

FELT LINES

Winter 2019

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Victorian Feltmakers Inc.
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Out of Africa
by Sue Hilton

Rhapsody in Red
by Grace Dale





Feltlines is the official publication of the Victorian Feltmakers Inc. Please refer any questions/suggestions about the magazine or about content (such as advertising), to the editor a

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Contributions

We would like to encourage members who are unable to make it to our get-togethers, because of distance or other commitments, to keep in touch with us by sharing stories of their own journey in Feltmaking via Feltlines.

Feltlines provides the perfect avenue to link members stories, inspirations and interests.

Contact the editor if you have a contribution to make.
secretaryvicfeltmakers@gail.com

Next VFI Meeting Saturday August 24th AGM

Our get-together commences at 10am when the fibre shop, hire shop, and library, open.

Our meeting will commence at 11.15am,

How to get to Hartwell Church of Christ Hall

The Alamein train line is a short walk away, and stops at Hartwell Station. Tram route 75 trundles along Toorak Road which is even closer (alight at stop 53), and runs between Burwood East and the city.

The meetings are held at: 246 Highfield Road (cnr Milverton Street).



Scarves from Loes Verberg

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From the President's Pen by Genielle Phillips



As we open and enjoy this new edition of Feltlines I would like you to join with me in giving a big thank you to Rachel Carlisle.

Rachel (a Life Member of the VFI) is now handing over the reins to a new team.

Her efforts, skills, and passion brought Feltlines back into our VFI world in Winter 2016 after a long break.

Many members have spoken of their love of Feltlines, it brings much pleasure and is greatly appreciated.

The stories inside bring us all together, sharing information and ideas and news and a lot of Show and Tell.

Lyndon Regan is leading the new team so congratulations and a big thank you to her too.

Enjoy!

El Kanah Retreat

by Margot Ling

El Kanah is a not for profit organisation and a registered charity run by volunteers.

One of their main aims is to provide a place of belonging and not to exclude anyone; it offers a place where support is given to those in need of respite. Groups like the VFI help subsidise the running costs and keep this worthwhile operation going.

Surrounded by beautiful scenery, El Kanah was rebuilt in Marysville after the 2009 fires. It offers very comfortable areas to relax, a super room in which to felt, very comfortable accommodation, meals in a pleasant dining room and all this under one roof, such a bonus !!

We were very pleased to welcome back our country cousins and to have members with us who have not attended the VFI retreat before. There is such a wonderful buzz as everyone arrives, unpacks, explores their 'digs' and sets up their felting table. Lots of oohing and aahing are heard as everyone begins to bring out their stash in preparation for the planned projects over the next two days. We have a fibre shop available just in case one needs to add to their stash; amazingly, many do find there is a little extra something needed.

Our theme for the Saturday night was "Animal" for those who joined in the dress up. The ideas created were quite varied and imaginative and all were

worn to our cocktail hour preceding dinner. Lots of photos were taken to record the crazy fun and after dinner this year everyone was glued to the television watching the Royal Wedding.

By Sunday night there was plenty to show for the concentrated couple of days of felting, but for some it was a time to stroll outside as well as felt and take in the mountain air and the beautiful Autumn colours. For others just to sit and browse through magazines was equally stimulating.

All round, El Kanah offered us a lovely new venue for our retreat.

AND it is booked again for 2019, May 24 - 27th



Retreat memories

More retreat photos on the back page

Retreat testimonials

"For a first timer going to the VFI Retreat and a newbie not knowing what to expect, I can say that I had a lovely time. Thank you to all the ladies for sharing their knowledge. I felt welcomed and at the end of the retreat was left with a warm feeling and a great memory." Vesna

"Thank you for organizing such an enjoyable weekend I had a great time. It was a great weekend, relaxing, friendly, productive, comfortable with lots of great food, a little wine and great company sums up my weekend." Christina

"What a wonderful weekend we all had at El Kanah. It was amazing to see

the contagious creativity encircling our workspace. Friendships were renewed after so many years. Advice and knowledge was freely exchanged. It was so enjoyable to talk with members I had met briefly at meetings and learn about other facets of their creativity and life. The venue and surrounding location was superb. Thank to the VFI for organising such an enjoyable weekend."

