

# i SO lace

No. 10 - October 2020

*"All parents and masters should be cautious in sending their children and servants to (lace) school, in making bonelace or otherwise" - a reference to the Great Plague of 1665, from Waylen's "History of Marlborough"*



*Work by early lace maker, Sylvie, done at October Lace Day.*

*Dear Members,*

*Welcome to the tenth edition of isoLACE, the ALG NSW Branch's coronavirus update.*

*At the time of writing, State government COVID health orders are in place in NSW and several Council areas in Sydney have been declared COVID hotspots.*

*Subject to any last-minute changes concerning numbers allowed at Linnwood House, December Lace Day will go ahead and will include our Annual General Meeting.*

*Attendance at Linnwood House, which is located in a currently-designated COVID hotspot, is at your own risk and the Guild is not liable for any consequences arising (e.g. subsequent non-admission to businesses, organisations or institutions). Pre-bookings can be made by phoning or emailing Tanya. We are planning for the resumption of Guest Speakers and afternoon activities at Lace Days in 2021.*

*We may resume printing and posting News & Views when certainty about future events is guaranteed and if financially viable. If your Lace Group intends to recommencing face-to-face meetings in leisure centres, public libraries, Registered Clubs and other venues, again, subject to social distancing measures currently in place, let us know so we can let beginner lace makers know. We continue to field calls from people interested in starting lace in their local area. As events unfold, keep an eye on the NSW Guild website and the NSW Guild Facebook page.*

*While some Lace Groups, such as Queanbeyan and Cooma, continue to meet regularly online using Discord (contact Stefanie if you want to join in), lace makers continue to maintain contact through social media: NSW Branch Facebook Group, TikTok and Instagram.*

*A new group of lace makers in the Jervis Bay region of the South Coast has begun meeting on a regular basis. Contact the Committee if you would like to join.*

*While the Powerhouse Museum Ultimo has been re-opened to the public, the Lace Study Centre remains closed because it is staffed by volunteers. Lace Study Centre volunteers meet weekly online. The volunteer program at the museum will remain virtual for the time being, re-opening by Christmas.*

*A gentle reminder please to forward your correct, current email address to the national Membership Secretary – contact details in Australian Lace.*

*Heartfelt thanks to all those contributing work to isoLACE. If you are making lace, we'd love to hear from you. Send photos of your work-in-progress or finished lace (along with details of threads, dimensions and the lace designer, where possible) or your lace making gear or lace setup at home or lace book reviews to [rodbyatt@hotmail.com](mailto:rodbyatt@hotmail.com).*

*Stay safe and well!*

*NSW Branch Committee*

## **LINNWOOD LACE DAY - Sunday 6 December NSW Branch Annual General Meeting**

Doors will open at 10am. Between 11.30am-12noon, the premises will be cleaned and reopened between 12noon and 2.30pm for the Annual General Meeting. Bring a picnic rug and lunch for eating outdoors, all the while maintaining social distancing.

### **A reminder from the Lace Librarian**

It will be over six months before members will be able to return books to the Lace Library. You may forget that you have books on loan or muddle the library books up with your own collection. I would like to suggest that you keep your library books in a separate area from your own book collection. When it comes time to open the library again, the books will be easy to find. If you are unsure which books you have on loan, you can email me and I will forward you a list.

### **Checklist for Members attending Lace Days**

**PLEASE BRING** overdue library books and magazines, pen to sign-in, \$10 note for Door Entry, cup, tea/coffee, sugar, snacks, food, plate, spoon, knife and fork, lace gear, picnic rug/lunch, personal hand sanitiser, face mask.

**PLEASE NOTE** No crockery or cutlery will be available. No sharing of pens, eating utensils, food, lace items or lace gear.

## **Calendar of Events**

### **Linnwood Lace Days 2021**

*Subject to change at any time. Dependent on changing NSW Govt Public Health Orders restricting numbers at mass public gatherings. Doors open 10am.*

7 February	10am-4pm	
4 April (Easter Sunday)	10am-4pm	Talk about Mary Card
6 June	10am-4pm	Tatting display & assistance
1 August	10am-4pm	
3 October	10am-4pm	Christmas lace

### **Cottons and Bobbins Lace Supplies**

If you require supplies for your lace making, Rochelle at Cottons and Bobbins has them covered, plus craft and lighting. Many other craft-related items are available.

