

FELT LINES

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Margot Ling
A Winter Cloud Scape
Evening Jacket



Feltlines is the official publication of the Victorian Feltmakers Inc. Please refer any questions/suggestions about the magazine or about content (such as advertising), to the editor at vicfelteditor@gmail.com

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Contributions: We would like to encourage members who are unable to make it to our get-togethers, because of distance or other commitments, to keep in touch with us by sharing stories of their own journey in Feltmaking via Feltlines.

Feltlines provides the perfect opportunity to link members to each other's stories, inspirations and interests. Contact the editor if you have a contribution to make.

New venue for Victorian Feltmakers

Our new venue is St James Anglican Church is located at 1461 High Street, Glen Iris, near the corner of High Street and Burke Road.

This venue gives us a lovely hall to meet in, a separate Fibre Shop and Library area, a kitchenette off the main hall for tea and coffee during our meeting and for shared lunches a lovely bright kitchen with all mod-cons (including a dishwasher). We have use of their plates, cups, etc. which of course need to be tidied away when we leave, but as always we supply tea, coffee and milk.

For our Felt Frenzy days or practical work days, we have a super hall with plenty of light and a floor that will take slopes.

When you enter St James from High Street, (Church on the right) you will come through the child proof gates (as in swimming pool style, lift the handle) under the verandah.

If you rely on public transport:

Tram travel: Travelling to St James Anglican Church Glen Iris.

From Melbourne CBD. Catch the number 6 tram to Glen Iris at any stop along Swanston Street.

This tram travels out along St Kilda Road and then High Street.

Get off at stop 51 (Burke Road) and you will be directly in front of St James church.

Your tram journey will take you approximately 30 minutes from Flinders Street/Federation Square stop.

Train travellers: You can catch a Frankston or Dandenong train to Armadale station, then catch the number 6 tram to Glen Iris on High Street, stop 40 and get off the tram at Burke Road, stop 51.

Alternatively catch a Glen Waverley train to Gardiner station and walk down Burke Road, away from the freeway approximately 12 minutes to High Street.

Parking is in the street unrestricted on the weekends.

If you are coming on the freeway you will exit at Burke Road.



PHOTOS TOP ROW :Old Church outside and Entrance to the halls

BOTTOM ROW : interior of the room for Felt Frenzy and Workshops and the interior is our VFI meeting room.

From the President's Pen by Andrea Taylor



Hi fellow Feltmakers

It's almost the end of another year as I write this, and I find myself the president of our lovely group The Victorian Feltmakers. I have been a member for only six years after being introduced to felting by my good friend, fellow member, and Vice President Carole Dellar, who would kindly drive me to our bimonthly meetings. I have to admit I still have so much more to learn about felting, as they say "you are never too old to learn", so my journey continues.

In the past I have worked as a volunteer on various committees, including the president of a large patchwork group on the Mornington Peninsula. I have been a stitcher, and patchworker for most of my life and for the past 20 years specialized in Japanese forms of stitching and instructing, as well as visiting Japan and my son who lives there, as often as time allows.

So many changes have occurred in the short time since the AGM in August and my start as president. Without a doubt moving the Feltmakers to their new home, St James Anglican Church in Glen Iris, being the most logistically challenging, but the Feltmakers community came to the fore, all pitched in to help, and by the time you read this the job will have been done and dusted as they say.

A club like any other cannot function and thrive without supportive and enthusiastic committee members and assistants. The Feltmakers have an abundance of willing hands which

of course makes my role so much easier. We hope in the future to attract more visitors, then new members to also experience the camaraderie, sharing and friendliness of the unique Feltmakers of Victoria.



December meeting guest by Caz Rogers

My name is Caz Rogers and I am a textile artist living in the stunningly beautiful Yarra Valley, working predominantly in wools, silks, cottons and other natural fibres, but have included in the last few years, Polymer Clay sculpting.

Like a lot of women my age, I was bought up with stories, poetry and images of Fae creatures, flower faeries, hob goblins, Snugglepot and Cuddlepie, creatures from Jim Henson's world (The Dark Crystal, Labyrinth, Fraggle Rock) being some of the creatures that formed my love of creativity, with their unique beauty and imagination. The sculpting of the clay allows me to bring to life funny loveable creatures from my imagination, completing them with costuming I have designed with my gorgeous fibres and fabrics. Each creature has its own story and funny quirks. I love teaching the sculpting and seeing the look of joy on my students faces as a little being, comes to life in their hands.