" This was my first retreat with the VFI. Like all the VFI events I have been to, the generosity of members is so encouraging for new or nervous would be felters. The drive to El Kanah was breathtaking and was a good kickstart to the creative processes required for the weekend of felting, food and fun.

Thanks to Margot Ling who discovered this venue: a comfortable and spacious place to work and play. I learnt so much even if the first project was not the success I had hoped for it was just the beginning. A walk among the autumnal trees, some leaves and a another project or two. It was a very rewarding experience. Thanks to the members who were there to help and support one and other, sharing their experience and enthusiasm for the variety of felting techniques available. I'm looking forward to a return visit." Glenys

Felt: Our biannual exhibition round up

Seventy two items were entered by our members in the exhibition "Felt" held at the Hawthorn Town Hall Gallery which opened on July 3rd 2018

The Saturday opening was a highlight for all, coinciding with the three exhibition openings, in the beautiful old building. It was wonderful to see so many members and visitors attending with much admiration and compliments for the work and creativity that had gone into these pieces. I feel it is important for our organisation to celebrate these occasions and

connect with likeminded members working towards a common goal and challenging public awareness of felt as an artistic medium.

Fifteen pieces were sold which was a higher percentage than the previous exhibition and a very good result as our exhibitions are mainly about exposure to the public and showing our diversity of techniques.

The attendance of the exhibition was very high according to the gallery, with an article in the local "Leader" and the

standard of the work commendable according to Textile artist, Catherine O'Leary who opened it.

What a pleasing result and congratulations to all.

Di Morley and team

Objects: Tanja Gawin

Picture, Olga Finkel,





Necklaces: Judith Latham,
Wrap: Diane Roberts

Lost Trades Fair Kyneton

I first heard about the Lost Trades Fair at the Feltmakers Committee, and being a Newbie and not wanting to make a fool of myself, I just pretended that I knew all about it.

I heard about the PayPal device not working and how hot it was at Kyneton the year before.

However I agreed to go and be the money taker and we needed a new PayPal reader and this was going to be its baptism of fire.

Arriving around 8:30 am I was met by the President Geneille who gave me my pass and off we went to our allotted area.

I was extremely impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of our Team as they were setting up the tables and stands and generally merchandising the area. I sat down and tested the PayPal reader with my Ipad and all seemed to be working just fine.

If you bought your ticket online you could get in earlier than those who didn't, so at 9:30 am the hordes began arriving and as we were one of the first sites that they saw we were soon overwhelmed.

The Team performed magnificently and were soon answering questions about felting and showing the items that were for sale. It wasn't long before the PayPal reader started working and worked very well. The experienced Team said it was the difference between this year and last as 2017 all the sales were cash.

Visitors to our area were constant throughout the day and the demonstrations were very popular.

It was so successful that it seemed to me that we would run out of stock for Sunday, but a few phone calls and more stock arrived to save the day.

Although promoting our lost trade is the primary reason we were there, and that was done very well, it was amazing to see the interest in buying items that were really well made.

We processed 40 + transactions on Saturday for a total of \$4,137 and 40+ transactions on Sunday for a total of 4,111.50 a total of \$8,248.50 a tremendous effort.

I did get the chance to walk around and look at other sites and, even though they were interesting, they did not compare with the energy and pride that our Team showed.



Customers browsing



Di Morley demonstrating



Merchandise for sale

Workshop round up

Collage Felt with Elizabeth Armstrong by Vesna Fowler

If I had one word to describe this workshop that word would be 'delightful'. My mind goes to Elizabeth because she is such a delight. Another word would be 'colour', and we sure did surround ourselves with colours in wool, silk and fabric, layer upon layer and it was a feast for the eyes.

The Collage in Felt workshop was over two days. We the happy group created a collage piece or two. I allowed my imagination to just keep adding layers. A reminder for myself to watch what's best for the hands and finding that to place the palm down on the edge of the fleece to hold it down then with the other hand pull the remaining fibre away, felt better for this person.

We used an already made felt batt and began to lay our wool on. I bought both batt and wool from Elizabeth as she had the most beautiful wool that she dyed herself, such colours! After the two layers of wool, we added fabric snippets here and there, then some pre-felts cut in whatever shape you wanted and I added two birds and some squares. Not to forget some knitting wool cut in lengths and added in horizontal or vertical positions, with one or two wool circles.

