

CONNECTING US

This is not the official newsletter of the Australian Guild of Rugmakers
This is an additional newsletter compiled by Miriam Miller, President Emeritus

November 10th 2016 Newsletter number 14

ISRAEL -JERUSALEM –Pamela Bar-or

This is a Story of some Ethiopian Jews, who migrated to Israel, and Pamela tells us of a way of helping the men in this group.



(These are two photos of their beautiful embroidery that Pamela gave to Jacqui Thomson and me when we visited in 2015)



Hi Miriam,

These are mainly middle- aged and older men who do not speak fluent Hebrew nor have they the skills to integrate into the work force, and have been unemployed and living on social benefits. Most of their generation speak only Amharic and, coming from an undeveloped country, are often illiterate (especially the women).

Ethiopian Jews have been immigrating (with govt. assistance) since 1970's but there were 2 mass immigrations by sea and air during the 1980's, and smaller groups are still coming. In total they number around 135, 000.

They all face many obstacles and hardship in the absorption/integration process; and the govt. seems to help more with integrating the younger generation.....no mean task, either.

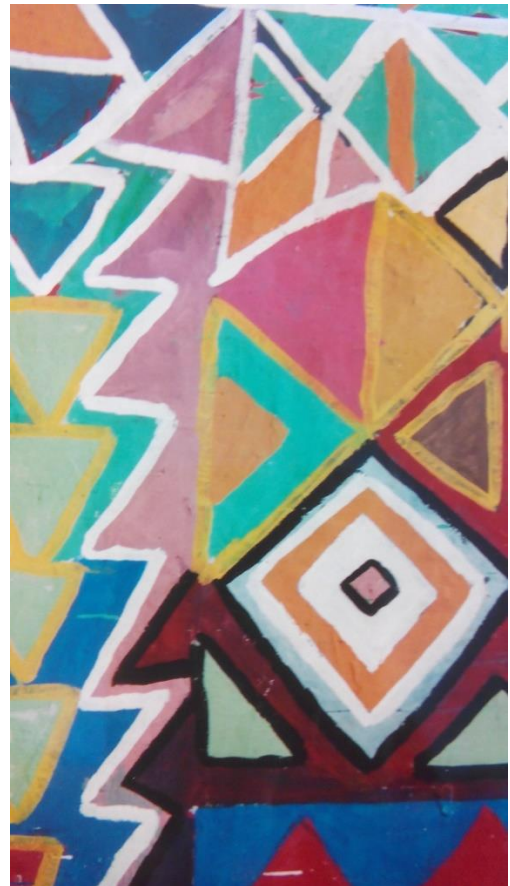
.There are many other groups in other parts of Israel with a similar aim of helping Ethiopian women integrate into Israeli society through their craft work, including basketry, pottery and weaving.

In embroidery the mens original designs were mainly geometrical and brightly coloured. Today the subjects include well known Bible stories, and their uses vary from bags, cushions etc. to Judaica i.e Shabbat table cloths, bags for prayer shawls).

In our neighbourhood there are Ethiopian (about 50) families in the Absorption centre and they have made wall paintings on some of the playground walls which I photographed some time ago. . Love Pam

Continued on next page.

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Above are three wall paintings on playground walls by the Ethiopians, and Pamela's "Poppy" Rug.

RECIPE**(A good desert to make ahead of time)****WHISKY ORANGES WITH ATHOLL BROSE CREAM.** $\frac{3}{4}$ Cup sugar $\frac{1}{2}$ Cup water $\frac{1}{4}$ Cup scotch whisky

8 Oranges

Artholl Brose Cream

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups cream

3 tablespoons honey

3 tablespoons scotch whisky.

