

AUSTRALIAN HANDYMAN JUNE 2015 • GROW BROMELIADS • WALK-IN WARDROBE • LEATHER CRAFT • RENOVATE THE DECK • OUTDOOR HEATING • PLANT KALE • WORKSHOP MAKEOVER • TAKE CUTTINGS

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DECO 4S



**"When designing an interior,
it's key to remember that
the first thing people are
going to see as they enter
the room is the door."**

GEORGIA EZRA
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THE DECO COLLECTION

The Deco Collection uses clean lines and geometry to open up a world of modern design for your home. When Georgia Ezra, of G.A.B.B.E Interior Design, is tasked with creating a stylish, modern room, she starts with Corinthian. For some design inspiration, watch Georgia style this room at Corinthian.com.au

 **CORINTHIAN
DOORS**
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JUNE ISSUE



COVER PHOTOGRAPHY SUE FERRIS

STYLING GEMA BENEITEZ

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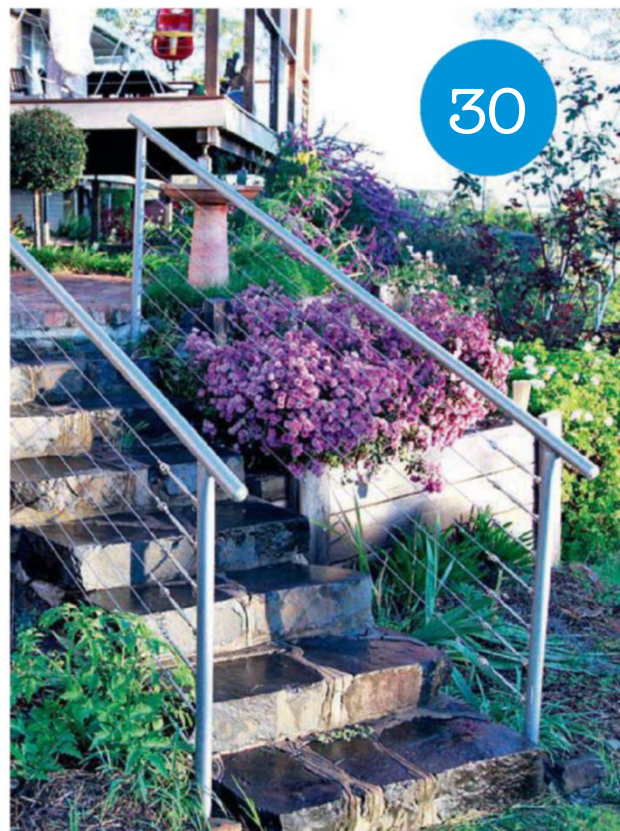
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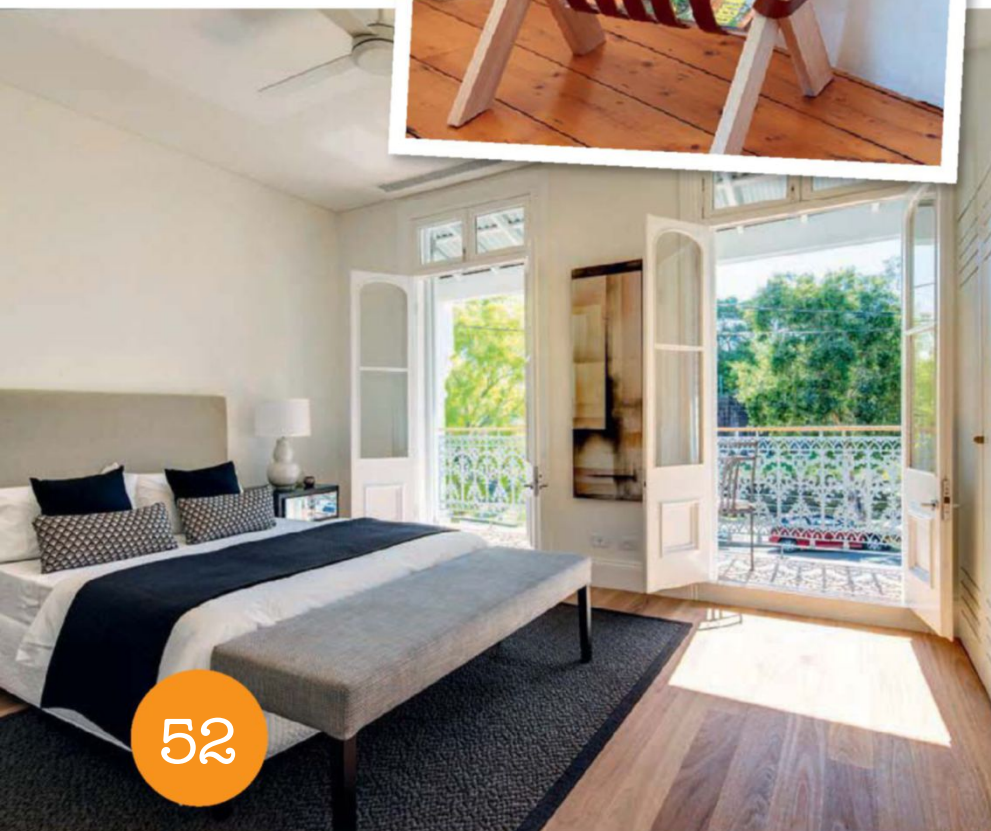
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GET THE LOOK

LOVE THE COVER

To style a winter deck, team warm timber with cool greys and fiery reds

STYLING GEMA BENEITEZ PICTURE SUE FERRIS

For year-round outdoor living, you need a covered space with protection from the elements.

This deck was revamped with new boards and a screen added on one end for privacy and shelter.

With two sofas, hardy pot plants and lanterns for light and ambience, it's a cosy space to unwind or entertain on cool winter days and nights.

THE MIMOSA CORNER SOFA SET includes a coffee table and costs \$1299, from Bunnings.

Casa Uno Bamboo Round Tray with Handles in Blue, \$35. zanui.com.au

Large Glass Demijohn, \$40. target.com.au

Tuscan Path 28cm Elementary Terracotta Pot, \$17. tuscanpath.com.au

Glass Teapot with Infuser, 1200ml, \$10. kmart.com.au

Sheridan Haden Cushion in Forest, \$50. sheridan.com.au

Brilliant Panama Grey 30cm Pendant Light, \$90. brilliantlighting.com.au

Assorted succulents in 70mm pot, from \$4 each, from Bunnings.

Haven 31cm Pure Reflections Lantern, \$30, from Bunnings.

Aura Squares Cushion in Fiery Coral, \$50, and Aura Luxury Velvet Cushion in Orange Poppy, \$60. aurahome.com.au

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THIS ISSUE

EDITOR'S LETTER



PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Earthwool Energy Saving Underfloor Insulation, \$85 a roll, is super soft and made with ECOSE Technology and recycled glass, plus is rated at R-1.7.

It now comes with a wind wash barrier, which improves the thermal performance by providing protection against air movement under the floor.

This insulation is also quick to install, as it can be stapled directly in place.

There are many clever ways to heat up outdoor living spaces, so there's no reason you can't spend more of the year entertaining outside, even in winter.

Whether you want a permanent installation, or a portable gas or open fire heat source, the options can be discreet or a standout feature.

You could also install a fire pit for maximum impact, and we've reviewed the options, starting on page 40.

And, if you want to add an outdoor area, we show you step by step how to build the deck on the cover, on page 20.

Flippin' fantastic

Cherie Barber's done it again, turning the facade of a tired '60s sleeper into a sleek home. The house featured this month is like so many houses you spot across Australia. It's not hard to update these house fronts at a very low cost.

This is one of Cherie's virtual renos, where she takes a photo of a *Handyman*

reader's home and transforms it to show what potential exists. If you would like the chance to get a virtual makeover of your home, see page 60.

Banish workshop clutter

My old workshop was a gloomy mess and I could never find anything. I often gave up and went out and bought what I needed. Does this sound familiar?

After tidying up and adding shelves, cabinets and drawers, I now know where everything is, and it's easier to keep surfaces clean. If your work space is out of control, take inspiration from the makeover on page 86.

Enjoy the issue,

MANAGING EDITOR
LEE DASHIELL

Build a fire pit to warm up on winter nights, page 32.



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EDITORIAL COORDINATOR **ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT**
DIAGRAMS **STEPHEN POLLITT**

ADVERTISING

GROUP ADVERTISING DIRECTOR **SHERON WHITE** T: 61 2 9018 6280
ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER **KRISTINA FROHLICH** T: 61 3 8844 5542
ACCOUNT MANAGER NSW **CRISTIAN ARRATIA** T: 61 2 9018 6253
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NEW ZEALAND HAWKHURST MEDIA SERVICES **KERRY MCKENZIE**
T: 64 9 589 1054 E: kerry@hawkhurst.co.nz

MARKETING

MAGAZINE MARKETING MANAGER **GALA MECHKAUSKAYTE**
WEBSITE MANAGER **BRONWYN POVOLNY**

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION MANAGER **BALAJI PARTHSARATHY** T: 61 2 9018 6115

PUBLISHING

DIRECTORS **WALTER BEYLEVELDT, LANCE CHRISTIE**
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AUSTRALIAN HANDYMAN MAGAZINE

GPO BOX 4353, SYDNEY NSW 2001
E: handyman@readersdigest.com
www.handyman.net.au

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ENQUIRIES

T: 1300 300 030
E: customerservice.au@readersdigest.com

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Before

Raised

Pergola

Pool

Patio

Balcony

Terraced

Get inspiration for your next DIY project



DECO 7S

MODERN STARTS WITH CORINTHIAN

THE DECO COLLECTION

When entering a room the first thing you see is the door. So when designing your modern home, inspiration starts with Corinthian. The Deco Collection uses clean lines and geometry to open up a world of modern design for your home. When Georgia Ezra, of G.A.B.B.E Interior Design, is tasked with creating a stylish, modern room, she starts with Corinthian. Watch Georgia styling an interior at Corinthian.com.au

"First impressions start at the entrance to a room, so let the door lead your interior design."

GEORGIA EZRA, G.A.B.B.E INTERIOR DESIGN



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HANDY STUFF



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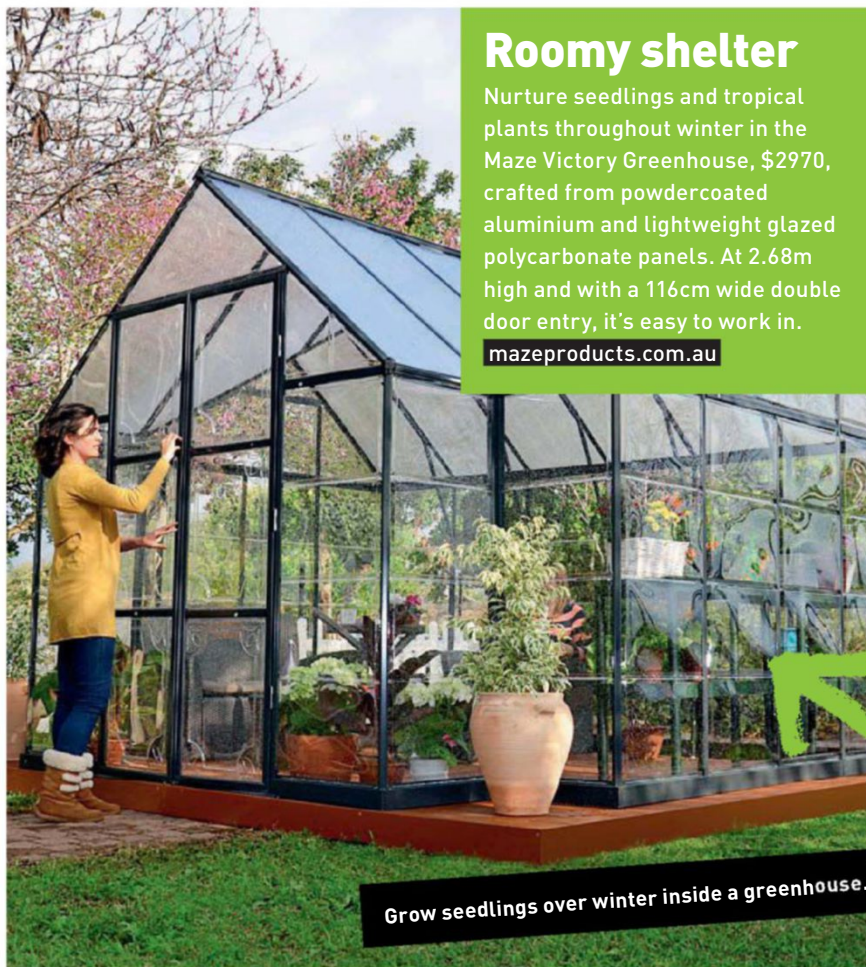
Canine cosy

Keep your pooch well protected from the chilly temperatures of winter inside a Fido & Fletch Small Soft Dog Kennel, \$99. The Durable polyester material will protect your furry friend from wind, rain and sun. A soft polyester mat adds extra comfort. fidoandfletch.com.au

PREPARE FOR WINTER

Get the house and garden ready for when the mercury drops this winter

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT PICTURES STUART SCOTT



Roomy shelter

Nurture seedlings and tropical plants throughout winter in the Maze Victory Greenhouse, \$2970, crafted from powdercoated aluminium and lightweight glazed polycarbonate panels. At 2.68m high and with a 116cm wide double door entry, it's easy to work in. mazeproducts.com.au

Grow seedlings over winter inside a greenhouse.

Spray back

Tackle problem weeds with the Capital Garden 8L Garden Pressure Sprayer, \$100, from Bunnings. Handy shoulder straps mean you can wear the stainless steel tank like a backpack while the adjustable nozzle allows you to switch from a fine mist to a jet spray.



Pause paws

Are possums pinching fruit or is your dog digging up the garden? Try the Whites Outdoor Dig Stop, \$19. Wrap it around the base of a tree or bury it with the 18mm spikes facing up. > whiteswires.com.au



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Keep the deck warm with a subtle radiant heater.

Chill chaser

Make the outdoor entertaining area comfortable for guests throughout the colder months by using the Heatstrip 3200W Classic Electric Outdoor Heater, \$698. The radiant heat will warm a 5.3sqm space and has an anodised alloy casing to maximise corrosion protection. heatstrip.com.au

Easy entry

Avoid letting in a blast of cold air every time your pet goes out with the Hartman 300 x 180mm Medium Pet Door, \$185 (hartmangroup.com.au). Its two-piece aluminium construction with 4mm tempered safety glass and lockable vinyl magnetic flap fits most doors and can be permanently or temporarily installed.



Pack 'n' protect

Safely store away pillows, throws or barbecue tools in the Mimosa Outdoor Timber Storage Box, \$99. Built with durable Forest Stewardship Council certified eucalyptus hardwood, the storage box has a natural oil finish and a hinged lid for easy access. ➤ bunnings.com.au

Free flow

Install Whites Outdoor Heavy Duty Staymesh Ultra Strips, \$25 for five, to keep the gutters clear of fallen leaves. Preformed, they take seconds to install without tools. whiteswires.com.au



Quick close

Shut out brisk breezes with the adjustable speed Gainsborough Black Pneumatic Door Closer, \$17 (gainsboroughhardware.com.au). The all-metal construction features an extra-strong door bracket and end cap to suit doors up to 18kg.





Breeze blocker

Prevent cold air entering your home by installing a Raven 1220mm Bronze Anodised Automatic Weather Seal, \$30. Designed for inward opening hinged doors, it seals 16mm gaps and automatically lifts to clear carpets or flooring.

raven.com.au



Ditch draughts

Is your home pre-1980s and you're struggling with cool air coming in from old vents in the walls? Increase the energy efficiency with an Eco Results Wall Vent Seal, \$19 for six (wallventseal.com.au). Just wipe the wall, peel off the backing tape and press the seal over the vent.

Shut it

Cut back energy bills by closing off unused rooms with a Corinthian Internal 2340 x 820 x 37mm Deco Door, \$108.

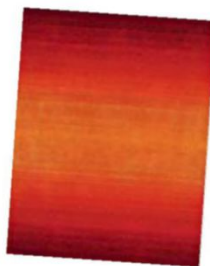
Already primed, just add your own colour.

corinthian.com.au



Rug up

Protect feet from icy flooring and soften open-plan spaces with a Bayliss Arizona 155 x 225mm Pure Wool Rug, \$249 (baylissrugs.com). The soft New Zealand wool is stain-resistant and loom-knotted to create a durable feature for the lounge or family room.



TIP

Run a ceiling fan on the lowest setting to push warm air down to where it is needed.

A house can lose up to 40% of its heat out of bare windows.

Heat hoarder

Cut back energy bills by stopping heat escaping through windows with the Windoware 180 x 210cm Cream Charm Blockout Roller Blind, \$65. Made from 100% blockout fabric, the blind has a neatly concealed base rail and child safe tension device included.

windoware.com.au

Thaw out

Stay warm while drying off on frosty mornings with the Arlec 4-in-1 Light and Exhaust Bathroom Heater, \$76. Side ducted, with high air flow, the heater has a dual heat setting and four heat lamps.

arlec.com.au



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BUYER'S GUIDE

WATERING CANS

Iron can

Splash out on the Sontax 1.8L Galvanised Watering Can, \$7. The swivel top handle and fixed side handle give you greater balance while holding the can.

Liquid load

Skip trips back to the tap by using a 9L Plastic Blue Watering Can, about \$7, with a Hortico Plastic Watering Can Rose, \$3, which has small holes for finer droplets.

Reach all

Make life easier by adding an Aqua Systems 1.7L Plastic Watering Can, \$5, to your collection. The extra-long handle makes hydrating hanging baskets a cinch.



Head to the hardware store to pick up the right vessel for keeping your potted plants hydrated

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT PICTURE STUART SCOTT

Flexi flow

Quench the thirst of hard-to-reach plants with the 2L Indoor Watering Can with flexible pouring funnel, about \$3. Graduation marks make mixing solutions simple.

Branch out

Cover large areas evenly by pairing the Hortico 9L Plastic Watering Can, \$12, and the adjustable Yates Sprinkle Bar, about \$12, with a 20-40cm reach.

Heft H₂O

Make sure everything gets a generous drink by filling up a 5L Sturdy Green Plastic Watering Can, \$7, ideal for any patio or courtyard.

Tapered tip

Pour with precision using the Hortico 1.5L Plastic Watering Can, \$6. Available in four colours, the narrow spout is great for indoor watering.



RENOVATE AN OLD DECK

Lay new boards on existing joists, then add a timber screen to upgrade an outdoor area

PICTURES SUE FERRIS STYLING GEMA BENEITEZ



Blackbutt is a durable Aussie hardwood that stains well and is termite-resistant

After

New boards, furniture and a screen turn the deck into an outdoor room.

DESIGN TIP

Screen the sides of a deck for privacy and use clear bistro blinds to keep the weather at bay without blocking views.

A timber deck adds value to a home if it's in good nick, and also provides an extra living space.

This deck was reaching its use-by date and needed renovating to make it both safe and inviting.

First, the deck was cleared of furniture, then the boards removed and the old lattice taken down.

The bearers and joists were mostly sound but showing their age, so they were reinforced with treated pine.

Blackbutt boards, 120mm wide, were laid and also used to trim the deck. To replace the lattice, a bespoke screen was built using recycled hardwood sleepers.

The deck and screen were stained the same colour and a comfortable new outdoor setting added. ➤

Before

OUTDOOR BUILDS

Decks are exposed to sun and rain, which takes its toll on both timber and hardware, but there are ways to prolong the life of your deck.

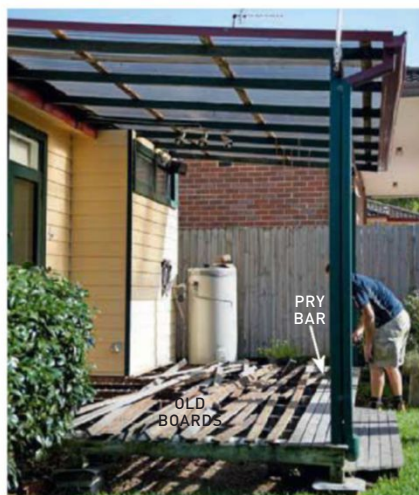
➤ Secure timber boards with stainless steel or galvanised screws or nails, and ACQ fasteners for treated decking.

➤ Protect hardwood and treated timber joists with a flexible PVC covering.

Protectadeck 45mm x 25m Floorjoist Protection, \$22, from Bunnings.

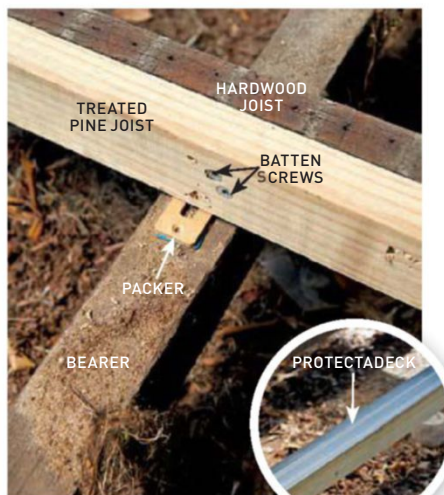


LAY THE DECK



1 Remove the boards

Lift the boards from the joists using a pry bar if they were nailed in position, or extract the screws. Cut around corroded nails or cammed out screws to remove the board, then grind off the fasteners or cut off flush with the joist. Check all structural elements to see what needs replacing.



