



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

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

October 2019

Number 47

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA – Strathalbyn – Judy Stephens**



This is a LibbyLuLa twining frame. I like the idea of this frame because it is another avenue for making rag rugs using readily available materials (op shops are a great source of colourful quilt covers). The weaving principles are the same as tapestry weaving (which is usually done with fine yarns) but much easier to handle and therefore much quicker to work. I'm about to investigate some more intricate designs, now that I have a book to guide me - so much easier than utube! Judy.

## CANADA. – Newfoundland -Dianne Warren



Our instructor, Duncan Chisholm learned this craft/art when he was stationed in the far North (Canada) as an RCMP officer. He still gets most of his fur from that region, as it is finer than the moose we have on our island. He uses it mostly in its natural colour, but dyes some. The class is 3 days long, so that by time the class is over you leave with a matted and framed piece of art. The backing is black cotton velveteen and cotton denim, so two layers to give you a strong base. You need a good needle and strong thread or dental floss, and a small, sharp pair of scissors. A tuft of fur is cut from the hide and sewn to the backing, pulled and knotted very tightly so that it sort of pops up to make a solid mass. Once secured, you can use scissors to shape the fur. There are a number of techniques involved, and the colours and textures can be carefully chosen and positioned for different effects. Long white fur pieces can be bundled and couched down to form outlines for trees, hills, etc. It is slow work, but the finished piece is beautiful.

I managed to work quickly when I took that first class, and tufted both pieces in the three days. The butterfly in

one, and flowers in the other were done with blue dyed fur, and the stems in both were made from the long white moose hair bundles couched down. I am hoping to take a second class in September, but this time try my luck with an animal, possibly a lynx or moose. Two of my rug hooking friends are booked for the class which is at the other end of the island, a 9-hour drive. We are looking forward to the class very much.



## Ireland- Cork -Geraldine

Hi Miriam

I started making crochet shirring rugs after I purchased the book on standing wool rugs by Diana Blake Gray I learned the technique from that book and I just can't stop make them since. I think this is an incredible technique, I use blanket weight wool all recycled and reclaimed wool. I have also tried a combination rug using quillies and shirring(its a WIP). They turn out very soft and the equipment you need are just an ordinary crochet hook and strong mercerised cotton thread. Kind Regards, Geraldine Barry, West Cork, Ireland.



## ENGLAND – Brighton – Katrina.



I am making a rug to take to Nepal for Isabelle's mother-in-law. I have only just started - here is a photo. The idea is to make it very bright. So greens and blues in two opposite squares and pinks and oranges in the other two.

(Katrina is my cousin and Isabelle her daughter - Miriam)

## NEW SOUTH WALES – Milton -Christine Alexander.

Christine generously gave us her soup recipe. On a cold day, please make and enjoy. Christine said she does not always add the cream. We had it last Rug day, and it was delicious.  
Miriam

**LEEK AND LENTIL SOUP**

**30g (1oz) butter**  
**3 leeks**  
**2 sticks celery**  
**2 rashers bacon**  
**1 cup red lentils**  
**1¼ litres (5 cups) water**  
**2 chicken stock cubes**  
**½ cup cream**  
**salt, pepper**  
**2 tablespoons chopped parsley**

Melt butter in pan, add washed, sliced leeks, chopped celery and chopped bacon. Cook over low heat 10 minutes, covered. Add washed lentils, water and crumbled stock cubes, bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer, covered, 30 minutes. Purée soup in blender in batches. Return to pan, add cream, season with salt and pepper, reheat gently. Stir in parsley.

## NEW SOUTH WALES . -Nowra - Maree Vickridge



Maree made this wrap for the organization

“Wrapped with Love”

The wraps are made with 28 squares each 25cm square. 4 squares across and 7 down.

