

CONNECTING US

NARRAWILLY DECEMBER 2022 NUMBER 83

compiled by Miriam Miller

AUSTRALIA QUEENSLAND Kingaroy. Judith continues with her soap making



Watermelon soaps 😊😊



Experiment With sunset by the sea.

CANADA -Winnie Glavine

I'm not sure if you've ever received this link for your newsletter but I thought it might be a good idea. All of the mats listed here were hooked previous 1995 and many during the late 1800's and early 1900's. Winnie.

<https://rhgnl.ca/rhgnl-rug-registry/>

Vale Heather Ritchie. So very sad to report our dear friend and inspiration in the rugging world Heather died on 18th November

The Funeral Service will be held in the Church of Saint Andrew, Grinton on 7th December

AUSTRALIA – QUEENSLAND – Meg's grandchild's first birthday cake.



CANADA NOVA SCOTIA -Cathy Lowe

. These are all from an exhibit display and demonstration I did for SOFAR, Society of Fibre Artists of Annapolis River.

>> Made up of 3D embroidery, stump work and button embroidery, all fun. The little lass is my great granddaughter, she was so proud to find my entry in the local exhibition. Cathy Lowe

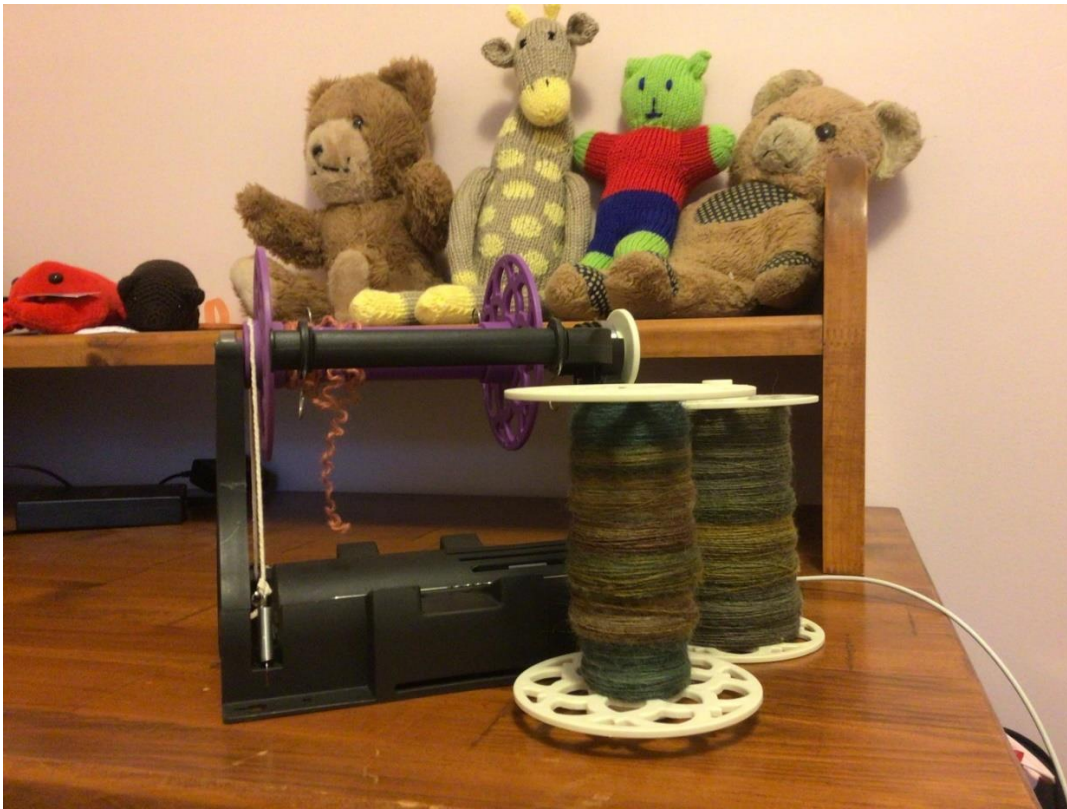


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AUSTRALIA NEW SOUTH WALES. Googong Cristina Codina



Here is the finished wrap I was working on at the Murramarang retreat. It's a Merino/silk blend, plied with a commercial wool and crocheted Corner to Corner (C2C). It was a "new" way to crochet for me and I'm very pleased with the result. I am presently visiting my daughter in Indiana and brought along my little spinner and some fibre to keep my hand in Kind regards Cris.

