



# CONNECTING US

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

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

DECEMBER 2020 Number 59

## A COVID LOCKDOWN POEM *Author unknown*

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree  
 I'll sanitise the doorknob and make a cup of tea.  
 I won't go down to the sea again; I won't go out at all,  
 I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.  
 There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the north of Kathmandu  
 But I shan't be seeing him just yet and nor, I think will you.  
 While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay  
 I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.  
 I shall not speed my bonnie boat across the sea to Skye,  
 Or take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.  
 About the woodland, just right now, I am not free to go  
 To see the Keep Out posters or the cherry hung with snow.  
 And no, I won't be travelling much, within the realms of gold,  
 Or get me to Milford Haven. All that's been put on hold.  
 Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we are friends  
 Nor come within a mile of you, until this virus ends.

**CANADA. – Ontario – Susan Sutherland**

I thought you'd like to see my latest rug hooking items. They are called Jeanius purses and the idea comes from a rug hooking friend of mine, Wendie Scott Davis. We recycle the legs and pockets of jeans plus use whatever we can for the purse straps. I enjoyed designing and hooking all three of these and will have to think of more designs. I took a zoom workshop with Wendie and she showed us how to put them together. The one with the axes is for my great niece who goes to Acadia University in Nova Scotia. The axes are part of the Acadia mascot as is the red and black lumberjack colours. The middle one I designed from templates I have that I took from gears from the now defunct flax mill that used to be in the area where I live. The lining is a Kaffee Fassett cotton. The inuksuk is a Canadian Inuit icon and the colours in the background represent the Hudson Bay blankets. They were fun to make with not a lot of machine sewing in them

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Continued Susan Sutherland



You hook the flap separately on hessian or linen, whip three sides of it to finish it and then you hand stitch the top side to the back of the jean leg by hand. I sewed the denim pocket on by hand as it was cut off the back of the pair of jeans.

**ENGLAND – Yorkshire – Heather Ritchie.**

Google' Heather Ritchie's Guide to making Proddy Rugs' or 'Heather Ritchie's Guide to making Hooked Rugs' to watch Heather's video demonstrating rug making. It is lovely to be watching our friend and we can all pick up hints.

**CANADA – ONTARIO – Belleville – Karen Kaiser.**

Hi Miriam,

I have been making seasonal banners for my Welcome sign in front of my house.  
The summer one is the sunflowers, autumn is leaves and November is poppies.  
Christmas will be next, I will be busy creating ones for winter, Valentines Day etc.



This speech bubble was created to help feel better during the COVID lockdown



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**Continued Karen Kaiser**

**I finally finished my Australia, souvenir rug!**

The terra cotta colour and the vivid blue skies remind me of the warmth I experienced while there last year. The circles represent the strength of the Aussie character and the Cockatoo represents the wonderful wildlife that is abundant in the Australian landscape.

The bluish-green that runs through the word is the colour of the never-ending varieties of gum trees abundant in the landscape.

If you follow the dots  in the journey that Susan Sutherland and I took, you can see our meeting places began in Sydney where we met Martha Birch, a new rug hooker who is a successful gatherer of interested souls. Welcome to the wonderful world of rug Hooking!

We took the bus to Canberra where we stayed with Susan's dear friends, Bruce and Di Billings. They were wonderful hosts.

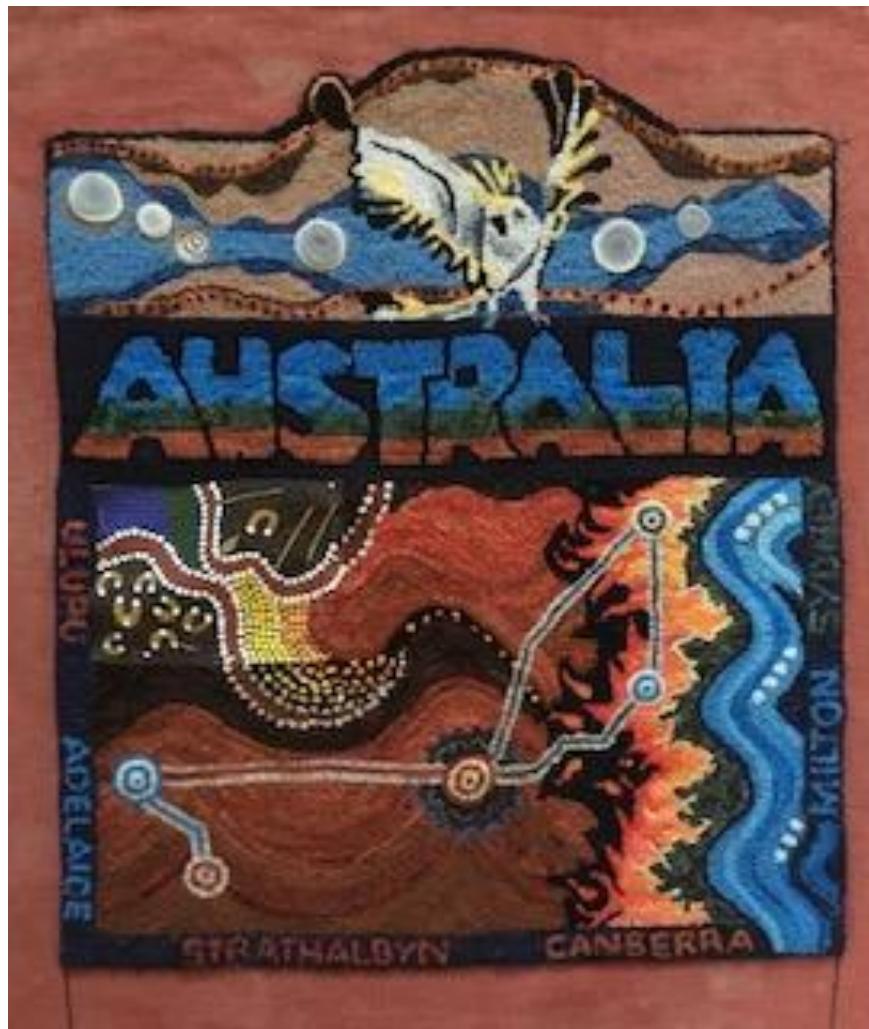
The galleries, Parliament House and shopping were more than amazing!

