

Colourful art behind the woolshed

It was once a milking shed on land behind a 100 yr old woolshed with the mighty Waikato River just over the main road leading out to Port Waikato. A stream runs along behind, past the holding pens for the woolshed, a windmill stands in the next paddock and there used to be a timber mill on the hill above. This is the rustic setting for a new display studio for the colourful handicraft of The Feltmaker, Rosemary Sinclair.

“The studio walls are unlined timber and the roof unlined corrugated iron. I have one 3 point plug so it’s great that the light is good,” says Rosemary. “It’s the perfect setting for the felting and is attracting a lot of interest when open on the weekends.”

Rosemary’ passion for felting started in Herefordshire in England in the 1980s/1990s when stenciling was popular. She made up her own designs to transfer onto fabric achieving an original and repeatable pattern for creations like cushions and curtains.

“Back in NZ I got interested in wool and making felt with it to achieve unique pieces of woollen fabric to make into my own designs. This ticked all the boxes for versatile, light weight warmth with a touch of luxury and lots of scope for colour blending and surface design using textures,” says Rosemary. “Felted wool can be hardwearing enough for slippers or as fragile as a cobweb, depending on the use it is intended for. Teaching these skills through workshops and evening classes is a great way of meeting others with similar interests including Rosemary Hood whose bright coloured bags, quilts, and gollies brighten my studio, proving these old favourites are just as popular today.”



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