

Creative Fibre Education

National Tutor: Anne Grassham



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Biography

Anne lives in the Tasman district of inland Nelson and has farmed sheep, producing fleeces for handcraft use, for over 30 years. She has a good understanding of wool, from sheep, to their fleeces, and woolcraft.

Anne initially learnt to knit at aged five, and later spinning, weaving, felting and other fibre craft skills. Her interests are wide ranging, and include developing new ideas around equipment and techniques, and combining different techniques into a single project.

Anne worked as a secondary teacher, and also has tertiary teaching qualifications and experience. Not only has she shared her knowledge, skills and ideas within the Creative Fibre community at local, area and national gatherings, but also in the wider community, including schools and an OSCAR program, since 1999. She has run workshops (Adventures with Wool) for tourists and locals from her home on the farm since 2012.

Anne has scientific training and an experimental approach to her craft, but her passion is creativity, and her classes reflect this.

Workshops

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P2	Fleece Selection and Preparation	Open	3	National, area/local
P3	Learn to Spin	Beginner	3	Area/local
P4	Introduction to Diagonal Weaving	Beginner	3	National, area/local
P5-6	Diagonal Weaving Beyond the Basics	Intermediate	3	National, area/local
P7-8	Hooked Rug Making	Beginner	3	Area/local
P9-10	Rainbow Dyeing Fleece	Beginner	3	Area/local
P11	Introduction to Needle Felting	Beginner	3	Area/local
P12-13	Creating Texture using Felting Needles	Intermediate	3-6	Area/local



Creative Fibre Workshop

Fleece Selection and Preparation

Tutor: Anne Grassham

Description

Students will look in detail at matching appropriate wool characteristics to a wide variety of wool-based projects. Workshop starts by exploring questions like “What would be a good use for this fleece?”. Or alternatively, “What would be a good fleece for this project?”. We will cover skirting a fleece, and discussing ways of preparing the wool for the intended techniques and end use. Students are welcome to bring their own fleece for comment and skirting, but may need to finish skirting in their own time.



Available for:	National, area/local workshops
Level	Any level, but some woolcraft experience preferable.
Minimum No. of Participants	2
Maximum No. of Participants	10
Duration	3 hours
Learning Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• By the end of the workshop students will:• Have a practical knowledge of fleece characteristics and be able to identify potential flaws.• Know how to approach selecting a suitable fleece for a project: and conversely selecting a suitable project for a given fleece.• Have skirted a fleece for the intended use of the wool.• At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants would expect to take away knowledge, ideas, and confidence to match a fleece with appropriate projects, and any small fleece samples they wish to keep with their notes.
Materials Required by Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pen and paper• Any project ideas they have and want to discuss• An unskirted fleece (can be provided by the tutor by prior arrangement)• Other wool or fibres (optional - for comment)
Materials Provided by Tutor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Course notes• Unskirted fleeces can be provided by prior arrangement
Materials Fee	To be advised
Advance Preparation	None.
Classroom Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Well-lit room with white board/blackboard.• Table/desk space for a laying fleece out for each student (equiv. of trestle table/ student), covered with plastic if appropriate.• Seating and desk/table space for each student, plus chair for tutor (and helper).• Two or more trestle size tables (or groups of additional desks) covered with plastic if appropriate.• Access to cold water – either tap and sink, or full jug and empty bucket.



Creative Fibre Workshop

Learn to Spin

Tutor: Anne Grassham



Description

This workshop starts by getting students to finger spin a short length of 2 ply yarn from fleece to give them an understanding of how a yarn is made – drafting, adding twist to make singles, then plying. Students then learn how to spin singles from sliver using a drop spindle. After spinning two lots of singles they use a lazy kate and ply them, and then wind off the yarn on a niddy noddy to make a skein.

Depending on how students progress, there is then the opportunity to try achieving the same result using a spinning wheel. There is considerable variation in the aptitude of different students for using a spinning wheel, but the experience of spinning a yarn using a spindle first usually leads to much faster results when they come to use a spinning wheel.

I normally teach this as a three hour workshop but can adapt it to cover a range of different programmes, for instance I have taught the introductory phase as a one hour workshop for classes of school children. I do not recommend this workshop being longer than three hours because it is intense and most students can't concentrate for longer. However, it works well over multiple sessions of 1–2 hours duration.

