



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 49 February 2020

**TASMANIA** – Helen

Helen teaches paper flower making.



### REETH RUG RETREAT 9<sup>TH</sup> TO 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020

To get full details contact Heather Ritchie at  
[heather.rugmaker@gmail.com](mailto:heather.rugmaker@gmail.com) or Cilla Cameron at  
[priscillacameron1@googlemail.com](mailto:priscillacameron1@googlemail.com)

(Lucky people who can get to North Yorkshire U.K. .)

## CANADA – Nova Scotia. Cindy Noble.

Hi Miriam, here is a photo from our Christmas get-together in early Dec. 2019. Sue Russell is sitting with her winter scene of a cabin. There are several people doing this same pattern and it will be displayed at our Exhibition in August as a challenge project. The scene will vary from Spring to Summer to Fall and to Winter. Cindy



I look forward to receiving more of this scene during the different seasons.

Miriam



The two flower mats were hooked by Heather Reid.

The caterpillar was hooked by Joan MacFarlane and she designed it from a character in a book, which she read to her daughter when she was little. Joan gave her daughter, Sarah (who is now in her twenties), the hooked caterpillar rug for Christmas and Sarah absolutely loved it!

The snowflake design is another penny mat, which makes a lovely gift, made by Winn Campbell



## NEW SOUTH WALES - Dunbogan Sandra Jorgensen

Large Loom for Rag Rug Weaving from Finland.

I don't know if this is a bad time for you or not but my mother in-law has made many rag rugs and she passed away nearly two years ago now.

We have her Finnish loom and would like it to go to someone that loves to make rag rugs and has the room for this great loom.

My mother in-law, Tua Jorgensen was a member of the Spinners and Weavers Guild but we have not been able to find anyone that needs a rag rug loom.

We have had it for sale at \$2,000 but the price is very negotiable.

I have attached some photos. If you know of anyone that might be interested please forward my details to them.

Thanking you

Sandra Jorgensen



Tua with some of her rugs. Loom for sale photos on next page.



Continued large loom for sale.



**ENGLAND -Yorkshire** – Heather Ritchie

My spring garden finished, just using up scraps. It started life as a demonstration piece. I have plenty of unfinished pieces to finish off so that is my role at the moment. Heather





## CANADA, - Nova Scotia- Sydney Forks. Cathy Komourdjian



The Winter Whites is a workshop taught by Linda Marchbank, she is awesome, she brings all her skill set from Home Economics teaching into the fibre art world....plus she designs all the mats. In the class she did in Sydney. 13 registered....13 slightly different designs....it was very unique. The stitches are from Crewel, and cotton, silk embroidery. I love the basket weave which is a reverse hooking step, the chainstitch, beading up and down etc for more stitches.... it is so freeing hooks up quite quickly .... I still have to finish one more whip and then a fourth with a dowel for weight so it will hang straight...so not quite finished...but close. Cathy.



Cathy's first photo showing rug without edge finishing.

Photo to the left showing bound edging work in progress.



## AMERICA -Melissa VanDam

I can't imagine what it's like to have Christmas without snow and cold weather. I am spending a few weeks up on a remote island in northern Michigan called Mackinac island. There are no cars here and it is only 8 miles around and about 350 people live here year-round. It's typically very cold and snowy and we get around with Cross country skis and snowshoes and fat tire bikes. It's a very different lifestyle.



Boarding  
the ferry



I could not resist adding this photo of fire in a patch of rain forest just beside my house. It contrasts with the snow.

This was on 4th January.

**CANADA -Carol Harvey-Clark-** a much loved person in the rugmaking world.

For her obituary go to.

<https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/obituaries/carol-ann-harvey-clark-pace-33914/#.XjL-7la1sc.facebook>



## QUEENSLAND -Annette White

Newsletter 45 in September showed the beginning of this footstool. Made with off cuts from Jodhpurs,

Over the last few weeks I finished off the footstool cover. I was almost giving up as it was very tedious with the small strips, and also the back was ripped loose a couple of times on the wire brushes of the snapdragon frame. But now I'm happy with the result. Annette



The material on the footstool is not leather, it's faux suede, that synthetic imitation leather they use for lounges etc. Someone's daughter in our group sews jodhpurs, and she donated a huge bag of offcuts. It hooks quite nicely using the smallest hook for a good grip, but the pieces being so small, made only for short strips, therefore very tedious.

## NEW SOUTH WALES – Bellingen – Maxine keys

These puppets made by Maxine.



Maxine is happy to share the pattern if anyone is interested.

Please email me for Maxine's contact details.



**CANADA – Kitchener, Ontario.** Lorna Vogel

I just finished this small hooked purse. It is my own pattern. It is the first time I ever attempted to include a zipper. There is a lot of hand sewing in this purse which I didn't mind. I am pleased with the end result. I also knitted an

I-cord for the strap that I felted. The felting made it nice and strong. I am ready to try another purse. People from Australia are definitely in our thoughts and prayers. Stay safe! Lorna Vogel Kitchener Ontario





## SOUTH AUSTRALIA – Tanunda - Marion Allan My Rug Hooking Journey



I was born and bred in Scotland and remember my grandmother making rag-rugs using cut up old clothes which I thought were cheerful and cosy. That memory stayed with me throughout the passing years - firstly emigrating to South Australia in 1956; bringing up three children, working full time, eventually retiring in 1990.

