



Issue #29 | May 2022

## *Announcement*

Our next Lace Day at Linnwood is on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> June. We look forward to seeing you there to help us destash lacemaking equipment and books.

More information about the books is here on our website:

[Lace Making - What's on](#)

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Front cover image credit: Lindy's workshop  
- thanks to Barbara for the photo.

Dear Members,

Welcome to the 29th edition of isoLACE, the ALG NSW Branch's coronavirus update.

We look forward to meeting for June Lace Day. We're also looking forward to Rod's self-help lace group in traditional Czech tulle lace. Please remember to look at the details on page 4 for more information and updates about this technique.

As you will all be aware from previous notifications, we are having a sale this lace day so there will be plenty of bargains to be had. We have advertised outside the guild for this sale so hope to see you there but remember to be more aware of leaving your possessions unattended.

What you may not be aware of is the floor of the library is subsiding and we need to empty everything out so Council may assess and repair it. On that note, if you need library books please come and get them, as many as you can carry, as we aren't sure at this time when we will have access to the room again. The library will need to shut at 12 noon as the room needs to be emptied.

We also hope that you will be available to empty the house into the box we have obtained for storage. If you are unable to do that, could you please volunteer to be on the sales tables? This is so more able-bodied people can be in the "removalist" team. Please come along as we need your support more than ever at this lace day.

Spaces Make Lace in Uralla has received some amazing publicity and made it on the news. You can refer to the video on our [Facebook page](#). Thanks to Rosemary, Vicki, and New England Lace Group for their contribution to making the exhibition a success.

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 Skype, lace makers continue to maintain contact through social media: NSW Branch [Facebook](#) Group, TikTok and [Instagram](#). [Queanbeyan Lace](#) meetings have restarted for fully vaccinated members. Please contact if you would like to join in on [Skype](#) or the in-person meetings [qbnlacemakers@gmail.com](mailto:qbnlacemakers@gmail.com).

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. We encourage you to email us [lacguildnsw@gmail.com](mailto:lacguildnsw@gmail.com).

NSW Branch Committee



## Calendar of Events | Linnwood Lace Days 2022



5 June 2022 | Lace Day @ Linnwood. Traditional Czech Tulle Lace with Rod.

26 June | International Lace Day – come on let's get out there and make lace!

## NSW Lace Display

We are heading into Winter, but Spring is just around the corner, and, with that in mind, we would like NSW members to dust off their bobbins/shuttles/needles/hooks and make one or many butterflies or flowers. They will be used for the NSW display which, fingers crossed, will happen later in the year.

They will then be used as a special gift for one of our members - more info in future months. The brief includes any type of lace bobbin, tatted, crochet, knitted, needle. Any colour or size and can be 2D or 3D.



## Commemorative Awards

The Commemorative Award is a Biennial Award created in 2000 in memory of members who are no longer with us, who have made a significant contribution to the Guild.

Initially, on alternate occasions new and experienced lace makers were invited to submit lace of any type and in any form, from a bookmark to a bedspread for competition.

The winner will be decided by popular vote at the Annual General Meeting. This year, due to circumstances, all lace makers will be eligible to enter. You may enter any type of lace (not necessarily recently made) and any article of any size.

The Award was usually held in even years, but due to matters mostly beyond our control there has been a lapse over recent years. This is an opportunity to showcase the work being done by members and for entrants to have the chance to win a worthwhile prize if successful.

This competition is to be held at the August A.G.M and the winner will be decided by popular vote. Entries need to be brought along to the A.G.M. in August (no entry form, no entry fee).

Don't think you are not good enough! It is not necessarily the best made piece of lace which wins this award but the piece which has the most popular appeal!!





## Traditional Czech Tulle Lace

Self-help Group, Lace Day Afternoons, June & August 2022



The untutored self-help group (bobbin lace only) will go ahead if there is sufficient interest, as follows:

**June Lace Day.** 1-2pm, Main Dining Room. Have a look-see, wind bobbins, make a pricking, start the lace, or ideally have made a start already. You will work independently at your own pace.

**August Lace Day,** 1-2pm. Main Dining Room. Show-and-tell, discussing progress and lessons learned. No two lacemakers will produce the same work - everyone's work will be different and interesting.