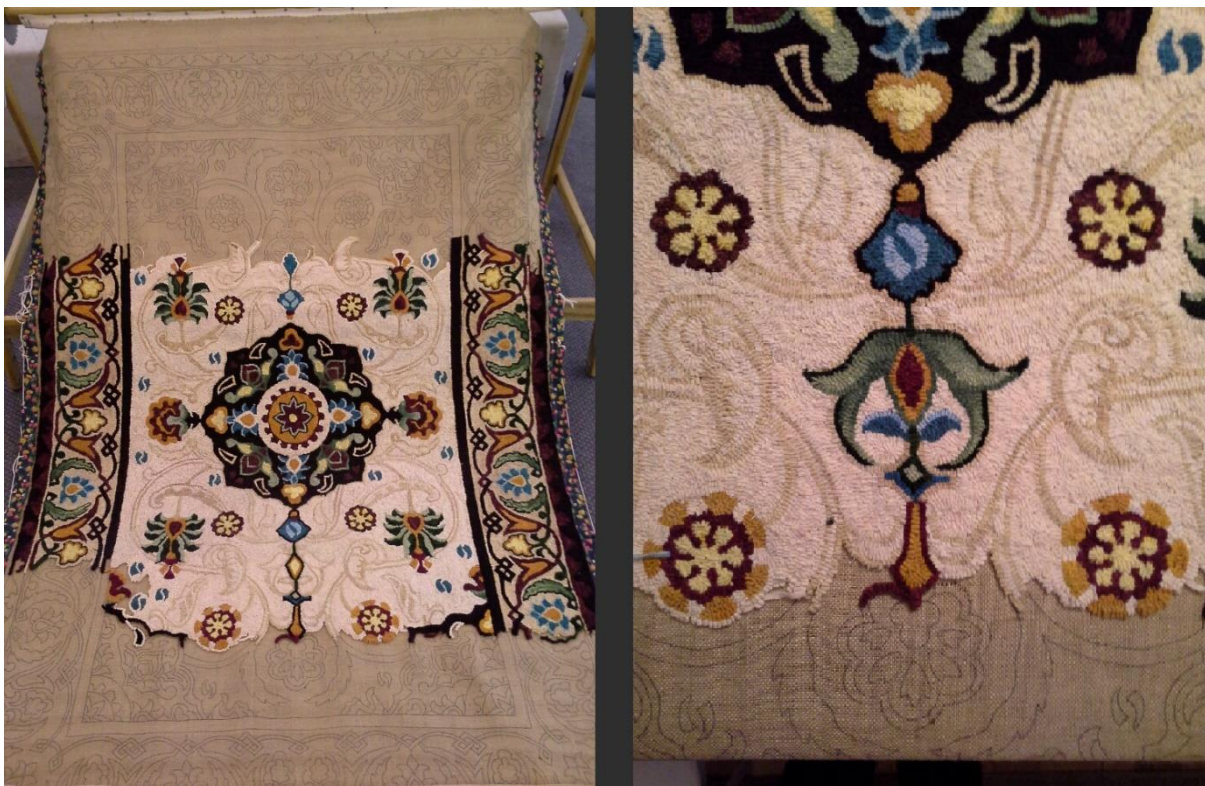
Combine Sugar and water in saucepan, stir over heat until sugar dissolves. Bring to boil, reduce heat simmer 2 minutes. Remove from heat, add whisky, cool. Remove rind from oranges, remove white pith. Cut oranges into segments, cutting between membranes, do this over bowl to catch all the juice. Put into bowl, pour over cooled syrup, cover, refrigerate. To serve spoon oranges and syrup into individual bowls and top with Atholl Brose Cream.

Atholl Brose Cream Whip Cream, put honey and whisky into a bowl, stir well, until combined. Gradually add whisky mixture to cream. Refrigerate until serving time.

Note Oranges can be put into the whisky syrup a couple of days in advance to absorb the flavour of the syrup. Put oranges into bowl cover with syrup cover tightly, refrigerate.

LARGE RUGS. Several are being made, so here are two more.

VICTORIA – Yarra Valley Rugmakers Chris Noorbergen



Name of pattern - : Tehran by Rittermere Size: 7x 5ft; (213cm x 152cm) hessian backing, new wool- hand- dyed.

Continued- by Chris Noorbergen

Progress report: hooked by myself Chris Noorbergen. I have been working on for the last 20 months. It is nearly half finished. Not being happy with the thinnish line of motives running north south, I needed some help and my friend Joy from the Yarra Valley Rug Makers came to the party with very helpful suggestions. You know when you are working on a rug, or anything really, and you come to a halt, not really knowing where to turn next and nothing comes to mind? That's when it is helpful for others to step in. They can look at your rug with an unbiased view. The result is at the right. Instead of hooking scrolls in the darker cream as I have done most of the scrolls, I have incorporated part of that scroll in the small motive that was there previously. I am much happier with this result. Chris

