AUSTRALIAN RUGMAKERS GUILD

NEWSLETTER OCT/NOV/DEC 2013

Networking the Rugmakers & Fibre Artists of Oceania

www.rughookingaustralia.com.au

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From the President, Judith Stephens

Seasons greetings to you all,
and may the Festive Season be kind to you and your families.

The New Year will bring some exciting happenings in our Guild, with changes to the way we communicate and two major rughooking events;
a retreat in NSW in March
and a magic Expo event to attend in SA in October.

Let us all try to introduce a friend to rug hooking in 2014, and maybe even finish that project languishing in the cupboard!
All the best for 2014, and happy hooking.

Cheers Judith

Looking back at 2013 -

Over this past year there has been an impressive growth in interest by the public in this craft, with existing groups growing in numbers and successfully reaching out to the public at many fibre events. The art/craft of rug hooking is once again becoming known in Australia.

The Guild as an organization aims to encourage and further interest in all types of rughooking techniques.
The New Year will bring changes to how you receive your Australian Rughooking news and provide new ways to network.
No longer will you have to wait 3 months to find out what's happening only to discover that you've missed an event. For those members interested in creativity there will be more of a web presence.

Details will be emailed or sent to all members in January along with a reminder to renew your Guild membership.
It has been interesting and rewarding getting to know so many guild members via email, Skype and this newsletter.
Best Wishes to all this festive season and for a healthy and Happy New Year.

Jo Franco
Editor

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QUEENSLAND:

William Landsborough Day activities (19 Oct 2013) in Landsborough, Qld by Judi Tompkins

Although we did have a "small items for sale table" during the event, eight of the rug group who staffed the stall were primarily focused on demonstrating the various rughooking techniques and talking to visitors about rug crafting in an effort to raise public awareness about this traditional craft. Conservatively, I would guess we had nearly 80 visitors to our stall who stopped "for a look"; asked questions and told us their family stories; and "had a go" on the demonstration frame.

As a result of this event, we have four new members and discovered at least three people in the area who have "stories to tell and old rugs to show" which means I can begin to document a little bit more about traditional rug hooking in this region of the state.

It was a particularly good event from my point of view because it let me watch how the rug group members have grown as a group and as individuals who were surprised to discover that they have more knowledge about this craft than they thought! They did a great job working with the public, answering questions and handling the demonstrations. I was like a proud "hooker"!

Editors Note: *I was surprised (and somewhat embarrassed), to learn from Judi, a transplant from the USA some 30 year ago, that I did not know who William Landsborough was. She tells me that he was an explorer and leader of one of the parties in search of Burke & Wills on their ill-fated expedition.*
Not only that, on 14 August 1862, he arrived in Melbourne after crossing the continent from north to south. For those interested in historical facts - google "William Landsborough and Burke and Wills" and you will find some interesting reading.
The members of Judi's two groups meet at the Beerwah Library on the second Monday and third Tuesday of each month from 3-6pm, as well as gathering at each other's homes to expand their rug hooking knowledge and skills and encourage creativity.
They have a good leader in Judi as she has incredible energy and is highly motivating.
Take a look at her personal rughooking website www.rugcraftingaustralia.com.au *and you'll see why I make that comment.*

Bec Andersen - "Wattle Chair Resurrection"

Bec's Queensland Regional Art Award artwork entry has been selected by the Head Judge and Curator, Tim Morrell to tour in next year's *Living Change* touring exhibition. http://www.flyingarts.org.au/Queensland-Regional-Art-Awards-pg20381.html The exhibition will be launched at The State Library of Queensland on Saturday 1 February 2014.
It will then tour throughout the State to five regional venues including; Dogwood Crossing, Miles; Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Toowoomba; The Centre, Beaudesert; Grassland Art Gallery, Tambo and finally Childers Art Space, Childers.
(the tour ends mid January 2015).
BecAndersen.com

NEW SOUTH WALES: South Coast

MILTON RUG RETREAT 2014

http://www.shoal.net.au/~narrawilly/

Rugmakers are invited to join the Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers at the Rug Room, Milton

on Friday 28th March to Monday 31 March 2014

for a long weekend of rughooking and socializing.
If you'd like to attend please advise Miriam by 28th February, earlier if you would like a billet.

