

MILLINERY Matters

NEWSLETTER OF THE MILLINERY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello members. On behalf of the 2023 committee, I'd like to welcome everyone to a brand new year of millinery! This year we are a small committee of 7, but we've got what it takes...a big heart, muscle power and plenty of ideas. Behind the scenes we've been planning lots of fun things for you all to enjoy.

First and foremost there is the annual Design Award and Student Award to be held again in Melbourne later in the year. Both themes were announced at the February member's meeting. You can read all about these competitions in more detail on page 2 of the newsletter. Updates regarding dates, judges and prizes will be provided as information is available.

One of our main focuses this year is to explore education prospects. Covid has made it difficult to run workshops and classes in recent times and with global travel restrictions it was impossible to bring tutors to us...especially internationals. Hopefully that's all behind us now and we can start to enjoy learning once again. We expect to bring you a host of workshops, demonstrations and live tutors, so watch this space and tune in to our monthly meetings to be the first to hear all the latest news.

And of course there's always plenty of social outings and gatherings being planned and enjoyed around the country.

Happy hatting! Fiona Cooper



Your Committee

Left

Fiona Cooper, President, VIC
Rachael Hart, Vice President, VIC

Middle

John Westwood Hill, Ordinary Member, NSW
Mary Mohr, Treasurer, QLD
Lisa Watt, Ordinary Member, VIC

Right

Jo Peterson, Secretary, VIC
Rose Hudson, Ordinary Member, VIC

Pictured on page 12

Jane Moy, Ordinary Member, QLD

Click [here](#) to meet the committee in more detail

Design AWARD

Melbourne, Victoria



After a successful Design Award in 2022, the committee is delighted to announce that the DA will again be hosted in Melbourne in 2023.

The theme for this year is **'Ruffled'**. What is ruffled? The meaning is different for everyone. What is it to be ruffled? Politics can ruffle feathers. A difference of opinion can ruffle feathers. Gender inequality can too. A bird's plumage ruffles when it's afraid. A book's pages can ruffle. In another era the neck adornment of the rich, powerful and wealthy was called a ruff. Ruffled can mean to fluster, to unnerve, to faze and to peeve.

This year the theme is yours to iron out! Get amongst the folds and create some disarray. What will you design that will rattle and confound us? Enjoy unravelling this theme.



ENTRY FEE: \$95 Fellow / Life member

REGISTRATION CLOSES: Friday, April 21, 2023

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS: Friday, May 26, 2023 at 5PM

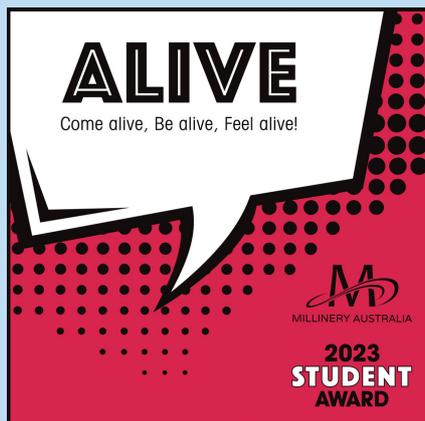
JUDGES: To be announced

PRIZES: We're working on it

Pictured left is last year's Design Award winning entry made by Belinda Osborne of [@peacockmillinery](#)

STUDENT Award

Melbourne, Victoria



Last year's Student Award 'Magic Happens' saw many breathtaking and innovative designs submitted by Millinery Australia students and students of millinery throughout Australia.

The Committee hopes that this year's theme **'Alive'** will see creative boundaries pushed once again. So come and join your fellow students and get designing...come alive...be alive...feel alive!

ENTRY FEE: \$30 student member

\$55 non-member

REGISTRATION OPENS: Monday, May 1, 2023

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS: Friday, May 12, 2023 at 5PM

OUR JUDGES: Christine Martin

Lisa Watt

Possum Ball

Michele Cameron

(Mary Locke Encouragement Award)

PRIZES: Watch this space

REGISTER: Click [here](#)



Pictured left is last year's Student Award winning entry made by Nicole Cumberland of [@nmcmillinery](#)

Velour Felt **WORKSHOP**

Learn how to cut, sculpt and manipulate Velour felt with international milliner, Tracy Chaplin, to create a variety of winter hats and headpieces.

