

Felt WEST inc.

newsletter for feltmakers of western australia



winter 2006 • issue no 16

autumn 2006
issue no 15
contents

all wrapped up	2
toss n tell	3
perth schedule of events	4-7
Fel#WEST president's report	
international tutors	
Articles	8-16
silk paper update	
kitchen wisdom	
melbourne scarf festival	
perth royal show	
fashion at kulcha	
annual retreat	
wool on parade	
uthando doll pattern	
felted tea party	
felting round the world	
book review	17
Billboard	18
contact details	19
calendar	20

Fel#WEST inc
newsletter

This newsletter is published quarterly. Deadline dates for material to be submitted are as follows:

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winter due 15th August
spring due 15th November

We will endeavour to have it distributed by the first week of the following month. Correspondence should be sent to the editor, Virginia Campbell, 62 Goldsmith Rd, Dalkeith WA 6009 vcam1917@bigpond.net.au

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Notice of exhibitions by members that involve felt will be advertised free of charge (subject to availability of space). Advertising inquiries are welcome, contact editor for details.

Fel#WEST inc. reserves the right to accept or refuse to place an advertisement.

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all wrapped up

Welcome to Issue 16 of the Newsletter. I hope you will enjoy this and future issues. Nancy Ballesteros as Editor and LeeAnne Davis as sub-editor have done such a wonderful job of producing the Newsletter over a very considerable time and it was not without some hesitation that I took on the role of Editor when Nancy announced she wanted to step away from the position and regain more time for her family, her felting and other aspects of her life! Under their skilful and creative direction the Newsletter has become a valuable link between members, provided up to date information about forthcoming exhibitions, workshops, and textile competitions, and both encouraged and reflected the increasing skill in felting and adventurousness of design amongst our members in its publication of photos of members' work and useful articles.

It's a hard act to follow but in taking on the role of Editor I am ably assisted by felter extraordinaire and computer whiz, Soosie Jobson, who has stepped into the role of sub-editor. Together we hope to continue the legacy of Nancy and Lee Anne!

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Committee member Jo Anne Saunt who has been responsible for organizing and liaising with printers of the Newsletter and its efficient distribution, and who has generously offered to continue in this vital role.

This issue is considerably fuller than I first envisaged it would be, but reflects how busy it has been in FeltWest this winter. There have been exhibitions and fashion parades displaying our members' felted work, the annual Retreat at Roleystone, and the 2006 AGM accompanied by the fun of a Trash and Treasure sale and a most interesting guest speaker, Leslie Hewitt from Focus Cambodia. The Committee has also been kept busy organizing the Spring visits to Perth and workshops of Chad Alice Hagen and Charlotte Buch.

A further new and exciting development is that we hope to have a FeltWest website in the very near future. Soosie has offered to set up the website and to maintain it and we hope it will provide an opportunity for people in the broader community to find us and to provide some background information about the group and about felting. Hopefully it will also extend to providing our current members with useful information which can be updated regularly.

Finally, may I mention that we welcome and value contributions to the Newsletter from our members. If you find something of interest to felters please send it to me. Your contribution could be an article you have found, a review of a workshop, or exhibition you have attended, a technique you have tried and found useful, a shop, website, or felting book you have found, or a photo you think other felters would find interesting.

Happy felting and I look forward to seeing you in the Spring.

Virginia Campbell

thank you

I really appreciate everyone's contributions. Thank you to: Liz Odd, Lynda Palai, Heather Davis, Nancy Ballesteros, Judith Shaw, Jo Saunt, Chrissy Lauritz and Lindy Frayne

Cover photo - Charlotte Buch

Cover design - shibori water mark created by Nancy Ballesteros
Layout by Soosie Jobson

dolls for africa uthando project

At the FeltWest AGM in August it was decided that FeltWest would help support the Dolls for Africa Uthando Project and that at the February Toss n Tell members who wished to do so would make brown felt to donate to the project or would bring dolls they had already knitted or made from brown felt to donate. Hopefully as many members as possible will get involved. For those who did not attend the AGM, the Dolls for Africa Uthando Project is a world wide grass roots movement which makes and distributes dolls to children living in the desperately poor Kwa Zulu Natal (KZN) Province in South Africa.

KZN is the largest province in South Africa and it is the province most affected by HIV and AIDS. It has a population of 9.4 million and is home to 25% of South Africa's children. 1.5 million of KZN's children are under 6 years. 66% of the children live in poverty. One in five children has lost one or both parents to AIDS. Every month there are more dying children and more orphans, more children unable to attend school while they take care of terminally ill parents, and more traumatized and depressed children.

Uthando is the Zulu word for love. The Uthando Project began as an invitation to dollmakers around the world to make a doll for children living in this Province and facing these adversities. It is hoped that the dolls will provide the children with an opportunity to play and to improve their social and emotional well being. It is believed that by playing with dolls children can be assisted to express their deepest feelings of grief and loss, anger and loneliness and of joy. Many of these children have never had a doll of their own before.

The aim of the project is to make dolls which have brown skin, are bright and strong, perhaps with an African flavour. All the dolls are handmade (knitted or sewn), not second hand. Each is unique. The hope is that the loving energy of the maker is felt by the child. In Australia dolls have been made by individuals and groups from the country and the city. More people are joining in. In May 2300 dolls were sent to South Africa for distribution, and it is anticipated that at the end of August another 2000 will be ready to send.

Initially FeltWest was approached by one of the organizers of the Project with a request for a donation of brown felt fabric which could be used for making more dolls (currently the Project is purchasing brown felt). At the FeltWest AGM it became clear that some members would also like to make dolls as well as or instead of making brown felt to donate. With this in mind, included in this newsletter is a pattern for making a doll from felt. Members who would prefer to knit a doll will find patterns (sunshine doll and sunbeam doll) located on the Calico and Ivy website <http://www.calicoandivy.com/uploads/Images>.

