of us to admire. It is our chance to see the things made in the groups whose meetings we don't have time to attend. Please bring your beautiful work to show us!

Sat. 18th Nov. saw some of the latest offerings by the indefatigable **Karlene Lewis**. She had made two folded paper boxes, suitable for use as gift boxes for small knitted items or any other small gift. Karlene also displayed a cardigan for a new-born or very young baby, knitted from hand-dyed sliver from the Emporium spun by her; she



used a Patons pattern.

Sat. 2nd Dec. was our end-of-year Christmas party, and we didn't have anything officially on Showcase, but we saw an experimental woven piece by **Robin Maxted**, who is very keenly trying out all sorts of hand-manipulated weaving



techniques. And **Jenny Woodrow** showed us the baby-blanket she crocheted for her sister's expected new baby. She used brightly-coloured wool left over from previous projects and only had to buy some extra white to complete the project. It is done in Treble stitch ("double crochet" in American), with an edging of double crochet ("single crochet" in American), and Jenny has lined it with lightweight white woven cotton fabric for next-to-the-skin comfort for baby.

An experimental woven strip by Anita Wyndham was also shown.



I've been working on a "Leftie" scarf, pattern by Martina Behm on Ravelry, and finished it in mid-January, just in time to give to my daughter Shirley while she is still in Australia, so I won't be able to put it on a Saturday showcase, but took it to show the Midweek Spinners at our first meeting of the year.

**Joan Athorp.**



## HAND KNITTERS

The Hand Knitters' group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Our first meeting of the year will be on 21 Feb., and our technical learning will concentrate on Brioche Stitch, which is a way of making thick, cushiony fabrics by using yarn-overs on alternate stitches and then knitting into those yarn-overs on the following row. It can become very complex, with two colours and/ or all sorts of fancy designs, but we'll be starting with the basics. Please bring yarn and appropriate-sized needles. All knitters welcome; please come and be inspired! We will also have a Show and Tell; I hope the summer hasn't been too hot for you to enjoy your craft.

Joan Apthorp.

## MID-WEEK CRAFT GROUP

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wed of every month, and Tuesdays in the other weeks. Come and join us - bring your spinning, knitting, crochet or whatever. Karen Porgand usually weaves on her small rigid-heddle loom, while Meriel brings her cotton to spin or knit. We learn from each other, and the social support is very cheering. February's meetings will be Tues 6th and 20th and Wed 14th and 28th. The Emporium is usually available for a short while from noon if requested, but please check as there may not always be an Emporium helper available.

## EDITORIAL:

Strange time for the Newsletter... Not sure whether anyone forgot but it is here for group reports and sharing of information as sent in. There is little time to chase up anyone. I need to let you know my last newsletter will be July's. That will be a year; I hadn't previously expected to stay in Brisbane. At the end of March I officially retire from fulltime work after some 38 years and do not need to tie myself up indefinitely in monthly deadlines as I hope to travel frequently interstate and O/S. I would be happy to help if I'm about when the next editor needs a month away. Please think about whether you may be in a position to give it a whirl... Layout is your own call, if you have visions splendid... please email me if I can answer any questions or you have suggestions. It would be a rather fabulous time to 'have the floor' and launch into our 50<sup>th</sup> year...  
Joanna Faber

**At the COOKUP our Mini Eco Dyeing was a hit and this month's cover. If you're ready for the Real Deal, Natalie Billing has her ECO DYEING INTRODUCTION course on the 24-25<sup>th</sup> February at Fibrecraft House. Tickets on Eventbrite and Image galleries at [www.nataliebilling.wordpress.com](http://www.nataliebilling.wordpress.com) (You'll recognise many happy previous participants across the last few years.)**

# Meetup

Meetup - is an online social networking service, intended for people to organize and/or join group meetings in real life.

**Meetup** is free to become a member, to create a **Meetup** account and free to **join** a **Meetup** group. Our organization **QSWFA have our own Meetup Group.**

**WE REALLY NEED YOUR POSITIVE REVIEWS ON OUR MEETUP PAGE.**

This is an initiative to gain public interest in QSWFA and have visitors drop in to take a look at our meetings and see what goes on and learn a bit of what we are all about (with a cost of \$5 per meeting at Fibre Craft House).

