

CONNECTING US

NARRAWILLY November 2022

NUMBER 82

--AMERICA -- New Hampshire-Sally Gilbert



This is a mola pattern called Herons and Fish by Norma Batastini adapted by Sally Gilbert. I colour planned this with the help of Lisanne Miller of Cushing and Co in Wells, Maine. This is hooked on linen with a number 4&6 and using all new wool. The final dimensions are 25x 18.

This Fall it will be gifted to my daughter.
Sally

JOKE

A wealthy lawyer walks past him. "Pardon me, sir, but do you have any spare change?"

The lawyer looks annoyed, and turns to him. "No, no I don't. I don't believe in giving handouts to bums. But I tell you what," he said, handing him a business card, "if you come to my house tomorrow morning, I will pay you to do some chores around my house." The homeless man agrees.

Sure enough, right on time, the homeless man knocks on the lawyer's door. "OK," said the lawyer, "your first chore is go take these two cans of brown paint and this brush, and go out back and paint my porch." "Sure thing," replies the homeless man.

A few hours pass, and the homeless man knocks on the lawyer's door again. "All done," says the homeless man. The lawyer is a bit surprised he is done so fast, but he gives him \$50. "There," the lawyer says, "doesn't it feel better to work for an honest buck painting a porch instead of begging for it on the street?"

"Well, I suppose," sighs the homeless man. "By the way, that isn't a Porche, it's a Ferrari."



AUSTRALIA -
N.S.W.

Chatswood.

Margaret Meehan

Two photos of
Margaret's

Macrame.



Correction to last month's
article by Marama Warren on
Pigments.

Unfortunately, the first of the links
has a typo –

This is the edited version and
works [https://www.janmurphyga
llery.com.au/artist/lara-merrett/](https://www.janmurphygallery.com.au/artist/lara-merrett/)

Lara has some interesting videos
on her website – you can see them
here [https://www.janmurphygalle
ry.com.au/artist/lara-
merrett/videos/](https://www.janmurphygallery.com.au/artist/lara-merrett/videos/)

AUSTRALIA -QUEENSLAND- Kingaroy. Judith brook



Soap toppers and various experimental cold process



Green Tea and Lemongrass soap. Smells delicious.



Forest floor Soaps. People are intrigued. It's even made with all the good things



'Sunflowers' this in from Natures Basket exhibition.

CANADA – New Brunswick. Mary Alexander

I sent you a picture of the brooches I just made for Halloween. It is fun to make these and give them to friends.

Will forward a picture of a maple tree. It will likely have lost its leaves by now. There are so many beautiful fall colours but I usually do not have my camera handy when I want to share pictures of these.

I read the following describing our October:

"Welcome to New Brunswick Winter is at 6 am Spring starts at 10 am Summer is at 2 pm and Fall starts around 4:30 ish."

This is a good description of our weather at this time of year. We are busy getting ready for the colder months and enjoying the lovely Fall weather and colours.



CANADA – Newfoundland – Gander Yvonne Wareham

"Mummers" Ornament for the Christmas tree.

Mummers come out for the 12 days of Christmas.

Designed and hooked by Yvonne.

CANADA – Newfoundland Gander. Patricia Parsons

I finished my little pumpkin rug for my nieces' little boy Ben - he loves the colour orange.

CANADA – ONTARIO. Susan Sutherland

I am including a link of a Youtube video of me being interviewed by Robin Whitford. Robin is an up and coming rug hooker with a really interesting rug hooking business. I know you would like her very much as she believes that we should be using whatever fibre we can get our hands on to pull loops. She's all about creativity, having fun and bringing people together. She's started a series of Youtube videos called 'Rugspirations'. She poses the same questions to each person she interviews. I am the third person she's interviewed and she just posted it on Youtube. I am pleased as to how it turned out.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQ_sK1gUhGw

AUSTRALIA – New South Wales. – Milton Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers

The Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers were one of many organizations who took part in a Community Event showcasing organizations in our district, and how the community has recovered after drought, bushfires, and floods.

ENGLAND – YORKSHIRE Reeth**Reeth Rug Retreat 2023 September 13th 14th 15th**

Save the dates the brochure and bookings will open in January 2023. There is a change to days next year it will be mid-week rather than a weekend. Cilla Cameron.

AUSTRALIA. New South Wales. – Sydney. Martha Birch

I won 1st Prize for my pieced quilt and it also won the Award for Best Traditional Quilt in the QuiltNSW show this weekend. The quilt is called Harvest Sun and was made using recycled kimono silks. Cheers Martha.



