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Submitting an article to share with ASG members? The deadline is the **end of the month** for inclusion in the following month.

Notes from the Boardroom

The ASG is now officially a Company Limited by Guarantee, approved and registered by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) on 14 November 2016. This means we drop the 'Inc.' from our name and replace it with 'Ltd.' The new [constitution](#), which was adopted at the Special General Meeting in August, now comes into play. This document is available to all members on the ASG website under [Documents and Resources](#).

What does this change mean for your Neighbourhood Group? Apart from the above-mentioned, it's business as usual. Becoming a company does not mean your friendly and casual group meeting needs to change. It will not affect the pleasure you obtain from the company of other sewing enthusiasts. It will not diminish the joy and satisfaction received from creating with needle and thread, or the delight in browsing your fabric stash. Becoming a company does not change the values we hold dear and does not prevent us from sharing and furthering the art of sewing. Keep on doing what you do best and don't forget to share your stories with the newsletter editor at news@aussew.org.au.

All forms and templates have also been updated to reflect the name change. These new forms are also available under Documents and Resources. If you are currently in possession of any forms that have 'ASG Inc.' on them, please destroy and replace with new ones. Most of you will hold membership cards for ASG Inc. These **DO NOT** become invalid.

Reminder

Did you receive your pro-rata invoice in the mail? Don't forget that payment is due 31st December.

Message from the President

Another year has flown by in the blink of an eye. It's been a busy year for the Guild with many challenges thrown our way. The process of becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee began at the 2015 AGM and has occupied my thoughts and taken up much of my time over the ensuing year. Thanks to the help of our Public Officer, John Morrissey, we successfully navigated the regulations, forms and red tape.

A less-than-welcome challenge was the introduction of GST, a complication we cannot avoid thanks to the Australian tax laws. Our treasurer, Deb Evans, has worked tirelessly over the past six months, getting our books in order and ensuring we meet our legal obligations. I remind members that this is not a ruling imposed by the ASG Board. If you are looking for a scapegoat, blame the ATO. There was no other option available to us but to comply with their ruling, which is applicable to both incorporated associations and companies.

Enough of business...let's talk about what we really love – sewing! This year I had so much fun hosting four online Sew-Alongs over a period of 12 months. We made a mini tote bag, drafted a pattern and made a cowl neck top, whipped up a classic shirt with a nifty collar and collar stand and finished the year with a gorgeous heirloom cushion cover. The popularity of these sew-alongs grew with each offering. I'm already planning the next one – think faux leather handbag.

The Castaway to Couture competition was a huge success with so many clever creations produced, making it very hard for the judges to choose winners. Thanks to Echidna for their generous donation of a sewing/embroidery machine. We're doing it all again next year, this time with a Baby Lock overlocker up for grabs. We've listened to the non-Facebook members and are introducing a new way to vote for your favourite entry. Read more about Castaway to Couture 2017 in this newsletter or on the website.

Many Neighbourhood Groups from around Australia submitted articles and images of their sewing triumphs. Thanks for sharing with your fellow Guild members. I always love reading, and seeing, what you have been up to. It reminds me how many enthusiastic and talented people belong to our organisation.

12 Days of Sewing



The reputation of the ASG has been greatly enhanced by our social media presence, namely Facebook. We now have over 3,000 fans thanks to the efforts of Sarah Mummé of WA. Sarah has worked hard to generate interest in the Guild with Facebook posts covering a wide range of topics, from humorous to informative. It's all about getting the message out there – the Guild is a great organisation to belong to!

By the time you read this message, Christmas will be just a few sleeps away. I take this opportunity to wish all our members, and families, the most joyous Christmas. Surround yourself with people you love, laugh 'til your sides ache, indulge in your favourite treats and maybe even find some time to sew.

Our newsletter team will be taking a well-deserved break over the holiday season. You will not hear from us again until February 2017. In the meantime, snap some photos of your holiday sewing and send them to news@aussew.org.au.

Louise Sparrow

Around the Nation

Many of you will know the name Connie Crawford. Connie is a renowned pattern maker and designer who has taught at the Launceston and Sydney ASG Conventions. Connie is well known for developing a range of patterns that fit real women.

