



FELTLINES

Magazine of the Victorian Feltmakers Inc.

June 2011, Issue No. 78

www.vicfelt.org

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from April Show & Tell

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**VFI Meeting
Saturday
June 18**

**Demonstration:
"Lovely Lilies"
with
Carolyn Rogers
DVD
Presentation
Show & Tell**

**New Felt
Frenzy Day:
Friday 17
June**



**The hands say it all at
"Show and Tell"**

The Victorian Feltmakers Inc.

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General Meetings

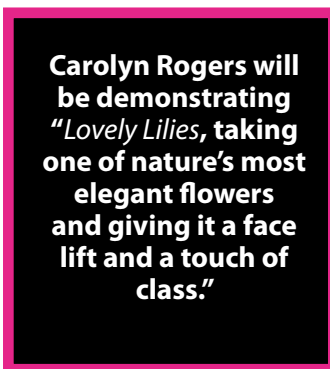
Venue:

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 June 18
Saturday August 20 - *the
Annual General Meeting*
Saturday September 17



Setting Up: As for a usual
meeting, put out chairs, get
out cups, etc.

- 10.00** Fibre Shop, Mini
Market & Library
open, put coffee on
- 11.15** General Meeting
- 12.00** Lunch
- 1.00** Demonstration and
DVD presentation
- 2.15** Show and tell
- 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 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. 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:

Saturday May 21
Friday June 17 (NEW!)
Saturday July 16

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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vfi@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.

***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 August 2011 *Feltlines* is
June 30.

Please submit to:
vfi@internode.on.net, putting
August 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 decided to have a group shot of 7/8ths at the opening of *Transparency* at Open Drawer in early May, instead of the Christmas Beetle.

I am just repeating what I said last time, because I still haven't heard from anyone. If there is someone you think would make a great President, who is not Narelle, please tell me. At the moment, if someone steps up and says they are willing to be President they will get me as a mentor (but only if they want it - I don't really want to hang around) and they will get Narelle as Vice President. If we don't get a taker, Narelle will not stand for VP and I will not stand for the Committee.

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

Sarah Louise Ricketts

This month we had an amazing number of exhibitions in which VFI members had work. If you are having a show or a part of a group offering, please remember to tell us in good time so that we can try to drive a few members your way.

Better still, send us some pictures and may be take out a little advertisement in *Feltlines*. Every time you do, you help with VFI in a small way (\$8/\$16 for a quarter/half page including the members' discount) and hopefully do yourself and your show a whole lot of good.

We also have remarkably talented book writers amongst our number. Last month it was Phyllis Hoffman (whose workshop gets a fantastic write-up) and this month it is Liz Evans with a publication to advertise in *Feltlines*. You go, grrrls!

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.



Above: Kim Cadman modelling her beautiful finished piece

Left: Layout before felting

Right hand page:
Helen McGrath modelling her similarly gorgeous finished piece



Phyllis Hoffman Workshop March 2011

From the outset I would like to acknowledge that I have found all of Phyllis' classes to be very satisfying. Phyllis has established a teaching style which can be both physically demanding and positively constructive. I would strongly recommend her classes to any felting enthusiast who is keen to hone their skills and learn to produce professionally finished articles which exude personal flair.

The essence of nunofelting was revealed: light-weight, drape-able fabric; a marriage of fine merino fibres (typically 2 layers overlapping at right angles) plus tissue silk fabric or gauzy cotton. To ascertain whether a fabric will connect to the wool or not, a gentle puff of air can be blown through the fabric to test if it will pass through the weave easily. Students learnt how silk and wool can hook together due to the action of interlocking barbs which are located on the shafts of the wool fibres.

Conversely, silk fibres cannot directly connect with silk fabric due to the lack of such scales. In design situations, where silk and silk needed to be linked together, the finest of wool fibres needed to be laid between the two surfaces. The direction of wool layout was also considered important as it corresponded with the direction in which shrinkage would occur.

Commencing with explanatory samples, multiple techniques were revealed so that each individual student was then able to explore their own creative direction in more depth.

We examined felt structures on silk such as diagonal corner layouts of finely placed roving, lattices and grids, squiggles and curls, floating circles over sheer fabric and novelty yarn trappings within sandwiches of translucent fabric. Where spaces on the fabric existed without fibre, the silk characteristically puckered and ruched and this created wonderfully rich, textured surfaces. There was a lesson in following our own intuition with respect to design work, but not every outcome could be planned. Unexpected results would often produce gasps of pleasant surprise. Many of our experiments took shape as interesting all-in-one scarf samplers. By the next morning, intriguing waistbands and sashes adorned



several figures around the room.

