



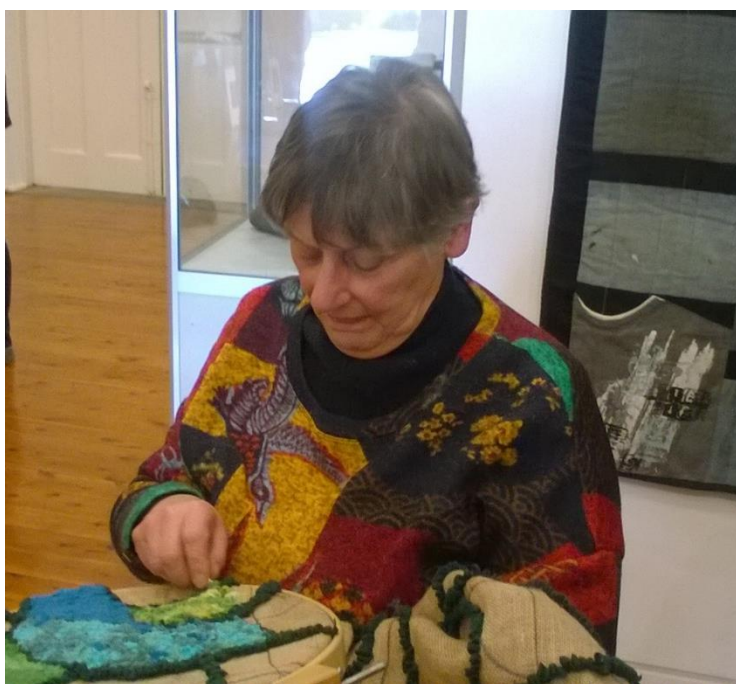
(This is not the official newsletter of the Australian Guild of Rugmakers)

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

Newsletter number 23 August 2017

## VICTORIA – Wangarratta 14<sup>th</sup> Stitched Up Textile Festival

Bobby George took the opportunity to give demonstrations of rug making at the festival. Hoping to bring Proggy and Hooky rug making to this part of Victoria. She was helped by Maggie Whyte from Canberra, and Ann Schafer from Warrandyte.



### Demonstrations @ Stitchy Central

**The Story of Rug Hooking,  
Sunday July 9, 10am – 4pm  
Demonstrations by Bobby George, Maggie Whyte and Ann Schafer**



Report by Bobby George.

The Rug Hooking demonstration took place on the second day of the festival. I had been quite concerned as I had been unable to hook for some time;(because of back problems) my concern was needless, as the cavalry, in the form of Maggie Whyte and Anne Schaeffer did a marvellous job. Their skill, patience and love of craft shone through.

The festival attracts people from all parts of Australia and beyond. Whilst the experts demonstrated their art I gave the sales pitch. Among those attending was a large group from Wollongong who had hired a bus to travel to several fibre events, including the Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show. Your books were passed around. I thought that having the books made the craft more relevant to Australia

Continued at Wangarratta

Anne with two interested visitors



Bobby with one of her pieces.



We spoke with several Canadian ladies, which meant that Maggie could indulge in nostalgic natter, (Maggie had lived in Canada for many years) some American ladies who appreciated our "innovative approach" to the craft.

Throughout the day many people asked questions, some sat and tried their hand but few were interested in learning to hook. Most said that they had a heavy craft load and could not get involved with something new.. I was told that I only needed one person to get a group underway, I hope that proves to be correct. Bobby.

A new collective noun from Wanda Kerr: A Frame of Rug Hookers.

**NEW SOUTH WALES** -Milton

You will be pleased to know with the help of Fiona I have learned how to move photos intentionally. Miriam

Two comments from Jacqui Thomson.

Three things in life that once gone never come back - Time, Words and Opportunity

Life is a gift, freedom is responsibility

Jacqui



## NEW SOUTH WALES – Milton

### Murramarrang Spinners and Weavers

Deb Benson showing off her beanie, (quite a creation with flowers and feathers.)(See further on page 10

My photos do not do it justice.



## NEW SOUTH WALES – Buckenbours.

Jane Bassingthwaigte.



This story rug Jane created showing her property, looks magnificent in the way it is framed in similar colour to the wall



## NORTHERN TERRITORY - Darwin

Irene Bruninghausen

I finally finished my epic and entered it in the Royal Darwin Show in the recycled materials craft section and look what happened



The prize is \$12 whoopeeee.

(This is Irene's first rug)

## NEW SOUTH WALES – Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers.

Visit to Braidwood

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July, Members of Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers were invited to meet with the Braidwood

Textile Artists, and visit the Studios of Maggie Hickey and Gail Nichols. Plus have lunch in the wonderful converted flour Mill, now the residence of Pauline Webber

Left Lunch and talk

We also enjoyed a delicious morning tea with Maggie.

Continued on page 5.