How to wire the brim and invisible stitching techniques for the brim edge including attaching your trims will also be covered. These techniques can be applied to a variety of hat designs including smaller hand sculpted hats, brims and retro vintage styles. The effects achieved are similar to laser cutting.

Tracy will introduce the session in person and then the 2 hour live stream workshop will focus on a series of techniques that will be clearly shown with examples and design inspiration. A demonstration of a small hand sculpted hat design will also be included.

Students can interact with Tracy in real time via the chat function on zoom while the workshop is in progress and at the conclusion of the workshop Tracy will be available to answer any questions or concerns you may have. This session will last approx 45 minutes.

Workshop is open to all fellow, life and student members. An email will be sent out later this week with an Eventbrite link to enable you to reserve a spot in the class. Once payment has been made you will receive a zoom link and supplies list.

DATE: Wednesday April 19, 2023

TIME: 7pm - 10pm (Mel/Syd)

COST: \$95 per student (inc. booking fee)



Hall of FAME Lorraine Gill – 2022

By Oksana Caretti



Lorraine Gill first became interested in hat making when she was designing dresses for bridal parties and mothers of the bride in Adelaide during the 1980's. Ladies were asking her to make bespoke headwear to be worn at these weddings, thus leading her to pursue her own millinery career.

She was first taught by Rick McGill at TAFE, currently milliner at the Sydney Opera and renown for the headwear in "Moulin Rouge" and "Star Wars" and has had tuition/mentoring from milliners such as Gwenda Baker of Adelaide, Jean Carroll of Sydney and Marie O'Regan of London. Lorraine then went on to become a millinery teacher herself commencing at TAFE SA in 1996.



She introduced the idea of bi-annual millinery conventions in Australia, with the very first "Hats Off to..." millinery convention in 2003. South Australia has also hosted "The Hats off to Adelaide" in 2005 and again in 2017 with other states staging conventions in between.

"The Hats off to..." conventions inspired the conception of the world events like International Millinery, Forum in Wagga Wagga, MIMC in Melbourne, the Millinery Meet-Up in USA and London Hat Week.

Lorraine has been making millinery for the past 30 years under her own millinery label "Lorraine Gill Creations". Her hats have enjoyed several placings in the top 10 in Melbourne Cup Fashions on the Field Millinery Awards and Hat Competition wins throughout the years.

She also has been an active member of the Millinery Australia Committee; participating in and organizing many events over the years, judging millinery entries at the annual Royal Adelaide Show, and running the millinery pop up shop "Studio Hats" along with other local milliners.

Lorraine Gill was inducted into the Millinery Association of Australia Hall of Fame in 2022.

New MEMBERS

The Millinery Association of Australia would like to extend a sincere and warm welcome to all new members. Our most recent being new fellow member, **Tracey Tau** and **Kathy Campbell** transitioning from student to fellow member. Both ladies hail from Victoria. We hope you make yourselves at home amongst us and enjoy being a part of the wider millinery community both professionally and socially.

There will be ample opportunities to attend monthly meetings via zoom, a range of online and studio based workshops (local Covid restrictions prevailing), stitch and chat sessions and face-to-face catch ups. Not to mention eligibility to enter the Design Award and Student Award competitions for 2023.

If you have any questions please reach out to any of our members or email our secretary.

WEBSITE Listings

Website listings are a membership feature offered to Life Members, Fellow Members and Associate Suppliers of the MAA. As we rapidly approach 200 members it's become a monumental task to maintain the accuracy of listings. If you don't have a listing, or would like to update the one you have, please send an email to the [MAA secretary](#). Include your business blurb, contact details with phone number(s) and email address, social pages and a thumbnail image. Click [here](#) and [here](#) to view current website profiles.