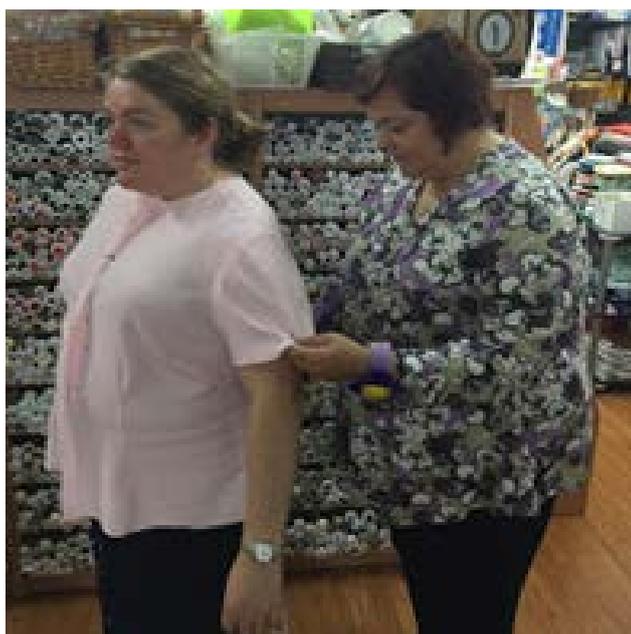
At our October **Sew and Reap** (NSW) meeting, one of our members, Janet Elmes, who has been personally trained by Connie, fitted us all in Connie's signature blouse shells. We all enjoyed the process of being fitted and seeing how everyone, no matter our size, shape or age can achieve an excellent fit with a minimum of effort!

With Connie's patterns we will be able to just "cut it out, sew it up and wear it" and isn't that what sewing is meant to be like?



We are looking forward to the next phase of the process, where we will create our own personalised blocks and develop them into new patterns!

Here is Anne in the original shell and after just a couple of adjustments, her personalised shell.



Janet has her own sewing school based in the Sutherland Shire and is available to any other groups who would like to be fitted and learn more about Connie Crawford's methods. You can contact Janet for more information at janetlikestosew@gmail.com.

Around the Nation

Northern Beaches, NSW



Here are some of the dresses sewn by the members of the 3 Northern Beaches groups, Seaside Sewers at Bayview, DY ladies now meeting at Beacon Hill and Hilltop ladies who also meet at Beacon Hill. Several of us go to all three groups. The cut out fabric is supplied with trims and we make them up in 2 styles, for 14 (the one shown) and 16 year old girls in a Sri Lankan orphanage. This is the third year we have participated.

AUSSEW-Along

It's common knowledge that a woman can never have too many shoes or too many handbags. With this in mind, we bring you the **Rubie Handbag**, our next sew-along.

This simply stylish cross-body bag with its diagonal pleat accents and cuff top is perfect for your daily running around. Under the cuff is a hidden slip pocket for your mobile phone or keys. If you find yourself needing a larger bag while shopping, just turn the cuff up and instantly you have a deeper bag with a lovely accent. The interior has a zipper pocket and a double slip pocket as well as a key fob.



This sew-along is open to both ASG members and non-members so there is no need to register – just join in the fun. Instructions will be issued over 5 days, via the [ASG Blog](#), commencing 13 March 2017. Lots of advance warning to start collecting everything you need.

The pattern by **Moments Design** is available as a download, through [Craftsy](#) and comes with 3 versions for the back. You decide which version suits your needs best...whether it be with pleats like the front, with a set in zipper or a full back pocket. Make it your personal perfect run-around bag! *(Some Moments Design patterns, including the Rubie bag, will be on sale for one week commencing 15 January 2017.)*

The sew-along will be geared toward making the bag from faux leather. However, the pattern does include instructions for a fabric only bag if you are a bit hesitant about tackling faux leather.

[Handbag Hardware Australia](#) (ASG Industry Partner) are joining the party and selling kits with interfacing and all the hardware you will need to complete the bag. View purchasing information on the [ASG Blog](#).

Looking for good quality synthetic leather? Try [Me Too Please](#), another ASG Industry Partner.

Questions? Email sewalong@aussew.org.au

Meet Our Industry Partners



WHY NOT BE YOUR OWN DESIGNER? It is possible!

Maureen Thompson's three books contain a wealth of information for any sewist needing design principles to modify basic patterns to create their own styles.

"I have worked in the sewing and fabric industry for forty five years and have observed that, even though our sewing abilities are constantly in demand, we lack the confidence to see just how versatile our skills really are. In my workshops I show you how to simply analyse your shape, then with the use of large visual aids, I demonstrate simple techniques involved in changing your own pattern pieces to create different designs."

<http://www.whynotbeyourowndesigner.com/>



Tips from Tessuti

check out their website for fabulous new cropped culottes.

www.tessuti.com.au

Did You Know...

...that those little, itty, bitty pieces of leftover soap shards make a truly excellent alternative to tailor's chalk? They give the sharpest of lines and disappear with a good steamy press of the iron.

TESSUTI



Turrumurra Drapery is a treasure trove for dressmakers, knitters and all crafty people, having been in Turrumurra since early last century. Conveniently located at 1319 Pacific Highway, Turrumurra NSW, phone 02 9449 5843, info@turramurradrapery.com.au



Sue Croston and her team have decades of experience and are happy to help with your latest project. Sue encourages young people to learn and carry on needlework skills, and offers classes in embroidery, knitting, crochet and dressmaking.

The Drapery stocks beautiful fabrics and knitting yarns from Australia and around the world, especially favouring the natural feel of cotton, wool, silk and linen. See www.turramurradrapery.com.au for a selection of their wide product range.

