AUSTRALIAN RUGMAKERS GUILD

NEWSLETTER APR/ MAY/ JUN 2013

Networking the Rugmakers & Fibre Artists of Oceania

www.rughookingaustralia.com.au

From the Editor:

Rugmaking was in the spotlight during the month of May in Western Australia.
For a second time members of the Guild demonstrated rugmaking techniques and displayed members work at an Art Festival in the City of Mandurah south of Perth.
This was followed by the Perth Craft & Quilt Fair and a visit by Guild President Judith Stephens (SA) who gave a daily presentation at the fair and joined myself and other Guild members who, for the five days of the fair, demonstrated and talked about the revival of this art/craft to large groups of interested fair-goers. There was an excellent turn-out for workshops in the following week.
You can see more details in the WA section of this newsletter.

There is much to report in this issue, a new group has formed in Victoria, so every State is now represented in the Guild.
The new "Member Area" on the Guild website is up and running and Webmaster, Judi Tompkins, has uploaded many items of interest.
It is encouraging to see members registering to log-in even though it was not easy for some.
Don't hesitate to register as Judi and her web administrators will help you through the process should you run into problems.
It is a fantastic way to learn and share information about the art/craft of rugmaking

Jo Franco

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"Handing it On" installation by Jo Franco
Blender Gallery, Joondalup –
Walking with Totems April 2013.
http://theblender.org.au/2013/03/26/walking-with-totems-exhibition-5-19-april/

Rughooking makes it into a Gallery in Perth - April 2013

Last November Sue Gilmartin, a visiting TIGHR member, in Perth for a Conference and staying with me, agreed to give a couple of work-shops. While preparing for these I came across a Call for Entry to an exhibition of sculpture. Having hooked a Waldoboro (sculptured) rug I jokingly said I should enter a hooked piece but as it was aimed at artists working in metal, timber and stone I realised that even a Waldoboro would not be sculptural enough!
I mentioned to Sue an idea that I had in the back of my mind about creating some sort of installation that would represent the passing on of information of this traditional craft from an earlier time in a contemporary way, where re-cycling was still of concern.

I particularly wanted to feature the "Handing on" of this information by a community group .... Contd Pg 7

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP ? Membership/Renewal Form Page 13

QUEENSLAND:

Exhibition of an almost lost craft was the title of a second article in the Glasshouse Country News (May 1, 2013) about Judi Tompkins by Editor: Lea Parkes

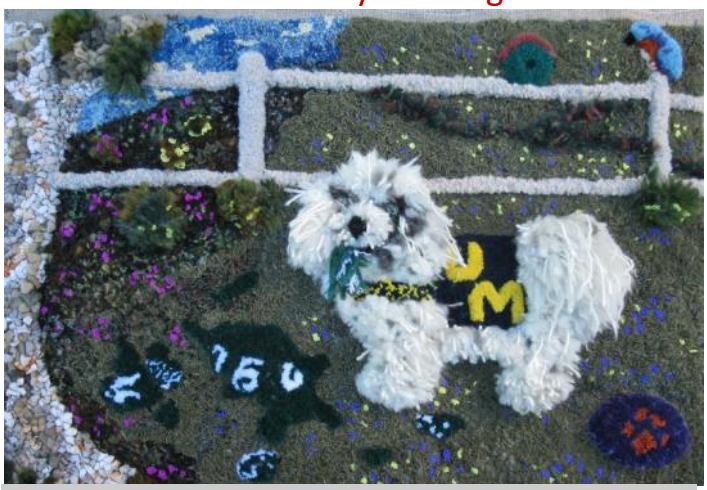
Judi lives in Landsborough and has a number of her rugs on display at the Beerwah Library. The article stated that she is hoping that by having her work on display she may be able to encourage more members to join the recently established Sunshine Coast Rug Crafters who meet at the Beerwah Library on the second Monday and the third Tues each month from 3:00pm—6:00pm.
For those who want to learn the traditional craft of rag rug making (not latch hooking) instruction in this group is free, but members need to purchase tools.

Judi Tompkins at her stretcher frame, one of her many different style of frames. (photography by Jim McAllister)

"Caught" a 3D creation of rug laced to driftwood over a recycled fish net.

"Bitzer" - this rug is a sampler of various rugmaking techniques

MURPHY ! What ARE you doing?