On the second day we were encouraged to develop our own concepts further and to utilize the knowledge acquired during the first day of the workshop. Nunofelted accessories or garment lengths showed clearly the potential for nunofelt to become a form of wearable art, an extension of one's own self expression, so to speak.

Finally on behalf of the group, I think I can say that we all really appreciated Phyllis' thorough organization for this workshop, her enthusiasm and generosity of spirit in sharing her expertise.

Now the challenge presents itself for all the students to take their skills to the next, ethereal level!

- **Christine Smith**

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

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.

Australian Sheep & Wool Show

It's time to get in touch with your inner sheep, dear Members, and visit this years *Australian Sheep and Wool Show* in Bendigo.

The dates: Friday 15th, Saturday 16th
& Sunday 17th July.

Times: Friday & Saturday 9am to 5pm
and Sunday 9am to 4pm

We need your help with our stall, demonstrating and promoting all things *felt*, as always. See page 8 for the full story.



Woolly Bits

FELTernative: VFI 2011 Exhibition

Many thanks to everyone who is contributing to the VFI's exhibition for 2011, **FELTernative**.

Rita Casperz and Jan Everett, the Exhibition Coordinators, met with Mardi Nowak, the curator of the Town Hall Gallery, Hawthorn, earlier in May. As curator, Mardi will be selecting the entries to be shown in the exhibition.

Together, the trio covered a lot of ground and there is much important information to impart to VFI members. Rita and Jan will meet again during the week starting May 23 to finalize this information, but this will be too late for their material to be included in this issue of *Feltlines*.

Instead, this documentation will be uploaded to the VFI website and a link will be emailed to those members with an email address. If it is possible to contact you by email, but you have not given us your address, please do so as soon as you can so that this important message can be sent to you quickly.

Send your details to vfi@internode.on.net.

FOR SALE

Beautiful Danish Lervad floor loom 150 cm wide, 185 cm long. 16 shaft. Also many accessories. \$2,000 ono. Can be seen in Blackburn or call Gay Staurup on (03) 9877 5438.

Market News

Our new mini market each meeting has taken off well with lots of 'oohing & aahing' over the textile and crafty bits available for purchase. Thank you to



our April traders Laura Llawenyth Power Davies (left); Carolyn Rogers from *Ripples on the Pond* and our guest trader Wendy Ashworth from *Precious Purl*.

Wendy (right) had a great time and wrote in to say "thanks so much for the invite to the Feltmaker's Meeting today. I enjoyed meeting so many new people and catching up with many I knew. It was a great way to promote Precious Purl and get feedback from the people that are the inspiration for our business".



We do not yet have any member stalls booked for August 20 and there are also vacancies available on October 15 and December 3 (all Saturday meetings). There is no cost to have a stall so if you are a member and would like to sell something textile, art or craft related please book with Narelle Higgins on (03) 5968 6027 or ralhig@gmail.com.

June Meeting Mini Market

In June we will welcome the following stall holders:

- **Can Do Books** will be our guest trader bringing along a great range of felt and textile related books to browse or purchase for yourself or others. If you are after a certain book give them a call on (03) 9813 5222 and ask if it can be bought on the day for you. To browse their website go to: <http://www.cando-books.com.au/catalog>.

- VFI member Chrissy Lauritz of **Fibre Fusion** will have her full range of silk laps, rovings and caps,

as well as her superfine Divine Wooltops and Felbi Prefelts. For more information or preorders contact Chrissy on (03) 9859 8081 or <http://www.fibrefusion.com.au>.

- VFI member Pam Goble of **Lara Downs** in Fitzroy will be selling a range of hand-dyed goodies including: Merino wool/Silk laps, Luxury Fibre 'Clouds', Triple Felter's Delights, Fibre Fantasy packs, Silk chiffon/Paj lengths, Silk Velvet lengths, Tops of various exotic fibres plus *Felter's Wool Wash* - a new Australian natural detergent. As Pam cannot bring her full selection of products and colourways with her she is able to take special orders for particular colours either ahead of the day or on the day. Contact Pam on 0417549213 or through <http://www.lara-downs.com.au>.