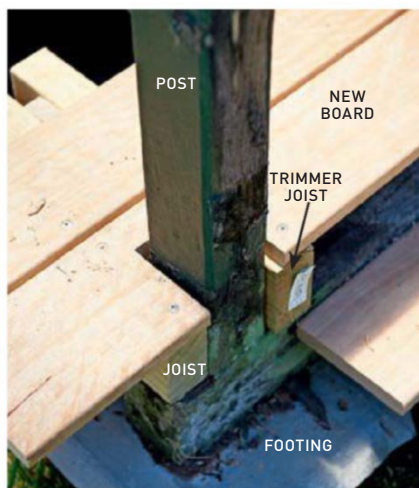
2 Reinforce the joists

Attach 90 x 45mm H3 treated pine to the existing 100 x 50mm hardwood joists using 14-10 x 85mm bugle batten screws. Skew-nail the joists to the bearers with 75 x 3.15mm bullethead nails, using packers to level the joists. **TIP** Lay Protectadeck over both the new and old joists to protect them.



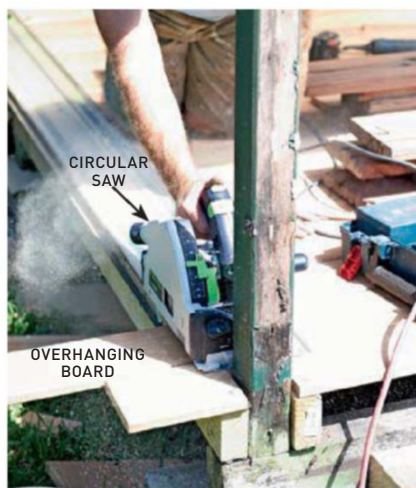
3 Install the boards

Check the board ends and square off if needed. Lay 5-6 rows of boards at a time, staggering the butt joints. Starting flush with the edge, use a 3mm countersinking bit to drill two clearance holes, clamp the boards and attach with 10g x 50mm square drive decking screws, using 5mm spacers.



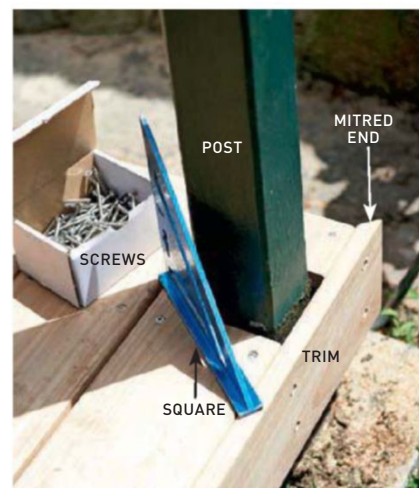
4 Notch around posts

Position a trimmer joist parallel to the outside joist with a spacer block in between, securing to the timber post using screws. Measure the posts to cut out notches in the boards with a jigsaw, allowing 10mm clearance. Secure the notched boards to the joist and trimmer joist using screws.



5 Cut the overhang

The boards are laid flush with the end of the deck on one side and overhang on the other. When the new decking has been laid, mark a cut line across the overhanging boards using a straightedge, cutting along it with a circular saw. Use a power planer to smooth the cut edges.



6 Attach the trim

Measure the finished deck to mark and cut decking boards to length to use for the trim. Cut the joining ends with 45° mitres using a circular saw or a mitre box and tenon saw. Position the lengths of trim along the joists using a square to keep them flush with the deck, securing with deck screws.



PRIVACY SCREEN

One end of this deck is open to the garden and the other is exposed to the neighbours and so needs screening.

The original lattice screen didn't offer a lot of privacy and wasn't effective at hiding the water heater located next to the deck.

Recycled hardwood sleepers were used to custom-build a screen for the space.

The screen is a box frame with slats that pivot, so they move like louvres. ➤



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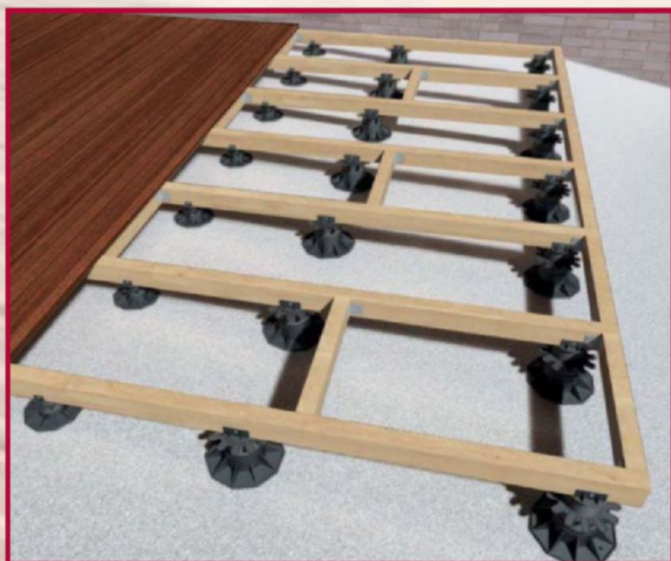
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Screw with drill tip for fixing the foot to the floor joist



base plate to be bedded on compacted ground

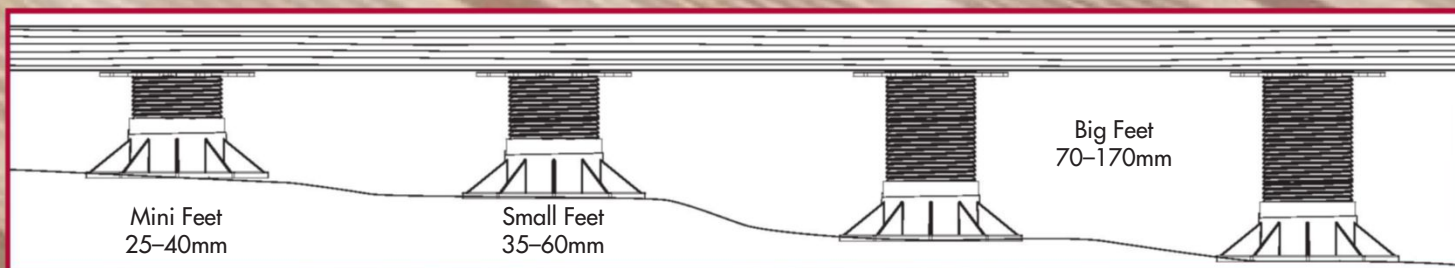


stop for the floor joist

support for the floor joist freely rotatable (except Minifoot)

adjusting wheel

load-bearing thread



BUILD THE SCREEN



1 Prepare the sleepers

Use a trim router and a 10mm roundover bit to arris the edges of the recycled 210 x 30 x 2400mm spotted gum sleepers. Sand the sleepers smooth using a belt sander or, if you don't have one, use a random orbital sander. Cut the sleepers to length using a circular saw.



2 Make the louvre holes

Draw a centreline along the length of the top and base of the box frame. Mark a line 30mm from each end for the frame sides, then mark the louvre centres on the centrelines. Drill 4mm pilot holes and use a 22mm spade bit to open the holes to 15mm deep. Drill a 10mm clearance hole right through.



3 Drill the louvres

Make a jig from scrap timber to help locate the end centres of the louvre slats and drill 10mm clearance holes to a minimum depth of 90mm. On the edges of the box frame sides, drill three equally spaced holes. On the ends of the box frame top and base, drill three equally spaced holes.



4 Assemble the screen

Use the predrilled holes to secure the frame top to the sides with three screws at each corner. Insert hex head bolts through the louvre holes, add two washers, then position the louvres. Insert the bolts and washers in the base, then attach to the louvres. Secure the base to the sides using screws.



5 Secure the screen

Check the bolts are seated in the louvres, then secure in position with a high-strength building filler such as Selleys Plasti-Bond. With the help of another person, lift the screen and clamp in position, securing through the base to the joists with screws and to the pergola with brackets.

CUT THE SLEEPERS

The screen frame and louvres are made from 2400 x 210 x 30mm sleepers. For a 2400mm high screen, cut the louvres to 2330mm to allow for the top and base with 5mm clearance. Clamp two sleepers together to cut with a circular saw. ➤



measurements in mm

JUNE 2015 **Australian Handyman**

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DIY TIP

If the temperature is 10° or lower, don't oil the boards. If it's too cold to stand on the deck bare foot, it's too cold to coat.

PROTECT THE DECK

Give timber boards a little TLC and a new coat of oil in winter to keep them looking their best



Cleaning and oiling a deck is an easy DIY job.

Aussies use their decks all year, so keeping them in good nick is essential. Even covered decks are exposed to the elements, taking a beating from sun and rain.

Cabot's Brand Manager Amelia Lutz says it's important to protect your deck from the heavy rain and moisture over the cooler months.

'Applying a water-resistant timber coating this winter will mean it stays looking good for longer,' says Amelia.

In just two easy steps, you can rejuvenate your deck without sanding, then sit back, relax and enjoy it.

➤ **WASH** the boards with deck cleaner and a stiff-bristled broom, then let dry.

➤ **COAT** the deck along the length, covering 2-3 boards at a time.

'In cooler temperatures, the coating will take more time to dry, so wait longer before applying the next coat or using the deck,' says Amelia.



Use a lambswool applicator to apply decking oil.

Before

After

Take a weathered timber deck from grey to gleaming with a coat of oil.

Wait one or two days after rain to coat a deck, checking the weather will stay dry for at least 12 hours

TOP PICKS



Cabot's Deck Clean,
\$36 for 4L.
cabots.com.au



Cabot's Aquadeck
Water-based Oil,
\$80 for 6L.

Handrail revamp

Spruce up sorry-looking railings with paint and balustrade wire

PROJECT AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

Dated and worn, the handrails on these patio steps had seen better days, and DIY blogger Melissa and her handy husband Bevan were keen to restore them.

'The paint on the railings of the stairway was flaking and powdery, and just looked sad and sorry,' says Melissa.

With the patio recently overhauled, a new deck installed off the back of

the house and a herb garden built next to the steps, the handrails were next in line for an update.

The couple set about repainting the railings, then installing wire balustrading that matched the style of the new deck. This helped unify the space and gave the outdoor area a finished look.

SAFETY TIP

If you have small children, install balustrading around decks and raised patios to prevent any falls.

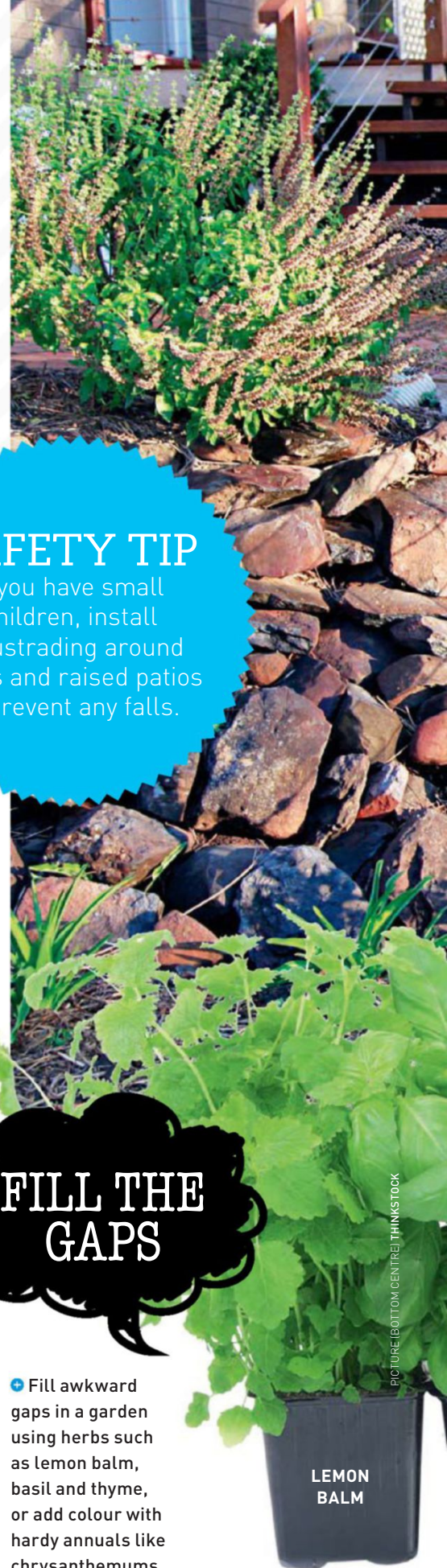
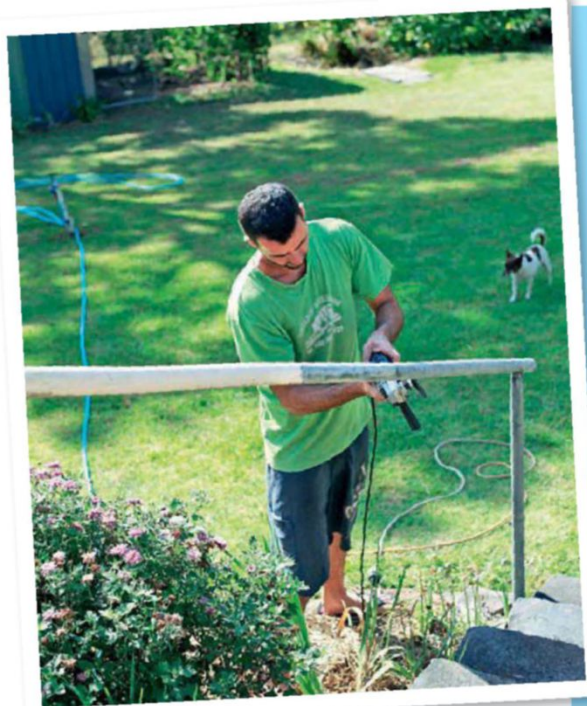
For more DIY from Melissa, follow her blog thewhimsicalwife.com

PREP AND PAINT

- 1 **REMOVE** the flaking paint using an angle grinder with a wire wheel brush attached to expose the bare metal.
- 2 **APPLY** two coats of spray paint to the railings, using a product with an inbuilt primer to save time and to ensure a long-lasting finish.
- 3 **ASSEMBLE** the wire for the balustrade using a kit, available from hardware stores. Drill holes in the posts to secure the saddles, then tighten the wires using the turnbuckles.

FILL THE GAPS

- Fill awkward gaps in a garden using herbs such as lemon balm, basil and thyme, or add colour with hardy annuals like chrysanthemums.



PICTURE (BOTTOM CENTRE) THINKSTOCK



After
With a coat of paint, the handrails look brand new.



Before



DESIGN TIP

Sketch the area on paper before beginning so you have a clear vision of how it will look when finished.



Melissa

EXPERT SECRETS

Build with the future in mind, creating solid foundations and using materials that will last for years.



After

The patio and fire pit have made the garden much more welcoming.




Before

Backyard fire pit

Turn a bare space in the garden into a paved entertaining area where the whole family can warm up this winter

WORDS AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR



The big backyard of this home had a lot of potential to be transformed into a tidy and appealing entertaining area.

And DIY blogger Melissa and husband Bevan were all the more keen to change the space to detract from the huge shed that dominated it.

'The previous owner was a metal forger and he built this extraordinarily large shed to work in,' says Melissa.

'We planned the arbour and fire pit space to draw the eye away from it.' ➤

MEL'S PLAN

- **BUILD** a timber arbour and seating next to the shed.
- **LAY** concrete pavers in different sizes to create a French-style rustic patio.
- **USE** sandstone to edge the paving and make a fire pit.
- **PLANT** fast-growing shrubs next to the shed wall.
- **ADD** a border of tidy garden beds on all sides.



Prepare the site

The arbour was actually built last year, so the paving had to be done with it in situ.

For the arbour, Melissa and Bevan recycled the timber from an old pergola that had stood in the backyard.

Four galvanised stirrups were secured in the ground with concrete. The posts were bolted in the stirrups, then cross beams were cut at an angle at each end and bolted to the top of the posts.

Cross battens were spaced evenly along the sides and top of the arbour, then supports were added in the corners. The whole arbour was then painted white.

The plans for the patio were put down on paper and the site was marked out. A bobcat was used to clear the area, spread a gravel base and level it off.

Bevan then marked out the perimeter with stringline to create a square boundary that would act as a guide for the paving.



BUDGET TIP

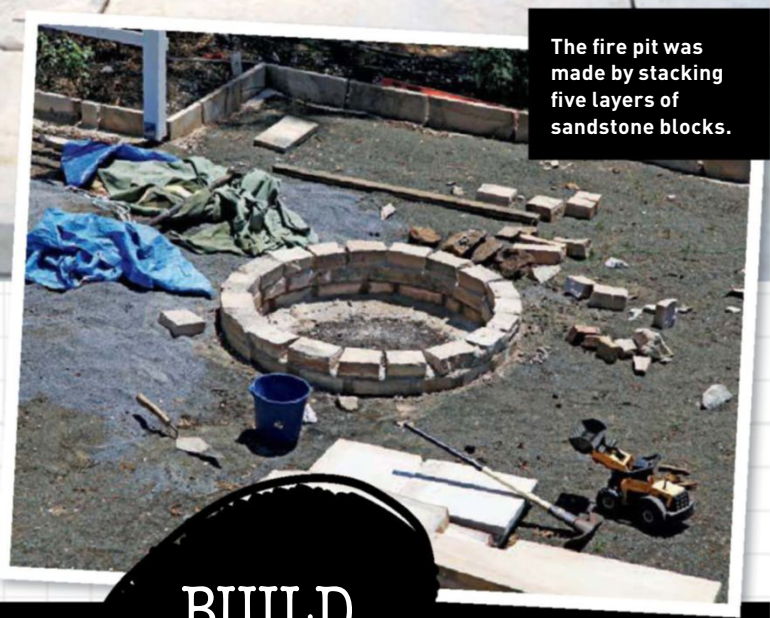
Get a rustic look in your backyard and save money by using recycled timber to build outdoor feature pieces.



Weathered-look concrete pavers help to create a rustic effect.



Sandstone from a local quarry was used to build the fire pit and edge the patio



The fire pit was made by stacking five layers of sandstone blocks.

BUILD THE PIT

With the area ready for landscaping, Bevan started on the fire pit by marking out the site and excavating the pit to a depth of 400mm.

A first row of reclaimed sandstone blocks was laid

and levelled to form a sturdy foundation for the next layers.

Three more rows of reclaimed sandstone blocks were then laid with cement pointing in between. A fifth row using new blocks was added to finish it off.

'Bevan created this section a few days after our youngest was born and wrote our names in the foundation of the fire pit,' says Melissa. ➤



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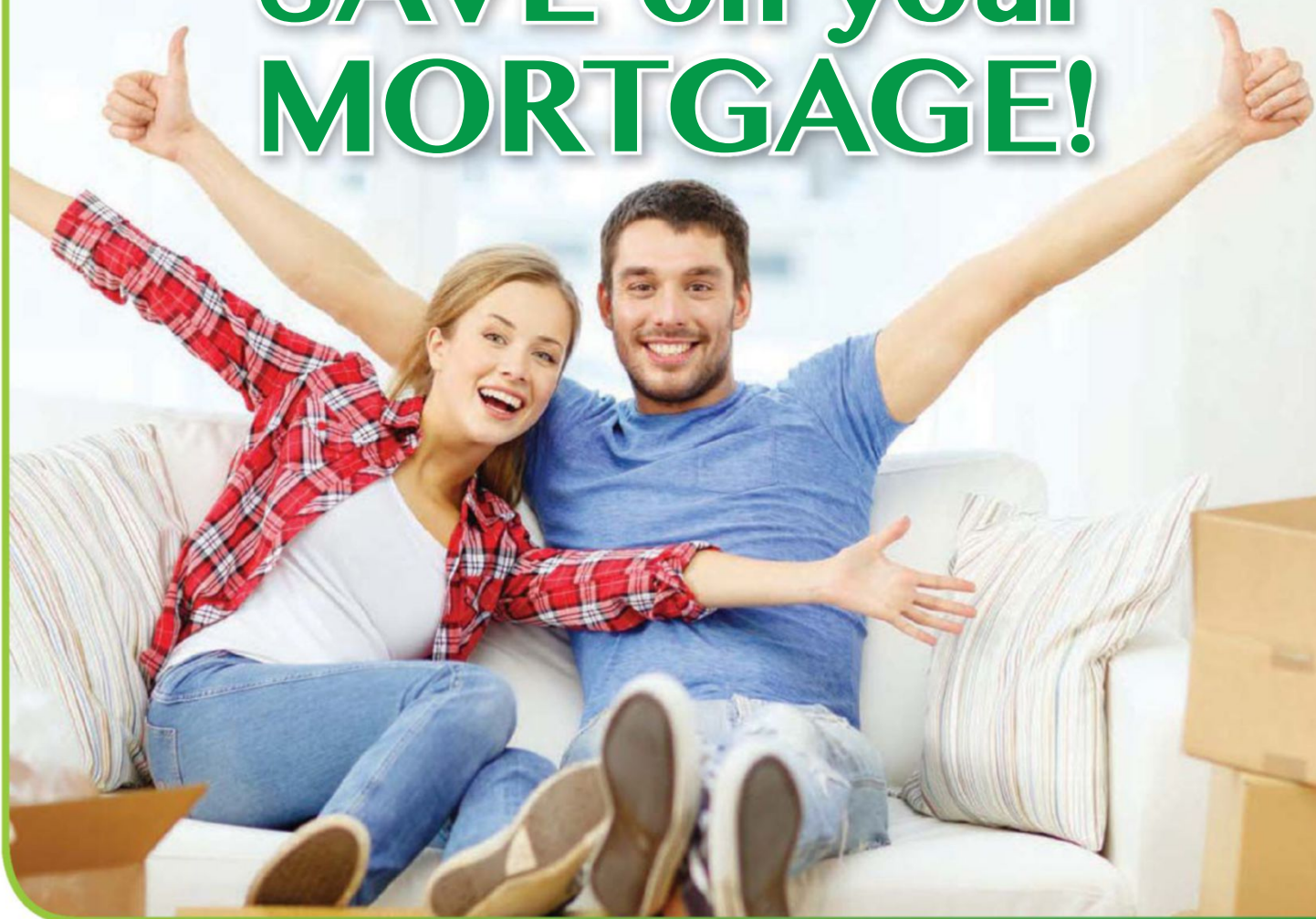


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To allow easy access, sandstone steps were built into the slope.

