

FELT LINES

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Dianne Morley
Happy feet
slippers

Phyllis Hoffman
Ocean Blues
wrap





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.

Victorian Feltmakers Update:

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.

An update for June/July

June 27th our usual meeting day will be a felt Frenzy.

July 11th usual Felt Frenzy.

August general meeting to be advised closer to the date.

Due to the rules and regulations of our venue and the Anglican Church who is the provider, no more than 20 people at a time are able to use their facilities for now, until further notice.

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.

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 unrestricted in the street on the weekends.

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



Andrea Taylor

Felted through a scrim and indigo dyed, melded to Boro style stitching

From the President's Pen by Andrea Taylor

FELTLINES



Hi Feltmakers

Who would have thought our world could change so dramatically between 2 issues of Feltlines!!!

You could call this the Covid19 edition!

As we head into the winter months of 2020 I'm hoping that you and yours are keeping well, safe and active as only us crafty types can! I think in difficult times our interests are our refuge, and though physically apart it keeps us connected on another level some how. As I write this, situations for reopening are changing daily and your committee have been working behind the scenes

in readiness for meeting again at short notice, even if it is for a Felting Frenzy! Or 2!

And of course we are eager to meet again in our new venue, St James, Glen Iris after only 2 meetings and felting frenzies.

Zoom meetings have become the new norm, with families separated, and your committee observing social distancing, have also embraced this technology. Though we are looking forward to meeting face to face again, as well as finally having a normal general meeting in the future.

Thinking positive, there is much to look forward to in those future months, for our community, with our exhibition and Frocktober held in October. So more than ever, I look forward to seeing all those very secret felting projects come to fruition. I know it will be spectacular!

I know like me you will enjoy more than ever reading through our Feltlines, brought to you by our great editing and mailing team of Sabrina and Eva, our link and connection to our wonderful felting community.

Until we meet again
More than ever,
Keep Felting And safe
Andrea Taylor
President



VFI BiAnnual exhibition Alchemy by Di Morley

Well here we are after eight weeks of lockdown, now being able to see our loved ones, while still observing social distancing. A giant step forward for us. Hoping during this time your mojo has kicked in and the ideas are flowing for our exhibition "Alchemy" to be held on 6th October for two weeks at Chapel off Chapel Prahran.

The gallery has requested it run for the two weeks instead of three because

of the current difficult environment, however they are very keen to have us with social distancing, hand sanitiser and floor markings. Door hours will be 12 till 5, so we will need to man it some of the time.

We found this delightful definition of Alchemy - "the process of taking something ordinary and turning it into something extraordinary in a way

that cannot be explained". Sounds like felt magic.

Some of the categories that may interest you from The Royal Melbourne Show this year were, Tea for Two, Wearable felt, Needle felting, Bad Hair Day Hat and Creative felt.

*"Daydream, Imagine and Reflect,
It's the source of Infinite Creativity"*
Deepak Chopra

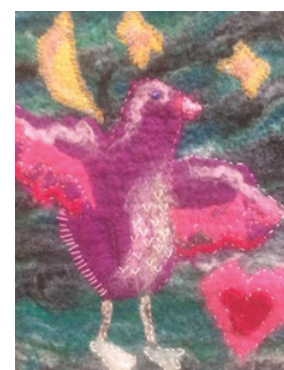
Show and Tell



Detail from necklace
Eva McDonald



Margot Ling



Cecily Clark

Grampian Textures workshops

Chris Lines by Suzan Redlande

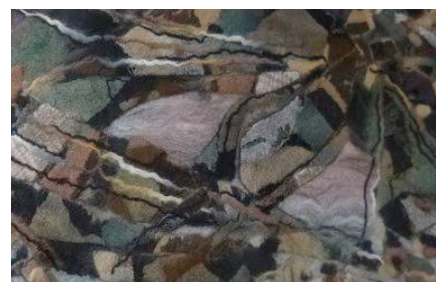
I thought you might like to see what I got up to at Grampians Texture, March 14-19. We were very lucky it went ahead as all the workshops following this event were cancelled as the week unfolded. My tutor, Chris Lines, a Felt maker from the Isle of Wight, had planned a 3 month trip and we were blessed to have her guide us through the processes. It is well worth looking at her work on the internet.

