



Newsletter

ISSUE 4/11

www.wafta.com.au

September - October 2011

2011 WAFTA CALENDAR

Tuesday Night Meetings

3rd Tuesday Evenings of every Month Feb-Nov

Tuesday Night Meetings.

Doors open 7pm with 7:15pm sharp commencement.

Craft House, Clyde Street, Menora. Please sign in and pay \$4 at the door (non-members welcome; they pay \$8). Fabulous supper provided.

Assistance to help set-up and pack-up equipment and seating, would be greatly appreciated.

Tues 18 Oct Speaker: Pamela Gaunt

Tues 15 Nov Speaker: Tania Spencer

*** **Extraordinary General Meeting** ***

Details on page 7

Dec 11 Xmas Party—Details on page 12

4th Friday Work Days

Meetings are held at Craft House, Clyde Street, Menora from 10am to 3pm on the 4th FRIDAY of the MONTH. Members and Non-members \$5 at door.

This is not a class nor an all day workshop with a theme as the sole focus. Rather, you can come and work on whatever you'd like to on the day.

Remainder of 2011 as follows:

Fri 28 Oct

THIS WORKDAY HAS BEEN CANCELLED, AS IT IS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

Fri 25 Nov



WAFTA Membership Fees

WAFTA membership runs July to June to coincide with our accounting year.

Membership Fees:

\$40 Regular Practitioner

\$35 Student/Concession

\$35 Country (Rural WA)

\$40 Affiliate, Association, Corporate

You need to be financial to receive the newsletter and to participate in workshops & exhibitions.

Remember, our Membership Secretary, Shirley Treasure is happy to help with inquiries .

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Report of August 19, 2011 Speaker: Jill Worsley

Rosie Whitehead

Jill & Peter Worsley have travelled through South East Asia, China, Cambodia, Nepal & Tibet on several trips and have collected some serious textiles that form their own collection.

Peter had photos of some of the people who've made the textiles that they have purchased along the way and this combined with the textiles on display, completed the story of where a piece had come from. They both have a strong ethic that is reflected in the way they purchase these works – always where possible, a piece is purchased from the person who made the item, or at least the co-op that they distribute through. Only occasionally do they find they might make a purchase from a store, that will have a 'middle-man' involved. But this when it's the only option.

Jill began going through each piece, freely admitting to not having a lot of knowledge about textiles. She quite obviously just loves them and appreciates the work that goes into them. And when asked about a particular piece, was often heard to say '...I don't know...'. Shirley Treasure was able to answer a question later about how a piece had been woven, which included beads in the weft.

Peter's travels have been many more than Jill's and on the trips that Jill doesn't go with Peter, he's always expected to bring back a peace offering, by way of a textile piece.

Beginning by showing members some aprons and baby carriers, Jill explained that all the best work goes into these pieces.

Members were blown away with the detail of the work throughout the display, and could be heard with 'ooooh's & aaaah's' as each piece was pulled out of its carefully packed box.

Jill also mentioned that the collection has not been washed and some still retain the smell of camp fire smoke.

Rather than take up too much space with the written account of the evening, I'll let the pics to the talking.

2011 Committee

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E:

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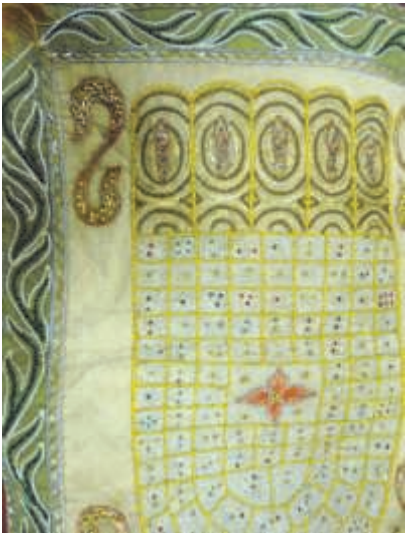
www.facebook.com/wafta.com.au

Shirley Treasure



L-R: Anne Williams, Jill & Peter Worsley, Shirley Treasure

Report of August 19, 2011 Speaker: Jill Worsley (cont...)



