



slow down...
explore handmade!

We teach traditional made-by-hand skills *with a modern twist.*

CONTEMPORARY TEXTILE & LIFESTYLE WORKSHOPS

Happy New Year!

2016 is here!

Maurice and I hope you had a refreshing Christmas/New Year break and found some opportunities to get creative!

We have just hung around home, caught up with friends and family, dug in the garden, done some furniture restoration, made a few changes in the studios and I've done a bit of sewing!.

We've squeezed in a bit of work too....we've **prototyped a few new workshops** (which have been added to the calendar) and **started planning some exciting changes** that we'll be making to Ministry of Handmade in 2016...More on that in the next newsletter!!

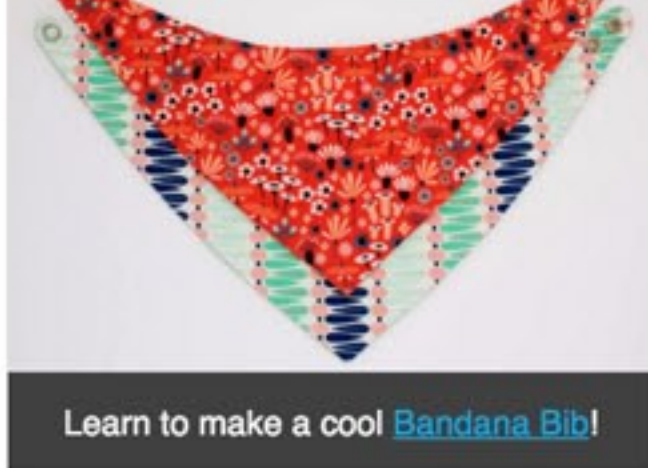
Workshop giveaways to start off the year!

To kickstart 2016, we are giving away two workshop places!

One place is in the **Baby Bandana Bib Workshop** (this is one of our new Learn to Sew Workshops and also covers sewing machine basics) on Sunday 10 January and the other is in the **Piped Cushion Workshop** on Sunday 17 January.

To go in the draw, simply [email us](#) and let us know in 25 words or less which workshop you'd like to attend and why.

We will draw the two winners on Wednesday 6 January at 10.00am and advise the winners via email. **Good Luck!!!**



Learn to make a cool [Bandana Bib!](#)



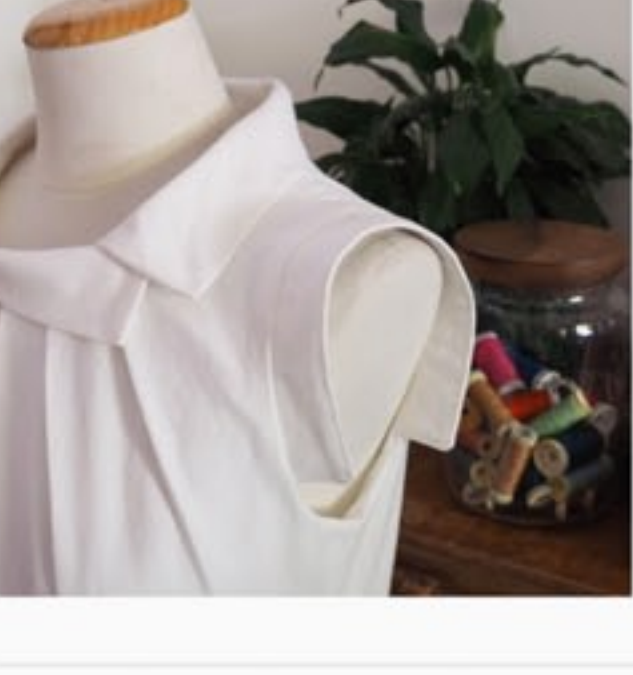
Learn how to make [professional standard piping.](#)



New workshops

We have added some great new workshops designed to help you develop your sewing skills and confidence! These are on the calendar now!

- The Audrey Top is now a [fully-lined A-line DRESS](#)
- We've streamlined and updated the [Floor Cushion with leather handles](#)
- We've introduced a roomy [Tote Bag](#) with internal pockets



We're heading west in March 2016!

We are off on a road trip.

St George, Dirranbandi and Goondiwindi we are heading your way to help spread the joy of handmade to western Queensland.

We'll be in St George on Thursday 17 March, Dirranbandi on Friday 18 March and Goondiwindi on Saturday 19 March running **Lampshade Workshops** and in Goondiwindi on Sunday 20 March running a **Chalk Paint Workshop**.

