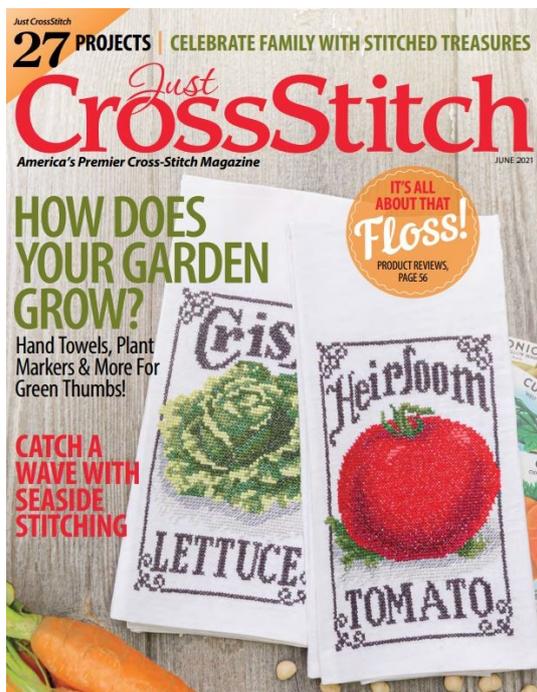


# Cherry Parker's May 2021 Newsletter

As discussed in the last newsletter the issue of Just Cross Stitch magazine has come out.

It is one of my 3 dimensional designs. The open drawers are stitched separately to the main design and are glued in place with a gel-like glue. That way the cottons, fabric, patterns and hoops look as if they are spilling out.

It is not an heirloom piece, but one that is a bit of fun and easy to stitch.



The magazine has also done a social media feature so we will see what happens.

I was talking to the owner of one of our local embroidery shops last week. Their biggest problem at the moment is keeping up with the demand for anything crafty.

For every order she puts in, one third of it comes back as being on back-order. Apparently with so many people in lockdown in any countries, it being wintery in the Northern hemisphere or simply the reluctance to mix with a lot of people, craft has become very popular.

More and more people are ordering on-line, increasing a demand that is difficult to supply with the disruption of the world. Moving supplies around the world has taken a dive. We certainly wait longer and longer for packages to arrive here in New Zealand.

But the good news is that a lot of people are taking to knitting, crocheting, embroidery of all kinds, in fact anything crafty.

It is good to hear as people take stock of what is important in their lives. Perhaps a bit of relaxation and dipping into a crafty project is what many of us need.

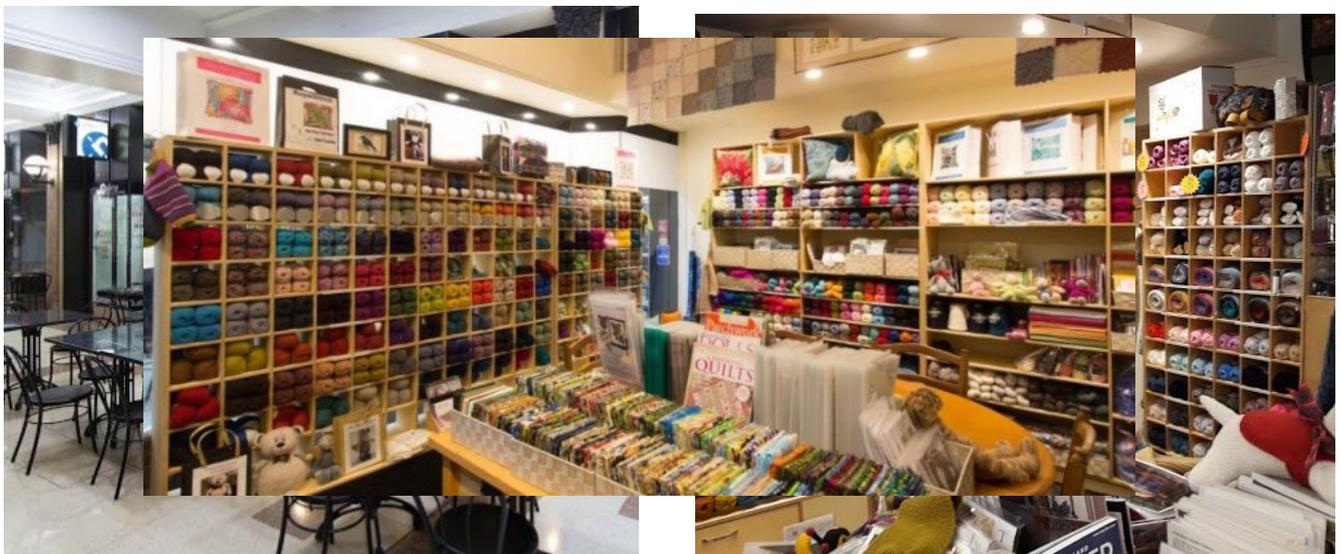
## Something new for the newsletters.

I thought it would be nice to add a little bit each month about one of our New Zealand shops. How long they have been operating, what inspired them to set up the shop in the first instance, what do they sell, what do they like about what they do?

First up is the **NZ Fabric and Yarn** ( [www.nzfabs.com](http://www.nzfabs.com) ) shop in the Queen's Arcade in the centre of Auckland City. The Queens Arcade has been a well recognized 5 level arcade since 1928.

Built as two separate buildings, a wall was knocked down to form the arcade we know today running between two of Auckland's main streets. In July 1928 it was described as going to be '*Symbolic of the Georgian period. Design details would include a first level promenade with ornamental bronze balustrading and the white marble facades with crested pillars at regular intervals.*'

Although all this sounds rather grand, the arcade was refurbished in 2013 and is now the home to shoe stores, clothing shops, jewellers and our first shop to take a peek at.



