



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 20 MAY 2017



### NEW SOUTH WALES – Milton

Janet from Canberra, looking pensive during a visit to Milton, as she thinks of her design, using her new Snapdragon frame.

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA- Irene Mitchel



I have finally finished my first trial piece. It measures 60cm x 43cm and I have called it Sky, Sea & Sand as we live near the beach here in WA. I mainly used my old track pants, t-shirts. So great to re-cycle. My next plan is to do some sunflowers on some hessian shopping bags, so I will be looking out for bright yellow materials.

## AMERICA – Milwaukee

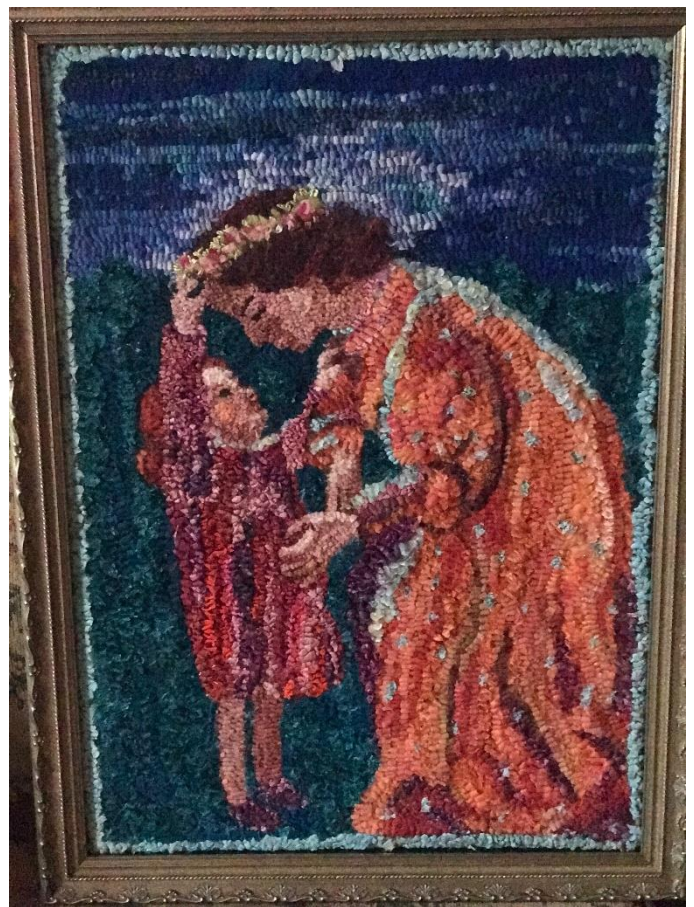
Sharon Felton

I wanted to let you know that my mom passed away on March 30th, I used to also print off your newsletter for her to enjoy. I thought this would be an article for your newsletter.....

I so wanted to write this tribute to my Mother Marilyn, through my rug that I worked on during her sickness, I would either carry it to the hospital or her home when she was there. There was a lot of time just waiting to be able to do something for her, or just to pass time while she slept on....this rug was taken from a picture that I saw in one of my prayer books. I was so captivated by it for a long time. But when we had Sharon Smith come to our guild for a workshop I thought I have the perfect project. She encourages using a lot of different materials, reminds me of my Australia days with you ladies. So this project has a lot of velvet in it, mostly in the green back round. In mama's dress there is velvet, sari ribbon and wool, her hair is with wool and wool yarn. The wreath of flowers is from roving and embroidery yarns. The little girl's dress is made mostly from ribbons. The blue background is pot dyed by marrying the fabrics.

It truly was a wonderful quiet diversion from all that was going on around me. Working on it brought so many memories for me about my mom. Mostly all the fun we used to have together in fabric stores and planning all our projects together, she gave me the love for quiet sweetness in life. Whether it be the sewing hours of creating, hanging laundry on the line or baking some wonderful treats to share with family and friends. But mostly she gave the love of nurturing those babies or children. This rug is titled "My Queen My Mother".

Peace and Blessings,  
Sharon



## COMPUTER JOKE

I tried to explain to a client why I couldn't help him with a project that was written in a program code that I didn't know.

"Let's say you're asking me to write something in a specific language. Now, I'm fluent in English and Spanish, but your project is in Chinese. Since I don't understand Chinese, I'm not your best option. You need someone who is fluent in this specific language. See?"

He said he did and thanked me.

