



FELTLINES

Magazine of the Victorian Feltmakers Inc.

August & October 2011, Issue No. 79

www.vicfelt.org

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CONTENTS

Cover: FROCKTOBER! <i>You are invited!</i>	
General Information	2
The President Writes	3
AGM Update Letter from Tony	4-5
WOW! <i>The World of Wearable Art</i> Stacey Memory Book	6-7
Woolly Bits	8
Market News	9
Workshop Update <i>Leaping Chair:</i> Anita Larkin Exhibition	10-11
<i>FELTernative</i> Exhibition	12-13
Phyllis Hoffman Workshop Pix	14
Wendy Bailye & Martien van Zuilen Workshop Pix	15
August Show & Tell	16

**VFI Meeting
Saturday
October 15**

**Chrissy Lauritz
Slideshow
Presentation:
China Trip & Silk
Manufacturing
Process
followed by
Show & Tell**

**New Felt
Frenzy Day:
Friday 14
October**



IT'S FROCKTOBER!

Fabulous Felted Fashion on the Field from Fantastic Feltmakers

A fashion parade plus awards for the best outfits and for the best accessories, all made from versatile felt, of course. Together with the inaugural *Lolita Fashionista Award* for the best piece, in memory of Stacey Apeitos.

Picture above shows some of the proud winners in 2009.



It seems all too soon: the first anniversary of Stacey's passing came around on September 23. Incredible to think a year has passed.

We will celebrate her with the special *FROCKtober* award named in honour of one of her many alter egos, Lolita Fashionista, seen at left in charge of the 2009 Parade.

The Victorian Feltmakers Inc.

Committee 2011-2012

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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.

Upcoming Dates:

Saturday October 15
Saturday December 3
Saturday February 18, 2012
the 100th meeting of the VFI

**Chrissy Lauritz will
show us images from
her recent trip to
China and talk about
the silk produc-
tion process at the
October General
Meeting.**

AGENDA

- 10.00** Morning Coffee
Market Stalls, Library
& Fibre Shop open
- 11.15** General Meeting
begins - Sharon
- 12.00** Lunch
- 12.45** FROCKtober Parade
- Robyn
- 1.30** Guest Speaker:
Chrissy Lauritz from
Fibre Fusion
Slide presentation on
her recent trip to
China and the silk
production process
- 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:

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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 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.

Workshops

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rallhig@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 October 14 (NEW!)

Saturday November 19

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

From November 2011, *Felt-
lines* will be published at the
end of the first week of

- January
- March
- May
- July
- September
- November

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

We will aim to have a special
January 'holiday' edition of
Feltlines, which will include
our annual calendar sendout
and information about work-
shops for the upcoming year.

Regular *Feltlines* helpers:

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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.

The deadline for all new
copy for advertisements,
any articles or photographs
for November 2011 *Feltlines*
is **October 30.**

Please submit to:

vfi_editor@internode.on.net,
putting **November Felt-
lines** in the email subject
line. Rename any photo-
graphs to include your sur-
name as well as the event
and date. Descriptions of
the content of each image
are most welcome.

The President writes...

Welcome from the President

As your new President, I take over at a time when the VFI is in great shape thanks to the wonderful work of past Presidents Sarah Ricketts and Stacy Apeitos, and the invaluable financial support of Tony Cooper as Treasurer.

With over 200 members enjoying a wide variety of workshops, felting frenzies, the resource library and fibre shop, I pass on our thanks to all those involved in the Committee making this happen. Special thanks goes to Narelle Higgins, a dynamo who has really driven the workshop programme. I have seen first hand the amount of time she puts into this.

This gives me a great opportunity to ask our members *what do you want from your VFI membership* as I begin my Presidency. I will expand on this at our next meeting, but I have already received feedback that I am acting on.

On October 15, I ask that you come from 10 am to have coffee and meet up with friends and support our market stalls as well as taking advantage of the library and fibre shop. We will start the meeting promptly at 11.15 am and have a day full of great activities planned.

