



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

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

April 2018 Newsletter No. 31

CANBERRA – Jenny Harber.



Very vibrant Proggy Rug made by Jenny. It is hard to capture the right colours in a photo.

NEW SOUTH WALES – Sydney – Helen Orr



Hi Miriam,
The attached photo is a hooked cushion cover I've just finished, using a wool blanket I've dyed red and black, and pale grey t-shirt material I cut wide so it would curl – some parts trimmed, and some left looped for a different texture.
Best wishes,
Helen Orr

ENGLAND – Reeth -Heather Ritchie



Two Photos from Reeth in March 2018.



QUEENSLAND – Annette White.

RUG FOR SALE



I'm wanting to sell my Proggy rug, pictured left, and would like to donate the money to Heather Ritchie's Rug Aid Charity. Annette.

Size of rug 90 cm by 165 cm.

Anyone interested please contact Annette

Email annette@educ.org or phone Miriam at 02 44 55 6870

To learn all about Rug Aid go to www.rug.aid.org

NEW SOUTH WALES. Milton. Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers Jacqui.

Starting to tidy our shelves and sort donations of fabric.



Some tidied shelves.

CANADA –New Brunswick Mary Alexander



The mat with the iceberg design was created in Newfoundland. It is of an iceberg and a whale's tail. The kit did not come with yarn but the suggested colours of yarn are not the same that I choose. The package with the picture of this mat is gone but it was; if not all, black and white, but feel it is important to tell that it is not my design.

Mary

AMERICA- OHIO -Sue Lauersdorf 's story

Rug Hooking,

And Business.....

Once you have tried either one, invade your soul and nag for attention no matter what you are doing. And for me, they have always been part of each other.

My first experience with Traditional Rug Hooking occurred in 1971. I had made some major changes in my life and had the opportunity and encouragement to begin doing expressive art, which had always appealed to me. I had been leafing through a magazine from a company that sold lovely Latch Hooking rug patterns and kits that were definitely not for my budget.

Remembering that Mom had done this “old-fashioned rug hooking” when I was growing up, I begged an old burlap pattern from her and hooked my first rug using a bent Bates hook and wool hand cut to about ½”. I had that latch hooked rug in mind and sheared every loop on that rug. I loved the pattern, and hooked with such focus that my husband requested that I not do that craft again. Fortunately I was able to negotiate a coup with him. I promised that I would hook again but without such fervour that he felt ignored.



First rug
...Hooked
and
sheared.

I knew there was more to rug hooking because a deceased grandmother, who also did china painting, hooked rugs. Her hooked flowers were quite realistic. I wanted to be good at hooking. In my search for more information about the craft, I found a wonderful book in the library written by Pearl K. McGown twenty years earlier called You Can Hook Rugs, full of illustrations and instructions. That book was so wonderful to me that I could have eaten it. Never understanding the term “slow down”, I went directly to the source, Sturbridge Village. I bought that book and her next book Colour in Hooked Rugs (1954). I was starting to get the idea that there was a WHOLE lot more to Rug Hooking than met the eye. Pearl had written yet another book called The Lore and Lure of Hooked Rugs (1966), and I fell in love with a rug illustrated in it called “#680 Ila” (page 130).

Well, the budget stepped in again. I didn't feel that I could buy “Ila” at \$19.90. So I had my first real contact with Pearl. I wrote and asked her how to transfer a pattern to burlap (I had an old piece of burlap partially hooked by that talented grandmother, which I pulled out and washed). Pearl graciously wrote back with instructions, which I diligently followed. I sketched my own flower centre and scroll corners, perforated each line in the drawing with a thumbtack and made a powder bag. I powdered the

Continued Sue Lauersdorf's Story.

perforations so that they left a polka dot line underneath the paper on the burlap. Then I went over those lines with a permanent marker, and lo and behold..... my first original pattern was made.

I hooked this little rug (36" x 78") on that bad, bad backing. It served well to attract many a new rug hooker to the craft for many years, and I just went to my room and hugged it again. It is damaged beyond use.



Pin punched pattern used to transfer design on second rug per Pearl's directions.



My first original design ... gave me lots of practice hooking flowers, scrolls and mottled background. Attracted many new hookers to the Craft.

Continued Sue Lauersdorf's story

My commitment to rug hooking increased in intensity. Next thing I knew I was teaching hooking in my newly acquired old home. We had to finish the front porch off to house the studio. I discovered Joan Moshimer's Craftsman studio was a wonderful resource for supplies, and made good use of their kindnesses. And I started a correspondence course with Pearl K. McGown. With two active school children, a large 4-H group to handle and church activities, the correspondence course was going very slowly for me.

