AUSTRALIAN RUGMAKERS GUILD

NEWSLETTER JUL/AUG/SEP 2013

Networking the Rugmakers & Fibre Artists of Oceania

www.rughookingaustralia.com.au

From the Editor:

Aussie members making International news;
Yvonne Dalton from South Australia has been featured in "Fibre Art Now" with a full page picture showing her eco dyed fabric in it's natural bush setting.

Fumiyo Hachisuka, in Australia last year for the TIGHR Conference and now a member of the Australian Guild, will be convening the 23rd Rug Hooking Exhibition in Tokyo, October 2013.
Australian Guild President Judith Stephens and members Susan Feller and Fumiyo Hachisuka, have entries in a travelling Exhibition in the USA
.....read more on page 13

Guild President, Judith Stephens and I will leave the last week of September to give a class at the
ATHA Biennial Conference in Long Beach, California. www.atharugs.com

While on the Homefront - still talking exhibitions, rughooked creations have been exhibited in VIC and SA and there is a Call for Entries to a travelling textile art exhibition in Australia in 2014. Read more on page 6.

Rug Hooking Workshops have been held in QLD by Judi Tompkins, Cynthia Nicklin, Bec Andersen and in WA by Robin Inkpen and yours truly.
Word has come in about Group meetings in QLD/NSW/VIC/SA/WA .
Online: several of the rug hooking groups have their own blogs - which makes it possible for those who cannot come together with other rug hookers to do so "virtually".
If you're interested to know what others are doing - just sign up as a subscriber to their blog and you will be notified whenever it is updated.

It's exciting to see how interest in rugmaking has grown in Australia.
I enjoy keeping members up-to-date and look forward to bringing you more news.

Cheers *Jo Franco*

ONLINE vs PRINT - big changes are in the works for this newsletter.
Please read the article on page 8.

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In one of the many online discussions about "creativity in rug hooking", the subject generated much feedback on the Rug Hooking Daily website with something like 800 responses, so I am unable to acknowledge the following to a particular person, but thought it worth including here the quote attributed to St. Francis of Assisi :

"A man who works with his hands is a labourer.
A man who works with his hands and his mind is a craftsman, and
a man who works with his hands, mind and heart is an artist. "

DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING EVENTS >>>>>

November:

Rugmakers will be represented at the Adelaide Craft & Quilt Fair,
Thurs 7 to Sun 10 November 2013
Open 10am—4:30pm
Goyder Pavilion, Adelaide Showground,
Goodwood Road, Wayville
http://www.craftfair.com.au/wp/Adelaide/

October:

Visit the Victorian Rugmakers Group demonstrating rug hooking. They will have a display of their rugs at the Stitches & Craft show
Thurs 24 Oct-Sun 27th Oct
from 10:00am-4:30pm
At the Caulfield Racecourse,
East Caulfield, VIC
http://stitchesandcraft.net.au/Melbourne/

QUEENSLAND:

Judith (Judi) Tompkins of Queensland was forwarded a flyer from Victoria -

Cross Pollination - Grafted, a fibre & mixed media competition and exhibition.
Location: Red Rock Regional Theatre & Gallery, 520 Corangamite Lake Rd/Cororooke
Exhibition times: Weekends 11am - 4pm July 6 - August 25th 2013.
Brief: Create an innovative, multimedia work, incorporating a fibre component of the theme of "Grafted".
Definition: To graft is to join two things that do not share a natural relationship or affinity of each other.

One of Judi's recent creations seemed a natural to enter in this exhibition so the image below and Judi's description was forwarded to the Exhibition Committee and accepted immediately.

"CAUGHT"

Caught! draws upon my childhood experience of living in the "big snow" area of northern Michigan (the "Great Lakes State"), my migration as an adult to coastal Queensland, and my love for adventure travel.
I feel a magnetic pull to be near *any* body of water and *Caught!* includes this essential natural resource as a way to connect the seemingly unrelated elements of recycled materials/ fibres, fish, plants (both as literal tree branches and woven fibres) and water.
I made "Caught!' shortly after I dyed a batch of bed sheets and "ugly" wool with Scribbly Gum bark. The resulting colours were so wonderful that I thought by hooking the fabric "high" I could create a textural, rough-scaled, ancient fish. To create the illusion of water running off the fish as it is hauled from the water, I hooked metallic thread in-between each scale.
Water of course is never just "blue", so I added a mosaic of colours and fabrics – wool blankets and shirt, bamboo, mohair and alpaca knitting yarns – to surround the "caught" fish as it is lifted from the water. Beneath the fish, a recycled (used twice) handmade fishing net is lashed to a Scribbly Gum frame. The fish is suspended independently from the net and I can imagine a person tightly griping the "handles" as they scoop up the fish.