NEW SOUTH WALES - Braidwood

Maggie Hickey

This is the prototype (100 x 60 cm) or 3'3" in by 1'11" for a much larger final version which will be 210 x 235cm or 6'10" by 7'8". I'm making it for a friend who designed it. It will be all wool and hooked. I'm making it in six pieces which I'll join by hooking them together. I used rug wool yarn and dyed blankets for this little rug and will see how well the two types of wool work and wear together before using both on the final version. Hence there will be a delay of several weeks before I make a start I'll be dying blankets during that time and monitoring how well the little rug is doing now its being walked on. If I find the yarn and the blankets are wearing differently, I'll just use blankets. The small rug only took me two weeks to make from start to finish but I've warned my friend not to expect the final version too soon! Maggie



ENGLISH JOKE.

1. Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
2. Mexicans eat lots of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
3. Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
4. Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
5. Germans drink beer and eat lots of sausage and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
6. Conclusion- Eat and drink all you like, speaking English is apparently what kills us

GUERNSEY –CHANNEL ISLANDS - The Sarnia Rug Rats



This is the group that Heather Ritchie (A Yorkshire based rug teacher) travelled to teach collage in rugs and spend time with in September.

We are a group of 10 enthusiastic rug makers who meet fortnightly in Guernsey.

Guernsey is a small island, only twenty miles all the way around and is one of the Channel Islands. We are only a “stones throw” from France and not much further to the United Kingdom. Our climate is good and we rarely have snow or frost although being an island we do have quite a few gales. We are fortunate to live on this beautiful island - hope you have all read the Potato Peel Pie book - which is based on life in the war in Guernsey when we, along with the other Channel Islands, were occupied by the Germans

Our rug making group have been meeting since 1998 after learning the techniques of rug making at the local College of Education evening classes. These were run by Alison Teed. Teaching continued for about four years at the college. After the first year of teaching nobody wanted to say “goodbye” and so we formed a group instead and named it the “Sarnia Rug Rats” Sarnia means Guernsey.

However, sometimes we feel a little isolated and so over the years we have saved. Held raffles, organised jumble sales to raise funds to bring international teachers to Guernsey for weekend workshops.

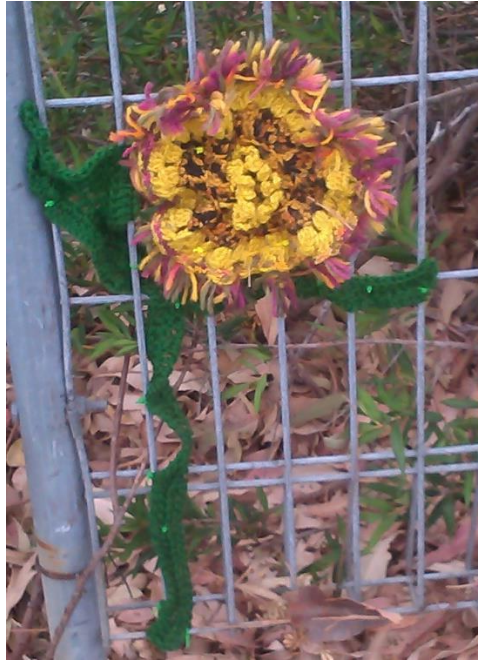
We have been so fortunate to have had Cilla Cameron and Heather Ritchie to visit us on several occasions. Heather has just visited us for another wonderful workshop on appliqué and hooking. We are all now so inspired!

We all hook and prod. Some of us use all woollen materials whilst others use different fabrics to get the end result needed.

We love to see other people’s work. We are a clever lot aren’t we! Alison

NEW SOUTH WALES-WOLLONGONG –Fiona McKay

On and off for a couple of years I've been doing some 'yarn bombing', mainly at school.....see pictures attached. One of the other teachers who rallied to my call to make crochet stars to decorate a tree at Christmas last year, has become addicted, and my yarn bombing companion although nothing much has been happening in the last term as I been really busy and she's had a broken elbow. But we have plans! AND took a little detour and made some crochet ferns to contribute to recreating a fernery (which is now an art gallery) for an exhibition in Auburn in Sydney. Another friend got addicted to the fern-making and our joint hanging basket looked great, and sold within the first few days!