For more information please contact Miriam Miller, phone (02)4455-6870 email: narrawillyfarm@shoal.net.au

A REGULAR RUG DAY AT MILTON - November 2013 by Miriam Miller

On Friday 15th November, 18 members at our regular rug day enjoyed the company of two visitors. Claudia Allen from Canada (below) who is in Australia for 12 months. She brought with her several finished rugs to show and others still works in progress.

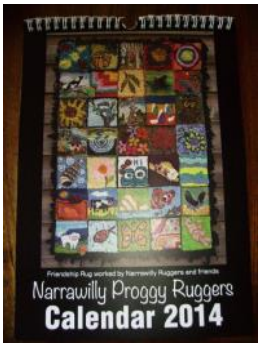
We admired Claudia's designs and enjoyed her explanation of how she dyed the wool. Claudia uses the traditional (looped) rug hooking technique to create fine shaded rugs and wall hangings with wool fabric strips and has taken work-shops from well known rughooking instructors like Canadian Doris Norman. It was good to have a person coming from a different rug approach like Claudia, it stimulates our interest and ideas.

Bobby George (left) drove 7 hours from Beechworth in Victoria to visit us. Bobby is staying for a couple of days and will go with us tomorrow, the 16th November to demonstrate rug making at a Country Crafts Open garden near Milton.

As the day started, Jo Franco in Western Australia not realizing it was our rug day, called on Skype, so she had a chance to talk to both Claudia and Bobby and all enjoyed meeting each other.

There was much talk during the day as usual and a fabulous lunch. Bobby had a broken shoulder a few months ago and had to give rug making a rest for a while. Today she was able to start a proggy rug and was very happy to have the use of one of Les Ritchie's wooden proggy tools which was comfortable in her hand and easy to use.

Jacqui was on the ball taking photos and all admired Marilyn Smyth's finished rug, and also Margaret duChateau's which have been photographed and written up in our journal.



2014 Calendar

The Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers have a new calendar featuring images of rugs made by group members for sale at a cost of $5 postage to anywhere in Australia is $1.80 for one & $3 for2.
STOP PRESS! Miriam just advised (7/12/13) the Calendars have sold out - maybe we should think about this as a Guild project next year?
Miriam also said - "*Yesterday was our Christmas meeting of rugmakers and our fashion parade. We had more than 50 here, and afterwards sold the clothing for 50 cents a piece, and raised $110 for Heather Ritchie's project for the blind in The Gambia.*
It was a very happy and good day; we had 7 come over from Canberra, and as usual the models were so good. Best Wishes for the Season to all - Miriam"

AN INTERNATIONAL VISITOR : by Miriam Miller

Jacqui and Pamela

On October 18th I had a visit from Pamela Bar Or from Israel. She was only here about three hours and in that time, showed photos of her rugs, we skyped Judi Tompkins, had lunch, talked to some spinners who were here and dyed some pieces of blanket.
I also showed her different backings we use, and gave her some of Bec Anderson's.
Pamela has been to Heather Ritchie's in the UK a few times plus their school at Reeth, but she hasn't found anyone in Israel doing rugs so finds it hard being a lone rug hooker.
Her visit here was a full on and very exciting time.

Rug Finishing Technique by Claudia Allen

Editors Note: *There are many different finishing techniques for rugs. During Claudia's visit to Miriam's we spoke on Skype and she showed me a couple of her rugs. I noticed some extra tape on the back of one and asked about it. Claudia agreed to share with Guild members a "finishing" technique which helps large wall hangings lay flat against the wall. This technique was taught by Doris Norman (Canadian) who according to Claudia is the Celtic Art guru . . along with stained glass and anything else you want to know.*

Claudia said;
This wall hanging (Merpeople) was whipped-stitched around the entire edge. Before whipping, I laid cotton cording along the under edge of the mat and then folded the backing fabric over the cording and pinned it in place. The corners were mitred.
The backing fabric was then trimmed to about 5 cm, I whipped over the cording then pressed the mat using a damp cloth to help it lay flat.
Next, 5cm binding tape was hand-stitched right next to the edge of the whipping on the underside of the rug. Again the corners were mitred.
Once the binding tape was attached, it was stitched down the inside edge to encase the raw edge of the backing. (If the backing is too wide it can be trimmed all around so that it is hidden behind the binding tape.)
Then two rows of binding tape were attached down the length of the mat. (the number of rows of tape depends on the width of the mat/wall hanging)
To attach the rows of binding tape down the back of the mat a zig- zagged long stitch was used; going through the hooking to the right side and then back through to the wrong side of the mat to catch a thread of the backing.
This stitching was continued down the tape approximately every 5cm.
Once all the stitching was done (and it does take time but worth it)
I attached a sleeve across the top using binding tape directly onto the top binding tape. An opening at each end was left for the rod to go through. (I stitch the ends under so that it doesn't unravel.)
A sleeve and rod can be attached across the bottom as well if you wish to give the wall hanging more weight.
This finish technique takes a awhile but worth it in the end as it keeps your wall hanging nice and straight.

