



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

This is a newsletter compiled by Miriam Miller, President Emeritus

June 2016

QUEENSLAND

KINGAROOY Red Earth Ruggers.



Judith Brook won first prize in Kingaroy Show with this Owl piece. She had to enter it “Any Other Item not otherwise mentioned’ as there was no section for Proggy or Hooky rugs. The Blue rug was made for a local exhibition.

NOTE

Membership

If you wish to become a member of The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers contact Diane Cox, Membership Chair by emailing membership@tighr.net

To become a member of the Australian Rug makers Guild contact Jo Franco. Membership Chair by emailing rughookingaustralia@gmail.com

NEW SOUTH WALES

Ann Nickle – Bellingen group.

As I made my rug for my daughter studying and living away from home I started collecting the scraps that occurred from tidying ends and threads. They looked so lovely and colourful, almost like little gems.

My parents were both artists and passed onto me the importance of seeing things that others often see as waste with new eyes, as potential to become something else. This is exactly what happened.

I sat with my bag of tiny scraps and threads from my rug and with a brush and watered down craft glue made little stars for my Christmas cards. Easter crept up on me this year but I had the idea of using the tiny scraps from my present grey and white rug to create little bunnies. The ideas are limitless!

Ann



NEW ZEALAND

SUE WHISKERS

Sue lives in the far south of New Zealand. I asked her if I could include her address in this newsletter for any Rug makers travelling around New Zealand so they could visit. I had an enthusiastic reply.

“Hi Miriam

That would be fine. would be lovely. We also have a large space (we bought an old Free Masons hall - we live in one small end and the gallery and studio is at the other end) so we could even host teaching groups. We would love to do that soon. The hall is a lovely wood panelled building with a high domed roof. There are also lots of rentals (bachs, B and B's, motels, campervan parks and cafes all within walking distance from us) nice for visitors.

address

The Cwtch

6 Ferry Road

Tuatapere 9620

Southland

If a group wanted to visit - we could help arrange bookings with the nearby motels and accomodation/ meals - also Greg could take the menfolk off on tours fishing or hunting etc. while the girls did rugs. We are new to this so we are open to ideas.

To contact us email whiskerssue@yahoo.com

I also think a tour could be arranged in between sessions for junk shops and flea markets etc.

(I love those)

Thanks Miriam”

JOKE

An agitated man rang for an ambulance, saying his wife was having a baby. The operator asked” Is this her first baby’ “ No” was the reply,” This is her husband Kevin.”

NEW SOUTH WALES MILTON

JACQUI THOMSON - Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers.

Sticky Tape Hint

For some time I have been using sticky tape two inches or 5cm wide to keep my work clear of the small cuttings of ends from my rug as I work. It is so quick, easy and saves time. Quicker than sweeping the floor.

Jacqui

ELAINE KITCHNER Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers

The centres of these pieces were started in a Karen Kaiser workshop. Teaching fine hooking and shading. Elaine shows ways she is embellishing the centre . One piece is finished as a cushion.



DATES TO REMEMBER

3RD AND 4TH SEPTEMBER 2016

FOR GATHERING OF AUSTRALIAN RUGMAKERS IN CANBERRA ACT.

SEE DETAILS FURTHER ON IN THIS NEWSLETTER.



MIRIAM MILLER

Narrawilly proggy Ruggers

This wall hanging inspired by embroidery on a child's dress and the chocolates my grandson gave me for Christmas. I used recycled fabrics, velvet, taffeta, organza, T-shirt, wool, and wool yarn, buttons, beads, chocolate papers, and glitzy braid.