Many of you know Judi as the hard working Webmaster for the Australian Rugmakers Guild who is passionate about rug hooking. However you may not know that she is a recent convert to rug making. When asked to describe her rughooking background, Judi said.....

I grew up in northern Michigan (USA) in a time when thrift, recycling and traditional crafts - and the philosophy of "passing it on" - was the norm. I watched as my grandmother and her sewing circle ('the bee") of friends patiently recycled - we would now say "up-scaled" - unwanted fabric into hooked and braided rugs, artwork quilts and other practical creations. How they were able to take ugly scraps of fabric and change them into beautiful art works was pure magic to me.
When I retired from my career as a consultant (2007) I had the time to focus on my interest in fibre art but I quickly learned that traditional (rag) rug craft – which came to Australia with the transported migrants – had all but disappeared! This meant that the necessary tools, books, equipment and even backing fabric wasn't (and still isn't) produced or available in Australia. It took me over two years of self-education and surfing the Net to locate and import the items I needed to equip my basic workshop and studio.
As an educator, the concept of sharing knowledge, skills and information - "passing it on" - is important to me, so I joined the quietly growing Australian Guild of rug crafters working to save and revive this traditional craft (most often confused with "latch hooking"). At last, the craft of hand-hooking traditional "rugs" (a term that now includes floor and wall mats, as well as 3-dimensional installations and wearable art) has re-emerged on a small scale in Australia as both art - and craft.
My interest in working with fibre means that I have come full circle and suddenly feel part of my grandmother's "quilting bee ladies" and the artisans I've met over the years. Rug hooking is slow and repetitive but it is this aspect of the process that drives me to create. The unhurried nature of the craft takes me on a journey that gives me time to reflect on the both the subject of my work and the materials I use.
I enjoy every step of the way.
I believe that continuing to hand on (might we say "recycle"?) the basic skills associated with this craft serves to pay tribute to the ingenuity and creativity of our grandmother's and other skilled migrants.

Unless otherwise noted, images in this newsletter were provided by the artists.
Permission to publish has been received.
No part of any image should be reproduced by any process without written permission of the artist.

QLD - continued

Another rug hooker in Queensland who has been gaining press coverage, most recently, on Friday June 21 2013 in The Village Pump, is Cynthia Nicklin, who has a passion for recycling. Cynthia says -

"For this whale rug (46cmx29cm) hooked on hessian, I used Tshirts – there are always people willing to donate their old garments – track pants, as well. Because these are slightly stretchy they hook well. Just cut the strips slightly larger if the fabric is thin. I have used some frayed mottled green cotton, but this was only for effect – for a crocodile."

More of Cynthia's rug work can be seen on the following website http://www.creativesamford.com/cynthia-nicklin
Cynthia teaches occasionally at the Pine River Gallery and she tells me she recently demonstrated rug hooking at the Samford Show which is a local Fair leading up to the big Show in Brisbane (the Ekka) she said the weekend was a feel-good experience, as so many people wanted to talk and question what she was doing.

TOOLS - FRAMES, HOOKS AND BACKING by Jo Franco

As the Guild is a non-profit group and does not take in any funds other than membership dues, the following clause is always included in the newsletter and 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."

At this time most rug making supplies need to be imported. This is relatively easy to do with access to the internet, however international postage adds a significant amount to the cost.
Helping members find a source for supplies and materials through networking, is a benefit of membership.
Frames of various design are now being made in QLD, SA and WA.
Manufacturing hooks however is another story - they are not easy to produce because of the difficulty working with the metal shank. A pencil hook with a graduated shank has been made in SA. While in WA, one guild member's innovative husband made a traditional hook by inserting a No. 3 crochet into a wooden "mug" handle. When asked to make more than one it was necessary to come up with a jig so that the handles could be clamped in place while the holes were drilled accurately into the centre of the handles. This type of hook is inexpensive; a few dollars for a crochet hook and $1 for a wooden handle.
However, "inexpensive" is not an accurate term when time to make them is not taken into account.
This type of inexpensive hook, made from a crochet hook, is sold by many suppliers overseas for about $7 and is seen in many rughooking magazine articles. The disadvantage is these hooks do not have a graduated shank and really only work for those who like a pencil hook. A wood turner could come up with a handle either ball or pear shaped that would fit in the palm of your hand, BUT you still would not have the advantage of the graduated shank to be found on the imported brass/wood handled hooks. Before the interest in rug hooking started to take off in Australia, Miriam Miller (NSW) was the only importer of these lovely brass/wood handled hooks. As groups started to form Miriam encouraged their leaders to import the hooks directly as it is more economical to buy them in bulk and pay only one amount of postage.