GUEST Speakers

By Rachael Hart

Recognised as one of Australia's talented milliners, Richard Nylon creates highly original couture headwear that has been described as 'wearable art of innovative design and imagination'.

Richard's distinctive designs result from his devotion to investigating and experimenting with many materials and methods, both traditional and unconventional, that allow him to push the boundaries of millinery practice.

Join us at the next Member's meeting as we introduce Richard as our March guest speaker. Please note new meeting start time at 7.30pm ([AEDST](#)).



Business HACKS

By Mary Mohr



Consider signing up for a MyPost Business Account with Australia Post. Of course the more you post the more you save but savings can be made with fairly minimal numbers of parcels posted. The Band 1 entry point is \$50 over the last 4 weeks or \$500 over the last 12 months.

For more information about a MyPost business account please click [here](#)

If you have any business related hacks that you'd like to share with our members please email them to secretary@millineryaustralia.org to be published in the next edition of Millinery Matters.

Social CATCH Ups

By Wendy Diggles



Elaine Mergard, from Hat Academy, organised a lovely event on Brisbane's bayside. It was hosted by Maree Starkey from Hats by Maree. It was quite a turnout with a large group of Queensland milliners attending including the legendary Elizabeth R. Many couldn't make the catch up due to work commitments, but there was a lovely mix of milliners and students, MAA members and others.

Elaine gave a talk, her guest speaker informed us about networking, websites and google search optimisation and I talked about the MAA design awards and various benefits of being a member. Hopefully, we'll encourage a few more to join up here in Queensland.

Thanks Elaine. Your organisation skills and energy are amazing. Thanks too to Graham and Maree for sharing your lovely home.

Christmas BAUBLE EXCHANGE

By Jo Peterson

With the 2022 Melbourne Spring Carnival done and dusted, it was time to think about Millinery Australia's 'Christmas Bauble Exchange' on the 2nd Tuesday in November.

Members who participated made a bauble of their own design to send across the country to perhaps someone they'd never met or only seen on a zoom meeting. Some baubles were traditional hand made fabric balls or millinery related treasures. Others included a gold embroidered reindeer, a gingerbread house pin cushion, a herd of painted unicorns and even a hand felted much loved Aussie icon!

It was fun for all who took part with an air of excitement with each postie delivery. There was lots of great feedback from members who were delighted to see the return of the exchange for a second year...so much so that it will definitely be a part of the MAA festive calendar in 2023!



King and Queen of MOOMBA

An Interview with Rachel Henry by Rose Hudson



Tell us about the job. How did the organisers find you?

The iconic Melbourne Moomba Festival is celebrating its 67th year and has a long-standing tradition of crowning two celebrity monarchs to reign over the traditional Labor Day long weekend Monday street parade. Recent monarchs have included the likes of Molly Meldrum, John Farnham, Shane Warne and Michelle Payne. Each year Emily Barrie, of Emily Barrie Designs, collaborates with a milliner to bring her designs to life. I was generously given the opportunity by Catherine Ellen for which I am thankful. It was such an exciting project and I jumped at the chance.

Did you work from a costume designer's sketch? If so, did you meet with the designer to discuss requirements?

Some of the 'guesswork' is done for you with a project like this and the immense experience that Emily has with making Moomba crowns is so very valuable. I met with her to discuss the design aesthetic at her creative studio in Coburg. As the monarchs this year, Rob Mills and Rhonda Burchmore, were both from musical theatre backgrounds, so the designs were heavily influenced by music and the 'love of a good show.' Other details I was given in the design brief included bold, oversized, bright, visible and elaborate.

Tell us about the selection of the materials. Are you given a colour palette to work from and do you source the trims and fabrics? Are you given a budget, or do you simply invoice at the end?

This project was all about the fun of the festival and the visual joy of the carnival itself, so the fabric choice doesn't come with any strict rules as long as it's bright and playful and matches in with the monarch's float design. With a core value of repurposing, Emily was keen for me to use fabrics, beads and sequins that have had a previous purpose and I was lucky that she had a box ready to sort through. It was like being given a box of treasure! Inside I found latex, 3-way stretch shiny dance fabric, party beads, glass gems, tinsel lace and much more. An important and transparent part of the project was the news that the project comes with a pre-set budget so working out a realistic turnaround time for these crowns was an important factor to consider.

