

tickle the
imagination

MAGAZINE

ISSUE 03 | summer 2011/12

sea change...



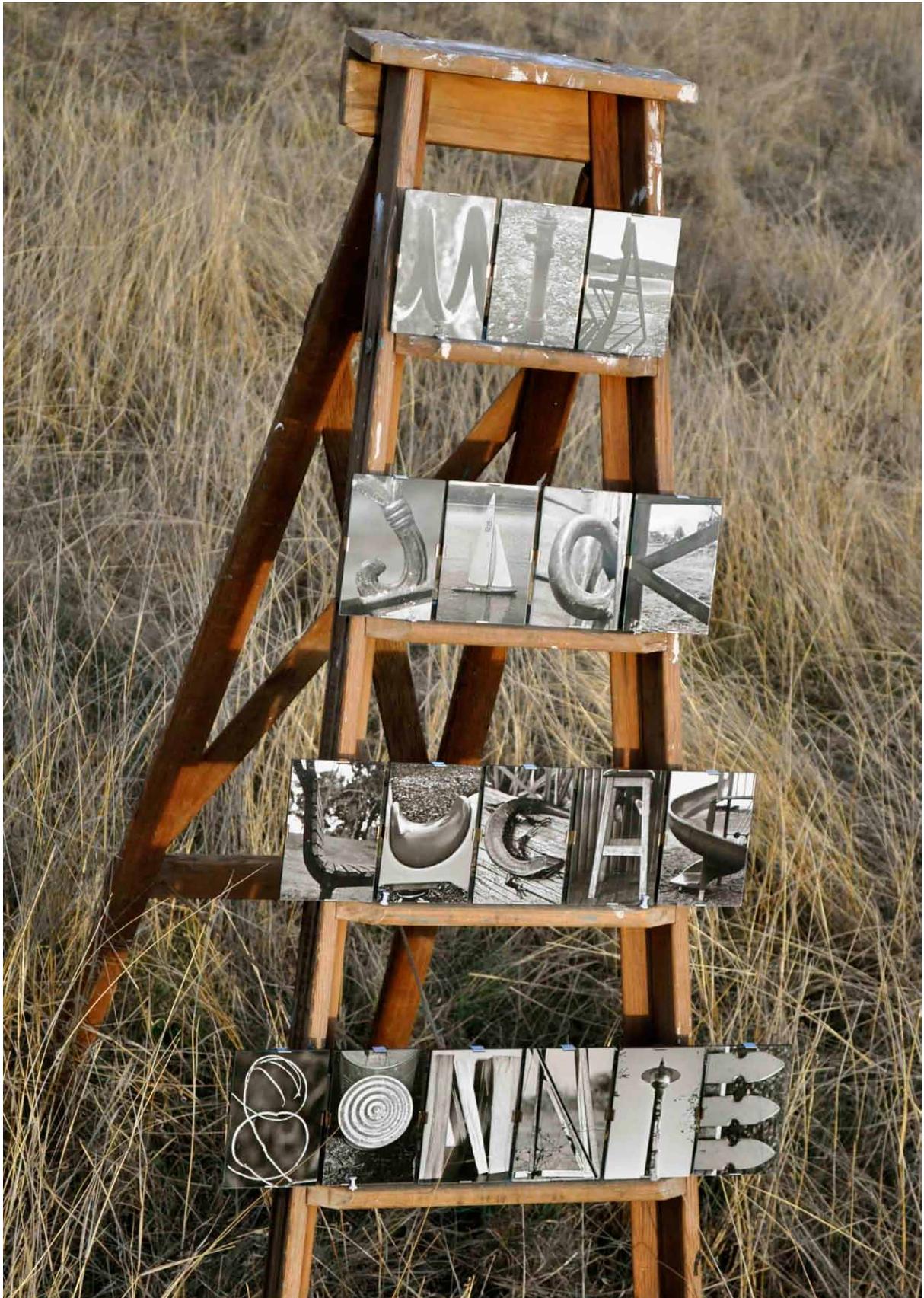
time *flies...*

a new collection of clocks by funkydory

www.funkydory.com.au | www.facebook.com/funkydoryart



funkydory
www.funkydory.com.au



ordinary objects
presented in a beautiful
and extraordinary way

.....