DIY TIP

Laying paving stones is a time-consuming job, so enlist a helper if you need to cover a large area.



Install the edging

The paving area was built on a slope, so the edging needed to act as a small retaining wall on either side of the patio.

Sandstone blocks were first laid at the end bordering the shed. The concrete pavers were then laid across the site, with edging installed around three sides to create the garden beds.

Steps were also incorporated into one side and an entry was built into another. ➤

PAVE THE PATIO

These pavers come in three different sizes and are laid in what's called a random pattern for a rustic effect.

This pattern and the weathered texture make the paving look like it has been there for decades.

'I just adore the look of these pavers, as they are pitted and worn on the top and along the edges, and they fit our French rustic brief,' says Melissa.

Starting in one corner, Bevan laid the pavers on top of the gravel base, cutting them with an angle grinder to fit against the fire pit.

He continued until the whole area was fully paved and then bedded the pavers in using sand.



To fit around the circular pit, the pavers needed to be cut to size.



Plant the gardens

The arbour was designed to act as the focal point of the area, so a climbing Pierre De Ronsard rose was planted on either side to grow up it.

'I can't wait to train this rose up the arbour and bask in its flowers for years to come,' says Melissa.

Lilly pillies were planted in the garden beds around the edge of the shed, which will each grow tall enough to conceal it from view.

Pink daisies and salvias were planted in the beds next to the steps, and on each side of the entry, Japanese box was planted in two large recycled pots, repainted in charcoal.



Dense lilly pilly will grow to about 3-4m high and hide the unsightly shed wall

GROW TIP

Buy fast-growing plants to give a new garden space an established look within just a year or two.

Salvias provide colourful blooms that are ideal for a country-inspired garden.

ADD FURNITURE

Ornate wrought iron furniture completes the classic French look.

A three-piece wrought iron table setting was placed underneath the arbour to complete the space and add a little rustic charm.

'I have been enjoying sitting out in the late afternoon as the sun sets, relaxing under the arbour and just breathing in the fresh air,' says Melissa.

'In the years to come, I hope this space will make some memorable moments for us as a family.'

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WINTER OUTDOOR WARMERS

Beat the chill on cooler nights
with these backyard heaters

WORDS ADAM WOODHAMS

DESIGN TIP

Go for an open fire
in a rustic landscape
and sleeker options
in contemporary
outdoor rooms.

Classic style

Northcote Pottery Glow Olmec Clay Chimenea, \$169.

Sleek form

Now the warmer months are a thing of the past and winter is upon us, the cold can quickly bring an enjoyable evening outdoors to a grinding halt.

So, how can you guarantee that your outdoor entertaining space is welcoming in all kinds of weather without having to hand out rugs and ugg boots to your guests?

Easy, just install outdoor heating. There are a multitude of choices available to keep you cosy. ➤



Exterior heaters range from traditional stoves to new-tech thermal panels



Heatstrip Classic 1800W Electric Outdoor Heater, \$498.

Key design

A fire pit makes an outdoor area feel inviting.



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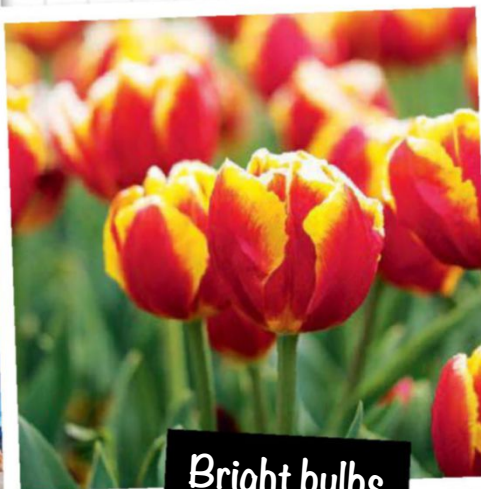
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#HMSolveit



Wall art



Bright bulbs

Photo displays



Get DIY ideas and share your favourite pics

WHICH FUEL?

Every outdoor heating solution will use fuel or energy of one sort or another.

There are three main options when it comes to the energy source. You can choose gas from a bottle or mains, electricity or traditional solid fuels such as wood or briquettes.

The advantage of gas and electric is that you can flick a switch and have instant heat without any fuss, while solid fuel requires a bit of effort to get going and the heat can be inconsistent.

But let's face it, a marshmallow toasted in the glow of an electric heater is just not quite right.

Gas burners are great for providing instant heat.



SAFETY TIP

Keep a heater head at least 500mm away from surfaces, as the heat can bubble paint, melt plastic and crack glass.

GAS There's no arguing that gas heaters will bring near-instant warmth and, with bottles that can easily be replaced, a degree of simplicity and convenience.

The majority of gas heaters are portable, so you can move them to where the action is.

Some of these heaters can also be connected to the mains gas, if you have an outdoor spigot.

But one drawback with gas heaters is they work by convection, heating only the air around them.

This means they will feel warm up close, but the heat will drop rapidly as you move further away.

Jumbuck Silver Hammered Patio Heater, \$159, from Bunnings.

ELECTRIC Very easy to use, as there's no messing around with fuel or switching gas bottles, electric heaters allow you to just flick a switch for instant heat.

The running costs of quality, modern radiant heaters is also far lower than gas options.

A gas heater can cost about \$3 an hour to run, whereas a quality radiant electric heater can cost as little as 30 cents an hour.

One reason for their efficiency is that this type of heater aims to warm you up directly, not to simply heat the air around you, in the way that fuel heaters do. ➤

Jumbuck 2000W Outdoor Electric Heater, \$79, from Bunnings.

SOLID FUEL Traditional, fun to use and attractive, solid fuel heaters are still a great option.

While a little more planning is needed to light it in advance, there is something so comforting about being warmed by an open fire.

There are also more options in the style of solid fuel heaters you can buy, than with gas or electric.

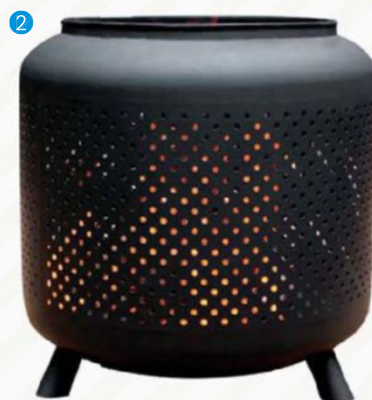
But you must remember to observe local fire restrictions and to keep the kids well supervised.

Also, only use solid fuel in well-ventilated areas, avoid burning treated pine and ensure the fire is completely extinguished at the end of the evening.

- 1 Chapala Medium Tibor Cast Iron Chimenea, \$299. chapala.com.au
- 2 Northcote Pottery Glow Acheron Fire Pit, \$149. northcotepottery.com.au
- 3 Chapala Sun God Clay Fire Pit with Screen, \$139.
- 4 Northcote Pottery Glow Rustic Fire Pit, \$229.



A well-structured fire using quality fuel should provide heat for most of the evening and will be reduced to embers as your night wraps up



ADAM'S PICKS

➤ Ekologs, \$10 for 9.75kg, from Bunnings, are the fuel for your fire when you're after a sustainable option.

These briquettes are a high-energy, hot-burning, wood-based composite fuel made from recycled wood residues.

➤ When you need wood for burning, you'll need an axe for cutting the logs.

The Fiskars 91cm X27 Splitting Axe, \$139, has a long shaft and tough FiberComp handle to soak up the impact of hardwoods (au.fiskars.com). 🔧





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LEATHER TIME

With basic techniques, you can turn simple straps into chic accessories

WORDS ARTEMIS GOUROS PROJECTS GEMA BENEITEZ PICTURES SUE FERRIS



EXPERT SECRETS

Leather goes with lots of architectural and interior design styles from modern minimalist to art deco. The trick is to use leather in colours that suit the decorating style.

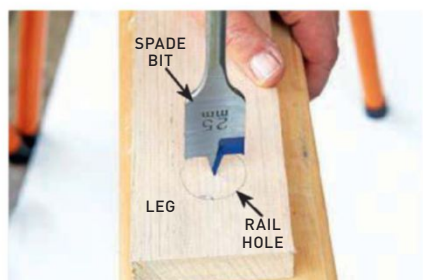
Popular for sofas and chairs, leather isn't used for many other home furnishings, even though it is very versatile.

These projects use leather straps and basic upholstery techniques. The straps are 1.2m belt lengths cut to size. They come in various widths, costing about \$10 for a 32mm strap.

Buy the leather and tools from suppliers like Birdsall Leathercraft (birdsall-leather.com.au). ➤

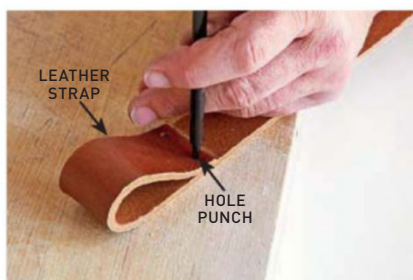
★
Timeless and classic, real leather with a quality grain lasts for decades and looks better with age

1 2 3



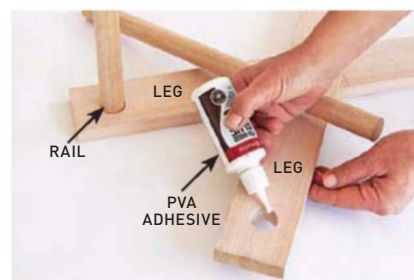
1 Make the frame

Cut four legs from 65 x 18mm timber to 550mm using a jigsaw. Cut two rails from 25mm dowel to 400mm. Measure 50mm from the leg tops, trace the rails and drill holes with a 25mm spade bit. Make a cross with each pair of legs and join with a screw.



2 Prepare the straps

Cut five 32mm wide leather straps to 800mm. Mark 140mm from the ends of each strap and fold over to form loops. Punch a 2mm hole near each edge. Sew through both layers with an upholstery needle and waxed thread. Make two loops to fit around the legs.



3 Assemble the seat

Insert the rails in the holes, assemble the frame and check for square. Take it apart, apply PVA adhesive to one pair of legs and insert the rails. Slide the straps onto the rails and secure the other pair of legs with adhesive. Close the legs and slide on the loops.

MAG RACK

DECORATE

DESIGN TIP

Use leather for accent pieces like armchairs or ottomans, teaming it with timber and rich fabrics for warmth.



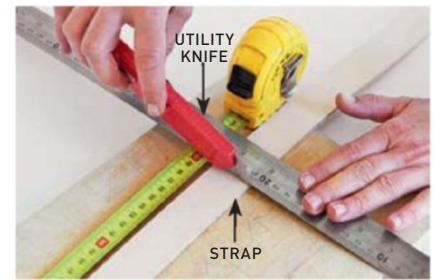
For portability and easy storage, this simple timber and leather magazine rack folds up.

BENCH SEAT



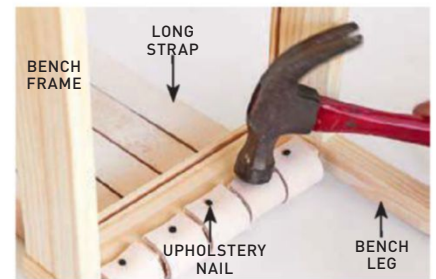
Once you get the hang of working with leather, you can branch out and weave a floor rug

1 2 3



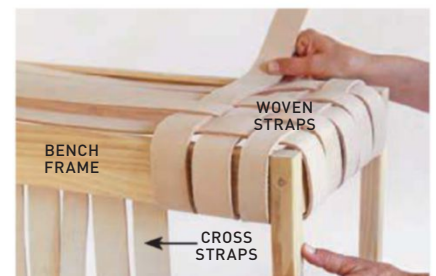
1 Cut the straps

Position a 38mm wide and 1200mm long leather strap along the bench and mark to length with enough left over to wrap over and under the frame. Repeat with a 32mm strap across the bench. Cut the number of straps needed to length using a utility knife.



2 Secure the straps

Lay the long straps evenly spaced on a flat surface and position a short side of the bench frame on top near the strap ends. Take each strap over the frame, securing with an upholstery nail using a hammer. Pull the straps taut and secure to the other short side.



3 Weave the seat

Lay the cross straps evenly spaced on a flat level surface and position the long side of the bench frame on top near the strap ends. Secure each cross strap to the frame with an upholstery nail, then weave them through the long straps and secure to the other side.



A bench at the end of a bed is a convenient piece of furniture in a bedroom.

Buying a long bench or ottoman can get expensive, but you can easily make your own.

To get designer style on a shoestring, simply take the top off a timber stool and replace it with a woven leather seat. Or build a budget timber coffee table without the top.

Use the leather bench to hold cushions or a throw rug, or for books and a breakfast tray for when you want to read in bed. ➤

BUDGET TIP

Leather straps are more economical than buying upholstery hides, which come in pieces of several square metres.



Customise a timber bench with a woven leather seat in a colour to suit your bedroom.

PLANT HOLDER

DIY TIP

Use Blu-Tack to hold the leather straps in position on the pot while you're making the holder and attaching rivets.



Create a leather holder for a large house plant and it will double as a decorative element and provide an easy way to move a big pot around.

This pot is 290mm in diameter and 260mm high, but the holder can be adapted to suit a pot of any size, as it is just made from 32mm wide straps cut to length.

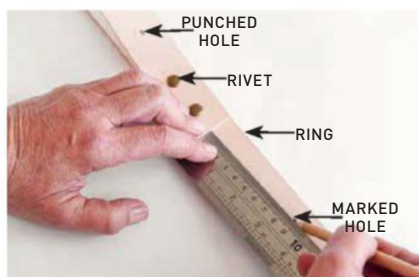
The holder is assembled around the pot and the straps secured using 3mm rivets.

What looks like two handles is actually one long strap that's woven and looped around the pot.



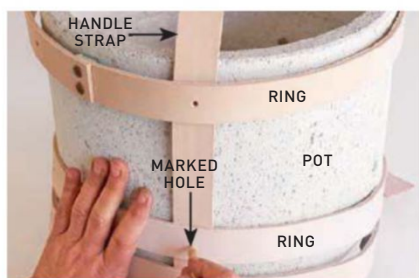
Make a holder for a big pot so you can move it around to use as a decorative doorstop.

1 2 3



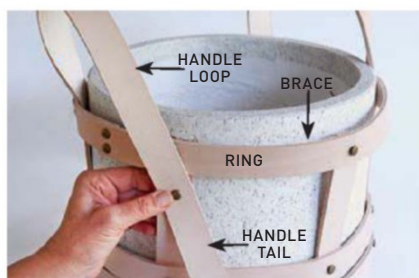
1 Make the rings

Punch two holes 2mm from the ends of three 1000mm leather straps, securing with leather rivets. Press the rings flat with the rivets centred. Mark and punch holes through both layers 85mm from either side of the overlap. Slide the rings on the pot base.



2 Attach the handle

Slide a 1200mm strap under the rings, mark the holes and punch, securing with rivets. Take the handle strap under the pot to the corresponding ring holes and repeat. Loop and take it back under the rings and pot, then up the other side, leaving a 700mm tail.



3 Secure the braces

On each ring, and on either side of the pot, mark and punch holes centred between the handles. Slide a 200mm strap under the rings, then mark and punch the holes, attaching each brace with rivets. Secure the handle tail over the start point.



The handle of the pot holder has a tail cut like a ribbon end using a utility blade



FOR YOUR INSPIRATION ▶▶▶

TERRACE TRANSFORMED

After years of being patched up and added to, this old inner-city property was ready for a new lease of life

WORDS SITA SIMONS **PICTURES** MURRAY FREDERICKS

For a sense of cohesiveness and longevity of design, it was important to ensure the new addition sat comfortably alongside the old part of the building.



Overlooking this once-dilapidated house in Sydney's Paddington would have been easy to do.

A former working class inner-city suburb of ramshackle terraces, deemed a slum for redevelopment in the '50s, it's now home to some of the most expensive real estate per square metre in Sydney.

Cashing in on potential

It was never a grand house, but its size and position saw it bought and sold many times over the years, and with each new owner came additions and changes.

While fixer-upper projects in the area are often snapped up fast, this property didn't lend itself well to the market, says architect Georgina Wilson.

'When you entered this house, you felt confused. It had been added to and

added to in quite a random fashion and had evolved to such a degree that it was very off-putting,' says Georgina.

'It was claustrophobic and dark, and even the physical act of walking around made you feel topsy-turvy, as there was such bad fall on all the floors.

'One of the most confronting aspects was that the entire width, which was only five or six metres, was cut down the middle by a skinny additional wing tacked onto the back,' she says.

But what others missed, the new owners saw. A 175sqm block in a great position, good streets front and rear, with an attic space and a partially excavated basement meaning there was significant volume already existing.

It needed a lot of work, but the price was right, so the project began. ➤

Fusing old and new

The owners had clear ideas about what they needed, and with a growing family, flexibility was paramount.

‘What you need with toddlers is different to what you’ll need with school-aged kids. I wanted to maximise the potential in every space, so it could adapt as necessary,’ says Georgina.

The interior was gutted, leaving only the facade remaining.

‘I had no desire to make a huge architectural statement by designing something at odds with the period.

‘When you take apart one of these buildings, there’s layer upon layer of materials, as people have applied a Band-Aid solution over time, so when it gets to 100 years old, there’s really no way the building can take any more.’

The result is a totally reconfigured, vastly more efficient home, with the front sections respecting the heritage.

Reworking the layout

The plans included four bedrooms, three bathrooms, multiple living areas, open-plan kitchen, study, media room and outdoor space that could be used

for entertaining and parking. The key to making it work was the basement.

‘Taking the laundry off the ground floor of the house meant that I could integrate that much-needed flexibility into the configuration,’ says Georgina.

‘In the basement, we had to achieve a decent ceiling height, but with all the playing around with floor levels, it became cramped down there.

‘The laundry is 4m long, so we just excavated a trench and still achieved the functional area needed and storage.’

The basement also provides for a media room and home office.

‘The beauty of these spaces is they can be used in so many ways as the family grows,’ says Georgina.

On ground level are the formal living and dining areas. There are three bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs, and the attic has been converted into a master bedroom with ensuite.

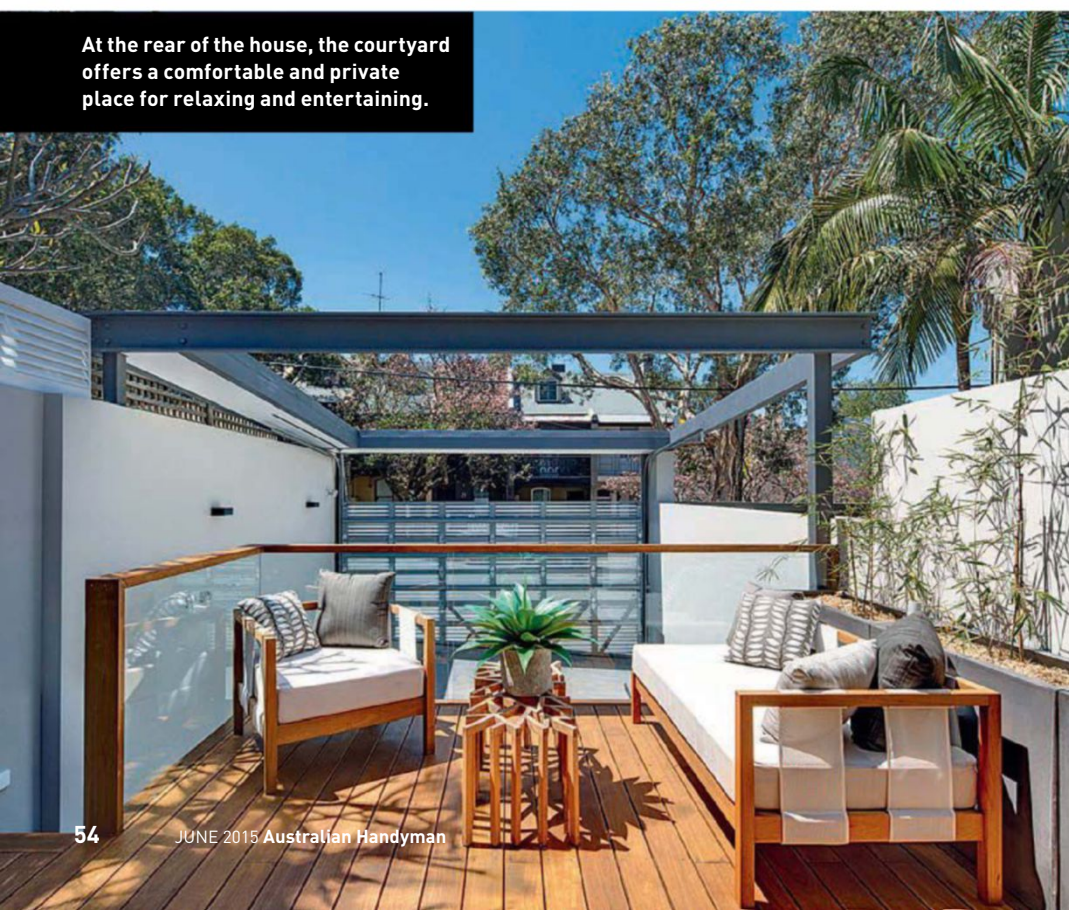
Integrated joinery is a feature in all of the bedrooms.