The "fringe" - bottom strips were put in after the rug was completed. After the bottom was folded up (turned up) each strip was looped between each thread across the entire piece. They, too, were No. 6 strips. I hooked two straight lines across the bottom in the water colour to give it strength for the looping. I used extra long pieces and alternated colours to stay with the water colours and varied the length. I just adjusted the pieces after it was done and hung it while doing that so it made sense.

The water was hooked in the circles of life kind of thing and to show movement to the water effect.

"Merpeople" 830 x 820 mm
"A ghra mo chroil" is Gaelic and means Love of my Heart

Designed and Hooked by Claudia Allen,
using size No 6 (6/32")
wool fabric strips

VICTORIA:

Stitches & Craft Show in Melbourne by Chris Noorbergen

http://expertiseevents.net.au/stitchesandcraft/2013/Melb/Souvenir_Show/#/1/

We had an amazing extended weekend at Caulfield 24th to 27th October, 2013 It was the first time Rug Making was represented in the Guild area of the Stitches & Craft Show in Melbourne. We represented the Australian Rugmakers Guild but our local group is now known as the Yarra Valley Rug Makers

Interest was constant, with our girls demonstrating for most of the day every day.

Many, many people were surprized to see the rugs, especially Anne's proggy rugs.

"Oh I remember these!" was heard often. A nice memory.

Lot of folk remembered the day when they all sat around cutting or prodding or collecting rags for the rugs. "Clippy" or "Peggy" or "Proggy/Proddy" rugs, depending on where they were from. One gentleman said his mother covered the whole house floors. One alone, covering the entire lounge floor! He and his siblings had to cut the strips as well as muck in. Even the fathers were involved.

We are hoping that some of the interested ladies will come and join our little group. It was obvious that a spark was lit in people's imaginations and that's how we feel.

As we all demonstrated Proddy and Hooky all day over the weekend, those of us who hadn't done Proddy before discovered how easy it was!
At the end of it we were tired, but thoroughly motivated to continue to spread the word on Rug Hooking ….. Well… next year anyway, in the meantime we'll spread the word in our local communities and enjoy getting together on a monthly basis, from Warrandyte in the North to Loch in the South East. Cheers from the Yarra Valley Rug Makers group, a branch of the Victorian Rug Makers.

EDITORS NOTE: *In the two images at the top of the page you can see a wall hanging hooked by Chris, inspired by a photo of her husband. She is currently working on another hooked image of her grandson. You can see more of Chris's progress on this marvellous creation and learn how she finished off the rug, as well as rug work by other members of the Group on their blog* http://victorianrugmakers.blogspot.com.au/
October 2012 at the Strathalbyn Rug Hooking Expo Chris took a "hooking from a photo" class from Heather Ritchie - judging by her success with her recent rugs, Chris obviously paid close attention.
Next year Chris will be sharing her knowledge of this skill by instructing a workshop at the 2014 Expo.
Go to the South Australian page to read more about this.

TASMANIA:

The search for elusive Latch Hooking supplies? By Jo Franco

As Editor of the Guild's newsletter and via the Guild's website and my own, I occasionally receive enquiries about the availability (in Australia) of latch hooks and the wide latch hook backing.
This seems to be the only rug making technique most Australians are familiar with.
Unfortunately I am unable to help since my focus is on the traditional rug hooking techniques (hooky & proggy/ proddy) which utilize a woven fabric (anything with an open weave, including hessian and linen) as the backing or foundation cloth.
I'm sure there are probably latch hooks tucked away and forgotten in sewing drawers around Australia leftover from the 60's & 70's, but as far as I know the hooks are only available for sale from that mega store we all know so well, and in WA this store only carries the open grid latch hooking backing in a narrow width.

(above) 3ft 6 in by 8ft Peter has made a matching diamond rug 3ft by 9ft.

