



This is not the official newsletter of the Australian Guild of Rugmakers

This is an additional newsletter compiled by Miriam Miller, President Emeritus

Newsletter number 22 July 2017

## ISRAEL - Jerusalem

Pamela Bar-or

These bags are created by Pamela from plastic shopping bags.

Pam's comments

Concerning the plastic bags.....I don't know how to cut a continuous strip but intend to learn from Google sometime.

So I cut off the bag handles and bottom seam, and then cut horizontal loops which I join together as if making paper chains for Xmas, but pull them carefully until they knot, trying to get as neat a knot as possible.

Cut up bags of various colours and then you can choose and mix colours at will.

The width of the loop is 2 cm. + -, depending a little on type of plastic, some are more pliable and elastic. You learn by trial and error. The heavier kind of plastic used in bags from dress shops etc. is not pliable enough I find.





### Continued Pamela Bar-or

As for the stitch, it can be single or double crochet. I am not an experienced crocheter.

The bags do stretch, especially the handles, if used to carry anything heavy such as groceries or books but seem quite strong.

Love, Pam



An interesting blog, full of inspiration.

<http://threesheepstudio.blogspot.co.uk>

### NEW SOUTH WALES – Braidwood – Gail Nichols

I read about making silk paper from cocoon strippings in the book *Drawn to Stitch* by Gwen Hedley, and just had to try it! Cocoon strippings look like light brown slightly lumpy cotton wool. They contain a natural glue that makes them easy to fuse into a paper which can be cut and stitched and has a soft silky feel. It's a simple process of layering fibres between sheets of baking paper, lightly spraying with water and ironing to fuse the fibres together. Other fibres can be combined with the strippings to create interesting patterns and texture. In this example I added some shredded newspaper and 'wood wool' (fine wood fibres) which I found in the craft section of a discount shop. I then used my sewing machine to sketch some gum and wattle leaves which were in my studio, using free stitching technique on the silky paper. This has given me new ideas that I might one day combine with rugging techniques. Who knows where it will lead? By the way, I highly recommend the book I mentioned above. It is full of inspiring ideas for textile artists.



## QUEENSLAND – Boonah –

Sent by Julie Jackson

Here's the story plus a page of instructions, or you could link to where they are on our blog - <http://boonahboss.blogspot.com.au/p/community-tree-jumper-project.html>

Kind regards, Julie

### **The Boonah Community Tree Jumper**

A community arts project in Boonah, QLD has been the talk of the craft circles in town.

The project is being run by the local environmental group, the Boonah Organisation for a Sustainable Shire (BOSS) through their creative subcommittee, the Thursday Night Creatives.

With BOSS being very focused on keeping things from landfill, the heart of the project had to be accessible, low cost and simple for people to contribute.

And so, the idea of making flowers from old t shirts was born. This also aligns with this year's World Environment Day global theme of 'Connecting with Nature'.

The tree jumper has included the donation of a few hundred t shirts, collectively hundreds of hours of stitching and produced over one thousand flowers which are being sewn onto an old green sheet.

Community sessions were run at the local library and cafes, as well as featuring in the Scenic Rim Boonah Open Studios weekend. More than seventy people have participated.

This community tree jumper means so more than its appearance. The project has brought many women together who have formed friendships over learning a new craft skill. Even some who do not consider themselves crafty have contributed.

Loads of personal stories have been shared, laughs, support and the odd cup of tea, coffee and sandwiches across the table. This tree jumper has many stories stitched into it and that means so much more than just a jumper for a tree.

It will be entered into the Warwick Jumpers and Jazz Festival in late July in the community group section.

The wonderful piece of textile art will be a great community resource for the group who will use it at their annual events celebrating sustainability, such as the World Environment Day Festival on Saturday July15, and the National Recycling Week Clothes Swap on Saturday November 4, as well as many other community events.