Grampians Texture is an annual event. This year for the 380 textile fanatics, who attended. Although my biggest class was 14 and the felting portraits group only 8, we had plenty of social distancing space each.

I learnt to felt using thin drop sheet plastic, a piece of cotton sheeting and minimal water and soap, quicker and less effort. I am so pleased that after 30 years of felt making, I am still learning and it is exciting to see what we can create with fibre.

The first 2 days we layered fine prefeltes to create abstract art works. The next 4 days we made more fine prefeltes and using another layering method we completed portraits from our own photos, which Chris had digitally manipulated.

I hope we get to see Chris return to Australia in the future so more felt makers can experience her workshops.



Wendy Bailye by Phyllis Hoffman

Seems like a lifetime ago, but on Friday 13 March, we happily packed the car and left for our annual trip to the Grampians Texture. Covid 19 was on the news but it seemed very far away. As we left Melbourne was buzzing, the Grand Prix was running that weekend as was a footy game.

By 10am that morning both had been cancelled and Australia was changing. Grampians Texture was still on for the week with a few changes to comply with the new rules, introduced by the Victorian Government to protect us from Covid 19.

We were so lucky to be in an amazing 'creative bubble' for a week, where we could be naive and leave the rest of the world behind. I did Wendy Bailye's Shades of Grey workshop for four days.

On day one Wendy made it clear that we were there to make samples and play. She opened a suitcase full of samples in black, white and shades of grey and explained to us how she had made each one.

Feeling very stimulated, with our brains full of what we had just seen, we started to experiment. During the four days we all took our experimenting in different directions. Wendy was very generous in her sharing of knowledge and was great at helping solving problems, which arose with each one of us as we played with various techniques over the four days. I enjoyed trapping things in my felt from non-woven interfacing to cotton or synthetic wadding and lace. With Wendy's guidance and tips I got more excited and stimulated every day.

Sadly our Grampians 'bubble' burst and we all had to say good bye go home. Victoria was put into lockdown the day after we arrived back home. Thanks to Wendy and all her samples and inspiration I have lots of new ideas and techniques to play with during this period of isolation. Playing in 'Shades of Grey' was great, as you learn the technique, but I think I will always work with colour as it is my inspiration for felting.



Catherine O'Leary by Clare Nelson

It was such a delight to be in a creative workshop with other enthusiastic felters. We were certainly in a "bubble" in regional Victoria, away from the impending Covid virus restrictions.

The standouts for me being in a workshop with Catherine as the teacher, were her silence and stillness, giving opportunity for thought, reflection and contribution.

She was committed to excellence, especially with less confident

participants, as well as those who were more make do, towards getting the required outcome by the end of the workshop. Even the confident and experienced felters were challenged by Catherine's suggestions such as "you could do...", or "that's a thought...", or "it's your work, so it's up to you".

I plan a return to the Grampians Texture event in the future, and even another workshop with Catherine.



Other Creative pursuits at the Grampians

Cindy Watkins by Lyndon Regan

This year we arrived a day early so that we could have a look around. In previous years we were always too tired! It was lovely to visit MOCO gallery and Brambuk the Indigenous Cultural Centre, and the Boroka Lookout. Halls Gap is such a lovely setting!

This year I did a 2 day and 4 day workshop with Cindy Watkins, a Textile Artist from Tasmania. Her work is absolutely beautiful and she was a very sharing and informative tutor. She is working on a project to embroider 5000 trees and has completed 2000. I would encourage you to Google her or find her on Facebook. She free motion embroiders over a fabric collage.

I completed 3 small pieces measuring 15cm x 15cm and one large mandala measuring 50cm in diameter. LOTS of sewing and I had to be so careful not to 'use' my shoulders – constantly had to relax them.