AUSTRALIA – New South Wales Milton Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers.



Friday 4th November. A regular meeting day for Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers.

We were delighted to welcome Bec Andersen from Mt. Tamborine Queensland.

Here is all Bec's information.

Bec Andersen Textile Artist and Community Artist. Design and Production of Hand tufted Rugs

from 100% Wool, Hand dyed specializing in Natural Dyes.

Creative workshops and Gatherings.

Rug Making Supplies. Ph: 0438 147 352

www.becandersen.com

info@becandersen.com

facebook.com/RugmakingAustralia

□ We had our usual day of chat and sharing ideas, plus a lovely lunch, which we all bring and share.

Above Elaine and Bev, right Marilyn and Miriam, and below Miriam and Bec



Continued

Continued Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers.

Below Bev's nearly finished rug and right view outside rug room.



Rug made by Alana.

CANADA – Newfoundland -Patricia Parsons



- This beautiful Geometric Hit & Miss Mat was hooked by my friend Carol Bishop of Toronto, this past summer, as we were hanging out in her cottage at Eastport. Carol is gone back home to the big city now for the winter, and we are both missing our weekly hooking and cups of tea. I love the colours here in this mat- and doesn't it look like the hooked Navy diamonds are just hovering over the Rug? She worked hard to finish this and it will be a nice addition to her traditional salt box home here on the island.

CANADA ONTARIO – Susan Sutherland.

I am sending 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. 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

Here is the link to all the videos : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-ilO4YQYyFmcLw3eb6Vyig>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkkQQ1w5gYQ> and this is the link to my interview. Miriam

JAPAN

Fumiyo sent this information-

The 31st exhibition is over and you could see it on YouTube and from <https://rughooking234.com>

AUSTRALIA New South Wales – Milton. Marama Warren



This artist's book was made for a competition run by the New Zealand Association of Book Crafts. The aim of the 'New from Old' competition was to incorporate old-fashioned napery into a book form. They defined napery as follows:

- **doilies** *crocheted or embroidered or both in any shape*
- **table runners** *hand or machine embroidered*
- **table cloths** *hand or machine embroidered*
- **serviettes/ napkins** *hand or machine embroidered*

(napery is also where the word apron comes from - 'a napron' evolved to 'an apron').

I used crocheted doilies that form mandala patterns and included a quote from the Buddhist author Pema Chodron which reads:

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Continued Marama Warren

“Each person’s life is like a mandala – a vast, limitless circle. We stand in the centre of our own circle, and everything we see, hear and think forms the mandala of our life.”

Some of these doilies have been passed down from my Nana and great-aunts and others I have rescued on my travels from opportunity shops and garage sales. I love the patterns and the idea of these beautiful mandala patterns being a part of everyday life, under a vase on the sideboard or on the dressing table. I used two cotton doilies on the front and back covers and scanned the others so as not to destroy them.

Mandalas is an altered book made by Marama Warren. Recycled board book. Cotton doilies and digital images of cotton doilies. Ribbon. Unique. <http://creativemarama.wordpress.com/>

Two winning entries of the competition can be seen here.

