



FELTLINES

Magazine of the Victorian Feltmakers Inc.

April 2011, Issue No. 77

www.vicfelt.org

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**VFI Meeting
Saturday
April 16**

Group Activity:

Making a
New VFI Banner;
A work for
FELTernative
or Own Ideas

Show & Tell

*New Felt
Frenzy Day:
Friday
April 15*



Taking our art
to the world

The Victorian Feltmakers Inc.

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General Meetings

Venue:

Hartwell Church of Christ Hall
248 Highfield Road, Hartwell
(corner of Highfield Road and
Milverton Street). Hartwell is
a locality in Camberwell.

The venue is one block from
the Toorak Road tram and
two blocks from Burwoon
Station on the Alamein Line.

Upcoming Dates:

Saturday April 16
Saturday June 18
Saturday August 20 - *the
Annual General Meeting*

Bring your felting supplies
and kit this month as we get
together, right from the start
of the meeting, to make
something very special.

If you are the designing sort,
now is the time to have some
plans up your sleeve - put
them on the table on Satur-
day and see them come to
life!

Setting Up: set up to work!
This time we are changing
the format a bit:

- 10.00** Fibre Shop & Library
open, put coffee on
- 11.00** Creative juices flow
until 1.30 - have a
break for lunch
when you wish
- 1.30** Show and tell
- 2.15** General Meeting
- 3.15** Finish and pack up

Please BYO lunch. Fibre Shop
and Library re-open during
lunchtime.

Special thanks to:

Fibre Shop Coordinator
Alison Durham
1 Grey St,
Bacchus Marsh, Vic., 3340
03 5367 3553
ajd@ozemail.com.au

Library Coordinator
Denise Leslie
2 Westmere Place,
Rosanna East, Vic., 3084
03 9459 6876

Workshops

The VFI offers a number of
fantastic workshops with
highly respected tutors. Our
latest information is always
available for download from
our website:

www.vicfelt.org/events

Most workshops are held at
Hartwell Church of Christ,
address details at the top of
second column.

Feltlines is a great source of
reviews of recent workshops,
tutor profiles, and informa-
tion. To help our coverage,
we welcome comments and/
or articles from workshop
participants. Send photo-
graphs and text to [vfi@inter-
node.on.net](mailto:vfi@internode.on.net). You can remain
anonymous if you wish.

Workshops Booking Officer

Pam Hovel
129 Hunts Gap Road
RSD Mandurang Sth, Vic., 3551
03 5439 3042
pam.hovel@bigpond.com

Workshop Coordinator

Narelle Higgins
PO Box 6180
Vermont South, Vic., 3133
03 59686027
ralhig@gmail.com

Workshop helpers

Simone Braund
Gabrielle Pellissier

Felting Frenzies

Most "Frenzies" are also held
at Hartwell Church of Christ,
address details at the top of
second column.

Upcoming Dates:

Friday April 15 (NEW!)

Saturday May 21

Friday June 17 (NEW!)

Join us from 9.30 am to 4 pm.
Bring whatever you want to do,
and your own felting supplies,
although the fibre shop is open
for a while. There is no tuition,
simply learning by sharing.

Book a table in advance from:
Felting Frenzy Coordinator
Margot Ling
03 9509 1470
margot@myaccess.com.au
Frenzy helper
Gabrielle Pellissier

About this publication

Feltlines is published in the
first week of the following
months:

- February
- April
- June
- August
- October
- December

Most VFI members receive it
electronically via the Internet.
Where this is not practical, we
do print hard copies.

Regular *Feltlines* helpers:
Editor & Desktop Publisher
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Feltlines Advertising

Half page

\$24 casual or \$20 x 3+ issues

Quarter page

\$12 casual or \$10 x 3+ issues

Advertisers are also included
in the "links" page of our web-
site. VFI members receive a
25% discount on advertising.

**It would be great if someone
could take over invoicing
our advertisers each issue.
Interested?** Please contact
Sarah.

The deadline for all new
copy for advertisements,
any articles or photographs
for June 2011 *Feltlines* is

April 30.

Please submit to:
vfi@internode.on.net, and put
June Feltlines in the email
subject line. Rename any
photographs to include
your surname as well as the
event and date. It is very
helpful if you can include a
brief description of the
content of each image.

The President writes...



I don't have anything to wear for Easter, so decided to stay being the Christmas Beetle.