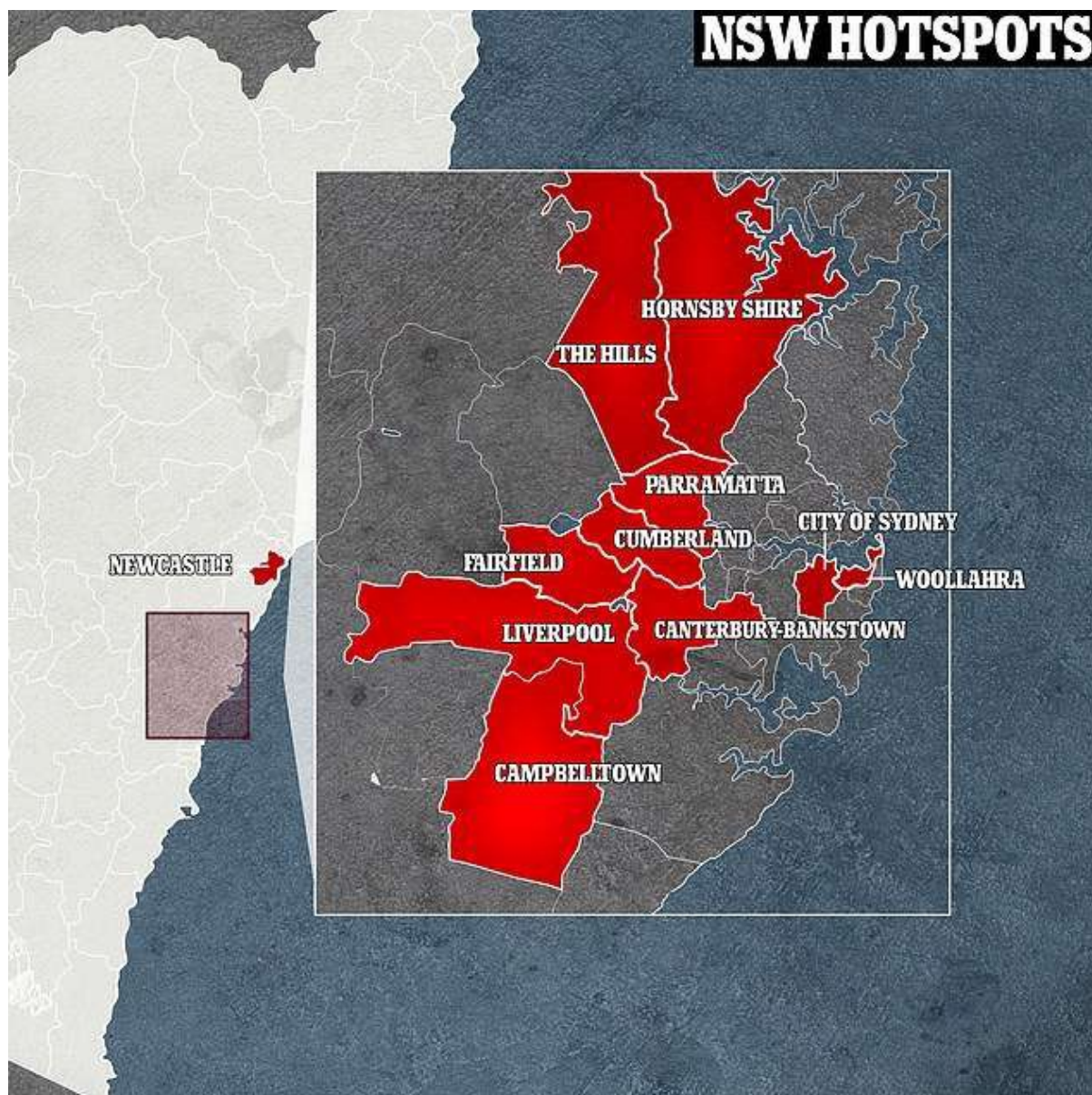
Give her a call on 02 6374 2696, email [cottonsandbobbins@lacemakingsupplies.com.au](mailto:cottonsandbobbins@lacemakingsupplies.com.au) and website [lacemakingsupplies.com.au](http://lacemakingsupplies.com.au)