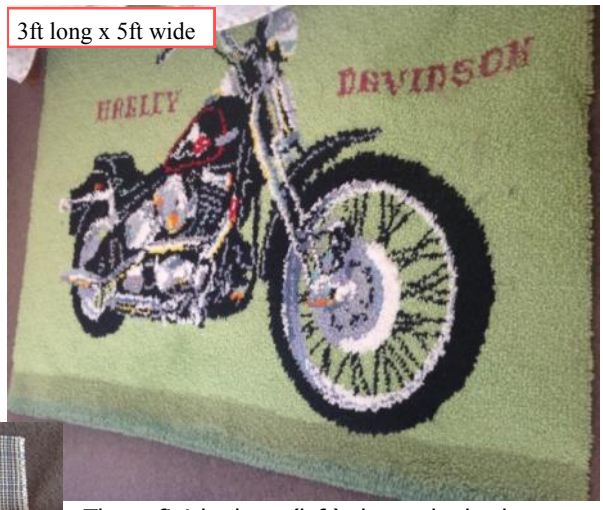
In Tassie there is a group, primarily latch hookers, who meet every Thursday morning at the British Hotel in Deloraine (10am- midday).
Visitors and new members welcome!
For more information on the group and rughooking yarn and kits contact Joanne Wild wildjoanne1@gmail.com

2ft3in x 4ft6in

Joanne advised that Peter Burns, a member of this group is still actively creating LARGE latch hooked rugs, however Peter orders his designs already printed on the backing from the UK.

Shown here are photos of some of Peter's rugs submitted by his daughter Shannon Burns

3ft long x 5ft wide



(below) "Indian" is 2ft 6in by 5ft

The unfinished rug (left) shows the latch hooking backing marked off in 2in squares. To accommodate the rounded head of the latch-hook, the holes on this type of firm backing are larger than the openings in the weave of the hessian or linen backing used for traditional hooking, so it is necessary for the yarn to be knotted by the hook to hold it in. No knotting is involved in traditional hooking, the fabric strips/yarn are held in as the weave of the backing is manipulated - or "pushed" together by a hook similar to a crochet hook but with a more pointed head, which makes it easier to push the hook through the backing.

NETWORKING: From Judi Tompkins, Communications Chair

Do you have a Skype account? If so, be sure and add your "Skype Name" to the Membership form when you send in your renewal. This will allow me to contact you and add you to my list of friends. Skype is a great way to make contact and it's FREE !

ACT: - RUG MAKING IN CANBERRA by Maggie Whyte

Things seem to have been very busy for the last few weeks, meeting up for coffee with friends and being kept busy with all those end of year events. There is just too much going on to fit it all in. It would be nice if some of the events were held off until January which is always so quiet.

In between the above I have been doing further work on the Centenary Tapestry, all the nitty gritty bits that need to be done before it is finished a bit like having to hem a rug not my favourite part!
Two weeks ago the cutting off ceremony was held. It was a good history lesson for me as I knew nothing about this. In the medieval times a member of royalty was given the privilege of cutting a tapestry down from the loom with golden scissors.

As you know I don't think we have any royalty living near here that could be called upon so Sir William Deane (retired Governor General) was asked to do the honours as he is the Patron of the Centenary of 100 years of Canberra. He did a mighty fine job and then invited us all to cut as well.
The Tapestry is now been readied to hang at the local Legislative Assembly on December 4. Looking forward to seeing it plus all the other small tapestries that people have done of what Canberra means to them. We have received tapestries from overseas as well as local ones it should be interesting.

Last Saturday I was invited by members of the Canberra Region Feltmakers to run a workshop to make hooky and proggy felt flowers. I have been making them in handmade felt for a good number of years.

The workshop was held at a house about 25km from Canberra. The house is on 5 acres of land with a beautiful garden, alpacas grazing and views of the local countryside and hills. It really can't get better than that.

Robyn Toohey, our host greeted us with the most tempting morning tea while I talked to them about proggy and hooky rugmaking.
We then got down to work until lunchtime when we where treated to a delicious lunch of about six different dishes and goodness knows how many salads with dessert. Robyn says she likes to cook and have friends around that I think is an understatement. A wonderful host.
By late afternoon everyone had made at least one flower and some were on their second.
It was a great day and I really enjoyed passing my knowledge on. I am looking forward to seeing plenty of felt hooky and proggy felt flowers. Hopefully maybe even some new rugmakers!!!