Now you may ask why a rug hook is necessary - what's wrong with just a plain crochet hook ?
Actually, you CAN use a simple crochet hook, it's just that if you do a lot of rug hooking, without having a handle to hold onto you are putting great strain on your hand and wrist. Sometimes the strain of struggling to pull a crochet hook and fabric through the hessian backing can be enough to turn a beginner off the idea of rug hooking.

Cost is not the only factor, just which hook to use is a personal choice and depends on the size of a persons hand and the type of hooking they do. Some have just one hook which they use for all their hooking, others collect hooks in different sizes, both hook size and handle. While others collect them as souvenirs.

Something new on the Guild Website..... **Swap & Sell**, where guild members can submit short descriptions or photos of items they wish to sell, share or swap with other rug hookers, or post Items wanted.
Your contact information will be passed on to interested members.
Please note that the Guild will not be responsible for any sales or exchanges that take place via this site.
That is the responsibility of the poster only and all submissions are posted in good faith.

NEW SOUTH WALES: South Coast

For those of you who have not seen the recent blog on the Guild's website www.rughookingaustralia.com.au *here is a photo taken on a mobile phone by Miriam Miller while hiking with her son up Mt. Bushwalker to the Miller Falls, named for Miriam and her late husband Allen.*

Unfortunately, while enjoying the view, Miriam slipped and fell and broke her wrist, so rug hooking for her has not been possible for a while.

Jacqui Thomson sent the following message about the Narrawilly groups rug day held 5th July 2013. along with these three rug images.

On this day we had 17 members working on various projects. Our rug days are always full of surprises with Coral Christina entertaining us on her ukulele and causing members to burst into song. Some of our members travel long distances, from Canberra and Tuross. Below are photos of rugs by Maggie Hickey - the "**harbour bridge stamp**" and

a hall runner, (1ft 6.5 inches wide by 4ft 9 inches long)

plus Maxine Keys "**the birds**".

We are trying to organise enough rugs to produce another calendar by the end of the year, and for the cover hope to use a friendship rug that is almost finished.
This rug was started after the Ottawa Old Forge Rug group told us about theirs. 35 squares have been completed and as soon as Miriam's wrist is heals she will finish the final square.

The Narrawilly Proggers also entertained the Nowra View Club the 19th July by providing morning tea and a display of our work.

A New Rag Rugging Group in NSW at Bellingen - *located on the mid north coast of NSW, approximately half way between Brisbane and Sydney at the base of the Dorrigo mountains. The nearest big town is Coffs Harbour, about half an hour north.*

Maxine said - Gleniffer (approx. 10 minute drive from Bellingen) is a former farming area. The community hall and a church are often used for weddings and other functions. They have a strong group of people who are very dedicated to the upkeep, with the proceeds of this day going to restoring the floor.

Maxine Keys talked to many people as she demonstrated rag rugging at the Gleniffer Quilt & Craft Fair, on the 31 Aug. 2013.
Four ladies were so enthused with Maxine's demonstration they decided to join the Bellingen rag rugging group. Maxine said none of them had done any rag rugging and their first day was an interesting learning curve for all.

The group meets the first Friday of the month from 10:00 a.m. until "whenever" at Maxine's home - 13 Hobson Cl. Bellingen Ph: 026655-0591 New members welcome

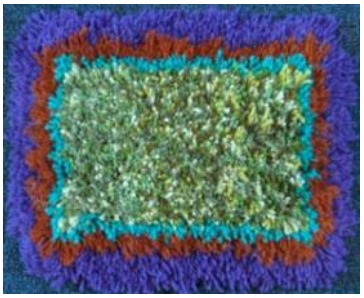
The photos below of the new members enjoying the day, taken at the last Bellingen rag rugging day, Fri 6 Sept. From left to right; Phornthip, Pam and Sharon Aishwasya.

TASMANIA:

Joanne Wild advised that….." the **Happy Hookers** are now just meeting at the **British Hotel** (80 Emu Bay Rd Deloraine TAS 7304) on Thursday mornings from 10am to midday. It is a vibrant group of women of all ages and one man, Peter, who makes large rugs from kit designs (buys his wide mesh backing from England)."

*Joanne also said they are on the Fringe of the **Tasmanian Craft Fair** in Deloraine again where they're selling **Happy Hooker** merchandise. Below are a couple of their latch hooked creations using carpet wool (yarn).*

Joanne is happily French knitting at the moment, and used this creation, (shown below left) made out of French Knitting to keep her French Knitting in at her stall at the recent Deloraine Markets.



Rug news from the ACT - Canberra 100 Centenary Community Tapestry by Maggie Whyte

This year marks the founding of Canberra as the National's Capital, as you can imagine there are many events happening around the ACT to mark this.