InTension Exhibition

August 12—28, 2011

Rosie Whitehead

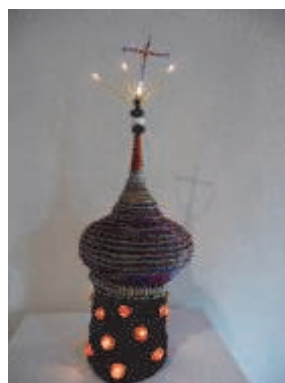
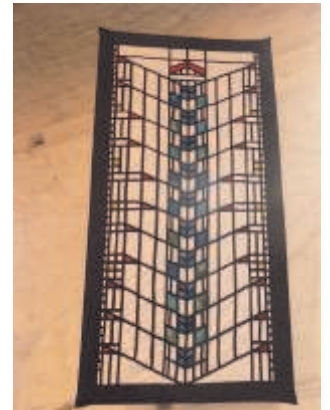
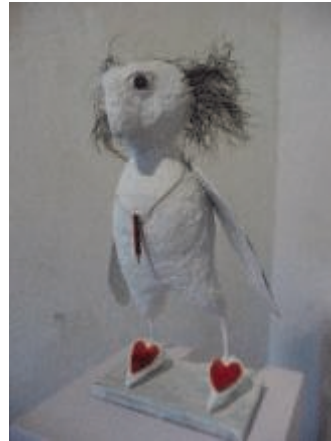
I think I'll let the pics speak for themselves.....



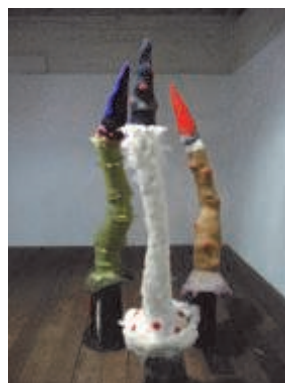
Install — Louise Snook & Hired Professionals



2D Works in all their glory.



The ever popular dogs



Report of September 20, 2011 Speaker: Trudi Pollard

Rosie Whitehead

It all came about from an invitation to the International Symposium & Exhibition on Natural Dyes 2011, held in La Rochelle, France. Three Australians were invited – India Flint from South Australia; Diane McPherson from Tasmania; & our very own Trudi Pollard from Western Australia.

The trip began in Australia but by the time Trudi returned home, she'd travelled to Singapore, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Singapore, Cambodia & Singapore, before returning home to Perth.

While in La Rochelle, Trudi & Helena took part in workshops, talks and an Art & Fashion Exhibit.

During all of this Trudi had noted that every other country had natural dyes for sale, but there was nothing available from Australia.

Why was the conference held? Because of many polluted water ways. So the conference was held to expand the knowledge of how to work with dye so that all products are re-usable and safe to handle, for a 'greener world'. Other areas of discussion during the conference dealt with the economic and social impacts of the development of natural dyes.

As an example, Trudi cited that China is very polluted and the silk purchased from China is white, which means it has been bleached. It's worth noting that wherever you buy your silks for your chosen textile medium, will have come from China. Compared with Cambodia where silk is not bleached, and is produced in it's cream or natural colour.

Rochefford Critt / CDP Extraction & Application Laboratory Plants Collection School of Naval Medicine, is the first laboratory for testing and giving a complete breakdown or your requirements. This laboratory will do this work for all avenues of textiles, capsules (medicinal), gardening & beauty products and just about any other application you can think of. It's worth noting that most medicinal plants have natural dyes.

Trudi & Helena visited a 'colour garden', that was 2 acres in size. This was not just a colour garden but is a community garden, paid for the shire, for all natural dyes and colours. Wouldn't it be great to have something like this in WA! And it's not all about everything on the land, Oysters too are in this colour story. When the tide is out, Oysters are found to have a purple sea shell that love the oysters. So the oysters are being picked up and the end result is a purple dye – you can rub the shell onto fabric and oxydisation turns it to purple, instantly.