Then they most often will sign up for membership when they find out that QSWFA is a most amazing, ambitious artist and crafts organisation with various subgroups having opportunities for learning many craft skills, exhibiting your own creations and socialising with like-minded people!

Visitors including meet-up guests are invited to attend up to two introduction meetings without the need to join the group. At introduction meetings visitors will be informed of their required membership if they wish to continue to attend meetings. All members are welcome to bring a friend to attend one or two meetings on the same basis. A reminder: meeting fees for visitors and members are \$5 per visit.

You may have already met a visitor or 2 who have discovered QSWFA through our Meetup Group. All members are encouraged to engage with visitors and introduce them to others in the group, show them around the facilities and

make them feel welcome to your group, provide a membership form and chat about the benefits of becoming a member with QSWFA. We wish to encourage our own members to join our Meetup QSWFA Group and register- that you are attending a group meeting, as this gives the online public an impression of the interest and popularity of each of our sub-groups.

If you'd like to **join Meetup and QSWFA group**, to assist with this initiative, you'll need to create a **Meetup** account first at - <https://www.meetup.com>

Fill out your personal information and then enter your email address, or connect through Facebook or Google. After you've created and verified your account, you can **join** our Queensland Spinners Weavers and Fibre Artists Group and RSVP for **Meetups**.

Meetup dates work as a Calendar with notifications and this year we will include the 2018 Workshops on our Meetup Calendar, as another avenue to gain public interest. As the information on our Meetup group page is specific for meeting dates and information describing the meetings, all Subgroups are encouraged to check the information and update with any changes or additions.

Thank you for your support  
President: Kylie Astley  
New Members Coordinator: Michelle Hanley

This is an up to the minute idea to assist with increasing membership of QSWFA... Any other ideas we could explore??? Please let the Board know....

# BOOK & PAPER GROUP

## OUR DECEMBER MEETING



### Show and Tell:

**Joan** is continuing her research into the Language of Flowers. She told us about Pliny the Elder and how the war between Turkey and Rome was won with poisonous azalea honey.

**Wendy D** showed two small concertina books with direct contact



leaf prints on the pages.

**Wendy S** made book folded earrings from old dictionary pages.

**Maria** described how to skeletonise a Bodhi tree leaf, and showed a steel wool wreath.

**Renate** purchased a swirled sticky note pad of marbled paper in Fremantle.



**Lyn R** spoke about her sales success at the BVAC market.

**Ngairé** showed an embossed book.

**Susan** brought two sheets of mulberry paper she made in Myanmar, and she had purchased a traditional



paper and bamboo parasol.



**Nat** showed her travel journal from her recent trip to Rome.



### Activity:

**Wendy S** showed us how to fold and cut a Christmas tree from a single sheet of paper, and she provided us with stars to decorate it.



### Secret Santa exchange:

Our exchange of Christmas wreathes was exciting. There was an amazing variety of interpretations of the theme!





### Shared Lunch

Thanks to the amazing cooks in our group this is always a delicious way to end our creative year.



### THE JANUARY COOK-UP

This was as popular as always, and there is a comprehensive report elsewhere in this issue.

### OUR NEXT MEETING on 12 FEBRUARY

Our first meeting of the year is a **planning meeting**. Please bring all your ideas for activities and projects you would like to do in the coming months. It is also a **sale and swap day**. We will have separate tables for the give-aways and the sales.

If you want people to buy your craft items please put a price label on each, and bring a pot to collect the money. We will also have a **short activity**.

### FUTURE MEETINGS IN 2018

**12 March:** Tricia will demonstrate the Blizzard Book which is great for storing postcards or other souvenirs.

Triicia Smout

## WOOL TOP AND YARN DYEING WORKSHOP

I was one of the students who learnt many techniques from Alleyne Learmonth at the QSWFA Dyeing Workshop 10/12/17.



The hall was decked out in plastic sheets on the floor, long tables, buckets of water, vinegar, cooktops, Microwave ovens, plastic gloves, wool fibre and yarn of



purest of whites, baskets of squeezey dye bottles. On that day we were the experimental colour scientists of the future! This was an excellent

workshop to learn the ways of preparation of yarn and fibre ready for dyeing and a variety of effective techniques to achieve colour mixing, graduating, speckled. Our colour combinations were all so different from each other.