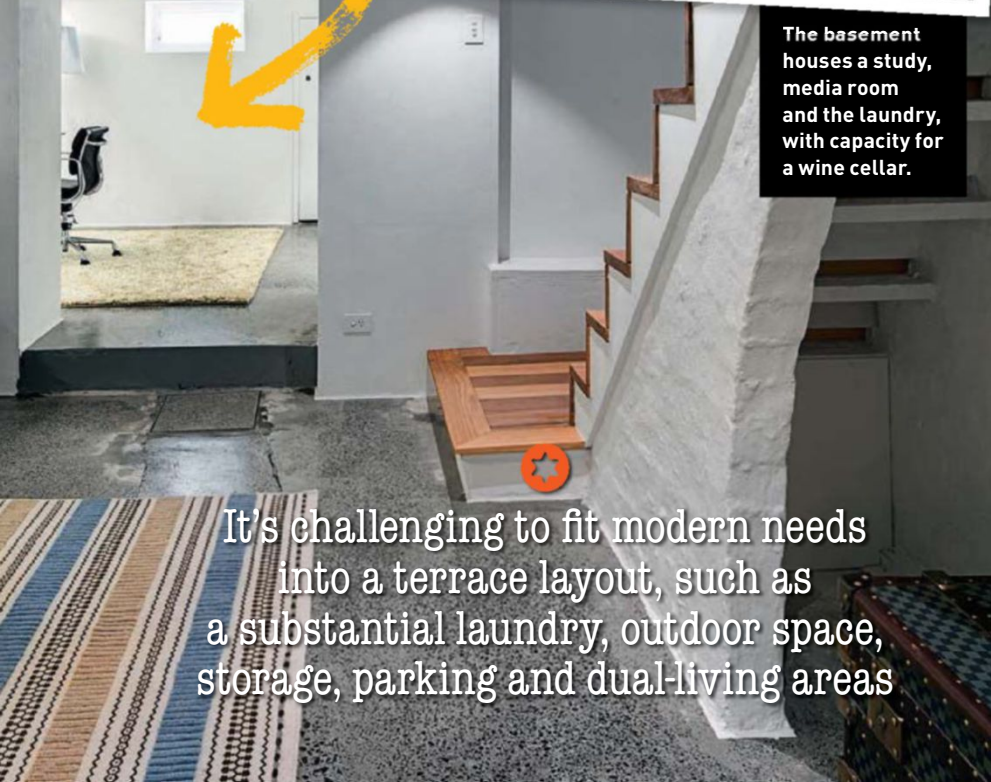
‘It’s unobtrusive, and nothing impacts negatively on the space. We gave it a cutout detail for texture and to provide more ventilation.’ ➤



On street level, the two front rooms very much reflect the original layout and terrace style.

At the rear of the house, the courtyard offers a comfortable and private place for relaxing and entertaining.





The basement houses a study, media room and the laundry, with capacity for a wine cellar.

It's challenging to fit modern needs into a terrace layout, such as a substantial laundry, outdoor space, storage, parking and dual-living areas



MODERN STARTS WITH CORINTHIAN

THE DECO COLLECTION

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**CORINTHIAN
DOORS**
A JELD-WEN Company



To maximise efficient use of space, the stairwell was stacked up through the levels of the building



The under-utilised attic has been transformed into a master bedroom. **ABOVE** Small but ingenious, the ensuite was left open to the stairs to keep the floorplan light and airy.





Opening onto a leafy outlook, the front bedroom features the original doors and shutters.

Maximising the light

Facing east on a south-bearing hill, the property was dark and claustrophobic.

'This is always a challenge with terraces and I knew I'd have to work it to get some natural light through the plan of the house,' says Georgina.

She looked to borrow views throughout, so wherever you are inside, you always get an outlook.

Connecting the old part of the home with the new is a courtyard, bringing light, ventilation and a green aspect to the rooms around it.

'Another problem with terraces is the train carriage effect, like you're passing through one narrow room to the next, so we added a pop-up ceiling. It gives the roofline a different shape and draws the eye up,' she says.

The stairwell can also be a dark and dominating area. The upper part is made of a lightweight steel that is mostly transparent, allowing light to stream down from the top windows. ➤

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Clerestory windows were introduced into the kitchen, opening to the north to maximise on the natural light.
BELOW On the original part of the stairs, the layers have been revealed to subtly reference the old house and its previous lives.



To give a feeling of differentiation, the rooms in the old part of the home feature chevron pattern parquetry while the extension has timber boards

Picking the materials

The clients had a strong preference for hardwearing and serviceable materials, so timber was an obvious choice.

There were layers of floor coverings, with carpet laid on lino and masonite, so it was stripped back to reveal the timber. It was badly damaged by white ants, which is common in a house of this age, so most had to be rebuilt.

The new floors are blackbutt with a matt burnishing oil finish.

‘We experimented with this quite a bit. We didn’t want anything

highly varnished, but this oil sinks in so the timber develops a natural patina, then all it needs is buffing and re-oiling from time to time,’ says Georgina.

The colour choices throughout the house reflect the simplicity of the design. Steel trims are painted in a Dulux iron oxide protective coating in Bridge Grey and natural white paint is used on the walls.

Marble is used sparingly, on the kitchen island bench and highlighted in the main bathroom. 🍌



STEAL THIS STYLE

This house is not eccentric in any way, and there's nothing fussy about it. Timber floors, seamless joinery, white walls and metal trim combine to create something beautiful out of the simplicity and service it offers.

Georgina Wilson, architect

PICTURE (BOTTOM) NOEL MCLAUGHLIN

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**BUNNINGS
warehouse**

TIDY TIP

First impressions count, so keep unsightly items like garbage bins and air conditioners hidden from view.

After

A modern colour scheme and new entry transforms the house front.



Before

FROM UNLOVED TO UNREAL

This modest home gets a quick fix on a budget to improve the facade and add instant value

WORDS AND PICTURES CHERIE BARBER



There's an overall scruffiness and uncoordinated appearance to the front of this property.

It's certainly not helped by the bland house colours, the assortment of garbage bins, an in-your-face air conditioner and a gate that looks like it was an afterthought.

There are a few scraggly plants, an unkempt lawn, an impractical path and no real sense of entry to the home. And let's not forget the dated street-style lamp.

The reno plan

Luckily, it's a pretty easy fix, so we'll start by relocating all the random and unattractive features that we need to keep, and removing anything else.

Paint will give the biggest impact, but we'll also fix up the lawn and add neat garden beds to boost kerb appeal and take the focus off the unsightly shape of the front wall.

A mini deck and timber pergola will frame the entrance and a stacked stone feature wall will be built to conceal the fibro sheeting.

It's then just a matter of adding charm with decorative elements. ➤



GET A FREE
MAKEOVER

Cherie Barber is the owner of *Renovating For Profit*, a company dedicated to teaching people how to add value to their property through smart renovation.

She is also a public speaker and TV renovator on the popular Network Ten show *The Living Room*.

Cherie is offering a free virtual makeover to *Handyman* readers in need of renovation inspiration.

Send us a photo and description of an area in your home that needs work for the chance to get a makeover.

To upload your photos, go to handyman.net.au/virtual-makeover.

SIX STEPS TO SUCCESS

1 CLEAR THE CLUTTER

Garbage bins and air conditioners have no place at the front of a property.

The side gate, lamp and trellis will also go. While this is a huge improvement, it's a bit stark, so they'll need to be replaced with decorative features.

The air conditioner will be mounted on brackets on the side wall with the garbage bins underneath to save space.



Carinya 400 x 300 x 50 x 6mm Galvanised Heavy Duty Stayed Brackets, \$28. rcr.com.au

4 CREATE THE ENTRY

I'm going to warm up the steely grey and white with natural timber.

Merbau is a favourite for decking, and I'm going to use it to create a timber portico and new gate.

Instantly, we have that missing sense of an entrance.



KD Select Merbau Decking, 90 x 19mm, from \$5 a metre, from Bunnings.

2 LAY A PATH

There's zero sense of entry at the moment.

We'll start by digging up the old concrete path and replanting those scraggly plants where they won't be such a focal point.

From the street to the front door, we'll lay a grey pebble path and add Pour On Gravel Binder to hold it together (pouron.com.au).



BPS Landscaping Products Pebbles, \$8 for 20kg. bpsaust.com

5 ADD A FEATURE

A touch of glamour is introduced to the entrance with a stacked stone wall and a new light.

In the evening, the wall sconce will provide a gentle wash of light.

A large urn with a tuft of greenery completes the new resort-style entry.



Decor8 400 x 100mm Stacked Stone Tile, \$7 each. decor8tiles.com

3 PAINT THE WALLS

We'll paint over the bricks in a contemporary grey like Taubmans Sealord to match the new pebble path and replace the wishy-washy pastel colours of the house.

The window architrave, fascia and gutters will be painted crisp off-white to add contrast.



Taubmans Endure Exterior Low Sheen Accent, \$86 for 4L. taubmans.com.au

6 PLANT GREENERY

Now for the garden. We'll use that merbau timber again to make garden beds on either side of the path and bordering the house, and plant them with low-lying shrubs.

It's the unifying effect that was so lacking before.

A spread of healthy new turf then completes the transformation.



Philodendron 'Xanadu', 180mm, about \$25, from Bunnings.

Stylish and TOUGH



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aesthetics for a walk-in
robe with true style

WARDROBE INSTALL

Transform an inefficient and untidy closet space into a functional dressing room

PROJECT FRANK GARDNER MAIN PICTURES STUART SCOTT

DESIGN TIP

The taller the wardrobe, the more room for shoes and bags at the base, plus double hanging rods.

Storage is something most of us want more of, with closet space at the top of the list. But instead of spending big bucks on a custom build, you can create a space DIY to suit your needs.

Pre-edged 16mm white melamine from hardware stores is available in 445mm and 595mm widths, and various lengths, and is just right for standard carcass construction.

This wardrobe was designed as an L-shape to maximise the available space with a shoe rack, full-length hanging section and wire baskets.

The three carcasses are separated by oval-shaped chrome rods to create double-hanging spaces in between, and topped by a wall-length 595mm deep shelf, for extra storage. ➤

MAKE THE CUT

❶ **FOR THE MELAMINE** use a circular saw and straightedge clamped in position, or have it cut to size by the supplier.

For greater accuracy, use a matching track system to ensure dead straight cuts every time.

To minimise breakout and chips, use a 40-tooth saw blade.

❷ **CUT THE SKIRTING** so the wardrobe carcasses sit flush against the wall.

Use a multi-tool fitted with a plunge cutting blade to cut and remove 16mm widths of skirting.

After

Clever design triples the amount of storage in the L-shaped space.

Before

1
DAY

\$277
COST



Create shoe storage

At 2100mm high, the shoe rack is constructed as a basic box without a back. It measures 325mm deep and 600mm wide.

The base is set 60mm up to allow for a small kickboard that is set 25mm back from the front edge of the box.

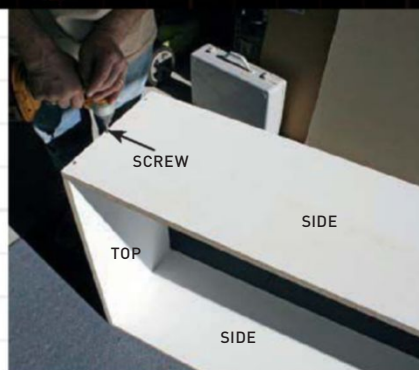
Chrome rod is cut into 596mm lengths and installed as rails to hold the shoes. Set at offset heights with the back rails 40mm higher than the front, they create an effective angled display.

With 10 pairs of rails and extra space at the base, this rack is designed to hold 30 pairs of shoes.

Materials

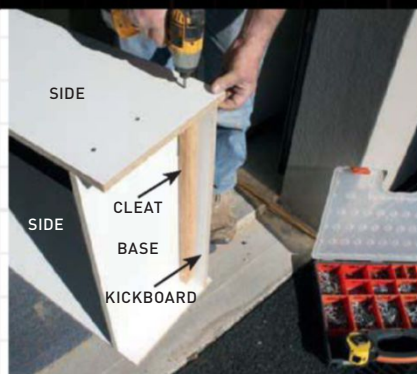
White melamine shelving	\$58
Pine	\$4
Chrome rod	\$120
Tube brackets	\$84
Timber screws	\$11
TOTAL	\$277

BUILD THE BOX



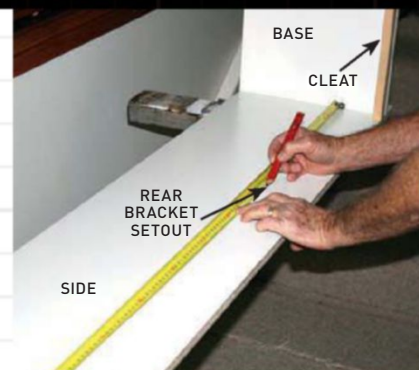
1 Assemble the box

Position the top between the sides and flush with the top edges, securing with three screws 8mm from the top edge of the sides. Attach a cleat under the top and flush with the back edge of the sides using screws. Position the base between the sides 60mm up.



2 Attach the kickboard

Secure the base through the sides with screws. Drill pilot holes to attach a cleat to the back of the kickboard and flush with the top edge using three screws. Set the kickboard 25mm back from the front edges and secure to the base through the cleat with four screws.



3 Mark the brackets

Add a cleat to the base flush with the back edge. Mark the sides from top to base 90mm from the front edges and 85mm from the back edges. Set out the front brackets from 250mm high and the rear brackets from 290mm high, increasing by 170mm.



SHOE RACK

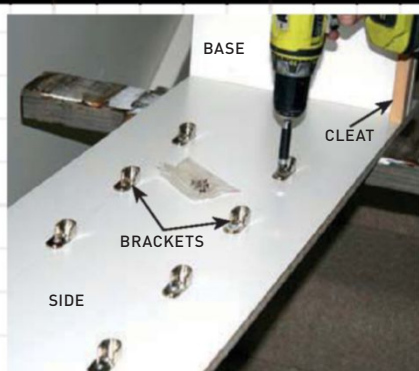
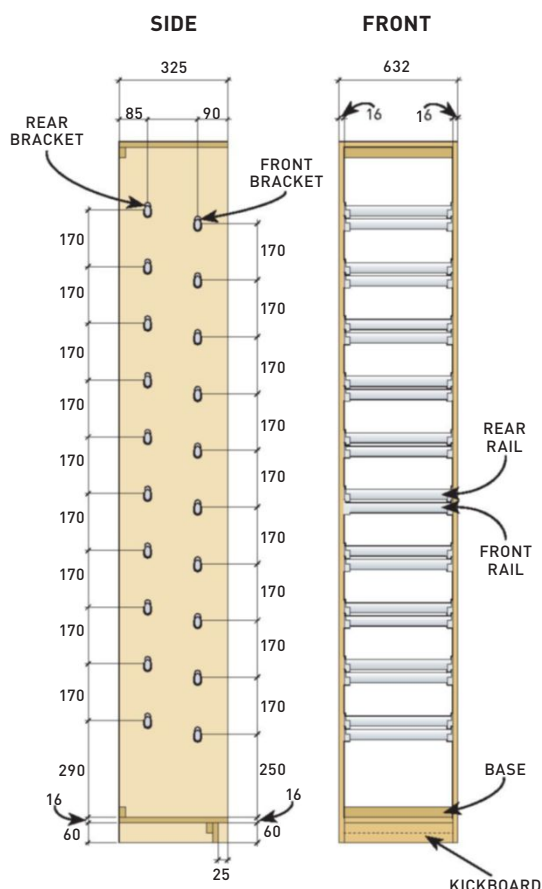
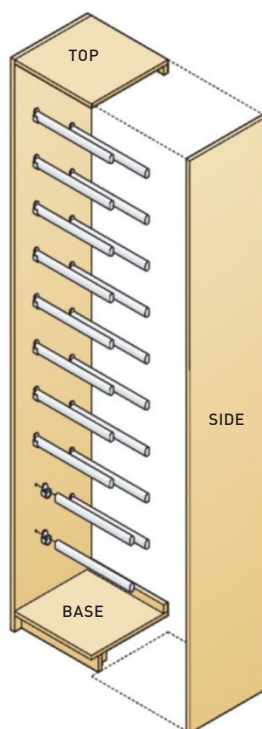
measurements in mm

CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
White melamine shelving		
Sides	2100 x 325 x 16	2
Top/base	600 x 325 x 16	2
Kickboard	600 x 60 x 16	1
Pine		
Cleats	600 x 42 x 18	3

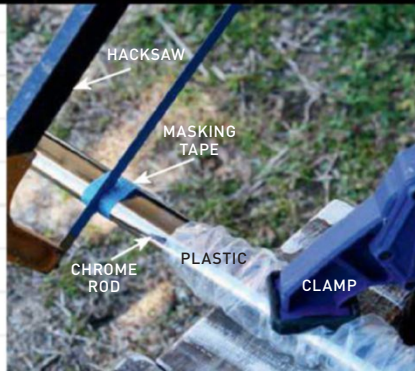
FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Timber screws, 40mm x 8g	Box
Timber screws, 50mm x 8g	Kickboard
Timber screws, 25mm x 8g	Cleats



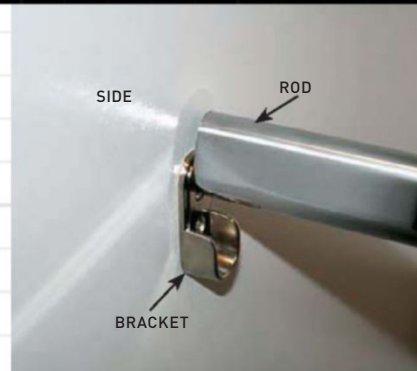
4 Add the brackets

Centre the screw holes in each bracket over the marked centrelines on the sides with the top of each bracket positioned at the marked height. Firmly secure the brackets to the sides using the supplied self-tapping screws.



5 Cut the rod

Measure and mark a 596mm length on the chrome rod and wrap with masking tape. To protect the chrome from scratches and damage, leave the plastic on and clamp the rod securely. Use a hacksaw to cut the rod, filing any burrs from the cut edges.



6 Install the rack

Position the shoe rack against the wall, cutting the skirting where necessary. Secure the top cleat with screws to the wall studs, then clip each rod, pressing them into the brackets with gentle downward pressure. Arrange the shoes on the rack. ➤



Add a hanging section

This carcass with base drawer is 2100mm high and provides over 1700mm of hanging space.

The base is set 60mm above floor level to allow for a recessed kickboard, with a shelf set 300mm above the base as a top for the push-to-open drawer.

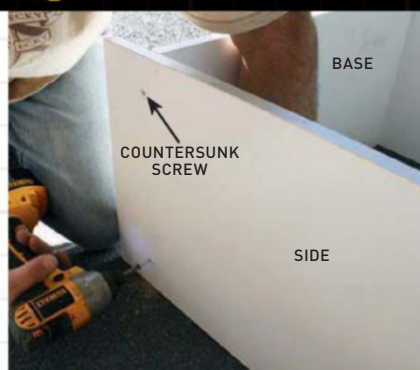
Add brackets for the hanging rail on the inner faces of the sides, located 40mm from the top and 297mm from the front and back edges.

Securing the sides to the top shelf running the length of the wall, and adding the double rails either side, helps to keep them in plumb position.

Materials

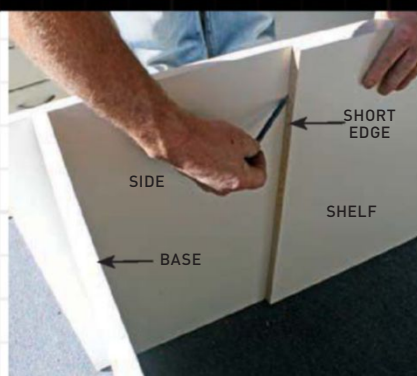
White melamine shelving	\$130
Pine	\$2
Timber screws	\$15
Drawer slides	\$24
TOTAL	\$171

BUILD THE BOX



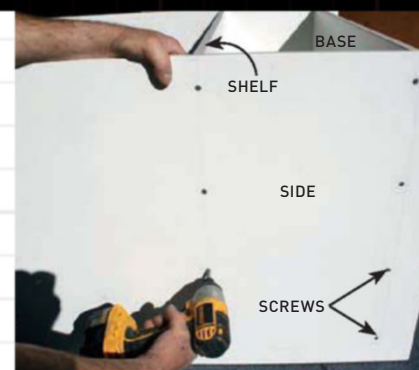
1 Assemble the box

Position the box base between the sides on a level surface. Set the box base 60mm up from the base edges of the sides to allow for the kickboard. Drill two equally spaced 2mm countersunk pilot holes for each side to secure the base through the sides using screws.