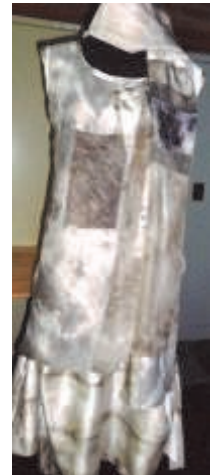
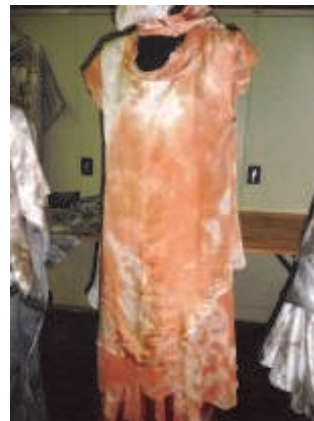
At the Natural History Museum, there was a guided tour from the perspective of natural dye, with a full library on anything to do with the subject.

From Japan a 3rd generation colour technician, where his Grandfather began a natural dye association, with traditional Safflower Dye. From Nigeria, Adeyemo Gasali did a workshop on Tapioca paste – something that the family does together for greater communications. From India, Ismail Khatri's have a family of 10 generations, that have been making hand block printed fabric known as Ajrakh. Screen printing with natural dyes where nothing was wasted. When the session was finished, the left overs were put in a pot and saved. Other students picked up the pot of remains and took it back to their classrooms. Henna & Indigo was being used as hair dye. Fabric on display that was 20m long and was all dyed from the colour garden.

Trudi concluded this part of the talk with "Art is a dirty job, but somebody's got to do it" and "Are we not all lucky that we are artists."



Trudi



Silver Dollar Gum L: S/Steel Pot R: Iron Pot



Steamed Naturals

Report of September 20, 2011 Speaker: Trudi Pollard (cont...)

Next stop for this talk is Cambodia.

Having come from a full-on high tech European scene in France, to Cambodian Vocational Arts Mentoring Programme (VAMP), set up by Helena and Camilla, where everything was done by hand, was a bit of a shock.

The aim of the mentoring programme is to assist the Cambodian people to create fulfilling and prosperous lives. To foster the development of traditional and contemporary Cambodian textiles and visual arts.

To put things into perspective, after the Khmer Rouge, Cambodia lost ¼ of it's population. Only Burma is a poorer country on a per capita basis. Cambodian children fail to develop due to a lack of nutrition, corruption is rife and people die in hospital if they can't afford to bribe the doctor.

VAMP is on a mission with 1 weaving studio, 2 Ikat weaving with Silk & Cotton, 3 using natural dye & 4 working a natural dye garden. This is in a bid to maintain the industry that is beginning to re-surface. While this group is now producing fabric lengths for Helena and Camilla, it is still early days and some time before the production can expand to supply others. But it will come.

In Cambodia there are a lot of synthetic dyes being used, because they believe that the tourists want these 'colours' and that they don't want the natural dyes. To choose synthetic dyes can be ok, but only if the waste product is neutralised before disposal.

Trudi at first couldn't understand the use of synthetic dyes, when for the natural option they simply had to take a walk to get their raw materials. It was explained through the interpreter, that natural materials were not safe, due to the land mines that were still active throughout the area. So now a natural dye garden has been started in Cambodia, which was instigated by Trudi. Of the trips that Helena & Camilla have made before, the dye garden has only come after Trudi's visit.

Over a period of a week, Trudi worked with a natural dye family. This one woman supports six street kids – they help with the workload and their reward is a 'home' they would otherwise not have. This lady once worked for the royal court but now struggles to eek out a living.

When the bark of a tree is required, the bark stripped from the tree, then a plaster is applied to the tree to help 'heal' the tree. Dye is massaged into the fibre, so they don't need to use so much charcoal (fuel). This shortens the cooking time and saves money. During this time, a girl was salvaging the seed and flowers from a Robutan plant that is not edible and Trudi asked what colour they'd give, only to be told that it was for tonight's soup.