I learnt lots from Alleyne and also from the other experimental students. What a buzz! If you love creating colour and basically have a play, look out for a fibre -dyeing workshop in 2018.



Michelle Hanley

Continuing the series where groups introduce themselves to all members. We read the blurb... sharing craft time... but what really motivates the attendees ... back then and now. It's a lead-in to how we might shape up for the 50<sup>th</sup> with shared stories and how we see ourselves as part of QSWFA into the future...

### **HISTORY OF THE QSWFA BOOK & PAPER GROUP by Tricia Smout**



I have been making artist books since 1988, and in mid 1990 I

started exchanging them with people overseas, and I built up quite a collection.

In 2000 I showed these to my friends Jill Brose and Sandy Batton whom I had met through Papermakers of Qld. They were most impressed, and said we should start a 'book group' so we could meet to practice some techniques.

We needed a place to meet, and the obvious umbrella group for us was Qld Bookbinders, but in those days QBG concentrated on traditional bookmaking techniques.

Because the three of us were members of Qld Spinners Weavers and Dyers Group, we thought meeting at Fibrecraft House would be ideal.

Some of the QSWDG members at the time were horrified that a 'paper and book group' was going to meet regularly under their umbrella, but fortunately we had a precedent because Jill had paved the way several years before by starting the monthly

Basket Cases Group and staging the Cook-up, an annual papermaking weekend.

We decided to call our group "The Book Cases" and started meeting with just the three of us on the second Monday each month, but soon several others joined us.

Each month we had a planned activity where we learnt new techniques, and we enjoyed a shared lunch together. By 2002 we were very keen and enthusiastic, and we decided to meet twice a month so we could have a 'catch-up' day to practice what we had learned, and we chose the fourth Thursday. But sadly, after a few years, only a very few people were actually attending this second monthly meeting, so we reluctantly abandoned it (although it is heartening to know that it was reinstated a couple of years ago when Sandra Pearce started the "Off the Page" group on the fourth Monday).

In those early days we were known as one of 'those alternative groups' of QSWDG because we weren't actually spinning, weaving or dyeing, and paper wasn't considered a textile in the 'truest' sense of the word. Eventually QSWDG voted to change the name of the organisation to Qld Spinners Weavers and Fibre Artists so 'those alternative groups' could be legitimately included under the banner!

Over the past 18 years we have continued our meeting structure along much the same lines, although we now only have two shared lunches each year.

We now have 40 members who attend on an occasional basis, and

there are usually about 20 of us there each month. We still have a planned activity at each meeting which is either a book-making technique or a paper folding or decorating exercise. Sometimes we revisit topics we've done previously because we have newer members, and this also gives our 'oldies' a chance to revise!



We also have 'Show and Tell' each month where members bring paper things they have made, or purchased on their travels.



Over the years we have organised many different collaborative projects. Sometimes we each design a series of pages, and pass these around for others to work

on progressively. Other times we alter an existing book by collaging, cutting or decorating the pages. The results are often displayed at FibreFest (Fibre Arts Expo).

The "Cook-up" was initially started in the 1990s by Jill Brose and others, and is still held every January. Originally it

was mostly a chance for people to make paper by cooking plants with caustic soda and sheeting the fibre. It has gradually expanded over the years, and now we leave the hall set up for a full four days with a range of activities including rusting paper, collage, teabag dyeing, book making activities, paper folding and many other related activities.



To reflect this, in 2015 we decided to update the name from "Cook-up" to "Creative Craft Activities" but this wasn't popular and didn't last long! At one stage (for a few years around 2009) we tried a mid-year Cook-up as well, but it's hard to get the hall on four consecutive days any time other than January.

The other name change is that our original "Book Cases" title was changed to "The Book and Paper Group" in 2006 to better reflect our wider interests in paper crafts and papermaking. A few of us miss the old 'punny' name!

The initial impetus for starting our group was to learn to make books, and possibly exchange them. Thus, since the beginning I have coordinated a book swap, which is now bi-annual. Many of our group regularly join in, and soon I will be announcing the theme for the thirty-fourth one. My collection of handmade books now fills 6 huge plastic tubs! .....

All members of QSWFA are welcome to join us at our meetings on the second Mondays each month, starting in February, and also at the Cook-up each January.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello everyone, and welcome back for another year of crafting.

