



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

This is a newsletter compiled by Miriam Miller, President Emeritus to help keep

Australian Rugmakers connected.

1st JULY 2015.

SUE LANGE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

I thought you might like to see the completed prodded cushion cover project that I worked on with my special needs student over the last semester - . Zoe has cerebral palsy and has limited motor skills, so her child studies teacher wasn't sure what Zoe could work on for her major practical craft project. I immediately thought of a proggy rug,

being such a simple, repetitive technique.



Zoe loved being able to choose her favourite colours. I think you will agree Zoe did a fantastic job and was thrilled with the finished result - just in time for her last day of school today. There were lots of comments from the other students who decided they wanted to make one too, and visiting teaching students were impressed that the flannelette sweater material we were using was being recycled in such a creative way. Cheers, Sue.



FROM THE BELLIGEN GROUP.

RIGHT Cushion made by Maxine Keys.
Maxine used unspun wool for the background

BELOW

Anne working on her grey rug. And looking for more grey blankets. Size 8ft(2.4m) by 12 ft (3.45m)



BELOW Finished rug made by Aishwarva Saraswati.
Aishwarva had several tries with different finishes for her edges and finally bound them with wool





SENT IN BY JUDITH BROOK.

Braided Floor rug used in WAITATI Library, Blueskin Bay, New Zealand, made with a Creative Communities Grant under guidance and instruction from Janet De Wajrt, Textile Artist.

BELOW

A sketch of a peacock feather and hooking started by Zaylie Brook , Blueskin Bay New Zealand. A beginner Rugmaker.





CARPET BAG

made by Miriam Miller, from pattern on hessian, and full instructions available from Robin Inkpen of [.W.A.](#)

Email robin.inkpen22@gmail.com

JOKES.

I know we do not all share the same sense of humour, but I wanted to share a couple that made me smile.

Peg- (Looking at her new coat) "Oh Charlie its lovely"

Charlie, "I say it is- genuine mammoth it is.

Peg. "Oh don't be silly Charlie"

Charlie "True – it said on the shop window MAMMOTH FUR SALE'

Another

If you take all the money we in the West spend on food in a day, it would feed the 3rd World for a year.

I can't help feeling we are being overcharged for our groceries.

And last

Coming in to answer the phone I asked' Who is speaking please' The person answered 'You are'

NEWS FROM BERMAGUI

A COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT

I live in a small rural village in a glorious part of the world, the Far South Coast of NSW. Twenty kilometres away is the iconic seaside town of Bermagui, and there, right above the main beach sits the Surf Life Saving Club, completed in 2012.

It's a splendid building, an asset to the town and the focus of community activities including classes for the University of the Third Age (U3A). There's only one problem. With all the hard surfaces the acoustics are dreadful!

It was obvious that something permanent should be done. A friend was a primitive rag rug hooker and I convinced her to teach her craft to U3A members and, with no previous experience, I set about

organising a community arts project.

The first step was to get permission from the



ARTIST RHONA WALKER (LEFT) EXPLAINS HER DRAWING TO SOME OF THE RUG HOOKERS

Surf Club and to decide on the size, location and design of a wall hanging large enough to be effective. One of our members is an artist in her eighties and she wanted to be involved in this challenging project. From her original panoramic painting she eventually drew the design on seven one-metre-wide and one-point-four-metre-high panels of hessian.

Meanwhile the idea was advertised in our Term 3 U3A program in July 2014. This would be the clincher. Would anyone want to work on such a huge time-consuming undertaking? The response was overwhelming. Previous workshops on learning a craft attracted fewer than ten. Because it was a community project we had twenty-nine!

We use hessian from off the roll at the local feed store and discarded tee-shirts from home or op-shops, although for continuity in the wall hanging we have bought lengths of inexpensive stretch knit fabric.

Because we knew that we would need to purchase fabric and equipment we applied for, and received, a community grant. Participants are covered by U3A insurance and are only required to buy their own hook.

Our first meeting at the end of July last year buzzed with enthusiasm. It has taken many months of practice but we have all completed several cushions or small wall hangings and have finally started on the real thing.

Some of the joy of the project is that we have become part of the Australian rug hooking community and have been the beneficiary of advice from Miriam Miller in Milton, a couple of hours north of here.

'The Hookers' meet every Friday afternoon. The atmosphere is one that would be recognised by any similar group of women working on a common goal - encouraging, sharing, inclusive, friendly, fun and focused.

It may be a few years before the seven panels are hung together and the obligatory photo and story appear in the local press. Meanwhile, we are learning about a new and useful craft, about our own and each other's abilities, and about how one person's vision can enthuse others to create something extraordinary.

Dawn Hollis

Cobargo

RUG HOOKING WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS Feb 2015.



Left

Artist Rhona Walker centre front. Teacher Lin Potter in orange shirt standing at far right. Organiser Dawn Hollis in blue shirt 6th from right

Below.

THE FIRST STITCHES ON THE FIRST PANEL.



