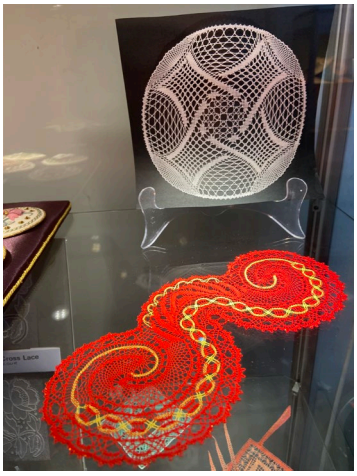
AUSTRALIAN LACE GUILD
NSW BRANCH INC

Lace_E News
Volume #35

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

FINISH READING ON PG. 3



NSW DISPLAY

FINISH READING ON PG. 5

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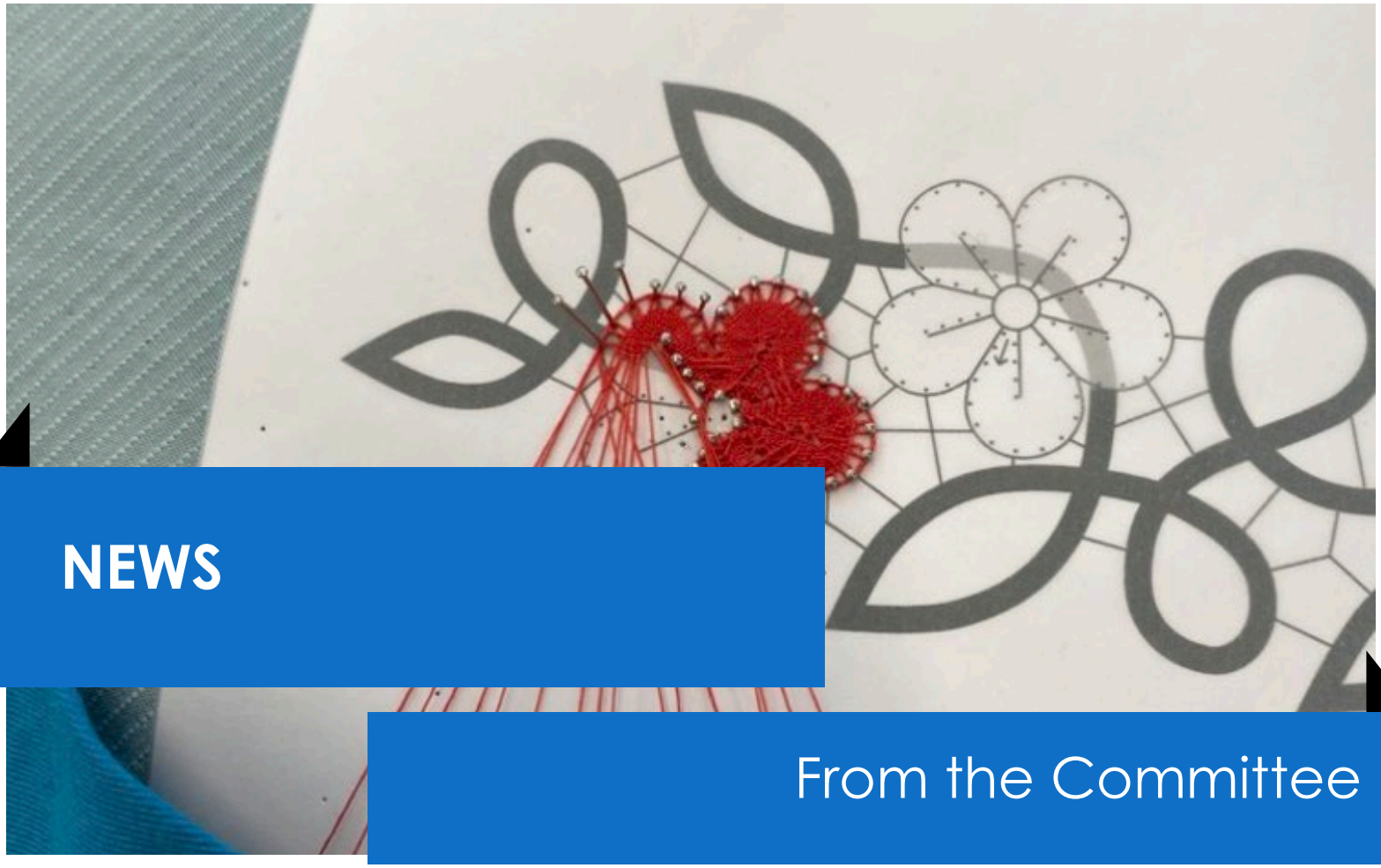
MEMBER UPDATES

FINISH R3EADING ON PG. 4

WELCOME

Our 35th edition of Lace_E News - the ALG NSW Branch's monthly newsletter.

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



NEWS

From the Committee

Dear Members

Welcome to the October edition of Lace E News.

