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Notes from the Boardroom

Another year has slipped in under the radar. I'm sure I only just finished packing away the Christmas decorations and now I find myself once again surrounded by snow (OK, cotton wool), tinsel and baubles. As I reflect on the year gone by, many of my highlights have involved Guild activities. Early in the year we celebrated our 20th anniversary at a delightful lunch in Sydney. What a fabulous day and a tribute to all those involved in making the ASG a successful organisation! It was very special to have members from right across Australia attending this event.

This has been a year of change and growth. We have attempted to simplify "rules and regulations" so our members can concentrate on doing what they love best – sewing and enjoying the company of like-minded people. I am encouraged by the steady influx of new members over the year – 314 at the time of writing – with 26 past members re-joining. Welcome (and welcome back) to all.

Thank you to all those who have worked hard to make this such a successful year – those who organised special events, those who coordinated local groups, those who collected the money and accounted for expenses, those who shared their expertise in workshops and, of course, all those members who willingly and generously shared their love of sewing.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with the love of friends and family. What more can you ask for (other than plenty of time to sew)?!

Louise Sparrow
Chair, Board of Directors



New Membership Secretary

Our membership secretary, Gayle Wallace, and renewals cashier, Carolyn Brooks, have now officially retired. We thank them for their dedication to the job over the past two years. Both ladies devoted many hours to the administrative tasks that are so important to the operation of the Guild. Please join the Board of Directors in giving them a round of applause and a rousing send-off.

On a personal note, I will miss working with the very efficient Gayle and Carolyn. However, I am delighted to welcome Helene Gassman on board. Helene is a Queensland member and a Group Coordinator for the Sew & Tell group. She will be donning the Membership Secretary hat. As mentioned in the last newsletter, the two roles will be combined into one, with additional help recruited during the busy period when processing membership renewals. Lucie Albie (NSW member) will be joining the team for this period. Many thanks to both ladies for their generosity and willingness to work for the ASG. Please offer Helene and Luci your support and thanks.

*Louise Sparrow,
Chair, Board of Directors*



Board Nominations

The Annual General Meeting will be held 28 April 2018 in Sydney, NSW. If you are considering nominating for a seat on the Board of Directors, please take a minute to read the information pack which can be found in the Members section of the website, under [HELP/FAQS](#).

All nominations must be received by the Returning Officer (returningofficer@aussew.org.au) no later than midnight, 26 February 2018.

To nominate you must **email** the following:

- signed [nomination form](#)
- portrait style photo (head and shoulders shot)
- short biography
- outline of qualifications, experience and skills you will bring to the Board. These must address the selection criteria outlined in the [Position Description](#).

The information submitted with your nomination form will be published in a special edition of AUSSEW News for all members to review prior to the election of a new Board.

Voting will be done electronically, commencing 2 April and closing 16 April 2018. Anyone wishing to submit a postal vote must apply to the Returning Officer for a ballot paper to be sent by mail. There will be no voting at the AGM. To be eligible to vote you must be 18 years of age or older and a financial member at 31 March 2018.

Audited financial reports will be made available on the website at the beginning of April 2018. Members will be notified when they are ready for viewing.

Membership Renewal Invoices

Nearly all our members (95%) have transitioned to the new renewal date of 31 December. For those whose memberships are due 31/12/2017, your invoice has been sent via email. If you do not have an email address it has been sent via postal mail.

Renewal Options

- 1 year for General Members or Industry Partners - \$44 (or \$45.53 for PayPal)
- 3 years for General Members or Industry Partners - \$120 (or \$123.66 for PayPal)
- 1 year for Junior Members - \$11 (or \$11.61 for PayPal)
Under 18 years of age
- 1 year for Student Member - \$22 (or \$22.92 for PayPal) must be undertaking full-time studies.
Copy of Student ID required

Payment Options

- Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) – BSB 064-194; Acct 1030-2557. Reference with your member number and surname
- PayPal – send payment to treasurer@aussew.org.au Reference with your member number and surname
- Cheque or Money Order – Payable to Australian Sewing Guild. Send to PO Box 1048, HOPE ISLAND, QLD 4212. Include a copy of your invoice.

If you have NOT received an invoice it can be due to one of the following reasons:

- You may still be mid-term in a 3-year membership
- You did not pay the pro-rata invoice to change to the December renewal. You will be sent another pro-rata invoice 30 days before your membership is due to expire. Alternatively, you can contact the Membership Secretary to find out how much to pay now, to change your renewal date to 31 December. For example, if your membership is due 31/03/2018 you can pay \$22.30 now to change the renewal to 31/12/2018. This fee is calculated AFTER granting 2 free months to compensate for the reduction in membership fees last year.
- OR...your invoice may be lost in cyberspace/postal mail

Questions about your invoice? Please contact the Membership Secretary at join@aussew.org.au

Meet Our Industry Partners



Alison, the designer at **Lorelei Jayne**, designs bag sewing patterns and blogs her sewing journey. Lorelei Jayne sewing patterns are modern unique designs with easy to read instructions and great techniques to achieve professional results. Lorelei Jayne is a blog dedicated to helping you along your journey from learning to sew, to designing and making clothing, bags and accessories.