This month is **FROCKtober**. We will reprise our ever-popular Felted Fashions on the Field theme with a fashion parade and winners. This time there will be awards for accessories, so you can be in the show even if you are only wearing a token in recognition of the day.

After lunch, Chrissy Lauritz is going to take us armchair travelling to China for a sight-see and a closer look at the manufacture of silk, a fibre most of us love to wear and to use in our work. We will have Alison O'Meara as our Guest Trader, whilst Elly Rem and Sandra Buchanan will be this month's VFI member stall-holders. All have beautiful pieces for you to buy and wonderful ideas and images for inspiration. And, of course, it would not be a Feltmakers' meeting without the perennial Show and Tell. Remember to bring something to show, especially if you have been one of the lucky participants at our recent workshops.

I look forward to meeting all of you personally and having a fun day.



- Sharon Carter, President

A Note from the Editor

You will have been disappointed by the non-appearance of Feltlines in August.

This was due to circumstances outside of our control. The subscription to InDesign (Adobe Systems Inc.) was cancelled due to the release of a new version of the program. The VFI was temporarily left without a desktop publishing program and thus it was not possible to create Feltlines. However, the situation is now sorted out and publication should continue without these sort of technical problems. It would be overly optimistic not to expect any problems at all, wouldn't it?

Whilst I have your attention, let me draw it to our talented VFI members, who have recognized nationally and internationally in the recent past. Turn to **Woolly Bits** on page 8 to read some great news about Brigitte Haldemann, Val Pascall, and that creative pair, Jane Robson and Annette Jauhari.

- Sarah Louise Ricketts, Editor

The New Committee and the Old



The 2011 Annual General Meeting of the VFI was a meeting to remember for a number of reasons.

The first was the creating of a new Life Member of the VFI: our very own world's best treasurer, Tony Cooper. It was a magical moment, although perhaps a little hard on poor Tony, when the news was given to him. A surprise is hardly the way to describe it, gob-smacked is much closer.

Tony has written a wonderful letter of thanks to the VFI committee, which is reproduced at right.

The second reason was the presence of the founder of the VFI, Martien van Zuilen in our midst for the second time in a fortnight. Martien (as seen below) and many of the old timers of the VFI regaled Tony with memories of their time with him in committees and elsewhere. They are all pictured together in the photograph appearing with Tony's letter.

And, finally and certainly not least, we have a complete Committee for the first time in a long while.



The outgoing committee is shown at left above and the new, above right. Our new Committee members are Sharon Carter, President; Robyn Steel-Stickland and Judith Latham, Vice Presidents; Tony Cooper, Treasurer; Jane Robson, Assistant Treasurer and Membership Secretary; Simone Braund, Secretary; and ordinary members, Gayle Burgess, Jan Everett, Margot Ling and Sarah Ricketts.

A few words to introduce Sharon Carter, our new President, to you: "after 25 years in consumer brand marketing at senior executive levels and having lived in London and Singapore I find myself back in my hometown Melbourne where I have just project managed a new build in Camberwell. I am a newbie to felting but have a love for textiles, colour and great design and enjoy sewing and crafting, gallery visits, cooking and entertaining. I am also a cricket tragic and Carlton supporter."

We are very well set up to move into a great year in 2012. Narelle, although having a rest from the Committee, is continuing to help work out the schedule for 2012, which we should have out soon.



An 'E-Letter' from Tony Cooper, Life Member

A week on and the aftershocks of the most pleasant earthquake I experienced last Saturday when made a life member, still roll on.



Being involved from its early inception has enabled me to grow with the group, seeing the transition from the Meat Market Craft Centre to Kew and now to Hartwell, and the transient nature of members as they join, experience felting and move

on. Possibly 500 people have tasted felting and enjoyed our company as we theirs.

