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Notes from the Boardroom

A New Constitution

The following resolution was put to the members at a Special General Meeting on 27th August 2016.

That the Constitution of the Australian Sewing Guild Ltd in the form posted to the ASG website and presented to the Special General Meeting be adopted as the Constitution of the Guild in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the Guild's existing Constitution dated 15 October 2015.

Members were able to vote by postal ballot or in person at the meeting. The result was 526 (88%) in favour and 70 (12%) against.

[Minutes of the Special General Meeting](#) are available on the ASG website (Members section, Documents and Resources - type 'special' in the Search field).

Annual General Meeting - 29 October 2016

City of Sydney RSL, 565 George Street, Sydney NSW
1:30 PM

Adoption of the new constitution means the process of transferring from an Incorporated Association in NSW to a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) can begin. We are required to take a number of administrative steps to effect the transfer.

The first step is to hold a final AGM of ASG Inc at which the final Statement of Financial Affairs will be presented to members for approval. Once this is approved it will be submitted to the NSW Office of Fair Trading as part of the transfer process.

The second step is to appoint board members for the short time until the transfer to the new CLG is complete.

The board advises that for this final AGM of ASG Inc, it is not necessary to call for additional nominations to the board which will only be in place for a short time. The current board members, who are able to continue, can remain in place until the transfer to the CLG is complete. At that time, the board will set the date for the first AGM of the new entity and call for nominations to the new board.

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The current board members are:

Louise Sparrow, President

Deborah Evans, Treasurer

Donna Miegel, Secretary

Jude Ewen, Ordinary Member

Colleen Whittaker, Ordinary Member

Wendy McKinnon, Ordinary Member

Ros Grant, Ordinary Member

Janice McDonnell, Ordinary Member

Kathy Johnson, Ordinary Member

Helen Hawthorne, Ordinary Member

Shirley Wood, former Vice President has resigned from her position and will not continue as a board member. The board has appointed Sallie Saunders to fill this casual vacancy until the first AGM of the new company.

The board will provide information sessions for all members who may wish to nominate for the board of the new company as soon as dates are known.

Fee Reduction

Last month we announced the result of the vote on membership fee reduction vs. national subsidies. The majority of Neighbourhood Groups were in favour of reducing fees. Effective 1st September new fees are:

New members - \$55

1 year renewal - \$44

3-year renewal - \$120

Student/Juniors - \$11 (unchanged)

One final subsidy will be paid to all Neighbourhood Groups by the end of September. It will be calculated at \$10 per financial member as at 31 August 2016.

Each Group Coordinator will receive an email advising the amount of the subsidy and the list of financial members used to calculate that subsidy. The email will also advise which account the subsidy has been deposited to, and how to access the funds.



Have you recently paid for a 3-year membership? Read [New Financial Year](#). You will be getting a bonus extension to your membership.

New Financial Year



When the transfer to Company Limited by Guarantee has been completed, we will be known as **Australian Sewing Guild Ltd.** and will operate with a calendar financial year - 1st January to 31st December. All membership fees will come due 31st December. This means some adjusting to renewal dates will be required. You will be sent a pro-rata invoice for the amount required to move your renewal date to the end of the year. For example, if your membership comes due on 30 April 2017, your invoice will be for 8 months taking you up to 31 December 2017.

Members who have recently renewed for 3 years will receive free months to compensate for the fee reduction. Your invoice will show the free months deducted from the amount owing.

ASG in New Zealand For some years the Australian Sewing Guild has been represented by Groups in New Zealand and we were lucky to enjoy their hospitality at the 2013 convention. These 'Kiwi' members have now formed their own group, called *Sewing Connection Auckland*, which is independent of the ASG. Many of these ladies still remain members of the ASG and will retain all their membership benefits in the new company. However the new company limited by guarantee will no longer include NZ groups or regions. We wish our NZ friends many happy hours of sewing.

Positions Vacant

Do you like interacting and communicating with people?

Are you a team player and happiest when involved with organising a project or event?

Think about becoming an ASG State Manager

Several State Liaison Officers are retiring from their positions this year. Janice McDonnell (VIC), Ros Grant (TAS), Kathy Johnson (SA) and Helen Hawthorne (WA) are all stepping down. We thank them for their service to the Guild. Colleen Whittaker (QLD) would also be happy to hand over the reins to someone else, should you be interested.