I don't have a lot to tell you this issue, except to remind you all that August is getting closer. August is the month of our **Annual General Meeting** and marks the end of my presidency of the VFI. It would be great to have someone step up now, so that I can help them move into the role of President easily and comfortably, knowing that someone, who has been there, has their back. If we get a new President, it will be my pleasure and honour to remain on the Committee for as long as they wish me to be there.

However, if no-one comes forward, I will be forced to leave the Committee as well. To remain on the Committee without a new President would be to remain a de facto President. Now this might appeal to Gaddafi and all those other madmen, but I can tell you that I am looking forward to putting my feet up for a while.

Please help the VFI by stepping up to the plate now. See me at the meeting to discuss.

Sarah Louise Ricketts

Stacey Memory Book

At the April meeting, and each meeting until the project is completed, we will have a table dedicated to the collection, collation and production of ideas for the Stacey Memory Book, to be given to Stacey's family.

Many of you have already sent photographs and/or your memories of being with Stacey, like this testimonial, the complete version of which will be included in our book:

"...I did however have the pleasure of spending a weekend workshop with her, where I learnt more about her textile background and then I subsequently visited her in her studio where I saw a good deal more of her work.

"Having much respect for her work I asked her to be a bit of a mentor for me, I was uncertain about the standard of

my felting and without hesitation she gave me advice and encouraged me to go on and exhibit.

"She boosted my confidence enormously and above all was extremely generous with her time.

"Upon my arrival home from overseas I was very sad to learn that Stacey had left us – far too soon. It saddens me that I did not have the opportunity to know this brave, exuberant, fun loving and vital lady for longer."

- Margot Ling

If words aren't your thing, you might also like to make a little something to be included in the book instead, or as well as your words. We already have a small embroidered flower. This is fine, but do try not to make these inclusions too thick. Err on the side of thin if possible, remembering that the felt does not have to worn for years and years: it will simply be preserved in a lovely book.

February 25, 2011

Dear Felt friends,

Today the felt and textile world lost a very special artist - **Pamela Farmer**.

Pamela was an early member of VFI and has always been an exceedingly creative and highly productive artist. Her exhibitions would always draw throngs of fans who came to be surprised and awed by the breadth, skill and humour of her work.

Pamela will be greatly missed by her adoring fans and friends. I've included a poem I wrote for her today - correction - that I wrote for me today. Include it if you feel it's appropriate, otherwise just cry with me.

Lots of love

Robyn Steel-Stickland

- sent by email, including Robyn's poem.

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Guild of Victoria, Inc



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~~12-20 Shakespeare Street, Carlton North~~
www.vicnet.net.au/~handspin/

Fern & Maggie In South Korea

Maggie Osinga is a VFI member, a feltmaker and shibori-dyer of great mastery. With her friend, and partner-in-textiles, **Fern Bant**, master designer and tailor, the pair make and sell work under the banner of "Fern & Maggie." In 2010, Chungie Lee made them an offer they could not resist....

Text by Fern Bant
Images by Nicki Osinga

Five Australian textile artists were invited by Chungie Lee to participate in an exhibition of Australian Wearable Art in South Korea, which took place in November, 2010.



Australian Wearable Art in South Korea, which took place in November, 2010.

Barbara Rogers, Fern Bant, Catherine O'Leary, Maggie Osinga and Philomena Hali all provided garments and accessories, along with Chungie Lee.

The venue was The Lee Park Gallery in Heyri Artist Village, 60 km north of Seoul. Heyri is a purpose built Artist Village with modern architect designed buildings that serve as galleries and residences and cover an area of several hectares.

Maggie and Fern worked together on an extensive collaborative collection of woolen garments and large merino felt scarves, shibori-dyed to coordinate with the entire range.



The pair were lucky enough to be able to go to Seoul and attend the exhibition opening.



They were thrilled as they walked towards the gallery, along a road flanked by large banners announcing the exhibition, and showing details of everyone's work. It was very impressive.

They were met at the gallery by Ok Hee Park, the owner, and warmly welcomed.

There were a lot of people, food and drink at the opening and everyone seemed very happy to be there and to meet the travelling artists.

The temperature in Seoul was a freezing -3°C when they arrived! Fern and Maggie felt their choice of materials was an inspired one, as every one wanted to purchase something warm to keep the chill out.

It was a wonderful experience to be able to attend the opening and meet the people who purchased their garments.