Thank you to everyone who donated items to our gift basket for the local women's shelter at last year's Christmas party. Those donations were happily received.

Another batch of carded donated fleece has been added to the Royal Flying Doctors fundraiser, and taken home by some of our newer spinners. I'm quite looking forward to seeing what comes back!

We are looking to broaden our workshop program this year, so if you are a tutor for a specialised craft skill or know someone who is, please let us know. This year we will have macramé and nalbinding along with the beginners' spinning, weaving and dyeing workshops. Last year's Friday night workshops were immensely popular (thanks to Jonna and Kym) and we will be scheduling more of

these in 2018. Keep an eye out on Eventbrite for these events!

Kylie Astley  
President

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE! 2018 INTERNATIONAL SCARF EXCHANGE

Hi guys! We are running the International Scarf Exchange again for 2018 to celebrate The Commonwealth Games, before handing it onto Wangaratta Hand Spinners And weavers for 2019. As our original closing date has passed I have extended it till the 5th of February for those who may have wanted to participate but thought they had missed out! So come and play! Entries can be dropped at the hall or sent to my address.  
Felicity Clarke 30 Coutts St Bulimba  
**Please note this year you may submit yarn not just fibre...**

**QSWFA, OUR AFFILATES AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS  
HAVE A NUMBER OF EVENTS PLANNED FOR THE COMING MONTHS.  
IF YOU KNOW OF ANY RELEVANT DATES PLEASE ADVISE US.**

### FEBRUARY

5<sup>th</sup> last day to join 2018 International Scarf Exchange

Felicity Clarke QSWFA

24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Eco Dyeing Intro

Natalie Billing Fibrecraft House  
Eventbrite

### JUNE

7<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> Stitches & Craft Fair

QSWFA at Convention Centre

### JULY

27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Fibre Art Retreat

QSWFA at QCCC Mapleton

# THE ANNUAL COOKUP REPORT

Where would you find die-hard Book and Paper Group creatives during the hot and sticky days of early January? Where else but at Fibrecraft House, experimenting, playing and producing over the four days of The Annual Cook-Up. Here's a survey of our diverse activities on 5, 6, 7 and 8 January 2018.

*"There is no such thing as a mistake. There are only creative opportunities."*  
Tricia.

## Day 1 AM: FOLDED PYRAMIDS



With Jill's instructions we started the morning measuring, cutting and

gluing to create pyramid shapes.

This proved simple enough – just right for the post Christmas/ New Year



holiday period. We used brightly coloured contrasting papers to create basic 120m shapes. These allowed for further creative development - collaged surfaces, added pockets, expanded dimensions, or doubling the object to create a spectacular Christmas decoration. With a little help they will readily become a book! (See Day 4)

## Day 1 PM: MINI ECO DYEING on paper

Hubble  
bubble, toil  
and  
trouble...

Joanna led this popular activity. We worked with red and brown onion skins, fallen eucalypt and various green leaves from around the premises. Bundles secured, it was time to choose a vat in which to boil them - the Purple Carrot pot to bring forth blue/greens, or the Rusty Iron



pot to create rusts, oranges and yellows. "Which tree was that leaf

from?"

This is essentially an alchemical process. Who knows how specific leaves will interact with particular papers on the day? So it was with great anticipation that we unwrapped our bundles. Pam's folded papers with yellow allamanda leaves and Karin's rolled papers sparked general admiration. Indeed, we were so pleased that we continued dyeing the following day.

*"So what you're saying is that you can't control it anyway. So you might as well go for the serendipity."*  
Wendy S.

## Day 2: GESSO & PASTE PAPER

We explored the many uses of this

medium. Karin shared her personal practice of using the smaller pages of an existing printed book in a spirit of experimentation. (As you go you will produce an Altered Book.) Karin encourages interference with what's on the page. She applies gesso - thinly or thickly - to block out text elements, allow text recognition, image alteration and enhancement. Adding watered down acrylic to a gesso base offers additional options - to minimise and



maximise, to build, create and affix, alter and integrate elements!

Gesso fan Wendy D likes to use it as a resist on a dried thinly applied watered down acrylic base to create her favourite feather patterns. Clearly, an elegant outcome can be achieved with simple techniques and familiar tools like bubble wrap, textured blocks or rubber stamps. Or a feather.