A bespoke wall hanging 28in x 20 in Hooked Waldoboro style using scribbly-gum bark dyed cotton sheets and wool for the tree. Merino sheep's wool for the Lhasa Apso and recycled wool and knitting yarns for the background

Photo of Murphy

Murphy on overhead projector film

Scribbly gum bark dyed tree

MSU scarf in pieces (early)

MSU UM Clemson in progress

Right: Clemson Tiger football

"The story of Murphy" by Judi Tompkins

I made this piece for a friend (Mary) who I've known for about 55 years. She recently had to put her Lhasa Apso dog down (he was 16) and I offered to make a wall-hanging of him. I actually knew the dog when I went back and forth to the US and I knew how loyal he was to her.
She didn't treat "Murph" as a child but he was her best mate and got her through some very dark times, so....I wanted to NOT make something that was just a memorial to a "dead dog" but something that had a bit of his life, whimsy and loyalty about it.
Mary has always been an American football fan and her favourite team is University of Michigan and their arch rival is Michigan State University (MY alma mater!)...I figured the best way to show Murph's loyalty was to have him chew to bits an MSU scarf while wearing his U of M coat.
In the meantime, Mary has moved to Sth Carolina where the football team is the Clemson Tigers (Purple with the orange tiger paw) so there is a football by Murph (lower right). Mary also loves the Eastern Bluebird so I put a birdhouse and a bird on the fence. I always put something Australian in my work (particularly when I send it O/S) so the dog is made from Merino Sheep's wool and the tree is made from Scribbly Gum (Australian Eucalypt) bark-dyed cotton bed-sheet and wool. There are more bits that Mary will "get" that others won't but it doesn't matter.
It was just fun to do for a dear friend.

NEW SOUTH WALES

INSPIRATION - "WHERE TO GET IDEAS FOR RUG DESIGNS?" By Miriam Miller

Inspiration for our rugs is all around us.
I have new tiles in my kitchen and I like them so much I am making cushions for my kitchen chairs using some of the designs.

The tiles (right) are small.

I have just hooked the first two.
I plan to make 6 or 8.

Jacqui Thomson was inspired by an Ittala tea set she has and from which she adapted the design for the Owl rug (24" x 33") shown here. Jacqui said she mostly used winter weight t-shirts and some fleecy lined skivvies. The owl however was made from a recent t-shirt of her son Robert.
Finding enough of the royal blue was difficult.

A chair of Jacquie's inspired another or my rugs, it was the colours that I loved.

So you can see inspiration is all around us.

Having said that, we must keep in mind copyright laws. The general rule of thumb is that if you are creating something for your own use you can "adapt" a design. However, where it gets a little sticky is that if your work is displayed anywhere or shown, such as in a newsletter article like this, you do need to acknowledge the original artist, designer, photographer or author.
It's not always possible to track down the original artists to get permission but if possible it should be done - most have no problem with this as long as you acknowledge it was their work that inspired you. If you are not able to track them down then at least an acknowledgement should be made.

This subject is discussed in many forums and "general rules of thumb" another being, "that if you change a work by 30% its OK" usually under the letter of the law do not hold up. However if you are not creating a pattern or design to copy for your students to use or an article to sell it seems that an acknowledgement is sufficient.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY: NEWS FROM THE ACT by Maggie Whyte

Winter has well and truly set in here so what better time is there for rugmaking. I have finally started making a proggy rug the design being purple polka dots on a tweed background which is quite a change for me as I normally hook rugs. I spent such a long time trying to decide on a design that I wonder what other people do when they have this problem. I found the best way to handle the problem was to stop thinking about designs and just wait till something popped up in my head.
While all this indecision was going on I at least sorted out all the many shelves brimming with fabric waiting to be made into rugs. I became quite ruthless as I realised that I had far too many fabrics so out they went.
but wait; the materials are all now stored in the outside shed as husband has claimed them to use for rags as he loves messing about with engines of all sorts also not to mention using strips of rags to tie up his veggies.
So one way or the other all will be recycled.

In a couple of weeks my husband and I will be in Brisbane house sitting so I contacted Judi Tompkins who lives on the Sunshine Coast. I am really looking forward to catching up with Judi to have time with a fellow rugmaker and see some of her interesting projects. Each time I travel I like to find out if there are any rugmakers in the area as it is great to meet fellow rugmakers and spread the word of rugmaking.

In the last newsletter I reported that at the Rugcrafters weekend in SA last October. I had bought a French knitting kit from Judith Stephens. I have enjoyed making bowls made of French knitting stuffed with the odds and ends left over after making hooked felt flowers.

As a member of the Canberra Region Feltmakers at their Annual Exhibition I exhibited the bowl in the photo. There was much interest in it and to my great surprise it has sold. I have to thank Judith for developing such a simple but fantastic idea.
My next project with the French knitting is going to be a floor rug. Happy rugmaking Maggie Whyte

EDITOR'S NOTE: *in an email from Maggie she told me that the her hooked rug that graced the Guilds original website was so admired by a good friend visiting from Canada that Maggie gave it to her as a souvenir of her Australian trip.*

2013 RUGHOOKING CALENDAR OF EVENTS: (See website and Page 10 for Group meeting dates/times)

June: UK happenings - 28th and 29th -
Cilla Cameron will be at the Woolfest Cockermouth Cumbria (stand C65)

August: South Australia - Through the month of August the Strath Matters will be taking part in the SALA (South Australian Living Artists) exhibition at the Station masters Gallery.
Each participant will be presenting a hooked 10"x12" piece representing the 'lady' of their choice, dressed accordingly.