It is fabulous to learn about the adventures and successes of VFI members wherever their talents may take them. If you do something remarkable - or if you know of a friend or hear of a fellow feltmaker achieving something great, tell them to let Feltlines know.

Good news is something we should all be glad to share.

Fit to be Tied: Workshop with Polly Stirling

Polly Stirling is credited with the invention and naming of **nunofelt**, in response to the much warmer environment the Upstate New York feltmaker found herself in when she moved to northern New South Wales. Her adaptation has been a firm favourite with feltmakers ever since. In this workshop, she concentrated on nunofelted clothes with drape, that need only a knot to stay just where they should. (Not a Sabine woman in sight, in case you were worried!)

Report by Marg Ridgway

It's Sunday night, February 27, and 10 members of VFI have just spent 2 days with Polly Stirling at her *Fit to Be Tied* workshop.

There was some trepidation beforehand as there was homework to complete before we came to the workshop – taking our measurements and scaling them up by 50% and cutting out a paper pattern of our body shape. (Not the most flattering thing, seeing what your body looks like when it is made 50% larger!!)



We all succeeded in completing the task which meant we could get straight into the fun part when the workshop began.

Polly provided notes and had seven examples of beautiful garments she had made which were all tied in some way. Some were simply a front and a back which were only joined by the means of ties at the shoulders and sides. Some had relatively small amounts of felting but the felt was positioned to fit (and flatter) the shape of the wearer. Beautiful light silks were used.

It was a delight to meet and do a workshop with Polly. Hers is a name which we have all heard of over the years as being the “inventor” of nunofelt. Sometimes it can be a little daunting (and disappointing) to meet one of your heroes, but happily this wasn't the case. Polly is a woman with a gentle American accent. She is a generous and enthusiastic teacher.



As well as gaining more skills and confidence in felting, it is a joy to meet people who have a similar passion for felt and the many things textile. And many of the people who come to workshops may not regularly attend VFI meetings.

And one of the most amazing things is that we are all attending the same workshop and yet what we make is just so varied.

*- Polly taught **Fit to be Tied** twice for the VFI. Marg's class is on the left and the other, just below.*



Opportunities

Artisan Books' Beanie Exhibition runs from July 9-30. They need the beanies in the shop by July 1.

There is no entry fee, but there may be a limit on the number of beanies that you can send in, depending on how many people become involved. Best to send them an expression of interest, so that they can plan.

Submit the following with your beanies:

- an invoice with each piece listed and numbered with a wholesale price and your ABN (if you have one)
- a note saying if you are GST registered or not
- a blank label attached to each individual piece with any details you wish to share on the back, with a corresponding number to what is on the invoice. Do not write the price on the label - they stick it on.

Dan Ablethorpe (artisan@alphalink.com.au)
ARTISAN BOOKS, 159 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy, 3065
(03) 9416 4805 www.artisan.com.au

Speaking of beanies, **Colours of the Country: Celebrating 10 years of Alice Springs Beanie Festival**, will be on show at Burrinja Gallery (351 Glenfern Road, Upwey, Victoria 3158) until May 15, 2011.

The only showing of this exhibition in the Melbourne area, the collection demonstrates the evolution of the beanie into the art form it has become. An exhibition highlight is work of indigenous artists from the Central Desert region.

ORBOST EXHIBITION CENTRE On the Snowy River IT'S WEARABLE it's art

Our very own Marion Dawson is organizing this event at the Orbost Exhibition Centre. She invites your participation in the Exhibition running from April 29 – June 1, 2011. Works will be shown in the fabulous Gallery which overlooks Forest Park and adjacent to the famous Snowy River: a mecca for tourists.

Works are to be:

- *Individual *Handmade *Innovative *Unique *Artistic
- *Functional *Of Quality *Wearable *Creative

Please include an image and props, if you have any specific hanging requirements.

Contact: Marion Dawson, 51 56-8390.
Mob. 0408933338.
marion@wideband.net.au



Woolly Bits

Royal Melbourne Show

Details for submission of entries to the show are:

Entry closing date: Friday July 27
Early Bird close: Friday June 17
Entry Fees \$11 per entry/early bird \$10

A PDF of the entry form for feltmakers will be emailed to VFI members. We will also have some at the meeting.

Dot Vallence, stalwart of the Australian Wool and Sheep Show at Bendigo, has accepted the role of judge for the Felting section of the 2011 Royal Melbourne Show.

