



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

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

July 2020 number 54

VICTORIA – Wonthagi. -James Miller

Using a calculator, I found online, by doing circumference measurements they come out around 150 and 175 kgs James.

(James got to actually weigh the larger one and it came out at 195.8 kgs.



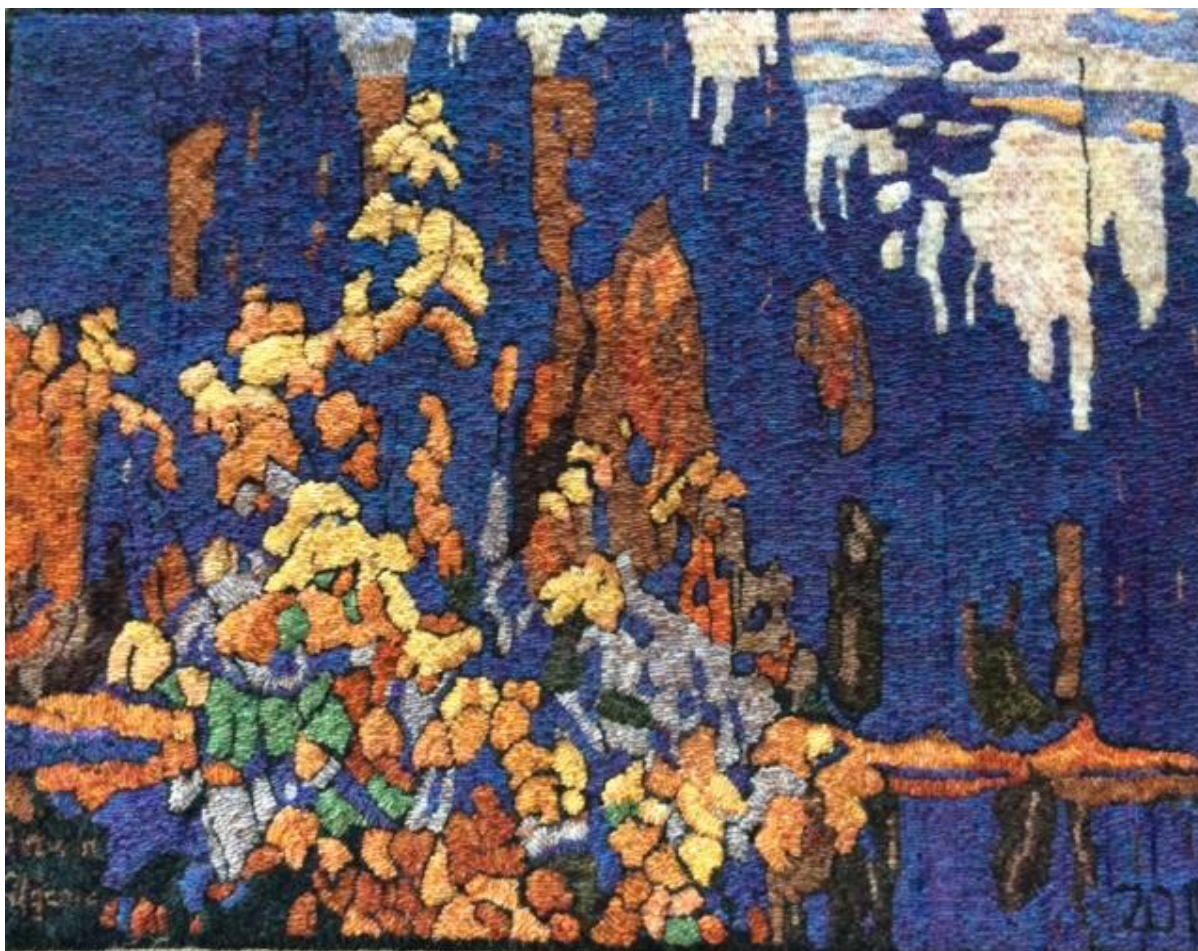
JOKE As I walked into the kitchen this morning, I saw my husband spraying and wiping down all the tiles, cupboards etc. He told me that he saw a cockroach. I think I'll put it in the bathroom tomorrow

A thought for Connecting Us: Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself. Eleanor Roosevelt.

The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot. Michael Altshuler

CANADA Vancouver Island Sheila Stewart.

Vancouver Island is also doing very well as is the rest of British Columbia. I am enjoying our social isolating and finding time to get projects finished. Below is my latest rug, an adaptation of Autumn Algoma by Lawren Harris, a Canadian artist. It was fun to do and hooked completely with spot dyed fabric. I'm also finding time to knit and clean up my house. My studio has been busy and many people are now interested in punch needle rug Hooking.

