

CONNECTING US

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 47 November and December 2019

WESTERN AUSTRALIA. – Lancelin – Jane Cobb



At last we have a little craft group going at our Wangaree Community Centre here in Lancelin on Tuesday mornings. These are the projects I have completed there. I am now dying in preparation for a floor rug. Two of the girls have tackled rug projects with a knitted and a Proggy. Most of our members are quilters. Any one in that area contact Jane Cobb

Continued on next page.

Continued Lancelin



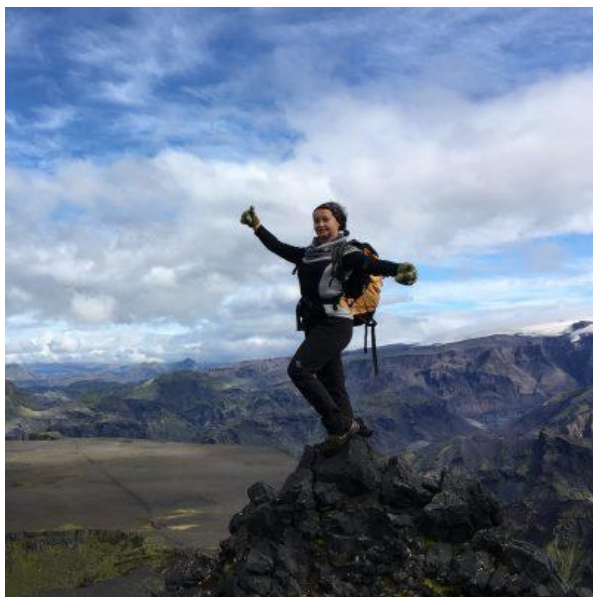
- **ICELAND - Knitting tours –Helene Magnusson**
- **GOOGLE** icelandicknitting.com



Authentic Iceland Hiking and Knitting Tour
September 9 -16

Knitting on Ice, October 21-27, 2020

Continued Icelandic knitting



Hiking and Knitting under the Midnight Sun
June 21 -28th 2020

[Hiking and knitting between Fire and Ice, August 16-22, 2020](#)

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I would highly recommend these knitting tours. My friend Jacqui and I, together with Heather Ritchie went on one in November 2018. "Knitting on Ice"

It was so well organized, Knitting , Sight-Seeing, Adventurous walks, the food was wonderful too.

[Spring Knitting Retreat in Icelandic Nature, May 23-29 2020](#)

SORRY TO TELL YOU, JUST ADVISED BY HELENE, THAT ALL TOURS ARE FULLY BOOKED FOR 2020, DON'T MISS OUT, THINK ABOUT 2021. MIRIAM

AMERICA – New Hampshire – Sally Gilbert

Wolfeboro,

Hello Miriam,

I promised I would send you a picture of Laundry Day once I completed the hooking- although I still have to whip the edge and add the rug tape- a project I will complete while watching TV now that the evenings are getting longer and temps cooler. Although I drew the pattern onto the bleached linen myself, it is an idea I saw in ATHA from Going Gray.



The other hooking project - unfinished- is Tessellating Fish- a pattern from artist Christine Little of Encompassing Designs in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia. I visited her beautiful shop recently while we were staying across the street and was so excited to find THREE rug hooking shops in that tiny town. While in Nova Scotia, I visited the Rug Hooking Museum of North America in the small village of Hubbards. Although the museum is off the beaten path, there was a bus loaded with rug hookers from Pennsylvania enjoying the museum while we were there. I would highly recommend this museum to anyone visiting in the area. My husband- not a rug hooker- even enjoyed spending two hours admiring the beautiful rugs and reading the history accompanying the display. Another "must see" rug hooking shop was Deanne Fitzpatrick's shop in Amherst, Nova Scotia. All in all, we had a wonderful visit to our Northern neighbour's!



An annual competition is held by the New York Times to see who can create the best original lexophile. Some of this year's submissions:.

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.

This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians' Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore.

A will is a dead giveaway.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

Police were summoned to a day care centre where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

A bicycle can't stand alone: it's just two tired.

IRELAND

Nina Jessamie Smith, born 1st August - Granddaughter of Neville and Carole Smith in Ireland our toolmakers. Nina is growing up as I put the newsletter together. Second photo end October.