We met up with Maggie Whyte with whom we travelled to Adelaide and Strathalbyn, where we met up with Miriam Miller and Jacqui Thomson and many more lovely people at the rug hooking conference.

The most heartwarming visit was that in Milton where we stayed at Jacqui's place.

On our return home we experienced the anxiety of knowing how close the devastating fires came to our dear friends.

And of course, the ocean blue is forever near but wasn't near enough to erase the horrifying damage done by the fires.



CANADA- Medicine Hat. Arlette. In this time of lock down the view from Arlette's kitchen window.



#### NEW SOUTH WALES -MILTON

And in contrast a view  
from my living room.  
Miriam

AUSTRALIA - If you Google  
'rughookingaustralia' then  
click on Swap n Sell, you may  
be interested in what is for  
sale.

**AMERICA- New Hampshire Sally Gilbert**

Hi Miriam,

I am taking a short hiatus from hooking my son's story rug to work on hooking GILBERT in nautical flags. It was a fun, short project. The flags are hooked in a number 4 and background in a number 5. All hooked on primitive linen with 100% wool from my stash- although the background was hand dyed for me by a friend. It hangs above a doorway into my dining room. My one mistake is GILBERT should have been hooked brighter and larger.

Hope you are well and staying safe.



Sally

**CANADA – Nova Scotia -Donna Gass.**

I have decided to teach my Paisley class for rug school via zoom. The Rug Hooking Guild of Nova Scotia will have several classes available to our members. So May 2021 will be fun, but have to practice zoom to get it right!! Donna



## BERMUDA – Shina

Hello Miriam, these are my latest works. My voodoo doll (after this year everyone needs one!) and a piece of needlework called "zoo babies"



## NEW SOUTH WALES – Milton -Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers Meeting day 20<sup>th</sup> November.



Suzanne a new member starting her first piece.

Above Carol Flynn's start of a wallhanging.

**NEW SOUTH WALES, - Broulee – De Law.**  
Christmas gift.

Both sides of bag made by De for an early



### **QUEENSLAND -Landsborough -Judi Tompkins**



As I looked at this pot over time, I wondered if this “golden joinery” idea could be translated to fibre objects some way and decided to experiment on a fabric mache vase I made about 40 years ago that had begun to discolour, was uninteresting and I didn’t think I had anything to lose by changing it.

I wanted to cover the vase with Sari Silk but wasn’t sure if the silk sheen would remain once the paper mache glue dried....so I first covered a bamboo plate to see how the fabric would look once the glue had dried.  
Unlike the cold PM glue I used as a child the cooked  
[redacted]  
glue dried clear,  
allowing the fabric colours to show through.

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### Continued Judi Tompkins

Kira Mead (<https://www.facebook.com/AccidentalRugmaker>) from the Global Textile Hub (<https://www.facebook.com/GlobalTextileHub/>) produced the video for me about how I put this frustrating project together! So....Here's the link to "Cloth/Fibre Mache Kintsugi Vase" project [https://youtu.be/QsnX\\_zk8CWQ](https://youtu.be/QsnX_zk8CWQ)



Judi



### WESTERN AUSTRALIA -Jo Franco

Hello Miriam,

I'm getting in a little earlier this time - I thought you might like to have this article to go in your Dec newsletter - it talks about the very first International Rug Hooking Day and how this year rug hookers and rug hooking groups can participate by sending images and the descriptions of them, to Deb Smith at Rug Hooking Magazine who will add them to the RHM Facebook page as she has done in previous years.