AUSTRALIA, New South Wales Rags to Rugs Group Epping

10:17



Martha's post



Here are the projects worked on at our October meeting. [Heather McCann](#) is making progress on her cat tribute, [Cathie Griffith](#) is working on the sky behind her chooks (and was welcomed back after her craft injury), [Theresa Reynolds](#) returned after her trip to visit family and is working on a colourful circle, destined for perhaps a cushion. [Jacqueline Curry](#) was experimenting on techniques to show her Rug Hooking Students, and I am making steady progress on my proggy Hungry Caterpillar rug. It was a very happy gathering!



AUSTRALIA Victoria. Chris Noorbergen

I have been knitting a cable and lace shawlette, which I just finished and has been blocked. It was knitted with some very soft Alpaca, and 2ply silver-grey yarn given to me by Robyne from the YV rugmakers in Vic. I plied them together to make about a 6 ply, which I then knitted up. The pattern is a free Ravelry pattern and called the Croeso Shawlette if anyone is interested, but be warned, at the widest point, which is the rounded bottom, there are 450 sts, so it took me a long time to finish it. Some days I only did one row, for I was forever counting sts. Anyhow its done. It beautiful and soft. I am very happy with it.



AUSTRALIA. South Australia. Chris Chittleborough



This rug is made similarly to those, that my mother and grandmother's family made during the depression and thirties in Yorkshire.

It is a proddy hearth rug made from woollen fabric strips and off cuts which have been cut with diagonal points.

Mum said all the family would be involved. She recounted cutting up old clothes and offcuts and winding the fabric around a match box to cut/trim to a consistent length! Grandma would have drawn the design on the back of a flour bag. Her siblings would all help out, cutting the fabric and poking the fabric through the backing. When finished the rug would sit in front of the fire and I believe was replaced with another handcrafted rug annually.

Mine is in the same ilk. The black woollen fabric is largely a black suit and the hot pink an old woollen dressing gown with the other wool fabric colours being sourced from woollen fabric offcuts. I haven't tried using the matchbox yet to get the length. Mine are cut with the rotary cutter! Chris.



AUSTRALIA NEW SOUTH
WALES

Sydney

This is the rug Cathie Griffith is working on, I showed only part of the sky on page 8

CANADA – Tanya Knodel

I finished a series of Chinese New Year Rugs which I am making for 11 years (2014 - 2024), one rug a year. Each year the Chinese calendar has the name of a different animal. Every 12 years the names are repeated. I made these rugs as a New Year present for my daughter. You can find more information about Chinese New Rugs on my website: Tatiana's Fibre Art. Size 11 x 17 inches.



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Continued tanya knodel



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Continued Tanya Knodel



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All Chinese New Year Rugs are based on my design. The theme is mother and daughter except for the Bull and the Rooster - father and daughter. Tanya Continued next page

Continued Tanya.

My acquaintance with the Chinese calendar began in the 1980s when many of my friends began to declare themselves as Tigers or Snakes and put on New Year's Eve clothes of the appropriate color.

At that time very few people knew that the New Year in China is celebrated not on January 1, but on the second new moon after the winter solstice, which falls in the interval between January 21 and February 21.

There are many legends, why, every year in the Chinese calendar has the name of an animal. Every 12 years the names are repeated.

Here is one of the legends:

One day, the Buddha invited all the animals that inhabit the earth for the New Year. Those who came first to congratulate him and express their respect, he promised to give a whole year, which will henceforth be called by their names. The mouse was ahead of all. Behind her came a bull, then a tiger, a cat, a dragon, a snake, a horse, a sheep, a monkey, a rooster, and a dog. The pig came twelfth. Having taken possession of his own year, each animal seemed to give the typical features of his character to anyone who was born in his year.

In Russia it is very popular at the time of the New Year to buy ceramic statues that represent the animals in the Chinese calendar. My daughter missed that when she was in Canada for the New Year. In 2012 I decided to make a rug with snakes on it for 2013. Because I am very close with my daughter the idea to put a mother snake with a baby snake came to me.

The first rug was very simple. Just the snakes with geometric design did the job. My daughter was so excited when she got the New Year present that I made rugs for the next six years. All the rugs are 11" x 17". Each year the designs became more complicated. The horses were shaded, for the sheep I used over hooking technique to accomplish a curly effect for the coat. The monkey and the rooster with his chick were sculpted. For the dogs I used fancy yarn. The backgrounds evolved too, from simple in snakes to more complicated and sophisticated in sheep, rooster, and dogs.