How many fittings did you have with Rob and Rhonda?

Unfortunately I didn't get to fit the crowns on Rob or Rhonda before the official launch. Both their head measurements were supplied to me by their respective agents, so I asked a friend and her husband to be my 'size models' to establish the correct proportions.

What was the most difficult part of this process?

There were a few challenges I encountered during the construction process with the most problematic being the symmetry and sizing of the elements on the crowns.

Did you learn anything new from this experience?

I haven't worked with a designer before so there was a lot of pressure to bring someone else's vision to life. In a way, I had to get into Emily's head to try and understand what it was she was visualising with the look of the crowns. I have to say that my background in hairdressing came in handy, as I was able to ask questions in a way that made the process of getting into someone's head easier.

Did you enjoy the process?

It was a real joy being part of this project and to have the experience of the launch of Moomba on the banks of the Yarra with the sun shining and the beautiful city as a backdrop. The jewel in the crown of it all was seeing my work adorning the head of Rob and Rhonda in The Herald Sun's A1 marketing space at my local IGA the day after the launch. Wow!!!

HALL of FAME Update

By Robin Rivett



At 90+ years of age our Millinery Hall of Fame member, Gwenda Baker, continues to inspire. Her positive outlook, altruism and sense of "Joie de Vivre" remains unchanged.

Many of us graduated under Gwenda; myself, Heather Clark and Diane Robertson just to name a few. For over 35 years she taught millinery at the Adelaide Institute of Technology. She was a true perfectionist. Her students loved her and many are still counted as her friends today. At several of our Conventions she was invited by the Millinery Association of Australia to be a guest teacher.

Chatting with her last month she says to tell everyone that she's happy and well...and oops, still driving to see her sister everyday who is now in her late 90's!



MIMC 2023

Catherine Ellen and the month of February again played host to the Melbourne International Millinery Competition ([MIMC](#)) which is now in its 7th year.

The competition was well supported with hats arriving from around Australia and overseas. This year's theme had milliners designing for Jean Shrimpton who famously wore a dress above the knee, no stockings, no gloves and no hat when she attended the Derby Day race meeting during the Melbourne Spring Racing Carnival in 1965.

First place went to MAA student member, **Nichollette Pottier** for her original design entitled "Prismatic". Second place was taken out by MAA fellow member, **Alison Morgan** for her entry "Daisy", with third place being awarded to MAA fellow member, **Karen Bailey** for her entry "Oops". And finally last, but not least, Margaret Woodliff Wright, from the UK, was voted the People's Choice winner.

Millinery Australia kindly sponsored the MIMC competition with a cash prize of \$500 and a one year complimentary membership to the Association. Congratulations everyone! Congratulations MIMC! Congratulations Catherine Ellen!

Photos courtesy of The Essential Hat. Click [here](#) for the full photo gallery of entries plus bonus pictures of a photo shoot recreation of 'The Shrimp' on the steps at Flemington!



Barcelona HAT DAYS

By Cristina de Prada



**BARCELONA
HAT DAYS**

This year's 'Barcelona Hat Days' started a few weeks ago with the opening of an International Hat exhibition "Over The Top". The exhibition will run until April 23rd.

Between April 11-15 there will be millinery workshops at all levels of expertise, visits to museum reserves, demonstrations, talks, a materials market and opportunities to mingle and share meals with colleagues. In short, it will be packed full of activities and it will be lots of fun. We welcome applications teachers that wish to give classes. The 19th annual Barcelona Hat Stroll is scheduled for Sunday April 16, 2023. Together with milliner Nina Pawlowsky, the organiser of "Hat Stroll" and "Barcelona Hat Days". I would like

to invite all Millinery Australia members to join in any of these activities. We would like to let everyone know dates and times as early as we can so that they can plan their trip ahead of time to get the best plane ticket prices possible. You can find more information about our events on websites [here](#) and [here](#). Hatty regards from Barcelona.