RECIPE

FROM Judi Tompkins Queensland

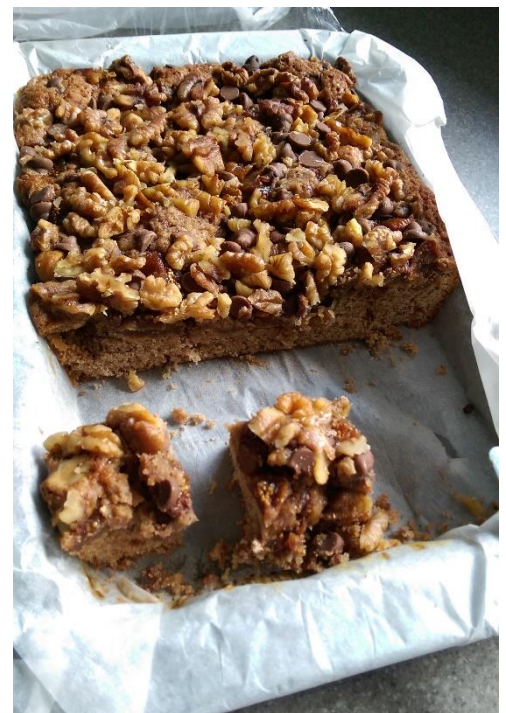
Grandma Tompkins Amazing Chocolate chip Fig or Date Cake.

1 cup hot water
 2 ½ cups chopped dried figs or dates
 1 teaspoon baking soda mix together and let cool

1 cup sugar 1 cup butter
 2 eggs 1 ¾ cups SR flour
 ¼ teaspoon salt 1 Tablespoon Cocoa
 1 ½ cups chocolate chips
 1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts

Cream butter and sugar, beat in eggs one at a time, add fig or date mixture. Sift together flour salt and cocoa, add and mix well. Pour into greased (13 x 9 x 2) cake pan. Sprinkle top with chocolate chips and nuts. Bake in 350 F oven for 30- 35 minutes.

Note from Judi – I make this with chopped figs or even dried apricots. Nice change for those who do not like the sweetness of dates.



CANADA – Nova scotia

A report by Cathy Komourdjian Trip of Life Time: Australia and New Zealand

A fabulous opportunity arose in 2014, a fibre art cruise in 2016: four nights in Sydney, two nights Mollymook (Milton) to rug hook with proggy artist and spinner Miriam Miller. So I booked this right away. I then added two nights in Cairns, and two nights in Uluru (the red centre).

I am driven by art and culture and very curious about how the world was populated and who ended up where. This was a double opportunity to explore Aboriginal and the Maori culture and art.

Top pick of the trip for me was the fibre art experience with Miriam Miller and her proggy/hookey circle...Mollymook is 3.5 hours south of Sydney, along very pastoral, lush, tropical tree lined route , water views on left a very curvy highway. This was an opportunity to view the country side up close rather than not from the vantage point of the aircraft window. We stayed at the very luxurious Bannisters by the Sea with views of Narrawallee beach. Jacqui and Miriam picked us up and took us on a brief tour. Then we (Betty, Cindy and I) were hosted to a progressive dinner hosted by Miriam's' hooky circle: we were treated royally to a progressive dinner featuring a: heritage home, a country bungalow and an ultramodern new build. Front and centre in all these homes were the fibre art rugs. I was blown away by the open heartedness and welcoming spirit extended to three Nova Scotia's: CFA (come from a ways).

The next day Jacqui picked us up and took us to Miriam's studio at Narrawilly farm. Beautiful landscape garden, (coming from -10 in Canada) and lots of gorgeous flowers. Wow such a rich coloured canvas, my eyes did not know what to take IN. the country scenery and oh yes the fabulous house on the hill that blended into the great views.

A great day spent hooking and meeting Miriam's circle, learning proggy and being given the tools to make it easier .Also Miriam very generously also gave us copies of her book to help promote the art. Brief trip to watch the milking with borrow foot gear. (I was raised on two hundred acre farm outside of Uxbridge Ontario). I'm always interested in processes.

Miriam and Jacqui treated us to a tour of the surrounding area culminating in a meet and greet with Kangaroos--- what a treat!! .Then dinner fish and chips to die for Miriam's' treat. The whole two days were just amazing. Thank-you for having us these memories will last a life time.



Also I was able to add two excursions to the Australia leg of the adventure- Great Barrier Reef and Uluru and Betty joined me.