Use the coupon **AUSSEW** on www.loreleijayne.com for 15% off all Patterns

Use the exclusive **AUSSEW** discount code at www.loreleijayne.com to receive 15% off Lorelei Jayne patterns.

Fans of bag making will know about Handbag Hardware Australia. Exciting news – owner Kylie Hammond has expanded her business. She has a new online shop called **Betty Box Pleat** with just about everything you will need to make beautiful handbags, wallets, clutches, backpacks, etc.



We love to shine!

When you want the quality of your hardware to reflect the quality of your workmanship, come to Bettys!

Check out all the kits for various bag designs. It's a great way to make sure you have all the supplies you need to create your project – just add fabric.

The old Etsy store is still open so you can shop in TWO places...AND...the special discount code for ASG members can be used in both shops. Your code is **ASG10** to receive 10% off all products.

Shop at www.bettybp.com.au or www.etsy.com/shop/HandbagHardwareOz



Sewing Adventures was created out of the need to provide a social sewing space offering classes that suited people like me! Like-minded souls who wanted more sewing experiences in a fun, friendly and social environment.

We have a fabulous team of teachers, who are highly skilled and love sewing, and we have an amazing new Sewing Studio in Moorooka, QLD. With Beginner Classes, Kids Classes, Dressmaking, Project Classes, Social Sewing and Events! So come and join us... learn to sew... expand your skills.

Fun! Social! Creative! Let's Sew!

Sewing Adventures

30 Chalfont Street Salisbury Qld 4104

0417 591 438

Leesa@sewboxes.com.au

www.sewingadventures.com.au

Little Gems Competition Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the Little Gems Competition. In fact, well done to all entrants for a fine display of creativity. Thank you to everyone who participated in the vote. The winners, by popular choice are:

1st Prize – Barbara Davie



2nd Prize – Alison Carter



3rd Prize – Gwen Smith



Around the Nation

North West Sew'N'Sews Retreat

Our three day sewing retreat to Lancefield (VIC), at the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, has become a much anticipated annual event for our group. Just a short drive from Melbourne, the cottage and studio of Sewjour provide a welcome respite from the day-to-day routines that often interfere with our love of sewing.

Six members of our group converged at the cottage on Monday and promptly scattered to the well-appointed studio, arbour or veranda. It wasn't long before all the chatting, lunching and sipping was done and we all knuckled down to some serious sewing to the melodious voice of Shirley Bassey.



This year pant projects, repairs and UFOs were favourites. First fittings were sometimes a good laugh but final results were always well applauded. The days were relaxed, comfortable and unhurried. We enjoyed dinner at the local hotel on the second night but were soon at the machines again until our patchwork quilted beds beckoned. An early rise again on Wednesday before a late checkout and return to the real world.



Inspiration Day, South Australia

South Australia held its annual Inspiration Day on 23 September. The event was enjoyed by over 50 members and friends.

Four guest speakers entertained us during the day with a diverse range of subjects.

Liz Haywood spoke about her recently self-published book "The Dressmaker's Companion". Anthea Martin interviewed Liz, asking about her sewing life and how she came to write the book.



Annie Basham, a long-time member of the Victoriana society, brought along many costumes which she had made, dating from the 1770's to the 1870's, (and she wore a period dress). Corsets and other underwear are also included in her collection.

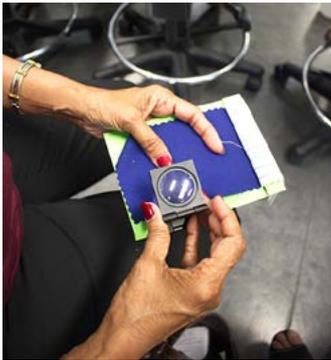


After a delicious lunch, Nicole Jenkins from Melbourne talked about clothing styles from the 1920s to 1970s and illustrated her talk with a slide show and garments. Nicole is a costume designer and vintage clothing aficionado who has written two books on the subject.



Louise Sparrow's talk was titled "Slicing, Dicing and Darting". Louise showed how to create design features by moving darts around. The talk was accompanied by slide show and half scale garments.

Fashion to Fabric



Victorian members enjoyed a day of **Fashion to Fabric**, another event in the Stylemaker Series.

The day started with a talk by Julie Wright (Course leader of the VET & Higher Education Fashion Programs) entitled *Fabric Futures - Green is the new Black*, in which she highlighted some of the history of fabric production. She went on to discuss the current issues with fabric production and the impact of the massive amounts of fabric (e.g. clothes) being disposed of today and then talked about sustainability in the industry.