In July last year I went to the Old Bus Depot Markets Creative Fibre Day (always a fun market if you are visiting Canberra).
The ANU Art School Tapestry project had a stall there. I met Dan Edwards the co-ordinator who told me that they were offering 4 free workshops during August and September so that the community could become involved in the Tapestry.
As a person who is always game to learn new things (except fishing) I decided to sign up.

I enjoyed the workshops and becoming involved with the tapestry but I decided that I do not think I will make much of a tapestry weaver as my circles always ended up looking like eggs. Never mind they have needed people to do simple things like stitching and couching.

So for the last few months I have been going into the School of Art and helping out. The tapestry is about 3/4 finished and due to be finished at the end of October.

It is truly a community project as many different groups and people have become involved from school groups, girl guides, felt makers, knitters, quilters, pensioners, office staff and not to mention tourists from New Zealand and Canada that I know of.

Not only if is great to get involved and meet many new people but I have founds being at the Textiles School of the School of Art has been amazing to see all the inspiring work that the students are producing, talking to them and getting to know the students gives me great hope for the future.

So if you are in Canberra for a visit before the end of October do go and see the Tapestry and maybe even weave a small section as Dan will help you.

Dan has a blog 'Canberra 100 community tapestry'
http://canberra100communitytapestry.com/about/
The blog gives you the full story. It is designed by Anne Trevillian and without
Valarie Kirk head of the school of textiles we would not have such a memorable tapestry to hang in the ACT Legislative Assembly.

To celebrate the hanging of the tapestry in November there will also be an exhibition of small tapestries as well. Anyone can enter from Australia or world-wide so if you are a tapestry maker as well as a rug maker you are welcome to enter a piece.

Well now it is time to get back to working on my rug in progress but as today is the first day of spring and it is a lovely sunny day after a cold old winter I think after all I may take a cup of tea and go and sit in the garden and dream of all the rugs that I will make.
Maggie

Call for Entries – Living Colour Textiles A travelling textile art exhibition

Textile artists are invited to submit an entry for a travelling textile art exhibition exploring the title theme – *Living Colour!* Each work will be in a 40cm x 100cm (W x L) single-sided, vertical banner format and up to 30 works may be selected by the curator, Brenda Gael Smith.

To submit an entry, please review the Conditions of entry at http://livingcolourtextiles.com/ **AND** complete the **Online Entry Form** at http://livingcolourtextiles.com/entry-form/
The closing date for entries is **31 January 2014**. International entries are welcome.

VICTORIA (Editors Note)

For several years Anne Schafer felt all alone as a Victorian rug maker. However, all that changed when she met up with Chris Noorbergen and Joy Marshall at the Strathalbyn Rug Hooking Expo in October 2012.

The Victorian Rug hooking group whose members live at least an hour from each other, is in its infancy, still few in numbers, they are definitely enthusiastic and creative rug hookers. Chris and Joy discovered rug hooking on the internet and had already ordered frames and hooks online, watched Gene Shepherds videos and had rugs under-way with some already completed when they arrived to meet Gene in person at the Rug Hooking Expo.
Now they belong to and send regular updates to his internet rug camp. http://www.internetrugcamp.com/rugcamp2/

At their first official gathering Robyne Melia joined this trio and bought to it her blogging skills, immediately setting out to create a blog for the group where they post interesting reports about their monthly get-togethers taken in turn at each others homes. Their visits are a full day of discussing, creating, dyeing and socializing over wonderful spreads of food - all of which is reported on the blog. If you haven't already visited them online check out http://victorianrugmakers.blogspot.com.au/
Just enter your email address in the "Subscribe" box and you will be included in their news updates - which are informative and social.

Members of the group use this blog in-between meetings to keep each other up-to-date on how their current projects are coming along. Comments can be made and answered on each post - it's similar to having a "My Page" on a .ning networking site i.e. Rug Hooking Daily http://rughookingdaily.ning.com/
Chris is at the "finish stage" of her "Hubby rug" (shown underway in an earlier ARG newsletter). Robyne's hooked stool cushion was documented through pattern design, hooking and finally finish and assembly onto the a freshly painted stool. Her current rug was designed by her husband. Reports of their first few meetings were shown in full in this newsletter; here are some images of their August meeting at Joy's house in Lilydale, where they attempted a dye project from Gene Shepherds newly published book; "Preparing to Dye" and displaying the results happily on Joy's clothes line.

" Glimmers of Hope"
by Joy Marshall
Glimmers of Hope is my first rug using a linen backing and is approximately 4 feet long and 1.5 feet wide.
It uses recycled hand dyed blanketing and is my own design.
The image is a graphic representation of a phrase I woke up with in my head one morning a few years ago. "Glimmers of hope pierced the gloom". I then finished it with "like stars in the night sky". After Googling this phrase, with no results, I can only put it down to inspiration.