FROM MIRIAM

Please tell me if you do not wish to receive these newsletters and I will remove your name from my list. I have decided to send the newsletters out irregularly, whenever there are enough articles.

THE INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF HANDHOOKING RUGMAKERS.

The International Conference of TIGHR will be held in Victoria, Vancouver Island Canada, from 4th to 8th October this year. There will be eight rugmakers from Australia present. One each from Western Australia, Victoria, and A.C.T, two from South Australia, and three from N.S.W. So we will be well represented. Jo Franco and Judy Stephens will be giving a workshop on Eco Basket making and Miriam Miller will be chairing a discussion on different types of rugmaking around the world.

POSTCARD FROM CANBERRA.

The ACT Heritage Festival is held every year in April and this year I was asked by Strathnairn Arts if I could arrange a display of rugs.

Thanks to Miriam, the Narrawilly Proggy Group and the small group at the Spinners and Weavers here in Canberra we were able to display a wide variety of different styles of rugs with plenty of colour on a bleak Sunday in April but we still received many visitors. All were very interested with tales of remembering that



their grandmothers, mothers and some fathers all making rugs in the old days. One gentleman from Hungary talked about how his mother would make rugs in exchange for meat from a local farmer. I must say that people of the ACT are a hardy lot as it really was a horrible day and no one seemed deterred by the rain, high winds and cold.

While Miriam, Jacqui and I were at the Pioneer Women's Hut at Tumbarumba I was kindly allowed to photograph some of the old heritage rugs which I then was able to display at the Heritage Festival.

Thank you to everyone who came and helped me hang the rugs and then help out

with talking to the many visitors on Sunday.

For some time as a member of the Australian Rugmakers Guild I have been trying to promote a rugging group here in Canberra which is easier said than done.

Strathnairn Arts have been very helpful and asked if I would run a workshop if there were enquires from the display and also demonstrate at their Open day that was coming up. Of course I said "yes".

Six ladies signed up for a workshop on May 3rd and we spent the morning learning to proggy and the afternoon hooking. All were interested to keep going so I booked a work space called the Village Hall at Strathnairn for Sunday the 24th May for our first gathering called up the spinners and weavers group and anyone that I knew maybe interested in joining. On the 24th I was hoping that I would not be the only person there and thankfully 10 ladies came.

We decided that we would meet every fourth Sunday afternoon of the month and now the bookings are in place we hope that this is the start of something exciting for the ACT. If you are around in the Canberra on the fourth Sunday afternoon of each month do come and visit us and join in.

CONTACTS

If you would like to be added to this list please advise Miriam Miller

email narrawillyfarm@shoal.net.au or phone 02 4455 6870 address 35 Stony Hill Lane, Milton NSW 2538

New South Wales.

MILTON, South Coast (3 hours south of Sydney)

Narrawilly Proddy Ruggers. Meet 1st and 3rd Fridays every month.

Contact Miriam Miller at email narrawillyfarm@shoal.net.au. Phone 02 4455 6870

BELLINGEN, North Coast

Contact Maxine Keys at email baznmax@bigpond.com Phone 02 6655 0591

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

BERMAGUI

Bermagui Rug Hookers. Contact Dawn Hollins at email pigeontree@live.com

Australian Capital Territory

CANBERRA

Contact Maggie Whyte at email maggieandfish@hotmail.com Phone 02 6281 0988

Mobile 0488747953 Name of group not decided yet, but they are to meet every fourth Sunday afternoon of the month at The Village hall, Strathnairn.

AINSLE- Spinners and Weavers Rooms- 'Kurrajong' Cnr Angas and Shebrooke Streets, Ansle contact jenny Harber phone 02 6230 2429

South Australia

STRATHALBYN

Strath Matters. Meet 1st and 3rd Fridays

Supper room of the Strathalbyn Town Hall

Contact Judy Stephens at email studioblue20@gmail.com Phone 08 85363451

Western Australia

DONNYBROOK

Donnybrook Hookers – meet every Wednesday 10am to 2pm

Old Blue Guide Hall, Cnr Ramsay Terrace & Marmion St, Donnybrook-

Contact Robin at email robin.inkpen22@gmail.com Phone 08 9731 2874

WANNAROO

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

Contact Jo Franco at raggedyjaydesigns@yahoo.com.au

Queensland

KINGARROY

Contact Judith Brook at email 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 Monday** 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 or skype juditompkins

Meeting dates for 2015

2nd Monday	3rd Tuesday
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10 Aug	18 Aug
14 Sept	15 Sept
12 Oct	12 Oct
9 Nov	17 Nov
14 Dec	15

NORTH TAMBORINE

The Happy Hookers North Tambourine contact Bec Anderson email info@becanderson.com

Tasmania

DELORAINIE

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 jerryandchrist@hotmail.com Phone 03 56596127

Joy Marshall email themarshalls@optusnet.com.au

Anne Schafer email a.schafer@bigpond.com