October: Victoria - Expertise Events Stitches and Craft Show Melbourne, 24th-27th at the Caulfield Racecourse.

November: South Australia - Expertise Events Craft & Quilt Fair, 7th to 10th at the Wayville Showgrounds.

2014: March: New South Wales - Rugmakers Gathering the last weekend in March 2014. 28th to 31st to be held at the Rugroom, Milton.

the GALLERY on the ARG WEBSITE .. email images of your rug work - include a brief description; size, techniques, materials used, or maybe what inspired you and send as a .jpeg attachment to rugcraftersaustralia@yahoo.com.au

VICTORIA:

Victorian Rugmakers Meet Again - by Chris Noorbergen (as seen on Expanded Blog/Member Area on the Guilds Website)

It was raining, cold and wet, but five of us braved the weather to meet at Anne's for our second hook-in.

We were enthusiastic and our hearts were warm. The food was delicious and varied. Anne, or rather her daughter Joanne, made a wonderful pot of soup with the addition of breads, cakes, pastries and real coffee or tea whatever our desire.

Liz made wonderful progress on her primitive design and is coming along beautifully. She also started a primitive sheep rug using wool strips.

Anne, Joy and Chris continued with their rugs which they were working on last month while Jen continued her beautiful cross stitch.

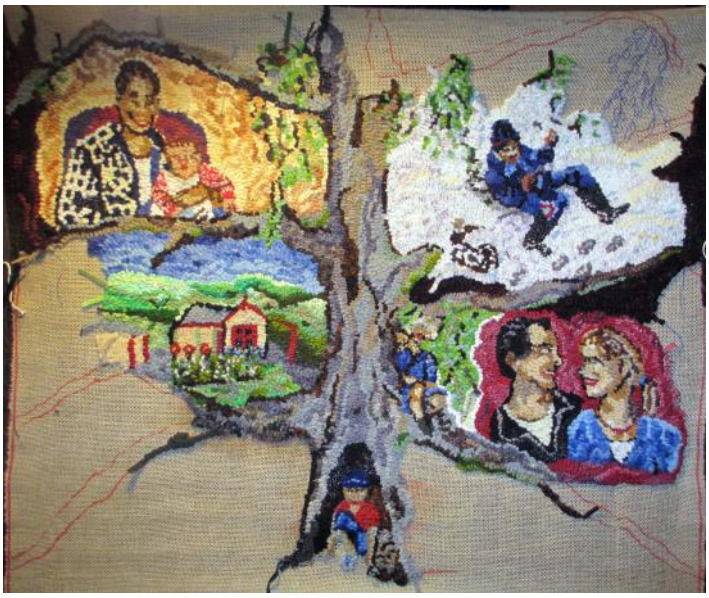
With so much to talk about, including our presence at the end of year Stitches and Craft show, at the Caulfield Race Track in Melbourne, the day came to an end all too soon.

Next month will see us at Chris's home in Loch. Hopefully the weather will be a little kinder for those who are travelling.

Visit us at http://victorianrugmakers.blogspot.com.au/

Right: Anne's gorgeous craft room

Chris Noorbergen 's projects :- My love rug (below right) & Hubby (left)



Started early Feb 2013 on hessian - hooked with wool fabric cut in different sizes and yarn. This rug has pictures of my family in between the branches of the tree. I had trouble with it right from the beginning. With the portraits being so small, I found it hard to get a likeness. I am not going for exact likeness anymore, except maybe the larger ones. I am really making it up as I go along. I have pulled out lots to change positioning of photos and colour. I am redoing a lot of this rug as I now know there is not enough contrast between the tree and the pictures.

I will be re-hooking the tree in a darker value.