**QUEENSLAND – Brisbane** - Janet

My neighbour over the road turned 80 and is passionate about exotic coat hangers. It took me forever- I kept adding and adding to it.

Continued next page

Continued Janet.



Husband John, making pasta and his charcoal drawing of a cat called Grace.



Covid has certainly had an immense effect on our lives hasn't it, in every direction.



Janet's mosaic

NEW SOUTH WALES. -Wentworth – Bev O’Keeffe



Here is a photo of my recent spinning/weaving wall hanging. It is not in situ in my bedroom because the light is dim there and the colours show better in stronger light...the lovely soft feel of it pleases me. Bev

NEW SOUTH WALES – Milton – Kay Moriarty



I got my inspiration for this rug from a lead light window I found, and the ocean. Kay

—

VICTORIA -Hughlett- Annie Dunlop.



Dear Miriam Thought these photos of my cushions may inspire others. They are wool tapestry creations stitched onto cushions. I draw them from photos and get such pleasure when I see the recipient cuddle them. As of course they are mostly of pets that have gone to heaven My pleasure is twofold knowing at 80 I can create pleasure for grieving pet owners and myself. Kind regards Annie. D=



CANADA – Ontario – South Hampton-Sybil Mercer

Sybil Mercer— born in small town area in Southern Ontario, Canada

At the age of five my parents registered me to attend a single room school in the country.

We were over a mile so in summer my big brother (who had a year left) rode me on his bike and in winter pulled me on a sled to school.

I was the only girl in the school for the first year.

In 1950 I rode a daily bus to attend Secondary School that taught me to work hard to excel.

In 1955 I enrolled in Nursing School for the next 3 years.

There was no pay, but lots of friendships and free peanut butter for snacks. During this time, I met a medical student, Don Mercer, who I would marry in 1959. while he interned, I nursed in the same hospital. One of my favourite days to work was Dec 25 as the patients were so appreciative, In Sept 1960 , on our first anniversary, we arrived to take over a busy family practice in a small town of South Hampton, on Lake Huron.

Here ,he was kept very busy for the next 38 years.

Just one month in ,we became parents.

Don did not have a secretary at first, but since we lived above the office, I answered the phone and took messages! I became quite adept at answering the phone while nursing our son.

Later 2 more children arrived ,and we hired a secretary!

As the children grew I took on more volunteer duties

Curling became my favourite passion! Don insisted we hire babysitters so I could socialize. In 1990 I was honoured to be named to a team of lady curlers who represented Canada during an exciting tour of Scotland. I was also a delegate to the Boards of Ontario and .Canadian Ladies Curling.

One of my greatest thrills was to carry the Canadian Flag during to the Opening Ceremonies of the Canadian Championship.

In 1978, as we were about to move into a new home, our oldest child at age 16 died in a car accident .Needless to say I was distraught.

A friend suggested I take up rug hooking. Starting in 1980, I attended numerous

Schools in USA and Canada .I loved the craft and the people I met.

By 1990 after traveling great distances to school, I decided it was time to promote the Art in our area.

With much support from friends we formed the "Chantry School Of Rug Hooking.

A growing interest we found a permanent home at the Chantry Seniors Centre where I was very involved. This year we had plans to celebrate the 30th Anniversary in October— but not to be!

Over the past year, I met many interesting artists. We have had great teachers at the School and I referred to our attendees as a " Sisterhood Of Fibre Artists"



Lake Huron, South Hampton, Canada.



Sunflowers-punch needle 36" x26"

I was Newsletter Editor Of TIGHR for 3 years and during this time I met so many talented artists from Britain, New Zealand , Australia, Wales, Canada and U.S.A. and other Countries. Several visited me here in Canada to view the “ Memories Of Mother.” Show, of which I was co- Chair. Some of my work hangs in private homes and a large screen of flowers in St. Paul’s Church.

I have won several awards for my work, including Celebrations and other competitions. My daughter Barbara took up Hooking after marriage and has produced a large volume of work, she also quilts and sewed masks in great numbers for the Corona Virus 19 workers.

With my walls and floors covered in my home, I took an interest in Russian Punch needle and really love to create my own designs

Recently, to my great satisfaction, I have been sharing my knowledge of mat making with a gentleman ,who at age 80, decided he wanted to create 5 small mats for his grandsons. He has mats that his Grandmother Hooked .I expect he will accomplish his goal.