I was introduced to felting nearly 25 years ago and became hooked on turning fibre into fabric. Over the

years having discovered the wonderful world of dyeing fibres and fabrics. I have striven to bring combinations of colour and texture to others to inspire them to get in touch with their creative spirit and learn to play and experiment with these things. Regular classes, in textile arts, including felting, help keep me busy and happy. Adding Polymer Clay to the mix with the sculpting, took my creativity to wonderful new levels that keep growing and expanding. I am happy to say, it has helped me to illustrate to others, how an exciting concept can become reality with a little imagination, some valuable time and guidance from me.

After completing my Diploma of Textile Arts nearly 6 years ago, and being a regular participant and exhibitor with the Yarra Valley Arts Open Studios program and having retired 18 months ago, I am happily creating and teaching on a daily basis in my studio, at Community Houses and to my great excitement, soon will be teaching at the Victorian Embroiderer's Guild.

I will be bringing some of my new range of wooltops, silktops, silk hankies

and other mouthwatering temptations to the meeting for the members to peruse and take home to experiment with. I may even bring a couple of my creatures to visit as well.

My aim is to inspire others to be creative with colours and textures and thinking outside the box. That's where the real excitement begins!



Cat Cave by Genielle Phillips

The story of my Cat Cave, as shown in the Winter Edition of Feltlines, the "How I did it" part of the story.

I had thought perhaps I should come up with something special to create at the VFI Retreat at El Kanah last year and with a big rush of blood, I decided to make a Cat Cave to give to our 23 year old grand daughter Darcy.

She had been unwell and spent a lot of time in bed with her cat for company.

I used an article in Felt Magazine Issue No 18 December 2017 for my inspiration and then designed the cave to be more like some I had seen on Pinterest, a simple shape, a very large beret maybe!

I used a mixture of fibres from my stash, some Corriedale, some Bennett and Gregor wool tops and Merino to bring it up to 800 plus grams in total.

I knew the cave would need to be strong so it would hold it's shape.

The diameter of the resist was 70 cms.

I kept the members amused at the Retreat by adding unending layer upon layer to finally have 12 layers on each side.

I thank Margret Wilmot, one of our country members, who shared hat making skills at another retreat, for showing me how to work with a resist and how best to bring it all together.

I worked 2 layers of fibre at a time, covering them with plastic after wetting down and making sure all was very smooth before flipping it over. I used my Palm Felting Tool to help me with that.

I then tried to make sure that the fibres were folded back over the resist, then well worked and smooth before I began to add the next two layers.

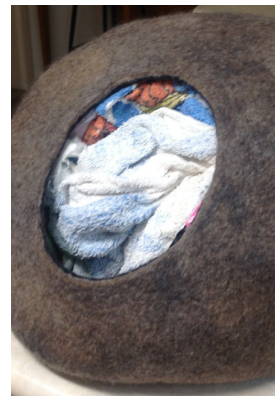
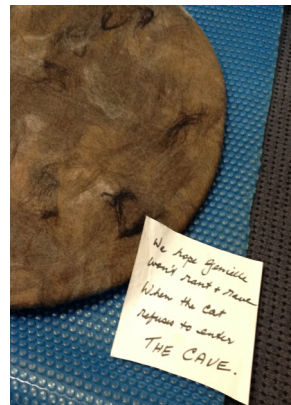
While there were plenty of distractions at the retreat, this project took me all weekend to bring it together. Home

it came, resist still inside, looking like a very large wet pancake, ready to be felted, and much to my relief, because I had used my Palm Felting Tool throughout the process, the whole thing came together very quickly and easily. Throwing it around and shrinking it in hot water brought me to the point where I could bravely cut the opening and finally stuff it with a very large collection of plastic bags.

I shaped it, flattened the base a little and was astonished that I actually had made the cave as I had hoped. I then had to impatiently wait for it to dry.