Just so that I am not bored I am working on a hooky rug with colourful circles, also the proggy polka dot rug is not finished and just for good measure I am planning in my head a French knitted and proggy rug. Now I just have to get them all finished!!!!!
Have a great proggy and hooky summer. Maggie Whyte

SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

ADELAIDE CRAFT AND QUILT FAIR - November, 2013 by Judith Stephens

Like previous years, the experience of manning the stand was both tiring and exciting. We talked to many interested visitors, listened to their family histories involving our craft, and commiserated when they almost inevitably reported that the old rag rugs were lost.

We even had some 'return business' as people found us and chatted about the rug they began last year, and still had to finish.

One of the great things about group meetings, is that we are all encouraged to complete our projects, big and small.

I have noticed that people are looking for our stand in the Guild area, and that augurs well for the revival of this lovely craft.
The chiffon flower workshops were a daily event, and were well attended.

My special thanks to the members of "Strath Matters" who volunteered to help on the stand.
To see more about the Strath Matters click http://strathmattersrughooking.wordpress.com/

HOOKED ON MONTGOMERY by Sue Lange © 2012

Sue Lange from South Australia has an article titled "Literary Rugs" in the current issue of Rug Hooking Magazine (Vol XXV No. 3 - Nov/Dec 2013)
http://www.rughookingmagazine.com/

As well as being an avid rugmaker, Sue is also a fan of L.M. Montgomery, author of Anne of Green Gables and has given her permission to include here an image shown in an excerpt from her manuscript "Hooked on Montgomery; The Hooked and Braided Rugs in the Life of L.M. Montgomery", published earlier this year in the L.M.Montgomery Literary Society Periodical The shining Scroll. (See pages 5 & 6 on the following website) http://www.weebly.com/uploads/2/2/6/5/226525/the_shining_scroll_2012_part_2.pdf

Hooked rugs at L.M. Montgomery Heritage Museum, Park Corner, P.E.I., home of Heath and Mary Ella Montgomery, are in the front room where L. M. Montgomery is said to have slept in when she visited.

Sue has some rug hooking supplies for sale.
email: suelange@internode.on.net
phone: 08-8522-3414

2014 STRATHALBYN RUG HOOKING EXPO

Mark your calendars for the weekend of Oct 11 & 12 2014
Last year's Expo was so successful there is going to be a repeat!
Same place, same format - morning and afternoon sessions.
Townhall, Strathalbyn 9:00am-12 noon and 1:00pm-4:00pm
Eight different techniques will be offered each morning and afternoon.
Sign up for one session and squeeze 4 different techniques into your weekend or sign up for multiples of the same session.
This event will be open to the public so you will want to book early.
ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS: Phone: Judith (08)8536-3451 Email : studioblue20@gmail.co
Various types of accommodation is available in and around Strathalbyn - watch the Guild website for information on this in the New Year.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

"Hooked on Hessian" Rug Hooking Making a Difference by Jo Franco

Norma Hatchett has been teaching rug hooking for over 20 years to children in after-school classes and with the aid of volunteers, to the blind and recently to residents of aged care facilities. By using a special mechanical "speed needle" shown here, Norma and her volunteers create a "braille" outline of the pattern on the rug backing allowing the rugmaker to fill the spaces.

(left) Norma demonstrates the mechanical hook working from the back of the design.

(right) This rug was designed and hooked by one of her after-school students.

Through her contact with Hilary Lee, a parent of one of the students, Norma was introduced to the Community Arts Network WA and received funding for a program to work with residents of an aged care facility where a 10' x 4' tapestry "Cherished Memories, Childhood Dreams" (right) was designed by Norma and hooked on hessian by the residents.

This program was successful and in 2008 a similar program was undertaken at Maurice Zeffert Aged Care Hostel, where a 7' x 4' tapestry "Family" (below) was completed by the residents.

A resounding success it was followed by another session in 2010 when over a period of 12 weeks the residents completed "A Garden for Everyone" (10' x 4') (bottom left)

It was after the second tapestry had been hung that I visited the facility and took these photos of the tapestries and two of the residents who wanted to continue hooking even after the program had finished. Shown here with their volunteer helpers.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Contd.

Norma's ability to listen and coax memories from those who have such a battle to remember is inspiring, and her energy is boundless. She takes the memories and translates them into a design for the overall tapestry. Norma said that "family" and childhood surroundings seem to be most important to people struggling with this problem.