VFI Textile, Art and Craft Market - Saturday July 2

As our fundraiser for charity this year, the Victorian Feltmakers are holding a Textile, Art & Craft Market at Hartwell Church from 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday July 2. Proceeds from stall fees and other activities on the day are being donated to the Cancer Council's **Daffodil Day** on August 26.

Stalls will cost \$10 plus a donation of goods to approx. \$20 to use as raffle prizes. Look at this as a great way to promote your business.

To book a stall or get more information contact Narelle Higgins on (03) 5968 6027 or email ralhig@gmail.com.

- **Narelle Higgins**



Carolyn Rogers at the April meeting

2011 Australian Wool & Sheep Show

Get in touch with your inner sheep and visit this year's Australian Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo.

The show is on Friday July 15, Saturday July 16 and Sunday July 17. Times: Friday and Saturday 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday 9 am to 4 pm.

To fully enjoy the show I recommend you allow yourself a full day to view everything, and an extra day to support VFI by demonstrating and chatting to the visitors to our stand. This event is VFI's most important yearly opportunity to show off what we do to a captive and interested audience, and to recruit new members.

Visiting the show is not only a chance to shop, but also an important time to get involved with the wool industry of which you a part. By using the end product – *wool* – you are an important link in the chain.

- Talk to the farmers who gather from all over the country to show off their wool / sheep and to see what the latest products and ideas are for improving their product. They will be immensely interested in what you do and how you use their product. See the sheep – talk to them, thank them for their coats and feel the wool as it is on the "sheep's back".

- Visit the Woolcraft section – so much creativity and time is taken by the women and men who make the beautiful items on display. Enjoy looking at the entries and chat to the ladies and gents from the many fibre groups who are represented at the event. Watch the demonstrations and think about how far these people have come to share their passion for working with wool. Get involved in hands on activities – the more people who get involved the more fun it is for those who have set up the activity.

- Demonstrate your craft - doesn't matter whether you've been felt making for 5 weeks or 5 years, WE NEED YOU! The felt making demos are amongst the most popular demos at the show, therefore we need to be making felt all the time.

Please bring your own fleece and towel and use the VFI equipment provided. Work on a small project or make small samples to entertain the crowd. You will be asked lots of questions, so if talking is not your thing leave it to one of the gas bags among us.

For members who are prepared to give up a full day or days to help, you will be reimbursed with a \$25 daily allowance from VFI (to go towards petrol and food) and you'll receive a Day Pass to the show.

Accommodation has been booked at a local motel for those who would like to stay overnight and share a family suite. I can't give exact costs as it will be dependent on numbers who stay, please discuss with me.

Extra **HELP** is *always* needed to set up our display. If you can't come any other day, make Thursday between 2 pm and 5 pm (or packing up at 4 pm on Sunday) your time to shine.

Please email robyn@opendrawer.com.au, phone me at work on (03) 9889 7227 or tell me at the June meeting, when you'll be available.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

- **Robyn Steel-Stickland**

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Guild of Victoria, Inc



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

Does this wool come from a yellow sheep?

Not only does Narelle Higgins have the energy to be our Workshop Coordinator, Mini Market Organizer, and to take on many other roles in the VFI, she also promotes felting to school-children, and has a chuckle along the way...

Over the last month [March-April 2011] I have spent a few hours a week at Emerald Preschool, which my daughter Mackenzie attends, introducing some 56 four year old children to felting.



What started off as a casual offer on my part to do a bit of felting with the children in my daughter's class, soon became a commitment of working across two classes to help the children make something special for their mother's for Mother's Day.

Having taught a few small groups of adults recovering from mental illness last year, I had yet to challenge myself to felt with children (apart from my own). This was going to be great opportunity for me and a new experience for the children at the centre.



I started the children's felting experience with an information session, showing laminated cards of all different animals that we can use fleece/fibre from for felting. Attached to each card was a sample of the fleece for the children to touch. I spoke about the origins of felt, showed a microscopic picture showing the scales on fibre and briefly discussed how the fibres felt together. After feeling all the fibres and jigging around silk cocoons with dry silkworms still inside, the children got to see some finished felt items

so they could understand what could be made of the felt fabric they could create themselves. They seemed to enjoy all the touchy feely aspects and were coming up with some great ideas on what could be made out of felt.

