

Australian Quaker Tapestry

Newsletter - October 2008

Bilby Yarns Used in the Backing Wool for the Tapestry Project

In the early 1980s June Lynn (founder of Bilby yarns) lived in Nhulunbuy in the Northern Territory and Karratha in the North West of Western Australia. These areas are home to a wealth of talented craftspersons and through them she was introduced to spinning and weaving. June was lucky to share in their knowledge and still treasures the many friends she made. Nature has a strong influence in nearly everything she does and having moved to Perth, W.A., June became involved with the Melanian Sheep Breeders Society. This group of farmers breed top quality, naturally coloured sheep in Western Australia. Inspired by their work, Bilby now produce the *Western Dream* range of naturally coloured WA Wool yarns and wool tops with no added chemicals just lovely, soft pure wool. Every October, they meet at one farm to collectively bulk bale everyone's wool clip. The lovely wool is heavily skirted, free of vegie matter and seed, has a lustre, a soft handle ... and is personally selected. Then it is sent to the eastern states to be scoured and processed as chemically free as possible. The tops and yarns are designed by June, right down to the last detail [so many twists per 10cm etc] and can be used by anyone - felters, knitters, weavers and anyone sensitive to chemicals. She hopes we enjoy using the wool as much as she enjoys making them available..

www.bilbyyarns.com.au

Central Committee

Cathy Davies
Garry Duncan
Frances Love

All enquires to:

tapestry@quakers.org.au

Website

www.freewebs.com/australianquakertapestry

Exchange ideas about the Quaker Tapestry on the yahoo group link below.

<http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/australianquakertapestryproject>

Donations for the ongoing support of the project can be made via the Quakers Australia office PO Box 556 Kenmore QLD 4069. Cheques should be made out to Australia Yearly Meeting (Tapestry Fund).



June Lynn and Mrs Ewe discuss customer needs.

Melanian sheep produce naturally coloured wool fleece in black, grey, beige, tan, dark grey, dark/light grey mix, patches and white etc.

Melanian Sheep

32 years ago in 1976 a group of 50 people met in Northam, Western Australia to organise what is now known as Melanian Sheep Breeders Society of Australia Inc.

The word melanian is derived from MELANIN meaning dark pigmentation or black colour.

Breeds include merino, corriedale, corriedale/merino border lec/merino in fine, medium and strong micron. Superfine merino is in white only.

Meetings for Stitching & Design

Blue Mountains (NSW)

Contact Frances Love

Brisbane (Queensland)

Contact Jude Pembleton

Canberra (ACT)

Contact Catherine Dabron

Darwin (NT)

Contact Elizabeth Kwan

Melbourne (Victoria)

Contact Tessa Spratt

Newcastle (Mayfield, NSW)

Contact Annie Frizell

Perth (Western Australia)

Contact Trish Wood

Sydney (Waitara, NSW)

Contact Cathy Davies