



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

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

December 2017 Newsletter No. 27 .

NEW SOUTH WALES – Milton –Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers.

Maggie Whyte. Braided-in Rug workshop



I travelled down to Miriam's Rug Room recently to show the girls how to make a braided -in rug.

There was plenty of interest and we started by tearing old sheets and pillow cases into strips. The hardest part of making the rugs is the beginning; once that is mastered, everything falls into place. Of course, the rugs cannot be made in one day so I plan to go down in the New Year for a follow-up.

We had a wonderful day and as usual the rug makers put on a yummy lunch.

Maggie Whyte



Top Left Maggie with finished rug.

Right- Sue, Just starting off. And to the left Marilyn and Christine tearing their sheet into strips ready to start.





This Workshop covered making floor rugs using recycled sheets. A book covering the art with full instructions and recommended by Maggie is "Braided-in Rugs" written by Diana Blake Gray and available from" Amazon"



Top left Diana, who travelled from Sydney for the workshop.

Above Christine, Elaine and Sue getting started.

Left Maggie demonstrating.

AMERICA West Virginia - Susan Feller.

Thought you would enjoy seeing this posting. I received an award of excellence and was honoured to have my runner "Progress in the Mountains" purchased for the permanent collection of the State Museum of West Virginia. It joins another hooked piece from 1968 by two ladies I have researched- the McDonald Sisters. See the pages at <http://ArtWools.com/McDonalds> for more of their story.

Susan.



beginning and a sketch, my rug hook is at bottom. All hand dyed wools

NEW SOUTH WALES – Braidwood.

Maggie Hickey.

We held a mini parade of wearable art at our recent Women's Exhibition. It was a lot of fun. I thought you might like to see my 'creation.' It's a dress and dilly bag made from used teabags which have been either dyed in differing shades of cochineal or left uncoloured and layered. A friend modelled it to great amusement.

Maggie



"RE-IMAGINED" CHALLENGE. Jo Franco

Thank you for putting the notice in your last newsletter for the "Re-imagined" Challenge - I've only had a few entry forms sent in.

I made a mistake, I should have called the form an "Expression of Interest" - because it only needs to have your name and email address - you don't have to send in anything about your piece until it's finished and the deadline for photos of finished pieces is 30th April 2018.

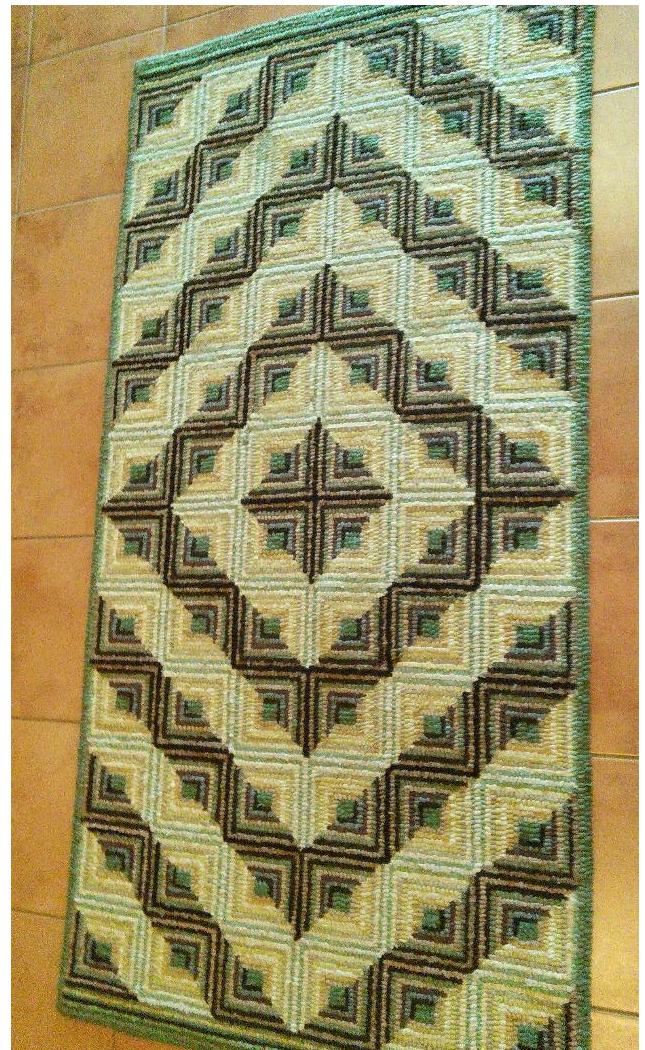
So you can enter before you even know what you're going to do!