IMPORTANT.

SNAPDRAGON LAP FRAME-

ON TOP OF THE BIG CUPBOARD IN NARRAWILLY RUG ROOM THERE IS A SNAPDRAGON LAP FRAME IN A BLACK PLASTIC BAG. BECAUSE OF MY RECENT HEALTH DRAMA, (WELL I HAVE TO BLAME IT ON SOMETHING) I HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF WHO LEFT IT, OR WHY.

IS IT TO SELL?

IS IT LEFT THERE FOR STORAGE?

TO LEND OUT TO OTHERS.?

PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU ARE THE PERSON WHO LEFT IT, AND CLEAR UP THE MYSTERY. These frames are expensive, and it worries me I do not know about it. Miriam

NEW SOUTH WALES - BERMAGUI -

Here we are last Wednesday at Lindsay's. Penny (third from the left) with her first-ever piece of hessian and new hook FINISHED her delightful small wall hanging by Friday morning! Wow! Love, Dawn



A MOST UNUSUAL DEFENCE

A lawyer defending a man accused of burglary tried this creative defence:

"My client merely inserted his arm into the window and removed a few trifling articles. His arm is not himself, and I fail to see how you can punish the whole individual for an offence committed by his limb."

"Well put," the judge replied. "Using your logic, I sentence the defendant's arm to one year's imprisonment. He can accompany it or not, as he chooses."

The defendant smiled. With his lawyer's assistance he detached his artificial limb, laid it on the bench, and walked out.

SUE GILMARTIN VISITNG

AUSTRALIA FROM U.K. with all

the scraps of coloured cotton I'm rugging a tiny "mat" for another friend's two young granddaughter, its for their dolls house

Started off prodding tiny bits but have swapped to hooking otherwise I shall be here for longer than my 3 months visa!



CANADA – NOVA SCOTIA Cathy Komourdjian

Hi Miriam

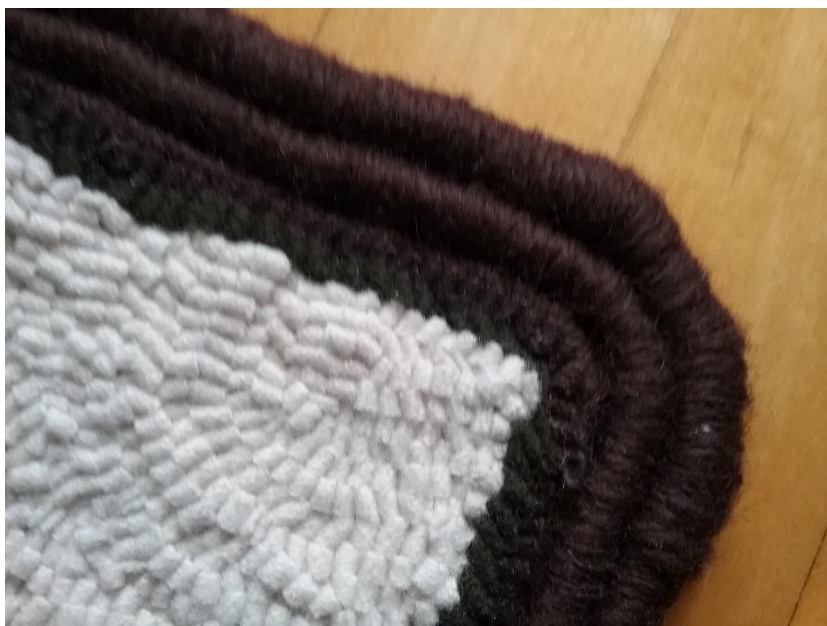
This idea is from the Book about Finishing mats, from Rug Hooking Magazine

I like to do three whippings of wool gives some mats real structure, and I love the way they look...

I finish the hooking then start with 5mm cord tight up against the last hooked row, then I whip around the mat. Next row 7mm cord and I put it up against the cord I just whipped, then proceed to whip it for the 2nd time...Then I see how much background I need to get a third rolled edge into 2nd whipping.

Once I determine the amount of background required, I take my sewing machine and zigzag and curve my corners, ie make sure I do not have too much material to corner properly. Then I roll the background tightly in toward the 2nd whip and secure it and start whipping for the third time (I usually sew this down so my osteoarthritis is kept happy ..

