

# CONNECTING US

This is not the official letter of the Australia Rugmakers Guild, but

an additional newsletter compiled by Miriam Miller, President Emeritus

April 2020

Number 51

**NEW SOUTH WALES. -Malua Bay -De Law**



Quilt made by De Law for my great grandson Harry.

De is a superb weaver, spinner knitter, quilter and fantastic machine embroiderer





## Continued De Law

A child's cushion made by De. It has a pocket for a book (Poo Bear of course) and a handle to carry. Today is my favourite day too. Below De holding cushion.



## QUEENSLAND – Kingaroy. -Judith Brook

Hi Miriam,

I finally got time to putting the burnt wooden sticks around the Mollymook mat as framework.  
The edging colours are in response to the fires.



## NEW SOUTH WALES Bermagui Dawn Hollins



### ‘My Healing Rug’

This is the latest amazing creation from Penny Todman from Orange, who came to one of our gatherings last year when she was house-sitting in Bermagui. It's a great feeling to know that we helped launch such a prodigious talent. One lesson and she was off! We'll see her again this winter when she and her husband return for more Bermagui-time. Dawn

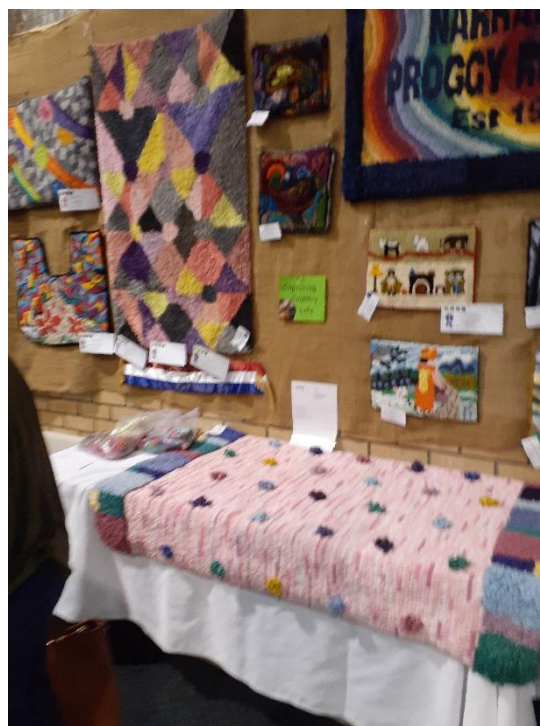
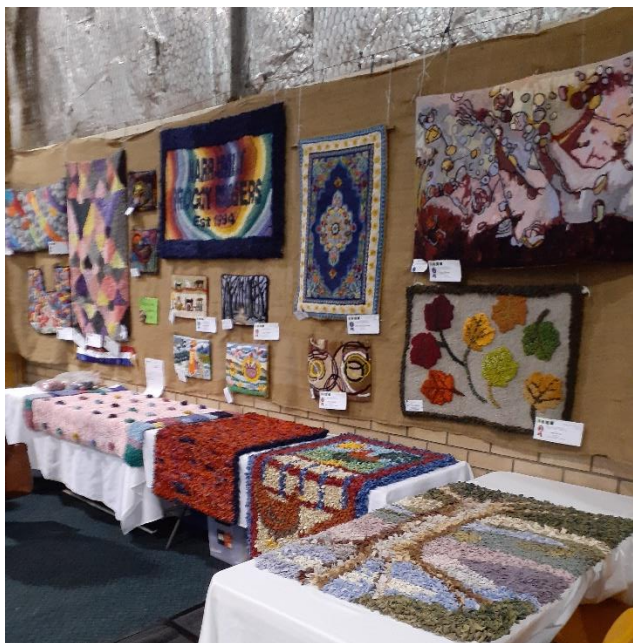
## AMERICA- Holly -Michele Wise



I did a piece to go along with my friend's poem for an exhibit here. I will send you a picture. The poem is about the whale who carried her dead baby for two weeks.



## NEW SOUTH WALES – Milton Show Friday 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020



Below. Kay and Christine demonstrating



Above and left above. Our display and prize winners at the Show.

Marilyn Smyth was awarded champion. Although the judge found it hard deciding with the excellent standard of the entries.



Raffle drawn at Milton Show  
7/3/20, Rug won by Jeannie Martin

## JOKE

A man was driving the wrong way up a one way street. A policeman stopped him asked what he was doing., and he said going to a funeral but was obviously late as everyone was coming home.