Once the overall design is established Norma marks it out in segments which are enlarged to fit on her special frames. This is where they stay until completion.

The residents are given a section of the tapestry to work on, depending on their ability and throughout the hooking process each is assisted by a volunteer who helps decide on colours, cut wool and thread the hook, sometimes guiding the residents hand through the process. Where possible the choice of colour is left up to the resident.

At the end of each days session Norma casts an eye over all the pieces to make sure there is continuity of colour and in some cases does a little "remedial" hooking.

At the end of the sessions, usually 12-14 weeks, Norma has the mammoth task of stitching the sections together and creating the wonderful tapestries that are hung in the public areas of the aged care facility for the residents and their families to relate to and enjoy.

Italian Aged Care: 2013

Earlier this year I visited Norma as she was working on yet another of these projects, assisted by students from a nearby High School. It was an absolute eye-opener to see the success of this inter-generational, multi-cultural endeavour.

Above: Norma (seated) with resident & carer.

Above: "A Timeless Treasure of Memories in Tapestry " The completed project now in place.

Centre & below: Residents, volunteers and carers hooking and displaying some finished segments of the overall project.

This Facility is close to what used to be a market garden area where many of the residents lived and worked, so it's easy to see what prompted their memories.

My thanks to Belinda Herring, Executive Project Officer, Italian Aged Care Inc., who provided the following information and the images shown above.

***"A Timeless Treasure of Memories in Tapestry"**, was created by Residents from Italian Aged Care's Special Care Wings and Year 8 students from Girrawheen Senior High School guided by Norma Hatchett, Textile Artist. This project was kindly funded by the Catalyst Community Arts fund, managed by Community Arts Network WA on behalf of the Department of Culture and the Arts and supported by the Mental Health Commission WA."*

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Open House and Exhibition by Jo Franco

Alexander Park Craft House in the City of Stirling north of Perth, is home to many textile groups. www.apch.com.au
One of the largest is WAFTA (The Western Australian Fibre & Textile Assn). It's getting harder and harder to find a space on the weekly booking sheet, however from the outside you cant really tell it's a hive of creative activity on the inside.
Many workshops featuring international artists are held here.
The Open Day was not only to celebrate its 21st year as a home of crafts that have now been taken into the realm of art, but also to encourage residents from the surrounding area to come and see what takes place. Until recently this was considered a "mature age" suburb. With it's proximity to the city it is becoming highly sought after by couples with young families who want to live in an established leafy suburb closer to work.

The day was a huge success.
Most groups reporting a spike in membership applications.
Members of the Wanneroo Rughooking group were there to demonstrate rugmaking and answer questions. They did a great job and braved the cool and breezy location on the covered walkway outside the front entry. We'd chosen that site because the previous weeks had been so warm and sunny, instead we were all wearing raincoats and wishing we had something warmer!
Much interest was shown in rug hooking and it is hoped it will become a venue for a regular group to meet rather than just the workshops that have been held there.

Photo by Johnathan Trask

Members of The Western Australian Fibre & Textile Assn. come from many fibre arts backgrounds.
Most belong to other fibre groups as well and many are professional fibre artists who travel to international symposiums. This makes for a wealth of experience to draw from when it comes to finding speakers for the monthly 3rd Tuesday night meetings.

In October 2013 an exhibition was held at TAFE's Gallery@ Central in Perth city.

Josh Wells Photographer www.joshwellsphotography.com

This was the Bi-annual Members' exhibition and some sixty members participated.
A 60page full colour catalogue was produced with most photography produced by Josh Wells.

The theme "Mysterium" lends itself to many interpretations and as there was no size limitation it was a difficult challenge, to my mind. I had not originally decided to enter due to me being away during September/October however since entries were to be in by the end of June I realised I could make the deadline. They also were very keen for rug hooking to be represented. So with little time to think about size I utilised a piece of silk given to me by Judi Tompkins who had dyed it using Yvonne Dalton's tree wrapping technique.
Thinking of trees, bark and creatures making their homes in cocoons in bark, inspired me to hook 3D cocoons with a mysterious creature beginning to make its way out of the second cocoon and flying away off the hooking from the third. It was a small creation compared to others in the exhibition however I was pleased to be invited to participate.
To read about the exhibition and look at the images go to: www.wafta.com.au
link to Mysterium exhibition or Wafta Exhibition on Facebook.