2 Mark the shelf

Position the 16mm shelf against an inside face of the box, using the short edge to mark and scribe a pair of lines at a height of 300mm and 316mm up from the base of the box. Repeat for the other side. The drawer will sit between the shelf and box base.



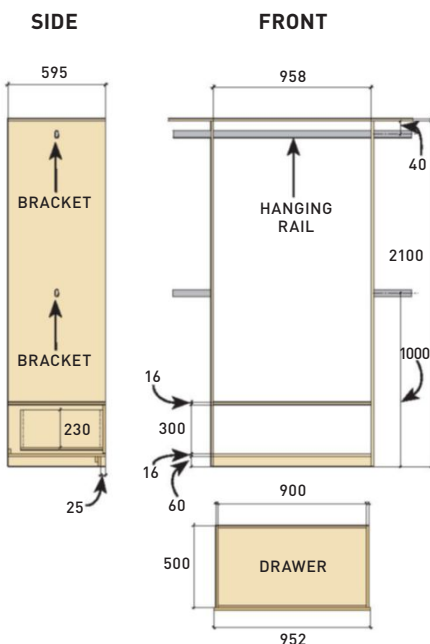
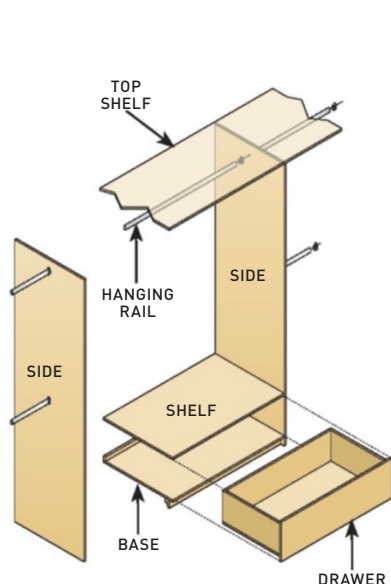
3 Secure the shelf

Mark and drill four equally spaced 2mm countersunk pilot holes down the centreline of the marked shelf lines. Position the shelf between the sides using the marked lines, securing the shelf with screws from the outside faces of the sides.



HANGING BOX

measurements in mm

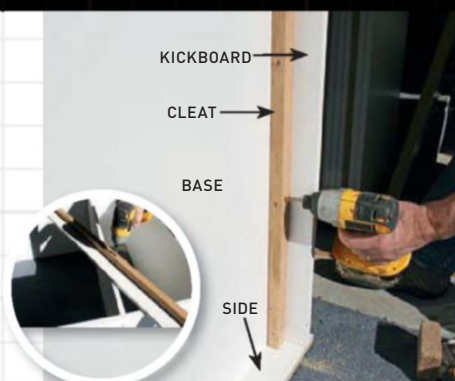


CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
White melamine shelving		
Sides	2100 x 595 x 16	2
Base/shelf	958 x 595 x 16	2
Kickboard	958 x 60 x 16	1
Drawer face	952 x 294 x 16	1
Drawer sides	500 x 230 x 16	2
Drawer front/back	900 x 230 x 16	2
Drawer base	932 x 500 x 16	1
Pine		
Cleat	958 x 42 x 18	1

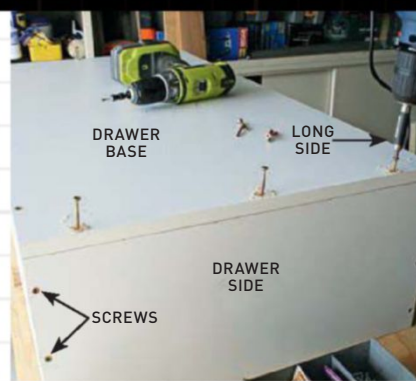
FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Timber screws, 40mm x 8g	Box, shelf and drawer
Timber screws, 50mm x 8g	Kickboard
Timber screws, 25mm x 8g	Cleat, drawer face



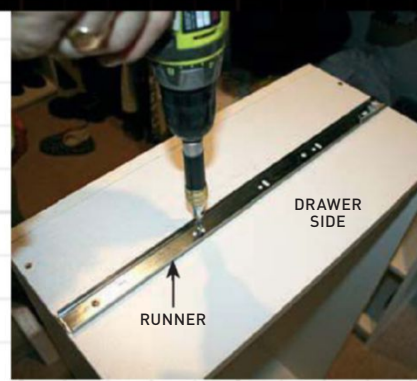
4 Add the kickboard

Drill pilot holes to attach a cleat to the back of the kickboard and flush with the top edge using three screws. Set the kickboard 25mm back from the front edges and secure to the base through the cleat with four screws.



5 Build the drawer

Position the drawer front and back between the sides on a level surface, drilling 2mm countersunk pilot holes 8mm from the side edges to secure. Position the base, secure one long side with screws, then use the base to square up the box and secure all sides.



6 Install the runners

Mark a centreline on the drawer sides 115mm from the top and 145mm from the base on the box sides. Attach the matching runner halves to the centrelines on the drawer and box sides. Add the drawer face with screws from inside the front. ➔



1
DAY

\$145
COST



Install the drawers

Designed to hold four wire baskets 240mm high x 600mm wide that slide on U-shaped metal runners, the 1200mm high drawer box was built with a back.

The actual top was made from a leftover piece of 25mm thick melamine, but 16mm will do.

An additional 2100mm high side was secured to the left of the box to support the top shelf, and to provide a fixing point for the rails.

Attach brackets for rails to the outside face of this side at 40mm from the top and 1000mm from the base.

Materials

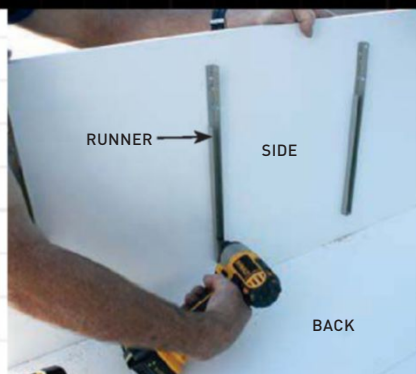
White melamine shelving	\$92
Pine	\$2
Timber screws	\$11
Wire baskets	\$40
TOTAL	\$145

BUILD THE BOX



1 Assemble the box

Position the base 60mm up between the sides, then the top rails, securing with screws. Secure a back piece to a side, square up the box, then secure the short side. Repeat. Drill pilot holes to attach a cleat to the kickboard flush with the top edge using three screws.



2 Install the runners

Set the kickboard back 25mm from the front edges and secure to the base through the cleat with four screws. Draw centrelines on the inside faces of the sides for the runners with 40mm between baskets. Secure each runner 40mm back from the front edges.



3 Secure the box

Stand the box in position, then mark the skirting and cut where necessary using a multi-tool. Mark the wall stud locations on the back and one side of the box. Drill 2mm countersunk pilot holes and secure the box to the wall through the back and side with screws.



WIRE DRAWERS

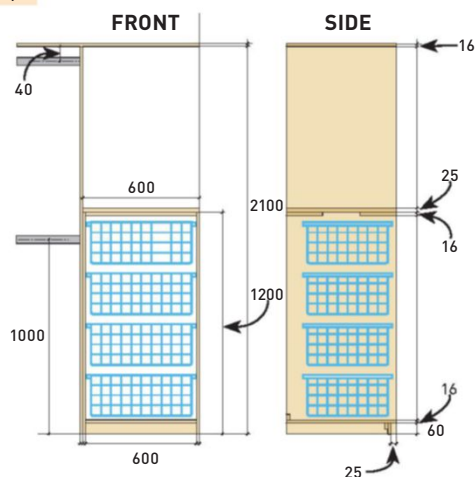
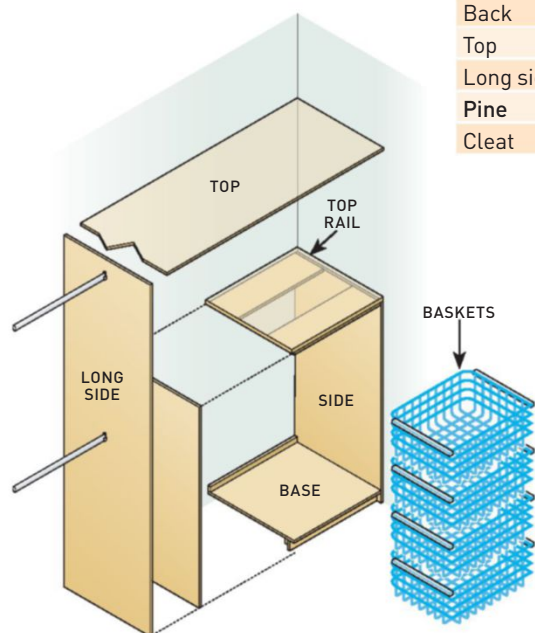
measurements in mm

CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
White melamine shelving		
Sides	1200 x 595 x 16	2
Base	600 x 595 x 16	1
Top rails	600 x 100 x 16	2
Kickboard	600 x 60 x 16	1
Back	316 x 1140 x 16	2
Top	648 x 620 x 25	1
Long side	2100 x 595 x 16	1
Pine		
Cleat	600 x 42 x 18	1

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Timber screws, 40mm x 8g	Box
Timber screws, 50mm x 8g	Kickboard
Timber screws, 25mm x 8g	Top, long side and cleat



4 Add the top

Position the top on the top rails, then drill at least three countersunk pilot holes through each rail from underneath, securing with screws. Stand the long side in position and secure to the left side of the box with screws from the inside. ●

GET THE LOOK



Sandleford Oval Chrome Rod,
15 x 30 x 3600mm, \$32.
sandleford.com.au



Clever Closet Wire Basket,
545 x 285 x 435mm, \$9.
handy-storage.com.au

King Slide Push Open
500mm Drawer Slide,
\$24, from Bunnings.



White Predrilled Melamine
Shelving, 1800 x 595 x 16mm,
\$26, from Bunnings.

Find it at Bunnings

WARDROBE STORAGE

Organise clothes and reduce clutter with affordable storage solutions

TIDY TIP

Hang or store sachets of lavender inside wardrobes to repel moths and keep clothes smelling fresh.

WALK IN WARDROBE

Flexi Storage Home Solutions system is the easy DIY solution for producing your dream walk-in wardrobe layout.

Install a wardrobe designed for the space with open hanging storage to keep clothing and accessories on display.

Mount frames on the wall and add wire or mesh shelves and baskets for ventilation.

Include accessories like jewellery drawers and trouser racks for a streamlined set-up.



SLIDING STANDALONE

For a simple and versatile storage solution in your bedroom, install standalone wardrobes with sliding doors from the Bedford range.

Customise the interior by fitting shelves, drawers and hanging racks in almost any configuration.

Fit multiple wardrobes in one room for space efficient 'his and her' storage or to give kids their own personal space when sharing.

TIP Add a desk in between two wardrobes to create a study nook.



HINGED STANDALONE

Add versatile clothes storage to your bedroom with one of the four closets from the new Bedford Wardrobe Solutions Range.

All the units are the same height, depth and core material, making it easy to pair them side by side when devising a system to store your belongings.

Select a one-door, split-combo, combo or three-door split robe.

Find it at Bunnings

TOWEL RAIL

It's easy to turn an old timber ladder into a towel rail and accessory holder for the bathroom.

All you need to do is lightly sand the timber and apply two coats of a clear varnish for instant rustic chic on a budget.

Materials

- Old timber ladder
- Clear timber varnish
- Paintbrush
- Soft cleaning brush
- Sandpaper
- Sanding block
- Drop sheet
- Lint-free cloth

1 2 3



1 Dust the ladder

Lay a drop sheet on the floor to protect it from dust and varnish, then position the ladder on it. Clean the timber ladder with a dry soft brush, getting right into the corners to remove all traces of dirt or dust.



2 Sand the timber

Use a sanding block and fine grit paper to sand the ladder by hand, making sure you sand with the grain of the timber, not against it. Wipe the ladder as clean as possible with a dry, lint-free cloth.



3 Apply the varnish

Give the ladder a coat of clear timber varnish using a paintbrush. Let it dry overnight, then sand lightly. Apply at least one more coat, then sand again. **TIP** When using varnish, make sure your work space is well ventilated.

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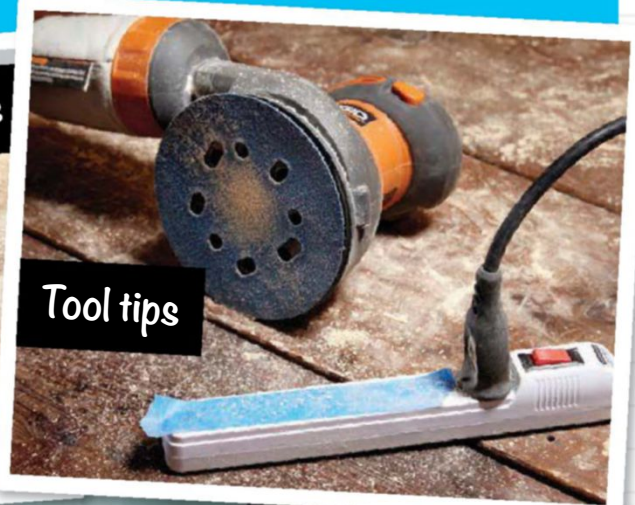
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WHAT'S NEW

Head instore to make the most of your house and garden this winter

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DIY TIP

When drilling into timber, rub lip balm over screws to make it easier for them to slide into place.

BUILDING BITS



Drive home screws with an Ozito 18V Cordless Drill Driver, \$49.95, skin only.

Get back to building with an Ozito 18V 3.0AH Battery & Fast Charger Kit, \$89.



Carry DIY essentials in an Ozito Tool Bag with six exterior pockets, \$9.98.



Block bright light with Zone PVC Venetian Blinds, 50 x 900 x 1500mm, \$56.90.



Install Draft Prevent and eliminate icy breezes in the bathroom, \$25.



Repair walls with the Multi-function Plasterboard Tool 3-in-1 Smart Knife, \$39.



MEASURE UP TO 15m in five seconds using a Bosch PLR 15 Laser Range Finder, \$49.98, with an illuminated display.



FUN FIXTURES

ADD AMBIENCE with the welcoming glow of the Eden Alfresco Decorative LED Wax Candles Lights, \$19.90 for four.

LIGHT THE NIGHT with the Lytworx 20 LED Solar String Butterfly Lights with gold and silver metal finish, \$19.90.

GUIDE GUESTS through the garden with a string of Asian-inspired paper Eden 10 LED Solar Cherry Blossom Lights, \$19.90.

Line a path with Lytworx Colour Change Solar Bird Stakes, \$6 each.

Warm your hands over a handmade Glow Incan Clay Fire Pit, \$89.

Keep the chill at bay with a handmade Glow Olmec Clay Chimenea, \$169.

The grand architecture of the house is reflected in the formal gardens, making a seamless connection between the two.

FOR YOUR INSPIRATION ▶▶

BACK IN TIME

A sprawling '60s garden at odds with the stately Victorian home gets a formal makeover

WORDS SITA SIMONS

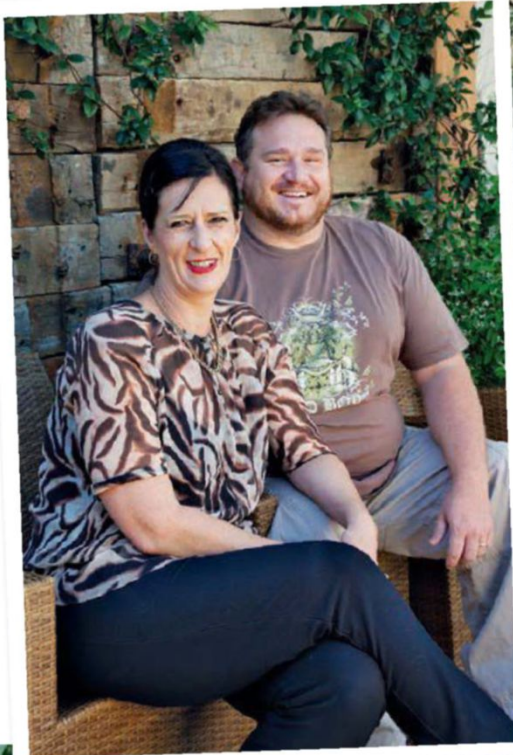
The first time they laid eyes on the stately home that would become their restoration project for the next three years, it was love at first sight for Adri and Wayne Jeffers.

Over time, the property had become neglected and was in need of both structural and cosmetic work, but the charm was undeniable.

Set against The Berea, a ridge overlooking Durban in South Africa, the house dates from the late 1800s.

According to local folklore, it belonged to a ship's captain who displayed his love for sailing by, among other things, building circular steps in the shape of a ship's bow.

He also planted giant palm trees so he would be able to pick out his house as he approached Durban harbour. Those same three palms are now nearly 12m high. ➤



Works of art are essential elements for this style of garden. **LEFT** Owners Adri and Wayne felt this former beauty deserved a facelift.



A formal garden with tidy borders and edging plants, plus lots of seating and ornamental features, was the vision.



Trees provide much-needed shade on hot and humid days.

LEFT This wicker chair sculpture references the Victorian fondness for multiple seating areas.

Clash of styles

A keen history buff, Adri got straight to work researching the period and sourcing materials to honour the original period of the home.

'It was a real passion project for me. I found it incredibly rewarding to be reinstating features and giving it new life,' says Adri.

'I was so overtaken with the house itself that I didn't notice that slightly off-kilter feeling in the grounds at first.'

It took a step back to see that the garden was very much at odds with the house. Set against the dominating colonial architecture, it was very '60s in look, with plenty of pebblecreting and hanging arrangements.

'There were lots of rockeries, and platformed areas branching off the steep slope. The foliage was very glossy and the colour scheme was quite bright and strong,' she says.

'It was haphazard and sprawling, and it just felt all wrong.'



From casual to formal

Adri quickly came to realise that getting the garden back in harmony with the house was going to be essential for the overall look and feel.

It was clear that a formal garden would sit most comfortably, featuring strong lines and forming a mirroring symmetry with the architecture.

A typical Victorian garden would feature a front and back lawn, neat borders and edging plants, plus lots of ornamentation, such as paths, urns, statues, sundials, birdbaths and seating.

Benches were made of stone or cast iron and were often ornate, and placed at the ends of walkways. Gazebos formed grand focal points.

While the basis is symmetrical and neat, the ornaments and preference for lots of exotic flowers was a reference to the strong romanticism of the era.

Work began with a local landscape gardener, briefed with the task of making the garden appear as though it had been there all along. ➤



Using foliage from the garden instead of flowers for arrangements brings the outdoors in.



ABOVE This comfortable outdoor setting complements the elegance of the house's interior.

RIGHT Seating around an open fire makes good use of the space year-round.



The courtyard behind the house has a rural French feel, featuring raw cement walls with bull-nose edges, Champagne-coloured gravel and rusty pots.



The renovation vision

As the garden sloped steeply, a wall was built for a platform, and two sweeping flights of stairs lead up to the house.

Sandstone tiles were used to revamp the pool area and a statue by Marieke Prinsloo-Rowe makes a stunning focal point. The walls have a nice weathered look and a clipped climbing fig softens the appearance of the concrete.

The front garden combines formal elements such as symmetry and box hedges of *Murraya exotica* with bamboo palms, aloes and elephant ears.

Adri envisaged a formal Victorian garden with box hedges and roses. But when roses didn't thrive in the Durban climate, she had to broaden her ideas.

'I learned that a formal garden is a very flexible thing. Within the basic parameters of keeping symmetry and lines, the planting can be whatever suits the area and your tastes. I found this really liberating,' says Adri.

'The main difference is a controlled approach, clipping and trimming and confining the growth, rather than letting nature take its course.' 🌿

Two sweeping flights of stairs on either side of the swimming pool lead the way to the house.

 Designing your dream garden?
Get inspired at pinterest.com/DIYhandyman

STEAL THIS STYLE

Formal gardens don't go out of style, they just evolve. It's about sticking to the basics. Creating clean lines and symmetry, and applying a modest colour palette, are the best starting points for this look.

Jarret Clynick, JC Landscapes



TOOL ORDER

Banish clutter by organising your workshop with these storage ideas

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

No matter whether you own enough tools to fill a shed or just a few for maintaining a bicycle, you need a space to store them that is easily accessible and also very secure.

This workshop offered neither. It was badly lit, with untidy work surfaces and clutter everywhere.

We gave it a complete overhaul, using off-the-shelf solutions to store tools and equipment neatly and safely.



EXPERT SECRETS

Never put your tools away wet, use a dry cloth to give them a quick wipe down before storing.



Create order from chaos with a combination of shelving and drawers

ADAM'S PLAN

- ✦ **RIP** out fitted work surfaces and shelves, and remove freestanding bookshelves and storage cabinets.
- ✦ **CLEAN** the beams and the ceiling, then paint using Dulux PrepLock Stain Blocker as an undercoat.
- ✦ **APPLY** a coat of hard-wearing Dulux Weathershield Low Sheen in Vivid White. White is ideal, as it reflects more light.
- ✦ **HAVE** an electrician replace the ineffective hooded light with a brighter, bunker-style light fitting.
- ✦ **TIDY** the workshop by adding new shelving, drawers and a workbench.
- ✦ **ATTACH** a clamp-lamp to the metal pegboard to provide more work light.
- ✦ **ADD** power with an HPM PlugBoss Heavy Duty Four-outlet Powerboard with inbuilt surge guard. ➤



Before





After

With minimal effort, the space is sleek and well lit with plenty of storage.