## **LINNWOOD LACE DAYS**

### **Information for Members**

- Attendance at Linnwood House, which is located in a currently-designated COVID hotspot, is at your own risk and the Guild is not liable for any consequences arising (e.g. subsequent non-admission to businesses, organisations or institutions).
- Attendance must be pre-booked at least a fortnight ahead of Lace Day by phoning or emailing Tanya (0412 745 339, [tcarney@bigpond.com.au](mailto:tcarney@bigpond.com.au)). No advance booking, no entry! After pre-booking, please phone/email your non-attendance in the case of any sudden illness.
- In the event of an outbreak sourced back to a Lace Day, your name, phone number/email address (from Membership Lists) will be made available to Cumberland City Council and NW Department of Health.
- Wearing a face mask is strongly recommended since this is an indoor event.
- Do NOT attend if feeling unwell in any way (fever, coughing, sneezing, runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath, loss of smell), awaiting COVID-19 test results or have returned from overseas or been in contact with someone who has returned from overseas (or from an interstate hotspot) in the previous 14 days.
- Social distancing of 1.5 metres between attendees will apply at all times, including the Library (only one borrower at any one time), the Trading Table (one customer at any one time) and Door Entry (an orderly queue).
- Hand sanitiser is mandatory on entry and on departure.
- Branch Committee Members will enforce social distancing and logistics associated with the COVID Safe Health and Safety Plan.
- The kitchen will be closed. Hot water will be available from our mini-urn. No communal cups, cutlery will be available from the kitchen. Members will ideally remove their own rubbish from the premises.
- The librarian will be stationed between 10am and 12noon at a table outside the Library to facilitate return of library books. One borrower at a time may use the library. If a representative from a Lace Group wants to borrow/return books on behalf of Lace Group members, they should talk to the Librarian ahead of Lace Day. The Trading Table will operate between 10am and 12noon only. The photocopier will be unavailable for use.
- Members must refrain from allowing others to touch or closely examine their lace and lace equipment. No sharing of lace gear is permitted.
- \$10 Door Entry will be charged at Lace Day. To minimise risks associated with queuing and handling cash, please bring a single \$10 note. No change provided. Please bring your own pen for the attendance sheet.
- Any one-on-one lace tuition or group training activity such as a mini-workshop must strictly observe 1.5 metres distance between participants at all times.





At the time of writing, the following Local Government Areas have been designated as coronavirus hotspots:

Hornsby Shire;

The Hills;

Newcastle;

Woollahra;

the eastern part of the City of Sydney (including Sydney, Surry Hills, Darlinghurst, Woolloomooloo, Potts Point, Rushcutters Bay, Elizabeth Bay and Centennial Park);

Campbelltown;

Canterbury-Bankstown;

Cumberland;

Fairfield;

Liverpool;

Parramatta.

## News from NSW/ACT Lace Groups

A dozen local lace makers (and one esteemed international visitor) of **Epping** Lace Group are now meeting in Sydney at Dence Park. Strict COVID-19 measures are in place and if visiting, please pre-book and reserve a timeslot with the Convenor.

Lace makers have also resumed meeting in Loftus as members of **Southern Suburbs** Group.

Lace groups at **Queanbeyan** and **Cooma** continue to meet regularly online using Discord. Members from Queanbeyan, Cooma, Parkes, Sydney, Far South Coast and Launceston chat, show their latest work and patterns. Contact Stefanie if you want to join in.

A new group of lace makers in the **Jervis Bay** region of the South Coast has begun meeting on a regular basis. Contact the Committee if you would like to join. In the meantime, see what they're up to at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/209562546974533>

Group Convenor information for all our Lace groups is currently being updated. For further information about Lace Groups, please enquire through the NSW Branch website, <http://www.lacemaking.com.au/sydney.html>



*Recent work by Epping Lace Group*





About her Honiton Whimsy, Mary tells us, "I recently made a wedding handkerchief for my nephew and decided I would do the same as I had for the other three nephews, that is, do hemstitch and then work the initials in Honiton lace and appliqué them onto the finished handkerchief. I am out of practice and it took at least three (or was it four?) attempts to draw threads correctly so as to hemstitch. Next I had to find the initials PH that looked interesting enough, but not too feminine. I eventually found what I thought would be suitable and then worked them in Honiton which was not as easy as I thought it would be, as again I am out of practice. When it came to finishing it off, I really could not manage it properly and ended up with a lot of threads - so what to do? In the end I pulled the threads around to the front and then did a type of blanket stitch to incorporate the threads and attach the initials to the handkerchief at the same time. Luckily this was the last of my nephews to be married, so I do not have to worry about doing another one!"



Molly's most recent work - a cauliflower pincushion, made of nine long- and short-stitched leaves with a centre of twenty-four circles in French Knot flowerettes using Appleton's wool, designed by Australian, Julie Kniedel.