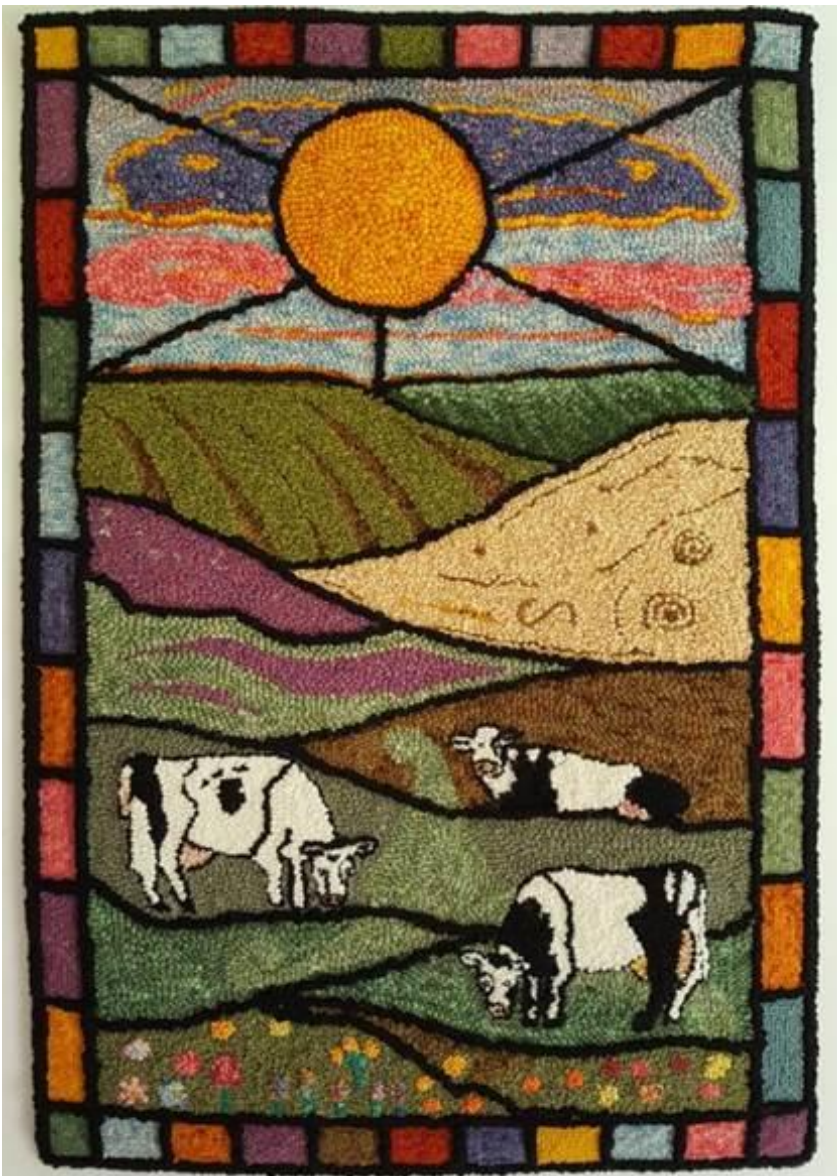
40”X70” (Although you can see these rugs are not in squares.)

‘Wraps with Love’ meet on the first Tuesday of the month at the Shoalhaven library.

The wraps are distributed from Alexandria, Sydney around Australia and abroad.

Below another colour way.





### IRELAND - Cork Michele

These two amazing rugs were made by Michele.

I went to Vermont last year and did my teacher Certification with Amy Oxford.

Vermont was beautiful.

And this is my Certification Rug I love stained glass and I love my cows so that's my rug!  
Michele

Below is a quillie piece .

Shown on its side because I could make it bigger that way and one can see more details.

Miriam



## CANADA. – Nova Scotia Cindy Noble



flower photos from the Annapolis Royal Historic Park, where Robert and I and family visited recently.