Because a lot of groups won't be meeting this year on the 4th Dec due of the Covid19 restrictions, Deb told me they could send images taken at earlier Int'l Rughooking Days or just images from their groups - if possible she'd like them by the 28th Nov 2020.

Your readers won't see the article until 1st Dec when they receive your newsletter but that's OK it still gives them a few days to send something if they want to.

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## Continued Jo Franco

### The history of International Rug Hooking Day

In 2014 Susan Feller and Jo Franco were discussing 2014 being the 20th anniversary of the founding of TIGHR. Susan suggested they could pull off a virtual event to celebrate the founding because they, along with Judi Tompkins from Queensland, Australia, had worked together on the TIGHR website and Hooking Matters Newsletter which Susan took online during her term as President (2006-9)

Susan continued as Creator of the TIGHR website during Australia's term as TIGHR Host Country (2009-12) while Jo, TIGHR Editor and Judi, Webmaster for the Australian Rugmakers Guild also worked as admin on the TIGHR website. All three women held a strong belief in networking and reaching out to new rug hookers, to take rug hooking into contemporary textile art while preserving the traditions of the craft. Outreach being the Aim and one of the main Goals of The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers (TIGHR).

Susan and Jo authors of articles for Rug Hooking Magazine, had a connection with Rug Hooking Magazine Editor, Deborah Smith, and the two Australians met up with Deb in person at the 2012 TIGHR Triennial, in Strathalbyn, South Australia.

That first year 2014, through their connection with RHM, they coordinated a collection of events, images and postings about rug hooking which were shared on Rug Hooking Magazine's Facebook page. Because of their interest in networking, and with each other's support, they continued to build on this annual event using the Rug Hooking Magazine's Facebook page as a catch all for postings.

Now 6 years on .....

Jo and Judi with Global Textile Hub team member Kira Mead, have launched a successful pilot Mixed Media online exhibition in a virtual Gallery (2018), held an online Global Hook-in (2019) and in 2020 launched a Call for Entries to another exhibition in a virtual Gallery to Premier online August 2021 at Rug Hooking Week, Sauder Village.

Susan continues to support International Rug Hooking Day, in 2019 TIGHR's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, she posted four days in a row, Dec1-4 describing the history of rug hooking organizations (many celebrating important anniversaries), featuring different groups and personalities, and presenting the current projects on Dec 4.

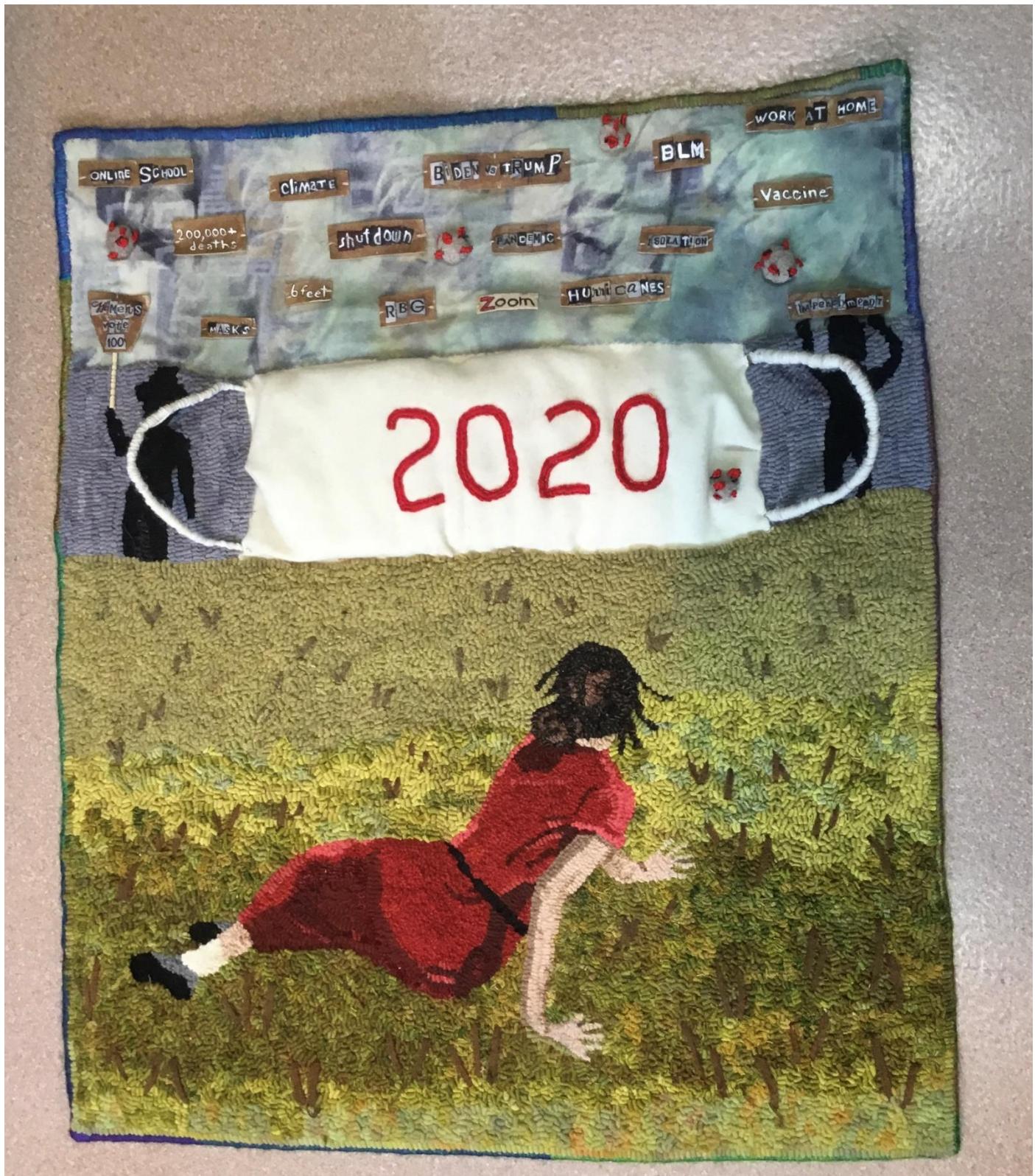
Rug Hooking Magazine now holds online programs bringing together rug hooking artists and instructors by way of online talks and workshops.