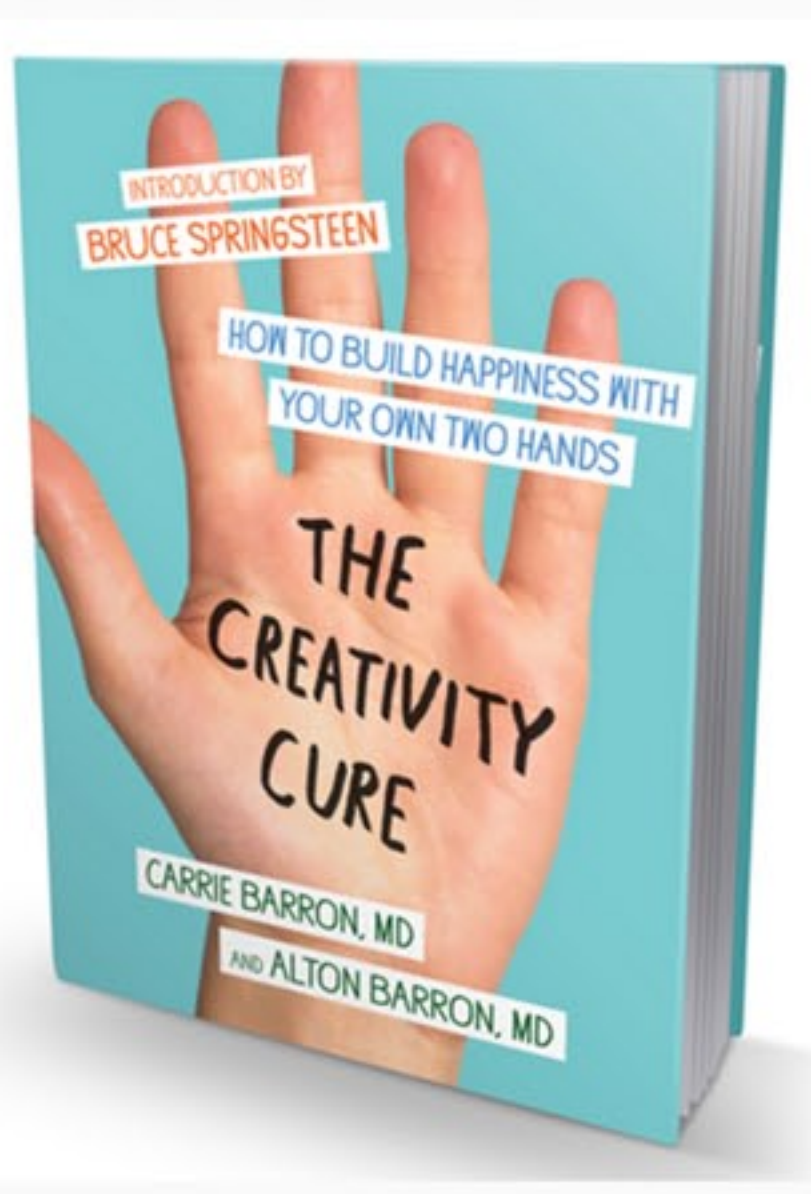
If you would like to be involved or would like any more details to pass onto friends or family out that way, please [email us](#).



Working with your hands is great for your emotional well-being!

We all know how great it feels to get creative.....here is some awesome reading to show that creativity has great benefits for us all! I have ordered this book and can't wait for it to arrive so I can learn some more!!

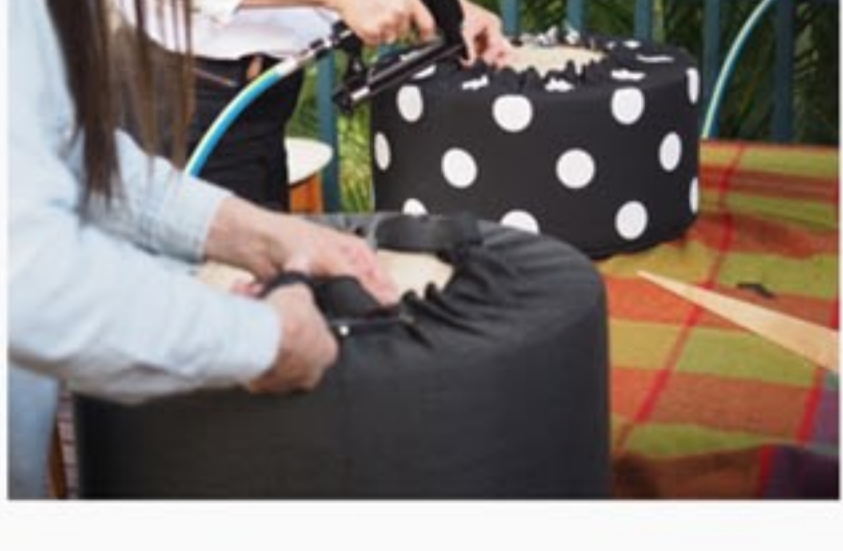
"In *The Creativity Cure: How To Build Happiness With Your Own Two Hands* husband-and-wife physicians Carrie and Alton Barron draw upon the latest psychological research, a combined forty years of medical practice, and personal experience to reveal that creative action is integral to easing depression and anxiety and to fueling wellbeing. The need to create—to produce something using our minds and hands—is fundamental. It connects us to our inner selves and to our environment and offers the deep satisfaction of accomplishment. But too often, in our technology driven, fast-paced society, we neglect this need. Creative processes facilitate insight and healing, connect our mental and physical selves, supply satisfaction and meaning and thereby enhance everyday life. You need not be an artist or writer or musician—though one never knows—to take creative action. *The Creativity Cure* can be used by anyone, no experience necessary. It is not about making art or being an artist, but rather mining the opportunities in your midst."



What's coming up in the next few weeks?

As well as our new workshops, we have some of our most popular offerings coming up soon.

[Check out the calendar](#) to see how you can get your year off to a creative start!



Lucky newsletter winner!

Congrats to **S Johnson** who is the winner of the new newsletter subscriber giveaway of a \$50 workshop voucher. Congratulations!



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