



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

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

NARRAWILLY JUNE 2020, Number 53

GUERNSEY – Alison Teed.

" Miriam has asked me to write a few lines on how I became a rug maker.

It all started in 1992 when I visited Bath, an historical city in the United Kingdom. A student was demonstrating in the Pump Rooms (part of the roman baths there) and she was making this amazing circular rag rug. Well that was it - I was smitten. I have always been a knitter, embroiderer, patchwork dabbler but this craft really caught my eye. I purchased a book on rugmaking and have never looked back.

In 1999 I started teaching rugmaking evening classes for the Guernsey College of Further Education. The first 10 week session was very popular, so much so that the College Manager let it be extended to 20 weeks. Even that didn't satisfy the students - they wanted to carry on. So, we started up a rugmaking group.

We call ourselves the Sarnia Rug Rats - Sarnia is an old name for Guernsey and Rug Rats - the cartoon craze at that time. We are celebrating 21years of being together this year.

I continued teaching for a few years and gradually more people joined the group. We had some that left because they had other commitments or went to live off island. We now have 12 members. Each year we hold a jumble sale and the money raised goes towards inviting rugmaking tutors over to our island to teach us new tricks. We have been lucky enough to capture Cilla Cameron, Heather Ritchie and Gill Curwen. Also, we had a lovely visit a couple of years ago from Miriam and Jacqui which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

I have been a volunteer rug making teacher in the local prison for the past seven years teaching the vulnerable prisoners. It is wonderful to see their work and how much they enjoy the sessions.

I have also been to the Rug Retreat in Yorkshire twice which was wonderful. A whole weekend of "rug chat"

I enjoy all the methods of rugmaking. I enjoy hooking and prodding and also like mixed media rugs with applique and a few quillies mixed in. As I am a spinner I sometimes use my handspun yarn in hooked rugs and also like to make Rya rugs with my handspun.

I have met so many lovely people through rugmaking and also find that rugmaking is very therapeutic- hooking the troubles away.

Alison

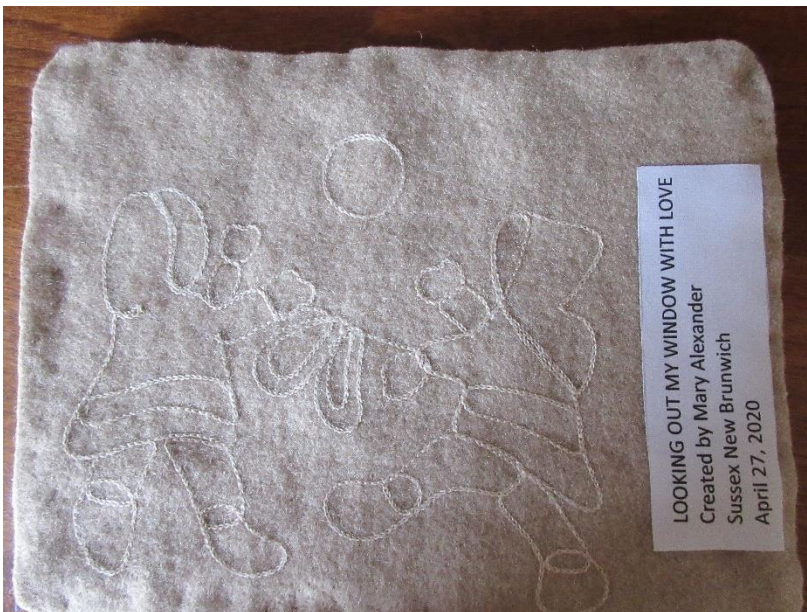
CANADA. – Trish Johnson.

Trish Johnson visited Australia in September last year, and met Martha Birch in Sydney and spent a day with the Yarra Valley Rugmakers in Victoria. To read about her visit click on the website below.

https://www.rughookingaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Australia_Diary_Trish_Johnson_Canada.pdf

CANADA – New Brunswick. Mary Alexander.

pictures of the 6" by 8" mat that I created for a relative of one of the victims of the crimes that took place in Nova Scotia April 18 and 19. The mat is hooked with Briggs & Little wool yarn and the back is from a piece of a winter wool jacket of a friend who died 7 years ago.



CANADA -Some jokes about lock in because of covid19

- BREAKING NEWS: Wearing a mask inside your home is now highly recommended. Not so much to prevent COVID-19 but to stop eating.
- The casinos are now offering curb side pickup. Call ahead and they come out and take your money right from your car.
 - Not sure what is scarier right now: taking my temperature or weighing myself.
 - Happy hour is starting earlier and earlier. If this keeps up, I'll be pouring wine in my cereal!.
- Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine I would go up to a bank teller with a mask on and ask for money.



CANADA, Vancouver Island

Sheila Stewart

Christmas stocking.

KIAMA – Denny Slater

Below the start of Denny's rug for her granddaughter. Started in the workshop at Kiama library given by 4 members of Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers.



Just had an email from a friend and I loved the way she ended.

"A new day – endless possibilities."