I have been buying my cord at our Dollarama....but rug shops sell it as well



CANADA – Ontario – Susan Sutherland.

Susan is knitting a rug using the pattern in my book “Proggy and Hooky Rugs”



Progress photos

Hi Miriam,

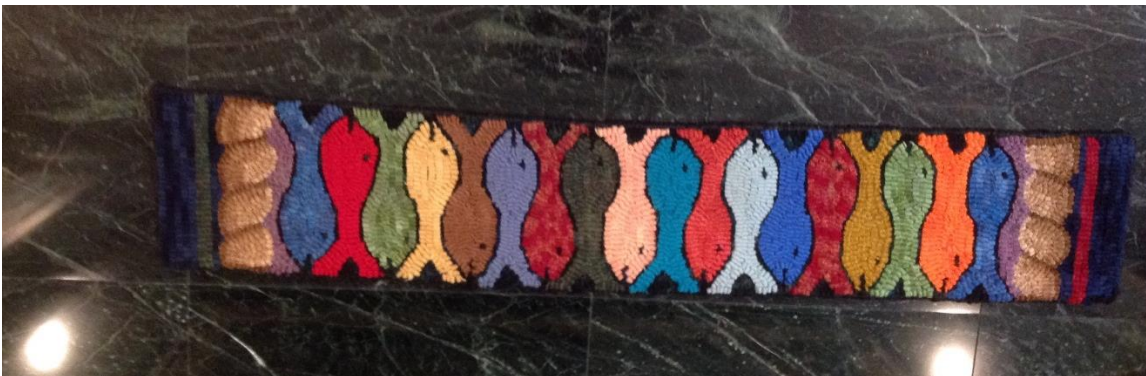
The knitted ‘rug’ is now 40 inches by 40 inches. How big do you generally make yours? I’m thinking I should make it 60 Inches (150 cm by 150 cm) by 60 inches.

Very windy today so that means lots more leaves down. Raking them is a bit of a lost cause. Hugs, Susan



Here is the unblocked finished knitted rug using your pattern. It definitely needs to be blocked, there are many mistakes in it but I love it. Susan

AMERICA -New Hampshire – Sally Gilbert



I purchased this nautical stair riser from Encompassing Design in Mahone Bay, NS. The artist is Christine Little who has designed several stair risers with a nautical theme. I hooked this for my son in- law's birthday, which will be hung either vertically on a wall or horizontally above a doorway. Eventually, I think it would be fun to hook more stair risers and actually put them on the stairs- but probably not any time soon!! I encourage anyone who visits or lives near Mahone Bay, NS- stop in and visit the Encompassing Design- you will not be disappointed!! (I am currently hooking a set of paddles (another example of C. Little's nautical stair risers) for my son's birthday in December.

Sally Gilbert
Wolfeboro, New Hampshire

NEW SOUTH WALES – Milton Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers.

Jacqui keen to get a good photo of a rug, supported by Ilka



Below

. Rug made by Gail Nichols
New and recycled fabric
hooked on primitive linen. 152
x 90 cm. This rug was inspired
by a photo I took of a lily pond
in a park in Amsterdam when I
was visiting there last year. I
used a mixture of hooky and
shorn Proggy to achieve a range
of textures.



Hi Miriam, (another of Gail's great rugs)

Here is a photo of the rug Topsy Tango. New and recycled fabric hooked on primitive linen. 160 x 100 cm. A glimpse of colour and movement in a pile of scrap metal at our local tip inspired the design for this rug.

Cheers,
Gail



NEW SOUTH WALES. -Yippon Creek – Carol Thompson

Carol was a member of The Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers, but moved away North. Her comments, "I have just finished my Proggy rug, it took me about 5 months. I am happy with the end result. It looks good on the grey tiles in the living room. Size about 8ft X 6ft.



CANADA. – gifts brought from Canada. Made by Cherri Hemseed.



QUEENSLAND – Kingaroy - Judith Brook

I had people working on Punch needle Xmas Wreaths. As a nice little project, not too daunting. Gladys has only partial sight so she was using the larger punch needle and the others were using a 14, much finer.