NZ Fabrics & Yarn has a large selection of New Zealand designed, produced and themed products in stock including:

- Over 200 bolts of New Zealand-themed fabric
- A large selection of New Zealand yarns including those from boutique producers and many hand-dyed options
- New Zealand designed and produced cross-stitch, embroidery and tapestry kits
- New Zealand fibre for felting spinning and weaving, including Possum Fibre
- Supplies and equipment for sewing, scrap-booking, felting, needlework, spinning and weaving
- A select collection of Australian fabrics and yarns

I put a few questions to Tracey and here is her response.

**1) What made you initially decide that opening a shop was something you just had to do?**

I had retired from IT and was doing a lot of crafting and was interested in NZ made products, but all the craft shops seemed to be full of imported fabrics and Italian yarn, so I thought, someone needs to open a craft shop emphasizing all our lovely NZ products.

**2) What would you like someone who has never heard of your shop to know?**

We're a small shop with only three people working, and we all love crafting, and we love to talk to people about their projects. I try to make the shop a very personal and welcoming space.

**3) What keeps you inspired?**

Seeing what people make with the stuff they get from us - it's amazing the different visions people have - they make things I could never imagine.

**4) How has life in the shop changed for you over the last 12 months?**

It's been really tough at times, more than half of our sales were from international tourists, and of course there's been no tourists for more than a year. We've been really lucky that we had a lot of loyal regulars that we could count on, and we've shifted our product mix to appeal a little more to locals - including bringing in lots of new needlework kits and some imported yarns. But we're looking forward to the tourists returning!

A big thanks to Tracey for sharing this for the newsletter.

It is time to get back to our map of New Zealand which has taken a back seat lately as other designs have needed to be stitched.

We have reached the top of the South Island!

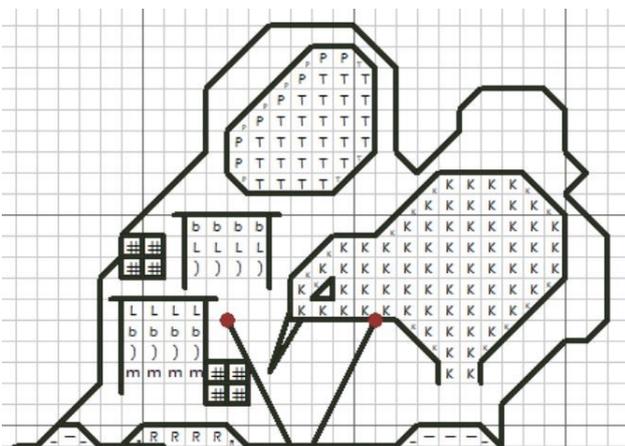
For those who have recently joined the newsletter other sections can be found in archived newsletters on my website [www.cherryparker.co.nz](http://www.cherryparker.co.nz)

DMC threads:

)	734	Olive Green
b	931	Antique Blue
#	963	Dusty Rose
m	3042	Antique Violet
K	3790	Beige Grey
L	3822	Straw - It
P	3838	Lavender Blue
T	3851	Bright Green

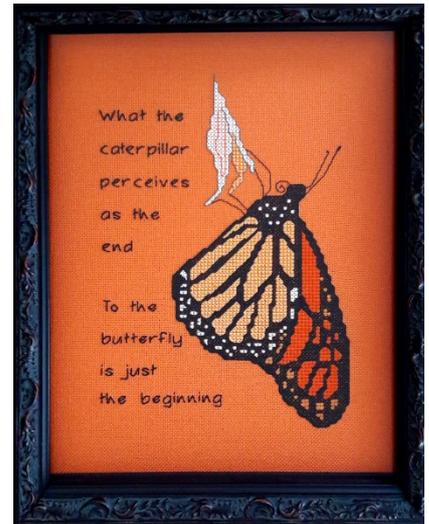
#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR TOP OF STH ISLAND

- Manuka Flowers – bs with one strand of 498.
- Bee Hives – bs with one strand of 317.
- The kiwi is bs with one strand of 610 and one strand of 310 for the eye.
- The paua is bs with one strand of 3838 and 4 small French knots are worked for the holes in the shell with white.
- Red French knots for the buzzy bee antennae.



As discussed previously the monarch butterfly has been framed. It was at the framers a lot longer than anticipated as we had another lockdown and things get pushed back. No matter, as I had taken years to complete it. A lot of frames were tried and rejected while trying to get the best one. It ended up quite plain in the finish with a charcoal frame which has small orange highlights here and there, which is nearly impossible to show in the photograph.

Nothing like what I had in mind but that is often the way with frames.



I receive several emails from stitcy places in the Northern Hemisphere. They are looking to have restrictions eased in Britain with pubs, cafes and restaurants returning to some sort of normal at the end of May. Spring is also arriving which will hopefully lift spirits.

We have been lucky here in New Zealand mainly because we are surrounded by sea and have been able to restrict those coming in through the border. Also, we have had a long lovely summer.

The 5 million of us have watched the horror in other parts of the world and been grateful that things are as they are here. But also aware, that as our Prime Minister says the virus is sneaky and can pop up when least expected.

We are now in the middle of Autumn here and the colours of the leaves are spectacular. 'Autumn leaves' is the subject my new painting class begins with next week. No pressure everyone!



That is the ramblings complete for May. Next month – another shop, the results or not of the handcraft class tackling their first cross stitch magnet, and whatever crops up in the meantime. Happy stitching whatever you are working on.

As always, request a pattern, ask a question, or unsubscribe at [cherry.parker@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cherry.parker@xtra.co.nz)

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