State Liaison Officer is a bit of a mouthful, and sometimes hard to describe to people external to the Guild. The name is changing to State Manager which is more self-explanatory. It's a challenging job but not all duties need be the responsibility of a single person. The State Manager can recruit assistants and committees as and when they need - it's all about teamwork!

If you are looking for a challenge and would like to be part of this exciting time for the Guild, please contact Louise Sparrow at president@aussew.org.au, sending a brief resume of the skills you feel you would bring to the job. A [Position Description](#) is available on the website under Documents and Resources (type 'position description' in the Search field).



A Sundress in September



Spring is in the air Time to pack away the winter woolies and start thinking about warmer temperatures and cooler fabrics.

Join the Tessuti challenge to **Sew a Sundress in September**.

To take part, all you need to do is sew a sundress in September and share your project on Instagram (or Facebook) - as often or as little - along the way. There are no conditions, no prizes and certainly no pressure. We're just doing this to motor up some group motivation for summer sewing. Photo ideas include...



- ⦿ fabric choice
- ⦿ pattern choice
- ⦿ inspiration photo
- ⦿ progress shot/s
- ⦿ sewing tips/techniques
- ⦿ final garment (week 4)
- ⦿ Feel free to share if you're taking part, and don't forget to tag your photos [#TFasundressinseptember](#)

Around the Nation

Brisbane Sewing Forum – Fibres and Fabrics

by Deb Symes (QLD)



We learnt, we admired and we enjoyed. This was Brisbane's southside Sewing Forum - all about Fibres and Fabrics. Our guest speakers guided us through modern fibres, fabrics from the past and how to look after our stash. Meriel Chamberlin gave an interesting insight into the manufacture of modern fabric and how today's fibres are giving us breathable fabrics used in outdoor and sports clothing. Advances in technology are also bringing benefits to the environment by using fewer resources, such as water, which means less chemicals when dyeing. Dr Veronica Lampkin captivated us all with Madame Weigel's fascinating life bringing fashion journals and patterns to Australian ladies. The fabrics (and fur) suggestions for some of the early patterns included bishop's lawn, cambric, nainsook and astrakhan to name a few. Finally, Michelle Peloe made us feel good about our stash and how we can store it creatively – the bigger the stash the more impressive the display. How can you argue with that?!!



The ladies of the Southside put on an impressive fashion parade with a few displaying the same pattern sewn differently. We even had a flash of a Booby Traps bra, and when you are as talented as these ladies anything goes!

I wish to thank everyone involved in organising the day (without them nothing happens) and thank the retailers for bringing a great range of stock. A great day - if you missed out on the fun you have another two years to wait and join in next time.



Cora is a new app for iPhones and iPads that helps fabric lovers stay organised and sew their stashes. Quickly enter information about your fabrics and then search, sort and filter to find the perfect match for your next project! Try Cora free with up to 5 fabrics on the App Store

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/cora-sew-your-fabric-stash/id1114445108?mt=8>

Are you an Android user who would like a fast, modern app for your fabrics? Fill out the brief survey at <http://meetcora.com/android> to register your interest!



The **Brisbane North Region** has been sponsoring junior prizes in the needlework section of the **Pine Rivers Show** for many years. Sometimes this has been as simple as providing a small amount of sponsorship for the prize sashes, and sometimes extra prizes have been presented.

The Pine Rivers Show is on the weekend before the Ekka starts, and is held in Lawnton which is fairly central to the Brisbane North ASG region.

We sponsor three prizes for young people: the Junior Champion Exhibit award, and two encouragement awards. The winners this year ranged in age from 8 to 14, but children as young as 4 enter. In the last few years we have been making up a bag of sewing goodies to go to the winners. Along with a fun mix of haberdashery, there is always a sewing related book, and of course a piece of ASG promotional material.

This year I was given a personal tour of the needlework exhibit when I delivered the prizes. I was shown all 'our' winners – an embroidery by a 14 year old and a doll by an 8 year old which won the encouragement awards, and the quilt that won the Junior Champion award. There were other delights there as well – a lovely embroidery by a 4 year old, who did just a few stitches each night under the supervision of her mother; that mother's exquisitely detailed girl's dress, which won the grand champion exhibit of needlework; and some stunning embroideries by two very elderly gentlemen, who, the steward told me, always beat the ladies in that category.