I have long admired Van Gogh's work and this piece is strongly reflective of Starry Sky. After the recent loss of my youngest son, this rug brought together the hope I have in God's love that shines in the darkness of grief, Starry Night, and a hankering to try a design with cats paws.

This rug is going to be entered into an exhibition called Art for the Heart, a yearly event run by Tobin Brothers (funerals) at Yarra Gallery, Federation Square in Melbourne city in November. The exhibition includes works that depict loss, love and hope by those who have/are experiencing grief and depression.
Here is the web address http://tobinbrothers.com.au/art/ I'm guessing it will be the only rug hooked piece!

Print vs Digital by Jo Franco(Editor) ** Important - Please Read **

If you've read the article on the previous page you will understand where I'm coming from when I say that articles in this newsletter should be coming to you in a more timely manner. Waiting to send out at the end of each quarter makes them historical reports rather than "News".
As Editor, I have been aware of this problem for some time and have attempted different ways over the last couple of years to deliver the Newsletter electronically to ARG members - none of which were successful, so I have reverted back to emailing as an attachment.

Unfortunately, or I guess it is REALLY fortunate, there is now too much news. I am in the enviable position as Editor of having to leave articles and images out of the newsletter, as there is just too much each quarter to send as an attachment. It would be more interesting to our members if articles/images could be sent in timely snippets - say once a week - in a way that you didn't have to remember to log-in or even look up a website.

The resurgence of interest in this craft is the result of ARG members branching out and forming local groups. Thus more news to report, indicating a need to have in each State, a guild member who would be willing to have their name and email address shown as a contact for rug hooking information in that State. Who would also gather and submit rug hooking and associated fibre art/craft news from their State. None of us want to be burdened with bureaucracy and administrative chores, but I think there could be members out there who would volunteer for this position if they knew help to get started was available from the Guild Editor and Webmaster.

The Victorian Groups blog http://victorianrugmakers.blogspot.com.au/ shows just how this could be done. News/images from each State uploaded to the blog page on the Guild's website. The Victorian website has a "Subscribe" button, as does the Guilds - all it takes is for a member to type their email address into this box and they will be notified whenever a news item has been added.
There is no "sign-up" or "log-in" or, a password to worry about remembering. An email would arrive in the ARG members regular email Inbox - it would contain a blue link which when clicked would take you directly to the news.

In the past most of our members have said they preferred to be working on their art/craft rather than spending time at the computer. The increase in numbers of members who are now owners of iPads has changed things considerably. These gadgets are showing up everywhere and accessing email is easy and reading articles on websites is more like reading a book since, in most cases, it entails the flick of a finger on the screen as you would turn the page of a book. Plus, the portability allows for information to be shared with Guild members who are not connected to the internet. It's also possible for Guild members without an internet connection at home to set up their own web account at their local library where there is usually help available to them by the staff or visitors to the library.

News received on the website is more timely and there is a box for comments and responses - so in effect you have a networking site. **How would this work - you ask?**

It would be unwieldy to try and make the website available to every member to upload information and images. Thus a person designated as State Representative has been suggested.

* This State Representative does not have to physically upload the text and images. They could enlist the help of a relative, friend or another guild member.
* The Webmaster and her admin assistant (Editor) would assign the designated person the title of "Page Editor" on the website and help them learn to cut and paste text from "Word" and images saved in their computer to the blog.
* A "page editor" works behind the scenes on the website and can only affect their own blog page; this should eliminate any fear a member may have of "messing up the website".
* The uploading is moderated which means a "private" setting is used while uploading, and the information is only published to the public after being approved by the Webmaster or Editor. There would be no attempt to change the news as presented. However it does provide an opportunity to proof for obvious spelling mistakes and go back to the person uploading to clarify any questionable areas.

In previous years official Guild business has been included in the newsletter. In future this would be sent to all members via email or post.
We urge you to go to the website and add your email address - while waiting for "volunteers" Board members from each State will begin posting news articles on the website. Issue No. 4 for 2013 (Oct/Nov/Dec) will be the last newsletter in this format. The Webmaster is also looking for help to maintain the Guild's website; volunteers

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: by Judith Stephens

SALA (South Australian Living Artists) Exhibition 2013

The Strath matters were well represented at the local Stationmasters Gallery in Strathalbyn, with a room full of "ladies of substance". These little (10"x12") hooked pieces on exhibit thru August are all different and do seem to reflect their makers.

We have many "ladies" represented, including Shirley Valentine, the lady in red, Priscilla, Queen of the desert, and even H.M. herself – off duty, with the token corgi!