Loes Verberg

In May I visited my family in the Netherlands. It had been 4 years since my last visit and in those four years I learned how to felt, and became a member of Victorian Feltmakers.

To let my family (brothers, sisters and partners) see and feel the creations I make, I wanted to take scarves with me to show.

But better still to have a scarf for each person. (in total 24) And I tried to make the scarf fit the person.

So for my brother, who loves fishing, I made a scarf in the shape of a fish. For my other brother, who sells mushrooms I made a scarf with mushrooms on it.

For my sister I made a very colourful scarf to go with her blond hair. etc.

So when I hung all scarves on the washing line it looked like an outdoor gallery, then moved them inside.

The weather was warm in the time we were there and scarves were certainly

Now there is silk and silk hankies too. An extra pair of hands needed and supplied to stretch the silk hanky over my collage. Done! Let the wetting and rolling begin. Once dry we laid out all our pieces together and what beauty, colour and creativity!! This piece could be turned into a cushion, a bag or just as is, imagination supreme. We could even

do some extra stitch work on the piece if desired to bring out the certain aspects you wanted in the piece.

Finally in thanks to Elizabeth for her sharing and openness

I thoroughly enjoyed you, the workshop and the company of all who attended.



not needed. But I hope they will all wear their scarves in the coming winter.



Grampians Textures

Charity Musoma van der Meer by Della Jones

As an habitual attendee of the wonderful week-long experience of Grampians Texture, last summer I undertook two of Sharit Meer's felting workshops. Sharit (or "Charity" – she happily uses both names as one is a translation of the other) lives in the Netherlands and shares her inspirational felted garment construction techniques in workshops worldwide.

I have been a felter for over twenty years now and garments (especially coats) are my first choice whenever I want to dabble in the suds and fibre. I have learned many different felted garment construction techniques in my time, yet I have always returned to my tried and true method of making felt yardage which I cut and sew into a fitted garment of my choice. Why not use one of the clever no-sew methods that rely on shrinkage to produce the fit? Well, I never found these methods to be reliable enough to get that perfect fit which, particularly for someone with a smaller stature, is essential to prevent a garment from looking cumbersome and shapeless. Clever shrinkage formulas that I have used in the past did come close to the mark, but they never gave me that perfect fit which we all crave, and the

extra bulk always saw me pinning and darting in a dispirited way. Perhaps if I had repeated the same exercise a few times I would have nailed it in the end, but a coat means a considerable outlay in expensive fibre and samples always bore me, so further experiments never happened!

Well – Sharit's beautiful drapery garments made me want to try it all over again! And, I am delighted to report, her method is perfect for me!

The workshops that Sharit offered last summer consisted of a 2-day dress class and a 4-day coat class. I wondered if I was overdoing things by taking both classes, but in retrospect I am very pleased I did, as the decision allowed me to experience her techniques in the first class, and really learn them in the second!

The garments we constructed with Sharit were all nuno-felted using fine merino wool and silk. The work was very fine, resulting in a flattering, soft drape. Sharit employs godets in the layout phase to provide a measure of flare in her garments, and she offers excellent individual advice to class participants to ensure that everyone ends up

with a garment that suits her special body type. Her wool layout method is cleverly designed to facilitate just the right amount of shrinkage across different parts of the body. Add to this some innovative 'gee-wizz' decoration techniques to try out, and you have plenty of new ideas to keep you on your toes!

I found the pace of both classes to be fairly challenging, so if you are after a relaxing workshop, this is probably not the one to choose. We completed a dress in 2 days and a coat in 4 days, and without 'after hours' catch-up opportunities, this was a fairly big ask. We all managed it though, with a little time to spare, which was a tribute to Sharit's superb organizational skills. As a tutor I found her to be more than generous with her ideas and her time.

All in all, it was a truly wonderful week for me. I thoroughly enjoyed the chance to catch up with quite a few VFI members over the 2 classes, and came home with two delightful new garments which were totally finished and ready to pop into the wardrobe. Now that is always the icing on the cake of a good workshop!



Liz Evans: "Print to Felt" by Sabrina Crosthwaite

This was a fantastic 2 day workshop where we were introduced to various methods of printing and creating pattern here the objective was to make fabric for felting, including printing direct on felt.

This was a bit of an epiphany for me, as i not longer had to search for patterned silk to felt with, but I could now create my own, in my own colour scheme. The work shop was well run with plenty of scope to explore.