I've made changes about the form on the [website](#) and also on the [Facebook page](#) which you can see on these links.

Jo.



Helen recently visited the Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers and bought this rug to show us. We all admired it very much. Helen bought it at an auction in Sydney. The auctioneer stated it was American, but the age is unknown. It is so rare, practically unknown for a rug to appear at an auction in this country. It is beautifully made and we were all interested at the piece of leather sewn on each corner. As we have a supply of leather it is something we will try. Does anyone else use leather on corners??



Note the leather on the reverse of the corner. Funny how cameras change the colour. The green and yellow are correct.

FRANCE – Normandie – Joanna Romney

Christmas tree made by Joanna.



I haven't quite finished my Christmas tree, I have to put a star on top. It's over 1m tall of actual tree and higher as it's on a curtain pole. It's opened many possibilities for me and I now want to make a tree with autumn colours. I used all the bits of green velvet I had acquired from charity shops and stashed away for years and many shiny fabrics and velvets for the baubles including part of my wedding dress! Funnily enough my fabric cupboard still doesn't have any space in it!

One of my English students, Laurence, learnt to rag rug this summer with me. She is now making some pretty pictures, she has her own style and is really enjoying it. I've attached some pictures of her work and a frame her husband has just made her.

You're very welcome to use any pictures.



Above Laurence with her butterflies. And left the finished Christmas tree.

Fibre Art Challenge

Perhaps you think we are going on about this, but it is a chance to show the rest of the rugging world how unique and original we are in Australia.

QUEENSLAND – Judi Tompkins

Hi Miriam !

I have a sense that some people "out there" are reluctant to take up the Challenge but it would be a real loss they miss this opportunity...there is still plenty of time.

Keep in mind that the Challenge is open to any fibre artist – not just rug makers – but you do need to include at least one of the many rug making techniques (listed in the "Call for Entries" form) and your group all know most all of them. The only thing they need to add are the required embellishments (a few buttons and beads) and I don't think that poses too big a challenge for most of them....after all they all have probably created something or repaired something with buttons and beads over the years!

PLUS...most people (except me!) are also spinners, knitters, crocheters and so on...which means they have great hand skills (which I don't!) and some of them might even decide to collaborate to make a single piece.

This Challenge has few restrictions. You can create a traditional rug / wall hanging; applique work onto an article of clothing; create a whole new piece of wearable art; make a 3-D installation piece; this list goes on. The bottom line is that it doesn't matter what you decide...you have free rein to make whatever you'd like in whatever size you like! (A real change from the usual kinds of fibre challenges).

Jo and I know that fibre artists and rugmakers in Australia, New Zealand and across the South Pacific are using fibres and combinations of textile techniques in such a way that the boundaries of a traditional craft – have been pushed to art. Jo Franco and I have seen what many of you are doing and are amazed not only by your fibre work but also how you are able to re-imagine the many ways materials can be used and manipulated. As a result, we decided it was time that our great fibre artists and rugmakers were given an opportunity to showcase their creative talents.

Please consider sharing your ideas and imagination with the rest of us and complete the "Expression of Interest" form. Remember, all you need to send by the end of December is your name and contact information. Completing the form doesn't commit you to anything but give us an indication of your interest. Consider sharing this information with your spinner and weaver friends...perhaps you might decide to collaborate.

Remember:

No entry fee.

No size limit.

No costly shipping of exhibit pieces.

(you only need to send 2 photos of your work by 30 April 2018)

All works reviewed by an international team of professional fibre / textile artists

(3 from USA; 2 from Canada)

All works are part of a Virtual Exhibition (first time ever!)