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

What crazy weather we are having, Summer seems to have jumped Spring. With the hot and dry weather here in the country, the Bushfire rating is already high. I hope you have your fire plan ready and know what to do in an emergency. I was reminded the other day to be careful parking my car in long grass as the heat from the car can start a grass fire.

The December meeting will be our end of year celebration so come ready to enjoy the day with likeminded friends.

2026 NAC Conference Display
Next years National Conference will be in Western Australia, outside of Perth.
The theme for the NSW display is SHAPES. Any shape, any type of lace any colour. The shape must fit on an A5 piece of card, which will be provided by the committee. The idea is to put the cards together to make a book or if there is enough pieces two books.
All lace needs to be finished for the June 2026 Lace Day. This will give enough time for the book/s to be put together.

Proposed Retreat
The proposed date for the retreat is 29/31 May 2026, at Mulgoa. If the retreat is to go ahead numbers are need by November 2025. A minimum of 25 people is needed for the retreat to go ahead. A deposit needs to be paid by November to hold the dates.
The cost is $132 per night for a room with on suite, or $88 per night if sharing a room with on suite.
To book a place please use the laceguildnsw@gmail.com address.

December meeting
Isa Hargraves will have her last workshop, and it would be great if members bring their lace that they have made over the previous meetings for a display.
Guest Speaker
Suzanne Gude will be the guest speaker at the December meeting. Her topic is Japanese embroidery.

2026 Agricultural Shows
The Kiama Show is on late January 2026, the schedule is on the website. If you would like to enter fill out the paperwork online and bring your lace to the December lace day. Barbara Stokes will take your lace to the show.

Hawkesbury Show is the next show after Kiama; schedules are on the website and Tony will bring schedules to the February Lace Day. Tony has also offered to pick up and return lace entries.

Don’t forget the Royal Easter show as well. To keep the lace sections entries are needed.

Elizabeth

Lace Retreat Date 2026

May 29-31st.

Where: Winborne Edmund Rice Retreat Centre, Mulgoa Valley. 1315 Mulgoa Road Mulgoa, NSW.

Cost: 3 x cottages on – site with each Cottage – cost based on twin share 8 x twin-share rooms with ensuite, that is 16 beds per cottage.
Each cottage has a common area with TV, lounges, dining table/chairs.

Cost: $88 per adult per night, or based on single-use $132 per night.

Catering: suggestion of self-cater with sharing between participants. Use for catering of Kelly Room which can cater for 36 persons, has all Kitchen needs with the cost of $220 per night.
Transport – there is a bus from Penrith to entrance gate.

Bobbin Lace Workshop – Flower Bookmark

Simona Strgulc Krajšek.
Perth and Sydney, September and October 2025.

A dozen East Coast lace makers, some travelling great distances from Queensland and regional NSW, convened in Sydney to study Slovene Lace in a workshop led by Simona Strgulc Krajšek. Sponsored by the ALG, the two-day workshop followed highly successful workshops in Perth and in McLaren Vale as part of the ALG 2025 Conference.

At least three of us had direct connections with Slovenia either through family or travel, so it was wonderful to spend two days with two Slovene lacemakers – Simona, assisted by Majda - , with deep lace experience matched by sunny personalities and unstinting support and help.

From a lace perspective, it was a dream come true because studying Slovene lace in Australia is limited to the Idrija Lace School videos on YouTube, the ILS pattern books and previously-published books on Idrija lace.

