



FELTLINES

Magazine of the Victorian Feltmakers Inc.

December 2011, Issue No. 80

www.vicfelt.org

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**VFI Meeting
Saturday
December 3**

**Slideshow
Presentation:
Workshops in
2012**

**-
Bunnies!
-**

**followed by
Show & Tell**

**No Felt
Frenzy Day
in December**

WINNERS!



For several years now, the Victorian Feltmakers Inc. has been sponsoring prizes, and sometimes judging, at the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria (RASV) Show. At the same time, we encouraged our members to enter these sections, in order to keep them 'alive' on the Show's calendar.

This year, we have hit paydirt in a big way, with several VFI members doing very well indeed. Pam Czarny, Diane Roberts and Jude Wise are to be congratulated and lauded. Pam's work made it into *the best of the best* display, a spectacular achievement. She also won a Third Prize. Jude won a First and a Highly Commended and Diane picked up a staggering four prizes on her own.

Full report and photographs on pages 6 and 7.

The Victorian Feltmakers Inc.

Committee 2011-2012

President

Sharon Carter
P.O. Box 862,
Camberwell South, Vic., 3124
Mobile: 0468921158
president@vicfelt.org

Vice Presidents

Robyn Steel-Stickland
104 Albion Road,
Ashburton, Vic., 3146
03 9885 6440
robyn@opendrawer.com.au

Judith Latham
c/o Boisdale Post Office
via Maffra Vic., 3860
0419 296 501
lee.judith.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

Treasurer/Public Officer

Tony Cooper
315 Dreeite Road,
Beeac, Vic., 3251
03 5234 6030
spinfelt@westnet.com.au

Secretary

Simone Braund
7 Parker Street,
Ormond, Vic., 3204
0417 963 665
simone.braund@gmail.com

Membership Secretary/ Assistant Treasurer

Jane Robson
PO Box 79,
Whittlesea, Vic., 3757
03 9715 1523
janerobson@live.com.au

Ordinary Members

Gayle Burgess
40 Graceburn Avenue
Healesville Vic., 3777
03 5962 1389/0420 429 699
bgburgess@internode.on.net

Jan Everett
8 Mirtilga Place,
Eltham, Vic., 3095
03 9439 0581/0411 468 819
everett.jan@gmail.com

Margot Ling
11 Orchard Street,
Armadale, Vic., 3143
03 9509 1470
margot@myaccess.com.au

Sarah Ricketts
19 Drummond Street,
Carlton, Vic., 3053
03 9663 6469/0410 107 529
vfi_editor@internode.on.net

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.

Upcoming Dates:

Saturday February 18, 2012
the 100th meeting of the VFI
Saturday April 21, 2012
Saturday June 16, 2012



AGENDA

- 10.00** Morning Coffee
Market Stalls, Library
& Fibre Shop open
- 11.15** **General Meeting**
President's Welcome
& Opening Address
- Sharon
- 11.30** Sandra Buchanan -
2012 Workshop
Programme launch
- 12.30** Festive Shared
Sit Down Lunch
- 1.30** **Guest Speaker:**
Charly McCafferty
from Ixcel Fibre Farm
- 2.15** **Show and Tell** - Tony
- 3.00** **Any Other Business**
- Sharon
- 3.15** Finish and pack up

Please BYO lunch. Fibre Shop,
Mini Market 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 almost
always available for down-
load from our website:

www.vicfelt.org/events

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

Workshop Booking Officer

Ros Bint
3 Turnbull Grove
Northcote, Vic., 3070
03 9481 7542
rosbint@gmail.com

Workshop Coordinator

Sandra Buchanan
20 Highbury Road
Burwood Vic., 3125
03 9833 4511
0416 267 068
sandybuchanan@optusnet.com.au

Workshop helpers

Positions currently vacant-
3 helpers required, please -
to start as soon as you can.

Feltlines is a great source
of reviews of recent work-
shops, tutor profiles, and
information. To help our
coverage, we welcome com-
ments and/or articles from
workshop participants. Send
photographs and text to
vfi_editor@internode.on.net.
You can remain anonymous if
you wish.