Your first task (today!) is to simply let us know that you might be interested in taking up the challenge by completing the short “Entry form/Expression of Interest” (link below) and participate in ***“Re-imagined” – A fibre art challenge with a Difference.***

Details about the Challenge can be found here:

Call for Entries <https://www.rugcraftingaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Call-for-Entries.pdf>

Entry Form – Expression of Interest – <https://www.rugcraftingaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Entry-Form-Expression-of-Interest.pdf>

Reminder: Expression of Interest is a short entry form (which includes name, email) due by 31 December 2017. Your final project photos with specific information about the piece are due 30 April 2018 – so you have plenty of time to think and create!

The panel of international Jurors featured on the "[Re-imagined](#)" Facebook page and our [website](#) will chose 20 entries from the Challenge pieces to be shown as a "virtual" Exhibition - this is a first!

A premier textile event in the USA is advertising they will debut our (read: your) "virtual exhibition" on **15th August 2018** then it will be hosted by an online magazine before becoming part of our website.

Regards,

Judi

NEW SOUTH WALES. Milton – Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers.

December 1st. Fashion Parade.



The finale. The bride, two bridesmaids and two Mothers of the bride. (you must remember this is all recycled clothing.)

We raised \$400 from sale of clothing after the parade. This money is going to Heather Ritchie's charity helping blind and partially sighted people in The Gambia learn to make rugs to earn some money.

It was a fun day with many laughs and too much delicious food.



Kerri dressed as a wedding guest.



Above left, Vivienne as Mother of the bride, and right Vivienne again
Left Elke in evening wear.



Left -Christine and Elke as bridesmaids.

Below left Maggie, and right Jenny.

At bottom Jenny and Christine.



VICTORIA. Yarra Valley Ruggers. Anne Schafer

VICTORIA –BUDA HISTORICAL HOUSE, CASTLEMAINE

On Sunday, 26th November, Robyn and I (Anne) enjoyed a day of demonstrating rug making, hooky and proggy, at Buda Historical House Castlemaine, at their inaugural “Patchwork to Pickles Fair”.



We were fortunate to be placed in the garden room, under cover and away from the intermittent rain, which also meant more people stopping by as they made their way to the tables for morning and afternoon tea.

Buda is an historic house dating back to the gold rush days, so named after Budapest by its Hungarian

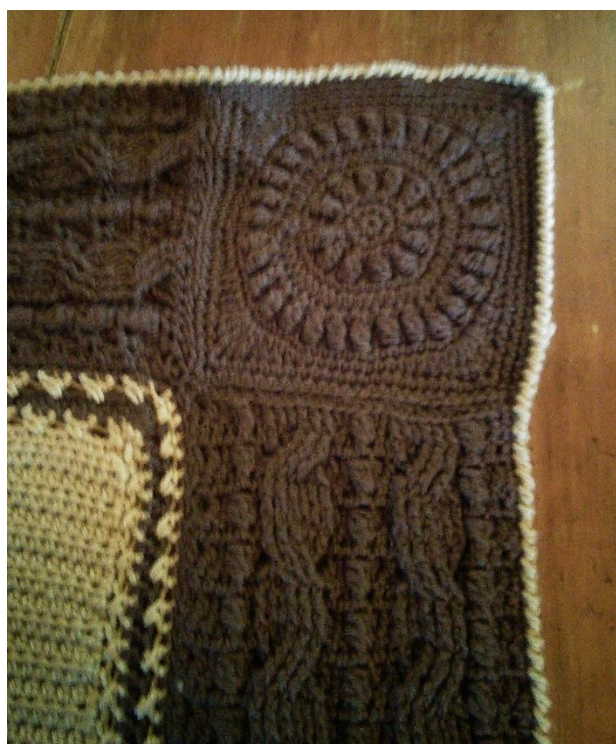
owner, which was home for the Leviny family for 118 years.

NEW SOUTH WALES –Murramarang Spinners and Weavers Milton.



Christmas decorations crochet by Frankie.

Continued Murramarang Spinners and Weavers Milton - Frankie and Jeanie holding the rug
crochet by Frankie. Below the edge and corner patterns. The colour is brown. My camera just likes to
decide on colours itself sometimes..



WISHING EVERYONE A BLESSED AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

MIRIAM



To look up previous newsletters Google' www.rughookingaustralia.com.au' then click on 'blog' on left hand side. When this comes up, click on 'Connecting Us" Miriam Miller. And all the newsletters are there.

THE END.