The Ultimate Garage Workbench with metal pegboard back, \$399, fits by the wall, providing a well-ordered work space (ultimatestorage.com.au).

BUDGET TIP

Save money in the long run by investing in readymade storage solutions and looking after your tools.

SPACE SAVERS



Including a host of essential equipment for DIYing, the lockable Contour 472-piece Tool Workshop, about \$4041, is the Rolls-Royce of toolkits (kincrome.com.au).



We added a Handy Storage Bottless Four-shelf Kit, \$65, for a quick and easy storage solution. Each shelf boasts a 150kg capacity (handy-storage.com.au).

GET THE LOOK

Arlec Oval Caged Bunker Light, \$13. arlec.com.au



Ultimate Two-door Under Bench Tool Chest, \$299. ultimatestorage.com.au



Bolero Steel Bistro High Stools with Back Rests in Red, \$209 for four. nibbets.com.au



TIDY TIP

A pegboard is a handy way to use vertical space and keep hand tools within reach of your workbench.

CHARGING STATION

An easy way to restore and maintain order in a workshop is to streamline your power tools.

Tools with different batteries all require separate chargers, which can make your workbench look as though it's covered in electrical spaghetti.

Enter the Ryobi One+ 18V six-port charger. With the capacity to charge up to six batteries at once, this compact unit can be wall mounted or stored on a shelf or benchtop.

Here, it's hanging on the pegboard attached to the back of the workbench. ➤



Stanley FatMax 4 in 1
Folding Work Station, \$155.
stanleytools.com.au



Ryobi One+ 18V Six-port
Dual-Chem Battery Charger,
\$149. ryobi.com.au



Rhino 600 x 550 x 400mm
Blue Cargo Case, \$149,
from Bunnings.



Keep tools secure

Locking your tools away securely is about more than just preventing damage or theft.

Many tools can also be dangerous in the hands of the unskilled or children. Razor-sharp woodworking chisels or battery-powered tools can do serious harm to the unwary.

At home or on the go, the best way to secure your tools and equipment is often with a simple padlock.

With this range from Master Lock you'll be able to keep just about any object safe (masterlock.com.au).

SAFETY TIP

Locking up ladders can protect your home from intruders. An unsecured ladder could allow easy access to high areas.

Combine the 4.6m x 10mm Looped End Cable, \$35, with the Excell Padlock, \$32.



Great for securing anything from bicycles to mowers, the 1.8m x 8mm Cable Locks, \$24 for three, will connect together to create a longer lock when needed.



To save you worrying about your keys, the 1.8m x 8mm Combination Lock, \$17, is convenient and easy to use, whether securing a bike at home or when you're out.



The Python 1.8m x 8mm Mini Cable Lock, \$24, is ideal for securing oddly shaped equipment, as it has a fully adjustable locking mechanism.



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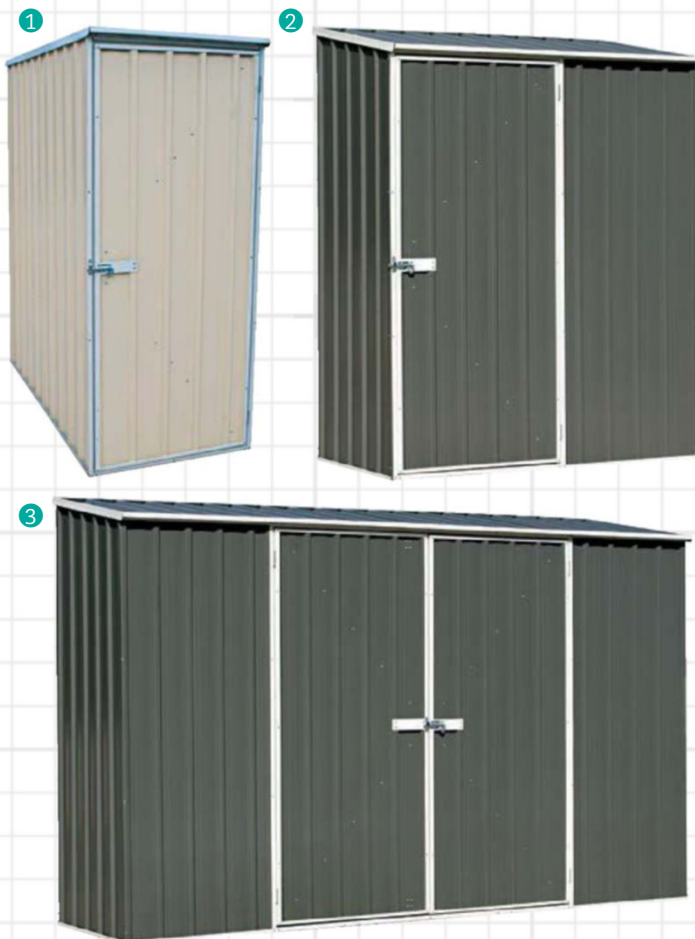
GARDEN SHED

Not everyone is lucky enough to have extra room in the garage or under the house for tools and equipment.

The simple solution is to add a shed. Absco sheds come in many sizes to suit your space (abscosheds.com.au).



Most sheds have a hasp and staple catch, so they can be easily secured with a padlock



① The Ezislum shed, from \$198, is ideal if you only have a small garden or courtyard space and you need secure storage. At only 780mm wide, yet 1.52m deep x 1.8m high, it's ideal for a narrow passage.

② If you need a shed with more space but with a slim profile, try the single-door front-opening Spacesaver, from \$198. It is 1.52m wide x 780mm deep x 1.95m high.

③ A double-door Spacesaver, from \$428, is a good option if you have a large yard and lots of tools. At 3m wide x 780mm deep x 1.95m tall, the extra space means you can add easily accessible shelves at one end.

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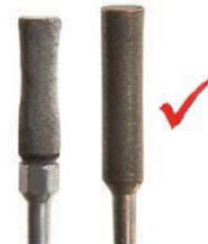
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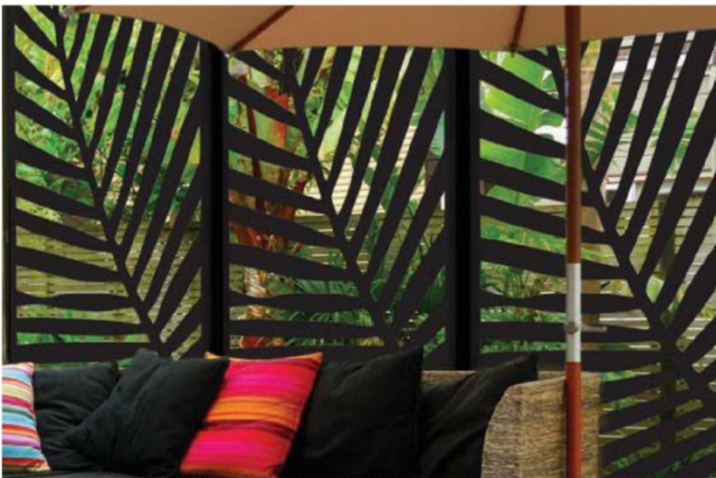
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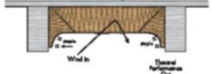
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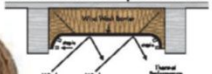
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Do now

- ✦ **TAKE** cuttings and raise new plants for free, page 106.
- ✦ **GROW** kale in the garden and supercharge your diet, page 116.
- ✦ **FORCE** bulbs for winter colour and blooms indoors, page 124.

This month

It's time to grow greens, get creative with house plants and give tools TLC

Flowers to sow

Get these flowers in the ground except in cold climate zones.

- ✦ **CANDYTUFT**
- ✦ **DIANTHUS**
- ✦ **ENGLISH DAISY**
- ✦ **LUPIN**
- ✦ **STATICE**

Vegies to grow

Plant now for spring vegies and late winter greens.

- ✦ **ASPARAGUS CROWNS**
- ✦ **CRESS**
- ✦ **LETTUCE**
- ✦ **PEAS**
- ✦ **SPINACH**

What's in colour

If you're after striking foliage for the winter garden, *Strobilanthes* 'Persian Shield' features stunning and colourful leaves year-round.

With a tall mounded habit, it can be as wide as it is high, growing from 400-600mm. 'Persian Shield' works well in mixed beds, borders or pots.

Bearing delicate funnel-shaped violet flowers in an eye-catching spike

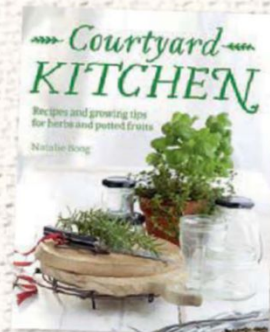
formation from early spring to late summer, it tends to flower over winter, making it a popular indoor plant.

'Persian Shield' is an easy to care for plant. Water regularly so the soil stays lightly moist, keeping it a little drier during the winter months.

It can take full sun, but give this shrub a position in part shade to maintain the luminous foliage colour.



Book club



You don't need a big backyard to grow fresh food. Herbs can be raised on a windowsill, and with clever use of space, a balcony can be home to fruit and vegies.

Courtyard Kitchen by Natalie Boog (\$40, Murdoch Books) is the go-to guide for anyone who wants to cook with homegrown flavour.

With a focus on nine herbs and fruits, this book is full of practical advice on growing the best plants for your space, plus how to harvest and store them.

It features more than 80 of Natalie's tried-and-tested tasty recipes for everything from soups to sorbets and in between.

To-do list

Get winter-ready in the garden.

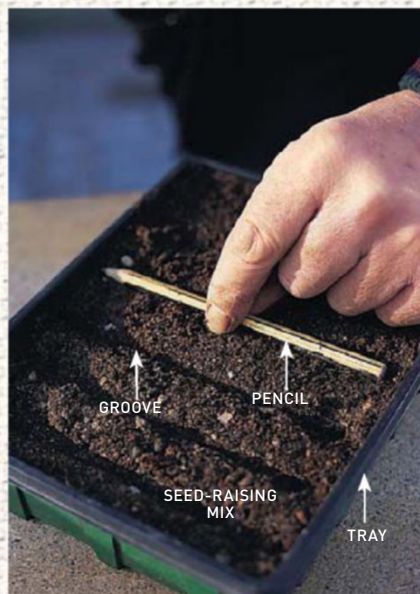
- ✓ **PROTECT** vulnerable plants from frost in cold zones.
- ✓ **TRANSPLANT** shrubs and trees, and hardy evergreens.
- ✓ **PLANT** bare-root roses in all climate zones except very cold.
- ✓ **THIN** clumps of strelitzia, such as bird of paradise.
- ✓ **CLEAN** backyard ponds of leaves, debris and weeds.
- ✓ **TAKE** cuttings of potted coleus.
- ✓ **INSTALL** edging strips on the lawn for easier mowing. ➤

How to

Raise lobelia from seed

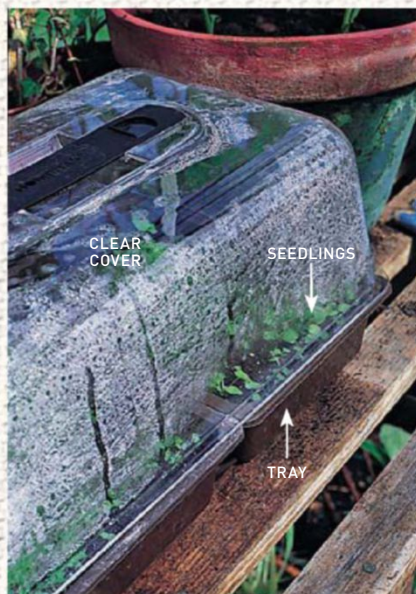
With its bright-blue blooms, lobelia is a spring favourite with autumn the time to sow seeds in trays, but you can also start them in early winter.

TIP Use a mini greenhouse to keep the soil moist and protect young seedlings.



1 Sow the seeds

Fill a tray with moist seed-raising mix and lightly firm down. Use a pencil to make grooves 3mm deep. Sow seeds sparingly but don't cover with mix, as light is essential for germination. Water gently, cover the tray with a clear lid and stand in a warm place.



2 Raise the seedlings

Keep the mix moist and transplant the seedlings into garden beds when they are 20-30mm high. Give them a spot in full sun in well-drained soil, spaced 100mm apart. Water regularly to keep the soil moist and liquid feed monthly when buds appear.

Tool tune-up

When gardening slows down over the cool months, it's a good time to tune-up tools and equipment.

Use a specially formulated cleaner or soak hand tools and secateurs in diluted household cleaner with a splash of bleach, scrubbing with steel wool.

Larger tools, such as spades, may need more TLC, particularly if they have timber handles.

- ✦ **SAND** the handles to remove any rough spots and flaking finish.
- ✦ **COAT** the timber with linseed oil to prevent cracking.

✦ **WIPE** all soil, sap, resin and other grime from any metal surfaces.

✦ **SHARPEN** the blades, using a whetstone for secateurs and a grinding wheel or file for spades and hoes.

✦ **REMOVE** rust spots with steel wool.



WD-40 Lawn & Garden Powerful Foaming Cleaner, \$5. wd40.com.au



Feed now

Give plants a boost for winter growth.

- ✦ **SASANQUA CAMELLIAS**
- ✦ **WINTER VEGETABLES**
- ✦ **HELLEBORES**
- ✦ **MAGNOLIAS**
- ✦ **BULBS**



Prune now

Cut back fruiting trees, canes and vines.

- ✦ **APPLE**
- ✦ **APRICOT**
- ✦ **CHERRY**
- ✦ **PEACH**
- ✦ **PLUM**



Harvest now

Pick vegies to steam, stew or bake.

- ✦ **BROCCOLI**
- ✦ **CAULIFLOWERS**
- ✦ **MUSHROOMS**
- ✦ **PARSNIPS**
- ✦ **SPRING ONIONS**

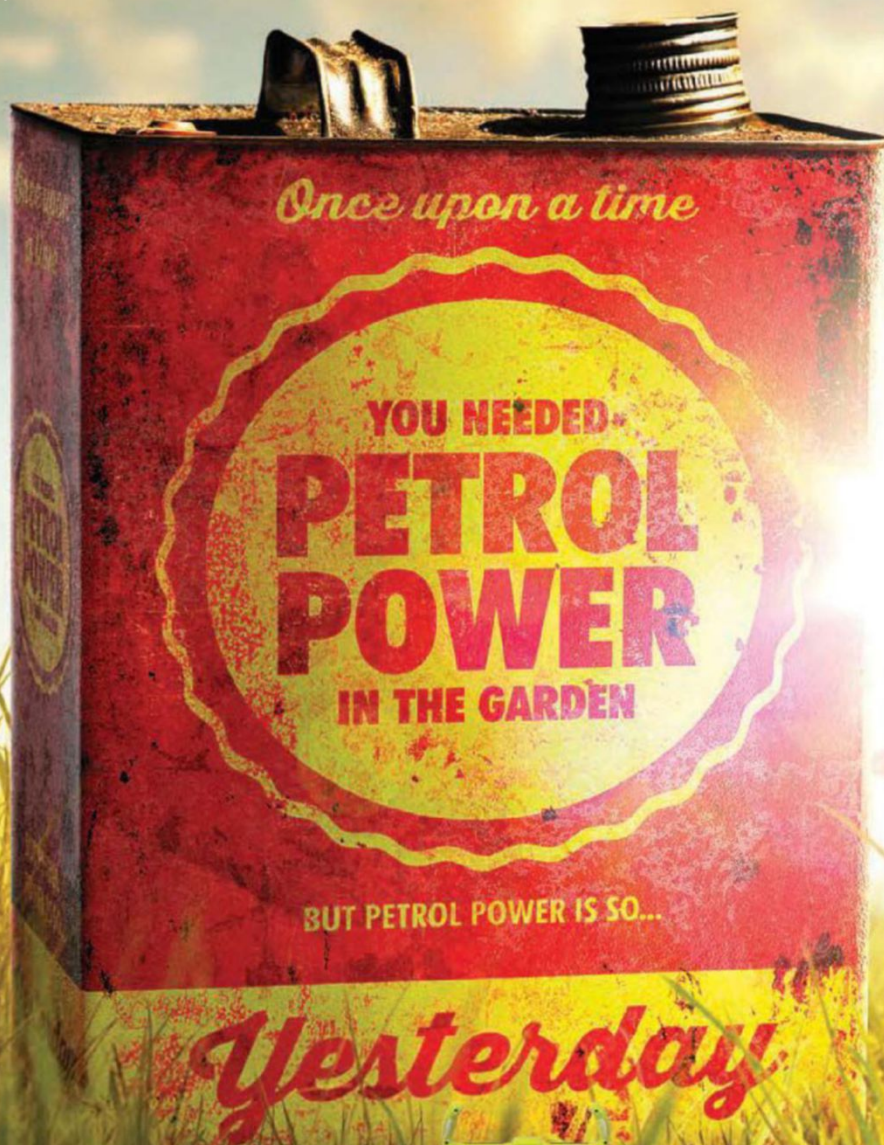


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A CUT ABOVE 

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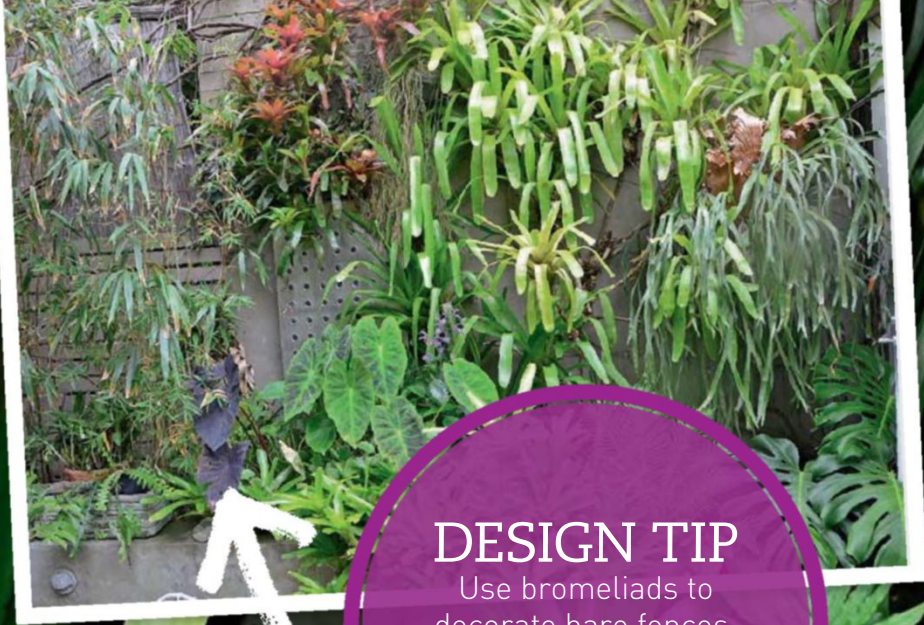
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DESIGN TIP

Use bromeliads to decorate bare fences, walls or screens to add colour and an air of mystery to the garden.

Grow your own bromeliads

Beautiful, dramatic and versatile, these easy-to-grow plants can be used in many fun and interesting ways

WORDS AND PICTURES CHERYL MADDOCKS

Definitely not prima donnas of the plant world, bromeliads are extremely tough and will reward you with continuous colour and form.

And as most are epiphytes, growing harmlessly on other plants, they're also waterwise, which is a requirement that most gardeners look for in a plant.

In the wild, epiphytic bromeliads often grow on rocks or in tree canopies, attached to a trunk or branch. Here, they eke out their existence, collecting whatever water or organic matter happens to fall onto their leaves.

PLANT IN BEDS

While bromeliads are epiphytes, they can still be grown in the ground.

✚ **SOIL** needs to be free-draining or they'll rot at the base. You can correct drainage by adding orchid potting mix to raise the soil's height. Or, plant in a pot with the rim resting above the ground.

✚ **POSITION** in semi-shade or full shade. But as they come from a wide range of environments, from deep shade to blazing sun, you'll find a species suitable for most situations. Varieties such as *Neoregelia*, *Tillandsia*, *Billbergia*, *Dyckia* and *Aechmea* will tolerate full sun.

✚ **PLANT** at the same height as in the pot. Water lightly and top up the water in the cup or vase.

✚ **WATER** when the soil's surface has nearly dried out. In winter, water every 2-3 weeks. Keep the cup full, but flush it often so the water doesn't stagnate.

✚ **FEED** with a water-soluble fertiliser at quarter strength every six months. Apply it at the plant base, not in the cup.



Cheryl

EXPERT SECRETS

In cool climates, most bromeliads will survive in pots under cover in winter. But better still, take them indoors to provide a much-needed colourful lift.

Overwatering causes more bromeliads to die than underwatering.

How they hydrate

To collect rain and organic matter, the leaves of many species combine to form a vase or tank-like structure that holds a reservoir of water.

The leaves absorb the water and nutrients directly, and the roots of most species do little more than anchor the plant onto the tree. ➤

PLANT IN POTS

Bromeliads look striking planted in either pots or hanging baskets on balconies and in courtyards.

When they're grouped in pots of varying heights, they make permanent eye-catching colour statements.

Mix and match different colours in the one pot or try the giant bromeliad *Alcantarea imperialis* for star status.

✦ **POTTING MIX** should be light and open. Use a combination of half all-purpose mix and half orchid mix.

✦ **PLANT** so the mix comes 10-20mm above the base of the plant. If planted too deeply, the root and vase will rot.

✦ **WATER** to keep the vase full, but don't overwater, and flush the vase often to prevent water stagnation.