## QUEENSLAND – Annette White.

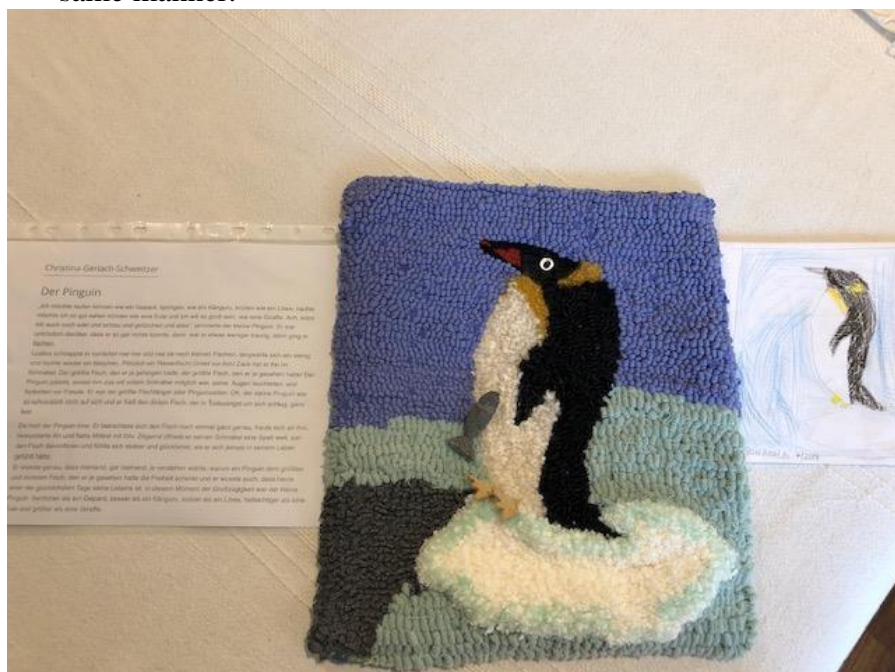
Over the last two month I made two little mats (or wall hangings) for my two young grandnieces in Germany, Annette is nine and drew a lion, Johann, seven, drew the penguin.

I had promised them I replicate their pictures in a little rug. As a bonus I printed out the Aesop fable about the lion and the mouse and fabricated a little mouse attached with a tiny strip of Velcro and an invisible nylon thread so it can be moved around. For the penguin I found a story about the penguin and the fish, therefore added the fish in the same manner.



So these will be story rugs. These girls are very creative kids and will appreciate something crafted. There are two more younger kids in that family, I will have to think of something for them as well.

Annette



## ENGLAND Yorkshire – Reeth – Heather Ritchie.



Just painted this pastel on scraps of paper, I know how you love your sun flowers.  
Heather

## Recipe to try. A must.

### BROWNIES.

100gm Plain chocolate, 125gm butter softened, 275 gm sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla essence, 2 large eggs, lightly beaten, 85 gm plain flour, 2 tablespoons cocoa powder, 100gm walnut pieces, 50gm plain chocolate roughly chopped or choc chips.

A brownie tin 20.5 x 25.5 cm greased and lined. Preheat the oven to 180C (350F). Melt the 100gm chocolate in a bowl over a pan of steaming water. Leave to cool until needed.

Beat butter in a large mixing bowl until soft and creamy, add sugar and vanilla, and continue beating until soft and fluffy. Gradually beat in the eggs, and then the melted chocolate. Stir in the sifted cocoa and flour. Add the nuts, and chocolate pieces Stir in. Put the mixture in prepared tin, and spread evenly.

Bake in preheated oven for 30 minutes until a skewer inserted comes out just clean (I found I had to cook longer) Leave to cool until just warm, remove from tin and cut into twenty pieces. Store in an airtight container and eat withing 5 days. (I did freeze mine, and it was just as good when thawed))

### NEW SOUTH WALES. – Milton



Jayne a visitor from **Hastings in the U.K**, having a try at proggy and hooking.

Below a hibiscus blossom from my garden.



### JOKE

A mathematician, an engineer, and a computer scientist are vacationing together. They are riding in a car, enjoying the countryside, when suddenly the engine stops working. The mathematician: "We came past a gas station a few minutes ago. Someone should go back and ask for help." The engineer: "I should have a look at the engine. Perhaps, I can fix it." The computer scientist: "Why don't we just open the doors, slam them shut, and see if everything works again?"