I taught a fine traditional hooking workshop at Stan Hywet Hall, thanks to the input of Daphne Ginnings, who wrote the crafts page in the Akron Beacon Journal. We prepared kits with hooks for approximately 80 steadfast needleworkers, who graciously allowed our very new old craft to enter the halls of Stan Hywet.



Tudor Rose
Tile design
used for the
Stan Hywet
workshop

This was also the year that they allowed traditional rug hooking (limited to #3 or 4 cut) into their annual needlework show. The kit was a small tile with a Tudor rose design in it. Still have the pattern available. And I hooked at those wonderful Bicentennial festivals: Yankee Peddlar Festival and Canal Days in Canal Fulton, Ohio, and The Carnation Festival in Massillon, Ohio.



Working on another
original pattern....

Fallen Fruits at the
Yankee Peddlar
Festival in Canal



Fallen Fruits... I believe I
changed the background to a
darker shade than the one
being hooked in the above
photo.

Continued Sue Lauersdorf's story

The front porch studio got very busy... during most hours of the day. We HAD to move it out of the house so there would be some normalcy there. We purchased in December 1974 a yarn and fabric shop in North Canton and moved all the hooking into it. Oh My Gosh! I was overwhelmed with the thought of having to sell *YARN*. Fabric seemed pretty normal to me, because I was raised in the 4-H sewing groups and did most of my own sewing by that time. But *YARN*. Oh NO!

I had a little secret... and I worried about it. My secret was that I knitted *german* style... and I thought that was wrong or unacceptable. Silly Me! Being true to my Northeastern Ohio upbringing... I got over it pretty quickly. Sweet Sue's (not named by me) survived in fine form and I taught many rug hooking classes in it for many years.

All this time I dawdled with the correspondence course with Pearl. And I was impatient about getting it done at the same time, although nothing ever held me back from teaching.

I believe you can teach what you know to any interested party who wants to know it.

Then one particularly memorable day in 1979, a gal who started her hooking with me stopped in to show me her teacher's certification. I was amazed! She said she attended a teacher's workshop and got it. Well... I wasted no time talking to Pearl about that! She invited me to the October 1979 workshop in Jekyll Island, Georgia. When my plane landed I was picked up by some wonderful hookers who drove 70 miles one way to get me. Within five minutes of being there, I was rushed into a car to "tour Jekyll and St. Simons Islands". What a shock it was to hop into the back seat and meet for the first time in person, my mentor and teacher, Pearl McGown.

I found her to be such a real and caring person, showing interest in my family and asking about my business. I was in such awe of this talented artist and business woman. And that was the beginning of my first McGown Teacher's Workshop. Seven days of great fun later, I was a certified McGowen Teacher.