This is some of our show and tell.

The bright one with the orange in it is an old Semco Punch needle pattern No:269 that Lynn's sister had been working on in the 50's before she dies and Lynn was determined to finish. So yay for her perseverance. The bunch of flowers on the right was a piece done by Gladys Hood from a piece originally started at a workshop with Judi Tompkins. Gladys just needs to do the edging and backing and will enter it in the show next year.



Continued Kingaroy



CANADA – Nova Scotia Donna Gass.-

I will attach a photo of my finally completed kit that I brought back from England while at TIGER. My first attempt wasn't very good, but a great learning attempt. So I redid it, after I had a dream of a water fall in it. Donna .ps sheep is needle felted.



AUSTRALIAN RUGMAKERS GUILD.

Australia is a very large country and our rug making groups and individual rugmakers are very scattered, which makes it hard and expensive to meet. The Committee recently sent out a survey, but had little response. I would be interested in any comments people can make. What you want or expect from an Australian Guild?, and if you have not done so already, please complete the survey with all comments and send to Jo Franco at rughookingaustralia@gmail.com Please we would like comments from overseas readers too.

AUSTRALIAN RUG MAKERS GUILD SURVEY 2019

1. Do you belong to a rugmaking group YES NO
2. Are you a member of the Australian Rug Makers Guild YES NO
3. Name & location of group if applicable
4. Would you like to belong to a group? State & region
5. How far would you be able to travel to join a group (Time or Distance).....
6. Do you belong to any other online rug groups – List all:.....
.....
7. What internet services do you use eg Facebook, etc.
.....
8. Does your group charge membership fee? How much per annum/per meeting?
9. How much would you be willing to pay to join a group?
10. Are you interested in :
 - a. Taking Face to face workshops YES NO
 - b. Giving face to face workshops YES NO
 - c. Meeting others online YES NO
 - d. Taking classes online YES NO
 - e. Giving classes online YES NO
 - f. Willing to setup/co-ordinate Guild events on an annual/casual basis YES NO
11. How far would you travel to an event such as a Retreat or get together.....
- Any further comments?
.....
.....

Networking: by Jo Franco, Australian Rugmakers Guild Editor/Membership Chair

Sometimes members of the Guild ask "why do we have a Guild?"

Well, apart from the obvious answer we are trying to promote the craft of rug making in Australia - it also gives us a way of connecting with rughookers around Australia. It is particularly important for those in regional areas who do not belong to a group and would like someone to talk to about their rug hooking, to find out where to source supplies or just share suggestions about items they've found that are a good substitute for things we see in magazines available from overseas rug hooking suppliers.

Some of the members use Facebook where much of this information is shared both as a public post or in a private message.

Shelley Pinnell who lives in country WA and has no one close by to talk to about rug hooking!

Shelley and I chat on Facebook private messenger and I'm sharing a recent chat here as I know she would be interested to be in contact with others.

Shelley works on a lap frame with grippers and is finding the dimension of the frame a bit small, but says she likes it because it fits easily in her lap.

I'm surprized it's working for her, my experience with grippers and yarn isn't good 😞

Shelley uses an Oxford punch needle which she finds helpful, as she suffers with arthritis in her hands and shoulders, so not having to manipulate the yarn with her left hand, saves her from a painful right hand and left shoulder. Shelley reminded me you can use fabric strips with the larger sizes punch needle. At present she prefers yarn as she also weaves and has quite a big stash of rug wool.

Shelley says: I'm trying a different fabric for the base with my punch needle hook - it's an even-weave "coated" furnishing fabric I found in Spotlight. I did a trial and it seemed to work. I checked it out using my Irish hook, and it also worked perfectly with this backing fabric, I think because the coating is paper-like rather than plastic, and the thread count isn't small.

Thought I'd share a photo of my rug in progress. I'm using acrylic variegated yarn (I would prefer to use rug wool but I like this colour). It's interesting how the variegated yarn has formed stripes and because I've punched in 'blocks', it does have a subtle block-like look on the right side. Next time I might try using irregularly punched lines of different length, to see if the colours blend more evenly.

Have you or your group used variegated yarn over large areas before?

