



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

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

December 2018 Newsletter No.36



Photo of Segolene Schweitzer
from France

Her quilts were featured in the
September newsletter

QUEENSLAND- Cynthia Nicklin

DITHERINGS OF AN AUSTRALIAN RUGGER AT REETH, Yorkshire U.K. (The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers Conference held in October this year.)

Dark until 7.30am this time of year. The only people about are walking their dogs, small, usually white, enveloped in coats of pink or blue. Owners trot behind on a pathway either over or around the village green. Remarkably well-behaved pooches, unlike our Australian dogs, whom when let off their leads sniff and snuffle through the bush, ensuring the local wildlife moves rapidly from apathy to decisions about escape. The workday begins, buses collect adults and schoolchildren.

Here at this hotel, a sumptuous breakfast is served. I am fortunate to be adopted by Carol, a dear little Canadian rugger, a maker of intricate tessellated rugs, and we eat breakfast together and discuss our daily plans. This takes some time as each cup of coffee we decide will be our last.

There are about 150 of us here in Reeth, mainly Canadians or nationalistic Americans with a sprinkling of Japanese and Australians and a contingent of home-grown from over this country. We Aussies are made of stern stuff – in our stride we cope with bushfires, floods, devastating droughts, politicians, heat, flies and the colt from Old Regret getting away, so being in a minority group does not trouble us.

A lovely sisterhood grows around me, nourished by discovering new ways of measuring, cutting, estimating and hooking, an awareness and recognition of the great value of old textiles cobbled together by our great grandmothers. There are samples of making-do, earning every penny By candles, lamplight or even firelight – things of beauty, brought to birth in the late hours whilst the bread was rising and the bones simmering for tomorrow's broth. What a wonderful heritage they have given us.

Our Aussie rugs stand up and shine because of those creative women who have gone before us. I am proud to be an Aussie but even prouder to be an Australian rugger.

NEW SOUTH WALES – Braidwood Gail Nichols



Inspired by a photo taken by Gail of Wallace Street Braidwood, on a rainy day, through the wet windscreen of her car. Size 137cm x 97cm made with new and recycled fabrics.

Gail had three rugs in

‘The Landscape Exhibition’

At the Narek Gallery in Bermagui ending 15th December.

Also a rug of Gail’s ‘Autumn Leaves’ has been purchased by the Canberra Museum and Gallery for their collection.



I am so hot as I am putting this newsletter together. I had to include a photo of Jacqui in the snow at Sussex, New Brunswick Canada to remember I was once cool. Photo taken end November 2018.

The person in the background is shovelling snow off his car.

NEW SOUTH WALES - Sydney - Dianne Finnegan.

BEN QUILTY and MIRRA WHALE

Not a creature was stirring

2018

Syrian Refugee crisis life vests, steel, perspex & electrical components

H: 370 cm x W: 400 cm x D: 400 cm

Surrounded by presents, a Christmas tree is a reassuring sight, symbolic of family, security and sharing. Ben Quilty suggests this familiar icon is hollow and self-centred and hopes his version will guide Australians back to the central message of sharing.

***Not a creature was stirring** is stitched together from the hi-vis orange skins of life jackets abandoned by asylum seekers. Quilty refers to the pointed orange shape of the hi-vis tree as an 'elf's cap'. Flashing SOS like a distress beacon, this hi-vis tree and hollow gifts cast consumer Christmas against the reality of lives in peril and genuine suffering. – Michael Desmond 2018*

The story of the life vests

In January 2016, Ben Quilty and author Richard Flanagan travelled to Greece, Serbia and Lebanon at the invitation of World Vision International to witness and document the Syrian refugee crisis. They visited transit camps on the island of Lesbos and watched as asylum seekers reached the shore after a perilous voyage over open sea. A 'high tide mark' of discarded orange life vests were left discarded on the beach.

Ben told Artnet, "On Lesbos, we spent a few days watching people come in by boat. Every day, people coming in. The greatest human trauma that I have ever seen, so profoundly graphic, just a devastating thing to witness."

Quilty and Flanagan soon discovered that a great many life vests are imitations of established brands, packed with grass or cheap material that quickly becomes waterlogged and heavy.

Quilty has imported hundreds of life vests from the Greek islands which were used by migrants crossing from Turkey. The life vests have since been employed in many of Quilty's art works, including *Not a creature was stirring*.