This rug is a surprise for my husband, so he doesn't know I am working on it. I am not happy with the lips though, they look too thin and the white reflection spot too central. The lips also come to a funny point I didn't see until I took this photo. I have since changed some of that. I am thinking of using an old faded cotton shirt that he was wearing when I took this photo to hook. The trouble is getting it off him :) Chris

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Have Hook, will travel by Marion Nefiodovas (Vice President)

George and I have just returned from a wonderful 6 weeks caravan holiday from Adelaide to Perth and back. I feel I should entitle this "Have hook, will travel" because as well as following our wonderful coastline I had the added bonus of visiting two of our rug hooking groups while in Western Australia. We travelled with two friends Bev and Roger. We began our trip by exploring the Eyre Peninsula visiting all the little towns along the coast including Cowell where I bought some jade earrings and Coffin Bay where we ate delicious oyster pies. (Food played a large part on this holiday, we visited as many country bakeries as we could find.) At Venus Bay and Streaky Bay we sampled whiting straight from the sea. The Nullarbor provided us with the opportunity of two nights free camping which we always enjoy. There's something special about camping on the way, people seem much friendlier than in caravan parks. We always find someone to have a chat with and compare notes. Two other bonuses of that long straight road are it gave me the confidence to help out with the driving, you cant ask for better conditions when towing a van. The other bonus was finally off loading a family of ants which had come on holiday with us.

Crossing the border and adjusting our body clocks by two and a half hours (SA was still on summer time) meant that we had no trouble getting up bright and early. Esperance was a real treat as the husbands tolerated visiting all manner of galleries and art and craft shops (they soon got sick of it). The pick of the bunch was visiting a fish leather factory. That was fascinating. George bought a length of barramundi leather to insert in his wood turning. The whole of that south western corner of Western Australia is a wood turners paradise and he took advantage of it buying burls and lengths of beautiful timbers. I was disappointed to miss seeing Gay Wilkes while in Albany. She was away from home house and dog sitting for friends so we weren't able to catch up and view each other's works in progress. I should say that before I left home I had a mental picture of myself sitting on a wind swept beach hooking and getting interested looks from passers by. It didn't happen. On the days that we were driving there wasn't the time and on the days we were sight seeing we came back to the vans for happy hour, dinner and bed. It wasn't until we arrived in Perth, where we stayed for a week and a half, that I finally starting hooking. Our number two son lives in Perth with his family. We spent two weekends with him and during the week the children, who were on school holidays, came to the caravan park for swims. In between times I was able to set up my frame and hook away to my heart's content.

Marion showing off her hooking project (the view from her balcony in SA) to Jo and the Wanneroo Group

The first weekend there I joined the Wanneroo group at their Saturday morning meeting. What a friendly bunch of people they are. I was very impressed by the fact that they hook and prod community projects. They are housed in the most magnificent modern building - The Library and Cultural Centre - and have made two really lovely wall hangings which are hanging in prominent places, plus they are now making round mats for children to sit on when they are being read to in the library. Wanneroo used to be a market garden area so the mats have been designed with a fruit and veg motif - zucchinis, carrots etc. What a lovely idea. The building is very well used by the community and being on the ground floor they often have people popping their heads in to see what is being done. After the meeting Jo Franco and a few of the others plus George and I had lunch in a restaurant which is also in the building and later Jo took us home to meet her husband Ted.

The one and a half weeks in Perth soon flew past and we were on our way again this time heading for Donnybrook where Bev and Roger were staying with their daughter.
It was such a lucky coincidence for me because it gave me the chance to catch up with Robin Inkpen's group who meet every Wednesday in Donnybrook.
Once again everyone was so friendly. Bev came with me and I was concerned she might feel a bit out of it not being a rug maker herself, but I needn't have worried. She appointed herself as the photographer for the day and everyone was happy to chat to her about what they were working on.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA ….Contd.

There were three brand new members that morning all having a bash at something new. Knowing how artistic Robin is I was keen to get some advice on my latest rug. She and Lucille were soon down on their knees helping me with colours. I fell in love with Donnybrook. It's such a nice sized town. The hall where Robin's group meet has a different art or craft every day. It was the old guide hall and had a slow combustion heater against the wall.

I forgot to ask if they lit it on winter mornings. I was pleased to see a mixture of old and new buildings. It seems to me that with the influx of so much wealth into Western Australia all the old character houses have been pulled down and extravagant new houses have gone up in their place. Our final treat in Donnybrook was a feast of marron caught in Bev and Roger's son in law's dam. Then it was time for the journey home. The only hiccup in the whole holiday was to find that in our absence mice had been having a great old time in our house. It was no fun having to strip the pantry and wash it all before I could put back all the tins (that I needn't have taken in the first place) back in place. Nor was it any fun the following day doing the exact same thing because the wretched mice had chewed a hole in a carton of long life milk which had spread throughout the shelves. Still, we can't let that take the shine off a lovely holiday.

Thank you Wanneroo and Donnybrook rug makers for your welcome and for your warm hospitality it was lovely to meet you all.