Doll pattern is printed on page 15 of this edition.

perth schedule of events

agm 2006 president's report

This year is my 10th year of membership, having been a member since the inception of FeltWEST in Bunbury in 1996. In 1999 I joined the Committee as Treasurer, being Treasurer/Secretary in 2000-01, and rejoined the Committee in 2002 becoming President in 2004.

I am pleased to report that FeltWEST has grown and become a firmly based financial association over this period due to some very hard work by a series of dedicated Committee members and support from the general membership.

This financial and people resource has enabled us to invite International Tutors to visit Western Australia and to conduct workshops here, at the same time providing us with greater exposure to the international world of felting.

The Fremantle Christmas Bazaar has developed to be a most popular selling outlet for our many members. We have had a full calendar of monthly events including our Toss 'n Tell and workshop felting days.

Those who were privileged to attend Alexander Pilin's workshop would have come away with enough design ideas to last several years to come. We have been fortunate to secure the services of two other International Tutors, Chad Alice Hagen and Charlotte Buch, to hold workshops here in Western Australia in September and November this year.

I would like to record my appreciation to the following members who will not be seeking re-election to the Committee for their dedication and hard work.

- o Linda Riccio ,who will be away most of 2006/7
- o Nancy Ballesteros, Editor of our Newsletter, and Lee Anne Davis, Co-Editor.

I wish the new Committee well and all members a wonderful felting year.

Liz Odd

new members

Robyn Beadle
Nollamara

Rosemarie Duffy
Ridgewood

Julie Farrington
Safety Bay

Jyah Gage
Beaconsfield

Debbie Gugiatti
Scarborough

Michelle Hay
Shenton Park

Margaret Hetebry
Martin

Sylvia Kennedy
Kalgoorlie

Colette Lisoway
Canada

Malvina McKelvie
Mosman Park

Johanna Pringle
Mt Pleasant

Anne Salathiel
Donnybrook

perth schedule of events

exhibition

Feltwest Exhibition At Mundaring Arts Centre 2nd March – 1st April 2007

We have just been advised that our application to exhibit at the Mudaring Arts Centre has been approved. This entails an exhibition of gallery-quality felted work, including wearable felt, for a period of 4 weeks and including 5 weekends. Attached to the gallery is a gift shop where felted work will be able to be sold.

It is anticipated that FeltWest will be invited to give a floor talk on felting during the course of the exhibition as well. We are very delighted to have been selected from a large number of competing applicant groups and artists to take advantage of this exciting opportunity and hope our members will take up the challenge to create as many marvelous quality pieces to submit for exhibition and sale as they can. Please note all work submitted will be subject to final selection by the Committee.

In the near future it is expected that a group theme for the exhibition will be developed. If you have any suggestion on what that theme might be please share your ideas with a Committee member. More detailed information will be published in the next newsletter.

christmas bazaar fremantle art centre

We have once again been successful in our application to the Fremantle Arts Centre to be included in the very busy Christmas Bazaar. Members will no doubt remember FeltWest's wonderful sales result and best stall award last year.

We would like to make an early suggestion that you keep the Christmas Bazaar in mind whilst happily felting your quality handmade products. This year's Bazaar will be held on Friday 1st December- Sunday 3rd December.

As in previous years, all items submitted to be sold on the FeltWest stall will be subject to quality control and this year a FeltWest quality assurance/ garment care instruction label will be placed on each item in addition to your own label. Also, as in previous years, all members whose goods are accepted for sale on the stall are required to work for a few hours on the stall. Heather Davis and Lindy Frayne have volunteered to co ordinate this year's stall. More information will be available closer to the date. If you have any queries contact Heather by phone (92284034) or email (hairytreefairy@hotmail.com).

christmas party

The Toss n tell workshop of 18 November will also be our Christmas Party. It is intended we will felt in the morning and also have a discussion about garment care instructions accompanying felted items intended for sale. We will have a shared lunch (everyone brings a plate) and a wrapped gift for a gift exchange. There will be a raffle as well!

Perth schedule of events

workshops with international tutors charlotte buch—the tutor



The FeltWest Committee is delighted to advise that internationally renowned Danish feltmaker and artist Charlotte Buch is expected to arrive in Perth on 24th October and will be teaching two workshops in Perth before visiting Bunbury for more workshops, and then travelling to New Zealand to take further workshops there.

She will teach a two day workshop on 28th and 29th October and a three day workshop on 31st October, 1st and 2nd November. Both workshops will be held at Birrale Park Reserve Hall, Bates Road, Innaloo between the hours of 9.30am and 3.30pm



Charlotte Buch initially trained as a furrier sewer, then commenced a traineeship where she learned about feltmaking in 1979. She has continued working and experimenting with felt ever since.

She studied textile design for five years at the Danish Design School in Copenhagen and later became a designer for Lego, the Danish toy producer, where she worked for four years. But through all this time she remained involved in feltmaking and determined to become self employed as a feltmaker. In order to prepare herself for this career she trained as a teacher and studied computer gener-



ated design. She started her company in 1998 and began by developing and producing needlefelt material for feltmaking. Since then she has written and published a book (***How to Make Felt for Clothing. Techniques and Methods for Making Thin Felt Fabrics***), is in the process of writing another, and has been very busy teaching as well as producing exquisite felted and nuno felted garments for sale. Some of her work is pictured here.

berth schedule of events

workshops with international tutors charlotte buch—the workshops

Charlotte Buch will demonstrate and talk about different ways of patterning felt including needle felting, sewing on prefelt, using silk fabric for ornamentation, felting with mohair yarn, shibori technique, and laminating layers of wool between layers of fabric.