Available for: Area/local workshops

Level: Beginner

Duration: 3 hours

Minimum No. of Participants: 3

Maximum No. of Participants: 6

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the workshop, students will:

- Have spun singles from sliver using a drop spindle.
- Have plied a 2 ply yarn using a drop spindle.
- Have tried spinning singles, and maybe plying, using a spinning wheel. Although some students do achieve a skein of 2 ply yarn spun using a spinning wheel, students should not expect that they will achieve this, because how far students progress using a wheel depends very much on their individual aptitude and ability. However, most students leave the workshop with the skills and knowledge to be able to continue practising and improving on their own.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants would expect to take away small skein(s) of yarn they have spun.

Materials Required by Participants:

- All materials are provided, but students are welcome to bring fleece and/or sliver they may have.
- It may be necessary for students to bring a spinning wheel and 3 bobbins depending on location.
- Pen and paper.

Materials Provided by Tutor:

Sliver; washed fleece; equipment including spindles, lazy kates, niddy noddies, and possibly wheels and bobbins (depending on location). If wheels are provided then there may be an additional hire fee.

Please note there are no printed notes to accompany this workshop.

Materials Fee: To be advised.

Advance Preparation: None.

Classroom Facilities

- Good lighting for each student, and a comfortable ambient temperature.
- Chair for each student, and the tutor.
- Room large enough that tutor can work with individual students in their work space.
- Two tables or equivalent in desks put together for supplies and examples, and demonstration area at the front.



Creative Fibre Workshop

Introduction to Diagonal Weaving

Tutor: Anne Grassham



Description

Diagonal weaving is an unusual way to create squares of woven fabric using a continuous yarn. Instead of stripes, checks and diamonds appear, as if by magic. The fabric drapes beautifully. Sturdiness and structure can be added when needed. Using this technique, you can make anything from coasters to bedspreads, garments, accessories, cushions, and blankets. All you need is a special board, a crochet hook, and yarn. This is an excellent way to use up leftover yarns – even quite short lengths (more than 30 cm).

In this workshop you will learn the basic techniques, weave several small squares, and discover how easily and quickly you can join them together. (No crocheting around the edge and sewing as in traditional peggy square blankets, unless you want to). Each square can be outlined in a contrasting colour as part of the joining process if that is the desired effect.

Available for: National, area/local workshops

Level: Beginner

Duration: 3 hours

Minimum No. of Participants: 4

Maximum No. of Participants: 10

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the workshop, students will:

- Have the skills and knowledge to create diagonally woven squares, including how to start, weave and finish each square.
- Know how to create diamond, check and related patterns in the squares using multiple yarn colours.
- Know how to outline and join squares using chain crochet.
- Have ideas for how to use diagonally woven squares in a range of clothing and household items.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants would expect to take away three or more squares, including at least two joined together, instructions for weaving and joining squares and any notes they chose to make. Ideas for how they can use diagonally woven squares in clothing and household items.

Materials Required by Participants:

- 100 mm square diagonal weaving board (some are available for hire from the tutor for \$3, which can be put towards board purchase after the workshop).
- Selection of double to triple knit yarns (left over yarns from other projects are ideal) – at least 100g total in several colours, but more gives greater choice. Selection should include a multi-colour yarn and a textured yarn, but fluffy mohair-type yarns are not suitable.
- Crochet hook(s) to suit the yarns.
- Pair of scissors.
- Pen and paper.

Materials Provided by Tutor: Photographic instructions for weaving and joining diagonally woven squares.

Materials Fee: To be advised.

Advance Preparation: Unless students are hiring a board, they will need to make or purchase a 100 mm square weaving board prior to the workshop. Boards can be ordered from the tutor (\$20.00). Instructions for making boards can be requested, but some skill with a hammer is required because nails need to be evenly spaced and straight.

Classroom Facilities: Desk or table space arranged in a horseshoe, with elbow room for students, chair for each student, and tutor (and helper if there is one)

Creative Fibre Workshop

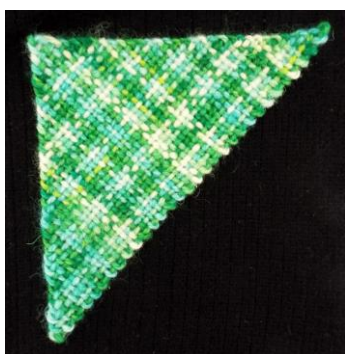
Diagonal Weaving Beyond the Basics (Page 1 of 2)

Tutor: Anne Grassham

Description

This workshop builds on basic diagonal weaving techniques and teaches the weaving of rectangles and triangles, which can be used to weave scarves, bags, hats, and fabric for garments such as ponchos, jacket fronts, or collars. Rectangles and triangles can also be combined with squares to make designs for larger projects. The workshop covers ideas for joining and finishing woven pieces.