Rhythm of Life: 2011 Scarf Festival

The VFI has offered to sponsor felted categories in this year's Festival. We hope to be allocated "Best Felted Scarf," but actual sponsorship is not required of us. However, there is the opportunity to demonstrate (rather than present workshops as was done previously). This would be a good opportunity to promote felt and the VFI, so we will try to organize demonstrations. Contact Narelle if you are interested in demonstrating or assisting.

You, of course, can always enter the Festival: online forms can be downloaded from <http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/nwm/calendar/item/8cd69fb09b9cdac.aspx>. All scarves, completed registration forms and fees must be received by the National Wool Museum by 4.00pm on Friday 6 May 2011.

Opportunities abound!

Marlene McPherson is seeking felt entries to the **2011 Rotary Quilt Show** in Mount Waverley. Again this will be emailed to members and the form available at the meeting. Entries are due on April 26.

Raewyn Penrose is organizing **Mountain FibreFest** in Te Aroha, New Zealand. Four great Australian textile practitioners are on offer: Anita Larkin, Mollie Littlejohn, Rachel Meek and Carol Wilkes. The retreat runs from May 18 to 22. All information can be downloaded from their website: www.creativevacationz.co.nz. Raewyn can assist with airport transport from/to Auckland, accommodation options etc. She says "the \$NZ is the weakest it has been for ten years. Your A\$ goes 1/3rd further at the moment..5 days is about A\$700, A\$40 extra for the optional (subsidised) cheesemaking course."

Market News

Last meeting we had our first mini-market stalls operating with two 'member' stalls held by Dianne Morley and Jillian Cain, and our invited guest trader Rae Cummings of Rae's Rags. Thanks to our stall holders for the extra buzz at our February Meeting.



This year at each meeting we will be having three stalls in our mini-market, in addition to our own VFI fibre shop supplies, library and equipment hire. Stalls are open for business from 10 am until the meeting commences and then again open during the lunch break.

As a member, there is no cost to have a stall, so if you would like to

sell something textile, art or craft-related, please book with Narelle Higgins on 59686027 or ralhig@gmail.com We have vacancies available on Saturday, August 20, Saturday, October 15 and Saturday, December 3.

April Mini Market

In April we will welcome the following stall holders:

Guest Trader – Wendy

Ashworth of *Precious Purl Fitzroy*. Wendy will be selling Vintage buttons, lace, fabric pieces from Japanese Kimono, Sari Silk, embroidered pieces from Rajasthan, silk loom ends, felt beads/strings, mixed thread packs in a gorgeous array of colours, hand dyed muslin/cotton and more!



VFI member Carolyn Rogers of *Ripples on the Pond* - thinking outside the box with colour and texture! Selling Hand dyed Wools, Silks, Mohair curls and more.

Images from February Meeting. Left column: top Di Morley; below Jillian Cain; right column: Rae Cummings and her "rags"

VFI member Laura Power Davies will be selling wool tops, fabrics for nunofelting, felting books & tools, as well as other goodies!

Art and Craft Market

VFI Textile, Art and Craft Market – Saturday, July 2

As our fundraiser for charity this year, the Victorian Feltmakers are holding a Textile, Art and Craft Market at Hartwell Church from 10am to 2pm.

Proceeds from stall fees and other activities on the day are being donated to the Cancer Council's Daffodil Day on 26th August.

Stalls will cost \$10 plus a donation of goods to approx. \$20. Trestle tables are available for people who book early. Goods donated on the day will be used to raise further funds via raffles/activities on the day or during VFI meetings and special events up to Daffodil Day.

Fliers will be available at the next few meetings to take away to pass around to your friends, family and other groups you may belong to. An email version will also be sent around.

To book a stall contact Narelle Higgins on 59686027 or email ralhig@gmail.com . If you want to share a stall with someone please let Narelle know also.

Stalls will all be inside out of the weather. We hope to have a coffee van out front, so please drop by for a browse if you can. The booking of stalls will also be open to external traders (non-members) so please act quickly if you'd like to be part of the day. We will be doing extensive advertising of this event to promote the VFI and our upcoming exhibition, so it's a great opportunity to promote your artwork or business.

- Narelle Higgins



FELTernative: VFI 2011 Exhibition

Entry Application for the VFI FELTernative Exhibition August 2011

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Postal Address _____

(please tick) I have read and agree to the Conditions of Entry

Number of entries: _____

Please attach photos of each entry with the title and your name on the back of each photo.