The next morning, I got a call from another developer asking, "Why is So-and-So asking us if we're fluent in Chinese?"



## CANADA – Ontario Pontypool

Katherine Cornthwaite



Hooked the pillow top here in Pontypool Ontario Canada and in Cobourg with the Northumberland Rug Hookers.

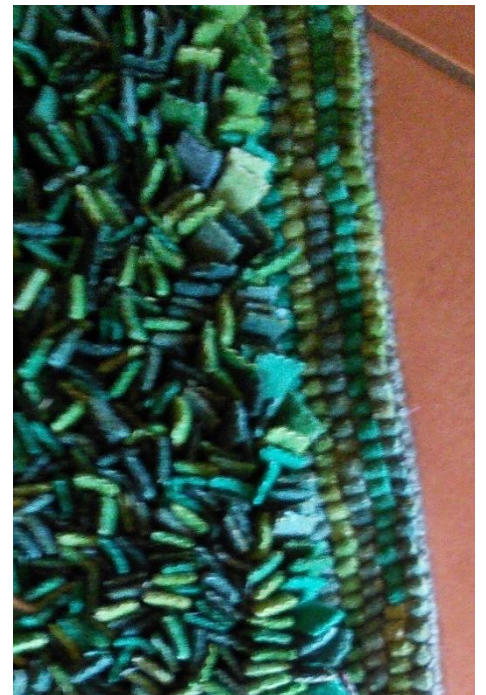
It is a Jacobean floral pillow pattern, name/design unknown.

I purchased it partially hooked with all the wool cut in #2 and #3. That is why it took forever!

## NEW SOUTH WALES – Milton – Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers Judy Thurecht.



Judy Thurecht was making this Proggy rug and realized she did not have enough fabric to finish in the proggy style, so she hooked several rows around the outside.(which uses less) And is whipping the edge. It looks such a good finish, several others plan to copy her idea.



## Tasmania –Hobart.

Emma Gunn

I really enjoy being in touch with other rag hookers through the newsletter. I have yet to find anyone in Hobart who is a keen rag rugger - the two groups I know of in Tasmania are latch hookers. I became interested in rag rug making because of the huge number of

discarded clothes that I saw at our local tip shop. I use recycled woollen fabric and worn out blankets mostly on a backing of rug canvas although I have made some t-shirt rugs with hessian backing. I have attached a couple of photos for you

I would be more than happy for you to add my contact details in the next newsletter in case there are any other rag ruggers in Southern Tasmania. If there are I would be happy to organise a get-together.



[Emma.gunn@internode.on.net](mailto:Emma.gunn@internode.on.net)

All the best Emma Gunn. 0458 128 467

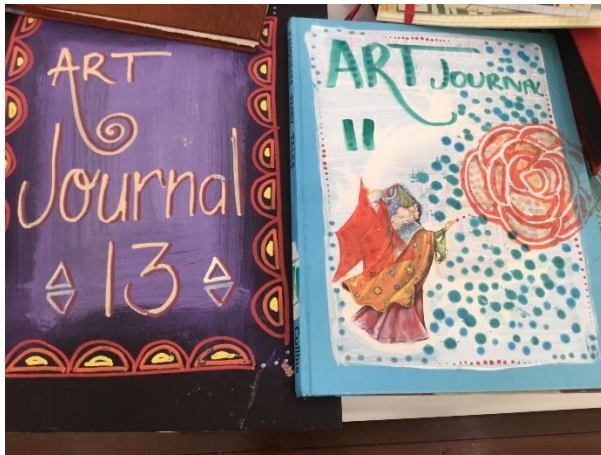
## NEW SOUTH WALES. Glebe

This photo belongs to the story on page 6 from Helen Orr in Glebe Sydney.





## QUEENSLAND- Kingaroy – Red Earth Ruggers. Judith Brook



Judith sent some photos of items in the exhibition recently held in Kingaroy.

There was a special Section for Journals.

Below Judith's proggy rug. She said everyone likes the feel of proggies. Right Diana Bolton's painting oil on Canvas.