Helena and Camilla have been involved in getting a shop on board with the VAMP programme, by carrying some of the end products of the orphanage for sale to the tourists. The shop has been re-decorated, with some compromises being made over the Bhudist alter – not allowed to move it, but they were able to redecorate it. A rickshaw parked out front was painted pink and a basket full of masks sits beside it – have your photo taken in the rickshaw (with a mask on), and put a donation into the box for the orphanage.

An elephant ride for the tourists goes by each day, so to have the elephant stop so the tourists can do some shopping, they've even supplied a stash of bananas to feed the elephant.

The owner of the shop has since won a prize for design and quality and is now taking up that prize which is a trip to Japan.

So by interlinking the orphanage and the shop, the weavers, dyers and gardeners are able to take the raw natural products from the ground to the finished product.

Through Camilla, Helena first saw that Norway House were only involved in clothing and feeding the children of this particular orphanage. Through Helena's involvement in this orphanage, Trudi who once thought there'd be no grandchildren, now has 150 of them.



Cambodian Spun Silks



Natural Cambodian Dyed Silk



More Cambodian Silks



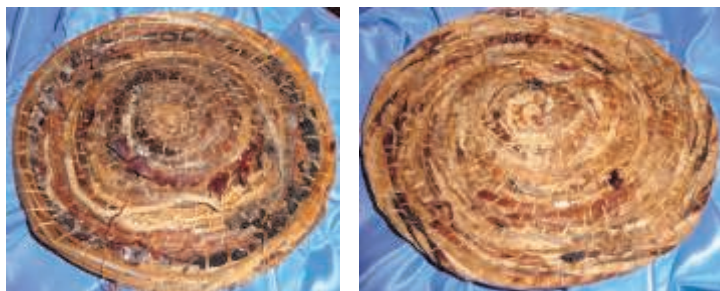
WAFTA One Day Workshops

Your committee is hard at work, planning for a couple of workshops, just in case you're feeling like there's something missing after the exhibition deadline panic has worn off...

A One-Day workshop is planned, with Anne Williams, for October 30, 2011

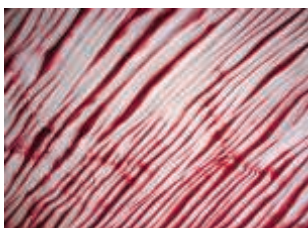
Basketry Techniques with Natural and Found Materials

If you're into re-cycling, then this workshop is for you...



Dyeing Discharge & Shibori Methods on Silk with Kate Jones
Using Acid Milling Dyes and discharge processes to create beautiful unique pattern and colour contrasts on silk.

For November 20, 2011.



To register your interest, contact:
www.wafta.com.au/workshops.html

or

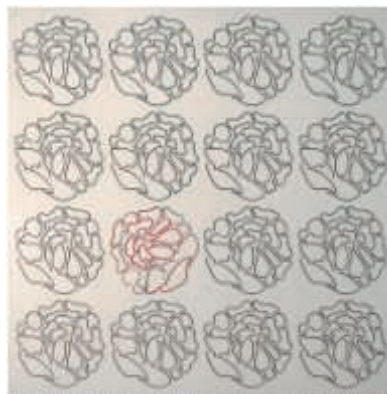
Louise Wells on 9271 5796
E: louise@eftdownunder.com

Coming up...

Tuesday October 21 Meeting: Pamela Gaunt

Pamela uses mixed media...

For more info: www.pamelagaunt.com.au



Tuesday November 22 Meeting: Tania Spencer

Tania works with wire....

For more info: www.taniaspencer.com



REMINDER

We would like to remind members that the Library is there with Surface Design Journal and a range of Newsletters for all to read.

Places are filling fast!

Report: 4th Friday Workday

August 26, 2011

Rosie Whitehead:

It was a lively session for the August Friday Workday, with Sununda Mukherji of West Bengal. Demonstrating Indian Embroidery, as made at Women's Handicraft Centre, Bopur-Santiniketan. The samples included styles of Kantha & Baatik, and demonstrations included Gujarati & Kashmiri styles.

These styles incorporated to create hand embroidered decorative detail on clothing in Sari and other traditional Indian styled pieces, Some pieces for home decoré and some were simply pieces of fabric, ready to be used. Some were for sale and others were display only.

Here's some of the embroideries...