This year, 2020, RHM will again post on their RHM Facebook page, images, and descriptions from rug hookers around the globe. Please send to Editor Debra Smith at [dsmith@amprycp.com](mailto:dsmith@amprycp.com)

With Covid19 restrictions still in place in many areas – maybe you could revisit an image from a previous International Rug Hooking Day.

**AMERICA – Holly – Michele Wise.**

This pandemic rug is taken partly from a painting by Wyeth called Christine. I then made and stuffed a mask. I embroidered the 2020 on the wool. The straps are yarn covered wire. The words are made from the labels of ties. The background on top is from a silk tie I dyed. Some of the words I had to paint because the tie label letters were too small to read. I then whipped it with the yarn you make socks that has a bunch of colours in it.



## NEW SOUTH WALES -Cobargo – Lindsay Potter.

Lindsay watched her mother hook rugs for the floor in New Zealand, they did not have carpet and winters are cold. Lindsay's younger brother often cut the loops making them a proddy rug.

Years went by and Lindsay never forgot the rugs or how to make them, using recycled materials or remnants with a hessian or sack backing. Through much trial and error, she experimented making wall hangings and mats, eventually teaching the local ladies in Bermagui, Australia how to hook.

Lindsay has benefited from traveling and buying hooked pieces and books in New Zealand, America and Canada and uses a Joan Moshimer hook.

Lindsay's subject matter is gleaned from nature, politics and antiquarian books.

**Below two nearly finished pieces of Lindsay's work.**



**'Nostalgic Curtains with an 1800 s twist'**

The idea for this latest unfinished work is from 'The Girls Own Annual'. It was a small black and white sketch of a pattern for the edge of curtains to be embroidered. Circa 1886. I have taken liberties.

**The Koala piece**

The year 2020 has been a bit of a shock, first the bush fires, then the COVID virus. The Australian landscape is built on years of erosion and in plenty of parts it is dry and delicate. With climate change and land developers the koala habitat is under threat, hence the idea to portray a koala in the wild. And yes, they come in various colours.

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Continued Lindsay Potter



'What in the World' (2017) was inspired by the decline (as I viewed it) of decency in world governments. Rising sea levels, corruption, and the ever increasing gap between rich and poor made me anxious and angry.

**NEW SOUTH WALES- Sydney**      Jill Yates

This is my latest rug. I still have not purchased any fabrics, just trying to get the stash down!



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Continued Jill Yates



It seems so early to be doing it, but I send warm wishes to everyone, that they may be able to have Christmas with their family or friends in this time of global disruption.

Good Health and plenty ruggng ideas and enthusiasm for 2021.

May many of us soon be able to meet again. Miriam

## MARIEKE SNELLEMAN

I have a Nancy's Knit Knacks heavy duty wool winder plus powerbase available for sale. They're in great shape and come complete with accessories (including new rings and belts etc). Is there a way I could offer this to the rugmakers here in Australia? The wool winder is currently sold out on their website but the entire set up retails for \$1200 AUD (excl. shipping, import and GST cost). I'd like to sell it for \$800.

Thank you, Marieke Snelleman



THE END