I extend my thanks to all, past and present, who have allowed me to be one of them. I enjoy the memories from the early years as membership secretary and workshop convener, establishing the membership and tutor lists and knowing everyone.

Living on memories of demonstrating, teaching, seeing people experience the fibres go through that magical metamorphosis, as many will connect with, as I connected with while watching Ann Shuttleworth in the very early 1990s.

My emotions are underpinned by the connections with all past presidents, and long-term members with whom I shared the early days, and I appreciate their words and spoken thoughts.

Martien, Jan, Elaine, Rachel, Nonie, Robyn, Stacey and Sarah have all made my work a pleasure, and I look forward to working with Sharon.

I hope that my work encourages others to keep the group vibrant.

Long live the VFI.

Thank you, Tony.

Collective Notions



Box Hill Institute of TAFE Diploma of Textile Art Graduate Exhibition 2011

Collective Notions exhibition invites the viewer to see a fresh interplay between fibre, textiles and mixed media in art.

The group of 13 textile artists is exhibiting in the heart of Melbourne :

The Open Space Gallery
(inside Eckersley's)
97 Franklin St, Melbourne
from 8th – 19th November

Exhibition Hours

Monday-Friday: 10.00am – 6.00pm
Saturday: 10.00am – 4.00pm
Sunday: 12.00pm – 4.00pm

Further details and sneak previews:
www.collectivenotions.com

Bark 1, 2011 Robyn Bayliss

Merino wool, silk,
organza, copper.
Felted, scorched
and embroidered.
47 x 35 cm



WOW!

A Visit to the New Zealand World of Wearable Art Awards, 2011

I had heard a great deal about this event from many of the VFI members who have been fortunate enough to attend this prestigious wearable art competition held in Wellington New Zealand each year. Although there was very little actually in felt, it was really wonderful to see the creativity of these artists working with so many diverse materials to create such an extravaganza.

Wellington retailers were encouraged to dress up their windows in support of this creative event and Te Papa Museum also show cased some fabulous themes.

This year the show was a little earlier than usual due to the Rugby World Cup being held in NZ, however it promised to be bigger and better than ever and it certainly was a top evening's entertainment. The production gathered together the NZ Ballet, professional dancers, opera singers, great music, lighting and fantastic choreography. We totally immersed ourselves in this marvellous three hour spectacle.