Helen's needle lace entry as part of the 2020 Heart Challenge 2020, done in Egyptian cotton which she says is super to work with, plus progress with her needle lace circus.







Robyn says that she's happy with how her latest piece turned out, Leaf in Russian Lace. "The lace has a Russian lace ground which was much more time-consuming than I first thought. The pattern comes from *Lace Express* 1/2012. I changed the colours to appear more like a compound leaf and used fine cotton with DMC 30 for the ground."



Traditional Downton Lace point ground patterns. (From top), *Church Windows*, *Duke's Garter*, *The Double Brick*, *Egg and Rasher*, the diamond motif, *The Earring*, *Eggs*, *The Bean*. All 1.5cm wide, coloured DMC Broder Machine 50 and white Gutermann 50, three strands of embroidery thread or pearl cotton 8 for gimp. Traditional Downton Lace bobbin, single-collared and unspangled, similar to those used by lace makers in nearby Malmesbury Wiltshire (flat end, unspangled) and Honiton East Devon (pointed end and unspangled).

Rod writes, " The short version of the story is that I worked Bertha Kemp's Downton Lace patterns and I survived.

Here's the long version. Despite having heard some lace makers say they love this English regional lace style, almost no-one has posted pictures of their work online. I strongly suspect it became fashionable briefly in the early 1990s then dropped from sight. Currently, the books on the lace are not only out-of-print (Kemp, Blanchard, Stukins, Hartley and Parry) but also unavailable (Channing). Unless it is reassessed in the near future, this engaging and delicate lace looks to disappear as it nearly did a hundred years ago.

If attempting Downton Lace for the first time, avoid starting with Bertha Kemp's *Downton Lace* (London, Batsford, 1988). Instead, work through Joan Blanchard's 1990 book, *Malmesbury Lace* or Janet Stukins' 1991 book, *An Introduction to Downton Lace: twenty Downton Lace patterns*, if you can lay your hands on a copy. Downton and Malmesbury Laces are virtually identical, though in Malmesbury the headside is on the left. Blanchard is clearer about what happens with the headside passives and purl pins, but more importantly both Blanchard and Stukins combine both torchon and point ground patterns common to Downton Lace, making any transition from torchon lace to point ground lace relatively painless. To help you with Kemp, you might go to Patricia Nottingham's *Techniques of Bobbin Lace*, but I had to resort to LetsLace.com YouTube videos to assist with the "catch pin business". Of better use might be Geraldine Stott's *Visual Introduction to Bucks Point* or Louise West's *Bucks Point Workbook*, or failing them, Elwyn Kenn's *Point Ground Patterns from Australia*.

Coloured photographs and an international colour code would have been the stuff of dreams for Bertha Kemp back in 1988. I had to guess which bobbins might start where from the photographs of the finished lace and where the headside passives might enter and leave the gimps. On pages 12 and 45, be aware there are six pins in the pricking and working diagram for each "egg" (called "bud" in Malmesbury Lace) but the correct number is seven judging by photos of the finished lace. Take care too to include reverse catch pins at stitches 62 and 70 on page 14; consider a reverse catch pin at stitch 31 on page 29 to match the one on the other side at stitch 21. Finally, beware Kemp's photographs: stitches vary from motif to motif (those in the bottom of the photos on pages 12, 15, 26, 34 and 52 tend to be more reliable than those at the top of the photos).

Kemp may have slightly enlarged the traditional patterns for her prickings to suit 120 cotton thread and pearl cotton 12 gimp; Stukins provides both traditional prickings (suitable for 160 cotton) as well as slightly enlarged. Kemp starts her work on the diagonal; Stukins is at pains to explain how to start on the straight, the traditional way. There are 200 traditional point ground Downton patterns and Kemp indicates the traditional numbers and names for some patterns, but not all. Try plastic bobbins (thanks for the suggestion, Mary) because of the thinness of the thread required. I strongly recommend using contrasting bobbins for the footside and headside passives to avoid the misfortune of messy catch pins and purl pins."