. I am sending you some photos of Rug Tessellations. It is a style used by repeating the same pattern with no spaces in between. The colors used are optional. My two favorites from the Lawrencetown Exhibition were Lesley's and Blaine's, the two men you met who own Moose River Rug Hooking Studio, . The other rug is mine and I also purchased a beautiful felted Seascape from a fellow hooker who had it at Exhibition on exhibit for sale. She doesn't mind if you put the felted photo seascape in your newsletter



Made by Lesley of the Moose River Rug hooking Studio.

Continued next page.

Continued. Cindy Noble. Below Made by Blaine of Moose River Rug Hooking Studio,



Tessellated rug  
made by  
Cindy.

Continued next page.

Continued Cindy Noble.

Close up of Cindy's Tessellated rug.



I also purchased a beautiful felted Seascape from a fellow hooker who had it at Exhibition on exhibit for sale. She doesn't mind if you put the felted photo seascape in your newsletter- See below.



NEW SOUTH WALES. Bellingen Maxine Keyes.



Large rug made by Anne, from assorted grey blankets Photos taken during Gleneffer Quilt Show, Bellingen Rug Group had a display and were demonstrating.

Below Anne's cushions



Continued next page.

## Continued Bellingin

Anne and Phornthip



## A joke sent by Annette White in Queensland

**CALLER:**

*Is this Gordon's Pizza?*

**GOOGLE:**

*No sir, it's Google Pizza.*

**CALLER:**

*I must have dialled wrong number. Sorry.*

**GOOGLE:**

*No sir, Google bought Gordon's Pizza last month.*

**CALLER:**

*OK. I would like to order a pizza.*

**GOOGLE:**

*Do you want your usual, sir?*

**CALLER:**

*My usual? You know me?*

**GOOGLE:**

*According to our caller ID data sheet, the last 12 times you called you ordered an extra-large pizza with three cheeses, sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms and meatballs on a thick crust.*

**CALLER:**

*OK! That's what I want ...*

**GOOGLE:**

*May I suggest that this time you order a pizza with ricotta, arugula, sun-dried tomatoes and olives on a whole wheat gluten-free thin crust?*

**CALLER:**

*What? I detest vegetable!.*

**GOOGLE:**

*Your cholesterol is not good, sir.*

**CALLER:**

*How the hell do you know!*

**GOOGLE:**

*Well, we cross-referenced your home phone number with your medical records. We have the result of your blood tests for the last 7 years.*

**CALLER:**

*Okay, but I do not want your rotten vegetable pizza! I already take medication for my cholesterol.*

**GOOGLE:** *Excuse me sir, but you have not taken your medication regularly. According to our database, you only purchased a box of 30 cholesterol tablets once, at Drug RX Network, 4 months ago.*

**CALLER:**

*I bought more from another drugstore.*

**GOOGLE:**

*That doesn't show on your credit card statement.*

**CALLER:**

*I paid in cash.*

**GOOGLE:**

*But you did not withdraw enough cash according to your bank statement.*

**CALLER:**

*I have other sources of cash.*

**GOOGLE:** *That doesn't show on your last tax return unless you bought them using an undeclared income source, which is against the law.*

**CALLER:**

*WHAT THE HELL!!!*

**GOOGLE:**

*I'm sorry, sir, we use such information only with the sole intention of helping you.*

**CALLER:**

*Enough already! I'm sick to death of Google, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and all the others. I'm going to an island without internet, cable TV, where there is no cell phone service and no one to watch me or spy on me.*

**GOOGLE:**

*I understand sir, but you need to renew your passport first. It expired 6 weeks ago...*

## ENGLAND – Brighton - Katrina

Here is the wall hanging I have just finished for Isabelle's mother-in-law. I had a lot of fun with it.

The frame I made from canvas that came from an artist Mum knew. I had dyed it orange a while ago and it has been waiting for a use ever since.



I want to show Isabelle and her mother-in-law how you can use all types of fabric for hooked rugs, even bright pink net that was left over from a sewing project from years ago. Isabelle told me that the tailor they use in Kathmandu has lots of scraps of material left over, she is hoping to be able to use the scraps for rug making.