Cindy covered some colour theory with an emphasis on the need for graduated tonal value of the threads used. It really helped to give the tree foliage dimension. This of course can be important to all mediums including felting.

Here is a photo of one of my completed and mounted works.



Sonja Cook by Sabrina Crosthwaite

I chose to challenge myself this year at the Grampians to make my self a leather bag. Once I arrived to the workshop it was wonderful to see several other VFI members there also.

I completed both the 2 day work shop and the 4 day workshop, making 2 bags. The first was a little smaller, but a great

learning lesson for me. The second bag was larger and has worked for me perfectly.

Sonja was a wonderful tutor, who brought and generously shared her tools, materials and equipment and experience with us all.



VFI workshop Wendy Bailye and Happy Feet by Di Morley

Having always suffered from cold feet, I was attracted to Wendy's Slipper Workshop last year. The thought of wearing hand felted ankle length woollen slippers was perhaps the answer to my problem.

Wendy ran a delightful class for ten people making all forms of slippers, ranging from babies booties, children's whimsical slippers, boots and even exotic Turkish scuffs with an open back and curly toes resembling a curly snake.

We started with one fine layer of wool top over the template, followed by a second layer perpendicular to the first layer, then flipped the template over to repeat the same. Wendy then requested another three fine layers of wool top over the top of the first two

layers, decorating both sides of the last surface, phew!

After much rubbing, the template is removed and booties rolled together on themselves until shrunk by half and becoming hard, with stretching and pulling into a good shape.

Voila booties !

Now for the pampering. Our amazing tutor, Wendy then massaged the slipper, on my foot with warm soapy water until it had shrunk and until it fitted perfectly. Wow, A slipper angel had converted my clunky boots to something pixie like and almost elegant. Thank you Wendy.

Di's slippers are on the front cover.

slippers by Christina Kent



Book Review by Andrea Taylor

FELT FORWARD by Catherine O'Leary

I was happy to take receivership of Catherine's new publication recently and am most happy to review it for you all.

Primarily an instructional Project book it is both a visually and delightfully beautiful reading experience in clear set out chapters and wonderful photographic examples of Catherine's award winning work. I find myself inspired to look for my felting supplies to start a new adventure.

As quoted "The focus of this book is to investigate the creative possibilities inherent in a product called needlefelt, which is a woolen fibre made into batts".

Over a 120 pages, in a usable clear size, soft cover for versatility and durability is contained projects aplenty for all skill levels, exploring prefelts, as well as tips and hints for felt making in

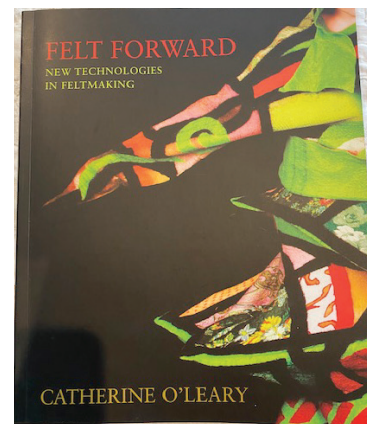
general. Whether a large garment jacket project or a smaller jewellery or slipper technique, clear diagrams, photos of finished garments, projects, and measurements are provided with step by step comprehensive instructions.

There is even a suggested basic felting kit and an explanation of needlefelt bats in the introduction, which is excellent for beginner Feltmakers.

There is a good balance of both visual and written instructional communication, which should suit most learning types too. A book which would be suited to all levels of felt makers from beginners to intermediate, while also keeping the interest piqued of advanced felting practitioners, especially towards the end of the book, where felt sculpture is explored.

I can see this book becoming a welcome and useful addition to many Feltmakers libraries. It is useful for reference and to help explore projects using needlefelt with Catherine's and your own designs.

As soon as access is permitted, this book will be an inclusion in the VFI library. I thank Catherine for her most generous and beautiful donation.