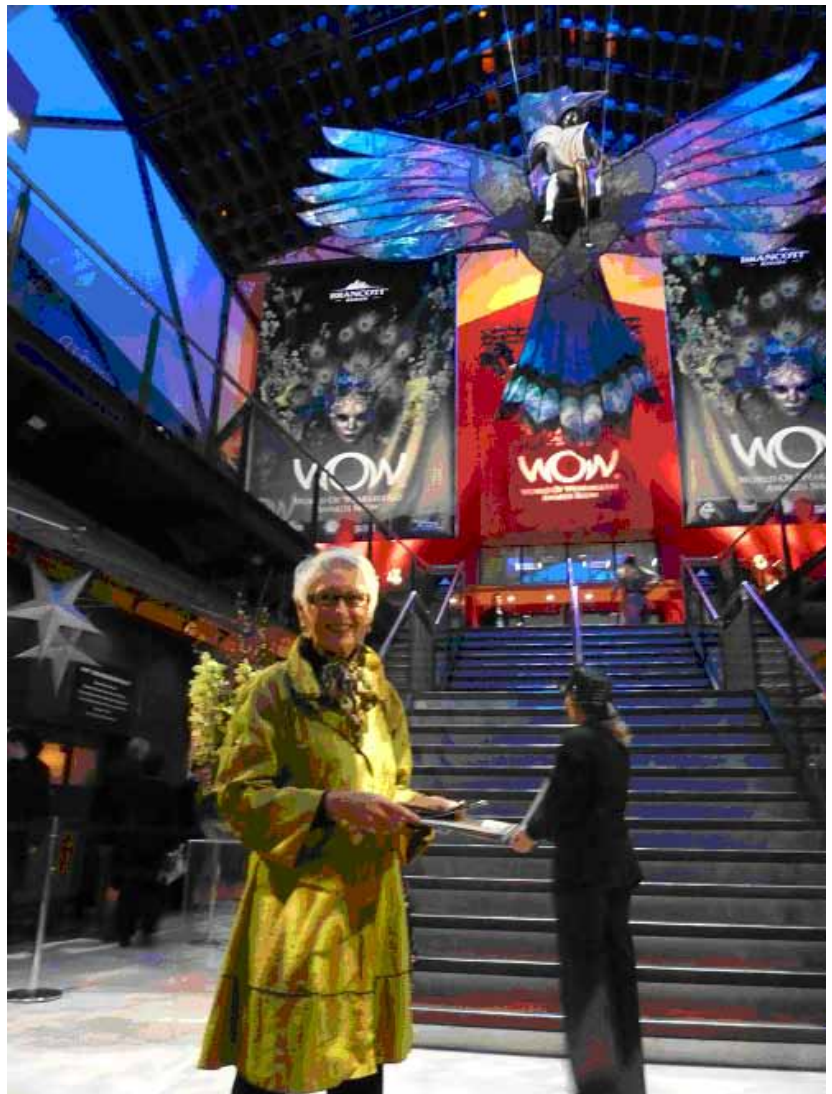
As many as 47,000 people were expected to attend the two week event, with 60% from outside Wellington. We took the precaution of booking back in February to ensure good seats and hotel accommodation close to the venue.

Restaurants advertised pre-show dinners and after-show suppers. While 80% of the audience were women (and there were groups of women everywhere) men were quite well represented. Perhaps the rugby had something to do with it: Wellington city was hosting the Springboks.

There are many categories in the WOW Show, each with its own award with a Supreme Award for the outright winner.

Food was the theme for the Children's Category so the art was not only wearable but looked edible, and a lot of fun!

In the Illumination Illusion Section, the designers went wild with the theme of **Surrealism**. Fantastic fluorescent images under black light with the wearers unseen hovered, danced and swirled in a truly surreal fashion.



Margot Ling, about to be WOWed in Wellington

The theme for the Creative Excellence Section was **Under The Microscope**. Here the designers peeled away the surface and ventured into the unknown microscopic universe. Catherine O'Leary entered this section with a piece titled **Ephemeral**, a series of black and white loops covering her model's body arms legs and head. It was very impressive.

The Open section had no thematic boundaries so there were all sorts of weird and wonderful costumes full of colour and movement. The Man Unleashed category's theme was to **Reinvent The Groom**; the mind boggled!

The Avant Garde section was where art and fashion collided and was driven by **dreams and fantasies**. These pieces had no commercial application. The outright winner came from this section, and I was not in agreement with the judges' decision. The audience do have the opportunity to cast their vote at the end of the evening, though it would not change the outcome.

The last section, *Kiwiana*, showcased New Zealand's heroes, heritage and icons, a sentimental favourite with the audience.

The original World Of Wearable Art show was the brainchild of Suzie Moncrieff and was held in Nelson in a tent during a torrential rain storm in 1987. The tickets then were \$10.00 now they now range from \$125.00 to \$300.00 (including dinner).

We also visited the WOW Museum in Nelson which has a great display of all the past winners fabulous creations, definitely worth seeing. In an adjoining building there is another museum housing a collection of vintage motor cars. "So there's something there for every one".

Our visit to WOW was the impetus for a touring holiday around the South Island, before heading over to Wellington. We then continued touring the North Island finishing up in Auckland, where we were caught up in World Rugby Cup fever. It was at absolute full pitch, when we arrived, much to my husband's delight as he is a Wallaby fan.