Over a few kinder sessions, I worked on a small table with three to four children at a time. They had a piece of bubble wrap each with a circle drawn on it and after choosing fleece for making mum a flower, they pulled small amounts of fibre off to fill up the circle. I handed out some wool yarn pieces, silk fibres and sparkly bits for decoration. They then covered the surface with netting and sprinkled on water, dug their hands in soapy goo (olive oil flakes sludge) and proceeded to rub, make bubbles, roll with textured rolling pins (great find at kinder used for play doh usually!) and flung the flower shapes like pizzas. The whole process took about thirty minutes.

I took the flowers home to felt up a little more and dried them with a marble placed in the centre secured by a rubber band. The children choose a button for the flower centre which I shall sew on with a brooch back and leaf piece during the holidays.

This age group was such a delight to teach. The enjoyment of playing with fluffy fibres and soap suds was obvious. The result of a beautiful flower that mum can wear on her clothes, bag or hat that was handmade by all of them, I am sure will be treasured. Everyone had a fantastic learning experience as many woolly questions were asked and answered, with one of my favourites being – *Does this wool come from a yellow sheep?*

- Narelle Higgins



Workshop Update

VACANCIES

Act quickly! Vacancies still exist in the following workshops:

- **From Fibre to Form** (3D needle felted faces) with Sandie O'Neil Friday July 8
- **Needle Felted Stained Glass Egg** with Sandie O'Neil Sunday July 10
- **Painting with Fibre and Fabric** with Catherine O'Leary Friday to Sunday August 5 – 7, 4 spots
- **Sculptural Felts** with Martien van Zuilen Wednesday & Thursday August 17 & 18, 1 spot
- **Recycle Knit & Re-Invent Felt** with Martien van Zuilen Saturday & Sunday August 13 & 14
- **Stacking Resists** with Anita Larkin Saturday & Sunday August 27 & 28, 4 spots
- **Fabulous Flowers** with Wendy Bailye Sunday September 18
- **Memory of Plants** with Della Jones Saturday October 19, 4 spots left
- **The Basics: Step by Step** with Robyn Steel-Stickland (Beginner classes providing an intro to felting, prefelts and resists) June 25 – 27 and September 23 – 25. Single Days can be taken.
- **Bootiful Boots** with Della Jones – This May class was postponed due to Della dislocating her shoulder (Hope you're on the mend Della!). New dates to be set for later in the year. 3 spots available.

For full class descriptions and images see http://www.vicfelt.org/VFI_Workshop_program_2011.pdf.

Contact Pam Hovel to book a place on 0354393042 or pam.hovel@bigpond.com.

Please try to remember to make payment a month prior to the class to avoid last minute cancellations and Pam spending a lot of time following up payments.

Workshop Update is continued on page 11

The image is a vertical banner for 'Fibrefusion'. The background features a colorful, abstract pattern of wool felts in shades of purple, red, orange, and yellow. The word 'Fibrefusion' is written vertically in a large, white, cursive font. Below the main title, the words 'deliciously lush colours sensuously soft wool' are stacked in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there is a blue section containing white text for 'Felting Supplies' and contact information.

deliciously
lush
colours
sensuously
soft
wool

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•Felbi Wool Batts
•Felting Accessories

www.fibrefusion.com.au
telephone +61 3 9859 8081

askus@fibrefusion.com.au

WORKSHOP TEAM

With the AGM fast approaching it is time to rally up interest in joining the workshop team for the year ahead. As some of you will know from an announcement made a few meetings ago, Narelle will be stepping down as workshop coordinator but will continue to see this year of workshops out that she has organised as well as support a new coordinator. In addition Pam Hovel will also be stepping down from her role as workshop booking officer to focus on her own business so we are seeking someone to take on her responsibilities also. Regular email access and meeting attendance is important.

This year has been the first where the role of coordinator and booking officer were split into two roles to reduce the workload on one person and enable each position to be backed up and supported by the other. It has worked extremely well.

If anyone is interested in either role please contact Narelle Higgins on 0359686027. It would be great to have some newbies shadowing the existing role owners before a handover is required.

WORKSHOPS FOR 2012

The workshop team have already started contacting some wonderful tutors for next year's program. After a recent meeting with Hartwell Church it has been agreed that the workshop team can submit dates for the year ahead earlier than December (when the church has its planning meeting). This will help planning the future program immensely as in the past the coordinator had to set dates with tutors (but could not confirm the venue was available) and launch the program with VFI members while waiting for the church to approve the submission of our dates – all in December.