Felt Frenzy by Margot Ling

Our new venue at St James, proved to be a great space for our first Felt Frenzy in 2020

January FF has been in the past and was again this year a popular time for felt makers, who were anxious to get their fingers back into the fibres again, see their fellow members and have a chat.

With a full compliment attending St James for our first Felt Frenzy this year, we saw everyone enjoying the new larger space and the facilities, sharing

stories, experimenting with ideas, and picking up tips from other members. Our Fibre Shop is always open on the Felt Frenzy day. One of our newer members popped in to purchase fibre and found herself lingering in this creative environment for most of the day, to watch the development of different pieces and the methods being used to create the finished item.

Felting in a group is a rewarding time often sparking ideas for your next challenge. It's a chance to experiment

in the company of some more experienced Feltmakers, who may offer a little advice on the do's and don'ts or the why's and why not of felting.



Obituary by Andrea Taylor

On Wednesday evening the 6th. of May, Laurie Phillips husband of Genielle our wonderful immediate past president, passed away gently and peacefully in Epworth Hospital BoxHill. Always eager to lend a hand at Feltmakers events, from towing caravans filled with felt makers paraphernalia, to the Lost Trades Show events to being a

constant behind the scenes support to all Genielle's endeavours, Laurie was always there with a smile on his face, no job too difficult, or too trivial. He will be dearly missed by our committee and members, and we send our heartfelt condolences to Genielle and her family, especially in this difficult time of isolation.



February guest speaker Dijanne Cevaal

I have been making textile things of one sort or another since I was quite a small child. My mother was a seamstress and sewed clothing, but from early on I made up embroideries and liked working by hand, making dolls, knitting and crochet and eventually embroidery of jeans and applique wall hangings. Then I went off the university, but continued to knit and make some of my clothing and returned to making textile hangings when a friend started a patchwork course. Traditional patchwork did not interest me that much, though I did make some to learn what to do. I was far more interested in applique and stitching and creating texture on the surface of fabric. I quickly started hand dyeing fabric, when I found the solid fabrics available at the time weren't always exactly the right colour, and that quickly developed as a passion in its own right. I made cot quilts for my children and when Australia was having a recession in the early nineties I found myself unable to return to my work as a solicitor, (what would I do

with my children whilst I worked I was asked all too often in job interviews). I became completely immersed in the quilting world and progressed into making my own designs and making art quilts. I added printing to my bag of tricks, when I found that the printed fabrics available did not suit my work. I attended many markets selling my hand dyed and printed fabrics and also occasionally sold a piece of work, however, my work was rarely selected for the bigger art quilt events in Australia or overseas.

The fact that I was selling a piece from time to time and having won a kudos prize in a European Art Quilt prize in Europe emboldened me to come up with the idea of curating an Australian travelling Art Quilt exhibition. It commenced it's life in France at the Chateau where I had won the kudos prize. After that, I have curated about a dozen travelling exhibitions, exhibiting the work of other Australian and European artist, as well as exhibiting my

own work in many venues in Europe , New Zealand and Australia.

I tend to work in series and always hand dye my fabric and create my own linocut prints, which I incorporate into my work. I like to stitch both by machine and hand to create texture and to also create lines within the work. I will often stitch the same line 2-3 times to accentuate the line, but it also has the effect of creating extra "puff" in areas that are not stitched. My latest series of work is called Traveller's Blankets. They are inspired by the idea that if you were a traveller in times gone by and did not write, how would you record the memories of your journey. The blankets take an enormous amount of time to make, as they are heavily hand stitched, but also seem to evoke presence of place. It is a very contemplative process and can be done anywhere. In the past I have done the sentinelles series, which was all about environmental awareness, which also involved many other stitchers and toured widely.



Obituary by Maryanne Walsh

We are sad to inform you of the death of Ken Smyth, husband of Margaret on Sunday 8th March 2020. RIP.

Margaret and Ken were from Kangaroo Island and regularly attended the Felt Retreats for many years, he was

such a likeable person and fitted in so well with all camp activities.

Ken lost his battle to Cancer and passed away on the Island, which was his life.



Show and Tell