The flower spike of *Alcantarea imperialis* grows up to 3.5m high.



Weighty matter

Bear in mind that bromeliads can be top heavy, especially the vase types, when their cup and surrounding bases are full of water. Choose heavy pots in concrete or clay so they don't get blown over. Or, plant in a plastic pot and use a heavy pot as a sleeve.

CHERYL'S PICKS



Osmocote Professional Orchid Mix, \$11 for 25L.
scottsaustralia.com.au



Yates Thrive All Purpose Soluble Fertiliser, \$7 for 500g.
yates.com.au

PICTURE (CENTRE) THINKSTOCK

GROW TIP

A new pup will attach itself more easily than a mature bromeliad when mounted on a tree or stump.

RAISE ON TREES

You can attach bromeliads to tree trunks or branches, old tree stumps, tall tree ferns and palm trunks. Large plants can be placed in the forks of trees or on stumps in beds.

✦ **WRAP** the root system lightly in sphagnum moss or coconut fibre, fasten with plastic-coated wire or a soft tie, then attach to the tree trunk and forks. Strips of pantyhose work well.

✦ **ATTACH** to tree fern trunks by making a hole in the trunk and placing the base of the plant in the hole. Secure with a soft tie until the plant has taken root.

✦ **WEDGE** bromeliads into palm pockets on the trunk or fasten as for tree trunks.

✦ **WATER** over the foliage and at the plant base 2-3 times weekly in hot weather and at least weekly in winter.

HOW TO PROPAGATE

After a plant has flowered, it will slowly die in a year or two, but will replace itself with offsets, known as pups.

These arise from the base or from in between the leaves of the mother plant. They can easily be detached and potted, mounted on a tree or planted in a garden bed.

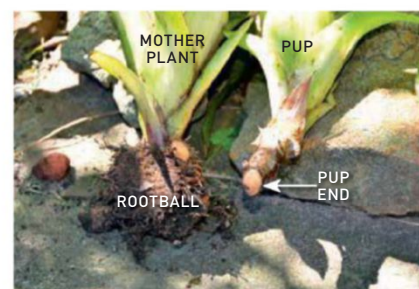
1 2 3



1 **LOOSEN THE SOIL** around the rootball using a trowel to remove the mother plant and pup from the soil.



2 **REMOVE THE PUP** using clean, sharp secateurs, carefully cutting as close to the mother plant as possible.



3 **DIP THE END** of the pup in hormone rooting powder, then replant the pup, firming down the soil around it. ➤

CARING FOR AIR PLANTS

These bromeliads survive in the wild by attaching themselves to trees, desert cacti, cliff faces and rocks.

Their common name, air plant, gives a fairly accurate description of how they live. They don't need soil and require very little water.

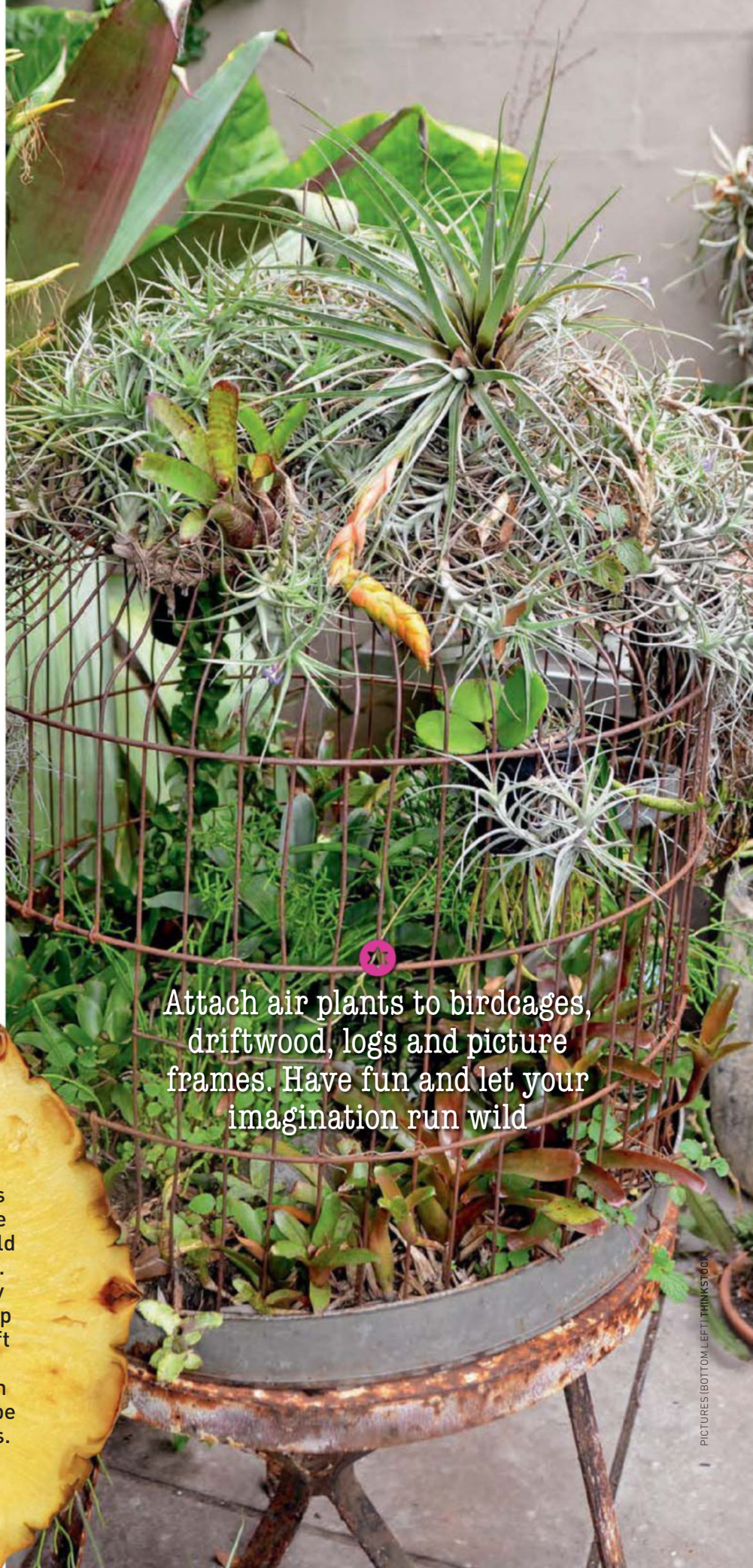
Air plants are xerophytic epiphytes and absorb moisture and nutrients through the scale coating on their leaves. While they require very little attention, good air movement around the plants is essential.

- ✚ **GLUE** tillandsias to their host using Selleys Liquid Nails or Selleys All Clear Sealant.
- ✚ **TIE** a tillandsia to its host using plastic-covered wire, string, strips of pantyhose or budding tape.
- ✚ **PROTECT** tillandsias from frosts.
- ✚ **USE** a mist spray only, spraying fortnightly in the mornings during winter and at least three times a week after the heat of the day in summer.
- ✚ **FEED** in spring and autumn using a half strength or weaker solution of liquid fertiliser when misting.

Did you know?

The pineapple (*Ananas comosus*), is a bromeliad. It was grown in Europe in the 1600s by the wealthy, who could afford to build heated greenhouses. You can now grow your own. Simply select a ripe pineapple, cut off the top leaf section and flesh until you're left with a stub, then remove the lower leaves. Allow it to dry for a day, then plant the stub in a bed or pot. You'll be picking your own in a couple of years.

Attach air plants to birdcages, driftwood, logs and picture frames. Have fun and let your imagination run wild



PICTURES (BOTTOM LEFT) THINKSTOCK



Spanish moss cascades in long silvery strands, resembling a waterfall.

DIY TIP

Make a living curtain by attaching air plants to fishing wire, then hang as a feature or use to hide something unsightly.

CREATE A FEATURE

Make a hanging ball of *Tillandsia aeranthos*. Commonly called carnation of the sky, its grey-green leaves do have a carnation-like appearance. Use bird or chicken wire to form the ball and attach the plants to the wire.

Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) differs in appearance from other tillandsias in that its thin leaves grow at intervals along a slender stem that can become metres long.

It's striking as a feature in itself, hung from trees or used as a curtain to screen a view or provide privacy.

Or, you can turn a stand into a ball of colour by covering it with Spanish moss and carnation of the sky.

1 2



1 WIND WIRE MESH around the base of a stand, then form a ball shape extending above the top.



2 ATTACH A MIX of carnation of the sky and Spanish moss to the wire frame with soft ties for a striking display. ✨



DESIGN TIP

Lavender, box, murraya and rosemary all grow easily from semi-ripe cuttings, so use them to create a beautiful hedge.

Plants for free

Take the time to raise cuttings and you'll end up with a garden full of home-grown budget beauties

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS



Stem cuttings are the most common and are divided into three groups called softwood, semi-ripe and hardwood cuttings

Growing from cuttings won't give you a garden overnight, but you will get plants for free. And you'll have the satisfaction of looking at plants you've learnt how to propagate yourself.

Plus it's a fun activity and you can even get the children involved.

When you grow from a cutting, you're creating a clone of the parent plant. So, if you choose a plant that has great leaf or flower colour, you're guaranteed the cutting-grown plant will have the same characteristics.

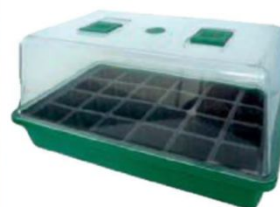
The correct propagating medium influences how many cuttings will root and the quality of the root system. Use a seed-raising mix or make your own with a mix of two parts river sand and one part compost.

Dip the cuttings in hormone gel or cutting powder to encourage the production and even distribution of roots. They help cuttings to form a callus and shorten the time taken by the plant to root. ➤

CHERYL'S PICKS



Yates Clonex Rooting Hormone Gel Purple, \$11. yates.com.au



Saxon Mini Greenhouse with Seed Tray, \$10, from Bunnings.



Osmocote Seed Raising & Cutting Mix, \$7 for 10L. scottsaustralia.com.au

Swap cuttings with other gardeners to get new plants for free.

SEMI-RIPE CUTTINGS

To propagate evergreens, climbers, shrubs and conifers, take semi-ripe cuttings from the top or outer growth just after a flush of growth.

The stems should be partially mature and firm at the base while comparatively soft at the tops.

TRY Abelia, azalea, bay, begonia, camellia, clematis, fuchsia, gardenia, grevillea, hibiscus, lavender, lilly pilly, murraya, New Guinea impatiens, pelargonium, rose and westringia.



Now is the time to take cuttings of ripe wood that has hardened off after a growth spurt



Plant cuttings in a pot filled with well-drained propagating mix.



Remove the lower leaves and dip cuttings in hormone powder.

Use clean secateurs to take cuttings from healthy plants only.

PICTURES (TOP, LEFT, RIGHT) ARTEMIS GOUROS (LEFT, TOP) ALAMY



Some like it hot

Both softwood and semi-ripe cuttings need humidity to root.

A mini greenhouse is ideal for providing humid conditions. If it's too small for long cuttings, you can make your own.

Use a polystyrene or wooden box and cover it with a sheet of glass.

For potted cuttings, add small bamboo stakes around the pot edge and cover it with clear plastic, making sure it doesn't touch the plants.

Or you can cut large, clear soft drink bottles in half and up-end these over the potted cuttings.



Use a cold frame to root cuttings of shrubs and herbs in winter.

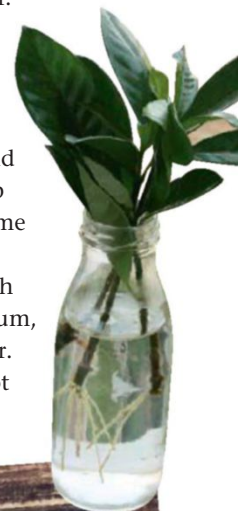
SOFTWOOD CUTTINGS

Many herbaceous perennials and shrubs can be started from cuttings taken when the plant is in active growth in spring to early summer.

These are called softwood cuttings because the material is soft and new.

Take the cuttings from 75-100mm terminal growths, and remove the lower leaves but keep the upper, then pot up in the same way as semi-ripe cuttings.

Many softwood cuttings, such as coleus, begonia and pelargonium, can grow roots in a glass of water. When the roots have formed, pot up the cuttings or plant out.



DIY TIP

To create a mini greenhouse, cut the base off a clear plastic drink bottle and use it to cover cuttings.

Taking root

Keep the mix moist but not wet, then in 6-8 weeks, gently pull the stems to test if the cuttings have taken root. If they feel firm, then roots have formed.

Transplant rooted cuttings into individual pots filled with quality potting mix and let them grow until they are large enough to go in the ground. ➤



Handyman

NEXT MONTH

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KITCHEN

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GARDEN

Create a tropical garden even in cooler regions, and plant bare-root roses now.

PLUS How worms enrich the soil and help plants thrive.

OUTDOOR

Step-by-step projects to build a boundary fence and a retaining wall.

PLUS How to install drainage to keep water away from your house.

HARDWOOD CUTTINGS

Deciduous shrubs and climbers grow easily from hardwood cuttings that are taken during winter.

Select only strong, healthy and ripened stems, measuring at least 150-200mm long and about the thickness of your little finger.

Make an angled top cut just above a node, and a horizontal cut below a pair of nodes at the stem base.

The angled cut prevents you from mistakenly planting the cuttings upside down and, when planted, lets water run off the cutting.

Plant hardwood cuttings at a depth of a third to half their length in a container filled with propagating mix to ensure good drainage.

Position in a well-lit spot and don't let them dry out, and roots will form in 8-10 weeks. When new spring growth appears, transplant into larger pots in good-quality potting mix.

TRY Abelia, buddleia, crepe myrtle, deutzia, forsythia, frangipani, mock orange, lemon-scented verbena, hydrangea, pomegranate, tibouchina, wisteria and weigela. ➤



A node is where the leaf meets the stem of the plant

Cut and store

Take cuttings in the early morning when plant tissues contain the most water, and always work in a shady spot so they don't dry out. If there is a delay in potting up cuttings, store them in a plastic bag in the fridge.

GROW TIP

Plant hardwood cuttings in trenches in beds. Once they take root, transplant them to their permanent positions.

Taken from dormant plants, hardwood cuttings shouldn't dry out.

INSTANT FRANGIPANI

You can get immediate results with large cuttings of frangipani, as even 2m long branches will grow roots.

Take the cutting in late winter when the tree has lost all of its leaves.

Select the branch you want and remove it from the tree. The cutting will ooze a milky sap, so wear gloves and safety glasses and keep it away from children and animals.

Lay the cutting outdoors on concrete or paving for several weeks to allow the wound to heal and eventually form a callus.

The cutting can then be planted in a pot or straight into the ground in the spot where you want it to grow.

TIP Larger cuttings will need a stake to hold them in position. ●

Grow a fragrant frangipani from a cutting taken in late winter.



BUDGET TIP

Take more cuttings than you need to allow for the odd failure. Give away extra plants or sell at a market or school fete.

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PREPARE YOUR VEGIE PATCH

Make your vegies thrive by growing them organically

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS



Nothing tastes better than homegrown ingredients picked fresh from the vegie patch.

And if you garden as organically as possible, your crops will be rich in vitamins and minerals, and free from poisonous chemicals.

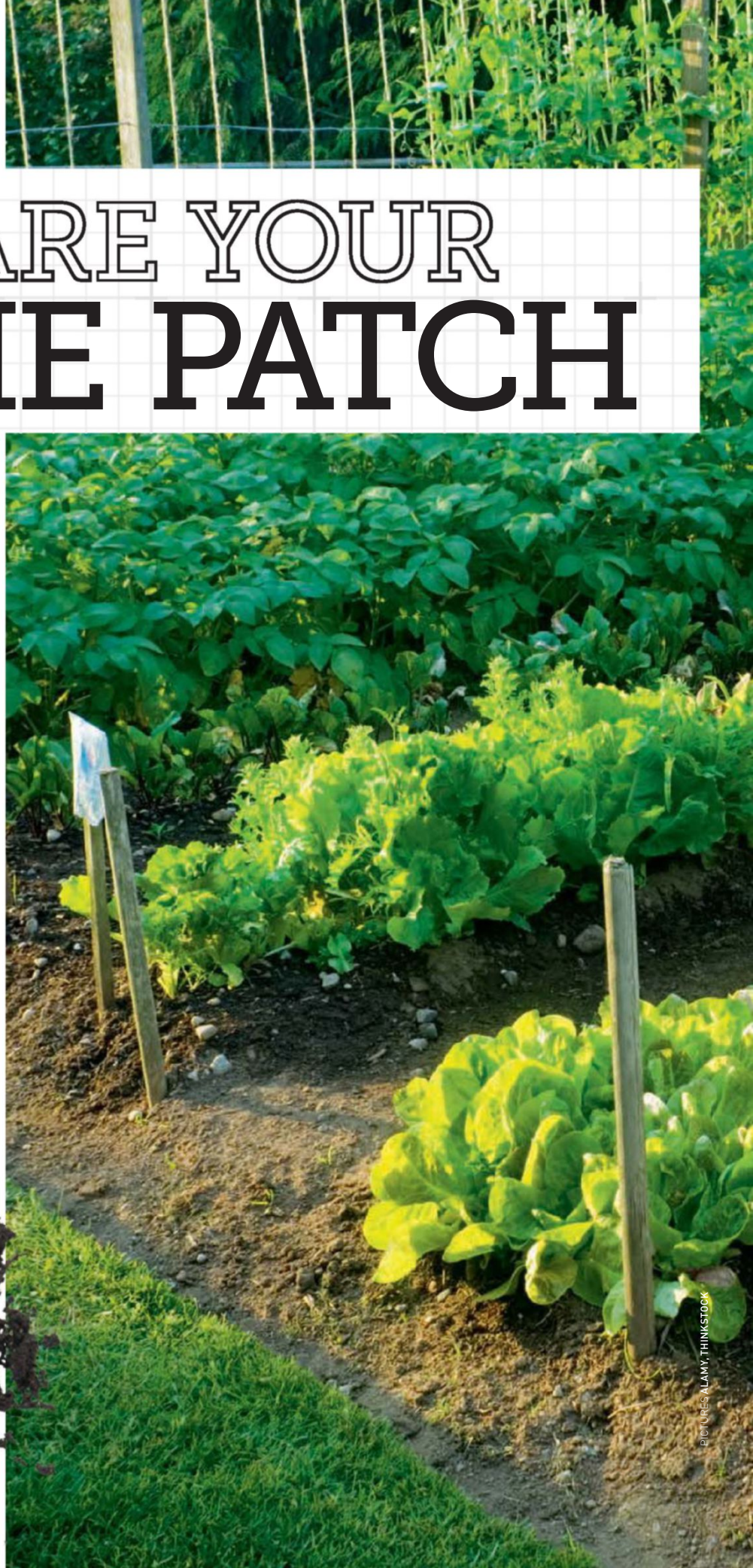
If your chosen plot is covered with weeds, they must be completely removed using a hoe.

Once the weeds have been removed, dig the bed to the depth of your spade, making sure you remove any rocks. Dig in manure and compost over the whole bed.

The more you add, the richer the soil will become, and the healthier your vegetables will be.

TEST THE SOIL

Check the level of acidity in the soil with a pH kit, and add dolomite or liquid lime if it is acidic. Vegetables thrive with a pH of about 6.5.



PICTURES: ALAMY, THINKSTOCK

GROW TIP

Vegetables and leafy greens that are grown in containers need fertilising on a fortnightly basis.

GOOD START

Sun, sun and lots of sun guarantees success when growing most vegetables.

Lettuce and rocket are the exceptions, as they like shade from the afternoon sun, as well as protection from the wind.

✦ **DIG** in lots of organic matter like compost or manure before planting, and also do this on a seasonal basis before planting a new crop.

Organic matter adds structure to the soil, helps retain water and slowly releases nutrients.

✦ **GIVE** vegetables extra food as they mature. The faster they grow, the more tender and sweet they'll be.

Feed at least monthly with an organic complete soluble plant food, watering the soil before and after.

✦ **MULCH** with lucerne hay, straw or pea straw to conserve moisture and help vegetables grow steadily.

✦ **WATER** regularly to keep them succulent and tasty.

The frequency depends on the weather, but don't let the soil dry out. Water in the morning at ground level to prevent fungal diseases. ✦

A healthy soil fed with compost is full of beneficial worms and microscopic organisms.

KALE & HEARTY

Grow the cool-weather green that keeps on giving

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Known as a superfood and a nutritional powerhouse, kale is often referred to as the queen of greens.

It deserves the accolades, as kale contains anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, anti-cancer and detox-supporting nutrients.

These include sulforaphane, which may help prevent cancer, vitamins A, C and K, folic acid, iron, potassium and calcium. Kale is also high in fibre.

DID YOU KNOW?

Originally from the Mediterranean, where it was also known as borecole, kale is thought to have been one of the first types of brassicas to be cultivated, and was a staple food during the Middle Ages.

HEALTH TIP

Among its other qualities, kale is said to act as an anti-inflammatory because it contains omega-3 fatty acids.



While kale belongs to the Brassicaceae family, which includes broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and Asian greens, kale doesn't form a head like cabbage.

It is a pick-and-come-again vegetable, and regular picking ensures a long cropping period. You'll be harvesting leaves about 6-8 weeks after sowing seeds.

There are several different varieties, including *cavolo nero*, also called Tuscan black kale and Italian black cabbage.