Lifabet

www.lifabet.com.au

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jane davenport, page 12

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tickle the imagination

MAGAZINE

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editor & creative director

tanya collier
tanya@tickletheimagination.com.au

consulting art director

shannon morton
shannon@shannonmorton.com.au

enquiries

editorial editor@tickletheimagination.com.au
advertising advertise@tickletheimagination.com.au

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hello!

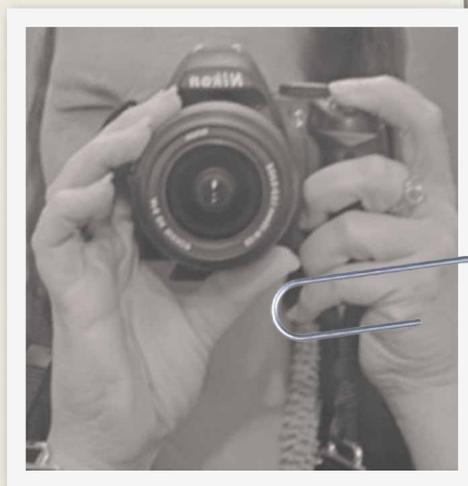
Welcome to the third issue of tickle the imagination!

Once again I am very excited to share with you stunning photoshoots, inspiring stories and tips for business and personal growth as well as introduce you to some amazing handmade and creative people!

This issue I have also had the pleasure of working with art director/designer Shannon Morton... she has created several layouts in this issue...you can read more about her on page 46...she is rather special!

I hope you enjoy this sea inspired issue!

Tanya x
{Editor}



leanne schmid
possum & banjo



tracey
eklectic photography + design



adelin hill
dinky me

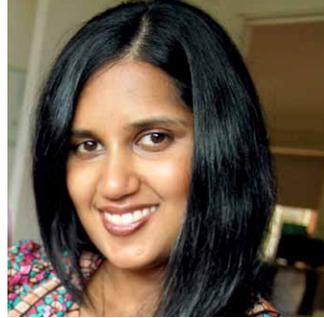


cath connell
leaf journals

contributors



tania mccartney
author



tanya castellino
life's little celebrations



pauline su
the party studio



kerri gravina
vintage sew and so



elisha
monet paisley



wendy
little tree kids



kelly ingram
polkadot lane



danielle
curiouser



tash kimlin
whimsy petite styling



melissa
miss mollys



tanya cremin
aynat designs



vanessa hall
dolly vardens



lisa
cookie dough biscuits



shannon morton
art direction & design



li-ann scott
ham & pea design and paperie

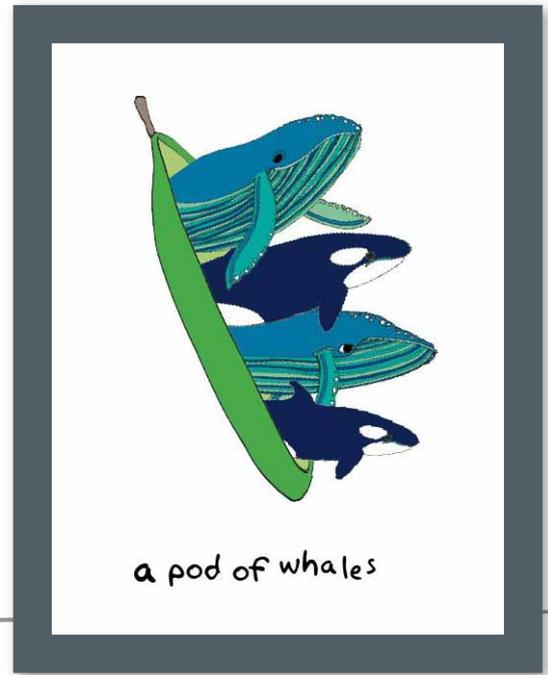
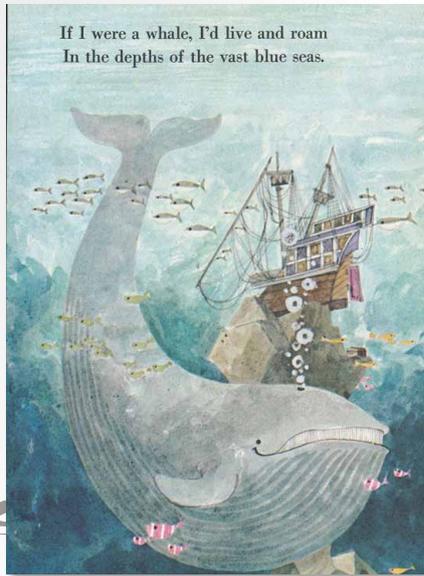
A huge thank you to each of the contributors who worked on the stories you will find throughout this issue!