See you next year when we return for our son's 50th birthday. Marion

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Contd from page 1 - "Handing it On" by Jo Franco

Having not exhibited before in a gallery situation, I was a little nervous about even submitting a brief. Sue on the other hand thought I should go for it. With much encouragement from her and Judith Tompkins, I did.
How surprized I was the following month when I received an email of acceptance and request for Artist Statement and various other documentation that while I'd heard of, had no clue how I would come up with for myself. When I explained my predicament to the Convenor I was told that my lack of experience was not a problem, my submission had been accepted on the basis of the description of the work which fit in with the theme of the exhibition. My description was : *A mixed media installation exploring the importance of art/craft making within a social group setting as a vital path to wellbeing. Australia's "lost" craft of matting is being rediscovered and given a vibrant contemporary twist. This piece consists of a mat encircled by sculptural textile forms and hand tools representing the group who come together in a spirit of shared creativity and companionship*.

It actually finished up being two rugs, a raggy old 1920's mat that had been given to Judith Stephens and a new rug which I hooked in bright colours using sari silk and wool yarn, based on my view from an aeroplane window; with a free-form "connector" between the two. Arms and hands in muted colour placed on the old rug were fashioned using a basket weaving technique, and held antique tools from my collection. The same technique was used to create "glitzy" arm/hands which sat on "coiled" bases on the new rug . The Boab tree which grows in the NthWest of WA was my inspiration for the arms and hands. It seemed appropriate as the group I was representing is from WA. April 3 was the deadline for installation, fortunately I had a rug design in mind but did not begin the project until the first week in March - you do not need to ask what I was doing over the Easter long weekend! The Festival held in Mandurah in early May is called the Stretch Festival , as in "stretching ones creative abilities" - this certainly is what I did with the "hands". I must say it was gratifying to see the project taking shape.

When considering whether I should submit an entry I was at a loss to evaluate my own work.
Judi Tompkins has come up with several interesting articles in the Member Area of the Guild website,
one particular piece entitled : "The touchy task of providing feedback" addresses the problems I had to face.

A question asked in many rug hooking forums is whether rug hooking is an Art or Craft. I would encourage all rug makers to step out of their comfort zone and attempt a creation of their own. Having met up with so many talented and creative rug makers at the TIGHR Conference even I, who always professes to be administrative rather than creative, gained a great deal of satisfaction from this project.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA - contd.

Expertise Events Craft & Quilt Fair - Perth

This year - thanks to the increased numbers of rug hookers in Western Australia we were able to have a completely new selection of rugs and wall hangings on display at the Perth Craft and Quilt Fair.
Last year, a week after visiting us at the Guild stand and seeing rug hooking for the first time, Anna showed up at the Wanneroo Group with the large wall hanging depicting a pelican in flight, drawn up on the backing and a substantial part of the pelican already hooked. All done in a mixture of recycled fabrics using a No. 3 crochet hook and without the use of a frame!

This year she was there to help us demonstrate. Robin Inkpen's rugs took pride of place - the "Colourful Hills" under the Guild banner and her latest creation below that along with a wall hanging of circle motifs hooked using left-over knitting wool and of course the "Galahs" which had travelled to South Australia for the TIGHR Conference and have been featured on Gene Sheperd's blog.

Kath Smith's proddy rug made for a grand-daughter who loves pink was a big hit, as was her prodded Christmas tree complete with a mini string of lights prodded into it. A couple of Jo's "hands" made an appearance, the "old" one holding a peggy tool while the new glitzy version clutched a new bent hook of brass/wood.

Below is a sample of quilting with a matching proddy rug - this was the subject of a talk given by Judith each day at the Fair.

These photos were taken by Jo prior to the opening of the Fair; as after it was underway it was impossible to get a clear view of the stand because of the large crowds gathered. Members of the Wanneroo Group, enthusiastically gave of their time to help demonstrate at the stand. They gathered again the following week for a get-together Thursday evening at the library with Judith Stephens to learn how to make the "coils" Judith incorporates into many of her rugs and to hear about the workshops that were given following the Fair.

In the group below are three of the Guild Committee members; Judith Stephens (Pres.), in the red vest, next to her Marie Catlin (Treas.) and Jo Franco (Editor/Membership Chair). Inset on the table are images of some of the coils made by participants of the workshops.

For a change of pace; over a couple of Saturdays, the group yarn bombed a book trolley from the library and decorated it with "altered books" they had learned how to make at a recent workshop. Rhonda (in the pale blue cardigan) taught those group members who didn't know, how to crochet and the cart which had been given a coat of glossy red for this project was further enhanced with crocheted "bookworms".

ONLINE - Rughooking information and help

"Why do I want to register for the Member Area on the Guild website - I'd rather be rugmaking?"