Jill's examples demonstrated gesso's capacity to build up texture on the page

– by adding hessian, scrim and other materials. Starting with an image, she creates more interesting dimensions and 3D effects on the page. Use the gesso as glue, as an etching surface, as a unifier. Cross-hatch, make lines, or stripes.... Work back into the still wet gesso/coloured surface around the edges of the page with any tool (e.g. the end of a paint brush) to take away the stark formality of the page.

This medium invites freer forms of expression and sets up a wide range of possible effects.



**Paste Paper.** Tricia demonstrated the responsiveness of acrylic coloured wallpaper glue to pattern making. There's a startling variety of possible pattern-making 'tools' (anything goes) and an endless range of dramatic textural effects to be had. Tricia used bubble-wrap and cling wrap and pulled through paste paper surfaces with different implements. Then it's all up to the maker.

## DAY 3: AN ODDITY BOOK

*"This book cannot be created in half an hour,"* Jan warned. How right

she was!

We used rusted or eco-dyed pages made over the first couple of days and began measuring, and re-measuring, cutting and muttering our way into the structure.



*“What you do is you don’t do it like that!” Jan*

In essence, the finished product looks like a cityscape when opened flat, with different lengths and shapes of coloured, patterned inside pages (buildings?). Once assembled, each ‘city’ is pamphlet stitched into the valley folds of an embracing

concertina. Once we’d waxed lyrical and given it our awl, we were pleased and relieved to see our first one erected.



*“Are we there yet?”* Fortunately, each city requires only simple repetition. We warmed to the task after our early trepidation (measuring accurately,

and in inches!). Finally, with Jan’s patient instruction, and after the *Oh Dear’s!* and eruptions of laughter, re-cutting and re-ordering, comparing, borrowing and sharing, invoking ‘the gods’, and some more laughing, we did arrive; Most happily. It’s a wonderful structure, which could be adapted or developed into a star-book.



### Day 4: FOLDED PYRAMID ASSEMBLY & ORIGAMI



Before the clean-up we ran two short activities. With Jill we

assembled our folded Pyramid Shapes and created covers and ties to secure them into a



distinctive book form. It would make a lovely gift, or memory card, or... ..



In the heat and humidity of the Brisbane summer, Origami Queen Tricia, coolly showed us how create two spectacular 3D Pop-up Snowflakes! Be amazed.



As usual, The Great Annual Cook-Up provided daily access to the Rusting Trays, Teabag Dyeing and other



Collage, Paint and Paper materials. Tradition demanded it.



### GRATITUDE

All of the joy and collegiate play, all of our achievements are made possible only through the planning, preparation, skills and generosity of our presenters. We extend our gratitude to them and to those who set-up and clean-up, to the biscuit bringers and to our raspberry and chocolate cake-maker extraordinaire.

It is a very particular privilege to be able to spend such an instructive and fully equipped time together.

Maria Shaw



[Ed's favourite pic... "the laying on of the hands..."]



# QSWFA FIBRE ART RETREAT 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> July 2018

QCCC Mapleton - 70 Obi-Obi Road, Mapleton



Join us for QSWFA's annual fibre arts retreat in beautiful Mapleton. Enjoy winter on the Blackall Range and rug up in your handcrafted woollies while you create works of art. The retreat is fully catered with great food from the QCCC kitchen. Accommodation is in fully air-conditioned dormitories. We have plenty of space to set up and work on your own project. We welcome all fibre arts, so bring your spinning, knitting, crochet, paper crafts, basket making, weaving, felting or anything! We would love to see what you do. Camp is a place to meet new friends share and learn new ideas & skills. There is plenty of space to spread out, so you can even bring a large project. There are workshops on Saturday to expand your skills and shop with our traders who bring all sorts of tempting goodies to purchase. Come for the whole weekend or just for the day on Saturday.

**The full weekend is \$225** and includes accommodation and all meals.

Get in early! Pay before the 1<sup>st</sup> June and you will pay only **\$199**.

**EARLY BIRD offer is only available for bookings paid before 1st June 2018.**

Bring your bedding (pillow, bottom sheet plus either blankets/doona or sleeping bag), towel and torch. Check in from 3pm Friday 27th July and check out by 2pm Sunday, 29th July.

