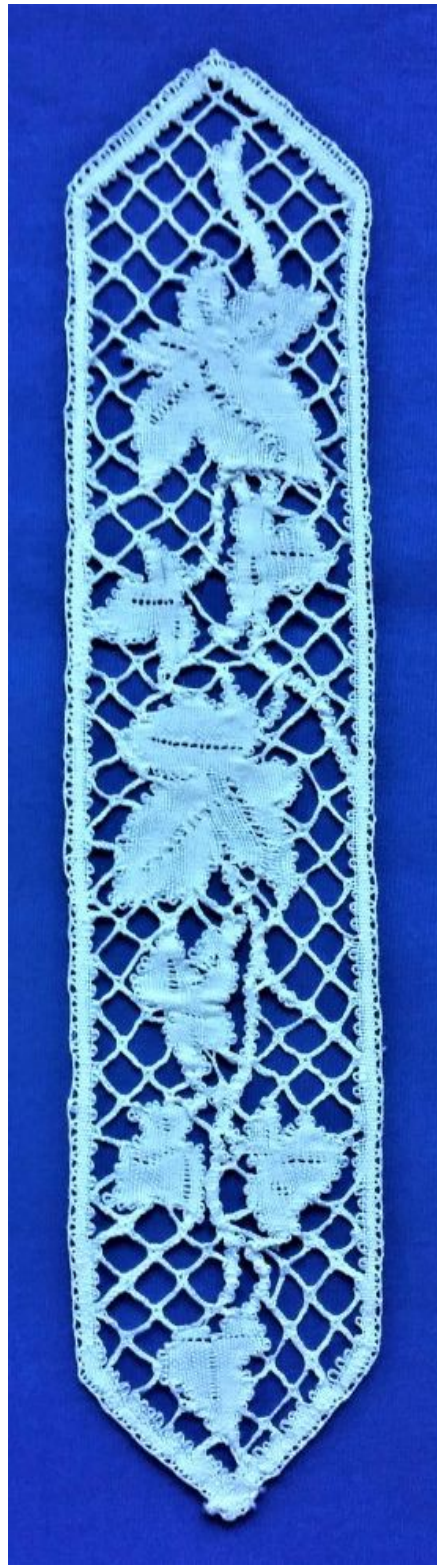


i SOLACE

No. 5 - June 2020



Pat McG writes, "I read of the sad passing of the lovely Barbara Underwood. I was fortunate to be able to attend, in the UK, several of her weekend workshops some time ago. Here is an example of a bookmark I started at one of Barbara's workshops, inspired by her love of Bedfordshire lace. She was a brilliant and oh so patient teacher."

Dear Guild Members,

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

At the time of publication, government COVID restrictions are being eased, more quickly in the ACT than NSW. Concerning the resumption of Lace Days and Guild Library operations, Cumberland Council has given us credits against future bookings of Linnwood, following our cancellation of meetings in April and June. We will meet again when Council recommences hiring out its venues, depending on whether Linnwood is available for hire, how much the venue hire fee for 2021/2022 will be, the cost burden of those new fees and whether or not it can accommodate the expected 30-50 members, given social distancing measures in place at the time.

We will resume printing of News & Views when bookings are confirmed for Lace Days and we receive news from Lace Groups that they have resumed meetings in leisure centres, public libraries, Registered Clubs and other venues, again, subject to social distancing measures currently in place.

NSW Department of Fair Trading has waived the fee for formal advice of postponing Annual General Meetings of incorporated groups. Branch finances for 2019/2020 will be finalised as soon as possible after 30 June and anyone wishing to see the financial statements after that date and prior to the AGM should email rodbyatt@hotmail.com.

As events unfold, keep an eye on the NSW Guild website and the NSW Guild Facebook page. Monitor the national Guild website for the status of the AGM and National Conference. While some Lace Groups, such as Queanbeyan and Cooma, continue to meet regularly online using Skype or WhatsApp (contact Stefanie if you want to join in), lace makers are turning to Facebook to keep in contact with each other. A NSW Branch Facebook Group has been set up to maximise interactivity among members. Instagram now features photos of members' work and short videos are now showing on TikTok. Contact Stef if you want help with uploading photos of your work to these sites.

We trust you are working on your 2021 Royal Easter Show competition entries or are making making white/ecru bookmarks for the 2021 Triennial Award, if not for our State display at this year's AGM in September.