Left- Rock Art in Central Australia Photo by Betty

Photo on next page Betty at Uluru



Uluru(the red centre) home of the Anangu was just the most spiritually uplifting experience for me --, brought up on –Flying doctor stories and education on the air – to be in the out back in the moment- very fulfilling. The aboriginals have been here in excess of 30,000 years, treat this area as; grocery, department store and pharmacy. Rotational burning refurbishes the land. Their language and history has been handed down in their oral traditions, drawing in the sand (now on canvas) and cave art. Did sunrise tour with base walk and visited the cave drawings, and then took part in the Sounds of silence dinner with the didgeridoo in the back ground.

Tour of the Great Barrier Reef with Reef Magic, last Australian owned outfit, was amazing. We had great day on the reef fabulous food and lots of time to scuba dive. Complex had both a glass bottom and submersible boats- saw coral- bleached and decolonized sponges and a sea turtle and lots of brilliant fish.

The cruise was great we were treated to fabulous foods; entertainment and a very clean well run ship. There was an Epic Ice show on board. We had a room to hook in on the days at sea .All my excursions were to learn about the indigenous people or flora and fauna. Maori culture about 7000 years – triangle of population: Easter Island, Hawaii and New Zealand – as population expanded and they need new food sources – they followed the migrating birds- learned the constellations and followed cloud formations that indicated land mass. Gave me a lot to think about and to read up on. Their language is the tattoos that are on their bodies and thru spoken tradition.



Cruise ship anchored at Mystery Island Australia.

Betty and Cindy did paddle boarding for the first time.

Photo from Cindy.

An awesome trip and so much information gathered that needs to be investigated.

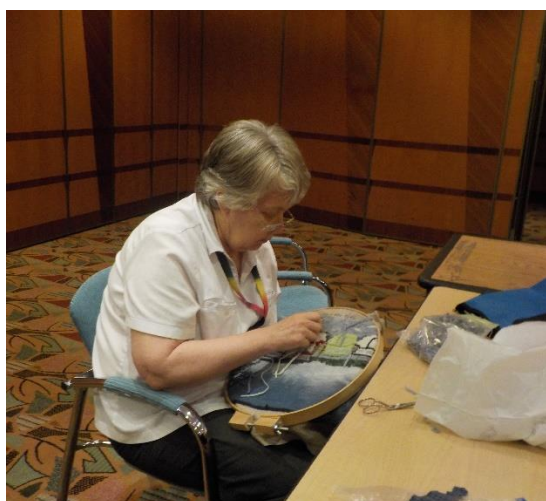
Also cannot thank Miriam , Jacqui and the Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers, enough for your gifts of self and time.

CINDY ADDED THIS .

So Miriam you wouldn't believe, one Sunday morning on ship when the three of us were in the hooking classroom, we heard singing next door because there was a church service going on. It was nice to listen to. Then when the people were leaving Church, a lady named Elaine stopped in to see what we were doing. We showed her what we were hooking and told her all about the different styles and materials that can be



used. She seemed very interested. Then Elaine spied your book on the table, she started looking through it and said, "I want TO HAVE THIS BOOK". I explained that it was from some very special hooking group, we met in Mollymook and I couldn't sell it. She chatted to us for about half an hour and then again, asked if I could sell her the book. I finally gave in, And guess where Elaine lives? She lives in Malaysia. I have her e-mail and phone # too. It is so amazing the people you meet because of this love of rug hooking. It almost seems magic at times. So Miriam your book went to Malaysia and Elaine is newly retired and there wasn't any other rug hookers in her area and she said she would like to get rug hooking known in her area. I have not heard from her yet, but hope she will write sometime soon.



Cathy and Betty working in their special rug making room on board their cruise ship.

CANADA - New Brunswick

Mary Alexander



This rug made by Mary Alexander in Canada, with the instructions in my book 'Proggy and Hooky Rugs'. Mary had not previously worked in proggy.

STRATHNAIRN RETREAT, MEETING OF AUSTRALIAN RUGMAKERS GUILD AND EXHIBITION

Maggie Whyte sent this information.

