

MILLINERY Matters

NEWSLETTER OF THE MILLINERY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Student Design AWARD - "MY Tribe"

By Georgia Skelton



It was my privilege to once again host and supervise the third Student Design Award. Entry numbers were down on previous years, which was no surprise as enrolments at TAFE have dropped around the country. In the past judging has taken place in my home but due to Victorian Covid restrictions that was not allowed. Fortunately Lindsay Whitehead, from Millinery Hub, came to our rescue and gave us access to his beautiful retail studio space.

Our judges, Robin Rivett, Jo Peterson and Felicity Northeast, did an amazing job, carefully and respectfully inspecting each piece and giving students valuable written feedback. They scored each piece based on originality and creativity, relevance to the theme, quality of workmanship, degree of difficulty of design and wearability in terms of comfort and stability. It was a long day but the judges and myself ended the day confident that Australian millinery has a bright future.



Emma Files from QLD (runner up 2019) was our worthy winner, and I must say when I unpacked this piece it literally took my breath away. So beautiful and light and the story representing love, hope, and friendship was touching. Work experience with Wendy Louise Diggles has been organised for Emma as a part of her prize and I am sure this will prove invaluable for her.

Second place went to last year's winner Angie Jackman from VIC and she did not disappoint with her "Mandala" tribute to the support and encouragement she receives from the women in her life. Angie won't be eligible to enter next year as this is her third year of entering the student competition, but we hope to see her apply for Fellow membership and enter the Design Award in 2022.



An extra Highly Commended Award was decided upon on judging day, with a \$50 prize donated by yours truly. The award went to Karen Livingston from NSW for her "Matriheart" piece which was a tribute to her mother.

And finally, the Mary Lock Encouragement Award of \$200 sponsored and judged by Michele Cameron was won by Jocelyn Ryan from the ACT for her "My Walkabout Trail" piece complete with poem.

A one-day exhibition was held at Embroidery House thanks to the generosity of the Embroiderers Guild of Victoria. We were so lucky to have snuck it in as Victoria went into Covid lockdown 6.0 only two hours after it ended!

Well done to all who entered the Student Design Award and a huge thanks too to our sponsors...our competition could not continue be the success it is without your valued support. On behalf of the students I would like to say a HUGE thanks to the Millinery Association of Australia, Hat Academy, Hatters Millinery, House of Adorn, HATalk, Phillip Rhodes and Millinery Hub.

All student entries, along with their stories, feature in this edition of "Millinery Matters" and have been uploaded to the [photo gallery](#) on the MAA website for your viewing pleasure.



Student Design AWARD Entries



Joanne Cooke 'Catch Me If You Can'

Study Textiles and Design or join the Police Force? What a decision to make at 19 years of age. After many nights watching Quincy MD back in the 80's off to the Police Academy I went. So began my journey within an amazing tribe of NSW Police (and of course this meant wearing a hat). The journey I had as a Police Officer, the things I saw, both beautiful and horrid, seeing the best and worst of humanity, can't help but make me feel part of a dedicated tribe of community

minded people. As a young detective, my interest in forensics led me to a position with the Forensics Unit, specialising in fingerprints. My new tribe of amazing investigators, doing our bit to solve serious crime, whilst studying the science of fingerprints. On starting my family, my own tribe, I rediscovered my passion for textiles, costume design and creation and my lifelong passion for hats. A year ago, I accidentally fell into studying millinery and thus have found my new tribe. So very excited to be surrounded by amazing mentors and creatives.

Julie Powell 'Visionary'

The 'Visionary' headpiece I created is about goals and my vision. Ever since I was young, I focused on my goals, to do what I am passionate about and to focus on completing the particular goal. To empower myself in achieving the best and to just have fun. This included being an archer and striving to go to the Olympics and to travelling in my 20's and now in my 30's to continue to be a creative mind in millinery. But I also have a corneal transplant and so even with the obstacles of my vision, I continue to go forward in my goals with the support of my family and friends that are with me always. The base colours are brown sinamay, my pupil colour, the black mesh with holes represents the holes from a shield I use when I go to the ophthalmologist appointment every 6 months to read the vision ophthalmologist and the silk abaca represents my right eye as this is the eye I have had surgery on. Even though my vision has deteriorated I am even more focused on my goals, passion and to achieve the ultimate in my life.