Most Flamboyant (joint) - David Thoresen



Most Flamboyant (joint) - Leanne Tattle

<https://www.instagram.com/abcnzinc/>



AMERICA – New Hampshire- Sally Gilbert

My daughter has always loved the Grinch story and she breaks out her Grinch sweatshirt every Christmas morning so when I saw Cushing and Co had a Grinch pattern, I knew immediately I needed to make my daughter a Grinch pillow. The added bonus was that Cushing and Co even dyed wool “Grinch green “. So realistic. This was one of the most fun projects I have ever done. I used a 6 and 4 cut- all wool on linen. (Cushing and Co pattern) Sally Gilbert New Hampshire

CANADA – New Brunswick., Mary Alexander

Dear Miriam, Last Saturday I went to Quoddy Looper's Hook In, and wanted to tell you about it but I think Della does a better job describing it on her site, www.dellasrughooking.ca

If you go into this site, you will see that Della describes Saint Andrews. a ghost story and this Hook In, very well. Saint Andrews is about a 2hour drive from Sussex. I will forward pictures that I took last Saturday: of Della with a Winnie Glavine (Hooking Instructor from Newfoundland) - inspired piece on a metal container, and rugs hooked by Quoddy Looper Sandra Lewis who passed away in September. Sandra's sister who was at this Hook In told me Sandra had hooked 80 rugs. Sandra's rug hooking books, patterns, and hooking fibres were available for anyone at the Hook In to take as many as they wanted. They were also giving away a piece that Sandra wrote about rug hooking which is below.



RUG HOOKING by Sandra Lewis.

It is unclear when rug hooking first started and where. Some say the Vikings hooked rugs, other say people from Scotland or England and who immigrated to the Americas, and yet others have suggested the Egyptians. We do know it developed over 200 years ago along the Eastern Seaboard of the United States, the Canadian Maritimes and Newfoundland and Labrador. It was considered a "poor man's" flooring as many of the poor either had planks or dirt floors in their homes, and most could not afford to purchase machine-made coverings. These people became our earliest recyclers. If you were lucky enough to work in a mill that made fabrics, and were permitted by owners, you would collect the scrapes off the floor and took them home. Once you had enough material, you could hook mats.

I once read a story that has stayed with me. It goes something like this: Mother acquired material to make a new dress. The scraps were put away for later use. Once the dress was no longer serviceable, Mother would take the dress apart and make clothing for her children. When the children could no longer wear the clothes, or they could not be handed down, the clothing would be taken apart and put into her stash of rags. When she had enough material, Mother would get a feed bag, made from burlap, draw a

design and hook a rug. That rug would be placed at the front door until it was no longer useable. It would then be taken to the back door, turned over and used until it was in tatters.

At the end of the 1800s hooked rugs became more profitable but were labour intensive. Edward Frost came up with the idea of printing designs from a copper stencil. However, in the early 20th century the

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mass production caused a decline in the quality of the rugs and so their popularity dropped. Thanks to Pearl McGown who promoted rug hooking through her teaching of the art of rug hooking and William Kent who published three books on early rugs and encouraged the making of new ones, rug hooking started to become popular again. In Charlotte County, New Brunswick, Grace Helen Mowat looked at the farm woman and realized that although they were spared the life of a factory worker and/or living in slums many still lived difficult and restricted lives. The solution was a cottage handcraft industry that would bring an interesting and a varied experience for country women who were house bound and, in some cases, led an isolated existence. Realizing that a good design was critical, Helen sketch patterns that were used in the first three rugs that were produced. These rugs were sent to Montreal where they sold quickly. Over the next couple of years Grace helped to develop the cottage craft industry. She encouraged locals to use their skills, using local materials; and looking to nature.

What once started out as a necessity for homes has now developed into an art form. Although some rugs do "hit the floor", a lot now hang in prominent spots in homes and offices. I like to say that when making a rug you are only limited by your imagination. Rugs are made from all different kinds of material, from the traditional wool strips, to knits, ribbons, silk, yarns and so on. Most rug hookers have their favourite backing they like to use. Some backings are burlap, linen, rug warp, and monk's cloth. You can also use a loose weave fabric. I like to add different items to some of my rugs, such as an earring for a diamond ring; a paper clip in the shape of a bicycle leaning against a porch; unspun wool for hair; buttons; yarn for straw sticking out from a scarecrow; and the list goes on.

