



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 50 March 2020

## NEWS FROM NEWFOUNDLAND

Patricia Parsons

*Hello Miriam,*

*Thought I would send along a little bit of news from the Rock.*

*A few of us ladies gathered at the House of Diamond in Glovertown last week in an attempt to chase away any winter blues that might be at the door! We did have a wicked winter storm that dumped about 60 cm of snow in the Central area- but we cannot complain, when we think of what other places are dealing with- fires, floods earthquakes and locusts. All very biblical. The sun was shining that day which was a tonic in itself, and the refreshments of tea, lovely cakes and biscotti, combined with stories and laughter made for a grand few hours together - and that's what rug hooking is all about. That, and of course sharing ideas on colours, materials & design- helping each other out. A lot of that happened as well. I hope as many of you as possible are enjoying such get togethers too.*



*Driving back to Gander that afternoon I felt blessed to have such rug hooking friends, and to have clear weather to drive home in. I thought about the evenings getting longer and spring not too far away (please God). I was reminded of the childhood rhyme we were taught growing up here in Newfoundland- for February 2- Candlemas Day. It went like this, "If Candlemas Day be fair and bright, Winter will have another flight. If Candlemas Day be shower and rain, Winter is gone and will not come again. Bring on the cloudy skies! Happy Hooking from your friends up North, Pat Parsons, TIGHR Team 2021.*



## NEW SOUTH WALES – Eden = Beverley Smith.

My knitting project it's not a very interesting story, but I'm hoping it will be third time lucky. I had spun the wool over a period of time, and when I started knitting, I discovered some was thick and some thin, and when I was at the armholes of project one, I decided I wouldn't have enough yarn so pulled it out. Effort 2 was a sweater with a fairly basic pattern, but I couldn't get the number of stitches correct to work it. I really needed to graph it but didn't have the paper, and my printer is on the blink. So right is the start of my third try! Very basic with cables and it will probably be OK but not very interesting



Bev is now having to spin some more as she thinks she is running out of spun yarn again.

## JOKE

I was driving when I first saw the flash of a traffic camera. I figured that my picture had been taken for speeding, even though I knew I wasn't. Just to be sure, I went around the block and passed the same spot, driving even more slowly. But again the camera flashed. Thinking this was pretty funny, I drove past even slower once again,, laughing as the camera snapped away as I drove by at a snail's pace. Two weeks later, I got three tickets in the mail for driving without a seatbelt.

## QUEENSLAND – Kingaroy- Judith Brook.

Judith has repainted her Rug Room ready for her group to meet for a productive 2020.



Also, rug cleaning on hands and knees with a little nail brush.

Good chance to get up close and personal with the rugs, see how the different materials are wearing.

Old mans dressing gown is the best of the lot. Doesn't even show any signs of wear, and cleans well. I find, the tee shirting is the worst. Staining and flattened pile. And fades like billy o. Judith.

## AMERICA – Milwaukee Sharon Felton.



Progy chair pad.

### joke

A woman walked up to an elderly man rocking in a chair on his porch.

"I couldn't help noticing how happy you look," she said. "What's your secret for a long, happy life?"

"I smoke three packs of cigarettes a day," he said. "I also drink a case of whisky a week, eat fatty foods and never exercise."

"That's amazing," the woman said. "How old are you?"

"Thirty-six."



## AUSTRALIAN RUGMAKERS GUILD.

To all Australians rug makers, so many of you have not renewed your membership to the Australian Guild. We find it hard to keep up our website and communications, when many people just take all the benefits of this without helping with the cost. Membership is only \$20 per year, and payable to Jo Franco. At [rughookingaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:rughookingaustralia@gmail.com) or you can post to her at P.O. Box 2212 Clarkson W.A. 6030



## GUERNSEY- Alison Teed



I have attached the photo of my rug. The exhibition is called "Warmth of the Sun" so I made a sun using the standing wool rug /shirred technique and then hooked the background. Some of the coils I embroidered on the surface.

Size 45cm x 61 or 18in x 24in



## BERMUDA – Shina Lyons

Needlepoint piece called 'Birdfeeder'. Size 28 x 48 cm

This is my last piece finished! It is a Charlie Harper piece and it took 11 months to do!



## FRANCE- Normandie – Joanna Romney



I've attached a photo of a stool I covered, I started out to make a prodded rug but I prefer hooking so I turned it into a stool cover.

Joanna



**CANADA – Nova Scotia – Donna Gass**

This piece has a hooked background with a very special button (it was found at a yard sale and was too pretty to leave behind), wool balls and hand stitching. It was framed for this photo as it was going on display. I have worn it many times and just love it.