The sponsorship of these prizes costs no more than about \$130 a year, and gets the Guild's name in front a large audience, many of whom have an interest in needlework. We look at it as a long term investment, letting the young sewists and their families know that we exist, in a positive and yes, encouraging way.



Junior encouragement award, age 14



Judges' encouragement award, age 8



Quilt, Junior champion



Embroidery winner, age 4



Grand Champion winner



Quilt entries

HATS FOR A DIFFERENT SEASON

By Karina Barlow (WA)

In November 2015 I was diagnosed with breast cancer- a small lump in the side of my breast. This meant surgery followed by chemotherapy and radiotherapy. *And I would lose my hair.* For me this was terrifying so I immediately purchased a wig. The wig lasted one wear and was tossed aside but I had bought a couple of turbans as well as patterns to sew turbans. Purchased turbans or hats are very expensive so this is where my sewing skills became a great advantage. It also allowed me to personalise my hats to suit what I was wearing and to have “lots of them”.



I set about by adapting the patterns to the purchased turbans and came up with two styles I was very happy with. Both have a form of padding above the rim to give height making them look more like a “stylish hat” rather than a “cancer turban”. The padding in one, as shown in the photo, was a strip of wadding attached on the wrong side above the rim and the other was an elasticised gathering giving the height. I was also able to attach various finishes to individualise each hat in the form of pintucks around the rim to buckles and buttons etc.

Because I was enjoying the whole enterprise so much I then set about making one for every occasion and outfit and when making a new dress or top, a hat had to be accommodated in cutting out of the fabric. As a result I have many to choose from and the loss of hair was nowhere near as arduous as first thought. I was very comfortable wearing my hats to every occasion.

What started out as a dire need finished up an enjoyable and very creative journey allowing me to use a lot of those fabric pieces that are not big enough to make much out of. Now that my treatment is over and the hair is finally starting to grow I will soon have no need of them. Some will go to the Cancer Foundation along with the wig but a lot I will keep for those “bad hair days”.



Be inspired by Karina's story and her creativity. Create your own style and don't be afraid to stand out from the crowd. This is why we sew!

Upcoming Events



Last month we tempted your tastebuds with the [Stylermaker Series - Couture by You](#) in Victoria.

Exciting news - this inaugural event is now open for bookings!

There is a fabulous line up for the day with lots of opportunities to be inspired, learn, and interact with fellow attendees and presenters. View vintage garments from 6 different decades, learn couture sewing techniques, take home a sample, and exchange patterns with other sewing enthusiasts.

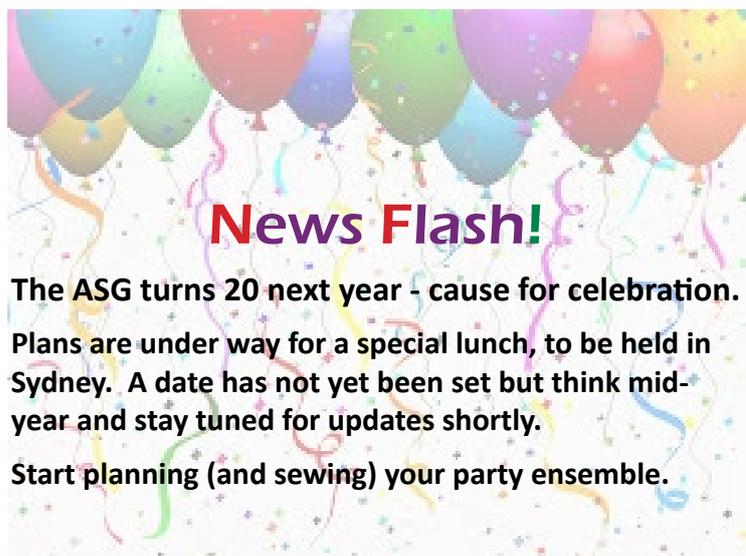
- Couture and styling through 1920's—1970's
- Take-home couture tips and techniques
- The art of draping
- Hands-on couture demonstrations, practice and advice
- Devonshire tea
- Lucky door prizes and raffles
- Pattern exchange

Featured presenters

- Vintage garment expert, costume designer and award winning author Nicole Jenkins
- RMIT School of Fashion & Textiles instructor and Director of Alchemy Sewing Studio, Sandra Doutsas

Full program on ASG website under [WHAT'S HAPPENING](#), Industry Days

[BOOK NOW](#)



The Australian Sewing Guild is sponsoring renowned couture expert Susan Kahlje's visit to Australia. We can't give you all the details yet as this trip is still in the planning stages. However, we can say that Susan will be running a series of workshops in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane early next year - January & February 2017.

