



## September Newsletter Part 2

Please remember to put the FELTernative 2025 exhibition opening on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of October on your calendar. The exhibition will be open from 11 am on this day, so please put on your finery, bring your entourage and join us for the celebration.

## Felt Frenzy September 20th



Thanks to Helen Rossi, Ruth Harper and Lezley Golding for providing an interesting and informative Felt Frenzy on Saturday 20th of September on using different fibres. Helen shared with members a fascinating history of how the wool industry in Australia started and its development over the years to current day and what she has learned from breeding sheep as a hobby. Ruth shared her obsession with all things alpaca and her approach to felting with the alpaca fibres. Lezley brought in various types of alpaca fleeces to show us how to judge the quality of alpaca fleece and which ones are suitable for felting.

Both Ruth and Helen had made and also demonstrated their techniques for making a bag with the same sized resist. As always each produced very unique individual bags. They generously supplied some fibre for our group to

experiment with. Ruth brought some white Corriedale and coloured alpaca from her stash and Helen also brought some unprocessed coloured Corriedale. Participants then set about making bags using the Alpaca and Corriedale fibres with support and advice from Helen, Ruth and Lezley. We hope to see the results at the next Show and Tell on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October.

## A Felter's Journey - Vesna Fowler



I started felt making in 2014 as I needed to take my mind off current events that had come into my life at that time. They say it comes in wave of threes and it sure did! Lucky that a thought arose, in that I needed to direct my mind onto something wonderful and to use my hands. Felt making, a silver lining in the gloomy feel of that year. I googled crafts and come upon Felt making. I was fascinated and went on a YouTube adventure on the “how to”. I found wool at and become a member of the Handweavers and Spinners Guild. A friend at work who also is a keen Felter, noted my interest and made me a little starter pack and there I was ready to embark on this great making. I think I joined the Victorian Felt makers in 2015, I believe around September so I guess it will be 10 years this September. While a member of Vicfelt makers I attended a few inspiring workshops with Pam de Groot (yes, a dress was made!), Wendy Bailye (hat or two) and Elizabeth Armstrong (a wonderful collage) My first ever face to face Introduction to wet felting was with Margot Ling in between the covid break 2020, a class was held in Coburg and I remember I rode on my electric scooter to get there. I for one should have done this class before all the others!

I have to confess my felt making has lapsed a bit but so you don't think I have forgotten felting totally I have reused some felted pieces that sat there for some time and made a sphere to contribute to a friend's exhibition called Different Spheres. My Piece or sphere I named Soft Universe. I was definitely happy stitching these small felt pieces that were made originally for a necklace and some brooches that never got a back clip with other textile pieces stitched onto a fabric ball. It's currently hanging at Yarra Sculpture Gallery. Where to with felt making now you ask, I think I would like to make felt and eco print using eucalyptus leaves. I have printed on a portion of a lovely woollen blanket and the printing of leaves has been successful. Lastly to have the pleasure of stitching on this felt piece, will be soft and easy on the hands. Happiness right there.