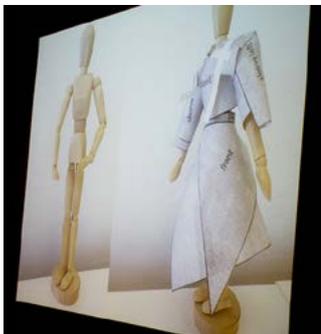


Next was Kim Young (degree Lecturer of Design Innovation/Professional Practice) who examined two fabrics in depth in the *Fibre 2 Fabric Forensics* session - silk and polyester. She took us through the production processes for both fabrics, the uses and care; then we were able to look at samples using magnifying lenses.



The very popular “pattern exchange” made a return this year and during lunch there was much enthusiasm searching for just the right pattern (or maybe just one that looked interesting or one that would round out the collection at home!).

After lunch three ladies from Style Arc talked about the development of the company, and the process of inspiration, design, and production of their patterns. This was a very popular item on the program and we could have spent a few hours with Liz, Lyn and Cheryl. They also unveiled their multi-size patterns (which will be available in Australia in the new year) as well as a brand new jean pattern!



The remainder of the afternoon was divided into three hands-on workshops that introduced attendees to an area that they may have not been exposed to before.



Pattern Manipulation (run by Andrea Streefkerk - VET lecturer-patternmaking) - taking a basic bodice block and manipulating the darts into style lines to produce a pattern for a specific design



Zero Waste Challenge (Joh Barnett - Degree lecturer-design Innovation/Professional Practice) - Using an

A3 size paper - creating an outfit for the toy models using the whole sheet with no waste pieces

Sewing tips (Sandy Gagnon) - Yoga for sewers and tips for cutting out sheer fabrics

Andrea and Joh had their own challenges of presenting a very complex topic and guiding the participants through the whole process in 40 minutes! They did a fabulous job.



Sewing Challenge major prize

Are you considering entering the **Sewing Challenge at the 2018 Convention**? Here's a great incentive. One of the major prizes is a Sew Sister valued at \$720, donated by the lovely Hollie Bell of Tools by Hollie (ASG Industry Partner).

"What's a Sew Sister?" you ask. It's a 3D scan of your body carved into foam to create an exact replica of your unique shape. This is then transformed into a dressmaker's model to assist you in achieving fitting perfection.



The challenge is open to all ASG members. Be in it to win it!



Correction - Challenge Entry Form

An email was sent to all members at the beginning of November, just before Convention bookings opened. It contained links to registration and entry forms for the Sewing Challenge. The link for the entry form was not correct. Here is the [correct link](#). This form should be completed, printed and then attached to your entry. If submitting more than one entry, please complete a separate form for each entry.

All convention information, including forms is available on the website under WHAT'S HAPPENING, CONVENTION.

"I'm going to the Galah dinner at the convention,
Oops, Gala dinner,"

Don't forget to let convention@aussew.org.au
know if you are entering the competition.



Book Reviews

Twentieth-Century Fashion in Detail

Claire Wilcox and Valerie D. Mendes

ISBN 978-1-851-77571-2

This glamorous book, part of the Victoria & Albert Fashion in Detail series, illustrates the intricate details of twentieth-century fashion.

Spectacular photographs, accompanied by expert commentaries and specially commissioned line drawings, focus on fanciful Dior bows, Chanel buttonholes, and metal springs on a Schiaparelli jacket. This unique study provides an insight into the techniques and craft practices used by couturiers and the construction of these amazing garments. Twentieth-Century Fashion in Detail will delight all followers of fashion.



Creating Couture Embellishment

Ellen W. Miller

ISBN 978-1-780-67949-5

The finishing touches applied to a garment can take it from the realms of the ordinary to the heights of luxury. Creating Couture Embellishment offers a step-by-step guide to manipulating fabric and making and applying a rich variety of embellishments.

Chapters cover fabric-manipulation techniques of pleating, quilting, tucking, ruffling, shirring, and smocking, as well as the fabrication and application of feathers, beading, embroidery, flowers, decorative ribbons and bows, bias bindings and piping, fringe, braids, and passementerie. The heirloom quality created by the insertion or application of lace is also explored.

Featuring a visual index of every embellishment in the book that is designed to offer inspiration as well as showcasing the myriad of choice, Creating Couture Embellishment provides a comprehensive sourcebook of ideas for the student, professional, and home sewer alike.

The Sewing Machine

Natalie Fergie

At the start of this novel, it is 1911, and Jean is about to join the mass strike at the Singer factory. For her, nothing will be the same again. Decades later, in Edinburgh, Connie sews coded moments of her life into a notebook, as her mother did before her. More than 100 years after his grandmother's sewing machine was made, Fred discovers a treasure trove of documents. His family history is laid out before him in a patchwork of unfamiliar handwriting and colourful seams. He starts to unpick the secrets of four generations, one stitch at a time.

'An extraordinarily accomplished and beautiful debut novel woven with historical detail.'-Rachael Lucas, author of Wildflower Bay

'The Sewing Machine tenderly evokes the true value of the personal heritage we pass down, through generations and beyond families, with the objects that we love. Illuminating our shared history through the private histories of four remarkable women, this is a hopeful and poignant debut that lingers long after the final page.'-Helen Sedgwick, author of The Comet Seekers