NEW SOUTH WALES - SYDNEY – Helen Orr

Hi Miriam,



It's taken a long long while but I have at last finished my proggy rug, made from samples of men's mainly wool suitings (sourced from Reverse Garbage) with a border of blankets I dyed black, green and red with Landscape dyes.

Best regards, Helen

NEW SOUTH WALES

BELLINGEN RAG RUG
GROUP

Ann Nickle's prize winning hooked cushions

Ann's two very large grey rugs have previously been shown in this newsletter



We had a big art exhibition in our church a couple of weeks ago, and Ann Nickle shared 1st prize with her mother who makes amazing ships out of found objects, Ann had entered her hooked pillows so it was very exciting. Maxine

MILTON – Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers.

Friday 4th November. On our regular Rug day, we had a workshop making Christmas Wreaths. Using a wire coat hanger which we bent into a circle- and tying on strips of fabric 15cm (6 inches) by 2 1/2cm (1 inch). They turned out surprisingly well. The photos do not do them justice. Adding bows, using glitzy pieces or making them with shiny fabrics all adds to the effect.

These were made by Jacqui Thomson, Maggie Whyte and Janette Dengate.



NEW SOUTH WALES – MILTON

Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers

Margaret Ryan

Margaret is doing what we all should do, working on an UFO. (Unfinished Object) only this time it is a rug that her Father started in the 50's. These rug patterns were put out by 'Semco' and worked with wool yarn. The wool and instructions included. They went out of fashion when wool became very expensive. This pattern has a very large tiger in front of some mountains. The tool is very similar to the punch needle popular now. The length of the loop can be adjusted, and the pile left as loops or cut.

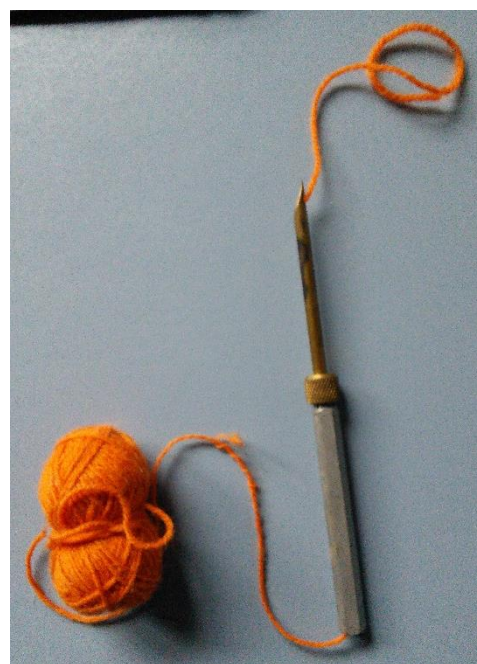


Back of rug. Margaret works from the back punching the wool through. The rug is design number 305

From Margaret-

Some wording with the rug. "All you need to make this attractive rug is Semco Traced Rug on special unshrinkable jute canvas. Semco double strand Rug Needle, drawing pins. Semco wooden Rug Frame and Wool.

All of this must have come together in a Kit Form when Dad bought it, it was all together and I remember him looking at all the stuff when he got it. He would have bought it from a wool shop or haberdashery type of shop in those days.



CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

QUEENSLAND – LANDSBOROUGH – Judith Tompkins

I have been buying wool blankets for about 10 years or more but have finally had to make some verrrrrry hard decisions about downsizing my stash of these wonderful woollen fabric! This is good news for rughookers if you are working with wool and have found it hard to find good quality wool. I currently have 125 + (maybe more) and have decided to sell them off at a good deal.

I have single, double, queen and king wool blankets in a range of colours (all of them can of course be overdyed)...I generally paid \$8-\$30 for them over the years but will price them down for you folks. In general...I figure a Single blanket is worth \$8.00...a double is worth \$12.....a Queen is worth about \$22....and a King is worth \$30....Plus there would be shipping and handling costs if I have to mail them...I'm happy for you to take half of something and am also willing to barter or swap for fibres/objects if it is something I can use. So....think wool and what you might need. I don't think they will last too long since wool is so hard to come by in this warm climate. I am also posting this information on the Australian Rugmakers Guild site and on the Guild's Facebook page...so shop often and early!

For those of you who haven't been here before...or will be on the Sunshine Coast, do come along to meet some of the hookers from this area.