It was a lot of fun, and being a small project, it didn't take long to complete.

Our thanks go to
Deanne Fitzpatrick
for inspiring us to think
about
our own "big girls"

The Station masters gallery is run by volunteers and needs to be self-supporting. It's frequented by travellers passing through, not many of whom want to buy paintings however they're happy to purchase cards and scarves etc.
Besides the "ladies" we have various small items for sale in the gallery - the ponchos have been a great success!

Hookers Houseboat: by Judith Stephens

Some of the Strathalbyn rug hookers rented a beautiful, quite luxurious, houseboat and enjoyed a long weekend of knitting (not hooking!) eating, drinking and laughing. We took a couple of attached blokes to do the 'driving' (and the cooking) then just enjoyed the experience and the wonderful sights along the magnificent Murray River .
Here is a photograph of our knitting project – colourful ponchos.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

Library Rugs: The Wanneroo Ruggers, a diverse inter-generational community group has been meeting for 3 years. On any Saturday morning you can find from 5 to a dozen members of the community enjoying each others company in a library meeting room working on community projects and teaching newcomers how to "do proddy". After completing four rugs; two for historic homes in the area and two now hanging in the modern library building, the group started making small circular rugs for children to sit on at story time in the library.

The area is a popular one for young families and the Library and Cultural Centre schedule many events aimed at family groups. A recent community art Expo featured 14 area Artists displaying and selling their work. Artists and Craftspeople were invited to demonstrate, exhibit and sell.

This little fellow had trouble deciding just which rug he wanted to sit on

A large rug hooking frame was set up and was very popular, with young and old stopping by to have-a-go.

A storyteller dressed as a fairy read stories in the Library and encouraged the children to take part helping, by providing sound effects; this was a very popular activity.

Workshops by Jo - for Kids in July to Seniors in August

As so much interest is generated by the Saturday morning community rug making group, I was asked to facilitate a workshop for girls and boys aged 7 - 11 during the July school holidays. 17 children were signed up to make fabric baskets for their "treasures" . With several boys in the group I decided to offer fabric in the local teams football colours as well as pretty fabrics.

Everyone was quiet at the beginning of the morning session as they listened and watched me demonstrate the proddy technique. They were given a kit with fabric pieces to use and instructions to take home. It was interesting to watch the tables become covered in fabric as they swapped pieces from the kits they'd chosen. By lunchtime all were ready to go home with a finished product ..... some found other uses for their baskets!

I wasn't surprized to be asked to give a workshop for Seniors, although I did find it rather humorous to learn the full title of the group known as GOLD was -

"**G**rowing **O**ld **L**iving **D**angerously"
This was a group that has been kayaking, hiking and bike riding
How dangerous could rug hooking be?
They definitely had fun and produced some jazzy flowers!

52cm x 88 cm
Hooked as a group project by members of the Donnybrook Hookers

SouthWest News

Will they become the Donnybrook Hookers and Felters?

Robin Inkpen and Kerry Gelmi, a well-known felter from Bunbury, did a swap.
Robin gave a rug hooking workshop to Kerry's Bunbury Felters and Kerry gave a felting workshop to the Donnybrook Hookers. Both workshops were enjoyed by all. There were some very keen wannabe hookers in the Bunbury Felting Group and they have been invited to the Donnybrook Hookers. And many of the DH were keen to do more felting and perhaps combine it with a rugmaking technique to make something really unusual but beautiful. The small pieces of felt that were made in the workshop have not gone to waste. They have been made into various delightful and creative articles for the home.

Robin has also done a toothbrush rug workshop with the Donnybrook Hookers to expand the skills and repertoire of techniques that they can use in their rug making. The beauty of toothbrush rugs is that they can be easily washed in the washing machine and so are ideal for bath mats and where rugs are needed in wet areas. They take a lot of fabric and are ideal recyclers of sheets and duvet covers.

The Donnybrook Hookers rugmaking group is still growing. They have also accepted the invitation of the Collie Craft Group to visit and share their rugmaking skills, and are off to the Boyup Brook craft group next month to share with them. There is never a dull moment here in the South West!