The WOW show was most worthwhile and I believe there are felting workshops which can be attended with NZ feltmakers, just to enhance the whole experience. Another time!!

- Margot Ling

To see the winners, go to the WOW website:
www.worldofwearableart.com/category/image-galleries/winners/2011-winners



grampians texture

25 February - 01 March 2012
Halls Gap (Western Victoria)

Full details of the program will be available on this web site 1 August

Come and join other textile/art enthusiasts for the annual Grampians Texture: part festival - part forum. Fifteen fantastic tutors are offering a range of 2 and 4 day workshops, covering topics of felting, contemporary baskets, jewellery, printing, paper, dyeing, stitching by hand and machine, knitting, fabric and fibre.

Halls Gap is a place of inspiration on the edge of the stunning Grampians National Park which offers a range of accommodation. Book the style and level of accommodation you desire. You have the option to cater for yourself or join other students and tutors for evening meals and activities which include exhibitions, special dinners, pelanque, students and tutor twilight market. Traders selling specialist textile and art supplies will be at Halls Gap Centenary Hall, open to the general public selling from 9 am - 5 pm daily.

Keith Lo Bue	Bonny Francis
Soomee Kim	Ailie Snow
Anna Reynolds	Celia Player
Jan Irvine-Nealie	Aly De Groot
Martien van Zuilen	Colleen Weste
Prudence Mapstone	Liz Powell
Yvonne Twining	Phyllis Hoffman

www.grampianstexture.com.au
or call 0428 825 971

Stacey Memory Book

Each meeting during 2011, we have asked for material for a book for Stacey's family. I am not sure if we ever successfully had a table dedicated to this purpose, which we always had aimed to do. **This month it will be there.**

Many of you have already sent photographs and/or your memories of being with Stacey, like this testimonial from Margot Ling, 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... She boosted my confidence enormously and above all was extremely generous with her time.

"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."

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.

We would dearly love to get this book finished in 2011 or as close to this as we can. Therefore, please bring as many things as you can for this purpose to the next meeting.

It would be great if several people would join together with Jan Everett to complete the project. The memory of Lolita Fashionista will bring many a tear to VFI eyes, so here is the opportunity to do some constructive with those thoughts and prayers.

- Sarah Ricketts, editor



VFI Stall at Hawthorn Market

On Sunday, August 7th, a group of willing workers presented a market stall at Hawthorn Town Hall. Nine VFI members submitted work for sale and the photographs show how well the display looked. Although I felt sales were slow, 13 items were sold and a great deal of interest was shown by the public. We were also able to promote the *FELTernative* exhibition and an altogether happy day with good fellowship resulted.

- Barbara Bennetts



Woolly Bits



VFI member, **Brigitte Haldemann**, has something very special, and felt-related, to smile about. Her vessel, *Bicheno Beach*, was accepted into Lark Books' latest release, *500 Felted Objects*.

Brigitte is in great company; like most of the 500 series, the book has many inspiring pieces within its pages.



Another talented member, Val Pascall, won the Ashford Australia Prize for *Best Hand-felted Beanie*, at the 2011 Alice Springs Beanie Festival. Shown at right, *Volcanic Ash*, was made during an Anita Larkin workshop. Val also won in 2008.



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The VFI's **Next Top Models** are Jane Robson and Annette Jauhari!

Winners of last year's Supreme Award at the National Wool Fashion Awards, the pair claimed their prize recently in Sydney.

They had a workshop/mentoring session with fashion icon and sun glasses fan, **Alex Perry**.

Market News

We had another great minimarket in August with guest trader Catherine Gatto from My Yarn Remedy, and VFI members, Laura LLawenyth Power Davis and Carolyn Rogers (Ripples on the Pond) selling their wares.