Hi Miriam                      The exhibition started on the 1st April and goes all month.  
 It is on at the Kingaroy Art Gallery. We are using the whole space and have the back room/  
 gallery set up as our workshop/studio room.                      As there are workshops all month.  
 The journals are just if u wanted to contribute alone of working ideas really, and Saline, a  
 new member had several that she works in between paintings.  
 Cheers Judy

## QUEENSLAND – Annette White

My latest little rugging project is finished, well in use, and I'm happy with it. It's on Greg's chair (a rescue object from the kerbside) he likes to sit on when working at the computer. The rug on the floor we bought about 12 years ago from a sheltered workshop in Namibia. It was a beautiful experience to meet the person who designed and wove it as well as the other people working there. They dyed their local Karakul wool there as well and had a whole pile of skeins there. When I looked closer I noticed a pair of little bright eyes in a black face shining out of that pile of wool, it was one of the workers' baby having a nap in there.



When we had chosen our rug, all the people started to chant in happiness. - Seeing the rug on the floor always reminds me of that beautiful experience. The only bit of wool I had to dye to match the colour is the pinkish one. For the reverse side I found a bit of perfect matching furnishing material in an op shop .

## NEW SOUTH WALES. Glebe

Helen Orr.



I am attaching some photos of the Joan Miro design cushion cover I have just finished, with wool yarn (not made up yet). I had a huge ball of rug wool I bought from an old dusty rug shop in Isparta in Turkey a couple of years ago (rose oil area). I picked the softest colour I could see as there were lots of bright colours stacked up but nothing much in muted shades. I wish I had bought a cream or white but I didn't know at that stage that I could have dyed them. (1kg for A\$4). The wool is not very thick so I hooked it double thickness which I like because each thread came up slightly

differently to the other and gives it a soft look. I weighed it before I started so if I want to do a series of cushions like this (perhaps a Klimt and Picasso) I could use the same background colour. The other wool yarns were odds and ends. Photo also of the scissors I talked the rug maker into giving me when I bought a kilim (I'm sure the price he charged for the kilim well and truly covered the cost of the old scissors). They are the ones they trim the tops of the rugs with and I'll use them if I do a trimmed rug.

Best wishes, Helen Orr.



## NEW SOUTH WALES. –Moruya Fran Hassall



I thought you might like to see these pictures of my grandson Edward at Christmas.

He drew the picture and chose the colours. He was so excited. He had a little help along the way!

With very best wishes  
Fran Hassall

## QUEENSLAND – Kingaroy

Judith Brook. 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017

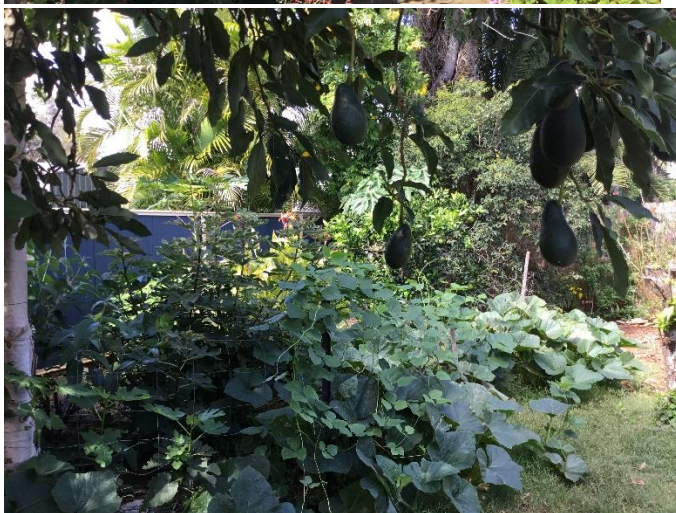
Written by Miriam- I was in Kingaroy for a family funeral, but managed to have a couple of hours and breakfast with Judith. It was so good to visit her home. I told Judith I have more changed addresses in my address book for her, than for anyone else, , as over the years Judith has lived in different houses in



A selfie of Judith and Miriam



Kingaroy and New Zealand. Now Judith is settled with a home of her own, with a wonderful garden. I ate a banana from the garden with my breakfast. I also saw Dragon fruit, Passionfruit, Pineapple, Avocado, Grapefruit, Red Indian Mulberry, Shatoot, Mandarin, Egg Plant, at least 3 kinds of Bananas, figs, mango, Jaboticaba, and many other fruits and vegetables I did not know. Judith's house is filled with rugs. We ate breakfast in her Rug Room, and there were at least 7 on the floor. Beside cushions and wall hangings. Through the house were more rugs, some of Judith's Mother's and one Judith had brought from a well know rug maker in New Zealand, Jan Lewis from Waheke Island. I so enjoyed the visit. The funeral was not too sad, as my brother in law was 89, and it is a fact of life, that funerals are where we catch up with relatives. Which was good.