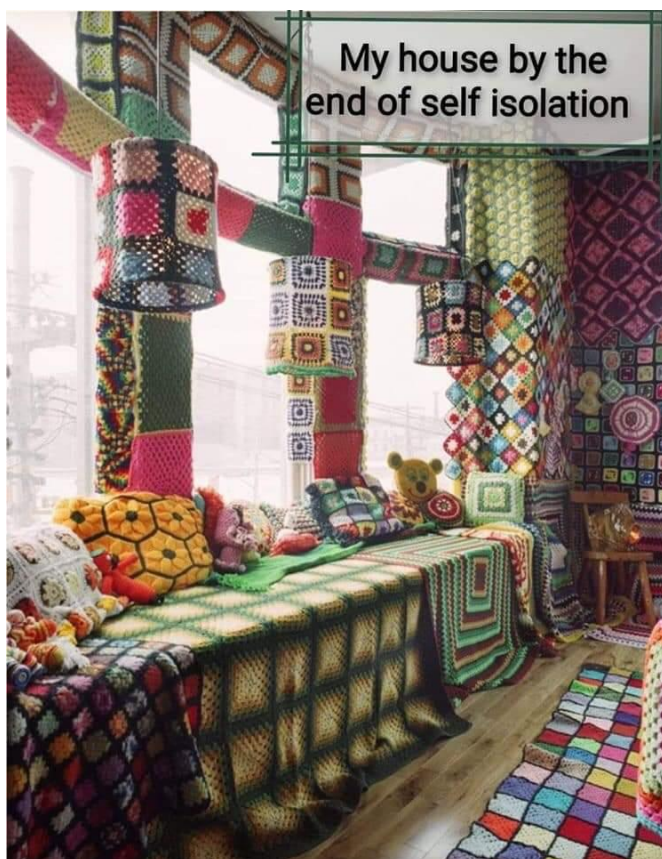
## NEW SOUTH WALES – Milton – Miriam



I am starting a new rug inspired by a book Maggie Whyte lent me called "Rug Money" authors Mary Anne Wise and Cheryl Conway-Daly about rugs made by groups of women in Guatamala. They are so colourful and wild, it inspired me to do something more colourful, I hope. This is the start. As we older people are advised to stay home and avoid mixing with people because of the Coronavirus, it is good to have a project I am keen to work on. (Below my rug progressing.)



**NARRAWILLY PROGGY RUGGERS.** Milton Sadly, the regular Rug Days held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of the month are cancelled for the present time because of the Coronavirus.  
Miriam



This has to make you laugh. Sent to me by Janet Tayler-Henry



## NEW SOUTH WALES – Vincentia – Leith Brandt



I am sending you a photo of some stitch work I have done and maybe you can use that in some future newsletter. It is an abstract impression of the hills around Gundagai, done with recycled fabrics- stitches and needle felting.

## CANADA – Newfoundland – Gander. – Patricia Parsons

News from Central Newfoundland.



The annual Central Regional Hook In hosted by Happy Matters Group was a terrific success with 70 rug hookers from all over the island attending. There was a delicious lunch served by the Church Ladies, prizes given away, loads of locally dyed wool for sale, and much merriment all around. Below you will see all of us hard

at work on various beautiful mats. We are fortunate here on the island to have several active groups from east to west and north to south- and we don't mind driving 2 or 3 hours to spend the day with our likeminded crafters and support the local rug shops that pop up.

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### Continued Newfoundland rug makers.

As members of the TIGHR planning team for the next Triennial, I hope that we see as many Australians rug hookers as we can in 2021. Meanwhile, stay safe everyone and Happy Hooking.

Pat Parsons- Gander, NL.

31st March. So much has changed as I put this newsletter together. It seems like a different time just a few weeks ago. Miriam

### NEW SOUTH WALES – Eden. -Eden spinning Group.



A photo showing Helen with Enid unwrapping her prize in a raffle, a roll of toilet paper. Anyone in Australia knows this is the situation here, for some strange reason everyone is stocking up on toilet paper because of the virus and shops shelves are bare.

### BERMUDA – Shina report on Coronavirus

We are the same here but only 6 people have had the virus! And all ports are now closed so nobody can come in or go out!!



## CANADA -Ontario-Belleville -Karen Kaiser

I am working on a footstool now.  
It is all hooked and needs to be  
steamed and assembled.  
I think I will use the excess linen  
and wool to make coasters to  
match.



## ENGLAND -Yorkshire – Reeth

Hello Miriam

just thought I would send this picture, all finished. It was a commission, she had lost her husband. I offered to make her a rug. Their garden and view with favourite flowers. Well we are in lock down now, they left it a bit late. I don't think people believed it. Strange all the pubs are closed Reeth in darkness, but had loads of visitors to the village today, they were told to stay at home not spreading the virus, maddening. Everything is cancelled not going out, just to walk the dog, getting groceries delivered. I have so much to do so I don't mind. The garden takes some hours, the house to clean and loads of unfinished projects to work on .so I will keep busy.

Heather is in the same position as the rest of us. Unbelievable, it is all over the world, businesses shut down, no travel, isolating ourselves. At least we can work on our rugs.





