



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

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

April 2021 Number 63

AMERICA – Sally Gilbert

Long before COVID 19, I was always reminding my twin grandchildren to wash their hands. I was putting a small package together to send to them for Valentines Day and thought about my own refrain. I had a remnant of linen and lots of wool worms left in my stash so I drew my hand, pulled together colourful worms and in a few hours hooked this message. My 15 year old twin granddaughter quickly claimed it as hers to take to college. For the time being, it hangs in her bathroom. It is hooked in a number 6 and I included a small piece of eyelash yarn for the bling on the ring.



QUEENSLAND Kingaroy – Judith Brook

Garden Angel.



Sorry it is sideways to fit in.

Miriam

NEW SOUTH WALES – Milton – Narrawilly Proggy Rugers 5th March. 2021



Left Jacqui with Trauma Teddy, made for Ambulance officers to give to sick children.

Above Bag made by Janet Walker for theme of Milton Show
“Pigs Pumpkins and Ponies.”

QUEENSLAND – Annette White

After a day at Judi's, as usual we go home with more than we came with. I found some -it seems - Harrison tweed pieces, which I already put to good use. My son and his wife in Canberra bought themselves a second

hand set of retro dining furniture, probably sixties, and asked if I could make a couple of coiled seat pads to match the colours. I just finished one, and Judi's material matched perfectly as a backing, very happy with the outcome. I get quite a bit of work done during summer tennis on television, setting up the ironing board as workstation.



QUEENSLAND – Allora – Yvonne Hore

Yvonne sent me some comments about her rug which was in the March Newsletter.

"The runner is on hessian base, and I used all scrap pieces from past projects, such as clothing, patchwork, and other rugs. The materials include wool, cotton, silk, stretch and non stretch fabrics. I thought it would suit the old house in which I live"

I THOUGHT THIS MAY INTEREST SOME PEOPLE.

Koala News. Since the bushfires it has been in the news about the plight of Koalas. Their habitat is being destroyed by clearing for housing and lately the bushfires. I wrote to a Koala Protection Society about trees we can plant to help. And I am printing their replies to my emails.

I thought this may interest some people, and you can check out the lists of trees suitable in your area, below.

[\(click on the first website\)](#)

Hi Miriam,

I could send you a list of the preferred koala food trees for Ipswich but, as you've rightly guessed, these are quite different to those eaten even by koalas on the coast like Redlands and Brisbane or elsewhere.

As koalas inherit from their mothers all the gut flora that actually digest the leaves, these organisms are change from location to location, meaning some translocated koalas can even have difficulty eating the trees in a new location.

There are extensive lists available of food tree species, attached is one I found for NSW

<https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/-/media/epa/corporate-site/resources/pnf/07361koalahabitat.pdf>

There is also lots of koala information on both the Federal and NSW government websites if you are interested.

<https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/koala>

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/native-animals/native-animal-facts/koala>

I am not aware of specific koala groups in NSW, but I would suggest the Port Macquarie Koala hospital is a really good place to start. The folks there are all highly knowledgeable and dedicated. <https://www.koalahospital.org.au/>

Kind Regards Rebecca

Rebecca Larkin A/Secretary Ipswich Koala Protection Society 110 Brass Road

Mount Forbes QLD 4340 ikps@outlook.com.au

another email. In answer to my reply.

It is complicated! But thank you for being interested and passing the information on. It is people like you taking the time which will make the difference and ensure we keep our koalas and their habitat into the future. Planting the right trees really works and you do not have to wait decades for koalas to move in and use them, if you are connected to existing habitat where there are already large trees they can use as shelter.

IKPS planted 100s of trees 10 years ago on the property where our clinic is located, neighbouring mature ironbarks with resident koalas. Last year during the terrible drought three mothers with joeys and several males moved in and out many times to browse on the young trees. It was fantastic and we believe helped sustain these koalas through the months of dry.

So all the best - and let's plant trees!

Kind Regards

Rebecca

Koala, and gum leaves, hooked by members of the Old Forge Rug hooking Group in Ottawa many years ago. Part of a larger piece including a beaver and maple leaves and given to Jacqui and I when we visited.



QUEENSLAND Mt Tambourine **Bec Anderson**



Please look up facebook.com/TheHappyHookers to find out more about Bec's workshops and meetings and go to info@becanderson.com to contact Bec. Anyone feeling like travelling and to take part in anything with Bec, she also has airb&B accommodation.