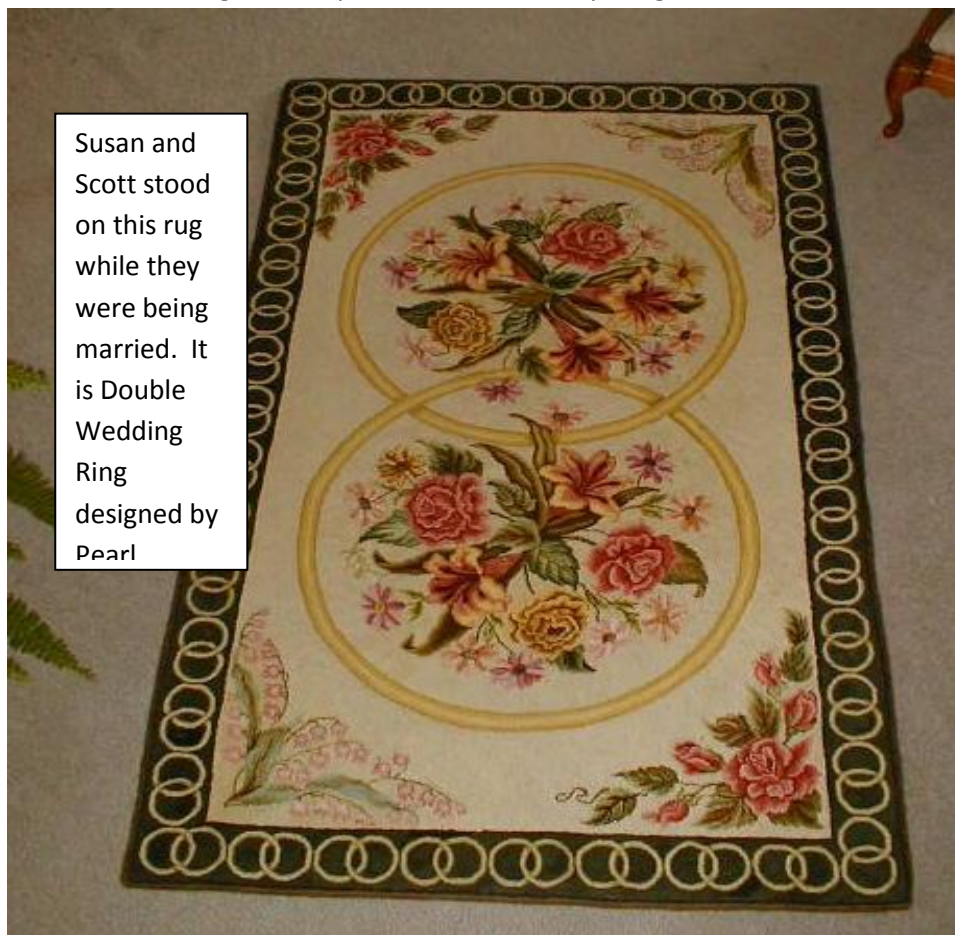


This is a picture of my mentor and teacher, Pearl K. McGown and myself at one of the McGown Teacher's Workshops.

Continued Sue Lauersdorf's story

As their teacher, my students and I formed a Chapter of the Pearl K. McGown Rug Hooking Guild in North Canton. We went on wool hunts and worked on training projects together, such as monochromatic colour harmony, multiple florals, scrolls and geometric pieces and we focused on oriental design making a small tote for tools. We had many wonderful meetings, packing a sandwich and spending the day together.

We worked together until 1984, when I moved to Wilmington, North Carolina. I hooked many rugs during that time including the one pictured below for my daughter Susan, who married Scott Urban in 1984



The move to North Carolina brought the opportunity to open another shop, called Sue Ellen' Loose Ends Yarns. Again I taught the various needlecrafts and rug hooking designing some new kits for students. And by 1978 I was able to, as a North Carolina Resident, attend UNC Wilmington and work toward my degree in Nursing, which was the fulfillment of a childhood dream. I achieved that degree in 1991 and was licensed as a Registered nurse in the State of North Carolina the day before I turned 50. My son, Stephen, graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts the same month that I graduated from nursing school; His graduation gift was a rug I had been hooking.



French Tapestry designed by Pearl McGown. Completed in 1991.

In honour of Steve's graduation from the North Carolina School of the Arts in Design and Production.

Nursing – especially working 12 hour night shifts – puts a damper on meetings, travel and get-togethers, but it can't stop a hooker from hooking. There are more rugs in process and many unfinished that will get finished before I quit. I am thrilled to have use of a lovely new rug frame that my son built...lovingly designed just for rug hookers.

And I am thrilled to look forward to owning and operating Rug Hooker's Haven... an Internet Shop and eBay store and the only resource for the new Snap Dragon Frame. I hope to decrease my nursing hours at the 15 year mark (May of 2007) and give my full attention to my family and Rug Hooker's Haven. I will soon be a great grandmother and my wrinkles, spider veins and droops are showing more and more... and the gray hair too.

But Once a Hooker, Always a Hooker.

Even an old Hooker is a Happy Hooker

Sue Lauersdorf – Ohio, USA

This was written in 2005 or 2006. I am long retired now and busier than ever. I closed Rug Hooker's Haven in 2016, and my son continues to build and sell Snap Dragon Frames on his website, snapdragonframes.com.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA. – Strathalbyn - Strathmatters Rughooking Group.



Our group has moved into its new home, The Red Hen, a refurbished railway carriage parked at the Strathalbyn railway station. The track is now used for tourist trains only, so the buildings house The

Stationmaster's Art Gallery and the tourist centre.



Cathy, a recent member, is making a latch hook rug. This traditional method hasn't been seen much in our group. It produces a beautifully soft and lush surface.

And some successful mending for Gail. Her rug was made of polar fleece strips on latch hook backing, and had been damaged by a chair leg. A new piece of backing was spot glued onto the back and rehooked, mainly with the old strips.



VICTORIA – YARRA VALLEY Rug Group. Anne Schafer



I thought you might like to see these photos taken last week.

It wasn't a big group, Robyne, Katherine (our latest recruit) and myself. Joy called in for a few moments before the others arrived, to show off her three completed stair treads. She very kindly left them here for the day for us to admire, and step around. They look rather good on my steps into the work room. Might be a future project to think about doing.

The other photo is Robyne showing Katherine how she is hooking her present rug she's working on and helping her get started on her rug, with a pattern of Robyne's round magpie rug, Anne

To look up previous newsletters Google' 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.