## What's up?

- Contact Pauline if you are interested in **learning crochet lace** online using Zoom.
- The NSW Embroiderers' Guild will hold the **Festival of Lace** till February 2021 between 30 Jan to 7 March 2021. The exhibition opening is Sat 30 Jan at 5pm; the Lace Conference Weekend is Sat 20/Sun 21 Feb 2021. Lectures and workshops are scheduled. All existing tickets will be automatically transferred to the new date; refunds are on offer but buying back tickets might be difficult because the events are likely to be sold out well in advance.
- Follow the **OIDFA Congress** website at [oidfa2020.org](http://oidfa2020.org). The next Congress dates are as follows: Congress: 30 July – 1 August 2021; Workshops: 26 – 29 July 2021; Tour: 2–5 August 2021.
- Powerhouse Museum **Lace Study Centre** volunteers are cordially invited to participate in weekly online textile briefings via Zoom or telephone, 10.30am each Tuesday. Contact the Volunteer Centre for more details.
- ALG NSW, Website and weblog - <http://www.lacemaking.com.au/sydney.html>
- ALG NSW, Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/NswBranchAustralianLaceGuild/>
- ALG NSW, Facebook group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AusLaceGuildNSW/>
- ALG NSW, Instagram - [www.instagram.com/nsw\\_lace\\_guild](http://www.instagram.com/nsw_lace_guild)
- Queanbeyan Lace Makers, Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/QBNlacemakers/>
- Bobbin Lace Downunder, Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1010713895962787/>
- Bobbin Lace Makers, Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bobbinlacemakers/>
- Needle Lace Australia, Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/489032435165805/>
- Lace8 lace design software, Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Lace8Users/>
- Traders and suppliers in the UK (and elsewhere) are selling online – a seller traders online over a 24-hour period via Facebook Lace Suppliers Spotlight - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lacesuppliersspotlight>
- <http://www.antiquepatternlibrary.org/html/warm/bobbin.htm>  
Free patterns, free craft books, free resources, free makers library, free knitting patterns, free crochet patterns, free embroidery patterns, free lace patterns.

- **ALG Victorian Branch**, Lace Collection – view 119 items of lace online at [https://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/australian-lace-guild---victorian-branch?fbclid=IwAR3ki4Yi0UJEDMY4rCfhwry9fK2qK\\_g2twTQR-6u5-acAxCtRf2XS--mvjs#collection-records](https://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/australian-lace-guild---victorian-branch?fbclid=IwAR3ki4Yi0UJEDMY4rCfhwry9fK2qK_g2twTQR-6u5-acAxCtRf2XS--mvjs#collection-records)
  - **Kantcentrum Bruges** has published sixteen free weekly lace online challenges in a variety of lace styles (Torchon, Bruges Flower, needle lace, etc.). Participants have forwarded their work to Bruges for an exhibition there. Details on Facebook at *A P-lace Together* : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/299120214389826/>  
An exciting new contest has been announced by the Kantcentrum, Flanders Lace with a Contemporary Look. You have until March 1st to create a contemporary work of Flanders Lace with no limitation as to materials, color or measurement. Details can be found here <https://www.kantcentrum.eu/en/competition-flanders-lace>
  - **Hotel de la Dentelle**/The Lace Centre in Brioude, France, has posted a bookmark pattern in 50/2 thread (useful if you want practice with dropping in/out colour) on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/hoteldeladentellebrioude/>
  - **Jenny Brandis** (WA) has YouTube videos, lace patterns (including her Pattern-of-the-Month) from Etsy - <http://www.brandis.com.au/>
  - See the **Heart Challenge 2020** and four spider patterns by Maribel Albert (also her tote bag pattern) for *Bolilleras* magazine on the international Lace Day (5 July 2020) Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/InternationalLaceDay/>
  - For the latest from **Textile Support** (including a series of podcasts with lace makers called *TextileStories* - Jane Atkinson, Maggie Hensel-Brown among others; Viking knitting and working with wire), see <https://www.textilesupport.net/textile-tours>.
- DFZ2021 Symposium and Lace Camp will be conducted online in October 2021.
- **Covid-19 Global Quilt**, drawing on contributions of virtual squares from textile artists around the world – @covid19quilt on Instagram.
  - One of many press articles devoted to the lace collars of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg – here, from a lacemaker who made one of them: <https://www.teenvogue.com/story/elena-kanagy-loux-ruth-bader-ginsburg-lace-collar?fbclid=IwAR169InaL-XudDJEG6730kaEfYNNFdGSv6vm2ZLFXtH1ggE4BeUZWYO5B0A>
  - <https://thelacemuseum.org/workshops.html> for all manner of paid lace workshops online.
  - Powerhouse Museum podcasts, including textiles: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1183688>
  - Powerhouse Museum Collection Conversation, showcasing lace: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqbe4Db2yTc&feature=youtu.be>

*"Edges define the lace, they do not confine it..."* Alexa Svahn, 2020.