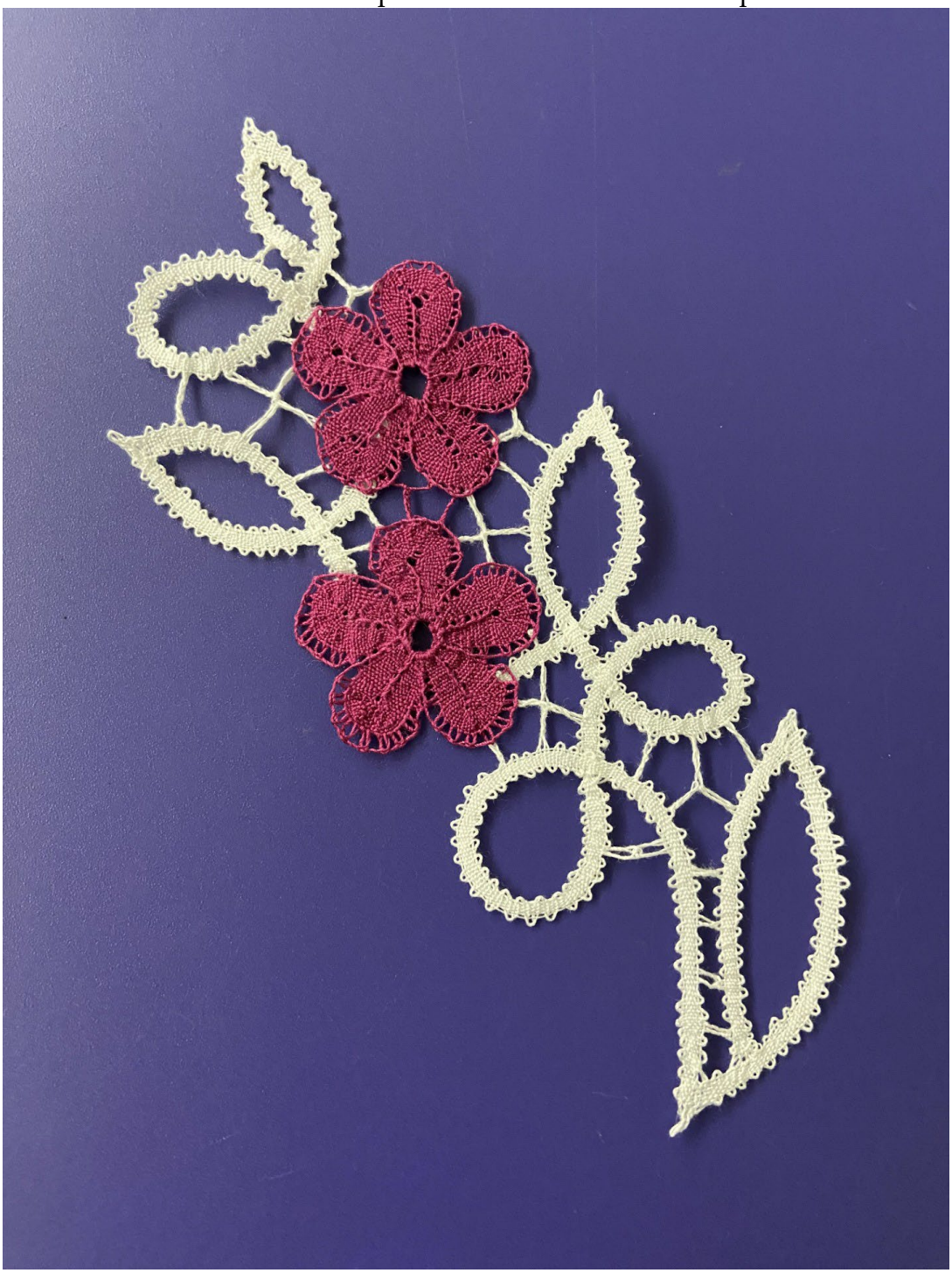
Like our counterparts on the west coast, we worked an intermediate-level “Flowers”/Rožici pattern from Simona's 2024 book of bookmarks, “Lace Bookmarks” coauthored with Margaret Keller, spending most of our time on the five-petal flower, with 8 pins in the broad curve of the petal. It's a variation on the six-petal flower (with 6 pins) seen in other patterns. Simona also kindly proposed

two other patterns including one entitled “Australian Spring” (which includes Slovenian spiders). Majda's beautiful contribution to the OIDFA 2023 book, “Lace Squared” is worthy of mention. The workshop was a case of East meets West: bolster pillows and Continental bobbins vs Western pillows and spangled bobbins. Simona's patterns are in a composite Slovenian style, so there are influences from Idrija and Gorizia (3-pair Flanders Stitch), as well as a nod to “foreign” Torchon thanks to Margaret Keller's contribution.

We are grateful for the support of the NAC in this unique venture and to the NSW Branch Committee for their organisation and hospitality. We thank the NSW Embroiderers' Guild for making their excellent facilities available to us. For anyone tackling projects in Simona and Margaret Keller's bookmark book, I can recommend the following:

• use only Idrija cotton by preference – substitutes lack the sheen and handle of the authentic thread;
• ensure the Idrija cotton you buy is what it says it is – beware of #30 packaged as #40;
• steer clear of white thread (and very dark threads) in your first attempts - Idrija Cotton comes in a wide range of seductive colours; wind bobbins to suit Z-twist Idrija cotton, otherwise the thread will very quickly untwist itself making sewings difficult;
• if you don't use a bolster pillow or Slovenian bobbins, a domed pillow with International Square bobbins or Bruges bobbins might be easier to manage than a flat pillow with spangled bobbins;
• use the book in conjunction with ILS monographs (Ozki ris will cover most of the basics) and ILS videos on YouTube (the Leaf and the Fish); watching the video on YouTube by Emanuele Bonaglia's 'Margherita” flower from the Cantù tradition will be a good introduction to the 'spaghetti junction' cloth stitch and half-stitch flower patterns in Simona's book;
• working patterns marked Level 1 and 2 will consolidate beginner level Idrija lace techniques;
• be aware that as a rough guide the width of the narrow tape lace pattern is 2.5mm for #30 thread and 2mm for finer #40 thread; #30 and #40 thread and patterns are roughly compatible but the look will be very much denser
This was what we started with.

Barbara attended the workshop and the flower she has completed below.



Epping Lace Display

Member's Lace and Updates

From Barbara

Here is a photo of my Lace Conference Workshop with Christine Johnson - Torchon.
I certainly learned lots, and made lots of missed placed pins!
Thank you Christine for your patience and expertise.