AUSTRALIAN RUGHOOKING ONLINE:

The Australian Rugmakers Guild website www.rughookingaustralia.com.au is the place for Aussie rugmakers to find information about local rughooking events and supplies.
BIG plans are being made for the New Year to expand the current web presence and blog and provide better networking opportunities.
In order not to miss any of the blog updates I urge you to go to the website and type your email address in the "Subscribe" box. This will generate an email directly to your regular inbox asking you to confirm that you wish to follow the blog.
To subscribe is very easy to do and means you don't ever have to think about checking the website - you will be advised whenever there are updates and be given a link to click and take you straight there.
Do not fear we will not swamp you with daily emails - more like once a week.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: South West

Robin Inkpen who lives in Donnybrook in the South of Western Australia has created a Maroo Rock.

What are "Maroo Rocks"?

"Based in the beautiful Southern Forests of WA, the Maroo Wildlife Refuge Inc. a not for profit wildlife refuge rescuing injured and endangered animals from road, town and bushland, is run 100% by volunteers. http://www.maroowildliferefuge.com/#
To raise funds, 24 regional artists were asked to decorate the beautiful 'river stones'. These smooth, beautiful rocks were actually formed by the glacier that ran through the South West valleys millions of years ago and made the perfect natural 'canvas' for the local artists to show their support for native wildlife.
A wide range of artistic skills were represented - from potters, to textiles artists, to classically trained fine artists.
The money raised by the auction held during an evening of fun, fine food, wine and door-prises (food & wine, meals, R&R at a local guest house and wine from local vineyards), will be used to build safe refuges for the animals, feed them and of course give them veterinary care, with 100% of the event Profits going to support and care for the native wildlife.
The above information was taken from the website. Go there and you'll see images of other Maroo rocks and Robin's profile
http://www.maroowildliferefuge.com/#!grid/c15d3 & http://www.maroowildliferefuge.com/#!our-artists/cq3t

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 at the Beerwah Library, 3:00-6:00pm on the 2nd Mon & 3rd Tues of the month and for availability of frames and tools, contact Judi 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, The Rug Room, 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
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; http://strathmattersrughooking.wordpress.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: Yarra Valley 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 for information about the Wanneroo group that meets every Sat 10:00 to 1:00pm. Also rug hooking presentations, group workshops & private classes and the purchase of tools and frames.
Contact Jo raggedyjaysdesigns@yahoo.com.au
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

INTERNATIONAL - JAPAN: The 23rd Rug Hooking Exhibition - by Fumiyo Hachisuka

The 23rd Rug Hooking Exhibition was held from October 26 to November 4 at the Art Gallery in Hotel Chinzanso, Tokyo. About 40 works were displayed. Chinzano sent about 900 DM to their customers and Asahi newspaper put the article on the morning paper of October 23rd. About 650 people visited and enjoyed seeing our works. The people who came from the DM of Chinznso and Newspaper didn't know about rug hooking. They were very surprised with the wonderful North American Traditional Art. Some works were for sale but most of our members do not like to sell their precious works.

The Gallery is in the same space with the jewellery store, so it is very safe with the cameras watching the entrance etc. The Hotel Chinzanso Tokyo is a 5 star hotel.
It has a beautiful Japanese garden with the three-storied pagoda. The buses from Narita and Haneda Airport arrive at the entrance of the hotel, and you can take some tours from here, for example to Kyoto, Kamakura and Nikko.
Also you can take the bus to the nearby JR station and see around Tokyo. http://hotel-chinzanso-tokyo.jp/
www.jtb-sunrisetours.jp/

We are going to hold the 24th Rug Hooking Exhibition in 2014 from October 24 to 30 at this gallery.
Why don't you come and join us, staying at Hotel Chinzanso, Tokyo and bring a rug to show.

Fumiyo Hachisuka (Right: First row - centre)
1-10-17 minamioizumi nerima-ku Tokyo Japan 178-0064
Tel & Fax : 03-5387-4002
Email: studiof2007@yahoo.co.jp
URL: http://sky.geocities.jp/rughooking234

Below: "Peony" 126x100cm hooked by Fumiyo Hachisuka using her daughter's wool overcoats & old wool clothes.

Images shown here are of rugs created by members of this Group who have visited Australia.