NEW SOUTH WALES **Julia Hirbli**



Hi Miriam just wanted to let you know I've completed my first piece. It's an original design onto a pre made burlap frame (21cms/21cms), using only pure wool yarn (mostly 8ply but some 4, 12), using the 6mm hook I bought from you. Thanks again.
Julia

NEW SOUTH WALES. Wollongong – Fiona McKay

Meet WOWZILLA, a found-by-the-roadside chair that I yarn bombed for the Circus WOW 20th Anniversary exhibition at Wollongong Art Gallery. Circus WOW is the Women of Wollongong's community circus. The invitation was to do a 'recycled chair' to put in the small room where footage of past performances and shows can be viewed. A friend from WOW gave me a whole lot of vintage rug wool unearthed when she was clearing out her mother's house, which was wonderful. The bombing grew from feet up, changing as things happened - or didn't quite go the way I thought they would. It helped keep my sanity through Covid challenges, and as we cleared our house of 32 years getting ready to move, then moved.



WOWZILLA Front



WOWZILLA Back.

Jokes from Fiona.

Why don't ants get corona virus? Because they have little anti bodies.

This is a website that may interest – even has a different proggy rug. also from Fiona. .

<https://thesewcialists.com/2021/02/15/zero-waste-sewing-scrabbusting-to-achieve-minimal-waste/>

Canada – Alberta – Arlette Spencer

Hello Miriam,

I recently took part in a Zoom class put on by our Prairie Harvest Rug Hooking School, from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. It was Miniatures, with instructor Laurie Wiles. It worked very well.

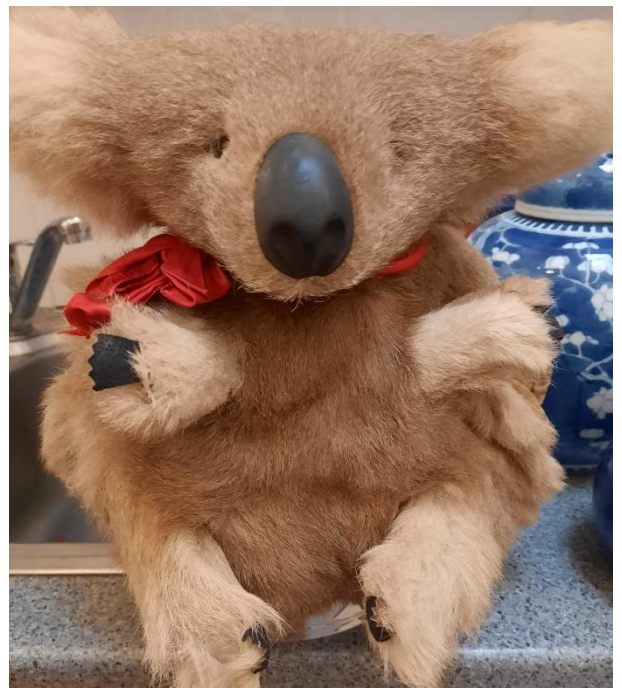
These are my efforts. On the left, is the smallest at about 2" X 3". It is Fall Colours from my Kitchen Window. The right one is 5" X 7". It is the present day site of The Brickyard near Kenmare, North Dakota, USA. Both my great-grandparents worked here before his untimely death in 1910. If you look hard, you will see two trees just off centre above the pond to commemorate them.

The miniatures were exciting to do as you could finish them more quickly. I learned that it would be best to have a strong focal point, preferably with a curving road or river leading up to it. Another point was that what is listed as a 5" X 7" mat is really 4 1/2" X 6".