## **How to make tshirt flowers**

### **To prepare strips**

- Use adult sized tshirts
- Cut off hem and side seams

Cut strips two inches wide side to side



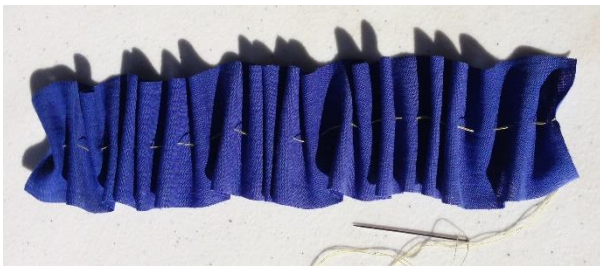
## To sew flower

- Double thread is best.
- Starting with a couple of small stitches to secure thread, run a ½ inch gathering stitch along the centre of the strip.
- Gather fabric to approx.. half the original length.
- Secure with a couple of small stitches.
- Fold fabric in half along the gathering stitch.
- Roll around loosely, and sew to connect as you roll.
- Continue till the flower is formed and secure stitching at end.

1



2



4



5



Prepared by Janine Gibson and Julie Jackson for  
Boonah Organisation for a Sustainable Shire.



3

Sorry pictures are out of order. 3 is at bottom right,

## Continued Boonah - Sewing the flowers on backing.



Hi Miriam, the flowers are our entry into the jumpers and jazz festival tree jumper competition.

If you look at this link it describes the competition. There's a couple of photos on the right.  
<http://www.jumpersandjazz.com/yarnbombing>

Our tree jumper will be similar to the top pic, but just with our flowers covering the trunk of the tree. Our tree jumper will be used then at community events here in Boonah.

The first time it will be on a tree will be 15 July, and I will take a photo then.

Cheers, Julie

## AMERICA – New Hampshire

Sally Gilbert



Here are two chair

pads, I hooked based on pictures drawn by my twin grandchildren . They now proudly sit on them while doing their homework. ( maybe it offers them some inspiration)

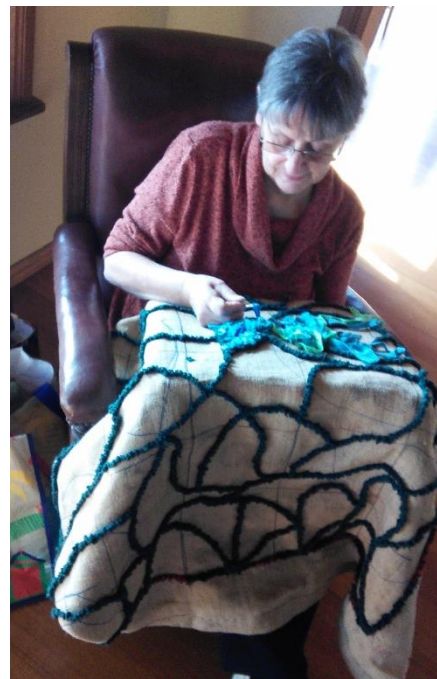
The other project is MISS NARRAWILLY - the genesis of the idea came from visiting your lovely home. As soon as I returned to NH I began to plot colours and subject. Once I had the framework of an idea, I had my local rug booking teacher draw it onto linen. I went to Dorr Mills several weeks ago to get the greens for the hillside and the "cow colours". I might have to "tweak" the picture a bit as I had a more primitive look in mind, but this will be the general idea. I will hook MISS NARRAWILLY across the top and add a colourful robe on her back- she is a princess after all!! I will send pictures periodically as she progresses.



## NEW SOUTH WALES Milton

Narrawilly Proogy Rugger Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

We had Maggie Hickey and Gail Nichols travelled from Braidwood to be with us today. Gail always astonishes us with the amount she achieves between visits. This time Gail brought a rug inspired by scribbly gum bark., and the one she was working on, inspired by banana leaves. Maggie showed us how she is progressing with her huge rug, being worked in 6 panels.. We also had Maggie Whyte travelling from Canberra to be with us. Below far right Maggie Whyte working on her rug, and middle Gail and Ilka discussing technics. Below that Maggie Hickey's progress on the large rug. And Bev Latta with her latest rug.







Rug made by Gail Nichols using Scribbly Gum Bark as an inspiration.

## QUEENSLAND –Beerwah The Sunshine Coast Rugcrafters.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Jacqui Thomson and Judith Tompkins

Jacqui was in Beerwah and visited the Sunshine Coast Rugcrafters. Here with several members, including new member Kathy Ryan. in patterned top .Jacqui is standing behind Annette White, who was previously a member of Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers before her move to Queensland, as was Kathy.