Other types of kale have serrated leaves, curly leaves or even purple leaves. ➤

HOW TO GROW

The best time to plant kale seedlings is during winter, or you can sow seeds from late summer until early winter.

Kale will grow well in a sunny position in garden beds or pots.

The soil needs to be well-drained and you should dig in some manure or compost before planting.

Water the plants regularly and mulch with lucerne hay or pea straw. Feed monthly with a soluble plant food.



1 ENSURE the garden bed is damp and then gently ease the seedling out of the punnet, taking care you don't damage the roots.



2 USE a trowel to dig a hole 70-100mm deep and wide enough for the seedling. Position the seedling in the hole and firm down the soil around it.



3 MAKE a small depression in the soil around each seedling to direct water straight to the roots, then water using a watering can.




Kale grows well throughout the winter months and cool weather actually sweetens the leaves

PEST TIP

Protect young plants from snails and slugs using pellets, and sprinkle with Derris Dust to protect the leaves from caterpillars.



SOW SEEDS

1 MAKE sure the garden bed is damp and free from weeds, lumps and stones.

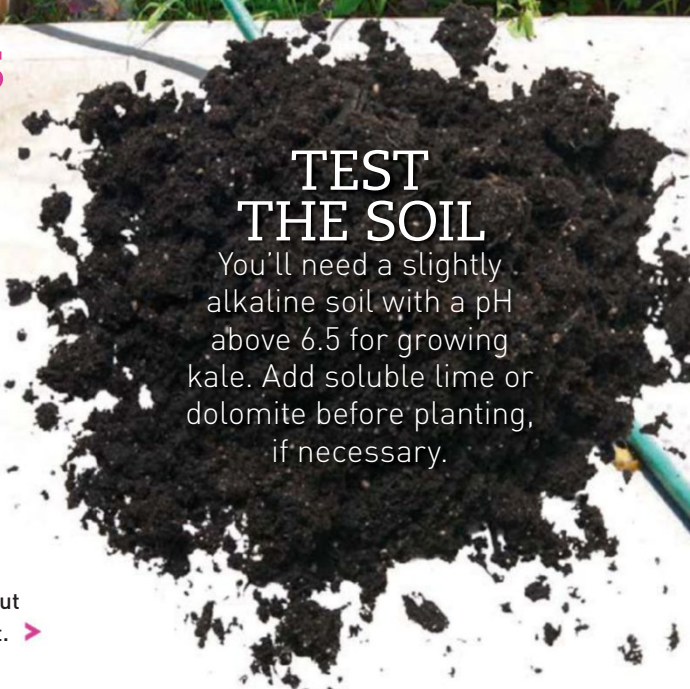
Create a depression with a trowel at the correct depth for sowing the seeds. This is indicated on the packet.

2 SPRINKLE the seeds lightly into the depression and cover with soil, before lightly firming down the soil after sowing.

3 KEEP the soil damp until the seeds have germinated after about 7-10 days. Thin out the seedlings when they're about 75mm tall to 300-450mm apart. ➤

TEST THE SOIL

You'll need a slightly alkaline soil with a pH above 6.5 for growing kale. Add soluble lime or dolomite before planting, if necessary.



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IN THE KITCHEN

- ✦ **USE** kale in vegetarian lasagne instead of silverbeet or spinach.
- ✦ **BRAISE** it with garlic and olive oil and toss it through pasta. Serve with parmesan cheese.
- ✦ **ADD** to soups, casseroles and stews.
- ✦ **BOIL** or steam kale and squeeze lemon juice over the top for a side dish.
- ✦ **MAKE** a risotto using kale, pine nuts and cheese.
- ✦ **ADD** the leaves to smoothies for a powerhouse drink.
- ✦ **BRAISE** kale and add to a frittata with capsicum, tomatoes and feta.



Make kale chips

Remove the thick stems, tear leaves into medium-sized pieces, coat with olive oil and put them on baking paper. Cook in a medium oven for about 15-20 minutes or until they turn dry and crispy.

Add salt to the cooked chips, if you like. Children love them. ➤



Serves 4

Kale pasta

If you're gluten or wheat intolerant, use quinoa flour. It may take longer in the processor for the dough to be ready and you may need to add more flour.

Ingredients

8-10 stalks Tuscan black kale
500g 00 super-fine Italian flour
5 extra large eggs

Method

❶ Wash the kale thoroughly, then remove and discard the entire stalk. Plunge the leaves into a pan of boiling water and cook for 3-4 minutes.
❷ Drain and refresh under cold water, then drain again and squeeze out as much of the moisture as you can, then finely chop.
❸ Put the kale into the bowl of a food processor and process to chop again. Add the flour and process until the flour and kale are combined and the kale is fine.

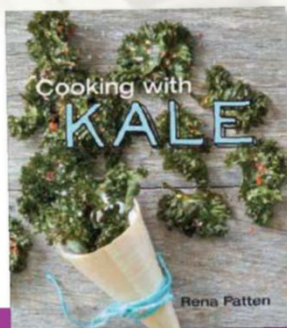
❹ Add the eggs and continue processing until the dough comes together to form a ball. Pulse a few times. You may need to divide the dough once it comes together and process it in batches to ensure the kale is incorporated and finely chopped into the dough.

❺ Tip the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead with your hands for 2-3 minutes.

❻ Cover the dough in plastic wrap and put it in the fridge for 1 hour before rolling out and shaping in a pasta machine. Or, you can roll out the dough into a thin rectangle, tidy the edges and cut it into thin strands for spaghetti or wider ones for fettuccine.

❼ Cook the pasta in a large saucepan of salted boiling water to your preferred al dente stage, then serve.

TIP If the dough is sticky, just add a little more flour when processing.



Green cuisine

Featuring more than 70 recipes and beautiful accompanying photographs, Rena Patten's *Cooking With Kale* (\$30, New Holland) is the ideal introduction to the popular leafy green superfood.

This book includes tasty recipes for snacks, soups, salads, curries, stir-fries, smoothies, pancakes, muffins and much more.

Beetroot & kale risotto with feta cheese

To make your risotto really soft, cook it slowly for about 30 minutes. If you run out of stock and it's not cooked how you like it, you can add extra hot water.

Ingredients

8 large stalks of Tuscan black kale
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 red onion, finely chopped
4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
2 cups arborio rice
½ cup white wine
450g fresh beetroot, peeled and coarsely grated
Salt and freshly cracked black pepper
6½–7 cups vegetable stock

1 tablespoon butter
½ cup freshly grated parmesan
90g feta cheese, crumbled
Soft goats' cheese, crumbled, to serve

Method

❶ Wash the kale thoroughly. Remove and discard the entire thick part of the stalk. Finely chop the leaves. Set aside.
❷ Heat the oil in a large saucepan, add the onion and fry gently until soft. Stir in the garlic and cook for about 30 seconds until fragrant.
❸ Stir in the rice and cook until the rice turns opaque. Pour in the wine and keep stirring until it is absorbed.

❹ Add the beetroot and any juices to the pan, season well with salt and pepper and cook for about 1 minute.

❺ Heat the stock until hot in another pan, and leave on a low simmer. Add a ladleful of stock to the rice mixture and stir until it is absorbed. Continue doing this a ladleful at a time until just over a ladleful of stock is left and the rice is almost cooked.

❻ Stir in the kale and cook for another 4–5 minutes, slowly adding the remaining stock until the rice is fully cooked and the kale is tender.

❼ Stir in the butter, parmesan and feta and serve with the goats' cheese. ●

Serves 4–6



Share your kale recipe
Post a pic on Instagram and tag it #HMCookIt

Force bulbs into bloom

Enjoy an early spring by forcing plants to flower indoors during winter

Grown in pots and put outside, bulbs will flower at the same time as they would if they were growing in a garden bed or border. But you can make them bloom earlier and cheer the midwinter gloom.

Tulips, hyacinths, crocuses, freesias, snowdrops, jonquils and daffodils can all be forced to bloom out of season.

GROW TIP

When planting several bulbs in one pot, position them close together but make sure they're not touching.

ea ea s a
Choose early flowering varieties and plant them in autumn.

The bulbs should start flowering 12-15 weeks after planting, depending on the type. Hyacinths and narcissi take about 12 weeks, and others a little longer.

For a continuous show of blooms throughout winter, plant up pots at 2-3 week intervals.



PLANT IN POTS

Use a specialised bulb potting mix to grow them in pots indoors.

✦ **SPREAD** a generous layer of damp potting mix in a pot. Add the bulbs, fill around with mix so the tips just show, then firmly press down the mix.

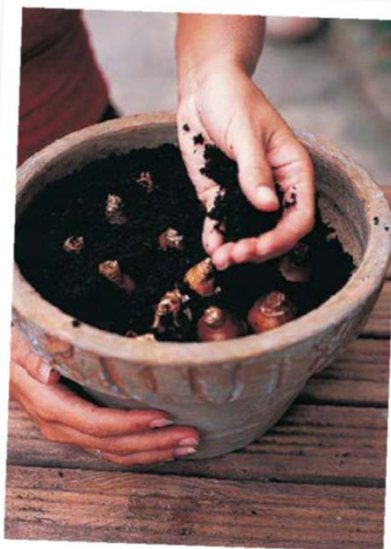
✦ **COVER** the pot with a black plastic bag and position it where the temperature will stay cool such as a shed, cold frame or garage.

✦ **CHECK** how the shoots are developing and that the mix doesn't dry out.

✦ **BRING** them inside when the shoots reach 25-50mm and keep in a cool place out of direct sunlight until the shoots turn green, then move to a lighter spot.

✦ **MOVE** to the flowering position when the buds show, preferably a bright area where the temperature doesn't exceed 20°C.

✦ **WATER** as needed and feed weekly with a high-potash indoor plant fertiliser. ➤



To support the flowers as they open, insert thin canes around the edge of the pot



FINISHED FLOWERING?

Deadhead when the blooms start to fade but leave the stalks intact. Move to a cold frame, continuing to water and feed with a high-potash fertiliser until the leaves yellow.

Forced bulbs shouldn't be used a second year as house plants. Store them in a cool, dark place over summer and plant them in the garden in autumn.

While most bulbs will flower outside in the first spring after they have been replanted, don't expect a spectacular display.



Let the foliage die down so the bulbs can store enough energy to flower next year

RAISE IN WATER

Grow a single bulb in a vase of water to create a long-lasting fragrant floral display for any room in your home.



1 ADD CLEAN PEBBLES to a 150mm tall glass vase to about 50mm deep. Position the bulb on the top in the centre, then add more pebbles to cover just up to the tip of the bulb.



2 POUR IN WATER to reach the base of the bulb so the roots grow in water but the bulb stays dry, to avoid rotting. Put the vase in a cool, dry place until roots form, then move to a sunny spot.

DESIGN TIP

Avoid mixing bulb types in the same pot as they'll flower at varying times, making the display look untidy.





Pick of the bulbs

When choosing bulbs, select only those that are heavy and firm. If the bulb feels light, then it could be dead inside. If it's soft, it may have a fungal disease.

Tulip bulbs, in particular, need an intact outer skin to prevent dehydration and damage. ●

Daffodil

Jonquil

Hyacinth

Grape hyacinth

Freesia

BUG APPEAL

They may get a bad rap, but there's more to these pollinating insects than their stingers

WORDS AND PICTURES COLIN HUTTON



Cuckoo bee

Tripeolus sp.

Cuckoo bees get their name from the birds of the same name that also practice parasitic behaviour regarding the nests of other species.

With bees and wasps, the practice is much more widespread than in birds, with many different species engaging in this behaviour.





Bees and wasps are members of the order Hymenoptera, which also includes another group of stinging insects, ants.

Though these insects are notorious for their painful stings, most people don't realise that many wasps, and even some bees, are incapable of stinging. The stinger is actually a modified ovipositor, the structure used by females for laying eggs.

Therefore, of the stinging bees and wasps, only the females have functional stingers.

Stings normally result when people unwittingly disturb or get too close to the nests of social bees and wasps.

Honeybees and bumblebees may be the most well-known groups of bees, but these colony builders make up only a small percentage of the bee species in the world.

In fact, most species are solitary and do not build large hives. ➤



Chalcidid wasp

Brachymeria sp.

In the middle of the day, these small, highly active wasps can be very difficult to photograph. This individual was photographed on a cool December morning while it was in a relatively sedated state.



Looking more like aliens than inhabitants of Earth, many bugs can appear very strange

Almost all bees are nectar feeders and play an essential role in pollination, making them some of the most important insects to humans and the environment.

Bees are generally not aggressive and stings normally occur only when they are defending a hive or if a person accidentally presses against a bee.

Like the social bees, social wasps, such as paper wasps, yellow jackets

and hornets, are the most recognisable. These wasps often construct nests on or near man-made structures, making them a common sight.

Close proximity to people also leads to painful stings when people unknowingly disturb the wasps' nest.

While wasps will use their stinger in defence, they also use it to paralyse prey, which they then feed to their offspring.



Chalcidid wasp

Conura amoena

Wasps come in many different types, and this chalcidid wasp is one of the more sporty models. They may look fierce, but these wasps are completely harmless to people.

Unlike their stinging cousins, chalcidid wasps are parasitic and use their stingers to plant eggs in host species rather than deliver a painful dose of venom.

Many parasitic wasps are beneficial to humans because they help control populations of pest insects.





Orchid bee

Euglossa dilemma

Despite being called orchid bees, these vibrant insects don't actually feed from orchids, which do not produce nectar.

Rather, the males scrape scent from orchids and press it into the grooves on their modified rear legs. The chemical acts as a cologne to lure in females. ➤

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Long-horned bee

Melissodes sp.

Despite the common perception that bees are social insects living in large colonies, most bee species are solitary.

Many solitary bees, such as this long-horned bee, can be found clinging to plant stems during the night and early morning as they sleep.

They don't use their legs, but rather grip a perch with their mandibles to remain in place as they sleep.



Cuckoo wasp

Chrysis angolensis

These wasps lay their eggs in the nests of other wasps or bees. When the larvae hatch, they proceed to eat the host species' eggs and any food provided by the parents.

They lack the ability to sting, but if captured by a predator, or a curious photographer, they tuck in their legs and roll into a ball.





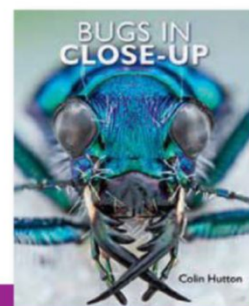
During the day, bees and wasps are constantly on the move, making them some of the most difficult insects to capture in photos

Many insect species use their stingers to lay eggs directly inside the bodies of living hosts.

Most of these wasps are unable to sting in defence and are therefore harmless to humans, but they do play a very important role in controlling the populations of other insects, some of which are considered by humans to be pests.

Bees and wasps are tricky to photograph, because they rarely sit perfectly still even while feeding.

With a lot of patience, it may be possible to capture a few great images during an afternoon photography session, but a better strategy by far is to look for bees and wasps in the early morning when colder temperatures keep them calm and sedated. 🍷



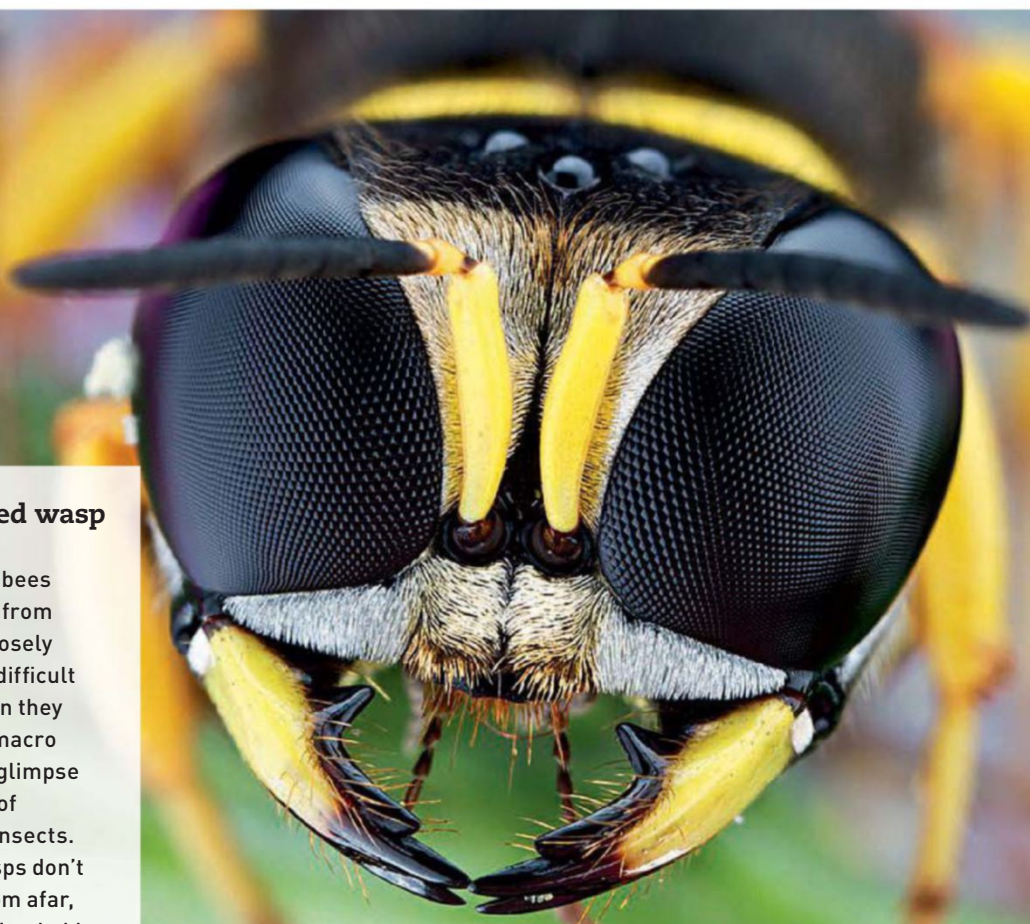
The text and images in this story were taken with permission from *Bugs in Close-Up* by Colin Hutton (\$30, New Holland), which features over 200 stunning photos of some of nature's most bizarre-looking and intriguing creatures.



Square-headed wasp *Ectemnius* sp.

Many wasps and bees look alike when viewed from a distance, and while closely related species can be difficult to distinguish even when they are viewed up close, a macro lens provides a unique glimpse at the massive amount of diversity among these insects.

Square-headed wasps don't look very distinctive from afar, but their faces are unmistakable.





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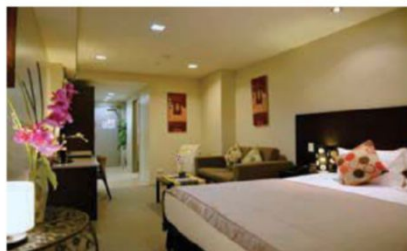
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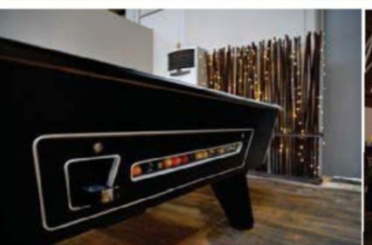
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What's on this June

Adult D.I.Y. Workshops



World Environment Day is about celebrating ways to reduce our impact on the environment, and is on Friday June 5 this year. Bunnings will be holding Save Energy in the Home workshops on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 June. Visit your local Bunnings store to learn more.

Saturday 30 May Tiling and plastering	Sunday 14 June Storage solutions
Sunday 31 May Tiling and plastering	Saturday 20 June Home organisation
Saturday 6 June Save energy in the home	Sunday 21 June Home organisation
Sunday 7 June Save energy in the home	Saturday 27 June Windows and doors
Saturday 13 June Storage solutions	Sunday 28 June Windows and doors

Our workshops are held every weekend at 11am, 12.30pm and 2pm. For specific topics, ask instore or go to bunnings.com.au. If you live in South Australia, speak to a team member or visit bunnings.com.au for details about our great one-on-one D.I.Y. workshops. These workshops run from 10am to 4pm each Saturday and Sunday.

Kids' D.I.Y. Workshops

Saturday 30 May Fun with paint	Sunday 21 June Art class
Sunday 31 May Craft	Saturday 27 June Animal craft
Saturday 6 June World Environment Day	Sunday 28 June Game makers
Sunday 7 June World Environment Day	
Saturday 13 June Nature	
Sunday 14 June Woodwork	
Saturday 20 June Fun with paint	

For more information on other instore events or to book, call (03) 8831 9777 or visit bunnings.com.au



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PREP VEGIES

Rip open one or two paper bags and spread them over your benchtop when peeling vegetables, shelling peas, or doing any other messy job. When you're done, simply fold the paper and throw it all into the compost.

DRY HERBS

Wash and thoroughly dry several bunches of herbs and place them upside down in a paper bag. Tie the bag at the stems, punch in a few holes and put it in a warm, dry place for two weeks. Grind the herbs, then store.

CATCH DUST

Remove dust from a mop by placing a paper bag over the head, then use string or a rubber band to stop it slipping. Shake and gently bump the mop so the dust falls into the bag, let the dust settle, then take off the bag.

BOOST COMPOST

A great addition to any compost heap, brown paper bags contain less ink and pigment than newspaper, and attract more worms. First shred and wet the bags, then mix into the compost well so they don't dry out and blow away.

SPRAY STUFF

You don't have to make a mess when spray-painting small items. Just place what you're painting inside a large paper bag and it will contain the excess spray. Once the item has dried, remove it and throw the bag away.

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