While the Powerhouse Museum Ultimo has been re-opened to the public, the Lace Study Centre remains closed because it is staffed by volunteers. The volunteer program at the museum will remain virtual, until restrictions ease further. The heritage core building, housing Transport, Steam Revolution and Space Galleries, closes for redevelopment from 30 June.

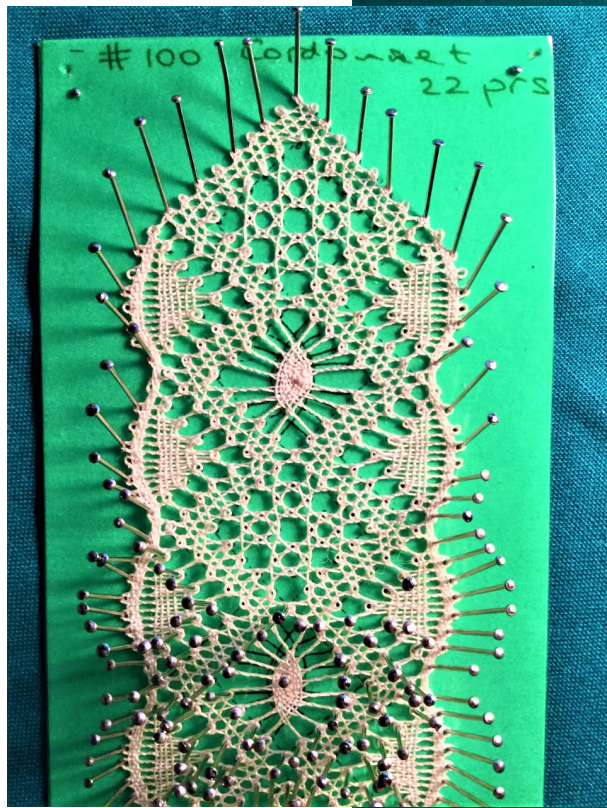
A gentle reminder to include your correct, current email address on your Guild Membership Renewal form, available mid-year. Heartfelt thanks to all those contributing work to isoLACE. If you are making lace, we'd love to hear from you. Send photos of your work-in-progress or finished lace (along with 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.

Stay safe and well!