As a result of discussion with Hartwell Church, the workshop team are going to aim to confirm the workshop program for the first half of 2012 in the next few months, and hopefully launch that part of the program at our August/October meeting.

So we are now seeking expressions of interest from members who would like to teach in our program in the first half of 2012. Please contact Narelle if you are interested.



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Layers for Feltmakers
Author-Liz Evans
Published by Textiles Anyone 2011
CD-Rom 65pp
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Layers for Feltmakers

by Liz Evans

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So many ideas in one place, it will be great reference.

Helen French, Feltmaker

...it's delicious, it wants to make us set up the felting table NOW!

Linda Shaffer, Feltmaker



Other CD books available:

- *Truly Simple Garments* by Maris Herr \$14.95
- *Tales of Daring Do* by Liz Powell \$14.95
- *Adventures of the Not So Famous Four* by Liz Powell \$14.95

www.textilesanyone.com.au

Catherine O'Leary Workshop

Imagine organizing something as delicious as these two wonderful examples of VFI workshops!



Delectable goodies by **Heather Hillman** (left) and **Margot Ling** (bottom left), seen from both back and front. Yes, they really do fit - beautifully and look sensational.

Below right, centre: a beautiful wrap made by **Helen Rossi**.

Bottom right: **Marg Hogan's** grey and red lyrical drape.





The Victorian Feltmakers Inc.
www.vicfelt.org

Proceeds from stall fees
and silent auction are
being donated to



POSTPONED - VFI Textile, Art and Craft Market

Please note the VFI Textile, Art and Craft Charity Market advertised in this edition of *Feltlines* and in the previous edition has been postponed and is rescheduled for **Saturday October 8th** at Hartwell Church Hall.

This has been due to organisers needing to ensure the venue and event is adequately insured. Market fliers and stall holder booking forms will be emailed to members soon.

Contact Narelle Higgins
on (03) 59686027 for more information.

Textile, Art & Craft Charity Market

For more information or stall
bookings contact Narelle on
0359686027 or
ralhig@gmail.com

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embellish



The frog has arrived

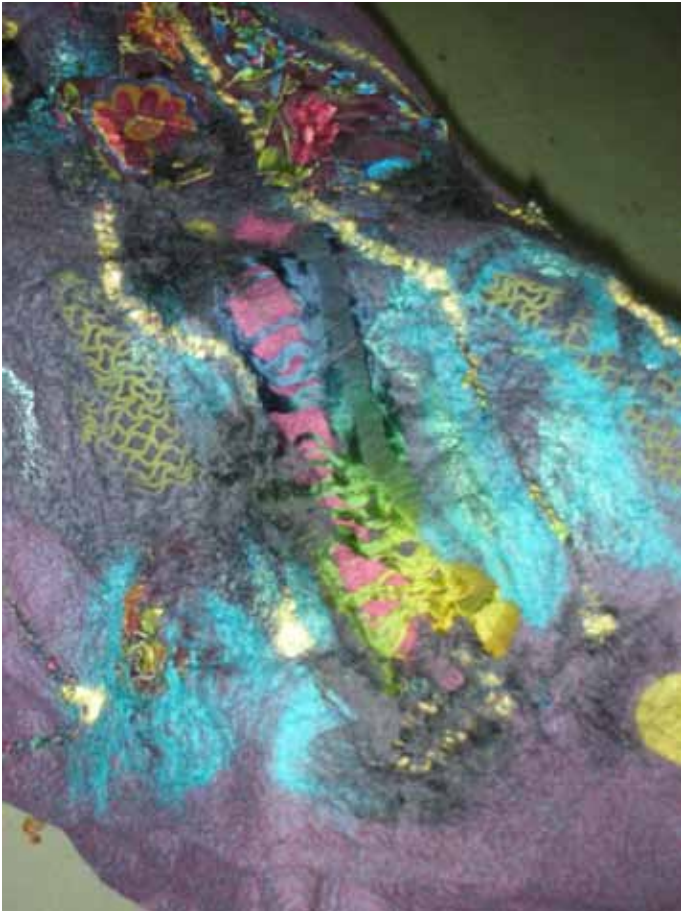
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Kitty Chung O'Kane Workshop



Happy participants, happy workshop! and what wonderful things they have made with the talented Ms Kitty.



April Show and Tell



Somehow June Patterson managed to get into a lot of the photographs from April Show and Tell! And, interestingly, not all at the same time, either. Well done, June!