



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

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

December 2016 - Newsletter number. 15

WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS

NEW SOUTH WALES – MILTON - Gwendolyn Van Kemenade



Gwen and Jacqui



An outside wall hanging

Jacqui Thomson and I spent an afternoon with Gwen, and loved what she is doing with glass and we wanted to share with you. Gwen makes traditional stained glass windows and doors, but also makes mosaics, pictures and blends and moulds glass in her kiln. Gwen sources her glass in Australia and America.

. Below a curved dish, a necklace, a picture, and other examples of Gwen's work.



CANADA- Nova Scotia

Diane Macdonald

. Hello Miriam-

Thought you might like to see a result of your shawl pattern from your last newsletter.

As you see I didn't follow the pattern correctly but the results are fine. I also did a K1, S1, on the knit row which adds a bit of pattern.

I didn't M1 properly but have now figured it out and am going to do another.

A friend gave me quite a bit of mohair recently, she said at least 40 years old.)

Fortunately it doesn't spoil!!!!

As she lives in an older house that's hard to heat, I made her a very warm shawl for the winter.

So thanks a bunch for the pattern.

Cheers,

Diane MacDonald,

(Nova Scotia)



It is made with one strand of a rather thick mohair, in a flesh tone (which is certainly not pretty) but with some burgundy, rose, and brown toned wool.

It turned out not so bad (colour wise)

IMPORTANT. How Diane could knit this shawl when the pattern is wrong. She deserves a medal. As I make up my own patterns, I forgot to add the increased stitches at the beginning of each row in my instructions. So hopefully no one was frustrated with me. Looking at my pattern in newsletter number 13. It is correct until row 4, after that increase at the beginning of each row, and also at each side of the centre stitch on the plain side.

Dear Miriam,

My names is Rebecca Nicholas and I am with the Chinook Guild of Fibre Arts in Calgary, Alberta Canada. Our Guild is presently working on a project Called 'Women's Hands Building a Nation' to celebrate Canada's 150 year birthday in 2017. We will have approximately 55 items, Rug Hooking, Quilts, and Needle works in our exhibit. I wanted to tell you about it now but will send you photos once we have the complete collection together. If any of your ladies happen to be in Canada in 2017/18 they will be able to see this fabulous. We are very excited about it and want to share it with other guilds.

BOOK REVIEW- 'STORY RUGS AND THEIR STORYTELLERS'

Rug Hooking in the Narrative Style by Paulette Hackman. 112 pages

ISBN 978-0-8117-1335-1 published by Ampry Publishing USA

Go to www.rughookingmagazine.com

In this book are 6 featured artists, then a chapter on Story Rugs as a Series, and then a gallery of rugs telling stories. There are three Australian Rug makers in this section. Robin Asman, Christina Noorbergen and Sarah Roger., and finally a chapter providing hints and tips to help you make your own Story rug. This book is interesting and well worth buying

NEW SOUTH WALES –Milton –
Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers.



Margaret was inspired by the Christmas Wreaths we made last Rug Day, and completed the one she is holding today, 18th November. When Carol saw Margaret's she decided to make one too. Photo to the left holding the wire coat hanger, with Margaret, and at the right, Carol's finished wreath.



NEW SOUTH WALES. –TOWAMBA Julie Bedwell

This is of interest to Spinners. Julie cards her fleece and then adds tiny pieces of material, some left from her quilting, ribbon, fragments of wool, or anything else she can think to add to the mix. Julie then spins this as usual and then knits. It is hard to show how good it is in the photo.

Below, Spun and knitted



carded fleece before spinning .



JOKE At his 103rd birthday party my Grandfather was asked if he thought he'd be around for his 104th. "I certainly do", he replied. Statistics show very few people die between the ages of 103 and 104

NEW SOUTH WALES –MILTON

Miriam Miller



This is finishing the edges on my big rug. Heather Ritchie gave me a demonstration on Skype. Using my bent hook, I am crocheting over the edge. First I had cut and zig zagged the edge leaving about 3-4 cm or 1 to 1 ½ inches of backing. This I rolled over before I crocheted from the right side, using carpet wool. I am doing this down the long edges.