Felting Frenzies

Most "Frenzies" are also held
at Hartwell Church of Christ.

Join us from 9.30 am to 4 pm.
Bring whatever you want to
do, and your own felting sup-
plies, 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

In the October issue of Felt-
lines, we indicated a sched-
ule of six issues of Feltlines
per year. However, on the
first hurdle, this proved to be
unfeasible. We apologize for
this problem.

The workload attendant
upon the production of so
many issues, particularly with
a short span between the Oc-
tober and December meet-
ings, means that we will be
rethinking how to solve the
problem that is Feltlines.

Regular *Feltlines* helpers:

Editor & Desktop Publisher

Sarah Ricketts
9663 6469/0410 107 529
vfi_editor@internode.on.net

Photographer

Position vacant

Print Distribution

Suzi Read
03 9885 8466
suzi.read@optusnet.com.au

Electronic Distribution

Sarah Ricketts
0410 107 529
vfi_editor@internode.on.net

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.

The deadline for all new
copy for advertisements,
any articles or photo-
graphs for the next issue
of Feltlines is January 15.

Please submit to:
vfi_editor@internode.
on.net, putting **Autumn
Feltlines** in the email
subject line. Rename any
photographs to include
your surname as well as
the event and date. De-
scriptions of the content
of each image are wel-
come.

The President writes...

With December approaching my thoughts are turning to Christmas activities and the countdown to my own family festivities. I will be hosting my extended family of 25 to a Christmas party in mid December. I have always loved Christmas and I am still no different, so I am looking forward to hosting our own VFI Christmas party on December 3rd. I have asked you all to dress festive with a touch of red, green, silver or gold and to bring a plate for our shared lunch.



Many of you took the time to fill in our feedback form or spoke to me personally to give me suggestions for the future. It was heartwarming to read how much everyone values the VFI for being a friendly and welcoming group ready to share knowledge and to inspire.

You come for the workshops/demos and speakers, the frenzies, the library and fibre shop. You like to learn, to be inspired and to share knowledge. Feltlines helps to facilitate this and keeps you connected to the VFI community, especially if you are a regional member or don't get to the meetings. You have also told us there is room for improvement around Feltlines and the General Meeting.

We have already removed the agenda from Feltlines and you should be receiving a separate email (or mail out, if you have no email) detailing the General Meeting Agenda around two weeks from the meeting date. This will continue in 2012. We will be making further improvements to Feltlines to allow us to publish more reliably and asking for your help to be on the editorial team. The General Meetings will be more activity based with more time to socialise with better time keeping.

I am listening and making improvements as we go forward. Other suggestions that I will be taking to the Committee include:

- * Inclusion of Personal Development into the workshop/speaker programme
- * Promoting our members' businesses
- * Mentoring Opportunities
- * Scholarships
- * Social Get Togethers

Best Wishes to you and your family for a fabulous festive season
Sharon Carter
President

Convergence News & Views

11th Southern Hemisphere Feltmakers Convergence

The convergence was held at Bunbury, a coastal town 2 hours south of Perth in the beautiful bush setting of Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School.

We had approximately 150 felters from Australia, NZ, Israel, USA, UK and 4 days of fabulous felting.

There were numerous demonstrations with lots of sharing. Each day there was 3-4 tutor sessions and a choice of 4-5 topics per session – it was very difficult to choose sometimes.



Topics included rugs, 3D, book binding, raw wools, dolls & toys, hats, resists, shibori felt, dyeing, slippers, masks, flowers, jewellery and problem solving, plus others.

At the same time two master classes were held and those lucky enough to have their name pulled out of the ballot had two days with Anita Larkin or Liz Clay. (See Helen Rossi's article about her Liz Clay master class).

We had a theme each day – Monday was **Wild felt** which could be interpreted as wild animals or just

jazzy felt; Tuesday was **Jewellery**; Wednesday was **Scarf**; Thursday was **Recycling** – this was won by two VFI members – **Helen Rossi and Mary Ann Walsh** (we must be good at recycling!!).