The cat, never having seen a cat cave before, entered the cave at full speed immediately the gift was presented and loud purring showed great approval. So funny to see, who knew that it would be love at first sight!

And the good news is that Darcy is on the path to recovery.



Coat Steals Fashion Limelight by Pat Meehan

There was great excitement when my Navy hand felted coat stole the limelight on the catwalk at Henty Natural Fibre Fashion Awards to win the Supreme garment.

The awards which recognise the innovative use of natural fibres in creative but wearable clothing, were a highlight of the Country Lifestyle program.

The judging emphasis was on visual appeal, creativity and innovation.

The coat felted with 19.5 micron pure Merino wool featured individual

Autumn toned flowers which were hand felted using blended Merino wool and silk, the flowers were hand stitched to the garment.

The eighty one entries from across Australia and New Zealand were very professionally modelled by the year ten students from Billabong High School. My prize was \$1000 and a lovely Bernina sewing machine. I have put away the wool at the moment and am enjoying creating some Summer garments using my new machine.



Trip to Hungary by Jane Bear

In August I had the pleasure of joining Flora Carlile-Kovacs on her South-Hungary Felting Tour. The group consisted of Flora, 8 Americans, 3 Brits and myself. I was pleased to see a couple of familiar faces from an IFA conference I had attended in Kent a few years earlier, particularly after spending a week in Budapest by myself with not speaking the language.

Our first day was spent exploring the Festival of Folk Arts in the Castle of Buda, a four day festival, where artisans come from throughout Hungary, including some international artists. Most of the work on display was impressive, and we were lucky enough to meet a number of the felters during the day. There was so much to see including crafts from many disciplines, such as dance, music etc.

To top the day off we walked through the myriad of food stalls along the Danube and watched the spectacular Fireworks celebrating St Stephens Day.

For me a workshop, and better still, a tour incorporating a number of workshops is an excellent way to visit a country, particularly when you don't speak the language. We had our own



guide, interpreter, tutor's assistant all in one. Flora, our tour leader, a felter born in Hungary, moved to the US with her family 7 years ago, and has retained her passion for Hungarian Folk Art.

We had 3 very different tutors in three different locations, so we got to see some of the country, visit 3 different thermal baths, Bory Castle at Szekensfehervar, the Zsolnay Porcelain Factory, Bead Museum of Decs and also visited Retexil Studio. Flora had taken care to find places she thought would interest us, rather than keeping to the main tourist destinations.

At Miszla we were met by Gabriella Kovacs who was to guide us through making felted towers using a 3 or 4 page book resist. Reportedly as a group we were more experienced felters than the previous tour, and took a lot more time laying out. Gabriella is precise with the direction of each section of the Tower and which area is covered in each layer, as this helped determine the shape of our towers.

Our accommodation was a delightfully converted barn sleeping quarters upstairs, eating and workshop area downstairs.



In Pecs, our tutor for felted jewellery with glass enclosed using a resist, and wire work was Marti Csille. We visited her studio later and that was a treat. With Marti we were introduced to polinca in our coffee, making it very popular. Here we stayed at Hotel Palatinus, where the Art deco is awesome.

Then off on a little rural train to the village of Ata, to visit the last of our tutors Gyongy Terenyi.

To begin this class we made a small felted pouch, which we were to finish off using leather. We did a number of samples, plaiting, buttons, carving and stitching. Some of these techniques were then used on our pouches.

On our last day we returned to Budapest for a trunk sale and our farewell dinner.

I can highly recommend this well organised tour for those interested in felt. It was a treat to discover different interpretations of felting techniques including embellishments.



Gippsland Spinners and Weavers by Janice Graham

Back in May the South Gippsland Spinners & Fibre Arts Group ran a Nuno felting workshop for members. Pam Reynolds, a member of the group, had previously participated in a workshop with Fiona Duthie and everyone had been so impressed by what she learnt, that she was persuaded to pass on her knowledge. A large group assembled on the day, which made tutoring quite difficult, but Pam was assisted by another experienced felter in the group. The participants were provided different

coloured wools, plus all the materials required including pre-felts that were used with black tissue silk, making up their own designs:

It was such a happy gathering that during the rolling of the felt everyone broke into song.