You really should register to access this private section of the website because it's full of interesting information, not only locations of rug hooking groups throughout Australia and information about these groups posted on the "expanded blog".
There are also informational gems posted by Webmaster Judi Tompkins ranging from how to form a rughooking group or plan a workshop. A directory of members email addresses by State, all previous newsletters and a selection of instructional videos are also included.
If you don't want to waste time going to this website only to find nothing changed, the ideal solution is to - **Subscribe to Rughooking Australia via email** and you will be notified any time there has been an update.
This is a simple process; click on www.rughookingaustralia.com.au scroll down the screen on the right-hand side until you come to the "Subscribe" notice, enter your email address and click [Subscribe] and you're done.
This process is not to be confused with registering to log-in to the Member area - you will find instructions on how to do that below.

Don't worry - if you attempt this and it doesn't work contact Judi Tompkins judi.tompkins@bigpond.com or Jo Franco rugcraftersaustralia@yahoo.com.au and they will be happy to help you.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE MEMBER AREA: (It is suggested that you print this page to follow as you go)

Click on the following link

www.rughookingaustralia.com.au

you will see on the right-hand side of the screen under the black bar beneath the header image, the "log-in box" (pictured here on the right)

Login Status
You are not currently logged in

Username
[ ]
Password
[ ]
[**login**] **Forgot?** / Register

To register :

* Go to the last line in the Login Status box and click "Register"
* Fill in your details (name/address & email address) this does not show on the web, it is for administrative purposes only.
* Choose a **"UserName"** it can be a nick name or your first or last name, or abbreviation of either. This is what people will see if you make a comment or reply.
* Write down your UserName - it will need to be typed in exactly the same way (capital/lower case and spaces)when next you login.
* Complete the CAPTCHA box; which means you need to type the letters &/or numbers showing in the box into the box below it, this must be EXACT. They are hard to read, if you get it wrong another box will appear. You may have to do this several times until you get it correct, then
* Click the submit button >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Having completed & submitted the registration you will receive (in your regular email inbox) a computer generated email telling you that your registration was successful,
&
once approved you will receive another email with a password. This password will be hard to remember, so write it down.
You can change it once you login the first time.

To login :

* As before, click on www.rughookingaustralia.com.au
* Go to the Login box on the top right-hand corner of the screen
* Type your **USERNAME** (not your email address)
* **First Login** - Type in the password that was emailed to you.
* Click "login"
* This brings you to a screen where you can change 1) your email address 2) your password. (scroll down; bottom left of the screen)
* If you have lost or forgotten your password click **Forgot?** on the bottom line of the Login box and another password will be emailed to you.
* The passwords are generated by a computer so the admin team do not know what they are. We can however help you out if you have forgotten your UserName. >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

OK - so now you're in :

* by clicking on Member Area in the black bar at the top of the screen you will see an introductory page and can make changes.
* by hovering over Member Area you will see a drop-down list of contents; the last two have sub headings:
* Questions >instructional videos
* Events > Rug Group locations and Calendar of events.

Rug Hooking Magazine is ONLINE ! Now you can connect with the world of rughooking via an **online subscription** http://www.rughookingmagazine.com/
save the postage and buy a digital version of the full magazine and/or subscribe to (pay for) Rug Beat.

Interesting Publications and Links:

* Fiber Art Now http://fiberartnow.net a quarterly magazine for contemporary Fiber Arts & Textiles. (USA) and its online partner site, Fiber Arts Mixed Media (FAMM) http://www.fibermixedmedia.com where makers go to share their work, join discussions & online workshops.
* Rug Hooking Daily : http://rughookingdaily.ning.com/ a free forum where you can chat with other rughookers and get answers to your rughooking questions.
* Gene Shepherd (USA) has made two trips to Australia, 2010 gave workshops at Miriam Millers's studio in Milton, & 2012 attended the TIGHR Conference in Strathalbyn, where he stayed on to give workshops the following weekend at the Strathalbyn Rug Expo. Read his daily blog on the following link http://geneshepherd.com/blog1/
* Yahookers - http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Rughookers/ another online forum for rughooking projects.
* Hooked in London - http://hooked-in-london.blogspot.com.au/
* Ruckman Mill Farm (USA) Susan Feller Designs has developed rughooking patterns since 1994, and she offers a wide range of products, books, equipment, tools and information. http://shop.ruckmanmillfarm.com/
* I love rughooking - California, near Sacramento. They supply a full range of equipment, supplies, books, fabric and ore. They ship worldwide. http://www.iloverughooking.com/

OVERSEAS GUILDS:
The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers www.tighr.net
Association of Traditional Hooking Artists http://atharugs.com/biennial2013/
National Guild of Pearl K. McGown mcgownguild.com/
Beaconsfield Hooking Crafters Guild http://www.beaconsfieldrughooking.com/
Rughooking Guild of Nova Scotia http://rhgns.com/

