



Crochet Extra

153rd Edition- April 2019

It looks like spring has finally arrived—here on the Sunshine Coast it has cooled down now to pleasant 20 degree days and with it some much needed rain. My garden has begun growing again, although this also means more work for me outside now. But all too soon the daylight hours will be shorter, so I am revelling in being outside some.

This month we will be at the Craft Alive Sunshine Coast event in Caloundra—we hope to see many of you there who live in this area. With Easter and school holidays just around the corner, it's a good time to consider your holiday projects—what will you making over this time? I am hoping to get a shawl made and finish my Sophie's Universe blanket I have been working on now (between many other projects) for 9 months. I hope to have it finished for the Craft Alive event!

The variegated colours in the Fiddlesticks range should also be arriving this month—I still haven't seen the colour chart to be able to reveal it to you, but keep looking out on our website for when it arrives.

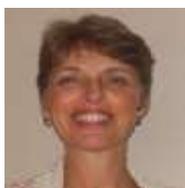
Our workshop this month will be making this market bag designed by Fran (one of our regular workshop attendees). This is made with one ball of Camilla Batik. Many of Frans' friends and family received them as Christmas gifts. Tuesdays 9.30—11.30—call now to book your space. See full details on our [website](#).

And our retreat is now available for booking—come along and learn 6 new stitches with Jenny, Lyndall and myself. Full details are on our [website](#).

Until next time

Lynda

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Theme—Crafting for Charity

Crafters are generous! Because we like to craft many of us make items to keep us busy and donate them to charities and others who are not as fortunate as ourselves. I often get asked what is the best way to gift craft items. I've taken a few of my own methods and reached out to a local gifting group here on the Sunshine Coast – Knit me Some Sunshine – to get some pointers on crafting for charity.

Start local. They aren't always advertised so it can take a little time to find out what is needed where. You can visit local craft groups, churches, hospitals, hospices, nursing homes, crisis centres, shelters, and animal refuges who are always in need of something. Many local groups are small and don't get funding, hence any support they get is appreciated and is more likely to get to those who need it, quicker. Looking locally also avoids the extra unnecessary postage costs that come with sending items elsewhere.

There are also national organisations who have local coordinators – eg Ronald McDonald House, knitted knockers – who you can reach out to. They can also help establish your own local group to support these organisations. Or reach out to local craft groups, who often select a specific charity to contribute to as a group.



Popular items for almost all places with winter coming on are beanies, gloves, mittens, scarves, shawls and blankets. When making these items, try to avoid wool. Mostly because items in many places need regular washing and hand washing is too difficult. Many babies are also allergic to wool, hence using baby yarn is best. Toys for kids are always welcomed, but be careful with eyes – sewn eyes are usually the safest. And sometimes it's just making things to show we care —such as hearts for harmony.

Lastly, take as much care when crafting an item for gifting as you would when making for a special loved one. Finishing neatly is important so they don't unravel, get caught or become a safety hazard for those fortunate to benefit from your caring work.

We have featured just some of the books for crafting items suitable to gift to charity in the 'Look what we found' section. Or try these free patterns to [knit](#) or [crochet](#) a scarf



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Tip of the Month

Caring for your Craft Tools



The tools of the trade (or craft in this case) are just as important to produce a good quality end product as is the choice of yarn and pattern. Therefore storing and caring for them is important to ensure they work well and last long. Below are some tips I picked up about looking after your tools:

Crochet hooks.

Storage – don't put your hooks into a bag or box where they can bang together. This can create pits in the hooks and then they will snag your work. Store them in a specially made case which separates them – you can buy one, or make one – or roll them in a piece of felt keeping them separated.



Cleaning – yes cleaning. You may wash your hands before you crochet, however the oils in our skins build up on the hooks and can transfer to the yarn used in our project and make the hooks 'drag'. The method of cleaning depends on what the hook is made from:

- Aluminium and plastic – wash them in warm water and a mild detergent, and dry completely before storing.
- Steel – soak them in rubbing alcohol and dry with a soft cloth before storing.
- Wood – use oil for woods (not water) and buff with beeswax to protect the wood.

Beeswax can also be used on aluminium and steel hooks as it keeps the yarn sliding smoothly over the hook.

For frequently used hooks, it is recommended to clean every 3 months.

Pitted hooks – aluminium and steel hooks can still pit over time – once pitted they can't be fixed and it will be time to get a new hook. Wooden hooks however can be sanded with superfine sandpaper or a fine emery board until smooth. Then apply wax or polish.