Entries accompanied by this application form will be received at the **June 18 VFI General Meeting** in Hartwell. If this is impossible, please contact Rita Caspersz on 97582454 or Jan on 0411 468 819 to make alternative arrangements.

Entry One Title: _____

Not for Sale (NFS) OR Price: \$ _____ (include 20% Gallery commission. Refer to point 10 in Conditions of Entry)

Design Source and Maker's Statement (Refer to points 13 -15 in 'Conditions of Entry'. This statement will appear with your work on display):

Techniques (examples, knitted and felted, nunofelt, hand or machine needlefelt):

Dimensions (width by height): _____

*(Please complete the next page and its sections **only** if you are submitting more than one entry.)*

Conditions of Entry are on page 10.

Name _____ Page 2

Entry Two Title: _____

Not for Sale(NFS) OR Price: \$_____ (include 20% Gallery commission. Refer to point 10 in Conditions of Entry)

Design Source and Maker's Statement (Refer to points 13 -15 in 'Conditions of Entry'. This statement will appear with your work on display):

Techniques (examples, knitted and felted, nunofelt, hand or machine needlefelt):

Dimensions (width by height): _____

Entry Three Title: _____

Not for Sale (NFS) OR Price: \$_____ (include 20% Gallery commission. Refer to point 10 in Conditions of Entry)

Design Source and Maker's Statement (Refer to points 13 -15 in 'Conditions of Entry'. This statement will appear with your work on display):

Techniques (examples, knitted and felted, nunofelt, hand or machine needlefelt):

Dimensions (width by height): _____



'to the point' three textile interpretations of point nepean national park

Fern Bant, Tony Dyer & Sarah Louise Ricketts



ANTIPODES
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138 ocean beach road, sorrento, victoria 3943
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See more of Fern's fabulous jackets (page 4) in 'to the point,' running through the school holidays and over Easter until Sunday, May 8. Open every day, 10 am until 5 pm!

Conditions of Entry for FELTernative

An exhibition by the Victorian Feltmakers Inc,
The Town Hall Gallery, Hawthorn, August 2011

1. FELTernative will be held at The Town Hall Gallery, Hawthorn Town Hall, 358 Burwood Road, Hawthorn. It will be open to the public August 3rd – 27th 2011. A special opening event will be held 6 – 8 pm, Thursday 4th August
2. This will be a curated exhibition as part of the conditions of Gallery. The Town Hall Gallery Curator will have the final decision on entries. This exhibition is open to members of the Victorian Feltmakers Inc. (VFI) There are no entry fees or size restrictions.
3. The Gallery provides staffing for the duration of the exhibition during opening hours, 12 pm to 5 pm Wednesday to Saturday and first Sunday of month, 10 am to 3 pm.
4. The Gallery insures works on exhibition a) against theft or damage due to burglary b) against damage caused by fire or water damage c) against accidental damage caused by gallery staff. All other loss or damage to works on exhibition shall be the responsibility of the Exhibitor. Please understand that although all care will be taken with entries, any theft or damage will not be the responsibility of the VFI or its members. Any insurance cover is the responsibility of the entrant.
5. Up to three works may be submitted. If space permits, all three will be exhibited.
6. Only one entry form needs to be submitted. Please submit photos of the work attached to the form with name, title and dimensions listed on the back.
7. Each item must be labeled with its title and the artist's name.
8. Wall hangings and framed work must be submitted with appropriate hardware attached, ready to hang.
9. Framed or fragile pieces must be submitted in an appropriately labeled box or padded bag.
10. Work may be priced to sell including a 20% commission which will be claimed by the Town Hall Gallery. To calculate 20% of the final price, 25% needs to be added to the price you wish to receive. e.g. If you want \$100 for an item, add 25%, final price is \$125. When the commission of 20% is deducted from \$125, you will receive \$100.
11. If work is submitted by a member who lives further than 70km from Melbourne's CBD, the VFI committee will organize postal return free of charge. Collection time/date will be confirmed when items are dropped off. Unclaimed work will be brought to the VFI general meeting October 15. If work is not collected from that meeting, you must contact Rita 97852454 or Jan 0411 468 819 to negotiate collection and, as penalty for late collection, we will seek a \$5 donation per item to Project Mend/Flood Relief.
12. Entrants grant permission for VFI to photograph entries and publish them in articles, ads, promotions, catalogues, books, websites, CD's, current event news coverage and/or multimedia productions for and about VFI. The VFI respects the fact that the artwork copyright remains with the artist.
13. Submitted work will have been created within the past three years and shall not have been exhibited at a previous VFI exhibition.
14. Submitted work will be original and not copied verbatim from a publication. Inspirational design sources should be acknowledged.
15. If work was created in a workshop or class, the tutor and class must be acknowledged.