Turrumurra Drapery also embroiders "colours" on blazers for schools including Abbotsleigh, Ravenswood, Sydney Grammar, SCEGGS Darlinghurst and Shore. Your visit is always welcome.



One Thimble Digital Sewing Magazine Issue 13 was released on 11 November.

This issue is jam-packed with 10 PDF Sewing Patterns and 30 articles!

If you're wanting to sew fun summer clothing for children, or looking for some Christmas gift ideas, this is one you'll not want to miss. For more details check out the listing www.onethimble.com.au/product/one-thimble-issue-13



Upcoming Events



FabricFair (ASG Industry Partner) is hosting their annual **Camp Sew & So** in Armidale, NSW, commencing 15 January 2017. This is a sewing retreat for those who love to sew. A week where you can increase your knowledge, technical expertise and broaden creativity while meeting new and longstanding sewing friends.

[Program for the week and registration form](#)

Have you booked your seat for the ASG 20th Anniversary Lunch? Don't miss out on this special event celebrating the Guild, past and future. Marion Boyce, costume designer of Miss Phyrne Fisher fame, will be interviewed by ASG patron, Tara Moss. You'll also hear from our founding member Michelle Pullen.

Date: 25 March 2017

Venue: Mercure Hotel, Ultimo (Sydney) NSW

[Purchase your ticket now](#)



Project

This would be a great top for outer wear or just to pop over your Christmas dress, as an apron.

sewing4free.com/linen-apron-tank-top-tutorial/



Castaway to Couture



Most of the clothing that is disposed of each year is still very wearable, but it is thrown out simply because it is out of style, old, or we are just tired of it. However, recycled fashion or upcycling means we use the perfectly good textiles and re-work them into up-to-date styles.

The Castaway to Couture competition is back for another year. This time one lucky winner will receive an Eclipse DX overlocker donated by major sponsor Baby Lock Australia.

The idea is simple. Buy a garment (or a few) at any Op Shop, or raid your wardrobe. Use your awesome sewing skills to re-fashion it into something new. Take photos before you start, during the construction stage and of the finished garment. Then submit your photos with a short description of the design inspiration, construction process and garment purpose.

In the true spirit of sustainable fashion, we want to see minimal waste. You must use as much of your original garments as possible and the end result must be comprised of at least 90% recycled products. There are a few more 'rules and regulations' which you will find on the ASG website under [ALL ABOUT SEWING](#). Be sure to read these carefully as well as the Terms and Conditions of entry.

We want everyone to have the chance to view the entries, so this year we'll post the 'before and after' photos on the ASG Blog - no Facebook account required. Viewers will have a chance to vote for their favourite entry. Five fabulous prize packs will be shared between the judges' choice and the viewers' choice.

All entries must be in by 31 May 2017 so fire up those sewing machines and show us what you can do.

Baby Lock
Australia

Distributors of



Vale Michele Barker

Michele will be fondly remembered by so many of the ASG members, especially if they attended any of her fabric colouring workshops at meetings or Convention. She was always so positive and planning for the future despite so many health problems. We enjoyed many trips including a Mediterranean cruise and two weeks in Paris with Sue Neall as well as sewing retreats.

Having been a TAFE teacher, Michele was always willing to take time to help anyone with their sewing problems, fitting or even suggestions as to another way something might be done.

I originally met Michele in 2005 at the DY group and am happy to say we have been friends ever since. Michele's sewing talents were quite diversified – always whipping up a skirt or pants or jacket – either for herself or her daughter Filita. The ladies at the Bernina Club were always impressed with her 'show and tell' items.

We could rely on Michele to bring a sweet slice for us to enjoy with our morning tea at Bayview Seaside Sewers.

by Shan Breusch



Diary Dates

See [Diary Dates](#) on the website for full calendar

4 & 11 March - [Be Your Own Designer Workshop with Maureen Thompson](#) (Campbell Town, TAS)

25 March - [20th Anniversary Lunch](#) (Sydney, NSW)

29 April - NSW Industry Day

Contacts

President: Louise Sparrow

president@aussew.org.au

Treasurer: Deb Evans

treasurer@aussew.org.au

Director: Sallie Saunders

director_ss@aussew.org.au

NSW / ACT SLO: Wendy McKinnon

nswslo@aussew.org.au

QLD SLO: Colleen Whittaker

qldslo@aussew.org.au

SA SLO: Susan Fulop

saslo@aussew.org.au

TAS SLO: Position Vacant

tasslo@aussew.org.au

VIC SLO: Position Vacant

vicslo@aussew.org.au

WA SLO: Position Vacant

waslo@aussew.org.au

Membership Secretary: Gayle Wallace

join@aussew.org.au

M'ship Renewals Cashier: Carolyn Brooks

renew@aussew.org.au

Industry Partner Liaison: Jude Ewen

partners@aussew.org.au

Public Officer: John Morrissey (JFM Law)

publicofficer@aussew.org.au

AUSSEW News Team: Sallie Saunders, Ros Currie

news@aussew.org.au