Debra McDonald 'Rondo Alla Turca'

The McDonald sisters were raised to have kind hearts, brave spirits and fierce minds, bound together by our love of music and dance no matter how far apart we were. 'Rondo alla Turca' was a piano piece I studied for classical piano over 30 years ago and it still rings true in my heart as it represents both the ferocity of my maternal grandmother and the delicacy of my paternal grandmother who I would visit every Friday night after my music lessons.

Elena Kornienko 'Grand Duchess'

From Wikipedia the kokoshnik is a traditional Slavic headdress worn by women and girls to accompany the dress sarafan. The kokoshnik tradition has existed since the 10th century in the ancient Slavic city of Veliky Novgorod. It spread primarily in the northern regions of Great Rus and was immensely popular from the 16th to the 19th century. It is still an important feature of Slavic dances and folk culture to this day and has influenced the Kokoshnik style of architecture. The word kokoshnik first appears in 16th century documents and comes from the Old Slavic "kokosh", which means a 'hen' or 'cockerel'. The earliest headdress pieces of similar type (rigid cylindrical hat which completely covered the hair) have been found in 10th to 12th century burials in Veliky Novgorod.





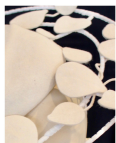
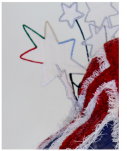
Sarah Mensforth 'Fields of Atherny'

My inspiration is the story of my family, the Scanlons. My Grandad and Nanna came to Australia from Ireland where they settled in the western Melbourne suburb of St Albans. The area was home to many other Irish settlers and my family kept the Irish custom of the open home, where everyone was welcome, alive and thriving and my upbringing was full of Irish dancing and music. The simple green Celtic

knot, made from silk abaca, not only conveys the cultural identity and colours of my Irish heritage, but to me it also represents the smooth motions and structure in traditional Irish dancing.

Kathryn Campbell 'Returning Home'

I moved away from Australia with my husband and two small children in 2009 in search of a change of scenery and a family adventure. We spent many wonderful years living in the heart of one of Asia's busiest cities, Singapore and then on to the city that never sleeps, New York. Singapore and the USA are both quite unique countries, incredibly and overtly patriotic. When I moved back to Australia in 2019, I was determined to reignite my passion for millinery. I quickly realised just how fortunate I was to be home in Australia, to feel a sense of belonging, understanding and opportunity. A feeling not fully appreciated as an expat and foreigner. It took time away for me to gain a deeper understanding of the value of being an Australian, to understand what it means to be an Aussie, to be grateful for my Australian Tribe. As a proud Aussie, I wave the Australian flag!



Karen Livingston 'The Matriheart' Highly Commended

At the heart of my very large family is the Matriarch -my wonderful mother Elsie. She is strong, loving and very supportive. A breast cancer survivor of 11 years and living life at 85 years young. The white in my design represents my mother's homeland and its harsh winter snow. She immigrated to Australia from Scotland with my father along with four young children in tow. This piece is her! Her children, our children and their children. The Matriheart.

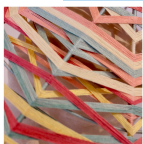
Emma Files 'Rainbow for Eli' Winner

'Rainbow for Eli' represents the power of a tribe, my friends, their families and our community who have united to rise for Eli. We all came together and created something beautiful when faced with the truly heart wrenching journey of childhood cancer. To my beautiful friend Jackie and her amazing boy Eli, a rainbow of colours represents love, comfort, hope, friendship and strength. My tribe came together for one of our own, we told their story and we helped to make a difference when fear and sadness burned within us all. Rainbows will forever belong to Eli and will always remind me of how grateful I am for my tribe. Jackie and Eli, you are my inspiration.