Putting the fringe on the short ends of the rug..

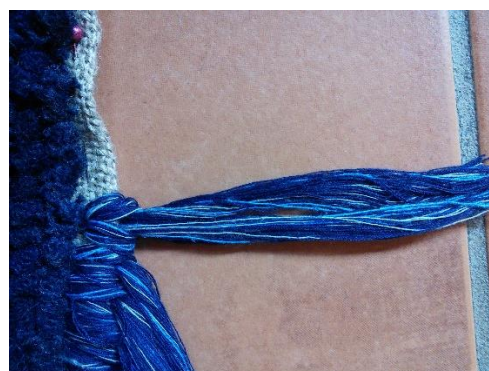


This is the spool of multi

strand fibre I used for fringe



I folded over the edge just leaving enough to attach the fringe.



The Saga continues. After I have done half way down one side, I realized that my crocheting was causing the edge of the rug to be wavy., so then I tried just oversewing, but was still not happy, so I reverted to my original plan, and I now have glued down the edge all the way around and also glued on some hessian tape.

The edge glued down



Hessian tape glued over the edge



Same at the ends of the rug.



This is the first time I have glued the edge of a rug. One needs to be precise. I will be interested how it lasts. I have laid the rug in my living room, and am very happy with it. Has anyone else had experience with glueing?



It has just occurred to me, that if the edges of the rug wear it may be harder to repair now I have glued the tape behind.

I love it and cannot believe I made it Miriam

JOKE –

A small boy was having trouble with numbers, so the teacher took him aside, and to help him, said. I will give you two cats, then I give you two more cats, and finally two more cats. How many cats do you have? After thinking a while, the boy said 7. No the teacher said, we will try again. This time I will give you two apples, two more apples and two more apples. How many apples do you have? The boy said brightly 6. Good said the teacher, now we will try cats again. I will give you two cats, and two more cats, and finally two more cats. How many cats have you got? The boy again said 7. The teacher asked why he could count apples, and not cats. The boy replied but I have a cat already.

NEW SOUTH WALES –MILTON – Wendy Davis

Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers



Wendy's colourful work. Drawn for her by John Butler. Wendy has used flower buttons on wire, and many other innovations. Sorry the photos are not so good.



Photo to the left sent by Leith Clayton-Brandt

Also a Narrawilly member.

Leith writes

This is an 8x8inch artwork, created from foam, jacaranda pods, berries I picked while bushwalking, wire, and acrylic paint.

I call it 'Emerging'

VICTORIA -Glenrowan Bobby George

Bobby George is a group of one, looking for someone to join her in rug making. Below to the left is a



Beautiful wall hanging and to the right, the rug in front of her fireplace.



NEW SOUTH WALES. – Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers

Narrawilly Ruggers Christmas Fashion Parade 2016
report by Jacqui Thomson

On the first Friday in December the Narrawilly Rug Makers celebrate the end of year by holding a Fashion Parade from clothes we are given from the Milton Ulladulla Outreach Centre (Clothing which is discarded because of one reason and another) and many other donors.

We are most grateful to both the Outreach Centre and other donors for the second-hand clothes which are used to create our beautiful rugs.

This year an audience of over 60 locals and their friends attended. Firstly we were entertained by the "Squeaky Creakers", a local choir dressed for the occasion in long blue choir robes, with a white over garments, who sang a selection of songs to get the ball rolling. They sang their own rendition of the "12 Days of Christmas" which delighted all.

In fact it brought the house down!

Immediately followed the Fashion Parade our six top models, Maggie Whyte, Margaret Ryan, Jenny Harber, Elke Smith-Hill, Christine Alexander, and Leith Brandt delighted the crowd as they moved along the "cat walk" strutting their stuff, beginning with sleepwear then sports, morning, afternoon and evening.