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Snapped at the February Meeting



Unfortunately, in February, we were without a photographer for the main part of the meeting. Narelle did a sterling job of documenting our new library and market stall arrangements, but as she was the presenter of the main attraction - a slideshow of the fantastic workshops on offer throughout 2011 - it is a little much to expect her to photograph that as well. But wait a moment, she did! The evidence is below.

However, Narelle did have to leave after her talk and thus we do not have any images of February Show and Tell to share with you this issue.

We always welcome photographs members (or their friends) have taken, whether at a meeting or during a workshop.

A difficulty exists, though, in making sense of them when they are received: in an in-box with a lot of other photographs.

When you send them to Sarah (vfi@internode.on.net) please make sure that you type **Feltlines** in the subject line. Also, please rename your images to indicate what they are about

e.g. **yoursurname_showandtell_sarah_hat_april2011.jpg**.

This gives the editor valuable information about what the image is. If you don't know for sure, don't write anything more than Showandtell_april2011.jpg, Put your best guess about the maker in the email message.

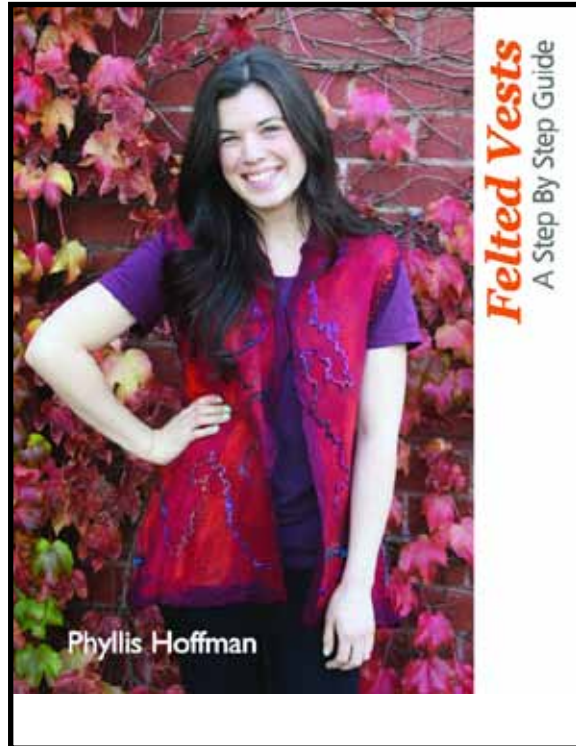
In the *February 2011 Feltlines*, we made an error in our attribution of Gay's hat. It was made by Merete Stolz in Denmark. Gay would hate Merete to think she was trying to claim her wonderful creation. The fault was entirely ours, for which we apologize.



Polly Stirling knows that it is all in the fit. The backs of the outfits show the close attention paid to that all-important figure flattering element. Our models are, from left: Aovana Timmermann, Jillian Cain and Margot Ling. Thank you for your beautiful creations, which we hope to see at the April show and tell.

Taking it to the world

Phyllis Hoffman is a woman of many talents, being the writer of many books about sewing and pattern making. She combines these skills and adds them to the creation of her felted vests, for which she is very well-known.



Phyllis's new book, due out at the end of April or in early May, promises to pass these techniques on to those of us less well-schooled in garment construction. We are very grateful.



A quiet brag of my own. Above are both sides of "The Space Between," a free hanging nunofelted piece of three layers. It measures 100 cm x 225 cm and is designed to hang in space. It has been accepted into the World Textile Association's Contemporary Textile Biennale in Mexico this May to July. My movie, of the same title, has also been accepted.

- El Presidente

Ap ARTWEAR PUBLICATIONS

Available from ArtWear Publications, Can Do Books or Colonial Lake Books



Buy your copy of *Orizomegami: Fold and dye designs for paper and fabric* from the girls at ArtWear Publications at Brisbane Textile Arts Festival June 11-13 at the Brisbane Convention Centre.

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