Workshop can be offered using larger boards, with the understanding that students may not finish their weaving, or the workshop time will need to be extended.



Available for:	National, area/local workshops
Level	Intermediate
Minimum No. of Participants	4
Maximum No. of Participants	8, or 10 with helper
Duration	3 hours
Learning Outcomes	<p>By the end of the workshop, students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Know how to start, weave and finish a rectangle of diagonal weaving.• Know how to start, weave and finish a triangle of diagonal weaving.• Know how to join diagonally woven pieces using a crochet and sewing.• Understand how crochet can be used to outline and provide structure.• Understand how different coloured and textured yarns can be used to create specific patterns in diagonal weaving, and what patterns are not possible.• At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants would expect to take away one (or more) diagonally woven rectangle and triangle.

Tutor: Anne Grassham

Workshop: Diagonal Weaving Beyond the Basics (Page 2 of 2)

Materials Required by Participants

- 100 x 200 mm diagonal weaving board.
- 100 mm triangular board.
- Weaving yarns – 100 g or more of 8-12 ply yarn in variety of colours. Bouclé can work well, but not shaggy mohair-type yarn.
- Crochet hook(s) suitable for the yarns.
- Yarn needle with eye large enough to take the yarns brought – darning or tapestry
- Scissors.
- Pen and paper.

Materials Provided by Tutor

Written weaving instructions.

Materials Fee

To be advised.

Advance Preparation

Students will need to have, purchase, or make diagonal weaving boards of the required size.

Orders for purchasing boards need to be placed at least a week prior to the workshop to allow time for making – 100 x 200 mm board - \$30.00, 100 mm triangular board \$20.00.

Instructions for making boards are available upon request, but some skill with a hammer is required because nails need to be evenly spaced and straight.

Classroom Facilities

- Good lighting at table level for each student.
- Two desks or equivalent table space for each student, preferably arranged in a horseshoe.
- Chair for each student, and the tutor.
- Room large enough that tutor can work with individual students in their workspace.
- Two tables or equivalent in desks put together for supplies and examples, and demonstration area, at the front of the horseshoe.

Creative Fibre Workshop

Hooked Rug Making (Page 1 of 2)

Tutor: Anne Grassham

Description

This workshop will cover the techniques of latch hooking, locker hooking and stitching to create a chair mat using rug canvas. It will cover practical aspects of design; latch hooking yarn, fabric strips and fleece locks; locker hooking sliver and yarn; and stitching yarns onto a rug canvas backing.

The project is a chair mat (a small mat used as a cushion on a hard chair), but the techniques are equally appropriate for rugs of any size, wall hangings, and panels to be included in bags or other projects.

Students may not complete the chair mat project during the class time, but will have all the materials and skills to complete it in their own time.



Available for:

Area/local workshops

Level

Beginner/Intermediate

Minimum No. of Participants

4

Maximum No. of Participants

12

Duration

3 hours or longer if students want a more relaxed session, to finish their chair mat, or a larger rug project. I have taught this workshop up to one-and-a-half days.

Learning Outcomes

- Know how to latch hook yarn, fleece locks, and fabric strips to make a tufted texture
- Know how to locker hook yarn and sliver to make a looped pile texture
- Know how to stitch yarn to make a dense, low relief area in a rug
- Understand how all these techniques can be combined to create a unique textural design
- Understand practical aspects of designing a small mat and a larger rug using rug canvas.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants would expect to take away A chair mat that may not be finished, but with all the materials and skills needed to finish it.

Tutor: Anne Grassham

Workshop: Hooked Rug Making (Page 2 of 2)

Materials Required by Participants

For the chair mat project:

- Rug canvas – 30 cm square for chair mat
- 50 g rug wool – either commercial or handspun chunky. Can be a mixture of colours
- 100-200 g washed fleece locks of a coarse wool (English Leicester, Lincoln, coarse Romney). Locks over 150 mm allow for a loop and tuft texture.
- 100 g wool sliver or top
- 20 g carpet wool yarn
- fabric that can be cut into 6 cm long strips
- latch hook
- locker hook, or large crochet hook and large darning needle
- pair of sharp scissors large enough to cut the fabric
- large needle with an eye big enough to take the rug wool (sack needle works well)
- Pen and paper.