NEW SOUTH WALES. Milton – Narrawilly proggy Ruggers.

Friday 6th April

Several members of Braidwood Fibre Art Group came to visit. We greatly enjoyed the interaction and exchange of ideas and were very impressed with their 'Show' and tell'



Felt runners made by Lis Martens



Above. Maggie Hickeys rug inspired by designs of Bloomsbury Group . Made with wool yarn.



Bedside proggy rug for one of Carol Flynn's grand daughters.



Jocelyn Sussman, Vera Sapov and De Law enjoying a cuppa

Braidwood visit continued.

Lunch is ready.

□



Another rug for a grand daughter of Carol.



Lis martens and Gail Nicholls studying Lis's felt.



Vera Sapov working on her French knitting. In a later newsletter I will include some of her quirky designs and creations.



Happy faces, above left Elke and Ilka, And above right Bev and Christine, Below Lis and Carol.

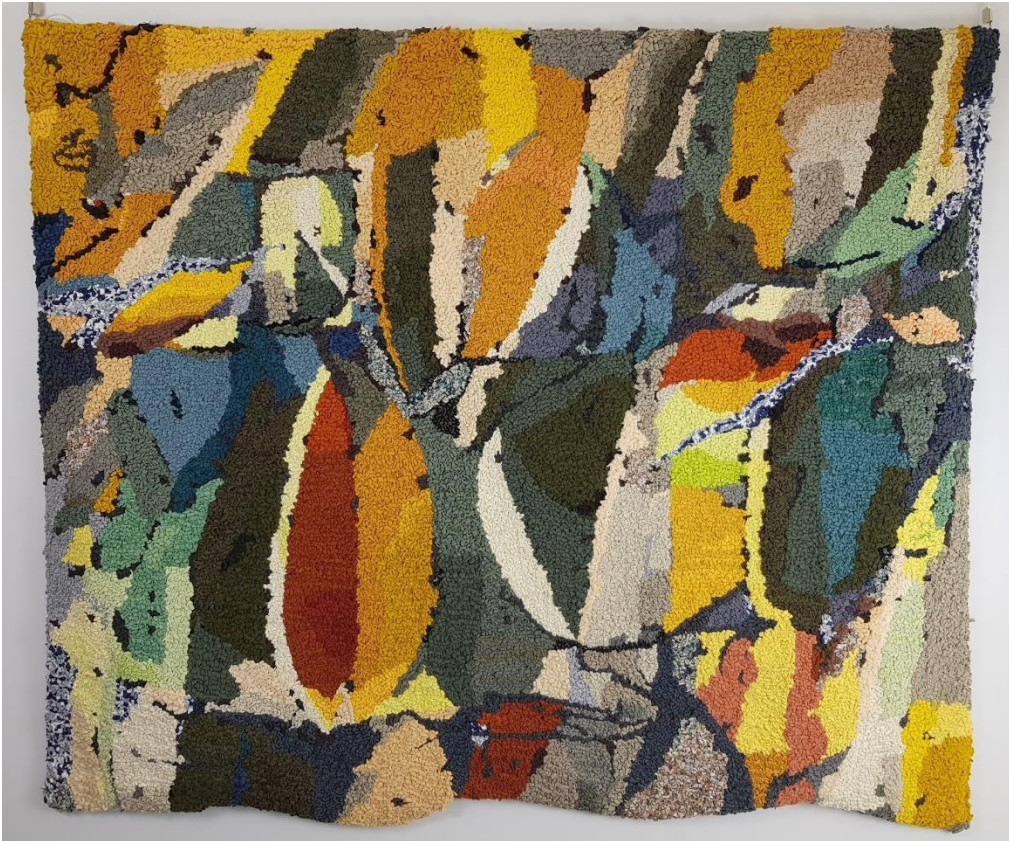


To left

Gail Nicholls, De Law, Vera
Sapov and Maggie Hickey

Continued Braid visit.

Following three rugs created by Gail Nicolls



'Autumn Leaves'

New and recycled fabrics hooked on a polyester backing size 144 x 124cm



'Temple Fish'

New and recycled fabrics hooked with shorn proggy techniques on a hessian backing. Size 164 x 115

This rug was selected as a finalist in 'Rug Hooking Magazine's Celebration 28 competition and will appear in the forthcoming Celebration 28 book.

Continued Braidwood visit. – Gail Nicholls rugs.



'Red leaves' New and recycled fabrics hooked on a hessian backing size 83 x 108 cm

NEW SOUTH WALES – Milton – Narrawilly farm (Miriam in garden 6/4/18)

This photo taken by my neighbour Jennie and she said I must add it to my newsletter



THE END.