On Tuesday night a fashion parade was held in the auditorium using mainly professional models but some were brave enough to model their own garments. There were over 120 entries and some fabulous pieces.



A suitcase bazaar was held on Wednesday night – anyone could bring a suitcase and set it up and sell their wares and this was advertised locally. It was a great atmosphere and there was a wide range of product for sale – not just felt!



On the final night we had a 60's cabaret with great entertainment and lots of dancing. Some really out-

Convergence News & Views



did themselves with their outfits and had really dug in the back of their wardrobes!

The Bunbury team did a great job of organising the convergence and putting together a wonderful programme. **CONGRATULATIONS.**

In 2013 the convergence will be hosted by the Illawarra Felters – near Wollongong. Make a mental note now and plan ahead - you won't be sorry.

- Jan Everett



Liz Clay's Elemental Rhythms -

Combining Photography with Nunofelt

I attended the Liz Clay Master Class at the Bunbury Convergence. Liz is the author of **Nuno felt**. She is current Chairman of the International Felters Association and Lecturer in Textiles & Fine Art at Bath Spa University. She has worked with Stella McCartney, Givenchy and Vogue magazine.

The class involved two days of exploring colour blending, texture, shape and line, as a response to a photograph. We made lots of small textured felt pieces, in flat and pleated felt, and in nuno felt



Surrounded by a mounting board, and with Liz's guidance, our small organic felts developed a new personality. When placed within the photographic image they became small works of art.

Felting on such a small scale, in a dialogue with another medium, was a new and fascinating



For information about Liz and her work, see her website (www.lizclay.co.uk) or her book, "Nuno felt: techniques and inspiration for accessories and home interiors".

- Helen Rossi

Liz also taught this class at the VFI in Melbourne. There should be a good few of these samples at the December meeting, so hopefully pictures in the next Feltlines.

with silk, with lace, muslin, and with stones encased between tissue silk and wool fibres. Small, interesting, delicate pieces, were carefully and gently felted, in the hand or on bubble wrap.

Liz is just delightful. She is a patient and inspirational teacher.



experience. Each participant made creative pieces that were completely different. I made a series of four, using photographs of trees in my garden, and a class piece.



RASV Winners

The news wasn't on the editor's desk as we went to press in October, but some VFI members did very well at the RASV in September. They deserve to be celebrated.

Cabinet of Excellence – The Florence Monod Cabinet

The Best of the Best for Feltmaking
Pam Czarny's Vest / Wrap,
Wrapped in Purples



Fine Art Feltmaking

1st Prize:
Jude Wise's Jacket, *Native Nuno*



2nd Prize:
Diane Roberts' Quilt, *Afterglow*



3rd Prize
Pam Czarny's Quilt, *Poppies* (above right)
Highly Commended
Jude Wise for *Sunlight in Cloud*

Wearable Art – Felt

2nd Prize
Diane Roberts' Wrap, *Spring Silks*



3rd Prize
Diane Roberts' Jacket, *Autumn Sun*



If you, or anyone you know is a winner, especially in felt (but we are not chauvinistic), please let us know. Tell Sarah at vfi_editor@internode.on.net and please, please, send photos.

HandBags – Handmade

Very Highly Commended

Diane Roberts' HandBag, *Ribbon & Lace*



These photographs of their wonderful work are courtesy of Suzanne Vial. All these fine artists were associated with Suzanne's shop, Lumina Gallery, which has recently closed. So, *Vale, Lumina!* but the art lives on.

BRAART Exhibition

March 30 to May 6, 2012

BraArt, to be held at the Murray Bridge Regional Gallery in the Vicki Nottage Sculpture Court, will be an inspirational exhibition of arty bras and bra art, to tantalize, enjoy and amuse, made by a diverse range of artists with proceeds benefiting Breast Cancer Charities.

Entries are now being called for by Samantha Pope, the creator of the exhibition, in remembrance of Vicki Nottage, artist, business woman and patron of the arts. 72% from the sale of exhibited *BraArt* entries and 100% of profits from related souvenir sales will be donated. A calendar will be produced for the 2012-13 Financial Year.

