AUSTRALIAN LACE GUILD
NSW BRANCH INC

Lace_E News
**Volume #27**

## NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

FINISH READING ON PG. 3

## WELCOME

Our 27th edition of Lace_E News - the ALG NSW Branch's monthly newsletter.

Website:
https://www.lacemaking.com.au/

## POST CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

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## VALE PAT MACDONALD

FINISH READING ON PG. 5

# NEWS

## From the Committee

Dear Members,

Welcome to the February edition of Lace E News. We had our first meeting for 2025, and it was on the 2nd of February. It was lovely to see lace makers, members and friends together at Linnwood House. Below we're sharing some highlights of the day.

Samples ready for the Owl's display at Penrith Regional Lewers Gallery.

Annette's talk on Borris lace was well received.

We'll like to also say a special thank you to members who contribute to our monthly newsletter as it keeps our lace community vibrant and exciting. We have photos from Pauline of crochet lace, lace day photos from Sheila, competition tips and more.

Please get in touch with the committee if you have anything you'd like to share for our future newsletters by emailing: laceguildnsw@gmail.com

Thank you,

NSW Branch Committee

# From the President

Welcome to the February Newsletter.

With the hot summer days continuing, I hope you are finding somewhere cool to stay during the day. It is pleasing that the nights are cooling down, so sleep is possible.

The guild members have been out demonstrating at the Craft Alive at Rosehill Gardens Racecourse. A big thank you to Anne Kintominas, Robyn Cocks, Barbara Stokes, Maureen Gibson, and Sheila Bowditch for demonstrating.

Sheila and I had an interesting day on the Saturday catching up with members and passing out information for interested visitors.

# Post Conference Workshop

The post conference workshop on Slovene/Idrija lace will be held on Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 October 2025 at the NSW Embroiderers Guild at Concord West. The total cost of the workshop is yet to be set, we are still waiting on costs of flights etc.

Currently there are 12 spaces available.

The Embroiderers Guild building is located a very short walk from the Concord West railway station. Street parking is available a couple of streets from the building. There are cafes and takeaway shops next to the Guild. Bringing your lunch is ok as well.

The NSW Committee is taking expressions of interest. If you have previously expressed any interest in the workshop, please do again. If you would like to attend, please email the Committee at laceguildnsw@gmail.com

Barbara has made some additional information as NSW is hosting this event so we hope people who cannot go to Australian Lace Conference, please take advantage of filling this workshop. Suggested accommodation: Concord Hotel (just across road from venue, YHA Sydney Central. Train station at Concord West is just 2 minutes' walk to venue and lifts are available at the station.

While NSW members will be given first preference, this workshop will be open to Lace Guild members from other states.

# Vale Pat MacDonald

Pat MacDonald, founding member of the Lace Guild, passed away aged 102 years on Thursday,13 February 2025. A member for over 40 years, Pat rarely missed a meeting.

Pat had a fall and suffered a Broken Humerus, (upper arm) at the February lace day. She died at home with her daughter. Pat contributed in many ways to the running of the NSW Branch of the guild. Pat was a volunteer at the Powerhouse Museum for many years.

From Pauline:

My memories of Pat McDonald go back to my days at Harbord where I moved in 1986 when Pat lived at North Curl Curl a few hundred meters from the ocean. I joined the Manly-Warringah Lace Guild Group at that time who used to meet at the different members' houses each week. I remember going to Pat's house and she used to pick me up and drive me to Lace Guild events.

In the early days of the Guild, Pat and I used to take the NSW library in several blue crates which filled the boot of Pat's car in those days, to the Lace Days. I can remember at one stage blue crates being stored in the corridor of my unit.

We also went on Saturday afternoons to "The Cottage" at Hale Road Mosman, where Lace Days were also held and Rosemary Shepherd had classes. I have a photograph of some of the ladies of the Saturday group dated 10 May 1986. We also took the crates of the library to the Lace Days at the Annandale Public School during the 1980s. The Manly-Warringah group also contributed to local events such as the Colonial Days at Manly where I have photographs of us dressed for the occasion of the colonial celebration.

Pat was always busy with her gifted hands. A piece of her lace work was published in a bicentennial publication called The Gentle Arts 200 Years of Australian Women's Domestic & Decorative Arts, 1988,