Finished while I put this newsletter together.

Miriam

## NEW SOUTH WALES -Nowra. Clair Brunton



Small cushion.

## QUEENSLAND =Landsborough -Judi Tompkins



Left. Cynthia with some of her rugs

Cynthia Nicklin – one of Miriam Miller’s former students – paid a visit to Judi Tompkins’ home on Friday during a meeting with the Sunshine Rugcrafters in Landsborough. Cynthia works in isolation on her property at Mt. Glorious, a small village in the heart of rainforest situated in the D’Aguilar Range north west of Brisbane City. The main National Park area is Maiala that means ‘quiet place’ in the dialect of the original aboriginal Kamilaroi people.

Cynthia works “quietly away” hooking rugs and knitting.

It was Cynthia’s involvement with a knitting group that prompted her visit to the Sunshine Coast Rugcrafters because she brought the group BAGS of left-over and unwanted knitting yarns and supplies from her group. Like rugmakers, knitters also are given far more “stuff” than they could ever use and work hard to “pass it on” to other groups who can use it.

When I knew Cynthia would be visiting I asked her to please bring some of her rugs and in particular I wanted the group to see her entry – *Mother Tree* (I’m not sure this is the correct title for this rug – I forgot to ask her!) in the “Re-imagined” online, virtual exhibition. The rug is very large and incorporates a

number of rugmaking techniques. Cynthia also brought several other brightly hooked rugs but her large knitted circle rug prompted a lot of investigation by the knitters and crocheters in the group!

We had a great time with Cynthia and there was a good exchange of ideas during her visit and we hope she’ll come back to “Studio Palimpsest” again! Many thanks Cynthia for your generous gift of knitting supplies and materials....we’ll continue to share them about!



Judi, Stella, Annette, Judy, Cynthia, looking at Bea Itschke’s next bag.

Landsborough = Judi Tompkins continued.



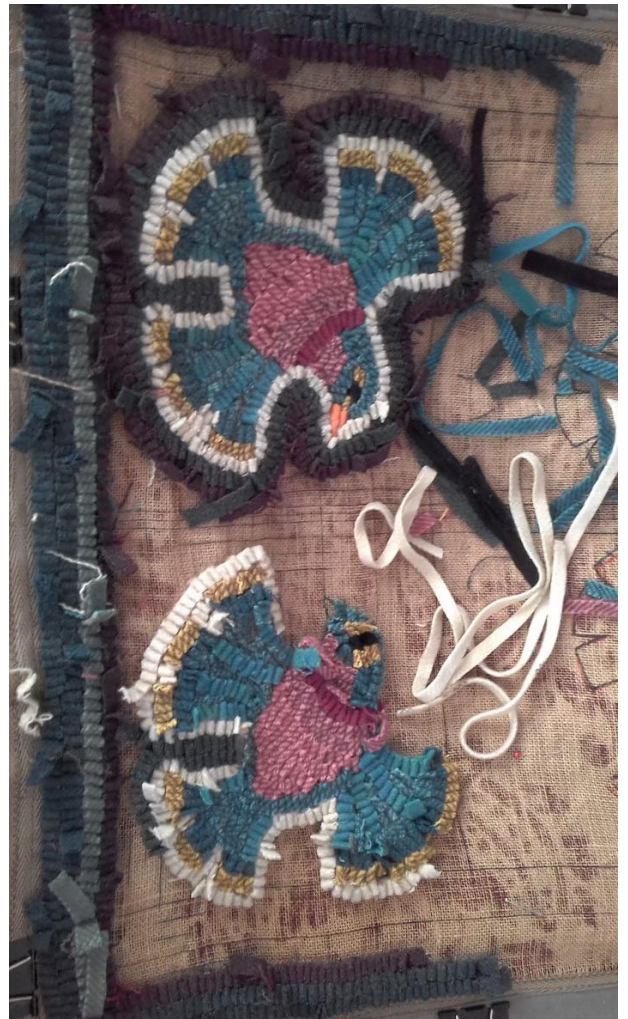
Left. Cynthia's knitted circular rug.