The first rug with snakes needed something on the right upper corner for balance. So I added the Chinese characters for Happiness. The characters for the horses are Good Luck and Love, for the Sheep – Beauty, for the monkeys – Harmony, for the rooster with his chick – Family, for the dogs – Excitement.

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND – Jennifer Walton.



About 5 years ago I bought a floor rug. The lady I bought it from was called 'Robyn Anderson' she had a market stall at the Tolga Markets in the Atherton Tablelands. The rug feels absolutely lovely under bare feet.

The floor rug is hand spun, hand woven, hand dyed from eucalyptus leaves using pure 'Romney wool'. It's approximately 30cm x 130cms not including fringe & it looks like it's woven through hessian. Her stall was full of beautiful handmade goods using all natural fibres.

Jennifer

CANADA -NEWFOUNDLAND Patricia Parsons

News from Canada .

Central Newfoundland, as well as most of the rest of our beautiful province, has hit record temperatures and hours of sunshine for the most of October - unheard of here, as we are often hit with high winds and sloppy snow this time of the year. Everyone is taking full advantage of the autumnal skies by walking extra to enjoy the fall foliage - such inspiration for the colours one can incorporate into rugs reflecting this time of the year- golden yellow birches, blazing red maples and bright orange junipers. Last summer I visited the small fishing village of Conche, on the Great Northern Peninsula part of our island.

I wanted to meet long lost cousins, but also tour the French Shore Interpretation Centre- which is world known for its beautiful 227 foot long tapestry, which depicts the history of the French Shore. I am proud to say my cousin Joan Simminds was very much involved in the making of this French Bayeux tapestry. She showed strong local leadership,

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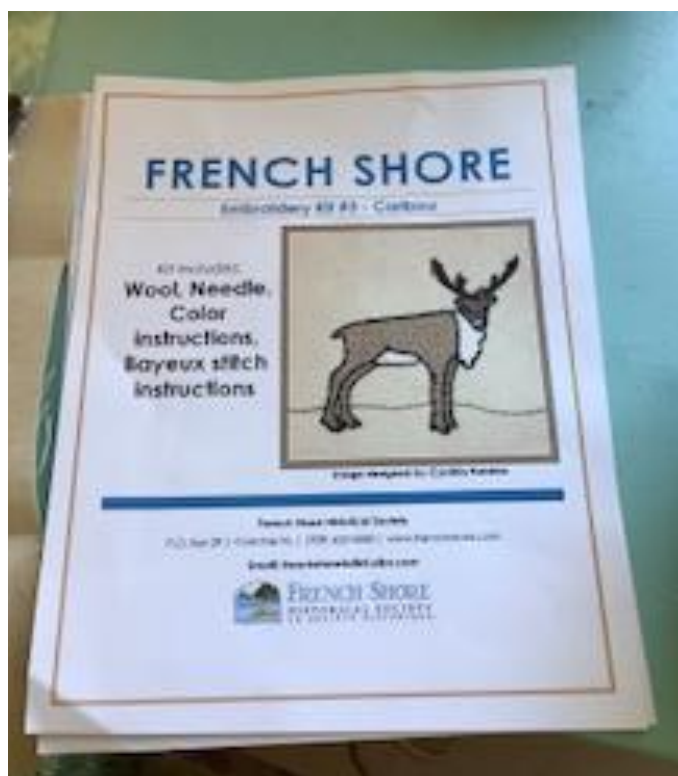
under the direction of French artist Jean Claude Roy, encouraging all the talented local ladies (knitters, weavers, rug hookers and quilters) to get involved and work on the Tapestry. Anyone interested in reading more can just Google "**French Shore Tapestry Conche**: and there's beautiful photos, videos and information on the whole Project. If you ever get to visit the island, you will want to put this place on your "Must See" list.

Meanwhile, I enclose a photo of a village scene in the Bayeux Stitch Method (done by Joan Simmonds), which I

purchased at the Museum Gift Shop; as well as a photo, of an example of the type of kits you can buy and stitch yourself- instructions, very tiny threads, design and tight backing.

Happy Hooking Everyone. Hope this note finds you all in good health and spirits!

Patricia Parsons, Gander, Newfoundland



In the following article from Jo, to look up the websites you will need to type them in Google if you cannot click and see.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA – Wanneroo: Jo Franco

The Wanneroo Rugmakers in Western Australia meet at the library every Saturday morning from 10am to 1pm. The library provides our meeting space free of charge and in return the group members welcome questions and show interested members of the community how to do the various rugmaking techniques. Keeps it simple – no registration or fees.