I hope you enjoy looking at my rugs as much as I have enjoyed making them. I've been at this for over 20 years and hope to continue for many more. Check out the Rug Hooking Museum of North America, Hubbards, Nova Scotia.

(<http://www.hookedrugmuseumnovascotia.org/>) You'll find a few more of my rugs there, and a whole lot more. Why not give it a try? Sandra Lewis

References

Grace Helen Mowat and the Making of Cottage Craft

Author Diana Rees with Ronald Rees

Wikipedia

The Short History of Rug Hooking

Author Doris Leslie Blau

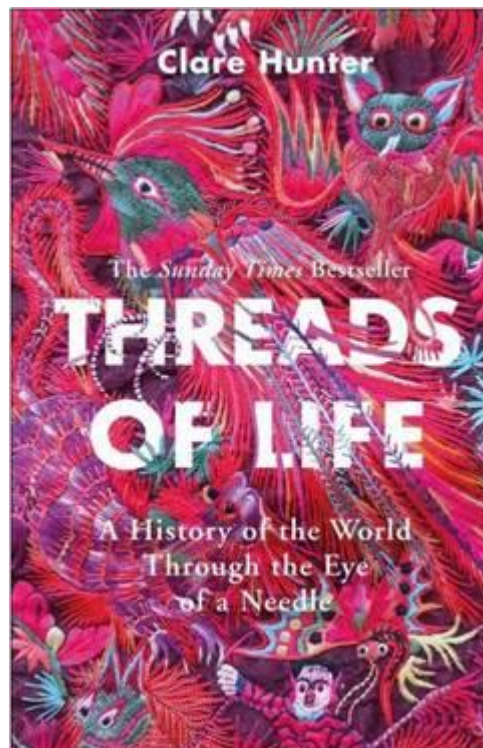
AUSTRALIA – New South Wales – Milton -Marama Warren.

Book review. *Threads of Life* by Clare Hunter

A history of sewing and embroidery, told through the stories of the men and women, over centuries and across continents, who have used the language of sewing to make their voices heard, even in the most desperate of circumstances.

From the political storytelling of the Bayeux tapestry's anonymous embroiderers and Mary, Queen of Scots' treasonous stitching, to the sewing of First World War soldiers suffering from PTSD and the banner-makers at Greenham Common, *THREADS OF LIFE* stretches from medieval France to 1980s America, from a Second World War POW camp in Singapore to a family attic in Scotland.

It is as much about identity, protest, memory and politics as craft and artistry. In an eloquent blend of history and memoir with a unique understanding of craft, Clare Hunter's *THREADS OF LIFE* is an evocative and moving book about the need we all have to tell our story

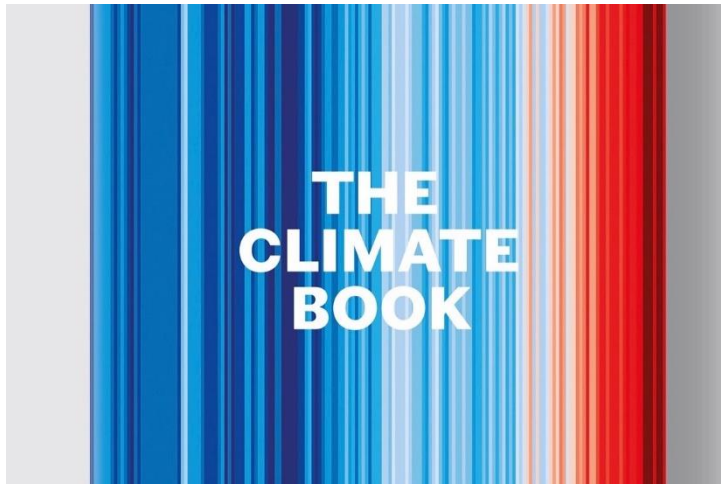


AUSTRALIA- VICTORIA. Melbourne. Lee.