Two photos of Judith's garden.

mostly planted by a lovely lady called Pam Knight, who sold Judith the house, Pam now lives in the street above, used to be a nurse at an aboriginal mission in North Queensland, hence all the tropical plants, and has travelled widely.



## ENGLAND- Northumberland - Woodhorn Matters

KAREN WALKER

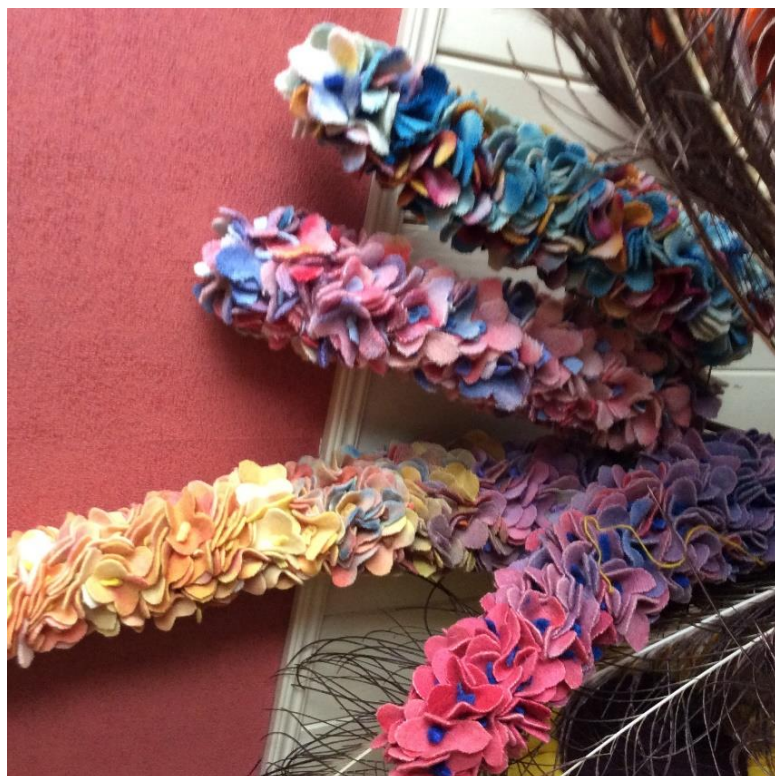


### FLOWERS

Flowers are a wonderful way of using up materials and are very attractive. You can use colours that appeal to you, or even the ones that don't, and it is amazing the results you get from those muddy, multi-coloured and spotted dyed material. I found making these flowers very relaxing and even managed to watch TV at the same time! I hope you enjoy them too.

#### Equipment

Small piece of hessian  
Wool or a choice of material  
Fine cut material or yarn  
Needles and strong thread  
A length of wood for stalk  
Wadding or waste material

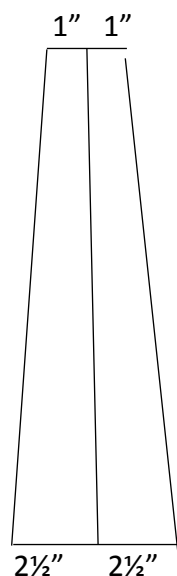


#### Hessian

1. Make a straight vertical line the length you wish to make your flower.
2. At the base of the line draw a 2" horizontal line either side of your vertical line
3. At the top of your vertical line draw a 1" horizontal line either side of your vertical line
4. Connect the corners with a straight line

**Please note:**

The measurements of the horizontal lines ***remain the same*** irrespective of the length of your vertical line



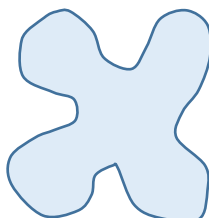
Using a running stitch hem to the shape

**Materials**

These flowers are a wonderful way of using those dyed pieces of material you have no use for. They work especially well with dipped dyed colours but a mix of colours or plain colours works well too. I usually use woollen material but there is no reason why you should not experiment with your choice of materials.

**Petals**

1. Cut approx. 1½" to 2" inch squares out of your material.
2. Fold in half and half again
3. Holding the folded corner cut around the shape of your thumb. The shape should be similar to below. Don't worry if it all sides are not perfect .... It adds to the flower to have them irregular.