Since I am lucky to have a view of Lake Huron I am always creating the Sunsets. My husband Don passed away in Sept 2019, so now I am creating some pieces in his Memory for our Grandchildren.

Sybil Mercer...



Pink ladies in ice.

CANADA – New Brunswick – Mary Alexander

Rhubarb Relish

2 qt cut rhubarb (quart equals 1 litre in Australia)

1qt thinly sliced onions

1 pt vinegar

2 cups sugar

1 Tbsp salt

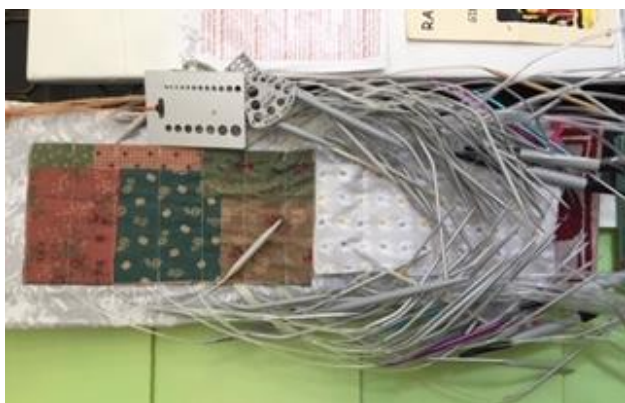
1 tsp each: ground clover, allspice, cinnamon and pepper

Cook together slowly until tender (about 1 hour). Pour into hot, sterilized jars; seal.

I like this relish with meat, or fish or with cream cheese and crackers.

QUEENSLAND – Kingaroy. Judith Brook.

All good here, still enjoying being at home. Lots of gardening and Making things.



My group are mainly knitting and crocheting at the moment.

Robyn Cobby has made this needle holder to keep them all organized. Just has to write on the sizes. Made with fat quarters.

Lynn England has been making some Covid Cosies. We'd been donated some squares so Robyn took these home and is working on this knee rug. We've sent a large parcel down for the Brisbane Needy, but forgot to take a photo.



Some of the places I volunteer are trying to re open but there are so many guidelines. Especially anything to do with council. 🙄🙄

I am starting on a rug for a friend.



I'm using the Punch needle, she wanted the galah and a sulphur crested cockatoo. Made a start yesterday and it is mostly French embroidery wools 🤗 which I collect from the Op shops. And have discovered I have a Huge Stash mixed with acrylic. Using the little stretcher frame, which is making it so easy.

Judith

NARRAWILLY PROGGY RUGGERS ZOOM MEETING 19TH JUNE 2020

Including our two Canadian members, Karen Kaiser and Susan Sutherland.



CANADA -Ontario -Northumberland Rug Hookers -Sent by Jennifer Wiber

There was much sadness in Nova Scotia, and throughout Canada, in the wake of the mass shooting this past April. A local hooker, Kathy Smith, was moved by a cartoon in the Halifax Herald and obtained permission from the artist, Bruce MacKinnon, to reproduce it in hooked form.

She then sent out word into the rug hooking community for others to interpret it, and for the resulting works to be given to family members of the victims. Northumberland's

Debbie Harris took up the call and produced this lovely mat. She completed it in less than a week





CANADA – Ontario Northumberland Rug Hookers –sent by Jennifer Wiber.

Since you're interested in how folks got started with their rug hooking, I thought I would send you something on Elda McLaren, a rug hooker from our community who died last year at 103. Here is a snippet from a tribute to her that was published in a recent edition of the Ontario Hooking Craft Guild newsletter:

Elda....retired to Brighton and a friend got her started with rug hooking. She headed to her cottage one summer, with burlap, wool and hooking equipment, along with a seed catalogue, and completed her first rug. She joined the local branch of the Northumberland Rug Hookers in the 1980's. A newspaper article celebrating her 101st birthday quotes her as saying, "I had always been interested in the art form because my mother and grandmother had made many rugs using old clothing strips on seed bags. I always wanted to try it. My mother would say, "My dear, you can't hook evenly." I have been trying for over 20 years now.

Ever humble, Elda's work was featured in a display of the work of local hookers at the Brighton Library in 2017. The breadth of her artistry is amazing. She once described the rug hooking process to a reporter, "It's relaxing, concentrating on blending colours and directing the design. A great field of creativity and expressionism. The best part is you meet interesting and intelligent women. You form friendships. I am privileged to have met many talented women."