**CANADA – Ontario Belleville – Karen Kaiser**

I just finished an Oriental rug that was started in June 2017! It was always near but it has been put aside a lot for more urgent projects. It is 36" x 60"....done in a #3 cut wool fabric, all hand dyed.





## BERMUDA – Shina

A happy group enjoying a 'Fibre Art Week'



## IRELAND – Cork - Christine



As part of a fundraiser I recently gave a demonstration at a local Primary School where 2 of my children attend. Punch Needle rug making was received very warmly at the event and there was a great interest from all ages after my demonstration. Here is a picture of me demonstrating on the night and my stand. I will be celebrating "International Punch Needle Rug Hooking Day" on the 18<sup>th</sup> of

April at a local hall, with tea, cake and punching!!

(continued next page )



### Continued Ireland - Christine

Following on from the demo night, one mother really embraced punch needle and so did her daughter who is 12 years old. Here is her daughters Lucy's picture that she designed and completed all by herself.

Camóige (pronounced cam-o-gee) is a national sport here in Ireland for women and girls and you play with a Hurley and a slitor. Lucy is an avid Camóige player and lovely to see her first design is about something she is passionate about. Well done Lucy!



### VICTORIA – Lakes Entrance- Rhonda Fitzpatrick

I have joined U3A and started at the craft class last week! You just take whatever you are working on. I am knitting a jumper out of every odd ball of wool from the last 20 years or so. No pattern of course. Photo part way.



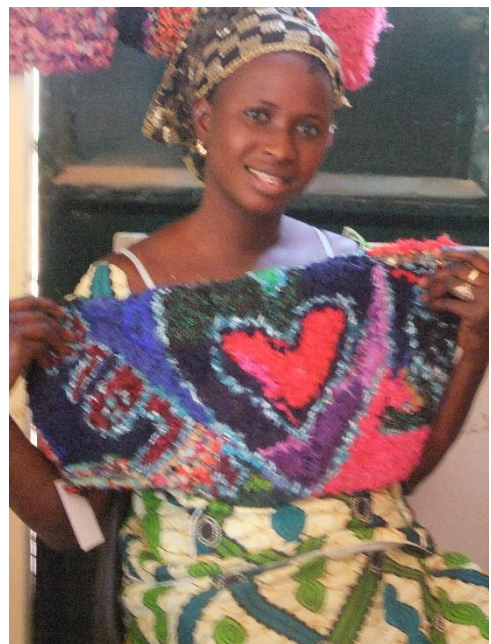
Also a photo of my vegie beds!! Eating them already!( a good picture after all the burnt areas.)





**NARRAWILLY PROGgy  
RUGGERS. Milton N.S.W.  
Left**

Rug made by members of  
Narrawilly Proggy  
Ruggers (plus two Canadian  
visitors) to be raffled at Milton  
Show to raise money for Rug-  
Aid. The charity run by  
Heather Ritchie to aid blind  
people in The Gambia



Some photos of the workshop in  
The Gambia.





**NARRAWILLY PROGGY RUGGERS** -were invited to give a rug workshop at Kiama Library. Kiama is 100 kms north of Milton.



Four members of the Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers (Judy Thurecht, Janet Walker, Kay Moriarty Clair Bruton) travelled to Kiama on Monday 10th February at the invitation of Valentine from Kiama library. Our brief was to introduce participants to Proggy and Hooky rugmaking.

We arrived, after a delayed start due to the highway being closed briefly (heavy rain caused flooding), to find 20 keen participants. After a brief talk and a “show and tell” of several rugs made by our members, it was time to start on their sample of hessian using their proggy tool.

There were many questions and lots of positive feedback. We enjoyed the enthusiasm of the group and hope they will accept our invitation to travel to Milton for one of our rug days- 1st and 3rd Friday of every month.





Continued Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers.

Shorn proggy rug made by Marilyn Smyth



VICTORIA. -Yarra Valley Rugmakers – Anne Schafer.

Right- Part of proggy rug made by Anne.



back above (Note two ends in every hole make the pieces more secure.)

