

Introducing Russell Bears

Russell Bears are original, collectable, soft sculpture creations by Australian Artist, Kim Russell. Kim has been creating her bears and critters for about 6 years now, but in reality, made her very first bear at just 17 years old. Even as a child she was obsessed with creating little creatures; her Mum would always find her entertaining herself by drawing or sculpting something. Into her teenage years, Kim's interests turned to sewing, inspired by her Mum, so when dressmaking became her main focus, Kim's quirky little characters gradually faded away into the background.

Kim's interest in bears was renewed when she discovered artist bears, some 10 years ago now. She realized that there was an avenue for her to explore her creativity again, using both her dressmaking and her sculpting skills. After attending some technical lessons in bear making, Kim found the confidence to

delve into her own imagination, that had been laying dormant since her childhood and has found a new passion that has lead her to where her



bears and critters are today.

Kim was born and bred in Perth, Western Australia; she grew up living near the beach and it was not until she met her husband that she moved away from the coast for the very first time in her life. Kim's husband is from the inland hills area of Perth and she took to it immediately, with it's open spaces, majestic trees and abundant wildlife. After spending many years there, they decided they would like to move back to the coast and were very lucky to find their dream home, one street back from the beach. They have now lived in this beautiful part of Perth for 9 years; they have no children, but have a gorgeous Rottweiler, a snow white pussy cat and 30 odd goldfish in their pond, with also the occasional amphibian visitors. It was the move back to the coast that started Kim contemplating the idea of making teddy bears of her own and she thanks her husband for providing her with the lifestyle to be able to do so;

