



*“... I wanted to bring the craft I love to the area that is my home ...”*

— Lea Carter

# Open for Beadsness

If the first battle of opening a small business is winning over your investors, the second is winning over your kids. As Lea Carter will tell you, her children groaned when she opened the doors of Shellytop Beads last month. A passionate bead artist, Lea had noticed a market for bead supplies in the South Burnett. “I wanted to bring the craft I love to the area that is my home,” Lea says. Finally after selling beading supplies at weekend market stalls for over two years, Lea quit her day job and opened a shop in Haly Street, Kingaroy. According to Lea, “the advantage of the shop is that customers can now access our beads six days a week instead of one.” And some might say that’s just as well for if beading is one thing, it’s addictive.

# SCHOOL OF HARD ROCKS

It's 11:00am on a Tuesday and after dropping her children at school, Sharon has driven in from Nanango for a bead lesson with Lea Carter. Sharon explains that she was looking for something to get her out of the house when she came upon Shellytop Beads.

Lea takes Sharon through some of the techniques involved with making a pair of earrings before moving onto a necklace. "Wow, I hadn't imagined I would learn so much in one lesson!" Sharon exclaims with excitement. "I can't wait to show my aunties what I've been doing while they've been in New South Wales!"

Beading classes can be booked by contacting the shop on 4162 2777.

## A BEADING COMMUNITY

People have been travelling from all around the South Burnett to visit Shellytop Beads. Owner Lea Carter says she customers have come from as far away as Kilkivan to visit her store. "It's great that we are able to offer this service right here in Kingaroy," she says "now people don't need to travel to the city to get their hands on quality beads".

Shellytop Beads is shortly going global, with its website under construction. The shop has even been featured on YouTube courtesy of Lea's daughter. "At first when mum said she was opening a bead shop I cringed. Now I'm so proud of how far she has come that I uploaded a video so that our interstate family could see the shop!"

## THE BEST OF MY LOVE

Funk or country? What music most inspires beaders is the question on everyone's lips since Shellytop Beads opened its doors last month.

Whilst owner Lea Carter is partial to good home grown country, some of her more frequent customers have suggested she play that funky music. "I knew you could get beads in 'Wild Cherry' but I didn't realise it was a band as well!" Lea laughs.



# shellytop beads

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