Photocopies of the online information will be available for purchase at cost from me or you can pay to use the Guild photocopier. There is no International Colour Coding so you can manage with black-and-white copies. BobbinlacEE has made this information freely available, as part of their ongoing project to promote the educational aspects of European lace.

I am not an expert on Czech/Slovak/Moravian lace, but the published instructions are reputable and easy to follow. These patterns have been put together by two eminent Czech contemporary lace designers, Dana Mihulkova and her sister Irena Ring. The Czech approach to Point Ground is quite different. The Czech way of working is no-nonsense, eye-opening, and very refreshing. In the modern lace adaptations, there is enormous flexibility possible in the size of pricking, threads, and finished lace, depending on the intended use.

For those who want to turn up with a pricking and bobbins wound, please work through the following:

1. **Pattern.** Go to: [www.bobbinlacee.eu](http://www.bobbinlacee.eu) and then go to the page marked “Learning materials” then go to the pdf file called “3. Handbook Czech Republic”. Open the folder and save the file to your computer. Read the Handbook in its entirety.
2. **Projects.** There are four projects to choose from – you can do one, two or all. No.1 is Traditional Czech tulle lace; No.2a and 2b are modern adaptations of Czech tulle, both similar but slightly different. No.3 is also modern, with a jewellery setting.



3. **Which Project is for me?** Some prior bobbin lace experience is required. Attempt No.1 if you have done Bucks Point or any Point Ground before. Ideal if you want to show off to others. It is time-consuming especially if you make the entire 15 motifs or 1 metre of lace for a traditional bonnet.

Attempt Projects 2a and 2b if you have done some Torchon before and want to make something quick, colourful, and different. If the thread is sturdy enough, it can be used to decorate a spectacles case or the cover of a bag. I've not had a look at Project 3 yet.

4. **Prickings.** Print one from the downloaded handbook, adjusting the handbook page to A4 copy paper as best you can. You can work them at 100% or reduce the size on the photocopier, e.g., 86%, 71%, etc., to suit your preferred threads. See notes below about my first attempts.
5. **Threads.** The authors make vague recommendations about any thick thread for Projects 2A and B. The only limitation (as we all know with Point Ground) is that at least four twists need to fit comfortably between any two diagonal pins on your pricking. If you can't fit four, your pricking grid is too small, similarly if four looks too "tight". Work in white with white or coloured gimps, or work in contrasting colours including gimps. Your thickest linen and cotton threads will work well for Projects 2a and 2b. See in the photos how the authors' threads are almost all variegated, even in the grounds. See notes below about my first attempts.
6. **Length and width of finished lace.** Your work can be as small or large as you like. See notes below about my first attempts.
7. **Pillow.** A roller pillow is preferable to a flat or domed pillow. Make sure your roller is wide enough for your pricking.
8. **Bobbins.** 1 metre each of thread or coloured thread per bobbin and at least 2 metres per bobbin of gimp thread. See notes below about my first attempts.

### My first attempts

I've had a preliminary look at Projects 2a and 2b. I've also started Project 1. I will bring them along on the day. To interpret the photos, keep in the mind the following:

Project 2A was done all in white, with a pricking at 71% reduction (5 full motifs, 17cms long), Finca 30 (26 bobbins., 1 metre thread each) and perle cotton 8 as gimps (6 bobbins, 2 metres thread each). Finished lace: 7.5cm wide and 16cms long. Worked on a roller pillow, minimum 10cm wide roller. My threads were too thin for a durable functional product.



Project 2B was done in white ground and coloured gimps, pricking at 86% reduction (5.5 full motifs, 24cm long), Finca 30 (26 bobbins, 1 metre thread each) and Cebellia 20 as gimps (4 bobbins, 2 metres thread each). Finished lace: 10cm wide and 27cm



long. Worked on a roller pillow, min. 12cm wide roller. See how my central holes in each big diamond differ from the pattern – how the author does hers, I'm not sure. Note how both edges are covered by cloth in the finished product.

