



History of the Darling Craft Cooperative

The Darling Trust opened the Craft and Skills Development Centre in April 2006. The centre trained unemployed people in various crafts, such as beading, embroidery and weaving. The beautiful handmade crafts they made included jewellery, cushions, clothes, accessories and a variety of other items. Each piece

made is signed by the crafter who made it.

The Craft Centre did very well and trained over 50 people. In the end, the Centre followed its natural evolution and a group of crafters decided to form their own business in the form of a cooperative. Tilla Philips, Jermaine October, Desiree Cleophas, Cathrin Loubser, Veyonne Solomon and Sylvia Mateyise are the six women who make up the Darling Craft Cooperative. Their beading and embroidery skills are second only to their enthusiasm and creativity!



The Darling Craft Cooperative are still in their early stages of development having only been founded in late 2008. The future is, however, looking bright and we are so excited to see how the Cooperative develops further.

The Crafters



Sylvia Mateyise is 31 years old and has one child. She's engaged to Richamn and will soon be wed. Her child is in Grade 2 . Sylvia is excellent with beading.



Jermaine October is 20 years old and has one son, Jermosnay. She's very outspoken and talented. She's excellent with beading and embroidery.



Veyonne Solomon is 23 years old and has one son, Graydon. She's very creative and loves to laugh. She loves to work with beads, and she loves her co-workers.



Cathrin Loubser is 36 years old and is married with two children and is pregnant with her 3rd child. She's our product expert and she's always in a good mood.



Desiree Cleophas is 30 years old and has two children. She's very good with embroidery and loves making cushions. There's never a dull moment with Desiree!



Tilla Philips lives in Darling and is married with three children. Tilla is 41 years old. She loves her work and has big plans for the future. She loves to laugh.

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