AUSTRALIAN RUGHOOKING GROUPS: Contact information

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 Thurs from 10am-12pm or the 2nd Sat of the month from 1pm-3pm Cost is $15 includes luscious cake and a cuppa.
Judi Tompkins; www.rugcraftingaustralia.com.au for information about the Sunshine Coast RugCrafters who meet 3:00-6:00pm on the 2nd Mon & 3rd Tues of the month and once a month at the Landsborough Historic Museum. Contact Judi for availability of frames and tools Judi.tompkins@bigpond.com

NSW: Miriam Miller; http://www.shoal.net.au/~narrawilly/ Narrawilly Proggers meet on the 1st & 3rd Fri each month at Miriam's studio in Milton, 35 Stoney Hill Lane, NSW 2538 Ph: (02)4455-6870. Miriam, g ives workshops and private classes by appointment and has tools for sale. Email narrawillyfarm@shoal.net.au
Maxine Keys; Belligen group meets 1st Fri each month, 10:00 a.m. until "whenever" at Maxine's home, 13 Hobson Cl. Bellingen. New members welcome. For more information baznmax@bigpond.com or Ph: 026655-0591

SA: Judith Stephens; www.ausrugcraftersaustralia.com Strath Matters meet in Strathalbyn on the 1st and 3rd Fri 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 at studioblue20@gmail.com
Sue Lange advised 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.

VIC: Victorian Rugmakers http://victorianrugmakers.blogspot.com.au/ meet on the 1st Sat of each month from 10am 'til 3pm. Contact Joy Marshall (0448 922 337) or check out their website 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.

ATC: Maggie Whyte for information about rug hooking in Canberra email Maggie maggieandfish@hotmail.com

TAS: Joanne Wild Happy Hookers are a fantastic and jolly group who meet every Thurs morning at the **British Hotel** in Deloraine (10am - midday) for $2 including a cuppa. Visitors welcome!
Contact Joanne wildjoanne1@gmail.com for rughooking yarn and kits.

WA: Jo Franco; www.ausrugcrafters.com.au Contact Jo raggedyjaysdesigns@yahoo.com.au for information about the Wanneroo group that meets every Sat10:00 to 1:00pm. Also rug hooking presentations, group workshops & private classes and the purchase of tools and frames.
Robin Inkpen's Donnybrook Hookers meet every Wed from 10.00am to 2.00pm. Bring your lunch.
New members welcome. Contact Robin for more rughooking information at robin.inkpen22@gmail.com

News from Japan by Fumiyo Hachisuka

Our rug hooking group is planning their 23rd Rug Hooking Exhibition.
The theme is "Garden". Matts (20cm sq.) made with recycled clothing will be exhibited along with a display of other works of the group, all will be for sale.
The exhibition will run from October 26 to November 4 at the Art Gallery in Hotel Chinzanso. You can check out the hotel http://www.hotel-chinzanso-tokyo.jp/ To see the English version - click "English translation" on the upper right side. This hotel with beautiful Japanese gardens is famous for the wedding ceremony. For those thinking of traveling to Japan, this hotel is in the north west part of the central Tokyo . It is inside of Yamanote Line (JR train) and MEJIRO station is the nearest. A bus from the airport goes to this hotel.

I also teach English to students now at my home.

For an exhibition last spring I painted a SUMIE of St. Peters Church, Adelaide.

(Editors Note: It sounds like Fumiyo has had a busy year – she emailed this information, not being familiar with the term SUMIE I consulted Wikipedia and this is what I found
*…..***Ink wash painting**, is an East Asian type of brush painting. Only black ink, the same as used in East Asian calligraphy, is used in various concentrations.
Different brushes have different qualities. A small wolf-hair brush that is tapered to a fine point can deliver an even thin line of ink (much like a pen). A large wool brush (one variation called the *big cloud*) can hold a large volume of water and ink. When the big cloud brush rains down upon the paper, it delivers a graded swath of ink encompassing myriad shades of gray to black.
Once a stroke is painted, it cannot be changed or erased. This makes ink and wash painting a technically demanding art-form

Yes it is correct, South Australia's **Yvonne Dalton** is one of several world class eco-dyers featured in the Summer issue of *Fiber Art Now* magazine.
Available at Books-A-Million or Barnes and Noble in the States and Chapters in Canada or as subscription on line at www.fiberartnow.net

More on Yvonne's work can be seen on The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers website www.tighr.net and in an article by India Flint at http://handeyemagazine.com/content/wrapping-trees

Association of Traditional Hooking Artists (ATHA) http://atharugs.com/biennial2013/
Biennial Conference Sept 25th—28th 2013, Long Beach, California

Participants of the international Conference in Strathalbyn (Oct 2012) were intrigued by Judith's Stephens use of coils in her rug work. An invitation followed to Judith and Jo to teach a class using this technique at the Biennial.

Judith and Jo will team-teach this class.
Participants will provide
their own wool allowing for their choice of colour.
They will learn how to make the coils and incorporate them into a design for a small tote bag
(pictured - two sides, day/night.)
Demonstrations will be given on how to create various types of handles and instructions provided for the final construct of the bag. They are looking forward to meeting old friends and enjoying this fun class.