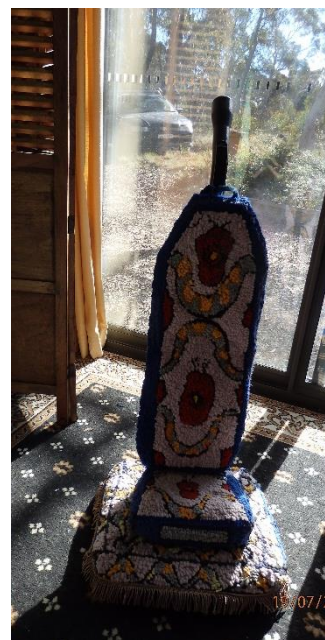




Gail in her studio and some of her pottery



Below Maggie Hickey's progress on her large rug. Right chair pads by Gail



Far left Ilka in front of one of Gail's rugs. And left hooked vacuum cleaner made by Maggie.



## THE INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF HANDHOOKING RUGMAKERS.

The next conference is to be held in Reeth Yorkshire UK. In October 2018. Anyone wanting to join TIGHR or find out more details about the conference, contact Diane Cox membership Chair at [rubyrugs@btinternet.com](mailto:rubyrugs@btinternet.com), for help with accommodation Heather Ritchie, President at [heather.rugmaker@gmail.com](mailto:heather.rugmaker@gmail.com) and for all other help contact Lesley Close at [communications@tighr.net](mailto:communications@tighr.net)

It is a wonderful way to meet rug makers from around the world.

## Health check. Miriam

As the results of the chemo and radiotherapy have worn off, I am enjoying a few days of feeling well, full of enthusiasm and energy, before the operation on 11<sup>th</sup> August. I am feeling a bit apprehensive as I am not good at learning something new, I even have difficulty with a mobile phone. Miriam

## NEWS FROM CANBERRA

In June, Maggie Whyte spent a day teaching 5 Canberra feltmakers how to make hooky flowers. It was an enjoyable and relaxed day. Once the hooky technique was mastered the students started to design their own flowers. Everyone came up with new ideas and already the flowers are appearing on hats and scarves.

At the beginning of July Jo Mahan and Maggie Whyte travelled to Wangarrata to help Bobby George demonstrate rug making at the Stitched Up Festival and meeting up with Anne Schafer another Victorian rugmaker who also helped to demonstrate.

Jo and Maggie had a wonderful week with Bobby visiting local area attractions. On the following Friday they attended the Bendigo Wool Show. It was a great visit but not long enough they could probably have spent the weekend there.

The Canberra Spinners and Weavers and the Canberra Region Feltmakers have new premises at 19/71 Maclaurin Crescent, Chifley, ACT so the Canberra Ruggers are able to meet at this location on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month.

At the last meeting of our rug group we had a crochet rug, a hooky rug, knitted and a braided rug all in the process of being made. It makes for an interesting afternoon to see all the different styles and ways that we can make rugs.

At right Feltmakers Flower Workshop

Canberra Ruggers meet at 19/71 Maclaurin Crescent, Chifley, ACT on the fourth Sunday of each month from 1.00pm. Beginners are welcome.



## SOUTH AUSTRALIA – Strathabyn –STRATH-MATTERS

From Judy Stephens.

We had a visit from a lovely Canadian lady (Janice Deacon) who came several times to hook with us. She was very interested in the wide variety of rugs being made by our group. Janice is in the centre, Marion on the left and Irene on the right - Kathy (our local Canadian) is behind Irene. ( photo on right)

Janice worked on one of my Australian leaf patterns, which she finished and it looked lovely. I don't think she had ever hooked with yarn before - or ever had fewer "instructions" on how to work the piece!



During May, SA holds a History Month Festival. The 2017 theme was 'transport' so the magic carpet was our entry into that event. This was happening in my new house - historical rugs and tools and patterns on a table in the entry hall, rugs on the walls and other related items on the kitchen bench. We had samples of 9 different ways to make a recycled rag rug (including your knitted proggy rug!). The display was listed in the brochures and on their website, and the house was open for four weekends. We had 81 visitors.



Good to see a man demonstrating.  
Thank you Malcolm.





## QUEENSLAND – North Tambourine.

Bec Anderson.



# Yarning in Yarrabilba

These three panels were created as part of a Community Art Project for the Yarrabilba Community Centre in 2017. The images of the panels were conceptualized by a group of children using stories of Yarrabilba past and present as inspiration. Artist Bec Andersen used these images to create the designs which were then produced with the local community using the Punch needle rug making technique.



### Artist Statement

The Logan River has been a strong element in the past which has evolved over time. In this piece, it begins as “The River of Tears” symbolizing the felling of trees and disruption to the natural life of







the Yugambah people. In panel two it becomes a “Gushing river” with the movement of the red cedar logs as civilisation begins. In panel three we see the River becoming a blend of colours drawn from the earth where the Ancient ones remain, symbolising the connection between the new community and its’ past.

The sky is also an element that travels across all three panels, beginning as “The Whirling Wind” it summons the past energies and blends them with the “Development of Past Knowledge and Understanding”.

Thus, the river, the “Ancient Ones” and the sky are holding the energies of the past and bringing them into the future with the historical knowledge and understanding that is needed.

**Textile Artist and Community Artist:**

**Bec Andersen**





## NEW SOUTH WALES – Milton again

Deb with her daughter and their hats.