Project 1. Lille Ground varies from region to region on the Continent and within England, so it's fun to compare them. Project 1 uses no picots and no catchpins. The headside is unlike any other, employing braids in places. There are some curious inner crossings inside some of the honeycombs. Footside passives (one pair of bobbins only) are twisted.

I have started my Project 1 with 32 bobbin pairs (DMC Broder a machine 50, equivalent to Gutermann 100% cotton 50 or Finca 60) and 4 single gimps (doubled perle cotton 12). I prefer my pricking to be 2.5mm footside grid for a first attempt, before moving to a finer grid (2mm footside) and obviously finer thread. The authors on p.3 recommend Barkonie 60MA (100/3 Nm) thread, presumably for Project 1.

### Commentary

- Give a lot of thought to the size of the pricking, appropriate size of thread and the desired finished length and width of your piece(s). You will spend more time thinking about sizes than actually making the lace itself.
- Start from a straight edge (see Handbook, page 17). Ignore this advice at your peril – a firm start is more important in Point Ground than in Torchon.
- If introducing a new thread, do so at the edge of the cloth stitch not inside the cloth stitch areas.
- Working so large for me is very unusual – it felt like throwing rope around horses.
- Traditional gimps seem to be thin, compared to modern Torchon. You can also bulk them up as you see fit.
- The author's note that Project 1 can be finished in 42 hours is completely fanciful.

A Note for Bucks Point people. Note no picots, no catchpins, normal ground and normal honeycomb, torchon footsides. A Note for Torchon people. TTT ground and don't close pin; TT before and after pins on Honeycombs.



For further information, contact Rod Byatt at [rodbyatt@hotmail.com](mailto:rodbyatt@hotmail.com) or 0455 172 933.



## *Canberra Craft Alive!*

Come see Queanbeyan Lace Makers demonstrating at Craft Alive!  
Former Transport Depot 21 Wentworth Ave Kingston ACT

**Craft Alive**

1 - 4 June 2022  
9.30am - 4pm



See [www.craftalive.com.au](http://www.craftalive.com.au) for more information

## *Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail*

**By Jean Penrose from Orange Lacemakers**

Orange Lacemakers returned to Bathurst in April to participate in the Heritage Trades Trail. This was the third time we have joined with other “old trades” to showcase crafts of a bygone era. The lovely old showground building was abuzz with basket makers, woodworkers, embroiderers, vintage clothing displays, spinners and weavers, quilters, and lacemaking while wafts of the yummy smell of sausage sandwiches drifted throughout the area. Visitors came from far and wide, as we soon discovered while talking to folks about lace.

Lacemaking proved to be a very popular attraction to most of the visitors, and we were kept very busy demonstrating how bobbin lace is made. Children, especially, wanted to ‘have a go’. Our display included some information about the lacemakers of Calais and their relevance to the Orange/Bathurst area, as a few of them settled here.

After two days of talking and demonstrating, the tired lacemakers of Orange were pleased with the interest shown in our craft and are looking forward to the next year of the Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail.

## *Workshop on Relationship of Grids and Threads*

On the last Wednesday in April, Orange Lacemakers held a small workshop on the confusing topic of the relationship of threads to grids and vice versa. Apologies were received from Dubbo and Grenfell groups, but we hope to catch up with them soon.

Our tutor, Sandy Taylor, covered numerous topics, including types of threads, how to determine thread size for a particular grid, tricks on working a curve, how to use wpc, comparing threads and brands, and finding a substitute for the recommended thread for a pricking. All was a mine field to us participants, but we came away much the wiser. We were also given a pricking to practice working on a curve- quite a challenge. Now the task is to apply what we learned, for example, altering grounds to suit the space.

We would like to continue with these mini workshops, on occasion, and hope the other groups in the area can join us.

## *Lindy’s workshop*

Lindy’s workshop at the Powerhouse Museum was held on Saturday. 28<sup>th</sup> May. It was a lovely workshop that introduced students to lace leaves. On our front page of isoLACE, you’ll see one of Lindy explaining the start of the leaf.





The below photo features Christina wearing her own leaf and leaf made by her daughter! This was completed at session.



### *What's up?*

Please refer to the website for the What's up segment: <http://www.lacemaking.com.au/whats-up--important-links.html>