She also intends to bring some simple patterns for blouses and jackets and using those patterns for making clothing by cutting prefelt pattern pieces, sewing them together and then finishing the felting process. She will also cover another way of making clothing from felt, namely needling the prefelted pattern pieces together so the darts are so integrated that they disappear into the decoration on the felt.

It is anticipated that the contents of both workshops will be largely the same but in the 3 day course it will be possible to make shapes in the felt with steam, to make more samples to help better re-



member different techniques and perhaps do some dyeing.

Level of felting experience required of participants of both workshops: medium to high. Cost for workshops: \$120 for the 2 day workshop and \$180 for the 3 day workshop.

An application form is included with this newsletter. A materials list will be provided to participants closer to the workshop dates. However all intending participants should note they will be required to bring a sewing machine to use at the workshops.

Silk paper—update

By Nancy Ballesteros

This method is a very fast, simple and effective way of creating a temporary piece of silk paper. Once made, the paper can be used by felters to create designs in silk paper which are then felted in, the spray starch washes out and the wool grabs the silk. If you are creating a collage or mounting your stitched work behind glass, etc this method may be appropriate as well.

First lay down a sheet of grease proof paper (wax paper) I find you need a fairly heavy brand of paper (Glad Bake and Cooking Paper works well for me). Next lay out your silk, then spray with starch until it is relatively wet. I used to recommend the pump spray bottle of Fabulon Spray Starch but have found this to have a lot of fumes that I find unpleasant and it is expensive. Lately I have been using good old fashion powdered Starch that you dissolve with boiling water and put into a spray bottle. I mix it a little bit stronger than recommended to give my paper a bit more firmness. Next over lay the silk with another piece of grease proof paper. Through the paper, smooth out the wet areas in the silk until the starch is evenly distributed and all is wet (re-spray if necessary). Dry iron on a very hot setting until the silk is dry. I used to recommend using the silk setting but it takes too long this way. I don't feel that the higher heat setting applied through the paper harms the silk. When the silk is COMPLETELY dry (it takes longer than you think, if it doesn't peel away VERY easily from the paper it probably isn't dry enough, keep ironing) peel the silk paper away. That's it! If the silk appears fluffy, repeat the process as many times as necessary.

kitchen wisdom

By Judith Shaw

For a feltwork that is in pre-felt stage but still requires considerable work and a feltmaker who needs to clean but would prefer to make felt.

Put the pre-felt onto a net, fold the net over it and make a compact parcel by folding it at least twice again. The pre-felt should be warm, wet and soapy.

Clean the sink with your felt in progress, using it as a cleaning sponge. Turn it from one side to the other and re-fold often. If the parcel becomes soiled, squeeze it through warm soapy water and go on cleaning. Do the tiles, counter tops, wall etc. whatever needs freshening up. Check the parcel often to make sure the net is not sticking or the work over felting.

Felt shrinks quickly and the sink gleams.

1. *Pre-felt* Felt which is holding together but has not yet shrunk.
2. *Net* A screen of non-felting, sheer fabric through which to wet down and begin rubbing the wool in the first stage of feltmaking
3. *Cleaning kitchen.* Something which feltmakers don't have time to do.

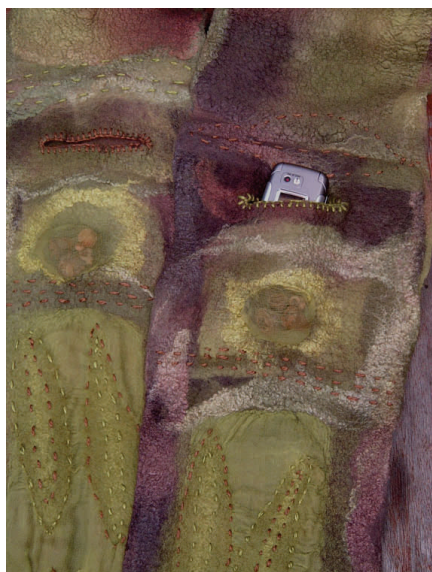
articles

melbourne scarf festival 15th -17th june

by Chrissy Lauritz

www.fibrefusion.com.au

Mid winter in downtown Melbourne. Time again to meander through the forest of scarves hanging seductively from the ceiling of Craft Victoria. And all for sale! I drool. More than four hundred felted, knitted, woven, crocheted and sewn scarves. "Pod" was the theme this year and there were many great interpretations from seed pods embedded in scarves to pods as pockets and yes, somewhere to house your ipod. Awards Night was at Federation Square, a very salubrious affair with over 20 models exhibiting the award winning scarves. A fierce three minute "Knit-off" by four seasoned knitters finished the event Lots of fun. The Fibre Fusion Awards (judged by designer Veronica Grow) for best felted scarf went to our own Lindy Frayne and to her daughter, Jayah, for the Under 12's best felted scarf. Well done girls! Lindy also took off the Crumpler Award for Best Felted Scarf to Hold a Compact Camera. Pencil in June next year and start planning a scarf (or three) to enter.



perth royal show 30 sept - 7 oct

Felt West member Judy Calderwood has traditionally had a stall at the show where she would sell her Country Cottage Woolwear products. A number of Feltwest members would go along to help out on the stall, hand out membership forms for Feltwest and demonstrate feltmaking. This year she is broadening the scope of the stall and inviting spinners, weavers, knitters (including machine knitters) as well as felters to join her and demonstrate their skills. There is also an opportunity for selling on the stall a few knitted/crocheted/felted/spun/woven etc items the volunteer has produced. It's a fun way to spend a couple of hours and Judy is able to secure 2 free tickets for entry to the show for everyone who helps out on the stall. She needs assistance between 10am and 4pm every day from 30 September until 4pm on 7 October. Call her if you'd like to volunteer some time and she can arrange a convenient time slot for you. Her number is 93619882.

articles

fashion at kulcha

By Virginia Campbell (Observer)

Last FeltWest newsletter there was notice given of an upcoming fashion parade at Fremantle's Kulcha Club featuring felt by FeltWest member, Heather Davis, together with a photo on the front page of that newsletter showing one of Heather's colourful creations.