Member Profile: as asked by Lyndon Regan Sabrina Crosthwaite

Where are you from and where do you live? What/where is your work space? Where do you felt?

I'm born and bred in Melbourne, and currently live in Balwyn.

My work space, more of a storage room is a spare bedroom. I'm running out of storage though. I usually felt in the family room, with a patient family that does not comment on projects on the go left out a few days.

What stage of life are you at?

Practising being a retired teacher I have been involved in textiles my whole life. My mother taught me how use a machine, school taught me how to embroider, and I taught myself most other textile based arts. When I graduated from university in Graphic Design, my university graduating folio included many pieces of textiles. I think only one of them remains, hidden under the house.

How were you introduced to felting?

20 years ago I was teaching design at a large private school and I also had a textile class. I found lots of wool tops a previous teacher had left behind so I decided I would teach felting. I read some books and magazines on felting and thought I could do this. I remembering teaching a year 8 class how to felt a beret. I had some of the fine techniques wrong, but the idea

right. We resulted in 20 lopsided hats with holes. I went on to make many successful berets since then.

I have recently retired, and I have decided to focus on my textiles.

What is your favourite type of felting?

That is not an easy question, I still have so much to learn, so learning the next technique?

What are you most proud of making?

So far? I think a large landscape (200cm by 20cm) I have hanging in the dining room. I started it 20 years ago. That took 10 years to finish. It was planned for a visit from my MIL from Scotland, I only had to hand stitch a 10cm x 10cm square and it just sat there for 10 years. I know we all have unfinished projects, I finished it, my MIL at 90 did see it.

Who has been your best teacher/ workshop leader?

This is also a hard question. They have all motivated and inspired me in different ways. My first felting workshop was

with Catherine O'Leary. I dragged my husband to Colac especially to do it. It was the first time I had discovered workshops, I was entranced. Then I found Phyllis Hoffman, through neighborhood houses, what a wonder of knowledge she is. It was Phyllis who talked me into joining the felt makers. Others have added more ideas and working with the other participants is wonderful.

What was your first felted item?

I think I answered this before. A beret.

What was the last felted item you worked on?

I have a Lieko Uchiyama "Pine Needle" scarf on the go with some of her dyed wool. Beautiful wool silk mixture of 16 micron wool.

What would you really to tackle?

I have so many projects I want to do. I want to dye my own wool, use my design skills in pieces I create.
Sabrina



10 year project: Large Landscape

Felting around the state

Rosebud

This is the morning of the second Thursday of the month so today is Felting. The group, The Textile Art Collective almost has to follow a routine every month because the code to open the hall key container sometimes works but more often fails. After a successful or multi phone calls, we are in.

The group is a collective of eight people. Six of the members are current members of VFI. Two are past members constrained by family and time at the present moment.

The group consists of members with the common thread of a love for felting but we are as diverse in other interests as a box of Cadbury's family favourite chocolates. All be it Felters on the outside but many different loves in our beings. Like most creative people the love of creating extends beyond one technique.

Members of the group are Lyn Adams, Barbara Bennetts, Mary Hockley, Kate Martin, Wendy Murley, Jillian Schneider, Sharron Shalekoff and Joy Welsh. The widely dispersed interests in felting, dyeing, printing, sketching, painting, embroidery, doll making, mixed media, general sewing, art quilts and knitting have given us a rich and inspiring source to draw from each other and our skills.

The day we meet is to say the least, a wonderful day of being with each other and feeding off each other's energy. When I first joined, I knew very little about felting and would go home with a headache due to brain overload of beautiful work rich in colour, design and techniques. The headaches have gone but not the constant amazement at the beautiful work constantly being shown and shared.

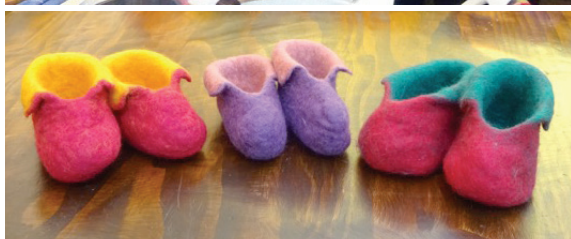
The strength of this group is the sharing of knowledge. Nothing is so precious

that it cannot be shared with friends who hold a high respect for each other and their work. The acknowledgement of the fine skills of each member is so encouraging to new members although this is not a teaching group as such. We have all come with good solid experience in many fields. Within the group, are members whose work is of such a standard they have received national recognition and exhibit far and wide.