## VICTORIA- Locke -Chris Norbergen



This wonderful freeform crochet jacket made by Chris. And below a freeform crochet rug.



As I put this newsletter together, each day the situation changes with Coronavirus. Today 23<sup>rd</sup> March in Australia, all clubs, restaurants, café's, hotels are closed, but can supply take away. Some States have closed their schools. Queensland, South Australia, and. N.T. have closed their borders, Anyone going there has to self-quarantine for 14 days.No travel for non esselial reasons.



## NEW SOUTH WALES – Milton – Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers -Elke Smith-Hill



In this time of Coronavirus, Elke enjoyed a walk on this deserted beach and also finding fossils in the rocks.

**ENGLAND – Brighton** -Katrina. I think the lock down here is going to last sometime - the number of cases is rising every day. And hospitals are becoming overwhelmed. Dave and I feel it is our mission to stay well and away from others so we don't add strain to the system. I am going to make some face masks for friends for when they go out. It is a very simple design - a rectangle with pleats on both sides and elastic. The fabric is cotton jersey with a layer in the middle. I will send you a photo. It is based on one I bought in Nepal to protect from the pollution. Katrina.

Last night (26<sup>th</sup>) at 8pm millions of people came out of their homes, or on to their balconies to applaud the doctors and nurses and support staff in the national health service, the carers, the delivery drivers and everyone playing their part. It was very up lifting. Katrina.



## IRELAND – Cork - Michelle



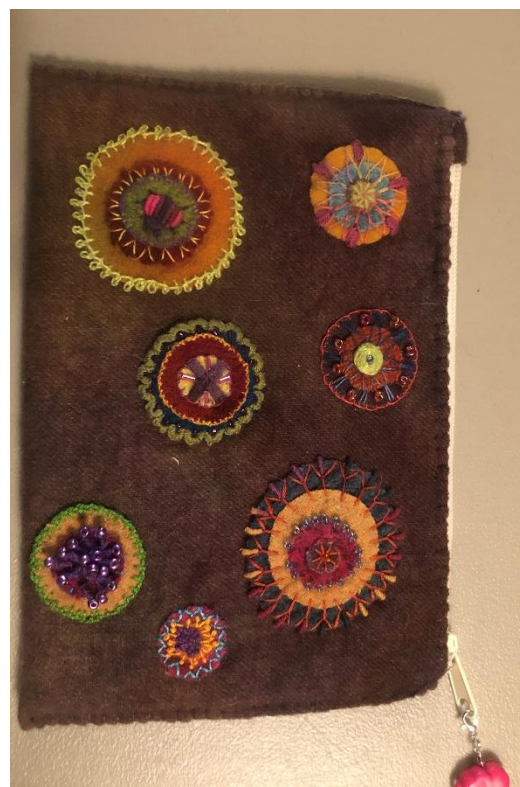
Lovely to hear from you it is indeed strange times. Kids have no school since before St Patrick's Day. All St Patrick's Day parades were cancelled. All pubs bars restaurants and nonessential shops are closed now. I'm working from home and home schooling quite the challenge. However, I have to admit I'm liking the slower pace of life. I don't go anywhere generally I am always rushing around dropping the kids to various activities under different age groups. All that has stopped!! So instead we get to paint, go for a walk in the fields, bake, play board games. There has to be a benefit in that.

All events I had planned for are now cancelled so we'll see what happens after that. I'm lucky I have a job there are so many losing theirs overnight. Very stressful situations. Here's what I did recently. My daughter painted the picture and when she showed me, I was like "I love it, I must punch it!!" So I did, it's now her cushion.

## AMERICA – Missouri -Marionville - Rita Hood.

As you can see, I have been having fun designing Applique pouches with beading and a lot of the different stitches. And lots of colour.

The one with the pigs was designed at a request from a friend and the Wicked chickens was designed as a gift for a lady who raises chickens. Now I am working on getting the patterns done and printed. (please remember copyright laws, and you cannot use Rita's designs without her permission)



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## Continued Rita Hood.



We have just started a mandatory 30 day stay at home.  
We have not had a lot of the cases here but there are a lot who think it is going to get worse before it gets better  
Like you I have a lot of time to hook and stitch Rita

## QUEENSLAND — Annette White



I just finished off some unfinished projects I had going for ages, toothbrush rugging baskets to keep various utensils in.  
Annette



NEW SOUTH WALES – Sydney – Leichhardt -Diana Tilley-Winyard



I have recently started to go to WEA classes to learn how to paint in watercolour. A discipline which I am quickly learning is very complex and involved.

I enclose early attempts, one still-life and one of my daughter's dog Lance resting.



**THE END**    Wishing everyone good health and safety from the Coronavirus    Miriam