A number of FeltWest members at the June Toss n Tell wanted to attend so Karen Wood kindly offered to organize tickets and book a table at a nearby restaurant. As a result, a group of about 16 of us (suitably dressed in felt) met for early dinner on 8th July, then went to the Kulcha Club to watch a fashion parade showcasing the work of five very talented young West Australian designers.

It was a wonderful parade of extremely diverse and creative fashion ranging from Yan Zion's sleek pastel bridal/evening gowns of silk, satin and lace, accessorized with Japanese parasols, to the bolder coloured evening ware of Silvia Wong which borrowed lavishly from the crinolines and whale bone corsets of much earlier European fashion (but given a very definite 21st century twist by this WA designer).

Chantelle Martin (creator of the Van Press label), on the other hand, was largely influenced by themes relating to vampires and gangsters with her hot street ware with a rock vibe – plenty of black leather, huge boots, and skulls and crossbones featured. Paula Gaiz's relaxed, casual designs were in warm earthy colours, and largely natural materials, especially leather.

And finally there were the inspiring garments of Heather Davis presented under her label, Colourful Heather, which featured hand knitting and crochet, machine embroidery and felted pieces. There were marvelously coloured garments complete with mid calf felted boots, but also a glamorous white creation with nuno felted skirt which swirled and floated as the model moved. Feminine and fun with folk influences – her range delighted the audience, especially the felters who had come to see her very wearable and creative felted pieces! Warmest congratulations to Heather on her beautiful work.

All in all it was a very satisfying evening..... delicious dinner, good company, and interesting parade, with the proceeds of the evening at Kulcha earmarked to support fashion classes for migrant women run by Communicare.



articles

fashion at kulcha continued

By Heather Davis (Artist)

Yan Zion wanted to organise a fashion parade before she left for New York. Yan got me and three other local designers involved and got Kulcha club to host the event.

I spent three months of weekends felting, sewing and knitting. Three things I love, so it wasn't hard or stressful work. I was inspired by folk costume of Hungarian gypsies and Russian nomads, the layering, colours, textures and prints, not to mention the beautiful felt around them.

All five models wore a pair of felt boots and I tried to include felt in every outfit. The hardest garment to create ended up being my favourite. A sunshine yellow gingham dress with pintucks and nuno polka dots, like big flowers, around the waist and hem. I dry pre felted the dots to get a nice round edge without too much

work. Then I normal wet felted the prefelts to attach them to the cotton gingham. It was not the most obliging of fabrics I have tried, and involved lots of rolling and lots of washboard until I thought I should give up. But I was thoroughly pleased with the final result and stood smiling by the washing line as it dripped dry.

Other designers contributed a diverse range of styles. Yan Zion opened with formal wear designed for princesses. Sylvia Wong with dark electro corseted models. Chantelle Martin in streetwear with serious attitude, and Paula Gaiz showed flirty natural tones in natural fibres. All this made for an eclectic mix of cultures and inspirations.

Thank you for the loud and wonderful support from all the Feltwest members who attended the night.



articles

annual retreat

By Virginia Campbell

Firstly, many thanks to all those whose hard work made this year's June Retreat at Camp Simon in Roleystone such a success.

A smaller group of people attended than last year but it was still great fun and with the bonus of more space and tables available per felter...lots of large pieces were made as a result! This year the rain held off and we had crisp sunny days...perfect for drying our felted work and towels on the clothesline outside. Food was tasty and plentiful and after the kitchen staff relented and set up our tables on the northern side of the dining room against big picture windows overlooking the bush, meals became a very enjoyable interruption to the fun of felting. Evenings were cold, like last year, but Karen Wood and Jennifer Blair started heating the mulled wine at around 5pm and many of us felted warmly and spiritedly late into the night. Despite the chilled night air, the Camp attracted 2 intruders around 2am on the Sunday morning who tried to break into Karen and Jen's bedroom (you need to ask Jennifer about it, Karen slept straight through), then smashed a window on the next floor up and sprayed the fire hose about. Cool and collected, Deirdre Bankoff and Pam Booth phoned the police (useful things, mobile phones) and the intruders ran off. Not quite what one would expect out in the wilds of picturesque Roleystone, but we expect the problem to be ironed out before we return in 2007!



And as for the felting – wonderful, fantastic pieces emerged, only a few of which, unfortunately, we have room to mention here. Sue Swain felted a very large colourful poncho, Chris Harnby an elegant black and white nuno felted shoulder wrap, Karen Wood a glamorous lacy nuno felted black cape, Pam Booth a nicely shaped nuno felted waistcoat everyone wanted the pattern for, Jill Melsom brilliant wraps/wall hangings with South American flavour, Gerry Russell a silk chiffon nuno felted overskirt, and Teresa O'Malley a matching red hat and scarf. Gerry Russell's felted bag from Afghanistan was carefully copied and improved upon by Judi Barkla and Deidre Bankoff (see those girls for the template!) Many other beautiful and inspiring pieces were created.