Mary Therese McCann 'Avoca History'

I want to honour my late stepfather Herbert 'John' Moffit (1930-2020) and the home and lifestyle he provided for my late mother, my siblings and I. Avoca was the name of his property. It was a livestock and crop farm. Horses were bred for harness racing. Located a short distance from West Wyalong in NSW. Life on the farm was peaceful and I was taught many skills to assist with farming the land. My piece is inspired by my childhood spent on the farm amongst the horses, particularly John's champion horse 'Avoca Victor' and the crops tended.



Anjie Jackman 'Mandala'

Runner Up

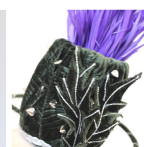
My tribe is made up of the women in my life that support and encourage me. As an individual I have many roles. My mind feels like it is in a constant chaotic state of overdrive. But to the outside observer it may appear orderly and balanced. I have chosen my design inspired by a woven Mandala, as a representation of the strongest friendships in my life and the intertwined chaos of my everyday existence. I am a lover of symbolism, patterns, history and geometry. Mandalas

have been used in many cultures to tell stories and represent aspects of life. Mandalas for meditation purposes date back to the 8th century. Mandala (Sanskrit for 'circle') in modern times is used in therapy to represent wholeness and the human desire to regain a sense of self and recognise one's place in the world. Something I have repeatedly pondered throughout the past year. The three hues represent myself and my two closest friends, the core of my tribe. Each quite different but complementary. Supporting each other forming a strong framework. Intertwined, yet separate, layered and complex. Taking effort to construct, but worth the investment. The materials and shape are influenced by my favourite Australian Milliners that have encouraged me and pushed me to grow at times when I am full of self-doubt. Those are my people. That is 'My Tribe'!

Susan Walsh

'Scottish Thistle'

The inspiration and story behind my design award entry is my grandmothers' Scottish heritage. Both my grandmothers taught me to sew, knit and crochet from a very young age. And they encouraged me to be creative and helped to shape the person I am today.



Jocelyn Ryan 'My Walkabout Trail'

Mary Lock Encouragement Award

We have travelled Australia one side to the other,
With kids in the backseat saying 'are we there yet mother?'

Experiencing vast cultures from state to state,
While always hearing the common language 'g'day mate'.

We have cruised on blue oceans deep as can be,
Seeing all sorts of sea-life and whales bubble feed.

Trekking over mountains and green forest trails,
Places so remote you can't even get emails.

Alas, home is where we are now, living life is upside down.
With COVID numbers climbing high, we still struggle to travel around.

Current isolation is where we are at, with kids, husband and the cats,
I now wander in my head, creating instead a world full of wonderful hats!



Kim Johnson 'Passion for Petals'

My inspiration for 'Passion for Petals' is my family-'My Tribe'. We are a family of florists. Our passion for petals is very strong. The family business has grown to three generations; hence the three single flowers in my headpiece. My parents started the business in the 70's, my sister and I have been in the business for over 30 years and now our children are continuing the passion. My passion that I have for floristry has extended to my new interest, millinery. My creative juices that flow in every creation in floristry now extends into millinery. It is a very exciting time.



Managing **LOCKDOWN** Fatigue

What is Lockdown Fatigue?

Lockdown fatigue has been described worldwide as a state of exhaustion caused by the long-term effects of COVID-19 and the changes it has caused to every aspect of our lives.



Understanding Lockdown Fatigue

Some of the reasons for lockdown fatigue may include:

- being cut-off from normal social interaction and feeling cooped up
- having to home school your children while trying to work from home
- feeling anxious about your employment or financial situation
- hearing about some people 'not doing the right thing'

How to deal with Lockdown Fatigue

Some ideas for managing yourself during this difficult time:

- Acknowledge your feelings and be kind to yourself
- Accept that you may be more tired and not as motivated
- Try to create and stick to a routine with regular breaks to get fresh air and relax
- Connect with family, friends and neighbours whenever possible
- Spend time relaxing, doing puzzles, listening to music, gardening or crafts
- Try not to worry about what you cannot control
- Ask for help when needed

Oaks Day **MILLINERY** Award

From VRC Website



Fashions on Your Front Lawn - Shaping the future of millinery fashion.

Showcasing silhouette and structure, explosive colour and exquisite detail, nothing embodies the celebration of fashion and racing quite like millinery design.

