1.Wearable Art – skirt

This project was woven on a 60cm wide rigid heddle loom with a second heddle kit.

This was the first time I had used two reeds to make fabric with a stronger weave. After I had decided that I had enough wool in 8ply to warp up 1.5m for the length of the skirt allowing for shrinkage, I proceeded to thread two strands of wool through 150+ slots in the first reed. This required some mathematical calculations for a reed listed as 7.5 dpi (slots/dents per inch)or 30 /10cm for a skirt 56 cm wide on the loom. To warp the second reed I put single strands of wool through alternate slots and eyes following a chart. The weaving process required a pattern of four steps- move front or back reed up or down to achieve a balanced weave between warp and weft (across with shuttle).

I needed more than 75m of wool in two colors camel and brown to warp up a stripe pattern for the length of the skirt. For the weft I used a chunky spun wool in a mixed gold and brown color. All the wool used in the garment had been purchased in New Zealand. Note: the warp or length of the skirt became the wrap around skirt once the fabric was taken off the loom. The weft which had been across on the loom became the golden brown stripes from waist to knee of the finished skirt. The skirt waistband was woven separately using one 7.5 dpi reed and 8 ply brown wool for warp and weft.