

*From the President*

Spring is really here now and as usual at this time of year I find the need to Spring Clean coming on strong.

What is it with this urge to purge? In my case it tends to start in late Autumn. In fact, I began the task a couple of days before I broke my ankle. Thinking it would be easier to clean and re-organise my workroom if everything was out of it, I had dumped the entire contents into my family room.... Which is where it stayed until I finally lost the dreaded Cam boot.

I have busily sorted, filed and cleaned, spurred on by seeing Jackie Johnson's new studio. When her son moved out after his recent marriage, Jackie reclaimed his much larger bedroom and created a great work space. Frankly, I was pea-green with envy! She has a delightful and functional area to create in with everything stored neatly and easily accessible.

As someone who used to be a neat-freak (no, really!) it inspired me to bring order back into my own space and although I still have a little more to do, I am pretty much on track. Further inspiration from the editor of a bead magazine who is undergoing the same process and finally, an e-mail from Veronika Kenderessy where she told me of her workroom dramas and her plans to spend the weekend cleaning and sorting.

I wonder if other crafts-people go through this or is it peculiar to beaders? Either way, there are real bonuses to completing the task. Along the way I have found things I'd totally forgotten about, although there are still a few things still undetected. When things settle down I shall start on the next room that currently holds the overflow from the workroom. For now, I'm concentrating on my competition pieces which are giving me a certain amount of heartburn. I know what I want the finished pieces to look like, it's just getting there that isn't so straightforward.

With that in mind, it's time to apply my energy to one of my projects, so until the next meeting, happy beading!

*Leslie*

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← **FROM JEAN POWER**

This little lariat is really cute: it's in 'arrow' chain and takes no time at all to stitch up.

It can double as a bracelet or even treble as a short necklace wound around twice and indeed is very versatile.

If you're really good, I'll demonstrate at one of the coming meetings and you can all have one!

*Di*

## Beader focus: Sandra Forsyth

From a family of craftswomen, Sandra was introduced to crochet at the age of 7 or 8 and about 18 years ago she was introduced to beading when she visited her cousin in Melbourne and Lyn had booked them into a bead class. The shop was fantastic with containers of beads lining the walls, but the class was just stringing and Sandra felt disappointed but wasn't sure why.

Some years later Sandra booked into classes at Gypsy Bead at the Claremont Craft and Hobby Expo. She was soon sold on beading as the first class was on peyote stitch and she loved it!

Sandra still loves stitchwork most of all: peyote, brick stitch, olaf and weaving. Her current beading challenge is a Christmas bowl and she would love to spend more time with her beading, but, inconveniently, work interrupts.

Trying other crafts is something of a hobby with Sandra but it leads her back to the realisation that she loves beadwork the most. She met her best friend at that first Gypsy Bead class and they discovered that their fathers were work mates and so they are practically related! It's great to share such a strong interest with a good friend. Sandra mainly makes items for friends and relatives and has sold a few 'angels'. She greatly looks forward to having time to clear that large amount of bead kits that have piled up over the years.

The local shops (Bead Co, Margaret River, Galaxy and Benjamin's) enjoy her custom and she also uses a few on-line suppliers– The Whimsical Bead, Bead Shack and Polly's Beads among others.

And some wise words for new beaders: 'Talk to lots of crafty people. It's amazing how differently people do things and how they have tips to fix those little problems. Ask lots of questions: I know I love to talk about what I know and to share ideas.'

*Many thanks, Sandra!*

*Di*

### **The 2011 Competition– deadlines approach!**

Only a month to go.... The committee reports that a few entries have been received. Hope the fingers are still busy!

**Deadline reminders: Entry forms are due on or before (preferably the latter) 31st October and actual photographs are due by November 5th.**

Oh, and don't forget the photographing session with Jackie, if you have signed up for it. Details at Saturday's meeting.



# Crystal Flair

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## AT SATURDAY'S MEETING:

The Next Challenge is to be Announced ... So...Bring along \$7 as this will pay for a Belvedere Bear (from Free the Bears Fund).... And that's the main part of the Challenge.

I'll buy them and bring them to the November meeting. If you're not going to be there at October's meeting please let me know if you want a bear and I'll bring a few extra.

*Dí*



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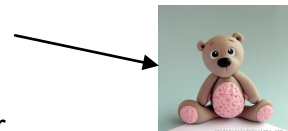
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## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE REST OF THIS YEAR'S MEETINGS?

**October 1st:** Cold Porcelain demonstration



**November 5th:** Bring all your competition pieces for a Show and Tell And a New Bead Challenge



**December 3rd:** Winners announced! Christmas get-together and General Craft-stuff swap meet.

And guess what the end-of-year theme is? No, sorry, no prizes for this! *Dí*



## A WEEK WITH JEAN POWER

For those of you who don't know of her, Jean Power was the editor of the English *Bead Magazine*. She resigned from *Bead* last year and has since concentrated on her teaching, designing and writing. Jean has become very well known for her Geometric designs and has won several international competitions and had her work in many magazines. She turned down an offer to become one of the *Beadwork* magazine editors and, instead, happily accepted a position as one of their Designers of the Year for 2012.



When I saw on her website that she was taking a week's class at Earnley Concourse, I signed up immediately and, a couple of weeks ago, discovered a little-known venue in the English countryside ideal for isolating one to concentrate on whatever issue is at hand. In this case, Geometric Beadwork.



There were only 2 other women on the course and both had been on the same course last year (one of them twice!!) and this made not only a cosy atmosphere but also fantastic help when needed. It also meant that we did our own thing and took on projects that we wanted to examine in detail rather than a straight lesson-based course.

Some of Jean's work is on the left and above and I managed to learn how to make all of those shapes. Some of my stuff is below....

Jean was also designing the whole week. She would be helping one or other of us and then sit back down and start work on her own things: she had several 'light-bulb' moments and it was fascinating to watch that process develop. Her new designs will be part of her 6 Designer of the Year items for *Beadwork*. She worked several days on a bracelet that she had started earlier and also hastily sorted out another design so that she could give us the pattern. I came away from the week with a very clear understanding of how to manipulate shapes in peyote stitch and some good little 'samples' of work. Alas, not a complete bracelet to my name, but heaps of ideas! Many thanks, indeed, to an excellent teacher.

So, when you take your next trip anywhere (o/seas or interstate) check beforehand on the class offerings in the vicinity as you may well find some great classes and really interesting people.



*Dv*

**NEXT MEETING:** There will be a demonstration of COLD PORCELAIN, so be there at 12 noon with some lunch and a chat and 1pm for the meeting proper.

The next Challenge will also be organised: see on Page 2 for details. So.... Be there!

**October 1st at 12 noon at the Uniting Church Hall in Dianella.**