Gippsland

Wet felting is gaining popularity in Gippsland and I have been asked to run several workshops over the past few months. Many Community Houses are offering felting courses as part of their programs and these have been well attended. At Mitchell House in Wonthaggi there were four fortnightly sessions, at Milpara Community House in Korumbura three workshops over the autumn/winter term and a children's workshop at Leongatha Community House. In addition the South Gippsland Spinners & Fine Arts held a workshop for members making fingerless gloves and also exhibited items made at the Inverloch Library.



TEXTILE

Felt
embellish
Yarn
Vintage Made

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Renewals may be made via www.artwearpublications.com.au or by phone: +61 3 9888 1853



Great Australian magazines for textile and fibre artists, and lovers of vintage

What is Felt Frenzy?

There are six Felt Frenzies a year, all noted on the VFI calendar.

One regular component at our bi-monthly VFI meetings is the 'Show and Tell' section, when we enjoy seeing what other members have created in between meetings and these special pieces often come from a felt frenzy day. While there are many books and magazines to whet our felting appetite, sharing the felting process with others adds another dimension to the whole felting experience.

This is a day set aside in the VFI calendar to give members a chance to share ideas and ask questions

Felt Frenzy is set up for members to be inspired and creative in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The dates are shown on the website prior to each gathering.

It is not a tutoring event or a workshop but there are enough members who are happy to help and share ideas.

Any enquiries are welcome contact Margot



Active members at September Felt Frenzy 2018

opendrawer
SHARE THE CREATIVITY

Opendrawer is a stimulating setting for like-minded people to come together to look, do, buy and share ideas. There's a Retail Gallery of unique and beautiful gifts, Craft & Textile Supplies, Workshops to participate in and Vintage rarities to indulge.

Retail Gallery • Supplies • Workshops • Vintage

You'll find new, pre-loved and vintage textile related items: beautiful hand & machine threads including Valdani, Soie et, Rasant, sashiko & linen; needles; haberdashery; buttons; lace; felt making supplies, embellishments; new and vintage fabrics and remnants for hand stitching & re-purposing.



VFI Camp Jungai Retreat 2019
One big felt frenzy

The felting time is very rewarding, being away from home and able to immerse yourself in a spacious well lit felting area while being pampered with delicious meals. It's a joy for any busy person.

Comfortable accommodation and very low costs make this weekend great value. The beauty of this three day event is that there is plenty of time to actually lay out and finish a project or even two, again to share or swap ideas with like minded enthusiasts, which is a very special exchange that all felt makers enjoy

Further details will be announced early next year, but do highlight the dates now in your calendar, places will be limited. Any enquiries about the retreat are welcome, contact Margot

(03) 9889 7227 opendrawer.com.au
1158 Toorak Road, Camberwell VIC, 3124

VFI Calendar of Activity 2018

Date	VFI Activity	Other organisation
September 8	Felt Frenzy	
October 6		Geelong textile fibre forum open day http://www.taftainc.com.au/
October 13	VFI General Meeting	
November 10	Felt Frenzy	
December 1	VFI General Meeting Christmas break up	
2019		
Meetings will be the fourth week of the month in 2019 – except for December 7th ,Feb 23rd, April 27th, June 22nd, August 24th, October 26th		
January 12th	Felt Frenzy	
February 23rd	VFI General Meeting	
March 23rd	Felt Frenzy	
April 27th	VFI General Meeting	
May 11th	Felt Frenzy	
May 26th-27th 2019	El Kanah retreat	
June 22nd	VFI General Meeting	
June 30-July 6 2019		Fibre Arts Ballarat
July 27th.	Felt Frenzy	
August 24th	VFI General Meeting	
September 22nd-27th		SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE FELTERS' CONVERGENCE 2019 Rydges Lakeland Resort Queenstown New Zealand
September 28th	Felt Frenzy	
Early October 2019		Tafta Geelong
October 26th	VFI Meeting	
November 23rd	Felt Frenzy	
December 7th	VFI Meeting	



Active members at El Kanah retreat 2018