As Membership Chair - I'm happy to connect rug hookers - not everyone wants their email address made public so if at any time you'd like to connect with another member - just send an email to me at rughookingaustralia@gmail.com and I'll make the connection for you.

Here is the link to the latest Guild News (Blog) <https://www.rughookingaustralia.com.au/a-wrap-up-from-strathalbyn-sa/>

you'll also find copies of Miriam's previous newsletters "Connecting Us" in a drop-down menu under the heading for the "Blog" .

Check out <https://www.rughookingaustralia.com.au/current-events/> to find where the various groups meet.

Unfortunately, until I have a chance to update it, you'll have to scroll all the way down past the events for this year.

Continued- Networking by Jo Franco

Are you looking for tools or supplies? "Swap, Sell or Looking to Find" use this link <https://www.rughookingaustralia.com.au/swap-sell/> and if you want to take a look at the history of rug making in Australia ---- yes we do have one :) you can find it all under <https://www.rughookingaustralia.com.au/history-australian-rug-history/>

Again, a drop down menu will offer you - magazine articles about and by Australian Rugmakers, Archives of Rugs in various Australian Museums as well as information about Australians who were making rugs prior to the Guilds inauguration in 2008. Why not save one of these URL's so you can find the website easily OR enter your email address into the [SUBSCRIBE] box, that way you'll be notified when a Blog is posted and once there you can prowl around and see what the Guild has to offer.

Backing from Spotlight.



Shelley's punch needle rug,
made with wool yarn.
Views .back and front.

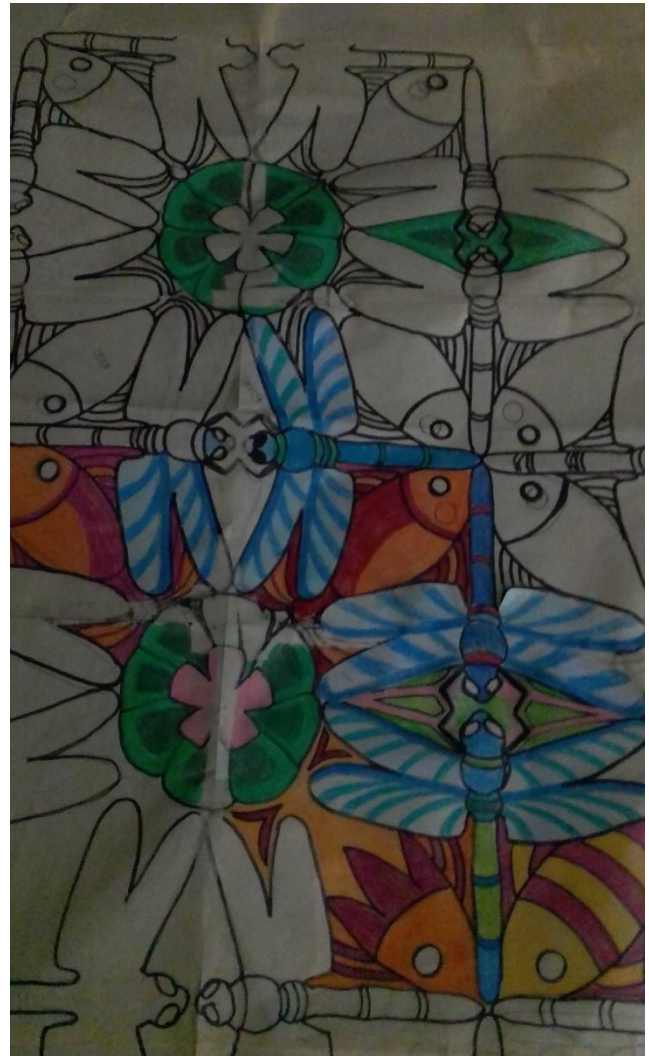


QUEENSLAND -Tolga – Jennifer Walton

I haven't done as much of the carpet as I would like but it is growing slowly.



I've been playing around with a new design, (below.)



Note Jennifer improvised frame made from a picture frame and clamps. Jennifer is a long distance from any other rugmakers.

QUEENSLAND – Kingaroy – Judith Brook

FOXY TEACOSY.

It has a tail going up the back with a white tip



BERMUDA -Shina

Christmas wishes to everyone comes from Bermuda this year. Thank you Shina.

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.