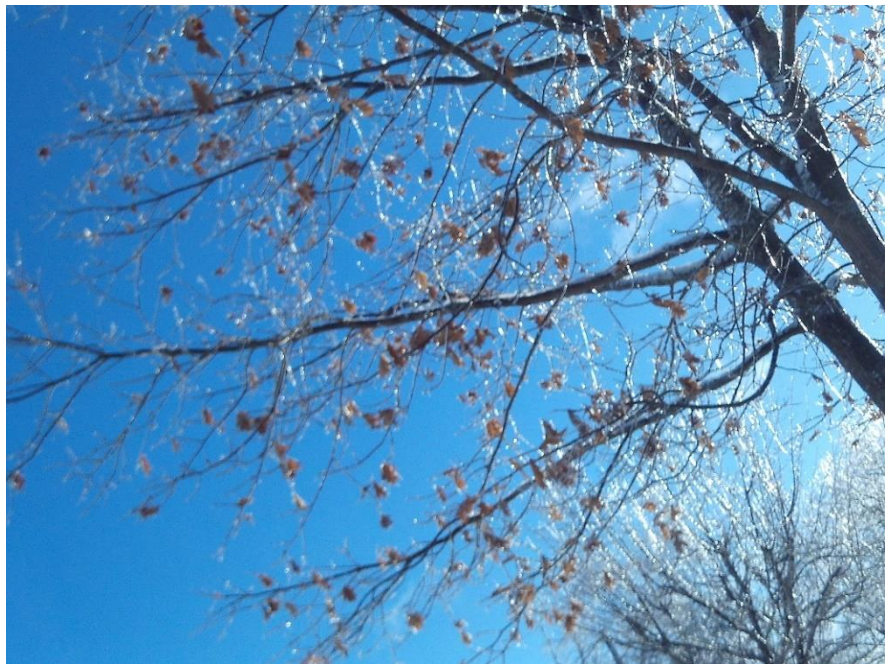


**CANADA – New Brunswick.** Mary Alexander.

I loved this photo of Ice on the trees.  
Miriam

Below Mug mats made by Mary.

Original designs by Mary and her sister, using recycled fabrics including felted sweater.



**ENGLAND Yorkshire – Reeth.** Heather Ritchie



Hello Miriam, the scarf is all individual motives, crochet then joined together, hand dyed wools giving the variegated colours. Easy and fun to do. Heather



## NEW SOUTH WALES -Bermagui Rug Hookers- Dawn Hollins



Two happy hookers at  
Bermagui. Sheila and Norma  
with their completed projects.  
Next meeting day 18<sup>th</sup> March.

## NEW SOUTH WALES – Milton

### NARRAWILLY FARM.

I have sent this website to a couple of people and then thought perhaps some of the people who receive this newsletter may be interested to read the story of the last three months on our farm, Fire, flood, and fencing. Just click on

<http://www.narrawilly.com/blog/timeline-of-fire-photo-essay>

This story is just about our farm --,In this district so many people were worse off, many many homes, machinery, cars and sheds were lost including one death.



## JOKE

In surgery for a heart attack, a middle-aged woman has a vision of God by her bedside. “Will I die?” she asks, God says, “No. You have 30 more years to live.”

With 30 years to look forward to, she decides to make the best of it. Since she’s in the hospital, she gets breast implants, liposuction, a tummy tuck, hair transplants, and collagen injections in her lips. She looks great! The day she’s discharged, she exits the hospital with a swagger, crosses the street, and is immediately hit by an ambulance and killed. Up in heaven, she sees God. “You said I had 30 more years to live,” she complains.

“That’s true,” says God.

“So what happened?” she asks.

God shrugs. “I didn’t recognize you.”

**NEW SOUTH WALES – Milton** - Miriam Miller with friend Annmaree as designing artist.

The beginning of a wall hanging. (3 metres long)

Below -Starting the design.





This is Heather's story of how she started rug making. I hope others will share their story too. Miriam

## ENGLAND – Yorkshire – Reeth – Heather Ritchie

Just a few words as promised. I first started rugmaking in 1971 when I moved into the Yorkshire Dales. Swaledale is the name of the one I live in. Just married in 1968 and now a baby in tow, we decided to buy an old stone cottage away from the city of Sunderland, high up on the moors in a village called Reeth. I had known the area all my life because my mother lived here for 4 years with my elder brothers as evacuees escaping the dreadful bombing of Sunderland, being an industrial town of ship building. My mother kept her friendships and letter writing so we always came for holidays, working on a farm for our keep. She left the dales at the end of the war 1944 to have me back home in Sunderland, and her last view of the dale as she departed on the bus was the purple hills in August. I was born in the November. Hence my name.

Chapter 2 Back in Reeth. The old stone house was cold and draughty but in those days you made do with what you had. I loved making things for the home, knitting crocheting, embroidery, painting, pictures etc. Well, a neighbour came to visit to see what she could do to help me, and she said "you need mats on the floor". she arrived with an old large stretcher frame, hessian sacks, bags of lisle stockings (old ladies silk and rayon stockings) and homemade hooks. That was the start of a huge adventure that would last for the rest of my life. Who could have known that the rugmaking would take me around America, Canada, Australia and Africa. Making friends worldwide.

Heather.

## 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

## 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)

## **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)

To look up previous newsletters go to [www.rughookingaustralia.com.au](http://www.rughookingaustralia.com.au) Click on blog and then  
 “Connecting us”