AUSSIE LINKS:
NSW:http://www.shoal.net.au/~narrawilly/rugmaking/info.html
QLD: http://www.rugcraftingaustralia.com.au
VIC: http://victorianrugmakers.blogspot.com.au/
WA/SA: http://ausrugcrafters.com.au
WA: http://wafta.com.au/

TAFTA: http://tafta.org.au/

AUSTRALIAN RUGHOOKING GROUPS:

QLD: Bec Andersen- BecAndersen.com 8 Griffith St. North Tamborine, Brisbane, QLD 4272 has synthetic linen backing available for sale. Her rughooking group meets every 3rd Thursday from 10am-12pm or the 2nd Saturday of the month from 1pm-3pm Cost is $15 includes luscious cake and a cuppa.
Contact Judi Tompkins Judi.tompkins@bigpond.com for information about the Sunshine Coast RugCrafters and availability of frames and tools.
NSW: Miriam Miller's Narrawilly Proggers meet on the first & third Friday each month at Miriam's studio, in Milton 35 Stoney Hill Lane, NSW 2538 Ph: (02)4455-6870. Miriam, gives workshops and private classes by appointment, and has tools for sale. Email narrawillyfarm@shoal.net.au
SA: Judith Stephens Strath Matters meet in Strathalbyn on the first and third Friday of the month from 10:30 to 2pm. Byo lunch, morning tea provided, $4 contribution to costs. For workshops (group & private), rughooking presentations, tools and her new pvc floor and mini travel frames, contact Judith a studioblue20@gmail.com
Sue Lange advises the Gawler group has changed the location of it's meeting, contact Sue for details - phone 0422478417. Sue has rughooking supplies for sale .... linen, monks cloth, hooks, cotton binding tape, gripper strips and some wool fabric. To place an order please contact her by phone.
TAS: Joanne Wild's Happy Hookers meet weekly at the British Hotel in Deloraine & monthly at Elizabeth Town Bakery Cafe. Visitors welcome! Contact Joanne wildjoanne1@gmail.com for rughooking yarn and kits.

VIC: Victorian Rugmakers meet on the first Saturday of each month from 10am 'til 3pm. Contact Joy Marshall (0448 922 337) or check out our website http://victorianrugmakers.blogspot.com.au/ for venue and further details. A light lunch is included, and everyone is invited from experts to those who have never held a hook before.

WA: Contact Jo Franco at raggedyjaysdesigns@yahoo.com.au for information about a group that meets Saturdays 10:00 to 1:00 in Wanneroo. Also rug hooking presentations, group workshops & private classes and the purchase of tools and frames.
Robin Inkpen's Donnybrook Hookers meet every Wednesday from 10.00am to 2.00pm. Bring your lunch. New members welcome. Contact Robin for more rughooking information at robin.inkpen22@gmail.com

So, after reading all this news,
you want to start a rug group? Here is an article by Webmaster Judi Tompkins:

Not all groups are created equally! by Judi Tomkins (Qld)

So, several of your friends have seen your rug work and are now pestering you to "get a group together so we can learn how to hook"; or perhaps you are frustrated by being so isolated that you do all your hooking on your own and decide to start a group just to have a bit of company.

What do you do next?
Groups of people come together for a variety of reasons and operate in different ways, so the information here is intended to give you some general ideas and things to think about before you set up your group. You are encouraged to explore all the options!

Why do you want to start a group? In other words, what kind of group do *you want?*

A casual group of friends have asked you to teach them how to hook?
You want to "spread the word" about rug hooking to a wider audience?
You would like to teach rug hooking as part of your business?
You would like to be with other fibre artists to expand your knowledge about ways to "push your limits"? And the list goes on.

Do you need to start a group yourself, or is there a similar/related group you could join?
The issue here is to not ignore the obvious! Don't reinvent the group wheel unless you really want a group that only does hooking. You may find another group in your area that has a range of spinners, weavers, sewers, knitters, etc. who would be delighted to have a new, traditional craft added to their mix! If you were seeking company while you do your craft work, this might be a good first step! It is quite possible (and probable) that people within an existing fibre art / handcraft group would be interested in what you're doing (and you can always barter for some of that wonderful wool *they* use)!

Your group structure may be determined by your venue!
Depending on where you hold your group meetings (now that you have decided to start your own group) you may need to "refine" or "fine tune" the way your group will, meet and run.

The simplest and easiest first option?
Simply invite the interested people – your friends probably - to your home!

Stage one:
Invite any interested friends to your home for morning tea or a shared lunch and talk about rug hooking and demonstrate how to do it! Congratulations! You've just started a rug hooking group! After meeting for a few weeks or months your group may decide to rotate the meeting place just to "share the load" and vary the location. Easy, huh?

