



Spinning stories, weaving dreams.

Wollongong Spinners & Weavers

wollongongspinnersandweavers@gmail.com

WOLLONGONG SPINNERS AND WEAVERS - INFORMATION SHEET

Welcome to the Group. We hope you will enjoy your time with us.

WHAT WE DO

We love welcoming new members and sharing our passion and knowledge in all things spinning and weaving. We often have in-house demonstrations and lessons in related crafts such as natural dyeing, tassel making, decorative trimmings, scrumbling and other associated crafts.

From time-to-time, we also provide workshops to school children in simple weaving and felting techniques.

WHEN AND WHERE WE MEET

We meet every Monday during school term at Mount Ousley Public School (MOPS), McGrath St, Fairy Meadow, from 9.30am to 2.00pm.

For those that can't make Mondays, there is also a Saturday group that meets from 10.00am – 12.00pm on the third Saturday of the month (address provided on request as spaces are limited).

A formal monthly meeting is held on the second Monday of the month at the school starting at 10.00am. Members are encouraged to attend the formal meetings as important information is distributed at this time.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is usually held in February of each year.

We usually have a morning tea break and members are also welcome to stay for lunch.

Please bring your own cup, spoon, milk (we have no fridge) lunch and snacks. Tea/coffee, sugar and biscuits are provided.

**If you feel unwell, have sniffles or a cough please do not come in.
Sanitiser is available for your use.**

FEES AND MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership fees are \$35, to be paid by the February AGM.

Our preferred method of payment is via direct deposit to our account:

Wollongong Handweavers and Spinners Inc.

BSB 641800

A/C 200018651

Ref: Fees + your name

Cash payment is also accepted.



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We also have an **attendance fee of \$3** to cover cost of tea/coffee etc and to go towards the cost of renting the room from the school.

Our membership list (including names, addresses and phone numbers) is circulated amongst our members to encourage collaboration and contact. However, to meet requirements of the Privacy Act please indicate on the membership form if you do not want your name on the list.

As we meet at a school, we are also required to undergo a **Working with Children Check** (WWCC). Please contact your nearest Service NSW office to apply. You will be issued with a WWCC number and expiry date, which must be provided to the Group's Secretary. Failure of members to apply for a WWCC may jeopardise our rental at the school.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION AND SALE

Each year we hold an Exhibition and sale of articles made by members of the Group. The Exhibition is usually held on the first Saturday in May (usually the weekend before Mother's Day) at the Fairy Meadow Community Centre (the venue may change in the future), from 9.00am – 3.00pm.

Members are encouraged to submit items that have been woven, knitted, crocheted, or felted for wear and household use. Items submitted for sale must adhere to the following guidelines:

- a) ALL GOODS OFFERED FOR SALE MUST BE MADE BY THE MEMBER
- b) For hand woven goods – any fibre can be used, as long as the member has woven the item.
- c) For knitted/crocheted items–fibre must be at least 70% hand spun
- d) Felted goods are acceptable including knitted and fulled items

The Group receives 20% commission on the sale of each item. New members are encouraged to enter their new work in the Exhibition, even if items are not for sale.

Articles for sale are to be labelled with washing instructions, description, materials used, technique, price, code & initials. Labels are available to record this information. More detailed information, including Inventory List is provided closer to the time of the Exhibition.

Setting up for the Exhibition is done on the Friday night before the Exhibition. Specific tasks are allocated to members closer to the time of the Exhibition.

We attempt to promote the Exhibition through various ways including distribution of Exhibition flyers, promotion using social media and on local radio stations, promotion through like-minded groups and organisations.



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Entry fee to the Exhibition is through gold coin donation, which goes to our chosen charity. Tickets are also available to purchase for our Raffle prizes.

There are demonstrations of spinning, weaving and associated crafts throughout the day with the highlight of the Exhibition being our Fashion Parade commencing at around 10.30am.

Morning/afternoon teas as well as light lunches are available at our café.

DEMONSTRATIONS AT OTHER EVENTS

We often attend events and provide demonstrations of our crafts and, if appropriate, submit items for judging and/or selling. Events we usually attend include:

- Shows, such as Royal Easter Show, Kiama Agricultural Show
- Other like-minded exhibitions or fairs such as Dapto Anglican Church Quilt, Craft and Art Show, the Doll & Bear Craft Fair.
- South Coast Fibre Muster, usually held every two years (venues to be advised)

HISTORY

Our Group has been in existence since July 1961 beginning as a weaving group but eventually becoming involved in other crafts until today, we are now covering many facets of weaving and spinning. Our weaving has many designs and patterns, and we make different articles for wear and household use eg scarves, shawls, tea towels, table runners etc or convert a hand woven fabric into a wearable item.

Our spinners work with a variety of fibres including sheep's wool, alpaca, silk, and often combine fibres to spin wonderful yarn which they then use to knit or crochet into wearable items and accessories. The process of taking fleece and spinning, plying and then making it into a unique handcrafted item is not only wonderful therapy but provides much pleasure to the maker.

We always enjoy attending various events and demonstrating our crafts and are always delighted at the questions and interest shown by members of the public. New members are especially welcome as we seek to keep alive the wonderful artistry of spinning, weaving and associated crafts.

Wollongong is still without a craft centre at a reasonable cost, but we have been fortunate to secure the use of a room at a school, where we can store our equipment (spinning wheels, looms and other associated items), as well as a substantial collection of library books covering a wide range of topics. Some of the members have been in the Group for many years and there is much pleasure in comparing skills and learning from each other.