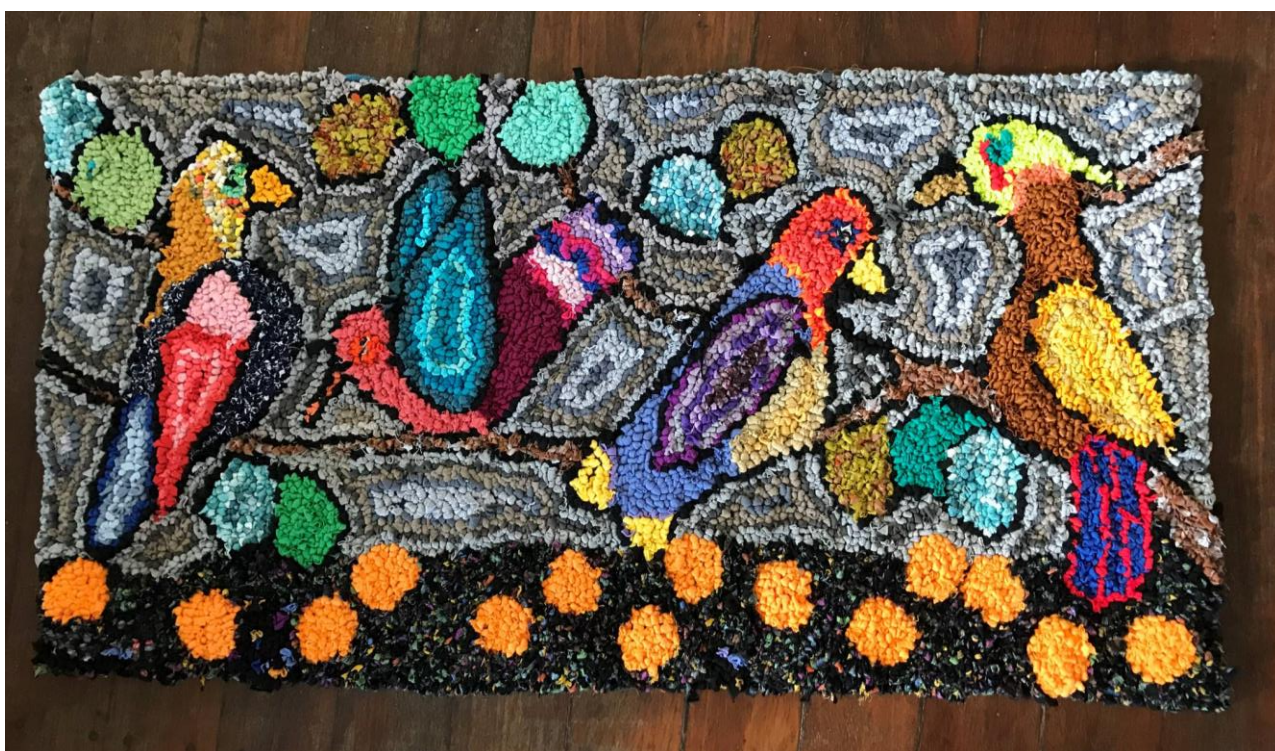


NEW SOUTH WALES Wollongong –

I promised to send you a photo of Gummy Joe to go with your information on koalas. Attached. Gummy Joe is a vintage tea cosy we found years ago and bought for our daughter. He's made from kangaroo fur. I've sent you a photo I had, which doesn't show him off on a teapot Fiona, Mckay.



QUEENSLAND Mt.Glorious. Cynthia Nicklin As you can see I have been influenced by the Mayan rugs