Catherine Gatto of *My Yarn Remedy*, offered some tasty medicine at the August VFI Meeting

October Mini Market

In October, we welcome the following stall holders:

Our Guest Trader, who is **Alison O'Meara** from *Abundant Earth Photography*. Alison has written in to say:

"I'm very much looking forward to being the guest trader at your upcoming meeting. At the core of my label is a collection of my Australian and international documentary work from which I have developed a line of handcrafted, environmentally-friendly stationery products. Everything is designed to blend beauty with purpose!"

"The range includes a line of hand bound journals made with 100% recycled paper and featuring sumptuous photographic covers and ribbon bookmarks. With 50 blank pages in each journal they are perfect for making notes and sketches in those moments of inspiration or reflection. As well as general purpose options, the journals are also available in Recipe, Garden, Travel and Pregnancy varieties."

"There is also a large selection of smaller sized everyday notebooks and list books. Other products in the range are eco greeting cards and gift cards

made with detachable images that become fridge magnets and bookmarks, and screenprinted fabric tote bags.

"And of course all the images in the collection are available as fine art photographic prints, which can be custom ordered to a variety of size and frame options. I look forward to meeting you soon. If you'd like to get a preview of my work, the website is www.abundantearthphotography.com."

Our two VFI member stall holders are:

Elly Rem from *The Birdhouse*, who will be selling buckle brooches, scarves, fabric and lace; and

Sandra Buchanan, milliner extraordinaire, who will have special fabric pieces and creative bric-a-brac, including buttons, threads, zips - all sorts of textile treasures.



Laura Power Davies at the August VFI Meeting

We still have **two** vacancies for member stalls on Saturday, December 3, for our end-of-year break-up meeting. It's a good time to be selling the odd thing, just ahead of the shops. 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 59686027 or ralhig@gmail.com.

Textile, Art & Craft Charity Market

Saturday 8th October
10am - 2pm
Hartwell Church Hall

Corner of Milverton St and Highfield Road, Camberwell
(next to Hartwell Primary School) Melway Ref 60 D5



The Victorian Feltmakers Inc.
www.vicfelt.org

Proceeds from stall fees and silent auction are being donated to


Free Entry

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

Workshop Update

VACANCIES

Act quickly! Vacancies still exist in the following workshops:

- **Translating Images - Combining nunofelt with photography** with international tutor, Liz Clay; 3 days October 21 to 23
- **Memory of Plants** with Della Jones Saturday October 29
- **Bootiful Boots** with Della Jones rescheduled to October 30
- **Man's Pants** with Jane Robson rescheduled to November 6
- **Fibre Art** with Jane Robson rescheduled to November 20
- **Art & Design with felt surfaces** with Kitty Chung O'Kane November 26 and 27 (**New Class**)

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. If Pam is unavailable you can also contact Narelle Higgins on 0359686027 or ralhig@gmail.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.

NEW WORKSHOP TEAM for 2012

Ros Bint will take on Pam's role as Booking Officer – most likely from December at launch of new 2012 workshop schedule. It is easier for Pam to continue with what she has worked on until the end of the year. Narelle will continue to follow through with the workshops set up for this year also. She will also be always around to answer any questions throughout the year ahead.

We will try and seek another helper to assist with workshop setting up at the next VFI meeting.

Details for the new team members are given below. Eventually they will be on page 2 of Feltnines. In this transition period, please refer here if you need to contact any of the 2011-12 team members.

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Sally Hare - Workshop Assistant
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Phone: 5229 4936

Thank you, one and all.

- Narelle Higgins

ANITA LARKIN EXHIBITION: *Leaping Chair*

One of our favourite workshop providers is having an exhibition in Wollongong, if you are lucky enough to be nearby at some point.

Here is her artist's statement:

"Collected objects are transformed into sculptures evoking a human narrative, revealing a strange beauty within the forgotten and discarded. The works play with the suggestion of physical movement or a practical function for the hitherto inanimate object.

"The found object itself continues to drive the conceptual ideas for each of my works, rather than the artist using the found object solely for aesthetic reasons. Imagining life as the object, often subservient and abused, I build them anew into autonomous objects, free to leap across the room, to play, to retaliate.