Below. Cynthia's entry in the virtual exhibition last year. Note her knitted tree and plaited green.



## QUEENSLAND – Tolga-Jennifer Walton.

I have finally come up with a simple design for a carpet runner, the size dictated by the old hessian curtain leftover after doing the wall hanging. (used as the backing) I've drawn a very naive bird. Please see photos.



## CANADA. -New Brunswick. Sussex Mary Alexander. Knitting loom.



## CANADA - Arlette

The annual Prairie Harvest Rug Hooking School was held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada from September 6 to the 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019. There were over 60 people in attendance, with members from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia as well as from the United States. There was lots of learning, fun and visiting during a full calendar of events. One we all look forward to is seeing members' rugs displayed. These were the two that I took:



A Rose from my Garden

I initially tried doing this pillow in a fine cut (#3), but couldn't remember the technique after a time away from it, and found it very exacting. I began again in a #4 and 5 cut, and enjoyed it more. Though it isn't evident in the picture, in the outer row of hooking I interspersed the various colours of pink, which emphasized the borders. My teacher was Lynn Howard.

'Melancholy' by Jane McGown Flynn (adapted).

I purchased this pattern at last year's rug school, and thought it would be an interesting, quick project after I finished my pillow. It

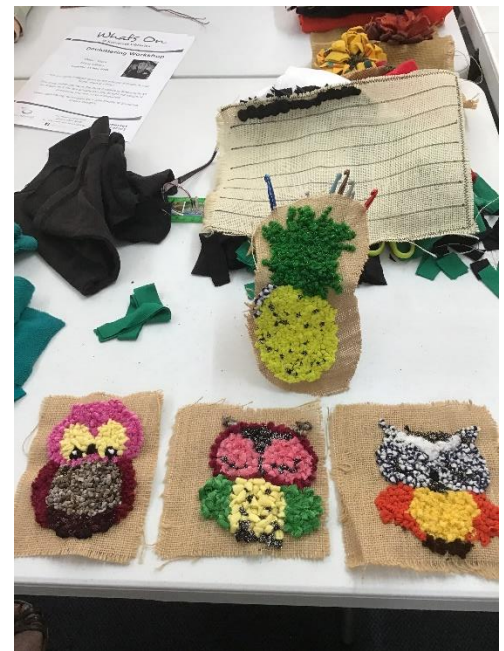
seemed in the Art Nouveau style, which has always appealed to me. However, the shoulder was too large, so my husband redrew that for me. I couldn't come up with a satisfactory colour plan for the background, which curved up and down, so I ended up with a straight line, however, trying for an ombre effect from the top and bottom. I made the darker part of the poppy sculptural. When I was hooking the hair, I decided to leave the strands uncut and kind of liked the effect. For the cheek, there was a progression of slight height where I hoped the cheek bone would be.



The designer had titled it 'Melancholy'; I don't really think I captured that mood, but I still like the result.

## QUEENSLAND – Toogoolawah Brisbane Valley Rag Ruggers. -. Carol Treloar

1. Carol welcoming everyone on first day.
- 2 – Three of the ladies studiously working away L- R ----- Betty, Donna and Hazel
- 3 – Carol assisting Theresa with our first lesson at propping
- 4 – Three Wise Owls all completed now



**Brisbane Valley Rag Ruggers**

Continued on next page.

Photo 1 - Beginning of Judy's Life Story Rug

Photo 2 – Hot plate mat by Jeanette

Photo 3 -Anyone for Rag Rug and Pikelets – Carol sneaking in a snack

Photo 4 – Judy's Life Story Rug continues.