The Melbourne Cup Carnival's renowned Millinery Award has long been considered to be the crowning achievement for makers of Australia's finest headwear. And this year the competition will be judged by MAA Patron, Stephen Jones and Stephanie Spencer.

It's an exciting opportunity to exhibit the design and technical prowess of our most talented headwear creators and one not to be missed!



Entries open: Wednesday, Sep 1st, 2021
Entries close: Sunday Oct 10th, 2021
Top 10 notified: By Friday Oct 15th, 2021
Winner announced: Tuesday Nov 2, 2021, on Network 10

Click [HERE](#) for more info about entering the Millinery Award direct from VRC website.

DIY VIDEO Tips

By Lisa Watt

If the thought of filming your VRC Award entry fills you with dread and you don't have the budget for Steven Spielberg or can't bribe a Gen Z to do it for you, here's a few tips to get your DIY video started.

- Storyboard the message you want to share. Allocate time to each frame or scene so you know that your video won't be too long. Check out this website for some valuable tips www.vyond.com
- Natural lighting is always the most flattering. Avoid backlighting and try and stay away from fluorescent bulbs and hard shadows.
- Fill your frame with your subject, use your phone or camera's grid function to help you frame the shot.
- Stabilise your camera by using books or a DIY tripod. Check out these suggestions www.youtube.com
- Shoot more footage than you think you'll need. The VRC have asked for landscape/horizontal format.
- Don't forget your video is about you and your 'making' journey, so don't be shy to show your face.
- Stephanie Spencer (last year's winner) created an engaging and genuine conversation with her audience. You can view her video here www.melbournecupcarnival.com.au

You may find the following links helpful: www.vimeo.com www.videowinsoft.com www.adobe.com www.linkedin.com and if you have any links, tips or tricks please share to our private MAA Facebook page.

The POWER of a Hashtag

By Lisette Margini

When I first heard the theme for the Design Award I immediately decide to do a piece based on a Macintosh design. For over 12 months I looked at materials and images to inspire me, but I discovered that his designs were in fact Art Nouveau and not Art Deco. So, not wanting to get punished by the judges for choosing the wrong era, I decided to base my design on works of my favourite ceramicist, Clarice Cliff.

Once the beautiful images of my DA entry were available I posted them to my social media platforms tagging **#claricecliff** **#claricecliffpottery** and **#claricecliffbizarre** which was the era of her work my design was based on. Within hours I had comments from Emma Bailey a ceramic artist in Stoke-on-Trent, UK, who makes Clarice Cliff inspired ceramics at Middlesbrough Pottery. She was in love with my hat and she just had to have it! Later this year "The Colour Room", a movie based on the life of Clarice Cliff, will be released starring Phoebe Dynevor. Emma Bailey made all the ceramics for the workroom scenes for the movie and she was particularly keen to wear my hat for some of the planned movie launch events. So, we came up with a plan to do a swap...my hat for a piece of her work.

The hat arrived and has apparently caused quite a stir in the pottery studio according to one of her workmates who contacted me last week.



Millinery Students **GRADUATION** Parade

By Oksana Caretti

There were 4 students graduating with a Certificate 4 in Millinery from TAFE SA in 2021. They were Carolyn Graves, Elena Kornienko, Peta Stuart and Tracy Heritage. Congratulations ladies!

The best student of the year was awarded to Elena Kornienko by her millinery lecturer Lorraine Gill. Elena will receive a complimentary MAA fellow membership for 2022 as her prize.

Elena is passionate about millinery, couture embroidery and Japanese somebana hand tooled silk flowers. She has a diploma in teaching somebana technique and has thousands of Instagram followers. Her favourite style of hat is a top hat.



Wedding Savvy HEADWEAR

By Catherine Ellen

Next year, in an attempt to influence the culture of hat wearing in Australia, the MAA intends to start a marketing campaign aimed specifically at Mothers of the Bride and Bridegroom.