Miriam,

...when everyone is isolated and sending old photos of school days and wedding anniversaries, I put together this rug, the pattern was simple similar colours with black and white contrasts and reminded me of the rugs my mother put together. In fact, the last rug like this was made from the wool from my mother's wool basket and my mother-in-law's wool basket after they had died. I was able to make 2 rugs for 2 nieces from their grandmother's wool and they treasure the keepsake for the memories of those grandmothers. This one will no doubt be a gift for the next grandchild who makes positive statements about it. I cannot choose between 8 grandchildren, so the one who initiates a positive statement will be given the rug.

Cathie

IMPORTANT.

SOMETIMES FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON MY COMPUTER DROPS SOMEONES NAME FROM THE LISTS OF THOSE WHO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER. PLEASE IN THE FUTURE, IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED IT FOR SOME TIME, CONTACT ME AND I WILL ADD YOUR NAME AGAIN OR IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO USED TO RECEIVE AND IT STOPPED, TELL THEM TO LET ME KNOW. I DO NOT KNOWINGLY STOP SENDING TO SOMEONE UNLESS THEY ASK.

MIRIAM

WESTERN AUSTRALIA. Annmarie Czichy (Annmarie recently received a package from me, including a couple of rug hooks)

A story for your newsletter ...when I open my package my mum who remembers less and less these days reached out, felt each hook and told me all about the rugs her mother made and that each of the children had one by their beds. A very special moment that I am grateful for.

Thank you ❤️
Annmarie

NEW SOUTH WALES – Eden – Beverley Smith

DESCRIPTION

Banana Bread Muffins – made with just 5 wholesome ingredients!
no refined sugar, naturally gluten free, and SO yummy!

INGREDIENTS

SCALE 1x 2x 3x

- 2 cups oats
- 3 bananas
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup pitted whole dates
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- not necessary, but I usually toss in a pinch of salt and cinnamon if I have them around
- not necessary, but chocolate chips are 🍫

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- 2 Grease a muffin tin.
- 3 Mix all ingredients in a blender or food processor until smooth.
- 4 Pour batter into muffin tin (you should have enough for 10-12 standard size muffins). Top with chocolate chips if you want.
- 5 Bake for 15-20 minutes. Store in the fridge for up to 3 days.

This recipe can be varied, using Self raising flour and missing out the Baking soda and oats. Maybe add chopped ginger. That sounds good, chocolate, ginger and dates. Yum.

Just bought a book from IKEA



QUEENSLAND Kingaroy Judith Brook

I have discovered another use for Alfoil
(aluminium Foil)

Rip a piece off and fold it over , then cut, cut, cut it with

Some blunt scissors , and it will sharpen them. Can't remember where I read this.

Some old magazine. And it actually works.

NEW SOUTH WALES – Bombala Jan Lee

This is our ³big ³ effort for the lockdown - paving under our double
 >carport - 42m². Not sure how many tons of rocks were lifted and shovelfuls
 >of sand! But. It will prevent the dust at the back of the house. Since
 >this photo we have grouted the rocks and concreted an apron to drive onto
 >the paving, then we'll have someone come and grade a circular driveway
 >with all the leftover gravel .
 >But it's fabulous getting some jobs done at home - a real sense of
 >achievement.



The jumper is another afternoon and evening project, completed this week. Now I am looking for some more knitting projects. The grandsons don't need anything I am told, so I might teach myself to crochet a bit better. How does that sound. I need something small and portable to chase the sun!



ENGLAND – Yorkshire -Reeth. Heather Ritchie

Pads on top of an Aga stove.

QUEENSLAND — Annette White

. I take the chance to send you a photo of my finished latest project, X-ray of Fish. The idea and concept for the rug hooking and driftwood combination hasn't grown in my brain. I saw variations of it on the Pinterest site and elsewhere online. Living at the seaside my fingers just itched to try it.

The head and tail of the fish I reinforced with some flat bamboo pieces, covered it with a flat layer of poly fill before sticking on the material for the backing. Just need to find a big fishing hook to hang it up.



ENGLAND -Yorkshire Reeth.



Heather dressed as the Queen of Scots at a dinner held in Bolton Castle during the TIGHR Conference 2018. And the cushion she was given based on that.

Antique lace and a button from the Reeth Museum were added as embellishments to the cushion.



NEW SOUTH WALES. Milton - Miriam



Celebrating my 85th birthday with Jacqui



CANADA. Bellville Karen Kaiser.

Our isolation has proven to be quite productive for me. I have finished three small pieces and have made 25 coasters. I call them Covid coasters and I'm giving them to people who have helped me and who have been there for us throughout this isolation.



QUEENSLAND – Kingaroy Judith Brook.

Don't know if I sent u a pic of this very basic rug, I made for my son's dog. It's about the colour of the dog too.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA -Mumballup – Wink Lindsay

Thank you for sending me your newsletters. It is lovely to see what everyone else is doing and to feel a bit more 'connected', especially as I don't have anyone that rug hooks locally. I am in contact with Jo Franco on occasion and enjoy being part of various online hooking groups.