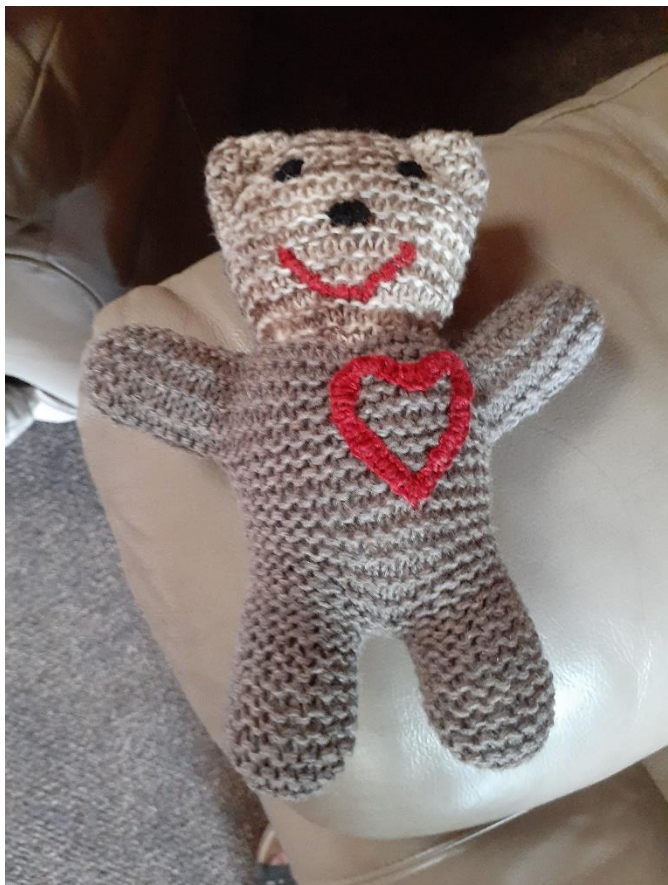


NEW SOUTH WALES Eden – Miriam

Jacqui Thomson and I joined 17 other Spinners for a Weekend Retreat at Edrom Lodge on Twofold bay, 17 kms south of Eden. This beautiful old house was built in 1912, and has its own private beach and is miles from anywhere. We sat on the wide verandahs and were spinning, talking, eating, sharing and generally enjoying each others company, besides, walks, and swims for some.



We were asked to knit little teddies for the Eden ambulance to give to children who are distressed. And there was a big response. Here is a photo. We were given the pattern but the sizes varied.



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Close up two of the teddies



Spinning and knitting on the verandah



View from the verandah



Left testing
the water

Right
relaxing
with knitting



CANADA Nova Scotia – Cindy Noble.

Janet Boates hooked these two lovely pieces. Joan's design for Easter



Donna demonstrating the different stitches.

Donna Gass is teaching us 14 different stitches to use in rug hooking designs. We have learned 5 as you can see on my turtle design. After a couple more months, as we get together once a month, we will have most of the stitches learned to try in future projects. The cat is an example of a finished design. I will send you the names of the different stitches, once we get more completed.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA. Strathalbyn

Rug-making inspiration from Angela and Yvonne.

Angela has completed a hooked a whimsical picture of houses, in rug wools.



Yvonne (below) is creating a series of wall panels with a variety of fabrics and mixed techniques including punch needle work proggy and couching.



Strathalbyn

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Strathalbyn continued



CANADA Nova scotia Cindy Noble. -(Sorry another one sideways to get it larger and fit the space.)

Joan Macfarlane's finished beautiful Easter piece.





NEW SOUTH
WALES

Milton Dianne Gee

This is a watercolour painting by artist Dianne of the Autumn leaves and birds on my grapevines.

NEW SOUTH WALES

MILTON



Progress on the
wall hanging

Miriam

VIRUS NEWS. - FRANCE – Joanna Romney 12th March.2021

France is behind with the vaccination program compared to the UK and many people say they won't have it. I will have it as soon as I can, it seems the only way out of this situation. We have a curfew 6 pm to 6am (exemptions for some work) and can't meet up with more than 6 people .Schools and shops are still open but nothing else ,no restaurants ,cinema etc .We can't go to the UK and are advised not to visit other European countries. Some big towns are back under lock down, so only food shops are open, Joanna

WALES – Deborah Barry

Meanwhile over here we are still in lockdown and Boris Johnson is talking about extending the travel ban to July! If we travel now we will be subject to £5,000 fine as it is illegal to travel abroad.

ENGLAND Yorkshire– Heather Ritchie.

The government are terrifying the public into staying at home with high fines if not obeyed. £500 fine if out driving without proof of a necessary journey. Sick to death of it all now.

ENGLAND – Nottingham – Pricilla Cameron.

I finally finished my geometric rug last week and have it down in my studio I have been working on it for over a year but it did spend 6 months without a loop being pulled. I used up lots of strips from other projects mostly hand dyed it is 65"x65" I have attached a picture of it.



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Continued Pricilla



I have done some smaller projects too I have attached a picture of Red Landscape 8"x8" and hooked with hand dyed yarn.

Proddy Landscape 8"x8" . This was made using proddy pieces I had left over from other projects .



How we all manage

My Oxtou group haven't met since last back end, but we do a Zoom chat each week so it's good to keep in touch with them... If all goes well, we should be able to start the class again mid May. When we met last year, we did it on a rota only 3 people each week so we could all keep well apart. Cilla.

ENGLAND – Hastings -Jayne

Hi Miriam

Random request, but wondered if you might know someone in UK who might be interested in this lace makers stand?

Jayne

contact jaynewatkins59@gmail.com

THE END