Dianne worked with artist Ben Quilty, to create this piece. Now in St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne until at least February 1st.



A sentence that has stuck in my mind

'There is no planet B'

NEW SOUTH WALES -Milton -Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers Fashion parade. 7th December 2018(All these clothes are donated for our rug making and we just pick out anything odd, quirky etc)



Fashion Parade 7th December continued



Helen describing Chris's outfit. Chris did not know she was to be a model until she stepped in the house, as our size 8 model had not arrived. Helen kindly offered to be M.C as Jacqui was unable through ill health. Two amazing, generous people.



Martha and Carol looking through the clothes after the parade.



Martha has started a rug group in Sydney, meeting in Epping. Anyone interested, please email me for Martha's contact details.

All money raised by the Fashion Parade goes to Heather Ritchie's Charity to help blind and partially sighted people in The Gambia make rugs so they can earn a living. I was able to sent \$252 to Heather.



NEW SOUTH WALES - Milton

This rug was given to me about a quarter completed, still on a stretcher frame. I was also given a bag of fabric, some already cut into strips.

The person giving it, said she had not worked on it for 20 years and could not see she would ever finish it. I had to redo parts as it was too thinly hooked, but used the colours and design started. This is the finished rug size 48in x 68 in or

122cm x172cm

Miriam Miller

ICELAND – Knitting Tours.

I would advise anyone who can, to Google Helen Magnusson Knitting Tours and think about going on one. Jacqui and I thoroughly enjoyed the time we spent from 5th to 12 November this year. on a knitting tour in Iceland.

Hélène Magnússon

tricoteuse-islande.fr - icelandicknitter.com - prjonakerling.is

Hiking and knitting tours 2019

[/icelandicknitter.com/knitting-tours/](http://icelandicknitter.com/knitting-tours/)>

Soft Icelandic lambswool

Knitting patterns & kits

[/icelandicknitter.com/category/knitting-patterns/](http://icelandicknitter.com/category/knitting-patterns/)> Miriam

Joke –

A Mistress of a large country house was instructing her maid about greeting an important visitor. When you open the door say ‘Your Grace’. When the time came the maid opened the door and said ‘For what we are about to receive please make us truly thankful for Christs sake, Amen.

QUEENSLAND. Landsborough Judi Tompkins



This frame has been especially made, so when teaching, both sides are visible.

Sunshine Coast Rugcrafters Group, meeting in Judi's studio. Notice drawn curtains to keep out the heat.



QUEENSLAND – Coolum Beach -Annette White

I'm still intending to sell one of my rugs and want to donate all the proceeds to Heather's Rug Aid. Just not quite sure how to go about it. Had this thought on the back burner for a while. If you'd like to put it in your newsletter, here are the details:

Prodded Rug made with recycled materials, mainly wool.

Size: 170cm x 87cm

If interested make an offer from \$100 plus....plus postage

All proceeds going to Heather Ritchie's Rug Aid Charity

Expression of interest to Annette White, email annette@educ.org

Photos of Annette's rug.



Note re Myself, Miriam and Jacqui Thomson.

We attended The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers in Reeth Yorkshire in October this year. The Guild has a conference once each three years, with a different group as a host. In 2015 the conference was in Victoria, Vancouver Island, Canada. Next conference in 2021 is to be in St Johns Newfoundland. I would advise anyone who can, to plan to be there. Google 'TIGHR' to find how to become a member. The excitement and interest of meeting rugmakers from many countries, renewing friendships, meeting new people is so rewarding. Jacqui and I were away 10 weeks and visited France, Guernsey, Ireland. Wales, Iceland and Canada. Meeting rugmakers in all those countries except Iceland, where we were on a knitting tour.

CANADA -Nova Scotia – Cathy Lowe



Cushions made by Cathy.



Left. Horses Head. Hooked with permission from the artist. The background is linen with painted areas on the linen and all yarn and threads were gathered in Istanbul during a visit to Turkey. Cathy

CANADA- Nova Scotia – Sydney Forks -Cathy Komourdjian

While we stayed with Cathy, she showed us how to finish rugs with a three times bound border. We liked it very much. Sorry these photos are not showing it to the best.



WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY CHRISTMAS SEASON AND PLENTY OF
RUGGING INSPIRATION IN 2019. MIRIAM



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.

THE END.