Tatting shuttles (Thanks to the Tatting Guild Australia—Victoria Branch)

- Bone, horn and ivory shuttles benefit from natural oils in the skin, so use periodically.
- Silver shuttles – moisture in the air can tarnish them. Save those silica gel sachets from your handbag and shoes and place these with your silver shuttles to absorb moisture.
- Celluloid shuttles – these give off fumes that can damage silver, metal and plastic shuttles, so store them separately.



Knitting Needles

- Cleaning guidelines for crochet hooks apply to knitting needles.
- Keep needles out of extreme temperatures.
- Use point protectors when needles are stored – particularly fine needles – so that the tips don't chip (particularly if you don't have a storage case)
- Circular cords – calm down the curl by dipping them in hot (not boiling) water – then pull them out and give a 'gentle' tug to straighten.
- Plastic needles – if these begin to bend/curl, straighten them by holding over the steam from boiling water. When straight plunge them into cold water to set.



Yarn and tapestry needles

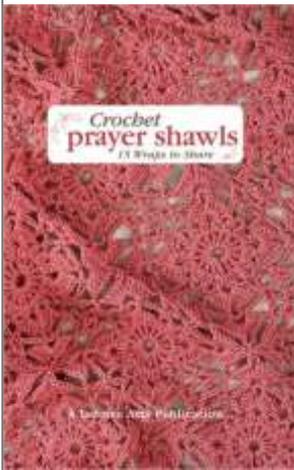
- When not in use store in a case. Don't be tempted to stick them into your furniture – not only are they easy to lose this way, but this will dull the tips of steel needles and break plastic needles.
- Moisture in the air can cause rust spots to form on the needles. The silica gel sachets from your handbag and shoes again come in handy to absorb moisture.

A final note- every now and again make a concerted effort to declutter and sort out your tools. Assess what you really need and use, and get rid of the excess – donate to craft groups! Then find a 'place' for everything that keeps it in the best condition.





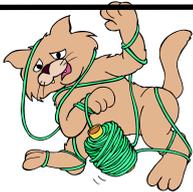
Book of the Month



LA5135 Crochet Prayer Shawls \$15.50 * Heavy

Prayer shawls are the most heartfelt of gifts. They convey the crocheter's best wishes for happiness and health -- not only to friends and family, but also to strangers in need. Several of the crochet industry's most popular designers created these exclusive patterns. This handy book slips easily into a purse or workbag, so you can work on a prayer shawl wherever you go. With your love and prayers crocheted into every stitch, your gift will become a cherished keepsake.

The book includes 15 easy to make designs: Have Faith, While You Are Healing, In Good Spirits, For Every Need, Feel Better, Flowers for You, Full Circle, A Gift of Cheer, Diamonds for a Gem, A Wisp of a Wrap, Comfort Is Near, Brighter Days, The Wisdom of Prayer, Ripples So Sweet, and Waves So Warm. Spiral-bound pages lie flat for ease of use. All made with light weight or medium weight yarn. 95 pages, US terminology



Look What We Found



PP907 Peter Pan leaflet \$5.25 Crochet



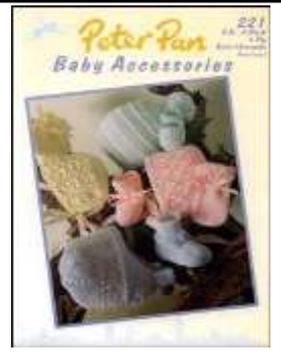
PP917 Peter pan leaflet \$5.10 Knit



K792 Baby Jumper & Beanie \$5.00 Knit



LA6645 Animal Lovies \$20.75 Knit



PP221 Baby Accessories leaflet \$5.25



B1211 Knit Bright \$18.95



IW30975 Easy Knitted Hats \$22.95



SP0009 Crocheted Beanies 20 to Make \$15.50



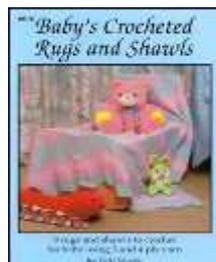
BK20 Baby's Knitted Rugs & Shawls \$13.50



LA4279 Back on Blossom Street \$28.40 * Heavy



LA5133 Knit Prayer Shawls \$20.50



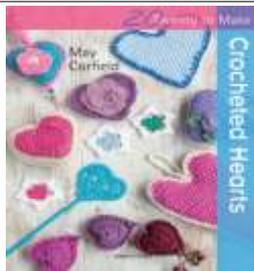
BK18 Baby's Crocheted Rugs & Shawls \$13.50