### The Brisbane Valley Rag Ruggers – Toogoolawah Qld

It has been a few months since a group of likeminded ladies (12) first met at Connection Point Hall in Toogoolawah for a new adventure of learning a new craft. After Carol, our tutor during this journey gave us a history of this craft we were all enthusiastic to begin. First up we were shown how to “hook” during which time many comments were made ‘that I will never be able to do this’. Next in the process was ‘propping’ which seemed more popular with the ladies. Of course, as with any craft there is always the preparation beforehand so many of the ladies spent time choosing and cutting the fabric for their projects. We all successfully completed hot pot mats which are proudly displayed in our kitchens although one has been utilised for the TV and Stereo remote to sit on. Ingenious! Some of the ladies have progressed on a made /finished hooked owls which have been framed.

As the weeks have gone by there has been much learning under the guidance of Carol and enjoyment had by all with each of the ladies working away on their chosen pieces. Of course during the afternoon we solve the problems of the world whilst we work away and enjoy a cuppa and some fresh home baked cooking.

One of the ladies who was not sure if she could do this, let alone finish a project started her ‘Life Story’ using the frame and she is progressing along like a jet plane. We are all enjoying our new craft

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA. -Kira Mead

Kira Mead's videos are well worth watching.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXeYFTOLBoNfRhMivOHPblg?fbclid=IwAR0kzJld7zreIuwucFSIIHQAOYWHZnCEFpJK7PfdTIZPKmqeBwLfq1GEo&app=desktop>

## VICTORIA. -Yarra Valley Rugmakers. – Anne Schafer



We did it. The Melbourne Show for one day. It sounds simple, pack a case, go to show, demonstrate rug making... There is always a lot of interest in rug making. We didn't have our big proggy frames and it's these proggy/clippy/peggy/proggy rugs that the children like to try. However Anne had a standing hoop frame for quilting so managed to let folk have a bit of a go... and lots of people watched or tried hooking too. Plus I got along with my Uzbekistan style rug #2.

It still surprises me that Rug Hooking is so little known in Australia, considering how it parallels quilting in the USA and always has.

The Yarra Valley Rugmakers Continued.



A great day in Warrandyte on Sunday 29th September, with our special visitor and talented rug hooker from Canada, Trish Johnson. There were ten of us, three new members from our last two demonstrations this month.

Photo to left, Trish Johnson and Chris Norbergen, and above enjoying a lunch break.

THE  
END



.CONTACTS

NEW SOUTH WALES

#### MILTON

Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers. Meet 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays every month.

Contact Miriam Miller Email [narrawillyfarm@shoal.net.au](mailto:narrawillyfarm@shoal.net.au). Phone 02 4455 6870

Website [www.shoal.net.au/~narrawilly/index.html](http://www.shoal.net.au/~narrawilly/index.html)

#### BRAIDWOOD

CONTACT Maggie Hickey. Email [Maggie.hickey@bigpond.com](mailto:Maggie.hickey@bigpond.com) phone 0419 841 819

#### BELLINGEN, North Coast

Bellingen Rag Rug Group

Contact Maxine Keys at email [baznmax@bigpond.com](mailto:baznmax@bigpond.com) Phone 02 6655 0591

Group meets 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month from 10am until no set time.

#### BERMAGUI

Bermagui Rug Hookers. Contact Dawn Hollins at email [pigeontree@live.com](mailto:pigeontree@live.com)

**SYDNEY – EPPING** - Sydney Rugmakers - contact Martha Birch email [marthabirch@gmail.com](mailto:marthabirch@gmail.com)

Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month 10-4 February to November at Epping Creative Centre, Dence Park,  
26 Stanley Street Epping

### Australian Capital Territory

CANBERRA - Two rug making groups

Canberra Ruggers meet in the Spinners and Weavers and Feltmakers Rooms. at 19/71 MacLaurin Cresnet, Chifley, ACT

One group meets on the fourth Sunday of the month from 1.00pm

Beginners welcome

Contact Maggie Whyte at email [maggieandfish@hotmail.com](mailto:maggieandfish@hotmail.com) Phone 02 6281 0988

Mobile 0488747953

Another Group meet on the second Friday of the month from 10 – 2p.m.

contact Jenny Harber phone 02 6230 2429

### South Australia

#### STRATHALBYN

Strath Matters. Meet 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays 10- 1

Meets in the C.W.A. Building. Sunter St. -right behind the Town Hall in High Street.