Stage two:
Your group may never want to move to this stage and that's just fine!
However, if over time, your group would like more of your time and even some structured lessons, from yourself or a visiting instructor – consideration must be given to cost, venue and "liability insurance" …… this is a subject for another newsletter – or you can see an expanded version of this article in the Member Area on the Guild website.

The Australian Rugmakers Guild sponsors no events, nor does it sell any products.
Information in the newsletter concerning both members and non-members and their products is an informational service for the membership.

VENUE:

Using a venue other than your home: What kind of group are you?

Community Group formed through a Council

Some groups are set up within existing Council-supported organisations, like arts and crafts groups, or fibre and textile art groups. If you decide to join one of these existing groups or to start a new one with Council approval in order to access to the venue you need, you will probably find they have a number of regulations and requirements that you and your group must follow. Don't let this discourage you, but do take the time to find out how you can access the facilities and what you need to do to be part of the community structure. You may find that for some organisations you will be expected to make items "for the community good" or some such. After all, you are a "community" group using community resources. This can be a good thing and serve to give you, your members and the craft a good public profile. Just be aware of what the advantages and disadvantages of working through this avenue.

Again, make sure you are clear on the public liability issues for your group. Are you covered though the Council or do you need to still have your own public liability insurance? Most forms you complete will make this answer very clear.

Members of the Community using Council facilities

This is different from being a "community Council-supported group". In this case (for example) the Council library may have a community meeting room available for use by "members of the community". It may be that you need to give your "group" a name – which you would probably do anyway – and then arrange for your group to use the community room on a regular basis. Since this is not a Council recognised group (in that they are providing any support) you will probably have more freedom in your projects and would not be expected to produce items "for the community" although it might be a good idea at some point to produce a "gift" rug / wall hanging for the library just to let them know what you are doing!

Once again, you will be confronted by the public liability issue. It is up to you and your group to decide if you want to take on additional insurance to cover any incidents or accidents that may occur within the group – the Council and library would still have offer the usual protections to you when it is a library accident as opposed to (for example) someone tripping over a frame during a group session.

This is an issue you will need to discuss and decide for yourselves.

Your group meets as the arm of another organisation.

Your group might decide to join the CWA (Country Women's Association) or the local historical society so you can be another "arm" of these groups. Again, you may find that as members of the larger organisation you might be expected to take on organisational work (work the cake stall, serve as a tour guide, keep minutes of your meetings, or other organisational duties). Again, this is not necessarily a bad thing, you just need to be aware of their internal structure and how they operate before you decide. Any organisation that receives money for their group (of which you are a part) generally has a legal obligation (at least in QLD) to keep records and maintain a file of minutes of how funding is used (acquittal forms) and the activities of their organisation. So, beware that you might have to have a bit more "structure" about your group and its meetings that you may want.

Again, check on whether your group is covered by the organisation's public liability insurance.

You would assume that you are if you are under their "umbrella" of activities but don't assume this is true!

No matter what kind of group you start…enjoy yourself! You can't have too much fibre in your life!

Australian Rugmakers Guild Board Members :-

President; **Judith Stephens**
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studioblue20@gmail.com

Vice Pres.; **Marion Nefiodovas**
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Treasurer; **Marie Catlin**
Wanneroo, WA
mariec51@gmail.com

Benefits of Guild Membership - spreading friendship around the country through rug making; the opportunity to connect regularly in person and on the internet to contribute to research topics, conversations about tools and projects, etc.... along with communication with other members via the website. Plus, a newsletter which also includes news about various rug making techniques and different styles of rug making as well as news of associated crafts.

Australian Rugmakers Guild Membership/Renewal Application*

NAME ..... PHONE (.....).....

ADDRESS.....

CITY.....STATE..... POST CODE .....

EMAIL ADDRESS .....

Membership fees: $15 per year due 1st January each year.
$20 per year for printed copy of newsletter
(If you require receipt, please include stamped addressed envelope)

Cash: $ ..... **Cheque**: $..... **Money Order** $..... ***Direct Deposit** $ .....
*Online direct deposit payment can be made contact Jo @ rugcraftersaustralia@yahoo.com.au for details.

☆ **Renewal Applications** please complete **all** details

Privacy Notice:
Please note your street address and phone number is listed in the Membership Directory.
A Membership List from the Directory is available, upon request, to all Australian Rugmakers Guild members.
Also ONLY your name, state and email address will be listed on the private members networking website.
Please mark with an (*) any of your information you do not wish to have shown on the Membership List provided to other members or on the website.

Return application to – Membership Chair, Australian Rugmakers Guild
PO Box 2212, Clarkson, WA 6030

Are you interested in forming, or being part of a rug hooking group in your local area? Yes [ ]

Please indicate your suburb or the distance you're willing to travel to join a group
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