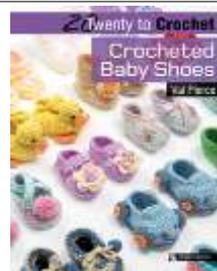
LA4453 Knit Hoodies for Kids \$13.95



SP7073 Knitted Beanies 20 to Make \$12.95



SP0634 Crocheted Hearts 20 to Make \$14.50



SP4076 Crocheted Baby Shoes 20 to Make \$14.50



LA75473 Learn Mile-a-Minute Baby Afghans \$10.50



LA75143 Baby-Fresh Blankets \$9.30



877531 Quick to Stitch Prayer Shawls \$16.20



LA4225 The Prayer Shawl Ministry \$20.95 * Heavy



879524 Prayer Shawls 2 \$15.95



879532 Slip-Stitch Caps \$13.35



871044 Chemo Caps & Wraps \$24.95 * Heavy



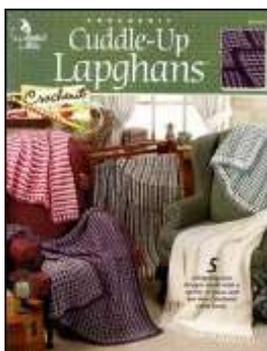
B1208 Crochet Bright \$18.95



LA3832 Quick Caps \$13.90



878536 Think Pink- Crochet for a Cure \$27.50 * Heavy



873416 Crochenit Cuddle-up Lapghans \$13.95



ASN1323 Reversible Ripple Afghans \$15.35



878523 Lisa's Cable Afghans & Throws \$14.20



871709 Reversible Afghans \$21.50



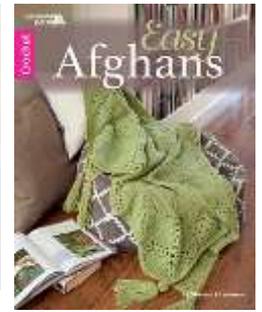
876517 Colorful Foot-Pocket Throws \$15.30



871728 Amazing Crochet Afghans \$24.50



871024 Easy Lapghans & Pillows \$13.35



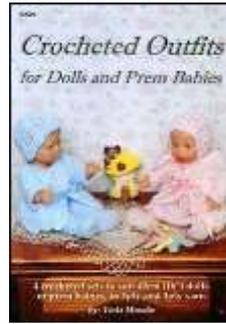
LA6725 Easy Afghans \$24.50



LA3711 Ripple Afghans for the Family \$14.95



LA6373 Animal Love Blankets \$18.50



BK24 Cro Outfits for Dolls & Prems \$13.50



876518 Gifts from the Heart \$26.70 * Heavy



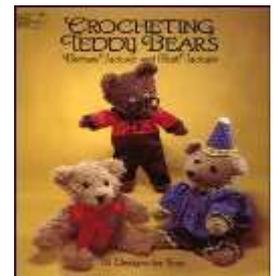
871736 Fiddle Mats, Muffs & Cuffs \$21.50



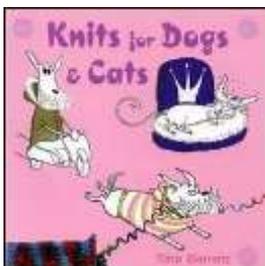
871509 Caring Crochet \$20.50



879515 Comfort Crochet \$14.95



D246396 Crochet Teddy Bears \$14.95



CL4248 Knits for Dogs & Cats \$34.95
** Very Heavy



LA4654 Dashing Doggie Dudds \$19.70



LA4485 Dashing Dogwear \$15.40



LA3819 Scrap Afghans for All \$13.95

Visiting hours:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 9am—3.00pm
Sat: 1st Saturday of each month 9am—12pm
Wed: Group visits (6 or more) by appointment

Workshops: Tuesdays 9.30am—11.30am bookings recommended

Lessons: Tuesday afternoons—call to arrange

Order three ways (See front page for contact details):

Secure shopping cart, phone or mail.

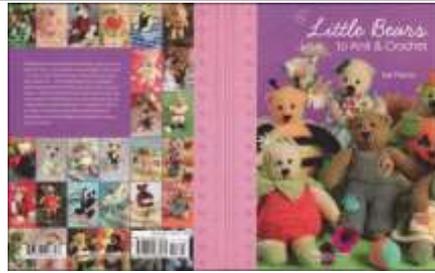
We ship Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. We endeavour to ship all orders received before 12pm on these days, and orders received after this are shipped on the next day we ship.



5870 Poppies \$5.00



871504 Baby Blankets & Toys \$17.50



SP487561 Little Bears to Knit & Crochet \$19.95 **** Very Heavy**



HOOKCASEDELUXE \$10.95