A photo of my punch hook sampler with carpet wool, tapestry bobbin ends (about 10 random colours into a strand) and a few strips of wool blankets. Lee



ENGLAND Nottingham — Cilla Cameron



THE CLIMATE BOOK

Penguin Random House publishers asked me to make a hooked rug to promote Greta Thunberg's new book *The Climate Book*. The Rug will be on display with the book rather than one time use paper posters.

The Rug is hooked using recycled wool materials and the background design shows the book cover that was designed by Ed Hawkins. I chose to add the two Icebergs.

The bookshops will include Waterstones Piccadilly, Foyles Southbank Centre, Blackwell's Oxford. --



CANADA – ONTARIO. Belleville Karen Kaiser

I am currently working on another oriental rug. It should keep me busy over the winter months.



CANADA = ONTARIO – Susan Sutherland -memories of Heather Richie

Heather made such an impact in people's lives that I am looking at all the photos I have of her. Here is a picture of a piece I did in a class with her in 2011 when she was in Ontario. She had a terrible cold and yet soldiered on. We all loved her. She got me to try all sorts of different fibres in the grass. I even unravelled a sweater I had bought at the thrift store as it had the right shades of green in it. Susan.



JOKE

Doctors Assistant

A doctor in Dublin wanted to get off work for a day. So, he approached his assistant "Murphy, I am going fishing tomorrow and don't want to close the clinic. I want you to take care of the clinic and take care of all me patients". "Yes, sir!" answers Murphy.

The doctor goes fishing and returns the following day and asks: "So, Murphy, how was your day?"

Murphy told him that he took care of three patients. "The first one had a headache so he did, so I gave him Paracetamol."

"Bravo Murphy lad, and the second one?" asks the doctor.

"The second one had indigestion and I gave him Gaviscon, says Murphy.

"Bravo, bravo! You're good at this and what about the third one?" asks the doctor.

"Sir, I was sitting here and suddenly the door flies open and a young gorgeous woman bursts in so she does. Like a bolt outta the blue, she tears off her clothes, taking off everything including her bra and her knickers and lies down on the table, and shouts: 'HELP ME for the love of St Patrick! For five years I have not seen a man!'

"Tunderin' lard, Murphy, what did you do?" asks the doctor.

"I put drops in her eyes. "And sent her to Spec Savers."

THE END

AUSTRALIAN RUGMAKERS PAGE

Groups and contacts

New South Wales

Sydney – Epping contact Jacky email rugmakers2018@gmail.com for details.

Milton- Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers contact Miriam Miller narrawillyfarm@shoal.net.au. Meets 1st and 3rd Fridays

Braidwood contact Maggie Hickey email maggie.hickey@bigpond.com Our rugging group meets at the BRAG Centre on the 2nd Monday each month. Beginners and experienced textilers all welcome.

Cobargo- Bermagui contact Dawn Hollins – pigeontree@live.com

VICTORIA

Warrandyte - Yarra valley Group contact Anne Schafer email a.schafer@bigpond.com or phone 04 09844207 (There is also a Victorian Rugmakers messenger group through face book.)

Leongatha – South Coast Ruggers contact Chris Noorbergen email jerryandchris@startmail.com

QUEENSLAND

Mt Tambourine -contact Bec Andersen <https://www.becandersen.com/happy-hookers>

Sunshine Coast – contact Judi Tompkins email judi.tompkins@bigpond.com

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Strathalbyn “ Strathmatter Rugs and More” contact Judith Stephens Email studioblue20@gmail.com
We meet at the Strathalbyn Neighbourhood Centre on Parker Avenue
First and third Fridays between 10 and 12.30 pm. Anyone is welcome to come and have a go.

A.C.T.

CANBERRA – contact Maggie Whyte email maggieandfish@hotmail.com

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Wanneroo contact Jo Franco -email rughookingaustralia@gmail.com

They also have a website <https://wanneroorugmakers.com>

TASMANIA

Deloraine - Happy Hookers contact – Laura Window email laurawindow@live.com.au

THE END.