**Note:**

You may want to start with larger petals and graduate to smaller ones if your flower is large

1. Take a petal and a narrow cut of material or yarn, hook the material through the petal and tie a knot.



2. Pull the material/yarn through the hessian and pull until the petal rests against the hessian (knot is showing).
3. Hook the material/yarn back up through the hessian to the front and then through the centre of another petal. Pull the petal until it rests against the hessian and tie down with another knot and then cut the material/yarn off leaving the knot showing.

You now have two petals attached to your hessian and your knots become the stamen of the flower. Repeat the process until you have filled the hessian (leave two extra petals for finishing)

**Note:**

Your spaces between petals and rows should be approx. a finger width apart

Construction

When you have filled your hessian bring your long edges together and stitch together using a ladder stitch. Stitch the top together and cover with the remaining two petals

Stalk

1. Cover you length of wood with webbing or waste wool.
2. Using a length of material, wrap and stitch down to the webbing. Leave a section of the wood uncovered.
3. Place your stalk into the bottom of the flower (you may wish to stuff the top of your flower with waste material) and stitch closed the bottom of the flower to the material of the stalk

You now have your finished flower!

KAREN WALKER

**NEW SOUTH WALES. –Milton – Murramarang Spinners and Weavers Inc.**

Vivian Davidson.

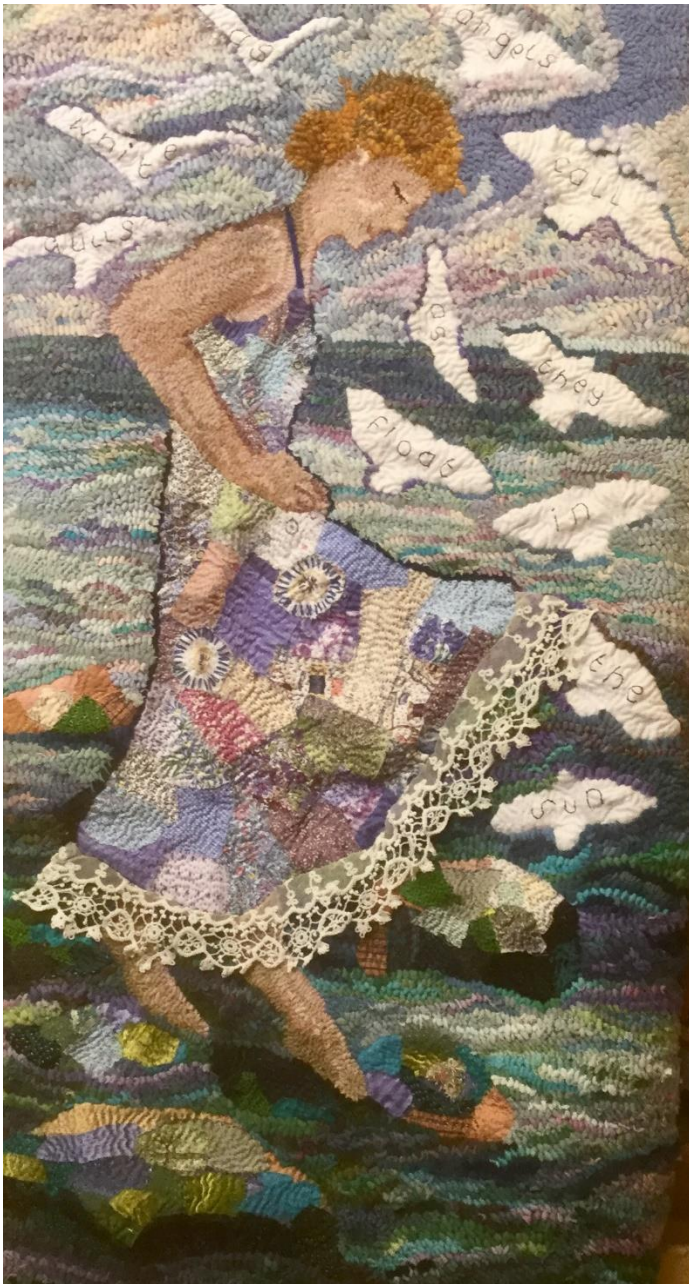


The Murramarang Spinning Group were given samples of rare breed fleece to try. Vivien needle felted three sheep using the appropriate fleece for the breed of sheep. Here we have from left Cheviot, Lincoln Longwool and Border Leicester

Vivien also needle felted the fungi

ENGLAND – Yorkshire – Reeth. - Heather Ritchie.

Latest rug, (me when young), on Roker beach surrounded with seagulls, stitched, patchwork and embroidered skirt . Heather



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

THE END.