"Imagination is triggered by the dysfunctional sculpture appearing to have a purpose. The viewer becomes aware that stationary objects, including the gallery space they are in, may not be exactly as they seem. *Leaping Chair* calls into question our fraught relationship with objects, the space our bodies inhabit, and offers up tales of grief, mending, travelling and crossing bridges."

Leaping Chair is on at the Wollongong City Gallery until November 20.

www.anitalarkin.com

Ap ARTWEAR PUBLICATIONS

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INSTRUCTIONAL DVD: Felting with Fabrics
www.artwearpublications.com.au
www.wendybaillye.com

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR OTHER TITLES?

FELTernative - A WonderShow

FELTernative, the second exhibition by VFI members in as many years, opened to great acclaim on August 6. We were amazed with what we saw.

For the first time, a real gallery – the Hawthorn Town Hall Gallery, to be precise – was chosen for the show. This was a daunting prospect, to which members initially responded somewhat reluctantly; when everyone accepted the task, they made something fantastic. It was easily the best gathering of work by the Victorian Feltmakers in one place in memory.



Opening Night was a joy to behold. It was made doubly special by the presence of Martien van Zuilen as opening speaker. For those who do not know, Martien was the founder of the VFI, over fifteen years ago. Seeing the wealth of work on display was the fulfilment of her dream in starting a feltmaking group.



Martien gave a riveting opening address, carefully teasing out the strands of a shared, and sometimes unknown, history, as well as those about the importance of textiles and fibre-works in language and as objects of art and craft.

There were no prizes attached to the exhibition, save for one given by local art gallery, **Opendrawer**, to the best entry by a beginner feltmaker. This went to Sharron Shalekoff, for **Felt-skin** (left). Sharron wrote of her piece: “my first at-

tempt at felting a large piece evolved from materials at hand ... and Gabrielle's advice on 'cobwebbing' silk laps.” Sharron's comment indicates the importance of the sharing which is a feature of Felting Frenzy Days and other times when VFI members work together.



During the course of **FELTernative**, 777 visitors were noted at the gallery, with 14 pieces of work out of 67 sold. On the first Sunday of each month, Hawthorn Town Hall has a craft market, in which the VFI had a stall. Barbara Bennetts writes about this experience on page 8. At the same time, nearly 300 people came through the doors of **FELTernative**, a record for the gallery.

Curator Mardi Nowak, to whom we owe a debt of thanks for the photographs, and her able exhibition hanger, John, were ecstatic with this response, as were we all. They were jointly responsible for the



beautifully balanced way **FELTernative** was hung. Each side of the gallery space was divided with two short walls. In the booths so created, articles were hung in 'colour block', with 3D and 2D works of similar coloration hung together. The colours easily moved the eye around the room taking the viewer on a journey in colour, form and felt.

FELTernative - A WonderShow

There were many types of felted ARTicles on show. Eighteen pieces of wall art shared space with many wraps, vests, dresses and scarves. There were 39 wearables in all, with hats, bags and jewellery in evidence. Nine sculptural objects, functioning as vessels, and an amazing artist book, with massive fully-felted pages, completed the show.

Many visitors were amazed at the versatility of the medium. Some 30 plus people came to the Artists' Talk, where 3 exhibitors formed a panel and answered questions about felt and feltmaking. The response was tremendous, with questions being answered long after the talks were finished.

of the VFI, we seek to inform and educate the public about feltmaking in all its aspects. *FELTernative* did this in spectacular and compelling fashion.

None of this would have been possible without the selfless efforts of Rita Casperz and Jan Everett. Once again, they proved themselves to be amazing and delightful organizers, as well as producers of beautiful felt. Incredibly, both co-ordinators managed to produce work for the exhibition themselves!