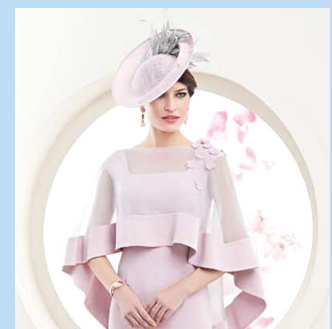
Can you assist with any of the following?

- We need lots of fabulous material for social media, collaborations and print publications.
 - Photos of your hats on mothers of the bride/groom
 - Photo of yourself with a bride or a groom

Photos need to be **high resolution** to be suitable for print media and standard size for social media and website publication.

- A promotional phrase you use.
 - ie. It's Your Day Too
 - ie. Mark the Event with the Respect it Deserve
 - ie. A Hat Completes the Outfit
- Names of your favourite high-end fabric shops and dress designers.
 - Locally
 - Australia

We would like to invest in collaborations for others to also promote the wearing of hats.



Email your photos and ideas to: promotions@millineryaustralia.org

EKKA Millinery

By Kylie Heagney



This is the millinery design that I created for the Ekka Millinery masterclass.

I started with some vintage straw fabric that I had been saving for that special piece. I had purchased it many years ago from Harold of Mimi Millinery. With only a small piece left, I decided to cover a hand blocked sinamay crown and incorporate a freeform sinamay brim which I had learnt the technique from International tutor Tracy Chaplin.

I was so happy that all the entries were able to be judged as sadly the Ekka was again cancelled due to the pandemic.

Great WRAP

By Lindsay Whitehead

It's recommend to always use wrap to protect your blocks and hats, but before now it caused me a great deal of worry because the only thing I hate more than plastic is single-use plastic! With Great Wrap I can now protect both my millinery and the environment at the same time!

Great Wrap is made down on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria from food waste which would otherwise end up in landfill. Instead, it is converted into the main raw ingredient for this compostable wrap. Apart from less waste, it means a lot less methane in the atmosphere and methane is worse than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.

Compostable wrap takes less than 180 days to break down into carbon and water in your backyard compost pile and it leaves no toxins or microplastics behind. So you can feel safe and happy throwing your 'plastic' wrap in with your kitchen scraps for composting or if you bin it after a single use you know it won't add to the global plastic problem worldwide. Not only is it millinery safe...it's food safe too!

Great Wrap is available in store at the Melbourne Millinery Hub and on the [website](#) for \$10.99 per roll.



MAA Trivia Nights



Fun and frivolity kicked into high gear with widespread lockdowns and the snuffing out of the Tokyo Olympic flame in August. Our theme was 'The Midas Touch' and it proved to be a popular event with teams joining in from around the country. Headwear was mandatory and teams got creative with names including 'The Gold Fannys', 'MAA Chef de Mission', 'Performance Enhancing Dopes', 'Ruby Princess' and the 'Golden Boys'. Gold medal winners on the night was 'Dignity Intact' (Catherine Storm & hubby Robin) and as such they have the (dubious) honour of co-hosting the next MAA Trivia night. See next page for full details.



DUTCH Hat Competition

By Catherine Storm



Congratulations to three MAA Fellow Members for catching the judge's eye in this year's Dutch Hat Association competition. With the theme **'Waste not, want not!'** entrants were challenged to design a hat or headpiece from a Panama straw. Each participant received a 'surprise package' containing a slightly damaged Panama capeline and trimmings left over from the process of transforming a straw capeline.



Catherine Ellen received a 'Honourable Mention' and Laura Dunnington and Catherine Storm were both Top 10 finalists. Catherine E's untitled entry (top) was created by unravelling her Panama capeline, dyeing the fibres and weaving it into a modern beret. Laura's 'Unison' design (middle) was inspired by spinning, twisting, flowing and dancing in unison and Catherine S's 'Neapolitan Swirl' (bottom) celebrates hot summer days enjoying delicious chocolate, strawberry and vanilla ice cream.



Australian millinery sure is well represented on the world stage. Congratulations ladies and well done!

MAA Airlines TRIVIA

By Fiona Cooper

This is your chance to travel to the far corners of the world aboard MAA Airlines departing 7.30pm. Flight time is approximately 80 minutes but there may be unexpected turbulence and layovers. Grab your passport, boarding pass and enjoy our mystery flight from the comfort of your living room.