I began hooking after I was invited for a social evening with a few ladies to learn how to make a rug with a local artist. I assumed it would be a 'rag' one as we were asked to bring along scissors and some old t-shirts. It turned out we were making hooked rugs instead. We purchased our hook, Jenni showed us the basic stitch, and we spent the rest of the evening pulling loops through our hessian backing. I am the only one of the ladies who finished their rug. My first rug took a year to finish and is the size of a welcome mat (77cm x 50cm).

I have been productive with the extra time at home because of the virus, catching up on gardening chores and get more hooking done. As I can't go thrift shop hunting, I have had to be creative with my stash.

I have been hooking for a little over two years (although it did take me a year to finish the first piece!) and I have graduated from hooking with stretched hessian over my knee, to a gripper frame and now a small, homemade stretcher frame. There is so much to learn with each new piece. I am excited that rughooking provides me with a way to create tactile and textured stories, using upcycled materials. This fits beautifully with my sustainability values.

During this time at home, we have been discussing the notion of "What is it that makes a *Home*?". I wanted to explore the idea of 'Home' in a rug.

When I was a young girl we lived on a remote cattle station in the Northern Territory. I was welcomed into the local Aboriginal tribe and given an indigenous name. This has since been shortened over the years to 'Wink'. My husband and I have now settled on a small property in the SW of Western Australia and although it is a long way from Wave Hill Station and my Gurindji family, I feel a deep connection to this piece of land. Inspired by traditional Aboriginal symbols, I designed and hooked a 'map' rug of our Home/Property - Our Country to express this connection. The symbols represent important features of the landscape, animals and our build environment that provide us with the feeling of calm and comfort when at home.



Continued Wink Lindsay.

Rug

Titled: Martan (pronounced Mardan in Gurindji) meaning Home

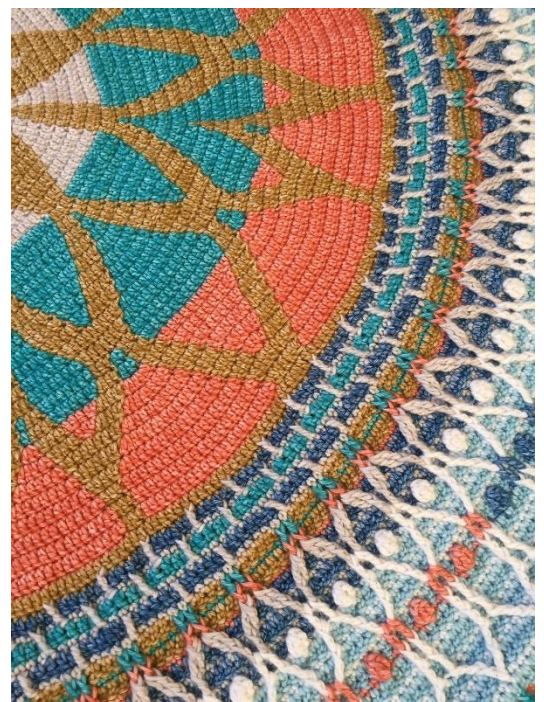
Dimensions: 47cm x 80cm

Original. Designed and Hooked by Wink Lindsay, using assorted hand cut, upcycled fabrics and yarns on hessian backing. Custom made upcycled Jarrah timber frame.

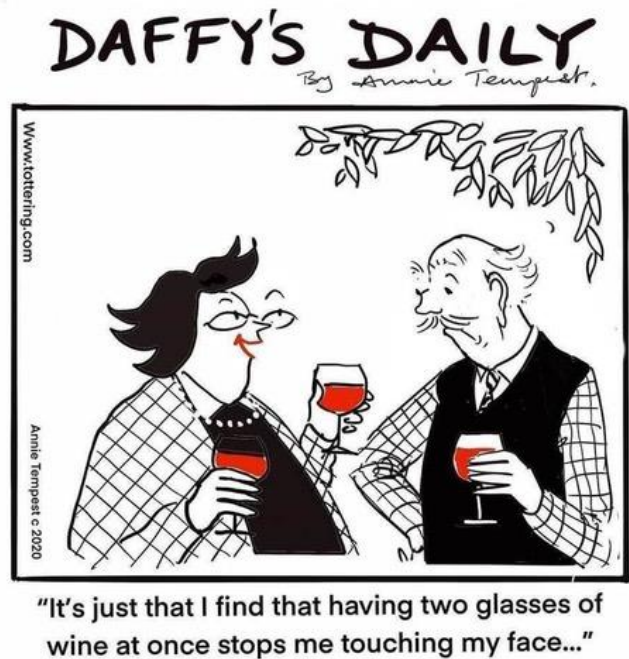
April 2020

IRELAND – Cork – Geraldine Barry

I finished this project at the beginning of shutdown here in Ireland, thankfully we are starting to open things up slowly. It is a big blanket so glad it fits my king bed. It was crocheted in Aran weight wool with a size 6 hook. It was my first time trying out tapestry crochet and honestly, I really enjoyed it. It's the Rozeta Blanket. Take care Geraldine Barry



TWO JOKES.



QUEENSLAND – Jennifer Walton.

Material used:

Backing - old hessian curtain.

Pile - bits of two old wool blankets.

Colours - Rit all purpose dyes.

SIZE 119cm by 62cm



THE END.