

# How things happen around here

By Robin Moore

Back in the early 1990s Polly Stirling from Lillian Rock was searching for ways to help support her family and express her own creativity. Visiting a workshop at Mittagong she saw someone making felt - by hand!

Immediately her imagination caught fire - the possibilities were enormous! Here was a way our Australian wools could be used to create unique fabrics, delicate or strong, subtle or dramatic, for clothing, for visual images, multidimensional - the possibilities were all there within the nature of wool fibre.

Back home Polly began to experiment - the freedom of feltmaking seems to be particularly attractive to the creative mind - and knowing few 'traditional rules' meant that imagination was not limited. Soon friends asked her to show them how, so she began workshops in her Lillian Rock studio. The "Wild Turkey Feltmakers" became a hub of excitement and activity as more and more people were attracted by the possibilities of this ancient, but newly discovered, creative medium.

In Blue Knob Hall Gallery's third annual Fibre Fantastic exhibition, you will see some of the products of Polly's teaching. Many of the exhibitors started their own textile adventures in Polly's workshops.

As well as elegant, colourful vests by Polly and her daughter Myfanwy (who is also showing sturdy bags) there are wall pieces by Sachiko Kotaka, more felt and silk vests by Pam Bates, Barbara Mills, Pauline Aherne and me, while Joan Guttormsen and Barbara Ransby have a range of colourful hats. Enid Taylor and Fiona Shadwell are showing hand-dyed fabric lengths, and Enid's tiny embroidered 'landscapes' are exquisite works of art. There are also fabulously

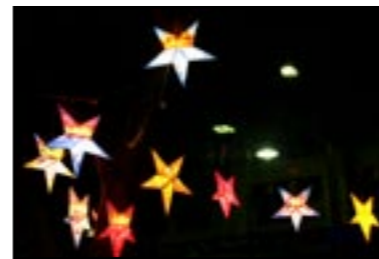
lovely fabrics created by the Cabbage Tree Island artists. Plant fibres are wittingly used by "Mac" McMahon in his "Falling in Loof Again", Kylie weaves a range of colourful baskets and hangings, and Francisco presents his view on the world's politics (in a row of tied-up beans between soil and water!).

Though Polly is overseas (giving felting workshops in USA) she has made some of her patterns and her book on feltmaking available in the exhibition. Come and see!

On Thursday 12th June, the exhibition was Officially Opened by Dame Lisa Yeates OMG, with an expressive flourish and speculation on the meaning "OMG". The exhibition is open Thursdays to Sundays, 10am to 4pm until 5th August.

Gallery events continue with the next Artists and Friends Lunch scheduled for Thursday July 31st at 12.30 pm (\$15/ person for two course feast, bookings essential, 6689 7449 ), and a film evening on Sunday 3rd August.

Opening nights have been switched to Fridays so they will no longer clash with Oasis poetry nights. Just as well, as our next exhibition is Poetic Art curated by Shirley Miller and opening on Thursday 7th August. Visit our new web-page at <http://www.blueknobgallery.com>



**A TASTE OF ART**

*a taste of art*

**blueknob hall gallery**

Open Thursday to Sunday 10am - 4pm  
719 Blue Knob Road, Lillian Rock Ph: 6689 7449  
GALLERY • CAFE

**Adam's Auto Repairs**

Lic. No. 43839

**0429 672 723**

Nimbin and Districts

**Mobile Mechanic**

**Nimbin Trailer Hire**

Phone Damian 6689 1428 Mobile 0458 491 428

**Nim-FM 102.3**

**NIMBIN COMMUNITY RADIO**

**Gabby's Cleaning Service**

**Cleaning up Nimbin & Surrounding Areas**

Ph: 0437 961 441

**Hot, Wet & Free**

**SOLAR WISE HOT WATER**

massive rebates

**6679 4210**

James Mc Laughlan License # 103573C

**alltribes**