Unfortunately beverages and food are not available for purchase on board this flight, so we highly recommend that you come prepared and, as always, duty free alcohol is encouraged and permitted.

Our flight crew ask that you embark on your journey with any travel partner(s) you wish. Don't forget to bring along your sense of fun, wear a hat and/or costume in travel theme and pack your general knowledge.

ZOOM ID: 960 1966 0898 **PASSCODE:** 143604 **DAY:** Friday **DATE:** 17/9/21

Our Armed **FORCES**

By Suzie Williams



A couple of years ago I was contacted by a client who is a member of a group of historians who are passionate about Australia's armed forces during WWI & WWII. I was asked if I'd be interested in helping to remake some of the various hats worn throughout this period.

After a few emails and calls we started working on stiffening and remaking various service hats. The hat pictured was worn during WWII by the Royal Women's Air Force which I was given to deconstruct and remake to the true navy which was worn at the time. We still have an issue of not being able to match the WWII Women's Army olive green wool felt, but I am up for the challenge and it's been a lot of fun so far.



STITCH and Chat



Local Sessions

Every Wednesday at 1 PM (Melbourne time). Details in Member's section of website.

World Wide Sessions

Catherine Ellen will be hosting International Stitch and Chats on these dates:

21 October at 8pm

18 November at 8pm

(for the UK Millinery Marathon)

NEW MEMBERS

ASSOCIATE

watch

FELLOW

this

STUDENT

space

The Millinery Association of Australia would like to extend a sincere and warm welcome to all new student, fellow and associate members. There will be ample opportunities to attend monthly meetings via zoom, a range of online workshops, stitch and chat sessions and face-to-face catch ups (Covid restrictions willing).

Lord MAYOR'S Commendation

By Louise Macdonald

I'm delighted to be the recipient of a silver Lord Mayor's Commendation, awarded to those who have had a business in Melbourne's CBD for over 25 years. My studio in the the Nicholas Building has been my work home since 1996. A quick walk from Flinders Street station, I've loved the easy commute, the collaboration and connection with so many other small independent businesses in this vibrant city and the creative community of the Nicholas Building.

A favourite time of year has been running my January Summer Schools which attract students from around Australia to have a fun week of learning hat making and discovering the highlights and nooks and crannies of Melbourne CBD at the same time!



Then there is the Melbourne Cup, when the streets become a festive display of people all dressed up, heading to the racetrack on the train.

I've seen many parades and demonstrations from my 8th floor window overlooking Swanston street, all illustrating the vibrant city where I've been based for the past quarter century.

Despite our future being uncertain with possible building sales and the ongoing global pandemic, I remain optimistic that I will still have my studio there for another 5 years or so!

ASSOCIATE DETAILS



HATAcademy

Learn at your convenience

www.hatacademy.com



Great range of Swiss braid

www.hattersmillinerysupplies.com.au



Free postage

www.hatblocksaustralia.com.au



KANGAN
INSTITUTE

www.kangan.edu.au

*The
Essential
Hat*
MELBOURNE



TAFE NSW

www.tafensw.edu.au



Sign up to our Adora's Club to
get automatic discounts

www.houseofadorn.com



We offer a [discount](#) to MAA members

www.buniquemillinery.com



www.thehatblockers.com



www.rigonheadwear.com.au



sydneycommunitycollege



Exclusive 'powder stiffener'
delivered anywhere in Australia

www.millineryhub.com.au

RICHARD SHAW
Photographer

Portrait, fashion & event photographer

www.richardshawphotography.com

Associates,
please
remember
to send any
updated specials,
discount codes and
information about
your workshops.
Also if you have any
information to share
or would like a feature
article
for inclusion
in the newsletter
simply
get intouch.

Send email with details to:
[newsletter editor](#)



MAA Meetings

Due to ongoing Covid 19
social distancing
measures and changeable lockdown
guidelines, all meetings will be held
at 7pm via Zoom for 2021

Wednesday September 29
Tuesday November 23 AGM



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

newsletter@millineryaustralia.org

WWW.MILLINERYAUSTRALIA.ORG