Given that these materials will be combined into the one project, some degree of colour coordination is suggested.

Tutor can supply some or all of the fibre and rug canvas, with a full chair mat kit being \$40.00.

Latch hooks, locker hooks and needles can be purchased from the tutor by prior arrangement.

Materials Provided by Tutor

- Printed photographic instructions.
- Practice materials.

Materials Fee

To be advised.

Advance Preparation

Students will need to tack a 3 square hem around the rug canvas. This can be done in the workshop, but adds about 15 minutes.

Classroom Facilities

- Good lighting at table level for each student.
- A desk or equivalent table space for each student, preferably arranged in a horseshoe.
- Chair for each student, and the tutor.
- Room large enough that tutor can work with individual students in their workspace.
- Two tables or equivalent in desks put together for supplies and examples, and demonstration area at the front of the horseshoe.

Creative Fibre Workshop

Rainbow Dyeing Fleece (Page 1 of 2)

Tutor: Anne Grassham

Description

This workshop starts with greasy fleece wool, washes it, divides the fleece in two and dyes each lot with a mix of colours, using acid milling dyes, which are colour fast and won't fade.

The workshop is normally taught in small groups, but larger groups could be accommodated if facilities allow. Extra time should also be allowed.



Available for:	Area/local workshops
Level	Beginner/Intermediate
Minimum No. of Participants	4
Maximum No. of Participants	6, or up to 12 depending on facilities
Duration	3 hours or a bit longer depending on how quickly the water can be heated.
Learning Outcomes	<p>By the end of the workshop, students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Know how to wash greasy fleece wool.• Understand how to select dyes to generate the colour combination they want, including the effect of overdyeing an existing colour.• Understand about colour saturation and how to dye pastel shades.• Have the experience of dyeing two different batches of wool in multiple colours, including setting the dyes, rinsing and drying the dyed fleece.• Understand how acid milling dyes work and what fibres they work with.• Have some ideas for how they can use their rainbow dyed wool. <p>At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants would expect to take away two lots of rainbow dyed fleece wool.</p>

Tutor: Anne Grassham

Workshop: Rainbow Dyeing Fleece (Page 2 of 2)

Materials Required by Participants

- All materials are provided, but students are welcome to bring their own fleece if they wish
- If students provide their own fleece there is a \$5 reduction in the materials fee, but I cannot be responsible for the finished result.

Materials Provided by Tutor

- 200 g of raw English Leicester fleece per student with a choice of natural white or grey fleece.
- Range of dyes, premixed to a 1% solution and in squirt bottles for easy application, acid and detergent.
- All equipment needed – pots, lids, stirring sticks, strainers, laundry bags, nets, buckets, towels, wash bins.
- Disposable rubber gloves, pot mitts.
- Printed notes.

Materials Fee

To be advised.

Advance Preparation

None.

Classroom Facilities

- A workspace with floor or floor protection that can cater for accidental spills/drips, that is big enough for unrestricted movement of all students. This is important because there are potential hazards with moving pots of boiling water. I teach this workshop out of my garage at home, which is an excellent venue, because the open garage door allows access to outside drain and space for students to spread. Kitchens are not a suitable venue, unless using food colouring dyes, which limits the colour range that can be dyed.
- Easy access to hot and cold water and sinks or drains for water disposal. Ideally, one sink per four students.
- Access to a top loader washing machine with spin cycle.
- Access to a heating elements or gas rings for half the number of students rounded up if necessary (students work in pairs). I do have some gas rings that could be made available.
- Chair for each student, and the tutor.
- A table or equivalent in desks put together for supplies and examples, and an open demonstration area where students can stand or sit in a circle.
- Easy access to cold water in the event of accidental scalds or burns
- A separate area for eating and drinking. Dyes are toxic and should not be used in the same area that food and drink is consumed.

Creative Fibre Workshop

Introduction to Needle Felting

Tutor: Anne Grassham

Description

This workshop introduces basic needle felting skills, their strengths and limitations, including:

- Joining flat felt
- Choosing and adding embellishments
- Creating surface textures
- Making simple 3-dimensional felt sculptures

The workshop does not specifically include use of needle punches, but students may use them if they bring their own.

A shorter version of the workshop is possible making card inserts instead of the sampler, but it does not cover the practical experience of joining flat felt.