The items shown came from all over the world, Thailand, Cambodia, India, Egypt, France, the UK and home grown Australia. Jacqui Thomson was the compare and when there was a lull, she had a story or two to tell. Out of sight but helping our delightful but temperamental models in and out of their garments were Pat La Rance and Miriam. Both had worked tirelessly to prepare a varied collection of clothes for our six models to wear so the parade flowed without a hitch.

At the conclusion of the Parade Janet Walker sincerely thanked Miriam for making available her rug room and home to the Narrawilly Rug makers throughout the year and presented her with a gift. She couldn't think of another Group who had such a splendid venue, where we have an open fire in winter and air conditioning in the heat.

She then thanked both Pat and Jacqui for the work they had contributed to the success of the day presenting each with a small gift.

At the end of the parade the clothes are offered to anyone who may like to buy a specific item at a cost of 50 cents. And finally a sumptuous lunch supplied by rug members and others was ready, thanks to Robyn Miller who had been busy in the kitchen, setting the tables while the parade was in full swing. The money raised from this function is donated each year to Rug Aid, a charity set up by Heather Ritchie in The Gambia for the blind and partially blind. An amount of \$384 Australian dollars was raised, which converts to 225 pounds sterling.

Milton 2nd December 2016



Photos from the parade.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA –Perth

Jo Franco

Hello Miriam,

I'd like to tell you and your readers about additions to the Australian Rugmakers Guild Website. Judi Tompkins, Communications Chair and I have been working hard on the Guild website to create a "go to place" for Australian rugmakers.

The **first addition** is the **ISSN number**, assigned by the National Library of Australia. The number is "ISSN 2207-001X" and shows on the top right-hand side of the Blog page. News contained in the Guild Blogs can now be archived in the National Library, hopefully also archiving information about the **second addition** to the site, the "**History of Rugmaking in Australia**" section.

Since 2001 I have been contacting rugmakers online and in person, both here in Australia and overseas, compiling much information about the craft in Australia. People say "rug hooking is something new to this country", I have discovered it's not, having found reference to Australian rugs and rug hookers dating back to the 1920's & 30's even to early settlers in the 1800's.

There are not many hooked rugs listed in Australian Museums, possibly because the early rugs were not considered valuable as they would have been made from recycled clothing, the fabric probably already well worn. The rugs would have been used, worn out and discarded,

Here are examples of archived rugs, which in most places you can arrange to view. Tumbarumba Pioneer Women's Hut, the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, the Migration Museum in Adelaide and the Tasmanian Wool Centre in Ross.



Shown in a 1990 Rug Hooking Magazine article . Courtesy of Women's Hut Museum, Tumbarumba, New South Wales



From online catalogue of the Powehouse Museum
Item: 85/836 Rag rugs pair_ Australia, 1920-1930 107431

With information mounting up in my home filing system awaiting publication "someday" in a book, I decided it was better to share now, and introduced this History Section as an interactive project for those interested in Australian rugmakers to view and possibly contribute further information.

To read more go to Menu on the website, scroll down to the heading [History of Australian Rughooking] there is a drop-down menu (v) with sub-headings for;

Magazine Articles about Australian Rugmakers;
Archives of Australian Rugs (where to view) and
Australian Rugmakers – this also has a drop-down menu showing a list, alphabetically by last name, of rugmakers in Australia prior to the formation of the Guild in 2008.



Courtesy of the Tasmanian Wool Centre, Ross



Courtesy of the Migration Museum
Image description 'Migration Museum collection HT86.404, donated by the American Rug Hooking Group'.

This is a work in progress, some of the pages are still empty as it's a time consuming process uploading the text and images. To make this section more interesting, images and links to the actual articles are added where available, with the permission of authors publishers and photographers.

I hope your readers will find this section of interest and will also navigate their way around the website to other pages i.e. – **Book Reviews, Swap, Sell or Looking to Find** and of course the location of **Rug Groups**.

Josephine Franco, Editor - Australian Rugmakers Guild

<http://www.rughookingaustralia.com.au/history-australian-rug-history/archives-of-australian-rugs/>

THE END.