There is a core group who come every week while others come when they can. We quite often have visitors, library patrons, who stop to see what we're doing and people from further afield who have heard about us and want to find out more about rug making.



We have been meeting at the Library for 12 years and have worked on a community project each year as well as bringing in our own projects for "show & tell" and... help.

Not all group members are solely rug hookers, some knit, sew, crochet, weave, felt or make lace. All are happy to share information about their various techniques.

For the last 7 years the Group has submitted beanies (hooked, crocheted & knitted) to the Alice Springs Beanie Festival. Anna is wearing one of the beanies she crochets from YouTube; the complicated instructions are in Russian which she doesn't speak! Spanish, not English is not her mother tongue. Anna is a prolific rugmaker... here are some of her rugs mad this year.



Continued: Western Australia— Wanneroo Rugmakers - Jo Franco

Currently two community projects are under way; one is a series of hooked & proggy tiles depicting aboriginal symbols provided to us by a local indigenous storyteller. When these tiles are finished, they will be used in the children's section of the library by the storyteller. The children will also be able to create their own stories, as the explanation of symbols will be on the back of each tile. The symbols are being hooked by group members, and the proggy surrounds can be worked on by anyone joining us who wants to learn. These small proggy sections are easy to handle without a frame and the simple technique is a good way for anyone interested in learning the craft to start out.



The 2nd group project is from outside the area. It's a rug making project called "Reclaim the Void". Started by a textile artist in the south of Western Australia - it's gone "global"! You can read all about it here... <https://www.reclaimthevoid.com.au/>

Our involvement began a couple of years ago when I was asked to write a letter of support for their grant application. I've followed their progress and have shared their posts on ARG's Facebook page. Now there are groups taking part from across Australia and overseas - from Mallacoota, far East Gippsland, Victoria; Toowoomba, Queensland; Cooeee Art gallery in Sydney, NSW; Oakland, Illinois, USA with more, showing up on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/reclaimthevoid/>



(Right) is "Persephone" our group's hooked mascot (2016 group project) with one of the batches of our hoop rugs and (left) Trish who is an avid "hoop rug" maker.



Continued: Western Australia - Wanneroo Rugmakers - Jo Franco

The group's most recent visitors wanted information on the punch needle technique.

My #9 Oxford punch needle, purchased from Amy Oxford many years ago on one of my trips to the USA, has never been used, so some research was necessary. Fortunately Amy has clear and instructive "how to" videos on YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLQMFC8ip_0&t=266s

In Australia (QLD) Bec Andersen sells supplies, and teaches punch needle hooking as it's done in the USA. <https://www.becandersen.com/shop/frames>

There is also a supplier in Melbourne selling kits that include small frames pre-stretched with linen.

Traditionally the design for punch needle is worked from the back so the finished project on these pre-stretched frames shows the flat "tension" instead of the loops and our visitors liked the "flat" look.

I guess this is just another instance of things in Australia being the opposite to the Northern hemisphere!



Jellybeans

Playful and delicious! Handmade, designed and produced in Australia.

Kit includes:

- Full colour patterns, tips and tricks
- Australian merino wool
- Foundation Cloth stretched on a frame ready to punch

Finished size is 35cm x 30cm

Foundation cloth - choose from monks cloth or premium linen. For beginners, we recommend monks cloth which is more forgiving for any mistakes.

Optional extras:

- Oxford Punch Needle (#12) in a storage bag, complete with our 12-page Beginner Punch Needle Guide

To have-a-go, we sourced some inexpensive hessian covered frames (2 for \$7) and I created a frame support that elevated the stretched hessian frame and prevented the punch needle from hitting the table. I used a piece of dense foam, (\$3.50) cut in two. It also kept the framed Hessian from slipping on the table. You can buy cheap punch needle kits locally, shown here, but the hoop does not keep the backing as tight. Using the makeshift frame/support is an inexpensive way for newbies to start a punch needle project. Here is an example of our first attempt and an inexpensive kit purchased locally.



The work area between the foam supports can quickly & easily be adjusted without grippers causing a problem.



It's been an interesting exercise experimenting with punch needle hooking with wool yarn, sari silk and other fabrics. I've discovered the process is much easier using wool yarn from the ball rather than strips of flimsy fabric. A ball of 100% wool yarn (reject from a carpet factory) and a selection of fabric off-cuts was used for this test piece — it was not colour planned, I used bits & pieces of what was at hand to demonstrate the technique.

THE END