### ENGLAND – Lymington –

Barbara Clapham

This is the acrylic picture I mentioned which I was inspired to paint by your Canadian rug maker. I don't think I have got the colours quite right but I enjoyed painting it.

(It is lovely how we all can inspire one another – Miriam)

### CANADA – New Brunswick. Mary Alexander.

30<sup>TH</sup> June 2017

Dear Miriam,

Today our country is celebrating it's 150 birthday. I am sending on to you a project that the Sussex Tearoom Hookers created. I hooked the totem pole.



### WESTERN AUSTRALIA- Wanaroo Rugmakers

Josephine Franco

Hi Miriam I'd like to tell you about my experience as a volunteer at the 2017 Alice Springs Beanie Festival. Last year the Wanneroo Rugmakers discovered the Alice Springs Beanie Festival two weeks before the deadline at the end of May for beanies (and tea cosies) to arrive in Alice Springs. We knitted a couple of beanies and hooked a few tea cosies and vowed to start earlier in 2017 and do more.



We did - even entered a couple of beanies in the competition.

Maggie Whyte, ARG VP & Secretary from Canberra, who you know well as a member of the Narrawilly Proggy Rugmakers, attended the Festival in 2016 with friends and said it was a fun but would be even better if one volunteered.

This year, as my husband and I had planned to drive to QLD, I decided we should detour through Alice Springs so I could volunteer at the Festival and what fun it was.

I joined a group of enthusiastic volunteers, met people from around Australia and even a rug hooker from Canada, took part in some interesting workshops and the wearing of the record breaking "longest beanie" and just generally had a good time being part of all the excitement while feeling I'd made a worthwhile contribution.

### Here are some statistics from this year's Festival

7,000 beanies catalogued - made by 500 beanie makers - locals, from indigenous communities, Australia wide and International.

\$178,000 was raised from the beanies sold during the 4 Festival days.

Just a little background about the Beanie Festival which I've taken from the organization's website <http://beaniefest.org/our-story/training-page>

The Festival began in 1997 with a "beanie party" organized by Adi Dunlop to sell beanies crocheted by aboriginal women in remote communities.

In 2004 the Festival was incorporated and the official objects and purposes of the non-profit Association are to :-

- a) Promote community participation in the arts
- b) Develop fine art
- c) Reduce poverty and dependency by developing artistic and entrepreneurial skills
- d) Promote reconciliation

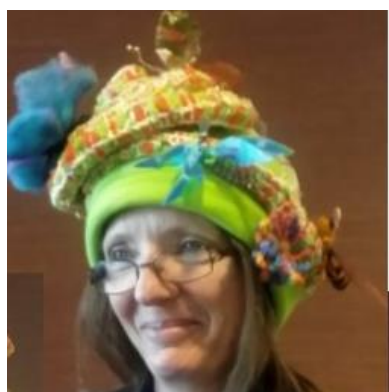
This year, due to budget constraints, the Festival organizers were unable to apply for a grant , so funds raised will enable the continuation of this worthwhile event as well as fund textile workshops for indigenous women in remote communities. <http://beaniefest.org/our-story/indigenous-beanie-making>

<http://beaniefest.org/our-story/indigenous-beanie-making>

In the words of Jo Nixon, Chief Beanieologist, the festival is unique because of the incredible amount of community participation and the unique ties with local Aboriginal organisations. The festival's aims have always been to develop Aboriginal women's textiles, promote women's culture and the beanie as a regional art form, as well as promote handmade textile arts. Seventy per cent of the profits go directly back to the beanie makers, with the other 30 per cent going towards workshops and the festival.

The Longest Beanie has been worked on for some time - the knitters aiming to break the current record in honour of Indigenous Australian Olympian Cathy Freeman. "We picked 400 metres because that was Cathy Freeman's winning distance in the Sydney Olympics and we were all so proud of Cathy," Ms Nixon said.

Here are some of the Wanneroo entries and also the amazing entries in the Competition.



Josephine Franco - Editor/Membership  
Chair Australian Rugmakers Guild







Here's another Beanie Fest pic - me and my Canadian friend Letty  
(Imagine meeting a Canadian Rug maker in Alice Springs at the Beanie Festival)

Thank you Jo for this account of the Beanie festival.

I still cannot move photos where I wish, so sorry for big gaps.

**THE END.**