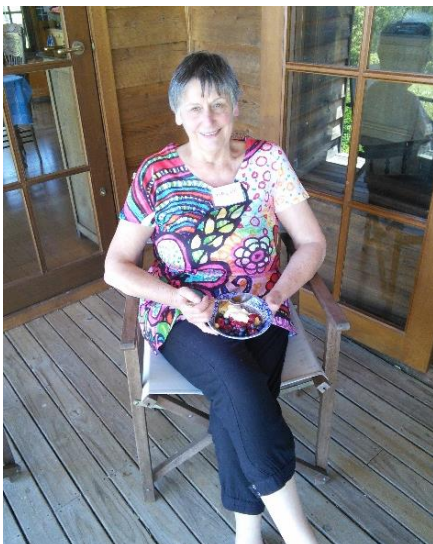
The Sunshine Coast Rug Crafters meet twice a month (2nd Friday and 3rd Tuesday) at the Beerwah library (community room) from 2pm- 5.00pm)...you are welcome to join us there as well. No need to call, just show up for as long as you'd like.



You'll find me...and the shed at: 181
Hardwood Road, Landsborough 4550 QLD Mobile
04400 988 777 Landline 07 5494 8179 Regards
Judi Tompkins

NEW SOUTH WALES –Milton

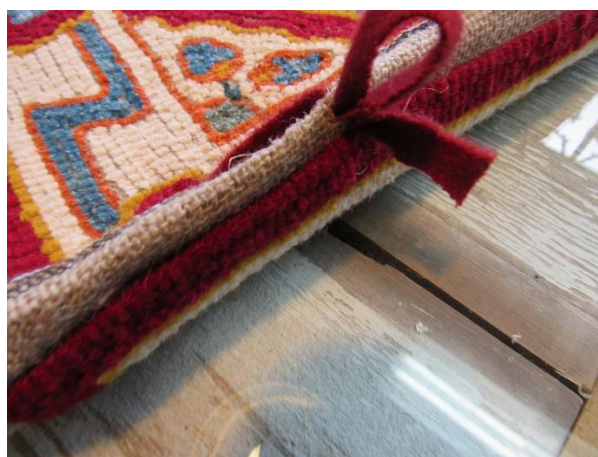
Maggie and Sonja visiting from Canberra. They came for the Rug day on 4th November. Maggie enjoying lunch on the verandah and Sonja working on her new frame. Sonja was so impressed with the frame that Gail Nicholls demonstrated at the Strathnairn Exhibiton in October, she asked her husband to make her a similar one.



U.S.A- WASHINGTON STATE – HOLLY Michele Wise

CUSHION (I so admired Michel's cushion when I visited in 2015, I asked her how she did the fringe.)

I trimmed the backing to 1 1/4 inches and serged the edge. I turned the edge to the back. I cut strips of wool in various colours and about 1/2 inch wide and pushed the hook through both layers of foundation at the fold. I pulled the end up. I then skipped a few threads of foundation and pulled the other end up near the former end. After I went around the pillow I sewed the backing on by hand.



Michele has given us very clear pictures of how she finished her cushion.

Continued Michele Wise.



CONTACTS

NEW SOUTH WALES

MILTON

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

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

Website www.shoal.net.au/~narrawilly/index.html

BRAIDWOOD

CONTACT Maggie Hickey. Email maggie.hickey@bigpond.com phone 0419 841 819

BELLINGEN, North Coast

Bellingen Rag Rug Group

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, Straithnairn.

AINSLIE- Spinners and Weavers Rooms- 'Kurrajong' Cnr Angus and Shebrooke Streets, Ainslie
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. <https://wanneroorugmakers.com>

Contact Jo Franco at email josephinefranco1@gmail.com

Queensland

KINGAROY

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

Contact Judith Brook at email judybrook@gmail.com - in recess until February

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 Meeting days may be changed in the New Year. Please contact Judi.

Contact Judi Tompkins -- Email 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

Tasmania

DELORAINE

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 Phone 03 56596127

Joy Marshall email themarshalls@optusnet.com.au

Anne Schafer email a.schafer@bigpond.com

WODONGA- WANGARATTA-BENALLA

Bobby George – phone number 0357 662732

(Lone Rugger Seeking Same)

Email beeg3675@gmail.com