Available for:	Area/local workshops
Level	Beginner
Minimum No. of Participants	6
Maximum No. of Participants	12
Duration	3 hours
Learning Outcomes	<p>By the end of the workshop students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have an understanding of the different types of felting needles available, and when to use them.• Have experimented with different techniques including joining, embellishment and sculpture, and have created a sampler exhibiting them.• Have a good grounding if they wish to take the technique to more advanced levels. <p>At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants would expect to take away a sampler (or card inserts) they have made exhibiting all the needle felting techniques they have used during the workshop.</p>
Materials Required by Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A polystyrene block at least 20x10x5cm covered in an old stocking, or firm foam block to place under their work. It should be at least 5cm thick.• Optional: any small amounts of fibre they may want to include in their work, and any felting needles and other felting needle equipment they may have, especially if they have questions about it• Pen and paper
Materials Provided by Tutor	Course notes; felting needles; base felt pieces; selection of embellishment fibres and yarns.
Materials Fee	To be advised.
Advance Preparation	None.
Classroom Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Well-lit room at a comfortable temperature, with white board/ blackboard.• A desk or table space of at least 1 m for each student, and a table or group of desks for tutor. Desk space to be arranged in a horseshoe with tutor table at the open end.• Chair for each student, plus one for tutor (and helper if there is one).

Creative Fibre Workshop

Creating Textured Felt Using Felting Needles (Page 1 of 2)

Tutor: Anne Grassham

Description

This workshop explores a wide range of techniques for creating textures on felt using felting needles, including reverse needles. It will cover selecting the most appropriate needle type and technique to create the desired effect, as well as other techniques and equipment that can be used in conjunction with felting needles.

Discussion will include aspects of engaging personal creativity, and designing for artistic appeal and practicality, as well as an insight into the possibilities of using a wide range of felting needles, and associated equipment. A range of felting needles will be available for use in class, with the expectation that damaged or broken needles will be paid for.



Students should realise that fine needle felting work is detailed and time consuming, and while it may take considerable and extended concentration, it can also be enormously rewarding. While it is possible to cover the content in 3 hours, many students will find it more relaxing to take longer over building up their picture/design, with the opportunity to take breaks in the concentration.

Available for:	Area/local workshops
Level	Intermediate
Minimum No. of Participants	4
Maximum No. of Participants	10
Duration	3–6 hours
Learning Outcomes	<p>By the end of the workshop, students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand and have a practical knowledge of how to select a suitable felting needle for the fibres being worked.• Have used a range of techniques and fibres to generate different textures and understand how these textures can be used to simulate textures in nature, such as hairy and bubble textures, outlines, highlights.• Know how to add background colours and textures.• Know how to use appliqué techniques as part of the design.• Understand the benefits and limitations of using needle punches and other equipment <p>At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants would expect to take away a piece of highly textured and decorated felt that they can incorporate into another project or use to adorn a wall.</p>

Tutor: Anne Grassham

Workshop: Creating Textured Felt Using Felting Needles (Page 2 of 2)

Materials Required by Participants

- A piece of backing felt approximately A4 in size. It is important that this backing piece is thick, but not too dense. Handmade corriedale or crossbred felt 0.5 - 1 cm thick is ideal. Lightweight, thin, and dense felt are less suitable.
- Selection of embellishing fibres including a range of colours, wool types, fleece locks and slivers, yarns, fabric offcuts and ribbons that relate to the design idea. 100g total should be enough, but the more you bring the greater choice you have. Embellishing fibres should include a variety of lighter and heavier weight fibres.
- A block or pad to work on, preferably A4 or a little larger in size – I recommend using a polystyrene block at least 2 cm thick covered with an old stocking.
- Pair of sharp scissors.
- A needle punch with at least three needles (if students want to use this equipment). Punches can be ordered from the tutor prior to the workshop for \$16.50.

Materials Provided by Tutor

- Written information about the range of needles and techniques used.
- Set of felting needles for each student. Students are expected to pay for any needles they damage or break. Needles range in price from \$3.00-\$4.50 each.

Materials Fee Advance Preparation

To be advised.

- Ideas for a picture or design roughly sketched out. This is a starting point and can be developed or changed as the work proceeds.
- Pictures of aspects of the design, such as buildings, cat, horse, lion, rabbit, flower, tree, person, face. Most people find it useful to have a picture to refer to when creating such elements of their design.

Classroom Facilities

- Good lighting at table level for each student
- A desk or equivalent table space for each student, preferably arranged in a horseshoe.
- Chair for each student, and the tutor.
- Room large enough that tutor can work with individual students in their work pace and move between students with ease.
- Two tables put together for supplies and examples, and demonstration area at the front of the horseshoe