Following on from the workshop, members of the group used their imagination in making their sample Nuno felting into useful items, such as

purses, crochet hook holders and the like.



Laying the fibres for the 2020 VFI workshops

by Clare Nelson

I attended my first VFI meeting in early 2019, and only a few weeks later, it was time for my first workshop – Felting for Beginners. Then, I had the opportunity to participate in the VFI Felt Frenzy program.

I have to say I am hooked! For me it's about the creativity and the spirituality. This said, my paid work with people is physically and mentally intensive. Felting is very much my time with people in a more relaxed and inspirational way.

Along my short journey with VFI I have thought about ideas such as:

- the natural and absolute generosity of people.
- the similarities and differences of the opportunities provided by the VFI through the guest speakers at the bimonthly meetings
- the library and wool shop.
- the Felt Frenzies
- the annual retreat.
- the participation in events such as the Australian Sheep and Wool Show Bendigo
- the workshop program and the mutual support

- knowledge and networking gained through conversations and building relationships.

The ideas of hobby, craft, homemade, handmade, artist and scholar, is that we are all differently experienced and differently intentioned. For me “all the felting doing” is about my time, for others, there is a strong component of “livelihood” in the doing.

Where have these ideas, taken me when it comes to the VFI 2020 workshop program? I have talked and hope to continue to talk with as many people as possible, for their ideas and feedback. This will include members, non-members and VFI committee members.

I am meeting with Brigette, Rachel and Pam, seeking to learn and build on experiences and hard work with respect to previous VFI workshop programs. The ideas being discussed for workshops are:

- their purpose,
- to spread the felt love
- to make money for VFI but not to make a loss

- to explore opportunities for the beginner, intermediate and advanced levels felters
- the decision making processes related to maximum/minimum numbers and tutors
- promotion of the VFI workshop program
- tutors (members or guest tutors)
- qualification and payment of tutors
- billeting of tutors
- workshop hosts
- expectation of students for workshops
- the relationship of workshops to other VFI programs, in particular the Felt Frenzy program
- cancellation policy for workshops.

In closing please forward feedback, ideas, contributions ASAP. A full report of work to date will be tabled for discussion and approval in principle, at the December VFI meeting.

Then watch and listen in the spaces – VFI website, VFI Facebook, Feltlines, felting friends and other networks for news of the 2020 workshop program.

I can be contacted directly on 0419 105 365 or by email on clarenelson@gmail.com



Margot Ling's prize winning jacket

Many of you who attended this year's retreat will remember Margot beginning her work on this garment.

Once finished Margot entered it in the Australian Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo.

The section was in the Woolcraft Award Garment with Creative Interpretation of the theme "SEASON"

A WINTER CLOUDSCAPE was the title given to her garment.

The garment received First Prize in that section

"As the dark storm passes the sun peeks through revealing glints of a silver lining"

The garment was partially nuno felted on silk fabric combined with a solid layout for the lower section.

A kimono design pattern was used with a cross hatch lay out over the sleeves and bodice to give a ruched appearance, leaving a layer of silk to fall over the lower section thus creating a peplum of silk falling over the lower section.



Margot Ling's Evening Jacket

VFI Calendar of Activity 2020

Date	VFI Activity	Other organisation
January 11	Felt Frenzy: St James old church hall	
February 22	VFI General Meeting: St James meeting room	
March 28	Felt Frenzy: St James old church hall	
April 18	VFI General Meeting	
May 9	Felt Frenzy: St James old church hall	
May 22 - 25	Felter's Retreat -	
June 27	VFI General Meeting	
July 11	Felt Frenzy: St James old church hall	
July 17 - 18	VFI member demonstrations (we are looking for volunteers!)	Australian Sheep and Wool Show, Bendigo http://sheepshow.com/ (think about putting in an entry to the woolcraft section)
July 16 - 18		The Australian Wool Fashion Awards
July 28-29		Murrindindi Beanie and fibre Festival
August 22	VFI General Meeting and AGM	
September 26	Felt Frenzy: St James old church hall	
October 24	VFI General Meeting	
November 28	Felt Frenzy: St James old church hall	
December 5	VFI General Meeting Christmas break up	



Frocktober 2019