Millinery Australia ARCHIVING

One of our Victorian founding members, Sandy Forrester, has proposed that she, Christine Martin, Michele Cameron, June Edwards and JD Mannington sort through many tubs of paraphernalia currently safely tucked away in our storage locker in Melbourne. Once everything has been sorted and collated an archivist will be engaged to professionally save our history.

So, if you happen to have any items that relate back to the early days of the MAA that you think may be of interest, please feel free contact Sandy directly.



STATE Shows



Millinery Australia has been a proud sponsor of 'grass roots millinery' for many a state agricultural show and 2023 is no exception. Keep your eyes open for dates and entry categories as they are announced by each state. Details will also be published in forthcoming editions of Millinery Matters. If you would like the MAA to sponsor a show in your area please contact a committee member for more information.

'WEET-BIX' Series Workshops

By Jo Peterson

The Covid-19 pandemic changed the world as we knew it. It impacted on how we worked, how we travelled, how we socialised with friends and family and how we learned.

The MAA Committee has many exciting ideas for millinery education this year which will be revealed in due course, however, in the meantime we thought that we could look to our amazing members for inspiration to run a mini workshop series called the 'Weet-Bix' series. Why 'Weet-Bix' you ask? Well when you're hungry it fills a gap, it's wholesome, tasty, good for you and leaves you satisfied!

The idea behind the 'Weet-Bix' series is that a MA member would volunteer, or buddy up with another member, to run a short workshop on zoom. It could be for an hour or two on a day/evening/weekend that suits you. It's not a workshop as such that teaches you how to make a hat, but rather an info session that teaches you a technique or millinery hack that you can then develop and refine to put your own spin on it.

I am putting my 'hat' in the ring' to kick start the series. As some of you may know I have, for a long time now, made most of my flowers from foam. Advantages of foam are that it's light weight, easy to source and it offers a vegan option to recommend to our clients. There's no charge for the class, but a mandatory kit will be available in advance at minimal cost to help cover materials and postage. The workshop is scheduled for **Sunday May 7, 2023 from 11am - 12pm**. Sign up details will be emailed shortly.

* If you have a technique or skill that you are willing to share with our members in the coming months, please email the Millinery Australia secretary for additional information [here](#).



STITCH and Chat



Local Sessions

Back for its 4th year on Zoom. All members are welcomed.

Meeting ID: please click [here](#)

Passcode: please click [here](#)

Dates & Time

Every Wednesday - 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (AEST)

World Wide Sessions

Michele Cameron will be your host and looks forward to welcoming you on Zoom. Attendees will need to register once and can then easily attend any of the sessions.

Meeting ID: 856 9981 8259

Passcode: MAA_INT23

Dates & Time

First Thursday of each month 8:00 AM – 10:00AM (Melb/Syd)





ASSOCIATE MEMBER Details

THE MILLINERY
RETREAT

www.themillineryretreat.com

HATTERS
MILLINERY SUPPLIES

www.hattersmillinerysupplies.com.au

HAT BLOCKS AUSTRALIA
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BRISBANE
HATTERS



I wear a hat
to keep my
ideas warm



Gorgeous women,
lovely hats...

MAA Meetings

All meetings will be held
via Zoom at 7.30pm (Melb) for 2023

Wed 22 February

Tue 21 March

Wed 26 April

Tue 23 May

Wed 28 June

Tue 25 July

Wed 23 August

Tue 26 September

(No meeting in October)

Tue 21 November - AGM



Jane Moy



HATS ALLOW
YOU TO MAKE A
STATEMENT WITHOUT
SAYING A WORD



Good newsletters don't just happen and they are not interesting without good content. If you have a millinery story, a hatty photo that you'd like to share or simply a suggestion for a future article then please email us.

secretary@millineryaustralia.org OR rose.hudson@millineryaustralia.org

WWW.MILLINERYAUSTRALIA.ORG