Here's one of her (many) rugs:
Jennifer.



CANADA -SUMMER Cathy Kormourdjian**QUEENSLAND – Kingaroy** -Judith Brook.

Have finished the little mat,

made using mostly French embroidery wools (from the stash) and some acrylic, also using 2 different punch needles. The big one for tree and birds and small one for background. So it kind of has the Waldoboro effect. As I trimmed around the edges. 😊



Gene Shepherd sent me this and I have his permission to include it in my newsletter

This is a new post on Gene's Internet Rug Camp -
I asked Heather too, and she said, yes everyone will have a good laugh. Why are we all so embarrassed about ourselves?. I think Heather does not know how talented, original, and much loved she is. Miriam

AMERICA – California – Gene Shepherd

Miriam - I hope this note finds you doing well. We are fine ... but still bored about not being able to go anywhere. You would think I would have made dozens of rugs but somehow COVID-19 takes a lot out of us. I get done what I have too and then a little more.

I was supposed to be in England, Wales and Scotland right now on a 3 week trip with a bunch of fibre artists from all over the US. Since we were going to be in York for a few days, I had arranged for Heather Ritchie to come and do a little program for us one night. Of course, that all had to be cancelled. Even so, I decided I wasn't going to let the virus stop me and Zoomed a session with Heather over the weekend. We discussed her inspiration for rug making. I think you might enjoy it. You should be able to copy the address below in your browser and it ought to take you to the 48 min. video. Sorry to be so long but it is easy to spend a lot of time talking with Heather! I Gene Shepherd

Copy and paste this link in your browser.

<https://vimeo.com/internetrugcamp/review/433138939/46b10f4789>

PLEASE TELL ME IF ANY OF THIS INFORMATION IS NOT CORRECT.

Most groups have closed down due to Coronavirus, please check when starting again.

Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers will meet again on 3rd July.

CONTACTS

NEW SOUTH WALES

MILTON

Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers. Meet 1st and 3rd Fridays every month.

Contact Miriam Miller Email narrawillyfarm@shoal.net.au. Phone 02 4455 6870

Website www.shoal.net.au/~narrawilly/index.html

BRAIDWOOD

CONTACT Maggie Hickey. Email maggie.hickey@bigpond.com phone 0419 841 819

BELLINGEN, North Coast

Bellingen Rag Rug Group

Contact Maxine Keys at email baznmax@bigpond.com Phone 02 6655 0591

Group meets 1st Friday of the month from 10am until no set time.

BERMAGUI

Bermagui Rug Hookers. Contact Dawn Hollins at email pigeontree@live.com

[SYDNEY – EPPING](#) - Sydney Rugmakers - contact Martha Birch email marthabirch@gmail.com

Meet 2nd 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 Crescent, 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 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

South Australia

STRATHALBYN

Strath Matters. Meet 1st and 3rd 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 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

ALBANY - Anyone interested in Rug Making contact Kira Mead.

email - kira.goldmx@westnet.com.au

LANCELIN – Lancelin Sewing/Craft Circle meet every Tuesday at 9.30am at the Wangaree Centre Lancelin.

Queensland

KINGAROY

Red Earth Ruggers Meeting at 17 Fairview Drive, Kingaroy on 2nd Monday each month from 11th April Time 9-12

Contact Judith Brook at email judybrook@gmail.com

NORTH TAMBORINE The Happy Hookers North Tambourine

contact Bec Andersen email info@becandersen.com

The Sunshine Coast Rugcrafters . Meet: 2nd Friday and 3rd Tuesday of the month 2.30pm- 4.30pm at Judi's home studio "Palimpsest" in Landsborough. I will still have irregular "studio" on a Sunday and will email you the date if you are on my mailing list. If you are new to the group and would like more information and the residential address please contact Judi at: judi.tompkins@bigpond.com

TOOGOOLOWAH - BRISBANE VALLEY RAG RUGGERS.

Meet fortnightly at the Connection Point Hall in McConnell Park on Monday 1p.m. to around 4p.m. contact Carol Treloar phone 0439 290 076 or email Jeanette on dj.tarcoola@bigpond.com phone 0403 484 308

Tasmania

DELORAINÉ

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

HOBART Contact Emma Gunn at 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 Phone 0490065274

Joy Marshall email joy@canterburybaptist.org

Anne Schafer email a.schafer@bigpond.com

WODONGA- WANGARATTA-BENALLA

Bobby George – phone number 0357 662732

(Lone Rugger Seeking Same)

Email beeg3675@gmail.com