Soosie Jobson's Friday morning workshop was very practical and extremely helpful. We learnt how to calculate both

articles



shrinkage rates and the amount of wool used under various felting circumstances. Those of us who normally leap into our felting projects with unfortunately scant regard for either realized the significant advantages to be gained if only one stops, calculates and makes some samples! We also learnt how to make a resist template for a bag, hat, and slippers from any 3D object and how to add further embellishments. Of great inspiration was the delightful blue shark hat with fins which Soosie brought along to illustrate her talk!



Deconstruction Workshop

By Jo Saunt

Jodie has been known to a few Feltwest members for approximately one year. She could best be described as a seamstress specializing in deconstruction. She was invited to run a workshop at the Retreat with a view to giving members a different slant on the use of their felt and maybe update their current wardrobe.

Jodie arrived in her trusted Volkswagen Beetle packed to the gunnels with dummies and samples of clothing – mainly half of Beth Klokeid's wardrobe!! She began the session by giving a brief run down on what she does and then went through the samples and described how they were achieved.

The next part was very interesting – the members attending the talk were invited to produce an article of clothing and Jodie, with the help of the audience, suggested things that could be done. All went well until Sue Swain produced two dresses – one stretch black and white stripe and a black number, both of which didn't fit. After some discussion Jodie thought neither was really appropriate for deconstruction but Sue decided to take up the challenge and out of this stripy number over the next 24 hours came up with a natty top! Nothing like rising to the challenge!

Everyone seemed to enjoy the workshop, coming away with many ideas along with using scraps of felt to trim and enhance otherwise uninspiring tops, jacket and skirts.

Jodie enjoyed the experience immensely and thoroughly enjoyed looking around the hall at all the member's projects they were working on. I have been encouraging Jodie, who has already done a felt workshop with Louise Snook at Fremantle Arts Centre. to become a member of Feltwest as I think she would be an asset to our membership.



articles

wool on parade

Exhibition and Parade at The Blend(er) Gallery,
Central Walk, Joondalup , July 28th - 30th 2006

This wonderful exhibition of fabulous felted items was opened by Geraldine Pillinger at the Blend(er) Gallery on Friday 28 July and featured a huge range of wearable felt – vests/waistcoats, wraps/shawls, scarves, ponchos, hats, bags, jackets, decorative aprons, capes, shrugs, skirts, hooded cloaks, tabards, boleros, coats and decorative roses.

The textile artists whose inspiring works were displayed were Christine Harnby, Dawn Nicholson, Helen O'Neill, Gail Putz, Sue Seaman, Judith Shaw, Jan Stroud, Sherron Wake, and Noreen Willcocks. Opening night was well attended, despite the rain.

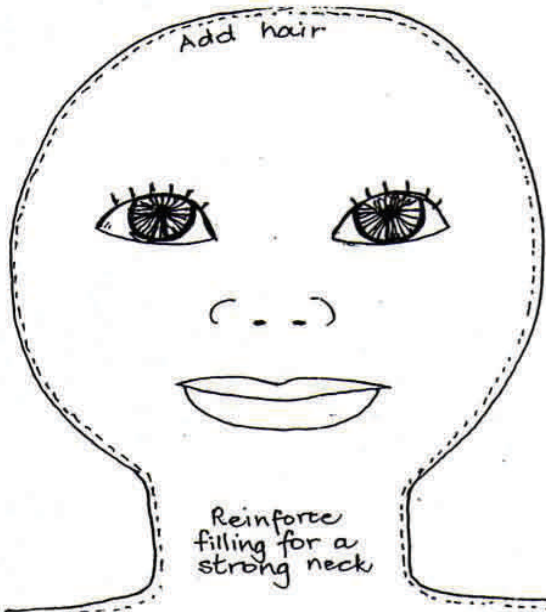
Wine, soft drink and canapés were plentiful and enjoyed by all while watching a colourful fashion parade which featured a selection of the wide range of items on display in the all- white gallery. Judith Shaw provided a knowledgeable commentary on the parade as compere. Congratulations to the artists on their very beautiful work.



Clockwise; Sue Seaman models her red wool and silk coat and points to her white wool and silk wrap, Jan Stroud displays her red and gold wool and silk wrap; Sue Seaman's white wool and silk evening coat; Chris Harnby's shoulder wrap