I thought it was time to update you with the latest news on our Retreat at The Woolshed, Strathnairn Arts,

90 Stockdill Drive
Belconnen ACT

(You can drive right to the Woolshed in the grounds of Strathnairn Arts Centre)

On **Saturday 3 September** we are hoping to start about 9.30am. I am sure there will be plenty of catching up and talking and

- during the day we will be demonstrating Swedish braiding and punch-needle rughooking,
- also [Christine White](#) a textile artist and Carol Divall an experienced Feltmaker will come and talk to us about their work,
- there is plenty of room for you to do rugging if you wish.

The Exhibition is being hung on Friday so you can enjoy seeing all the work.

Tea and coffee will be available but you can also pop down to the Homestead Cafe and Gallery for lunch.

The Guild's meeting will be held sometime later in the afternoon. This is your chance to have your say about the Guild.

Dinner will be approximately 6:00pm at the Homestead Cafe, if anyone has special dietary requirements please contact me on maggieandfish@hotmail.com so that I can let the cafe know. When I have a better idea of numbers I can let you know the menu and cost. Partners are welcome at the dinner.

Sunday 4 September

We will meet at 10.00am at the Woolshed and will demonstrate spirals or quillies. We can also demonstrate other techniques upon request.

[Lynne Johnson](#) will talk about her knitting - Lynne has been teaching at TAFTA Forums and knitting workshops throughout Australia and New Zealand in recent years.

[Nancy Tingy](#), Textile Artist, will open our Exhibition to the public between 2.00 to 3.00pm. Nancy has a studio at Strathnairn and it would be wonderful if Nancy could show us some of her work. Nancy is from the North of England and has made rugs and now works with interesting materials many purchased at Bunnings.

The *Coast to Coast* Exhibition: 4th to 25th September, 2016

Everyone is encouraged to enter a rug (big or small) or other articles (2D or 3D) into the Coast to Coast Exhibition. Three articles per person are allowed and should be marked if for sale.

Entry details for the Exhibition (entrance fee & gallery commission) have already been e-mailed to members and are on the Website.

We are happy to receive beginners and experienced ruggers works, even postcard size will be accepted.

Challenge: 3rd & 4th September, 2016 also titled "*Coast to Coast*"

This is a members challenge and will hang in the Gallery during the weekend of the Retreat.

Members are asked to submit one piece each to the Challenge, the maximum size is 30cm x 38cm. or 15 x 12 inches There is no entry fee for the Challenge. If you don't want to pay return postage you can designate me to find a new home found for your Challenge piece.

Accommodation;

There are many hotels, motels, and backpackers accommodations. The Epic Show Ground has plenty of room for caravans and campervans.

If you would like to be billeted we will do our very best to accommodate you.

Please send me an e-mail at maggieandfish@hotmail.com

Partners and Husbands;

If you are travelling with partners and husbands there are many places for them to visit and enjoy while we are at the Retreat. Partners and husbands are welcome at the Dinner on Saturday evening.

The Australian War Memorial is a great favourite for the men. Recently two Italian backpackers stayed with me and they spent 3 days there. Also the National Gallery, Portrait Gallery, New Parliament House, Australian National Museum and the National Library. All of these National Institutions have free entry.

Trading Table;

If you wish to sell rug hooking supplies (i.e. tools, books or wool) please let me know and I will arrange for a table for you but the sales are your responsibility.

There is no commission charged on these sales.

Items made using rug hooking techniques will be displayed in the Exhibition and fall under the Exhibition Entry Conditions.

Thinking about coming to the Retreat? it is definitely worth taking a look at www.strathnairn.com.au to see more about Strathnairn Arts Centre

Looking forward to seeing you and your work in September. Now I had better get to work on some rugs as well.

Maggie Whyte, Event Coordinator
Australian Rugmakers Guild,
V.Pres/Secretary

TO END, SOMETHING MORE FROM NARRAWILLY PROGGY RUGGERS

Carol Flynn, because of a sore shoulder can only make small pieces at the moment. These are two pot stands, she has made (to take a hot casserole on a table) Carol said they make good gifts and people always seem pleased to receive them. Carol has backed them with felt. Size 26cm x 26cm or 10 by 10 inches.



