



## Phyllis Hoffman

Phyllis was born in South Africa and has been living in Australia since 1993. Sewing and craft have always filled her life as she takes every opportunity to learn new techniques and teach herself through books and experimenting. Gaining most of her knowledge and experience through the 'University of Disaster', she believes she has made all the mistakes along the way and that is how she has learned so many crafts and techniques. Teaching sewing and pattern making in a studio above her house for nearly 20 years, Phyllis ended up writing five sewing related books between 1985 and 1993.



With a passion and focus for textiles starting at an early age, she remembers as a child how a wool shop was like a sweet shop..... she just loved all the colours and textures. Knitting has since become a form of relaxation and it was no surprise to her when she stumbled onto felting that she also took to this craft with great passion. "It is wonderful after all these years of sewing and craft to feel such passion for a technique that pulls together all my other interests. Felted clothes are wonderful, light, warm and durable. Felt is terrific to stitch and embroider and it makes great wall hangings, cushions etc. The list of things you can make is endless."

Phyllis now describes herself as a 'mixed media/textile artist' - a person who keeps a wide variety of materials and bits and pieces, takes great pleasure in using them and dabbles in anything to do with textiles. She looks forward with excitement to the years ahead trying to use up all the bits and pieces of fabric, thread, wool, roving, lace, paper, paint and stamps she has collected.



After eight years of working in an office Phyllis decided to return to her first love, teaching. Now she teaches sewing, knitting, overlocking and felting at various Community and Adult Education Centres and regularly teaches overseas in Israel. Exhibiting her work at various locations including Antipodes Bookshop Gallery in Sorrento last year, and selling her garments through galleries such as the Stonehouse Gallery in Warrandyte, Phyllis is enjoying creating a wide variety of felted pieces including hats and berets, scarves, vests, jewellery, 3D structural pieces and wall hangings.



For more information about Phyllis and what she is up to visit her website:  
<http://www.phylstudio.com> and blog: <http://phylstudio.com/Phylstudio-Blog>.  
Text and pictures courtesy of Phyllis Hoffman

### 'Felt a Vest' Workshop with Phyllis Hoffman

Join our fellow VFI member and tutor Phyllis Hoffman in this three day workshop which will cover pattern drafting to design a vest fitted to your figure; making felt fabric for your garment; cutting your pattern and stitching your vest together by hand or machine; tailoring tips including closures and other enhancements. Knowledge of felting and confidence to make a large piece of felt under the tutor's guidance is required. An extension class may be offered to learn drafting a sleeve pattern and transforming the vest into a jacket.

**Date/Time:** Friday 25th, Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th June, 9.00am - 4.00pm

**Venue:** Hartwell Church of Christ Hall – 246 Highfield Rd. Hartwell, Victoria

**Cost:** \$180.00 members \$210.00 non members. A requirements list will be given on enrolment

**For more information:** Contact Narelle Higgins on [ralhig@gmail.com](mailto:ralhig@gmail.com) or 0359684396