More photos of Wool on Parade in this issue's colour insert



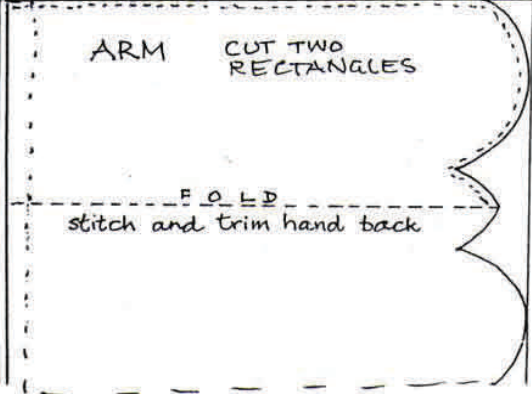
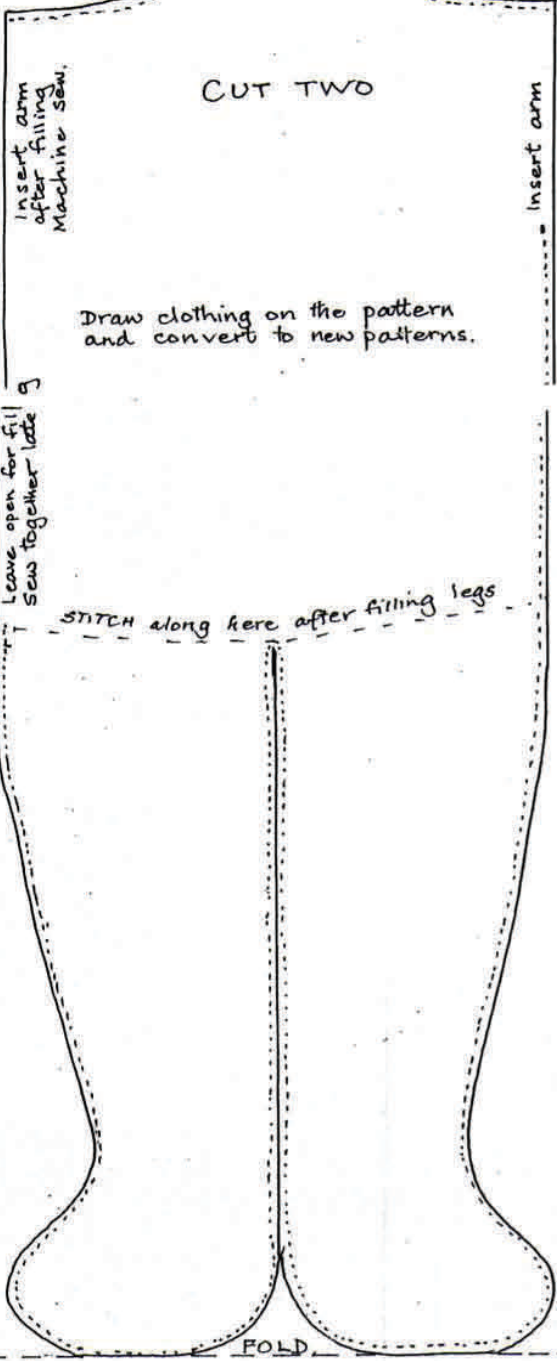
OR
 15cm x 100cm - Felt
 30cm x 50cm
 * (NB most outlets sell minimum 20cm, so 30cm wide will give you 2 Dolls.)

BASIC DOLL PATTERN
 For Uthando Doll Project
 Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa

Provides handmade dolls from all around the world for the vulnerable Zulu children who live in poverty and are deeply affected by the HIV/Aids pandemic and childhood diseases. Every doll will be a joy to a child.

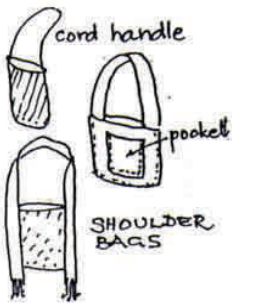
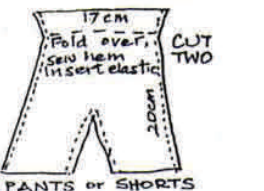
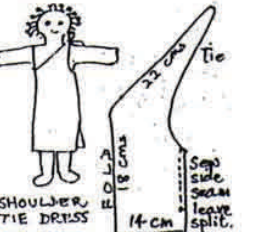
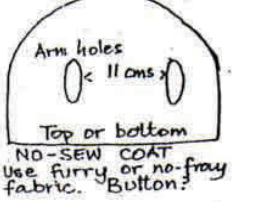
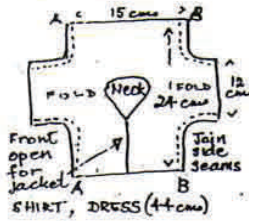
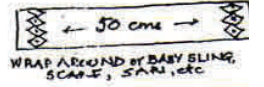
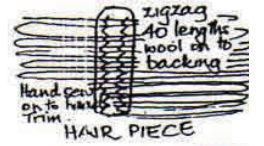
Notes for Dollmakers

Make the dolls soft and cuddly, preferably of human shape. Zulu children skin colour is golden brown, not black. Boys and girls have their black, curly hair cut very short. Nevertheless don't let this limit your imagination. Dolls of all colours and shapes can inspire the children. Boy dolls are needed as well. Children of different ages can manage buttons, Velcro, necklaces, etc, so imagine the age of the child as you make the doll.
 For the older children, make 3 items of clothing for dress ups. Additional items could be shoulder bags, scarves, beanies, hats, bead jewellery. Not necessary for the infants.



This pattern is very basic. Please play with it by altering height, proportions, shapes of limbs. If you want the feet pointing forward, simply cut across top of legs and sew on after stuffing, with feet pointing forward. Fill the doll making it soft, but with good form. Stuff the arms and then insert into side seams or arm hole. Machine sew in. For greater mobility of the doll, sew across the top of the legs. Doll's heads tend to flop so strengthen the neck with a roll of material offcuts and pack tightly with the filling. There are no seam allowances drawn on this pattern as we have used felt and not turned the doll inside out. By clever folding, material can be saved by leaving room to cut the arms above the head. By all means use other fabric and add seam allowance. Try velvet, suede, headcloth. In designing the face, there are many solutions.
 *paint with acrylic or fabric paints or pens. Avoid any paints that make the fabric hard.
 *Embroider with wools or embroidery threads. Chenille needles take wool and go through felt.
 *Make eyes with buttons sewn on firmly
 *Appliqué for eyes and mouth looks good.
 Hair can be sewn onto or into the head seam using strips of black tights, or layers of felt or many threads of wool (approx 40) zigzagged on. Or crochet or knit a circle or rectangle for a hair piece and sew on. Finger knitting makes good plaits.
 Each doll will be unique. Make some detail a "bit over the top" for excitement.
Please photocopy this (cut in half for 2 A4 pages and rejoin) and pass on to other dollmakers of all ages, schools and clubs.
 Knitted patterns www.calicoandivy.com click on what's new for Sunshine and Sunbeam knitting patterns.
 Let us know if you want to join in a doll making day.