I asked Deb if they bought their hats at the Beanie Festival in Alice Springs

Hi Miriam

I made them before we went. Mine was inspired by the colours of the Red Centre and Anna's by the sky and clouds!!!  
They were much admired by everyone at the Beanie Festival.  
It was great fun

xox Deb

### JOKE

#### Taking It With You

Lying on his deathbed, the rich, miserly old man calls to his long-suffering wife. "I want to take all my money with me," he tells her. "So promise me you'll put it in the casket."

After the man dies, his widow attends the memorial service with her best friend. Just before the undertaker closes the coffin, she places a small metal box inside.

Her friend looks at her in horror. "Surely," she says, "you didn't put the money in there."

"I did promise him I would," the widow answers. "So I got it all together, deposited every penny in my account, and wrote him a cheque. If he can cash it, he can spend it."

## Contacts

### New South Wales

#### Milton

Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers. Meet 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays every month.

Contact Miriam Miller Email [narrawillyfarm@shoal.net.au](mailto:narrawillyfarm@shoal.net.au). Phone 02 4455 6870

Website [www.shoal.net.au/~narrawilly/index.html](http://www.shoal.net.au/~narrawilly/index.html)

#### BRAIDWOOD

CONTACT Maggie Hickey. Email [maggie.hickey@bigpond.com](mailto:maggie.hickey@bigpond.com) phone 0419 841 819

#### BELLINGEN, North Coast

Bellingen Rag Rug Group

Contact Maxine Keys at email [baznmax@bigpond.com](mailto:baznmax@bigpond.com) Phone 02 6655 0591

Group meets 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month from 10am until no set time.

#### BERMAGUI

Bermagui Rug Hookers. Contact Dawn Hollins at email [pigeontree@live.com](mailto:pigeontree@live.com)



## Australian Capital Territory

CANBERRA - Two rug making groups

Canberra Ruggers meet in the Spinners and Weavers and Feltmakers Rooms. at 19/71 MacLaurin Cresnet, Chifley, ACT

One group meets on the fourth Sunday of the month from 1.00pm

Beginners welcome

Contact Maggie Whyte at email [maggieandfish@hotmail.com](mailto:maggieandfish@hotmail.com) Phone 02 6281 0988

Mobile 0488747953

Another Group meet on the second Friday of the month from 10 – 2p.m. contact Jenny Harber phone 02 6230 2429

## South Australia

STRATHALBYN

Strath Matters. Meet 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays

Supper room of the Strathalbyn Town Hall

Contact Judy Stephens at email [studioblue20@gmail.com](mailto:studioblue20@gmail.com) Phone 08 85363451

## Western Australia

WANNAROO

The Wannaroo Rugmakers. Meet every Saturday morning 10am to 1pm at the Library and Cultural Centre in

Northern Suburb of Wannaroo. <https://wanneroorugmakers.com>

Contact Jo Franco at email [josephinefranco1@gmail.com](mailto:josephinefranco1@gmail.com)

**ALBANY** - Anyone interested in Rug Making contact Kira Mead.

email - [kira.goldmx@westnet.com.au](mailto:kira.goldmx@westnet.com.au)

## Queensland

KINGAROY

Red Earth Ruggers Meeting at 17 Fairview Drive, Kingaroy on 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month from 11<sup>th</sup> April Time 9-12

Contact Judith Brook at email [judybrook@gmail.com](mailto:judybrook@gmail.com)

## SUNSHINE COAST

The Sunshine Coast Rug Crafters meet twice each month at the Beerwah Library, 25 Peachester Road Beerwah. Map

info about the library location at <http://library.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/sitePage.cfm?code=libraries-map>

The group meets the Second Friday and the third Tuesday of each month from 2.30 – 5.30p.m.

New members are always welcome

Contact Judi Tompkins -- Email [judi.tompkins@bigpond.com](mailto:judi.tompkins@bigpond.com) or skype juditompkins

Meetings 2nd Monday 3rd Tuesday

NORTH TAMBORINE The Happy Hookers North Tambourine

contact Bec Andersen email [info@becandersen.com](mailto:info@becandersen.com)



## Tasmania

### DELORAINÉ

[The happy Hookers, Deloraine](#) [contact Joanne Wild](#) [email wildjoanne@gmail.com](#)

## VICTORIA

### YARRA VALLEY RUGMAKERS

Meeting days vary, so please check on blog.

Look on blog for more information <http://victorianrugmakers.blogspot.com.au>

contact Christina Noorbergen email [jerryandchris@hotmail.com](mailto:jerryandchris@hotmail.com) Phone 03 56596127

Joy Marshall email [themarshalls@optusnet.com.au](mailto:themarshalls@optusnet.com.au)

Anne Schafer email [a.schafer@bigpond.com](mailto:a.schafer@bigpond.com)

### WODONGA- WANGARATTA-BENALLA

Bobby George – phone number 0357 662732

(Lone Rugger Seeking Same)

Email [beeg3675@gmail.com](mailto:beeg3675@gmail.com)

Please advise me at [narrawillyfarm@shoal.net.au](mailto:narrawillyfarm@shoal.net.au) if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter