



NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

FINISH READING ON PG. 3



WELCOME

Our 20th edition of Lace_E News - the ALG NSW Branch's monthly newsletter.



Website:

<https://www.lacemaking.com.au/sydney.html>



SHOW JUDGING

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LACE UPDATES FROM MEMBERS

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**QUEANBEYAN
LACEMAKERS ON
INTERNATIONAL LACE DAY**
FINISH READING ON PG. 6





NEWS

From the Committee

Dear Members,

Welcome to the June edition of Lace_E News! We hope you're enjoying some lace making and some winter lace activities. Recently, there was International Lace Day that some members have participated in, and we saw a community of lacemakers sharing their lacemaking efforts online.

There are some wonderful exhibitions at Gallery 76 (aka Embroiderers Guild at Concord West) where notable lacemakers are featured and the Laced exhibition at the Australian Design Centre (Darlinghurst) showcases contemporary lace and the community needle lace contributed by many.

Although, the next Sydney Lace Day won't be until August we have enjoyed seeing our members enjoy the meeting in June. We had a wonderful workshop and saw a variety lace being made.



This month we have some interesting photos to share in the newsletter. Please remember to get in touch with the committee if you have anything you'd like to share for our future newsletters by emailing: lacedguildnsw@gmail.com

Thank you,

NSW Branch Committee

From the President

From the President:

Winter is truly here with minus temperatures and short days. Now that the shortest day of the year has passed, we all can look forward to longer days even if there are 2 more months of winter to come. I hope all members got to make lace on International Lace Day on Sunday 23 June. Sheila and Barbara went to the NSW Embroiderers Guild Conference to celebrate International Lace Day.

Competitions

1. Triennial Lace Award "Sustainability"

Entry Forms are due early August with entries to be submitted early September. Winners will be announced at the Conference in Bathurst. Information can be found in the Australian Lace Magazine.

2. NSW Biennial Lace Award

Entries are due at the NSW AGM on Sunday 4 August. Judging is “most popular piece” and announced after the AGM.

NSW Display for the Bathurst Conference

If you are not attending the Bathurst conference but will be at the August lace day at Linnwood, your wheels can be handed to the President to take to Bathurst. Otherwise, the wheels can be posted, contact the President at laceguildnsw@gmail.com for details, or you can bring your wheels to Bathurst to go in the display.

August Lace Day, Sydney

The August meeting is the NSW Branch AGM. The Notice of the AGM, minutes, nomination form and proxy voting form have been emailed to members and posted to those members without an email address.

The committee has decided to have a “Show and Tell” session as part of the meeting. We would like all members to bring some lace that you have worked on over this year to show and talk about. We are also asking the conveyors to talk about their group and their activities.

Show Judging

Reproduced with Rosemary's permission from Lace news and views March 1999

Following Rosemary Shepherd's talk at the November Lace Day, requests were made to have her notes printed. Rosemary has kindly supplied me with the following: Editor.

The following are my own opinions and criteria and I do not expect everyone to agree with them. They should not necessarily be applied to lace submitted for the Lace Guild Proficiency assessments.

1. Initial Impact overall presentation: inevitably personal taste comes into this, try as one might to avoid it. These are the qualities which contribute to the initial impact of a piece of lace.

- The single most important factor is TENSION. You will never make good lace if your tension is poor and this means overall uniform tension, with care taken that both threads of the pair are tensioned equally throughout.
- Choice of DESIGN. Is there a good balance of light and shade and a pleasing selection of stitches?
- CHOICE OF THREAD is the other factor which affects one's first impression should not be too heavy or too fine. Crochet thread seldom makes good lace and if you use machine embroidery like Madeira or DMC, be aware that the twist in the thread means you should use maximum twists in the ground. (For a further explanation of the way the twist on the thread affects your lace see "Introduction to Bobbin Lacemaking".)
- In CONTEMPORARY lace pieces of original design, the choice and density of stitches is particularly important when designing within a traditional form like torchon or tulle lace. Try to avoid the temptation to use all your favourite stitches in the one piece!
- Many lacemakers adopt a colouring-in approach to their free lace designs. Try to remember you are making lace, not weaving or embroidering. You should be trying to capture the essence of your subject, rather than reproducing an exact likeness; that is best left to photography. Choice of colour is also particularly important in free lace. Strong contrasts seldom work in this lace form, especially if the piece is small.

2. Technical

RELATIVE COMPLEXITY; This is without doubt the most difficult aspect of judging, the way the classes are now organised. How does one decide between a perfectly worked piece of Torchon and a, perhaps less expertly worked piece of Bucks Point? Personally, I go for the perfect workmanship every time, whatever the style of lace.

PICOTS AND PLAITS need to be perfectly made. Some people think I can spot a split picot from fifty paces, and they might be right! The trick is to make sure both threads twist together around their pin before the final tensioning. Plaits should be perfectly flat; to achieve this, tension them on the cross movement before making a windmill or other crossing. When the crossing is completed work on by first making a cloth stitch, then resuming the twist-cross-tension sequence. A plait will be neither too long nor too short if you make it just a pin's width short of the pinhole, to allow space for actually working the pin.

FISHTAIL FAN passives should be evenly curved and perfectly parallel. You may find this easier to achieve if you turn your pillow slightly so that the workers are traveling horizontally, instead of at an awkward angle.

BRAID LACES are often spoilt because the edges of the braid are wobbly. This is partly a matter of tension, but it is also easier to make straight edges if you take care to angle the edge pins consistently.

Whether you are true to any particular TRADITIONAL STYLE OF LACE does not overly concern me but consistency of working does; for example the same number of twists in the ground and around the pin, throughout.

Check your work for OBVIOUS MISTAKES like missing blind stitches in rose ground, or missing twists. We have all made silly mistakes but it is very galling if someone else spots them before you do!

TYING OFF should be neat and strong, by a method which suits the end use of the lace.

MOUNTING A LACE BORDER on fabric is described well in a number of books but often presents a challenge to lacemakers who are not confident of their sewing skills. Speaking personally I would be quite happy for a lacemaker to have his or her lace mounted by a competent needle person; after all, it is the quality of the lace that is being judged.

- MOUNTING LACE ON FABRIC AND FRAMING IT is something I am often uneasy about because the lace loses its identity as a fabric in its own right and becomes simply decoration of another fabric. Sometimes this is entirely appropriate, but often modern pictorial pieces would be better to have their transparency preserved by being mounted simply between two sheets of Perspex. Whichever method you decide upon, you will find the lace easier to handle without distorting, if you stiffen it very slightly before you remove the pins and lift it from the pillow. (Make sure your pricking is covered with plastic before you start work.)

Lace updates from members

From Robyn. The original pattern is a Christine Mirecki scarf



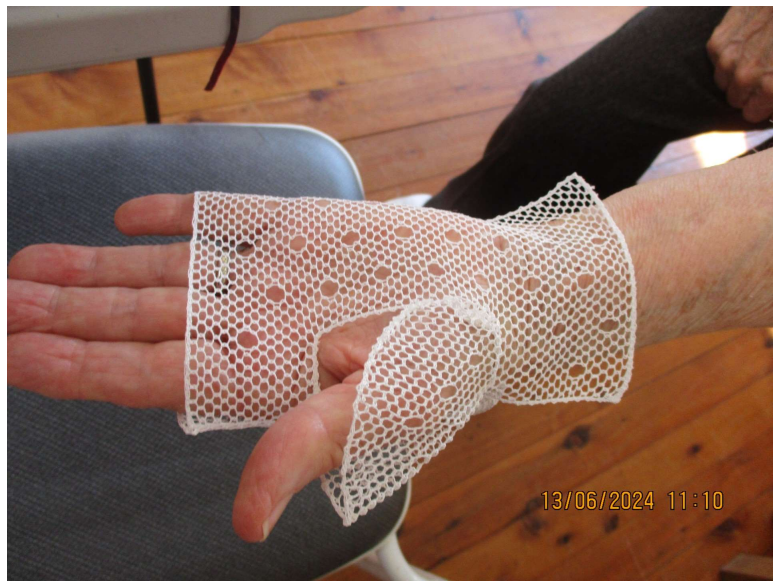
The Champion winner Alice featured on the left. Wendy learnt filet crochet from Pauline at a lace day. Hasn't she done well? Featured on the right.



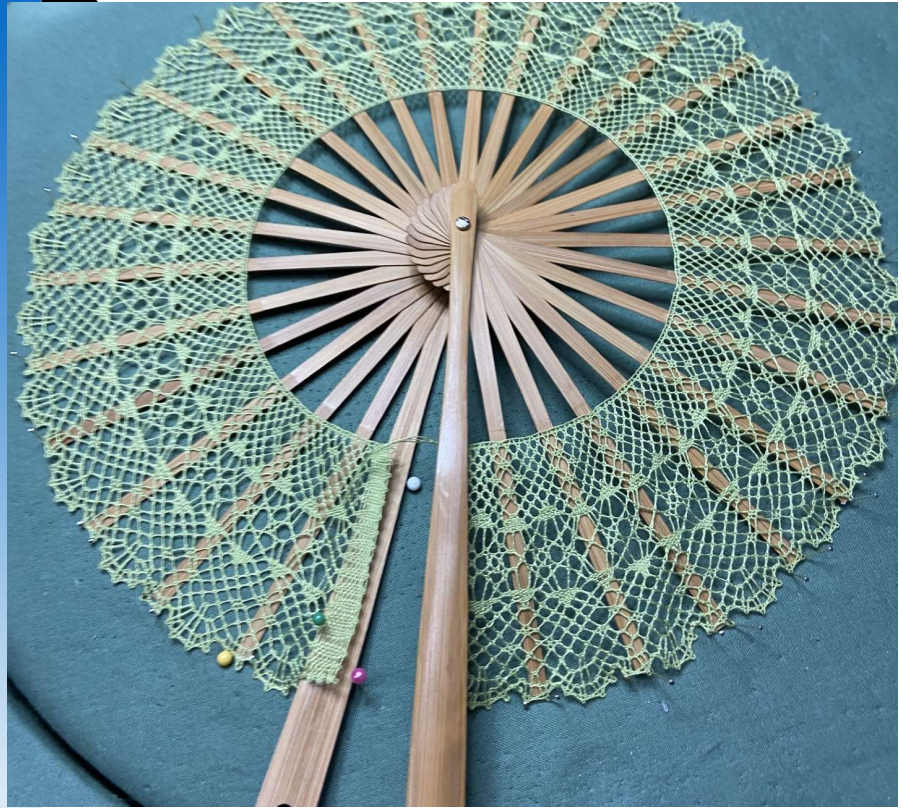
Karlana Cooke's lace at Linnwood.



For the chillier days some lacy glove idea!



Beautiful lace by members.



Barbara

Trying to fit fan to sticks! This fan is Eliza by Katherine Gentelli. DMC 30 cotton. Featuring rose ground

Queanbeyan Lace Makers on International Lace Day

Pictured: Anne, Stefanie, Jasmine and Robin