There was a gathering of rug-hookers in Elizabeth which included my old friend Melva Baum. Melva taught me the rudiments of rug-hooking while sitting around her kitchen table in Tanunda. No frame, no special equipment. Simply a heavy brick neatly covered with cotton material which firmly held the burlap in place whilst she hooked her designs spread out over her knee.

I'm now 83 years old and have been part of a rug-hooking group for many years. Well, it predominately *used* to be a rug-hooking group but as some members completed their rugs they turned their attention to other crafts: knitting, embroidery, weaving, none of which I was good at ! So I stuck to my current rug but working on it at home. Or that was the idea but (as I'm sure you'll understand) life

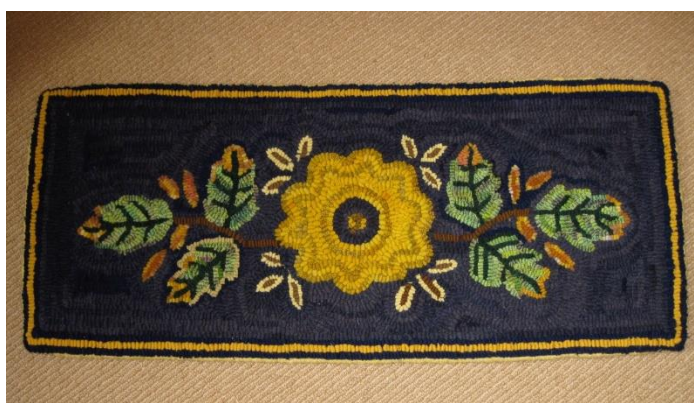
happens, things change, people move away, and thus my rug presently sits in the corner of my study, draped over its floor frame - looking quite nice but ignored for the last four or five years.

I'm still happily engaged with our (now) Craft Group where we meet in the Nuriootpa Library every fortnight enjoying each other's company while working away at an assortment of projects. There are some extremely talented women in this group and I enjoy their work. In fact, during those rug-hooking years one dear friend hooked a beautiful rug, her design based on William de Morgan's colourful tiles. She hooked it in lovely soft colours of lavender, dark green, midnight blue etc.

With kind regards,  
Marion

Perhaps we could have more rug hookers stories.

Left and below Marion's rugs.







Wendy Rodgers, is a member of my rug hooking group, this is her latest rug or mat and was created by her 9 year old grandson Dean McAllister. Dean drew the picture and suggested the colours for his "Monster" and Wendy hooked it. I am sending you a picture of Dean's monster .

## FIRES - Miriam

Continuing the tale. Yesterday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, started off nicely. I went into Milton and had coffee with friends. It was to be a hot day 40 degrees forecast, with strong winds. After I returned home looking out the kitchen window, I noticed a little curl of smoke from the bushes in front of my house, where the fire had stopped with the wind change on 4<sup>th</sup> January. I watched it for a minute or two not knowing whether to ring 000, then it got bigger, so I dialled and while I was answering, Police, Fire Ambulance. I saw a flame and then by the time I gave my address there was a wall of fire. I just got in my car and left. Luckily my grandson David arrived with the farm water tank and pump, also another young man Jackson, with the same equipment shortly afterwards. They stopped the fire at the front of my house until the fire trucks



arrived. David said in time there were 6 here. Last time the fire came within yards of my house, this time inches. It is because it is so dry, dry. We have not had the rain that has fallen both north and south of us. Luckily I still have my house, with burnt paddocks all around. I once again stayed with my friend Jacqui, and also my neighbour Jennie with her cat was at Jacqui's too. Back home this morning and everything in the house smells smoky. But it is good to be still here.



## QUEENSLAND – Mt Glorious Cynthia Nicklin

DEAR Miriam Would you kindly add this plea for help in your next issue of Connecting Us.

I have been given four balls of beautiful dark brown wool label: Dales Farm Rare breed wool from Weardale, County Durham (100% black Wensleydale double knitting 50g) Although I am a member of a group knitting for charity, I would like to make something for myself. But what? I am of a larger size, live in the subtropics, do not wear beanies or scarves (too hot and they make me look more like a teapot than ever. ] H E L P What can I make? Cynthia

## NEW SOUTH WALES – Milton- Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers. Miriam Miller



Rug I have just finished, using all recycled fabrics plus overdyed blanket.  
Size  
1m 5cm by 1m 45cm  
or 42 inches x 59 inches

The colours are a bit brighter than shown

A little comment on the fire near me.

My son always plants sunflowers in the paddock in front of my house. This year because of the drought none came up, so I had a patch of bare ground. When the fire approached my house, this acted as a fire break and the fire did not reach the garden mulched thickly with wood chips, next to my front verandah. I think the house may have gone if the fire reached there. Where there was no bare patch the fire reached my lawn. So unbelievably I am thankful for the drought.(right - view from my kitchen door)



**THE END.**