The day on **Saturday is \$70** and includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Come from 8:30am until 5:30pm.

For enquiries email Jenny: [camp@qldspinners.org.au](mailto:camp@qldspinners.org.au)

Look out for:



**Masquerade Party** - Make a mask to wear to dinner on Saturday. Use any medium you like! There will be a fabulous prize for the best mask.

**Show and Tell** - Bring your latest works to share with the group on Saturday evening.

**Workshops** - **Tunisian Crochet, Macrame, Kokedama** (Japanese plant hanging), plus more!..... Details of workshops will be sent to you closer to the time.

**Friendship Table** - A table in the hall for giveaways, bring something that needs a new home. If not taken by the end of the weekend, it is your responsibility to take it home or dispose of the items.

**Sales table** – A place to sell one or two used items that you wish to pass on to a new home. No commissions on these items. If they do not sell, it is your responsibility to take them home again

**CANCELLATIONS:** If you must cancel your weekend, QSWFA will refund the full amount up to June 1<sup>st</sup>.

We will refund 50% of full fee up until June 30<sup>th</sup>. No refunds will be given after June 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your understanding.

Please send completed attendance form with payment by **10th July 2018**  
(no payments will be taken at camp)

to: [office@qldspinners.org.au](mailto:office@qldspinners.org.au) or QSWFA Ltd, 12 Payne St, Auchenflower QLD 4066.

## QSWFA OFFICE

Tuesdays between 10am and 3pm  
12 Payne St Auchenflower  
Phone/ Answering machine:  
(07) 33710009  
EMAIL [office@qldspinners.org.au](mailto:office@qldspinners.org.au)

## BANK DETAILS

Please make sure that any direct deposits are processed to the following account:

**National Bank Australia**  
**BSB 084-209**  
**Account 72-830-3063**

## Clippings Advertising Rates

Full page \$75    Half page \$40  
Quarter page \$25  
Small display Ad \$3 per column cm  
Small non-display Ad \$0.25 per word  
Whole year Ad -11 ads for price of 10.

## KITCHEN CLEAN UP

To keep the kitchen clean and tidy for everyone to use please make sure when you leave the washing up is done and put away, urn unplugged, the coffee pot is emptied and wiped, the rubbish removed and the kitchen left clean.

Once a month we need to clean out the fridge, refill drinks, scrub down ALL the benches well, clean the sink and drainer, tidy the canisters and refill sugar and tea and generally give it a proper clean.

Each month a group will be responsible for this thorough clean to be done at their meeting:

**Please check the Noticeboard.**

## QSWFA Membership Fees For 2017/18

Joining Fee: -\$10 New members  
Annual:        -\$65 City    - \$50  
Country    -\$70 Group    -\$70 Family  
-\$50 Concession

In addition, from July 2017, a fee of \$20 will be payable if you wish to receive a printed copy of Clippings.

Membership is the heart of our association, and it is our members who provide the inspiration and the efforts to keep our association thriving.

Do you know anyone who is as interested in the fibre arts as we are?

Membership forms will be available on QSWFA website soon or from the Office: <http://qldspinners.org.au>

**A WARM WELCOME TO  
ALL NEW MEMBERS WHO  
JOINED QSWFA LAST  
MONTH.**

## CONTRIBUTIONS for

### *Clippings*

If you would like to submit an item to *Clippings*, please direct these to The Editor by email:

[clippings@qldspinners.org.au](mailto:clippings@qldspinners.org.au)

## Clippings DEADLINES

Copy for *Clippings* is

DUE:

**Third Friday of the  
month: 16/2/18**

Have you something to write about and share with us ????



Oh to be at  
‘COOKUP Days’  
where the splish,  
splash and rustle  
in rusting trays  
draw you  
along...Karin in  
it, up to .... With  
a long skinny  
book in hand...  
RUST TO  
RESULT...



**STOP PRESS!** WEBMASTER ANNOUNCES LAUNCH DATE OF NEW REVISED UPDATED QSWFAWEBSITE COMING TO A COMPUTER NEAR YOU! General Meeting March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018.

So Group Leaders please send along all the latest on your groups and activities as requested. When any member attends, think of sending an update with photos to have our Blog spots underway... [webmaster@qldspinners.org.au](mailto:webmaster@qldspinners.org.au)