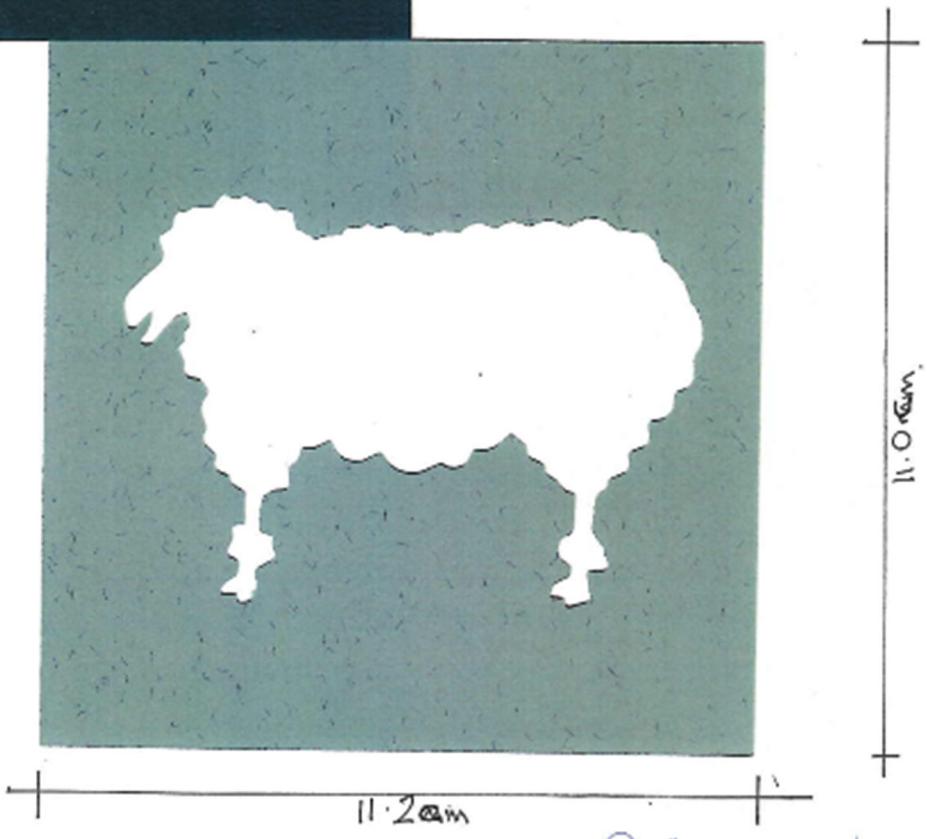
where Pat's lace is shown as modern lace in fine wool and silk with an Australian design of gum nuts. Pat was the quiet achiever, always softly spoken, a gentle person, calm and composed and patient with people. Pat contributed much to the Lace Guild in the early days and will be fondly remembered for her contribution to its early days in the Manly-Warringah Lace Group, and to the Guild in New South Wales.

Vale Pat McDonald.
In appreciation,
Pauline Garland 2025.

# Lace Grounds for Sheep by June Lace Day

N.S.W. Display for 2025 Conference

Make a ground, any style
Maximum size 10.6cm by 10.5cm.




Ground will be glued to the back of the card.
Bring your pieces to June Lace Day.

# Powerhouse Museum on Mondays

Currently, the Powerhouse Museum Lace Study centre has moved temporarily but members still enjoy meeting up and making lace.

If you require any further details, please contact Barbara: laceonrose2@gmail.com

Get ready for your next lace competition…

# GENERAL TIPS FOR THOSE ENTERING COMPETITIONS

Robyn Cocks

**Reading competition conditions and rules**
When deciding to enter a competition, you need to carefully read all the instructions which are given by the organisation holding the competition. Usually, the more prestigious shows or organisations contain more rules and regulations as to how to present your work. These rules need to be carefully followed.

**Entry forms and labelling**
Completing forms, paying entry fees and labelling your work with your required details are all expected but different from show to show. Your label should contain your name, the class that your item is to be entered, and your contact details – however this may change from one competition to another, however your basic identification needs to accompany your entry.

**Time limits for entry, delivery and pickup**
Don't forget to note the date that your entry form and money is to be received, as well as the instructions for your goods to be delivered to the show at the designated time. Late entries will not be considered at most shows. Also, you will need to make arrangements for pick-ups at the designated time if you are not able to be there when the show is over. If your item is being posted, then you may choose to insure something that is priceless and not able to be replaced if lost.

**Other criteria which will affect your entry item.**

- Most shows have a time limit in which the work has been completed. Usually, it is in the past year since the previous show, although some organisations do allow two years. Check these.

- Of course, it probably goes without saying that all the work in your entry should have been completed by yourself. No one else should have done any of the work as it is only your work which is being judged.
- Don't forget to check entry requirements for sizes or any other limits which may be placed upon a particular class. Not following these requirements may either have your work disqualified, or else you may be given a lower result, depending on the judges' decision. Most criteria written in this area is carefully worded, so that it will not cause confusion. Despite this being "common sense", it has occurred that competitors did not check entry requirements when I was judging.
- Any work which is soiled during its making will also be either not judged or penalised. Keeping your work clean and especially free from pet hair. Some shows prohibit you from washing a dirty item before judging has occurred, so clean working practices are most important.
- Areas you may like to consider when choosing a pattern or design to make for a competition. In other words, what will the judge be looking for in your competition entry?
- Are you choosing a design which shows your best abilities and workmanship, or are you choosing an easy option? The more complex the design, the better your chances of getting a place if it is well executed. Also, time spent choosing well, will give you a better result than if you make a quick decision which you later regret. Think about what skills you want to show the judge.
- Will your item have a "wow factor" when it is finished? If not, is it the pattern that is the problem? Do the colours you use detract from the pattern? Or is your work not as good as it could be? Judges like "wow factor".
- When you come to start making your lace, don't rush your work. I always work at a pace which helps prevent me from making mistakes and at a pace where I can produce my best work. By working at a slower pace, there are less chances of making an error, as having to unpick work in a show piece often does detract from the finished piece.
- If your design is complex, then give yourself time to produce it. Do not do a rush job. Work out a timetable that is reasonable before your work needs to be delivered to the show.
- Remember your tension should be perfect and not uneven. Strive for work that is very even in all its parts.
- Ensure that you start new threads and finish your work so that it is close to perfection. Is it possible for the judge to see where you have started or ended? Do not leave bits of thread sticking out! This has cost many an exhibitor a better place. If they had taken the time to cut off ends their completed work would have been a much better piece.

Finally, most good competitions will supply each competitor with a written judge's "comments" sheet. This should be read and noted as the judge wants to help you improve your skills and has given you some ideas as to how you may do this. All the best!!!!!