Susan is offering Guild members a 10% discount on all her Australian workshops. Start planning now and watch out for more information as plans progress.

Convention 2016 Bookings

Bookings for Cairns Convention close this month. If you are hiring a machine (sewing or overlocker) you must make your booking by midnight 16th September. No machine required? - bookings close 30th September.



16 - 18 September 2016

Hobart Showgrounds

[Open flyer](#)

Sydney streets to transform into spectacular fashion runway



A collaboration between UTS Fashion & Textiles and one of the UK's most celebrated fashion luminaries, Julian Roberts, will see inner Sydney streets transformed into an outdoor, performance scape for this year's BEAMS Festival.

To the backdrop of art installations, music and celebration, students will perform their garments developed as part of Roberts's renowned "Subtraction Cutting" masterclass, in a one-and-a-half-hour night travelling showcase weaving through Chippendale's Creative Precinct on September 17. [Read more...](#)

Meet our Industry Partners



Natalie Williams, located in Perth WA, runs classes, workshops and retreats for the modern sewist.

Hey there fellow sewing lovers, I'm Nat and I live in Perth, Australia. I'm happily outnumbered by the boys in my life, my husband Craig and my two adorable

boys who are 5 and 12.

My sewing journey began back in the 80s when, as an impressionable child, I began sewing scrunchies on my mum's Lemair machine. Scrunchies were cool in the 80s I'm telling you!

I still have that awesome machine and it weighs a ton. My award winning career as a seamstress began in first year high school claiming third prize for my shorts at the annual art and craft show. I then took a well-deserved break until after the birth of my first bub in 2010. Since then I've been making things for him and now my second little monkey and have recently become certifiably obsessed with sewing my own clothes.

Don't be a stranger! I'd love to hear from you so feel free to leave a comment, send an email or leave a message on my facebook

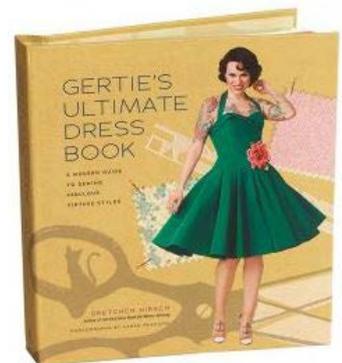
Checkout my website www.sewforlife.com.au

Cheers, Nat



Book Review

If you love retro style, check out the new sewing book by Gretchen Hirsch. ***Gertie's Ultimate Dress Book: A Modern Guide to Sewing Fabulous Vintage Styles*** (STC Craft, 2016) is a comprehensive reference to dressmaking techniques and a pattern book in one 236-page, spiral-bound hardcover package. The book's first half teaches a solid range of skills such as dress construction, finishing details, fitting, and working with special fabrics. The second half offers patterns and instructions for 23 vintage-style dresses designed by Gretchen for day, night, and special events. Patterns are printed on separate pattern sheets in an envelope at the back of the book. The pattern pieces are also interchangeable; any bodice can go on any skirt, and collars, sleeves, etc., are mix-and-match so you can create even more than the 23 designs provided.



Available from BookDepository.com for \$34.97 AUD

View sample of content at AbramsBooks.com

Welcome to 3 new Industry Partners

[Sew For Life](#) (WA)

[Chillipop](#) (QLD)

[Thread Den](#) (VIC)

Have you got something to contribute to the newsletter? We'd love to receive your articles and photos. When submitting an article...

- Write your story in MS Word - text only, do not paste images into the Word document.
- Send your photos as separate JPG files.
- Minimum size of photos should be 600 x 800 pixels. Larger is better, but too small and the image is not clear enough.
- When appropriate, include full names of people in photos.

Diary Dates

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

8-10 Sep Craft & Quilt Fair (Wellington, NZ)

22-25 Sep Shoalhaven Retreat (WA)

24 Sep NSW Industry Day (Sydney)

24 Sep Inspiration Day (SA)

5-9 Oct Craft & Quilt Fair (Brisbane)

9 Oct Industry Day (VIC)

10-13 Oct ASG Convention (Cairns)

25 Oct Victoria Spring Luncheon

29 Oct Annual General Meeting (Sydney)

10-12 Nov Bribie Island Retreat (QLD)



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