To help you make your entry, there are themes to this exhibition. Theme A is based around words which contain the letters BRA, like zebra, et cetera. Theme B is for upcycled items and altered bras. Theme C is the open section - perfect for all those bras we made for the 2007 Convergence!

Call **Samantha Pope** on 08 8535 8220 or email her on samsartisticcreations@yahoo.com.au for more information or an entry form.

Thanks to Carol Bath for forwarding this piece!

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Q & A: VFI-style

Hi Narelle,

I'm looking for some more Corriedale wool tops.
Can you tell me where you buy them from please?

Many thanks,
M. H.

Hi M.H.,

The best place I know is Wondoflex that have a lot of coloured Corriedale, - \$8 for 100gms. Website and link to all the colours they have: <http://www.wondoflex.com.au/Items.php?catid=317&mcat=315&divid=15>. It is not far from Hartwell: 1353 Malvern Road Malvern VIC 3144, (03) 9822 6231.

Regards,
Narelle



Woolly Bits

Australian Quilts in Public Places 2011

FOREST THREADS

November 11 to December 21

Whitehorse Art Space,
Box Hill Town Hall, Box Hill, 3128.

Open Tuesday to Saturday. For times, see website:
www.boxhilltownhall.com or call 9262 6250.



Workshop with Jenny Romano

Handweavers and Spinners are hosting a needle-felting workshop with Jenny Romano - **Cone Pixies**, shown above. You will create a character face on cone shaped wool batt. Learn the techniques of creating a face from wool and embellishing it in a choice of hand-dyed Corriedale fleece. These little pixies stand approximately 20 cm tall.

Cost for this workshop is \$85 for members and \$95 for non-members. You will need to bring a piece of foam approximately 10 cm high, on which to work (an off cut from Clarke rubber or a car washing sponge work well). If you have felting needles bring them with you... (sizes #36 for coarse wool, #40 for fine wool). Jenny has some which you can purchase at \$2 a needle.

Date: Friday, 17 February 2012 9am-4pm. Contact Handweavers & Spinners Guild of Victoria on 9387

9222. The application form and sample pics can be downloaded from the workshop page at www.vicnet.net.au/~handspin/

Handweavers & Spinners

Guild of Victoria, Inc



Tues to Sat
10am to 3pm

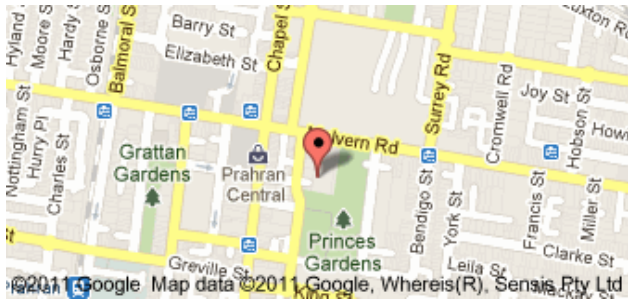
*Come visit our new home
Browse our Craft Supply
for felting supplies,
dyes, luxury fibres, books,
etc.*

Enquires: 9387 9222

655 Nicholson Street, Carlton North
www.vicnet.net.au/~handspin/

FELTernative 2012

Hot on the heels of our wonderful success in 2011, the VFI is taking its show closer to town!



The exhibition dates are August 6–26, 2012. The venue is Chapel off Chapel Gallery, a great position in Prahran, near the city. Its address is 12 Little Chapel Street Prahran VIC 3181. You can check out their website at www.chapelloffchapel.com.au. **Now get cracking on those wonderful works of art!**

Help Needed

It is a lot of fun putting together **Feltlines** each time. However, doing the whole job myself is wearing a bit thin. I am very happy to do all the layout and to pull writing into shape, but could do with just a little extra help.