Interesting Links:

Fiber Arts Mixed Media (FAMM) http://www.fibermixedmedia.com
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 he gave workshops at Miriam Miller's studio in Milton, & 2012 attended the TIGHR Conference in Strathalbyn & taught at the 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 has developed rughooking patterns since 1994, and she offers a wide range of products, books, equipment, tools and information. http://shop.ruckmanmillfarm.com/

iView: *a traveling fiber art exhibit curated by Linda Rae Coughlin featuring 16 artists from around the world. Displayed at Sauder Village August 2013 and opened at the Barron Art Center 582 Rahway Ave. Woodbridge NJ on Sept 12, 2013 ~ 7-9pm. (See Page 9 of the following link* http://digital.turn-page.com/i/160770/0 *and see Linda Rae interviewed on* http://vp.telvue.com/player?id=T00347&video=166820

Curator's Statement ~ Linda Rae Coughlin

The world today is inundated with everything *"i",* from iPods, to iBooks, to iPads, to iPhone, to iPhotos, etc., just to name a few. With that in mind, introducing ***iView: Analysis***, an exhibit that analysis's the world through the eyes/ i's of leading fiber/rug hooking artists from around the globe.

iView: Analysis is an exhibition featuring sixty-four artworks created using the techniques of fiber hooking and stitching. The theme of the exhibit was open to interpretation and each artist was encouraged to create four pieces using their own personal imagination and craft.
This international exhibit includes artists from USA, Canada, Japan and Australia. It consists of sixteen textile artists who have joined together to give their own view of *"i"*. Each artist in the ***i iView: Analysis*** **exhibit created four related pieces that each measure 4" x 6", the size of "artist postcards"(either horizontal or vertical in orientation) which were then mounted in wooden shadow boxes that measure 6"W x 8"H x 1"D.**

The artists were free to interpret their pieces (and shadow boxes) any way they chose, with the only restriction being that some type of rug hooking, punch hooking, or Russian needle punch be present in at least part of one of their four pieces, and that the art work did not extend outside of each shadow box. With that in mind, each artist created a quartet of intimate "stories" boxes which either boldly or subtly opened you into their own visual world. From Susan Alain's pieces called *More,* which was a steady progression of adding more and more to each of her four pieces till there was no more to add, created using raw linen which as painted with house paint and then knitted, hooked and embellished, to Burma Cassidy's pieces which look at the music icon Lady Gaga, created using fine sewing threads which were punched into a linen foundation; each artist created a beautiful series vignettes.

Judith Stephens; Australia
"The River's Lament" Depicting the gradual degradation of the largest river in Australia. The pieces are hooked with wool yarn on hessian. They include woven circles which represent the heart and soul of the river. Beads represent the salt which forms on dried river beds and billabongs.

Fumiyo Hachisuka; Japan *"Phases"*
Time passes like a circle from spring to winter (from Phase I through Phase IV, and also like a line from the beginning to the end (shown by the color shading).
Phase I is like a female, soft and warm. Phase II is the male, hard and green. Phase III is the old Japanese letters that mean the place where the person is standing and the eye watching (we read from right to left). Phase IV is an old Japanese letter (we read from the bottom to top).
iView is the phase where we are on now, I hope

Susan Feller; W.Virginia USA
"A Birds Eye View"

The four works take the viewer on the reproduction leg of one species of migratory bird. Do you feel the excitement building as the birds are COMING BACK?

The woods become individual trees as they are GETTING CLOSE.

Now in full view the bright plumage and sounds mean they are ALMOST THERE.

After a look at the winter damage, and a week of repair the two can say we are FINALLY HOME.

"Wise Choices" was inspired by the different ways we chose to live our lives: making either wise or poor choices depending on our views and situations. The orientation of the four pieces with the top and bottom pieces being both horizontal and the two center pieces being vertical form the letter "I" mirroring the I in *iView* title. If the pieces are studied carefully there is also a subliminal message within the pieces, having again something to do with the letter "I".

LindaRae Coughlin
New Jersey, USA

GUILD NEWS:

Australian Rugmakers Guild Board Members :-

President; **Judith Stephens**
Strathalbyn, SA,
studioblue20@gmail.com

Vice Pres.; **Marion Nefiodovas**
Clayton, SA,
mnefiodovas@gmail.com

Secretary; **Jacqueline Thomson**
Milton, NSW
Jthomson_1@bigpond.com

President Emeritus;
Miriam Miller, Milton, NSW,
Skype: mirian_miller
narrawillyfarm@shoal.net.au

Editor/Membership; **Jo Franco**
Perth, WA, Skype: tandjfranco
rugcraftersaustralia@yahoo.com.au

Webmaster; **Judi Tompkins**
Landsborough, QLD, Skype: juditompkins
Judi.tompkins@bigpond.com

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, 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.
(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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