Above : "Arabesque" 90x90cm Hooked by Eriko Hashimoto using dyed wool cloth #3 cut.

Below: "Dolls of the Boy's Festival" 65x50cm by Michiko Aoki hooked using old clothes, silk kimono, ribbon etc.

Below: "Firenze" 92x65cm By Fumiyo Hachisuka hooked with dyed wool cloth #3 cut.

Below: "Willow" 22.8x30.5cm designed by Susan Feller and hooked by Fumiyo's daughter Yuko Amako

Below: "Fabulous Forest" 100 x 73cm By Yuko Iwabe using wool cloth #3 cut.

INTERNATIONAL - USA:

The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers (TIGHR):

TIGHR now has a Canadian host for the 2012-15 term and Australian Guild Members are not as directly involved. However, our activities here in OZ are featured on the TIGHR website. (www.tighr.net)

Here are some links to Australian Events shown on this site:-

From WA - http://tighr.net/hooking-matters/australian-community-project/
http://tighr.net/hooking-matters/waneroo-rugmakers-and-mayor-visit/
http://tighr.net/hooking-matters/wafta-participation/

& QLD - http://tighr.net/hooking-matters/queensland-australia/ - *the "Wishing Chair" featured in this report on the TIGHR website, is not the same chair (The Wattle Chair) shown on page 2 of this newsletter.*

Bec Andersen (textile artist) says chairs have become a recurring theme as rugs are hard to show in galleries and when displayed on the wall people want them to use on the wall, which she thinks is fine; however she is into functional art. Also for galleries there is often a size restriction so the chairs also satisfy that criteria. The "Wattle Chair" is for sale for $1,500 in case there is a keen buyer out there.

Association of Traditional Hooking Artists (ATHA): Jo Franco

This Association has a membership of approximately 3,000, most belong to local groups which in turn are part of regional chapters. There are 15 "Regions" in the USA & Canada with Region 16 taking in Australia & New Zealand and Region 17 Japan.
This year's Biennial Conference was held in Long Beach, California. I attended as the ATHA Rep for Region 16, and assisted Judith Stephens (Guild Pres) to give a one day workshop. Hooking a "tote bag" using wool yarn.
Many TIGHR members are also members of ATHA, so it was a great opportunity to catch up with those who had travelled to Australia and also other members we had met at previous TIGHR Conferences.
Some faces familiar to Aussie Guild members can be seen in this group of TIGHR members; Susan Feller, Michele Wise and Deb Smith in the foreground, while at the top of the stairs, Kris McDermet stands next to Judith. Gene Shepherd who also visited Australia in 2012 was very much a part of organizing this event in Long Beach. Following the Long Beach Biennial Gene was hospitalized with a major health scare which I'm pleased to report he has recovered from and is back in his studio dyeing fabric and blogging.
The ATHA "Newsletter" has had a facelift. The first issue in the new format, along the lines of a magazine rather than a compilation of reports from various Groups, and called "ATHA Rugger's Companion has just arrived in the mail. Visit ATHA on the web - www.atharugs.com to read more.

Fellowship Award - Susan Feller - West Virginia

During Tamarack Artisan Foundation's 10th Anniversary celebration in 2013 three Fellowship Awards were presented for artistic excellence and lifetime commitment to promoting and fostering the arts in West Virginia. Susan Feller, Past President of TIGHR and member of the Australian Rugmakers Guild was one of the recipients.

"The Tamarack Foundation is extremely important to the proliferation and continuation of art made in West Virginia because it raises funds from corporate and private donors and distributes these by supporting artists to create a national market; grants and awards for juried shows and lifetime achievement; and acts as ambassador and lobbyists for independent craftspeople."

Susan submitted a project to research the social environment of Blanche and Otha McDonald of Letter Gap, WV, during the 1960's as they created fiber works using hand sewing techniques (including 'faux hooking').
The funds she will receive will help with travel expenses to catalogue stories and images of works from collectors into a publication with step-by-step directions for fiber artists to be inspired to create contemporary works.
Teaching these skills and documenting the story of these two independent women is Susan's goal

Susan has published several rug books on technique and creativity. You can read more about her creative journey in rug hooking at http://artwools.com

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.

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www.rughookingaustralia.com.au

Australian Rugmakers Guild Membership/Renewal Application*

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

ADDRESS.....

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

EMAIL ADDRESS .....

SKYPE NAME:.....

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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