There are regular “columns” which could easily be run by a few members. These are:

- Woolly Bits
- What’s On (not in this issue)
- Advertising - and billing for ads
- Show and Tell (just identifying who/what and a little bit of text, perhaps)
- Workshops (great to get some text from participants as well as images)

We might think of adding:

- Member of the Month (some people have asked for this - a perfect one person job)
- Library Book Reviews - maybe a book club?
- Exhibition Reviews
- and anything else you might wish for in our magazine

Please think about this and contact Sarah if you would like to work on an issue as a trial. Might I request someone to write something on the next meeting (December 3) and take photographs? I will be in New Zealand on that date.

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Market News

Show & Tell

MARKET NEWS

December Mini Market

In December we welcome the following traders and a few extra guest traders to get you in the festive shopping mood! :



Guest trader and speaker – **Charly McCafferty** from **Ixchel Fibre Farm**, an Angora rabbit stud, who will introduce us to her Angora rabbit fibre and fibre art supplies.

Guest Trader – **Angie Coulter** of **Which Colour Bead?** Angie will be selling glass bead strands, unusual metal connectors, lucite flower beads and other fantastic embellishing bits and pieces.

Her website address is www.whichcolourbeads.com.au

Guest Trader – **Lisa Kowalski** of **The Little Brown Doggie Bag**. Lisa makes home made dog biscuits and decorations, as well as some tasty treats for us adults!

VFI member **Diana Schlecht** will be selling a collection of embellishments including handspun art yarn/dyed wool; hand dyed angora curls; buttons and doilies. Also available will be an assortment of hand-painted silk scarves, ties and silk pieces as well as some felted bags scarves and other felted bits and pieces. Some new and old books, magazines on a variety of handcrafts, and some hand-made cards.

We welcome back 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. Introducing new ranges of stunning hand-dyed tissue silks and muslins in a variety of sizes and colourways for use in nunofelt-ing scarves and up to full garment size.

- **Narelle Higgins**



Not much to show this month, although this does not mean that not much was presented. It is an indication that the cameras were clicking for the work in FROCKtober and perhaps the photographers were a little exhausted from all their effort.

Below is **Ros Bint** with the mandala rug inspired by Martien van Zuilen's work. The rest are lovely but their creators are unknown at this time.



October Meeting - FROCKtober

Our sort-of annual trip to the Hartwell Race Track took a different direction this year with the birth (or is that resurrection? a zombie, perhaps?) of yet another fashion icon, or more aptly, victim.



Yes, that *Olga from the Volga* herself, our renegade comrade, **Natarshaa from Russiaa**, lurched onto the runway and took control of our fashion parade!

All claims to style and elegance were quietly dropped, in much the same way Natarshaa tried to down a few quiet "drops" of Stolichnaya halfway through the parade. *We did notice that, Natarshaa!*

Wearing some furs that were probably important to her granny in the gulag, Natarshaa was the perfect foil to the fabulous felted fashions paraded before our eyes.



In what must be one of the most significant upsets of recent years, we were treated to **two** male models, wearing their own hand-made woollen clothing with grace and style.

One of these, our own super-powered treasurer, **Tony Cooper**, was the inaugural winner of



the **Lolita Fashionista** trophy - a sash made from Lolita's own favourite, animal print material. (*What is it about these so-called fashionable types and dead animals? I need to be told.*)

Other winners, in no particular order, were **Jan Everett, Margot Ling and Lucia Tužinská**. Well done, all of you, and the many others who walked the runway walk. As always, it was a wonderful sight, seeing our fantastic creators in their equally fantastic creations. Felt may well be lovely in a gallery, but it is great to see it on the moving human form.



Many thanks to all the members who sent in images from the day and especially to those of you who answered my cries of help for a photograph of Tony at the last minute! It highlights the wonderful, supportive character of VFI members.

A thank you also to the gentlemen of the church's Mens' Group, who set up the hall for us, carefully prepared in anticipation of our parade. This is something that they often do for us. It seems only appropriate to recognize it after having had two men strut their stuff on the catwalk!

- Sarah Louise Ricketts

with apologies to Robyn Steel-Stickland, who was wonderful as the drunken Natarshaa



до свидания (do svidaniya)

October Meeting - FROCKtober



Pam



Helen



Judith



Lucia & Natarshaa



Barbara & Genielle



Christine



Best in Show:



Tony Cooper