Contact Judy Stephens at email [studioblue20@gmail.com](mailto:studioblue20@gmail.com) Phone 08 85363451

### Western Australia

#### WANNAROO

The Wannaroo Rugmakers. Meet every Saturday morning 10am to 1pm at the Library and Cultural Centre in Northern Suburb of Wannaroo. <https://wanneroorugmakers.com>

Contact Jo Franco at email [josephinefranco1@gmail.com](mailto:josephinefranco1@gmail.com)

**ALBANY** - Anyone interested in Rug Making contact Kira Mead.

email - [kira.goldmx@westnet.com.au](mailto:kira.goldmx@westnet.com.au)

## Continued Western Australia

Lancelin – Lancelin Sewing/Craft Circle meet every Tuesday at 9.30am in the Wangaree Centre Lancelin.

## Queensland

### KINGAROY

Red Earth Ruggers Meeting at 17 Fairview Drive, Kingaroy on 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month from 11<sup>th</sup> April Time 9-12 Contact Judith Brook at email [judybrook@gmail.com](mailto:judybrook@gmail.com)

### SUNSHINE COAST

The Sunshine Coast Rug Crafters meet twice each month 2nd Friday and 3rd Tuesday of the month 2.30pm- 4.30pm at Judi's home studio "Palimpsest" in Landsborough. I will still have irregular "studio" on a Sunday and will email you the date if you are on my mailing list. If you are new to the group and would like more information and the residential address please contact Judi at: [judi.tompkins@bigpond.com](mailto:judi.tompkins@bigpond.com)

NORTH TAMBORINE The Happy Hookers North Tambourine  
contact Bec Andersen email [info@becandersen.com](mailto:info@becandersen.com)

### TOOGOOLOWAH - BRISBANE VALLEY RAG RUGGERS.

Meet fortnightly at the Connection Point Hall in McConnell Park on Monday 1p.m. to around 4p.m. contact Carol Treloar phone 0439 290 076 or email Jeanette on [dj.tarcoola@bigpond.com](mailto:dj.tarcoola@bigpond.com) phone 0403 484 308

## Tasmania

### DELORAIN

The Happy Hookers meet every Monday from 10:00 – 12:00, at Art as Mania,  
20 – 22 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine, Tasmania

There is a \$2 donation to cover coffee, tea, refreshments.

Rug supplies can also be purchased at Art as Mania Contact – Laura Window on 0437 075 266 or [laurawindow@live.com.au](mailto:laurawindow@live.com.au)

HOBART Contact Emma Gunn at [emma.gunn@internode.on.net](mailto:emma.gunn@internode.on.net) and also <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hrootas/>

## VICTORIA

### YARRA VALLEY RUGMAKERS

Meeting days vary, so please check on blog.

Look on blog for more information <http://victorianrugmakers.blogspot.com.au>  
contact Christina Noorbergen email [jerryandchris@startmail.com](mailto:jerryandchris@startmail.com) Phone 0490065274

Joy Marshall email [joy@canterburybaptist.org](mailto:joy@canterburybaptist.org)

Anne Schafer email [a.schafer@bigpond.com](mailto:a.schafer@bigpond.com)

### WODONGA- WANGARATTA-BENALLA

Bobby George – phone number 0357 662732

(Lone Rugger Seeking Same)

Email [beeg3675@gmail.com](mailto:beeg3675@gmail.com)

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