...it wasn't all about embroideries - there was the WAFTA Cot Blanket for Louise Snook... The drive for this project was the brain child of Anne Williams.

In Progress...



...members were also busy with their own works...



...a beaded bracelet in progress...



Report: 4th Friday Workday

September 30, 2011

Rosie Whitehead:

Although I couldn't make it to this Friday workday, I have been informed that the Cot Blanket that Anne Williams had organized, had been pieced together as part of this work day's activities.

Marilyn Clark-Murphy

It was a small group and we all worked together round one big table, very pleasant and social.

Here's a little snippet from a message received from Louise Snook, about the Cot Blanket....

girls! Thank you so much for the beautiful knitted rug. I will treasure this. It is the MOST divine hand made present I have EVER received. I love feeling that so many hands have contributed and its WAFTA significance is precious. Each piece is beautiful, I adore the colours and the combined effect. Thanks to everyone who added their stitches and thoughts.



Many thanks to Anne Williams, for organizing the WAFTA Cot Blanket.

GOOMALLING ART AWARDS

Rosie Whitehead

Recently Goomalling held their first ever Art Awards. I found out about this exhibition, through another E publication I receive and it caught my attention when I saw that it was aimed at fibre and textile art in particular. I thought this was rare so, naturally I did a little digging and ultimately submitted an entry.

The day before opening, hubby & I went out to Goomalling and stayed overnight at the pub. I think the publican was actually surprised when we said we wanted a room for the night! So we had our room, with no access to the balcony as it was deemed unsafe - never mind the balcony, I think the entire foundations needed attention.!

In one evening in the pub, I think we pretty much found out all there was to know about Goomalling - for those who don't know, Goomalling is not that big

The exhibition was held at the historic Slater Homestead of some 100 yrs old. Beautiful stone buildings and the exhibit was held in the barn of stone walls and Gimlet Gum roof timbers that were also 100 yrs old.

Many thanks to Cathy Jensen, who was one of the organizers I'd spoken to, and arranged what turned out to be a private viewing.. Cathy has a Studio/store in town called Regal & rustic where several workshops were held prior to the exhibition.

... some photos of the exhibition....



Exhibitions and Events

Remember to check the website, www.wafta.com.au regularly for updates in the news section on what's hot in textile art.

Fibres West 2011

WAFTA wishes Fibres West every success with their current event in Bunbury.

More Info: info@fibreswest.com.au

Unique Perspectives:

in partnership with Fibres West 2011,

2 Solo Exhibitions

Stitched Felted works—Helen O'Hare from Ireland

Joomchi Paper Works - Jiyoung Chung from Korea

Bunbury Regional Art Galleries

64 Wittenoom St, Bunbury

Until Nov 13, 2011

Gallery Hours: 10 - 4 Daily

Admission: Free

Bloom Exhibition

Cobb & Co Museum

24 Lindsay Street, Toowoomba, NSW

When: Sep 12, 2011—Jan 22, 2012

Opening Hours: 10—4 Daily

Yarns of the Heart Exhibition

Noongar Dolls from the Southern Wheatbelt

Where: Mezzanine Gallery, WA Museum—Perth
Cultural Centre

When: Sept 16, 2011 - Jan 31, 2012

More Info: www.canwa.com.au

Mine Own Executioner Inhabitant 2011

Opening: Friday, October 14, 2011 7pm

Mundaring Arts Centre

7190 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring

RSVP: 08—9295 3991

More info: www.mundaringartscentre.com

Spring Open Days at Taylor's

Swan Valley

October 1, 8, 15, 23 & 30

Artists Talks: 11am & 2pm

More Info: www.taylorstudio.com.au

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The Thread Studio

Dale Rollerson

Ph: (08) 92271561).

Email: mail@thethreadstudio.com

Online textile workshops: www.thethreadstudio.com

CHRISTMAS PARTY

When: December 11, 2011

Where: Craft House, Alexander Park, Menora

Time: 3 - 6pm

Bring: Plate of food to share

Secret Santa: Bring a small gift
preferably your own work (Optional)

Cost: \$4 - Members \$8 - Non-Members