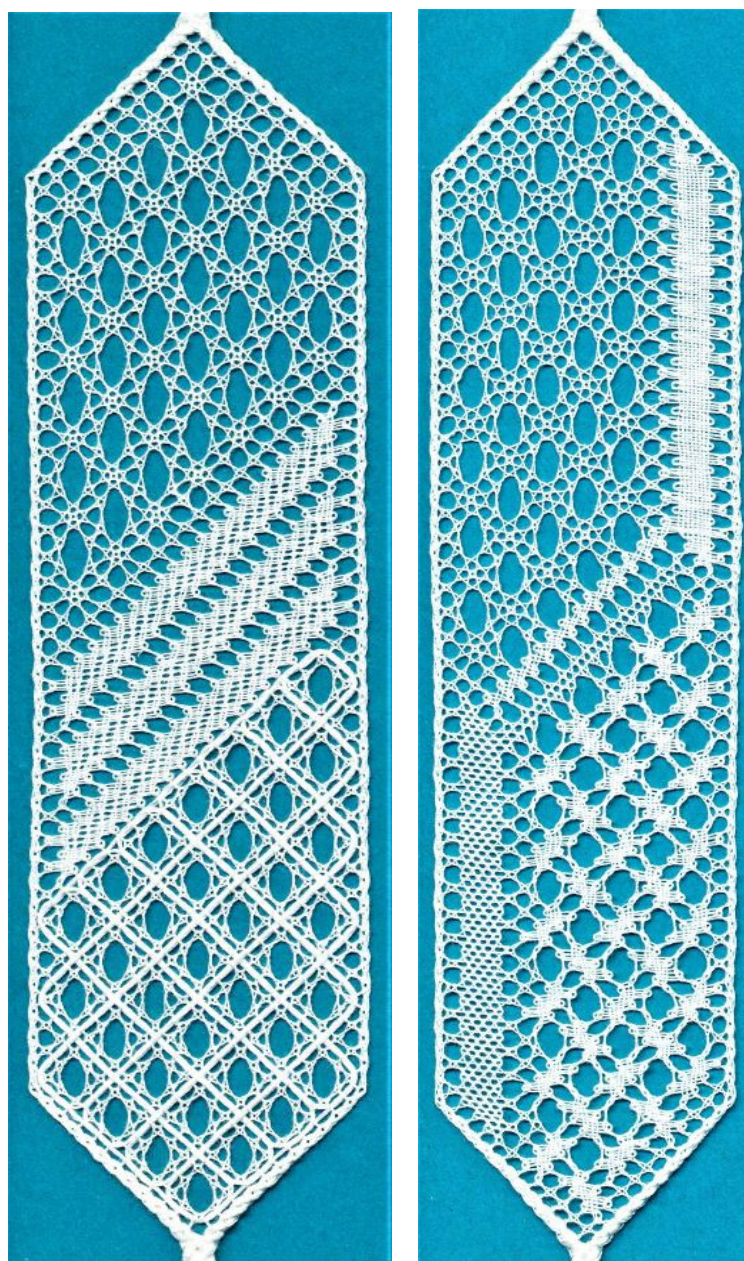
– NSW Branch Committee



Vicki is working on at present on dancing figures inspired by Matisse's "Dancers". They are made with linen weaving thread from BB Yarn Supplies, size 16/2, by far my most favourite thread. I have only used half stitch as I enjoy the movement of light and dark, dense and open, possible with half stitch. More figures to come!



Sarah has worked two bookmarks; the first is ecru, DMC #100 Cordonnet (designer unknown) and the second in white DMC 30, designed by Anne-Marie Clegg.



Christine advises, "The first bookmark is one I have worked while in COVID-coop. But the second one requires some explanation: the bookmark on the left was worked as a follow-up to one I had done last year as part of the preparation for the November workshop. In my original (workshop) sample, shown on the right, the filling at the top is honeycomb alternating with a ground used by Katherina Eggar in her third book. This ground was presented in the company of roseground variations, but having no blind/corner/intermediate stitches is NOT a roseground. The stitches are as for a half-stitch spider, but there are five pins supporting the structure. When Alice V worked this ground using a half-stitch spider, pinned as usual with a single pin, the appearance was quite different. So, I just HAD to try it myself. In addition, the cloth stitch trails have some twists down the centre and the bottom half is separate honeycomb units in a gimp trellis using split gimps, another experiment that has been on the to-do list for a while."



Christine goes on to add, "The bear is finished! And it is close to being the least enjoyable piece of lace I have ever made. While my mother was in hospital in late 2017 having a hip replacement, I thought I would just whip up this cute little bear for her for Christmas. It seemed like a good idea at the time, but next time I get an idea like this can someone please remind me that I DON'T LIKE making braid lace and I DON'T LIKE making lace using DMC 80 (tatting cotton). It has been stalled at about the half-way mark ever since Mum came home from that hospital admission, but I got inspired (or whatever) and finished it for Mothers' Day 2020, taking 2½ years instead of 2½ weeks. If anyone is inclined to do battle with this project, it is from "Lace Express" 3/07."

What's up?

- Contact Pauline Garland (em: polly3009@optusnet.com.au) if you are interested in learning crochet lace using Zoom.
- The NSW Embroiderers' Guild has postponed the Festival of Lace till February 2021. It will run from 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. 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 be sold out well in advance.
- Follow the OIDFA Congress website at oidfa2020.org. The dates for the 2020 Congress have been moved to 2021 as follows: Congress: 30 July – 1 August 2021; Workshops: 26 – 29 July 2021; Tour: 2–5 August 2021.
- Jo from Jo Firth Lacemaking UK advises she has re-opened for business but for mail orders will be posting just once a week, on Fridays.
- Powerhouse Museum Lace Study Centre volunteers are cordially invited to participate in weekly online textile briefings, 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
- 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/>

- While Belgian borders are closed, affecting mail-outs from Kantcentrum Bruges, see them on Facebook at *A P-lace Together* (1,300 members), featuring free weekly challenges in a variety of lace styles (Torchon, Bruges Flower, etc.). This week sees the release of the eleventh pattern in the series:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/299120214389826/>

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/>

Bruges is hoping to hold an exhibition of the challenges later in the year. Brioude hopes to spread a bit of cheer and also honour frontline workers with their pattern.

- 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/>
- Expertise Events has announced that the Sydney Craft & Quilt Fair has been postponed to October 29 - November 1, 2020 at the ICC Sydney, Darling Harbour to allow planning for the event to take place with more certainty. The event will be held over four days, rather than five. Contact the Branch's Demonstrations Coordinator if you are interesting in demonstrating at this event.
- For news from Textile Support about their lace events in Italy in 2021, see <https://www.textilesupport.net/textile-tours>
- Covid-19 Global Quilt, drawing on contributions of virtual squares from textile artists around the world – @covid19quilt on Instagram.