IDEAS



CONTACT: JOY WHITFIELD 9291 6403
 jwhitfi@inet.net.au
 GEORGIA EFFORD 9293 2363
 georgia1@inet.net.au
 Deliveries to 2 Healey Place, Gooseberry Hill WA 6076

articles

felted tea party for tee

Just had to include a short note on the origins of the beautiful felted tea party items, some of which we saw at the Feltwest AGM.

Rebecca Nidorf (daughter of FeltWest member Louise) is a year 12 art student and is majoring in textiles. Rebecca chose to make a tea party out of felt as one of her majors.

She was apparently a little upset the little sandwiches weren't quite ready to finish off the set but we thought what she'd done was gorgeous and that you'd all like to see her beautiful work.



felting her way round the world

FeltWest member **Julie Williams** left Australia in March this year. She has been felting her way around the USA ever since but with some time also spent felting in Canada too. She is due to fly out to London on 20 September on her way to India where she expects to spend 6 months. She has sent a detailed account of where she's been, felters she's met, exhibitions she's attended, and felting workshops she's taken and taught since March. In order to properly and fully share this record of her experiences it has been decided we should put it on our new FeltWest website so all members can access it at their leisure and follow her continuing travels. We hope to obtain some photos from Julie as well so we can properly illustrate her amazing felting journey.

snippets

Felt West Member, ANNA HARRIS, of Christchurch, New Zealand, has had an interesting felting year. One of her wraps was bought by a district council and presented to Helen Clark, the Prime Minister of New Zealand. Anna also won a national prize in the Creative Fibre Fashion Parade held in Napier in the North Island of New Zealand

Travelling elsewhere in Australia or going to New Zealand?

Log onto www.ggcreations.com.au/tafta/news.html for details of textile exhibitions, forums, workshops, symposiums, fairs, demonstrations and parades available over the next few months.

Travelling Overseas?

Log onto the website of the International Feltmaker's Association for information on coming conferences, exhibitions and workshops www.feltnmakers.com

Lee Ann Davis has found a newsagent in town that has the magazine *Selvedge* (issue 10, Etcetera) at \$28.50, not bad when the current price for subscription is \$28.00 per issue. They aren't sure whether they will continue to stock (depends on sales). The newsagent is Cloisters Newsagency 863 Hay Street (it's near the printers, between King St and Milligan St)

book review

felt by robin steel-stickland

Publisher: The Penguin Group (Australia), 250 Camberwell Road, Camberwell, Victoria 3124, ISBN 0 143 00432 8, April 2006

Reviewed by Virginia Campbell

This recently published book is written by the President of the Victorian Feltmakers Inc and is an excellent introductory book of felting projects using a number of felting techniques. Clearly written, attractively illustrated with photos and line drawings, the book reflects her considerable experience as a teacher of felting to adults and children.



The first series of projects include making a simple cushion, a scarf, a table runner, and a picture in felt. The reader is next introduced to making and using pre felts through projects such as the making of a baby blanket from wool batts, silk hankies and fine embroidery yarn, a scarf decorated with pre felt flowers, and a simple triangle shaped bag with stitched seam, cord handle and adorned with pre felt leaf shapes.

There is also an introduction to making nuno felt, including detailed instructions for making a glamorous wrap using merino wool tops and an open weave silk shawl, a wrap skirt using merino wool tops, silk tops and a base fabric of tissue silk, and a window drape (which could also be a wrap or overskirt) where wool and silk tops are sandwiched in a grid design between two layers of silk gauze. Two final projects involve felting by winding out wool top slivers in a spiral (to make placemats and coasters) and in a grid pattern (to make a scarf, fringe or small grid curtain).

Very suitably for an introductory book on felting, each project pictured in the book specifies the quantity, type and (Australian) source of the materials used, as well as the laid out size and the finished size of the piece. The felting method preferred by the author throughout the book is wet felting, using soapy water and rolling the wool in a plastic pool cover felting mat then fulling by throwing and kneading the piece against the bubble side of the felting mat. Very brief mention is made of other methods of felting such as needle felting and using a washing machine and electric sander to make felt, but the clear aim of the book is to provide an introductory guideline to creating felt and there is no further exploration of these topics.

Finally, the book contains a useful section at the back noting 10 web sites of interest to felters and references to several books and journals on felting for further research. There are also included lists of some suppliers of materials for felting, felt making associations, tutors, and classes, and a list of galleries and other places to see felt. The emphasis is on locations in Australia, since this book is clearly (and refreshingly) mostly directed at the local market.

The book is currently available for purchase from bookshops (such as Boffins at 806 Hay Street, Perth who are selling it for \$24.95) and the author herself (robyn@creativewomen.com.au). If you have a friend who has recently been introduced to the joys of felting or perhaps a young relative you would like to inspire to begin felting, this would be an ideal gift.

billboard

workshops

Louise Snook at Anna Chandler's Studio at 25 Pearson Way Osborne Park (upstairs): **Nuno felting** 9.30 – 3.30 \$80 most materials included September 9 and 20 **Felted Toys** 9.30 – 3.30 \$80 most materials included September 30 Phone Anna on 92428031 for details (not available at the time of printing this newsletter) of more workshops planned for this last quarter of 2006

6th Annual Geelong Textile Forum, Geelong Grammar School. Corio, Victoria 24- 30 September 2006 Workshops still open for enrolments include:

- ◆ High Flying Fabric (kites), Robert Brasington, Tas.
- ◆ Resisting Felt Better, Chad Alice Hagen, USA
- ◆ Body Cloth and Tribal Garments, Mollie Littlejohn, SA
- ◆ Contemporary Reverse Appliqué, Susan Schapira, USA
- ◆ Strategies with fibre, Nalda Searles, WA
- ◆ Core Beading Techniques, Leeza Silverman. Vic