Their generosity of spirit and time is greatly appreciated by all members of the VFI, especially those who were fortunate enough to be part of *FELTernative*.

Mardi writes "It's been a pleasure working with you on this exhibition and hopefully when our new spaces are up and running, we will see the group at Hawthorn again!" which is a great compliment to the VFI. In the meantime, Rita and Jan are already looking for a venue for 2012's show.

-Sarah Louise Ricketts

Pictures at an Exhibition from left, column by column:

Purple and green booth; Sharron Shalekoff, *Feltskin*; Red booth; *Heart-FELT Mandala*, Martien van Zuilen; *Tribute to a Soldier*, artist book, Esther Goldschlager; *Fire Call*, Jane Robson; *Habanera*, Rita Casperz; *Azure Seas*, Jan Everett; and below: *Blue Reclining Nude with Bird*, Leonie Thomas & Pam Booth. (Photos: Mardi Nowak. Flickr pages of 76 images at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/townhallgallery/sets/72157625641118384/>)



This intense and interested reaction was a hallmark of the exhibition. Recorded comments included "a very juicy exhibition with many very talented designers; so glad I stopped by," "great to see textiles as art," "beautiful presentation of stunning pieces" and "enjoyable exhibition - very colourful and creative" and are indicative of the reception given to *FELTernative*.



The public response is significant. As members



Phyllis Hoffman "Open Spaces" Workshop



Happy faces and lovely layouts at this workshop. **Gabrielle Pellesier** (left) and **Lily Simovic** (directly above her) look amazed at what they have made.

Other Recent Workshops

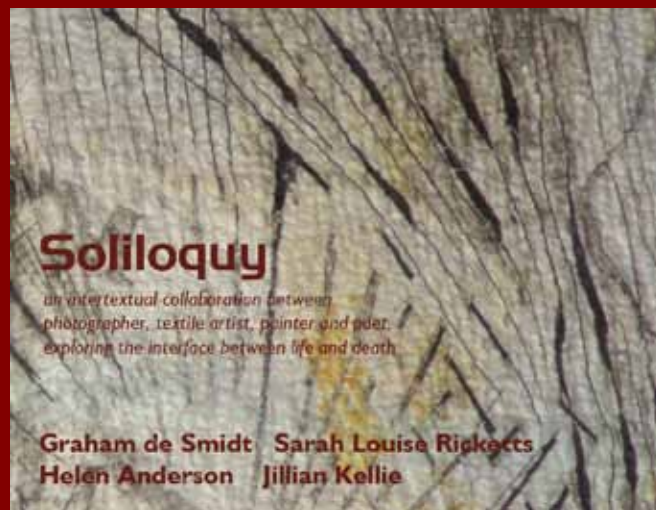


VFI founder, **Martien van Zuilen** had lots of happy feltmakers entranced with the possibilities of felting around a ball.

Turn to the back cover to see the finished versions of several of these sculpted felt forms.



Carolyn Rogers' Warm and Warped 'Hot Textile' class had a grip on **Christine Smith**



Chapel on Station Gallery,
corner Ellingworth Parade & Station Street,
Box Hill, Vic., 3128

Opening: Friday, November 11, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
To be opened by Libby Byrne

Exhibition runs November 10 - 23, 2011

Tuesday – Friday 11:30 am – 3:00 pm
Saturday 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Sunday 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm

August Show and Tell



Brigitte Haldemann's vessel made in Martien's Recycled Knits Workshop



Ros Bint with needle-felted egg made in the Sandie O'Neill workshop



Ros Bint's felted vessel made in the Sculptural Felt workshop (Martien)



Rita Casperz wearing a tunic and bag made at the Recycled Knits Workshop



Brigitte Haldemann showing what she made at one of Martien's Workshops



Margot Ling & Gabrielle Pellesier in Gayle Burgess's amazing coat (June meeting)



Phyllis Hoffman: Felted Jackets book (left) & needle-felted cats (above)