Knit Design, Jane Smith, NSW Details are available from Janet De Boer (07)33006491, tafta@inet.net.au

Workshops with Soosie available for all levels of felting experience; from introductory through to seamless resist and felt sculpting. You choose the time frame from 1, 2 or 3 days. Held in fully equipped Artist's studio, so you don't need anything except your wool and your enthusiasm! Make a bag, hat, slippers, jacket, wrap or scarf, you decide. Max 2 persons per

workshop Tue to Sat classes each week. Phone Soosie on 0433 621154

Embroiderers' Guild of Western Australia. \$180 for Non Guild Members and \$120 for Guild Members. Effie Mitrofanis will be the tutor: Wed 25 October and 1 November 2006 at Guild House 9.30-3.00 **Sumptuous Surfaces** Thursday 26 October and 2 November 2006 at Armadale, 9.30-300pm **Linen and Pearls** Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th November 2006 at Stirling Street Arts Centre, Bunbury, 9.30-3pm, **Linen and Pearls**. Information about the workshops is presented in a flyer which can be obtained by emailing Lisa Repsevicius, education Sub-committee, The Embroiderers' Guild of WA at education@embroiderersguildwa.org.au or phone the Workshop Registrar, Rosalie Gohl on 93320566 for more information

6-10 November 2007 **Fragile Objects. Earth Coverings. Fibre as Metaphor**, Glenys Mann at Banksia Springs Cottages, Banksiadale Road, Dwellingup For details contact Glenys Mann at mannmaid@northnet.com.au or phone 02 67663596

17-18 February 2007 **Felt Jewellery, Wearable Sculpture Workshop** Anita Larkin, sculptor and feltmaker, 150 Wyalla Road, Jamberoo, NSW For details contact Anita Larkin at anitalarkin@hotmail.com or phone 02 42360385

gallery

October 15-November 12, 2006 **Journey of the Dollmaker** at the Old Bakery on Eight Gallery. An exhibition which celebrates

the 10th anniversary of Western Dollmakers. 42 8th Avenues, Maylands Ph: 93703308. Gallery hours Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 12-4. www.oldbakery.com.au

23 September 2006- 26 January 2007 **Expressions 2006 – The Wool Quilt Prize** at the National Wool Museum, Geelong, Victoria. The winner will be announced on 27 September 2006 following which there will be a 6 week programme of public demonstrations and talks (including felting workshops) to accompany the exhibition. Contact the Museum closer to the date for details. 26 Moorabool Street, Geelong, Victoria. Ph:(03)52270701 nmwinfo@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

opportunities

10th-12 November 2007, **Stirling Street Arts Centre "Art to Wear" Challenge**, Bunbury The Challenge is open to all artists, crafts people and students. Cost is \$5 per entrant. Categories for the Challenge are fantasy, wearable and functional, accessories, recycled and rejigged, and machine knitted garments. There are separate prizes for Professional and Novice applicants. Contact Jane or Lyn on 97911256 for further details or stirlingarts.mysouthwest.com.au.

Fashion Fantasia Wearable Art Awards Wrest Point Casino, Hobart, Tasmania. Saturday 25th November, 2006. Entries close on 29th September. Information and entry forms from www.fashionfantasia.com.au

contact details

FeltWEST inc

Meet: Toss n Tell workdays - 3rd Saturday of each month (except January)
Place: Craft House, Clyde Road, Menora, WA 6050
Time: 9:30 - 3.00 bring your lunch
Charge: \$1.00 members, tea/coffee provided

Bunbury Felters - meet 1st Friday of each month, for more details contact Val Hornibrook (08) 97271968

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moving? make sure your FeltWEST newsletter follows you to your new address

FeltWEST inc

membership / renewal form

Membership fee: \$25.00 per year, \$30 overseas members
- includes receiving our quarterly newsletter

Renewals due: 1st July each year
Send to: Lynda Palai Treasurer
41 Rhonda Ave, Willetton, 6155 WA

Name:

Address:

Suburb: State: Post Code:

Phone: Fax:

email:

I grant permission for FeltWEST to publish my contact details in our newsletter once a year (this will enable everyone to contact each other more easily).

yes no

Where do we meet?

Place: Craft House, Alexander Park, Clyde Street Menora 6050
Time: Toss n Tell Workday 3rd Saturday of each month
9:30am to 3:00pm

Contact: Lindy Frayne 9337 4069 or
feltwest@hotmail.com

year receipt no.

calendar

see schedule of events and billboard for further details

september

- 2 & 3 sat & sun Resist dying & hat making with Chad
5, 6, 7 tue, wed, thur Resist dying & hat making with Chad
16 sat Toss'n'Tell
30 sat Perth royal show begins

october

- 10 tue Holiday crafts at Menora House
12 thur Holiday crafts at Menora House
21 sat Toss'n'Tell
28,29 sat & sun Surface texture and structure with Charlotte
31 tue Surface texture and structure with Charlotte

november

- 1,2 wed & thur Surface texture and structure with Charlotte
18 sat Christmas Party

december

- 1,2, 3 Fri, Sat, Sun Christmas Bazaar Fremantle Art Centre

toss n tell check list - sign in and pay \$1

- | | |
|---|--|
|  plastic for table |  name tag |
|  towels |  soap |
|  bamboo mat and/or bubble wrap, pole |  water container |
|  netting |  bucket (good for taking wet things home) |
|  wool, silk, yarns |  lunch |
|  fabric |  Show and tell items |
|  scissors |  needing two tables - remember to book |