whale of a time

a collection of gorgeous whale inspo

left to right - whale singlet by bubby makes three | whale invitation by nomie boutique stationery | whale notebook by geritom paper by red parka designs | whale cushion by alphabet monkey



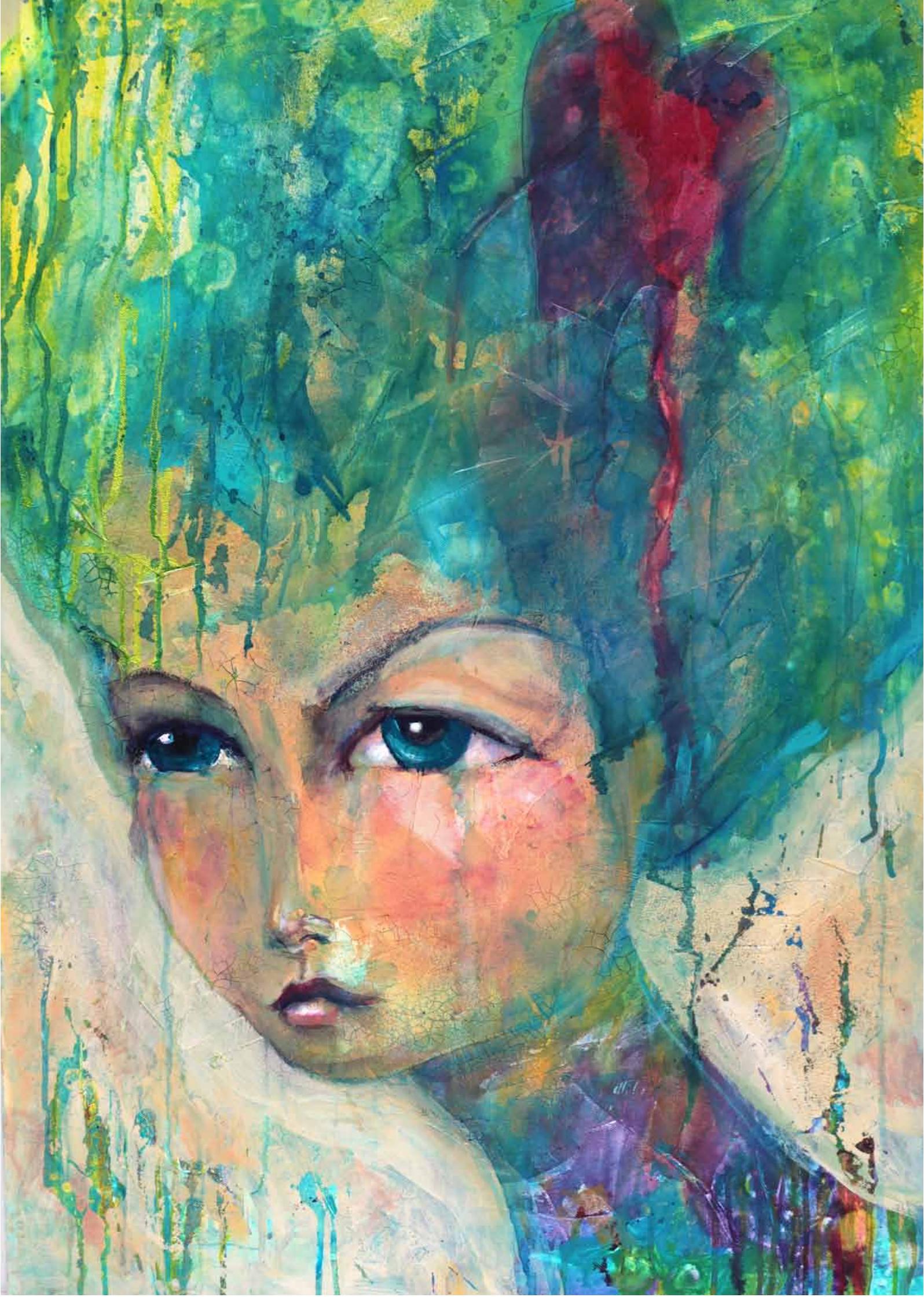
a pod of whales

e!

inspired creations

on by the candy tree | whale invite
crafts | 'a pod of whales' artwork





Jane Davenport {artrepreneur}

Jane Davenport is an internationally exhibited and licensed artist, award winning author and avid journaler with her own Gallery in Byron Bay, Australia.

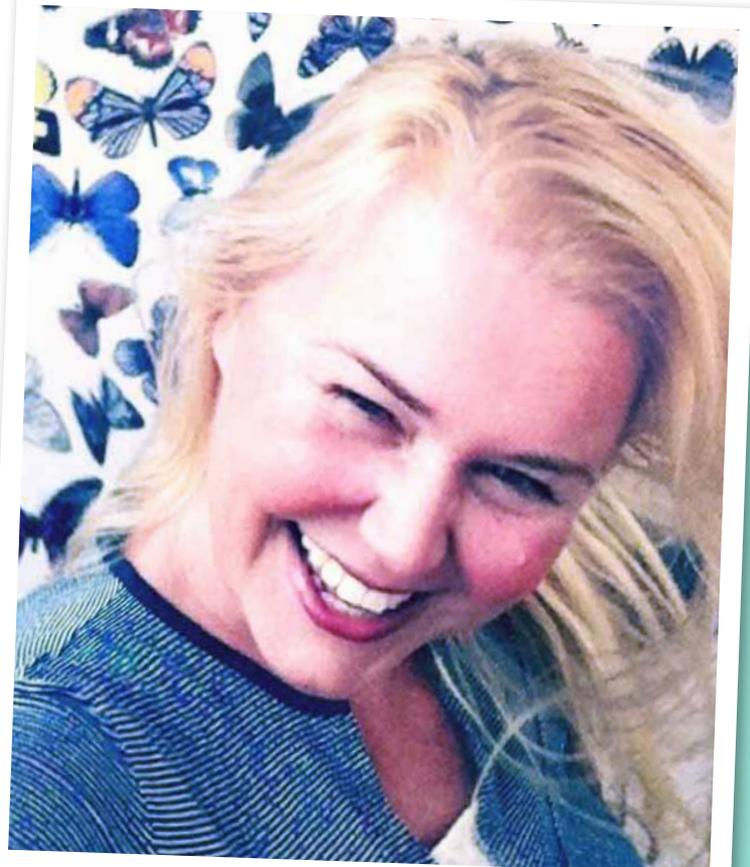
meet jane...

I have always been a creative person in childhood and into my adult life. I worked in fashion for a long time, and made the change to full time artist 12 years ago. That takes nerves of steel and colossal amounts of work, but when it's your passion it feels great.

I feel a new phase started with my work last year with the discovery of Art Journaling and on-line classes.

I started teaching my own classes this year , just found my own path as I always do, and now have hundreds of adult students from around the world. I have never been felt so adored, creative and engaged. I LOVE it!

You can expect lots of naughty fun from the girl with the nickname of 'Danger' and who believes art, just like life, doesn't have to be serious to be meaningful!



Jane's incredibly popular online creativity and drawing schools are places where creative courage roams free.

* Jane attends craft fair exhibitions around Australia and hosts live workshops as she travels!

“

I am a self-confessed, degenerate art supply junkie, so it would be easier for me to list what i don't work with!

tools & materials...

I am a self-confessed, degenerate art supply junkie, so it would be easier for me to list what i don't work with :

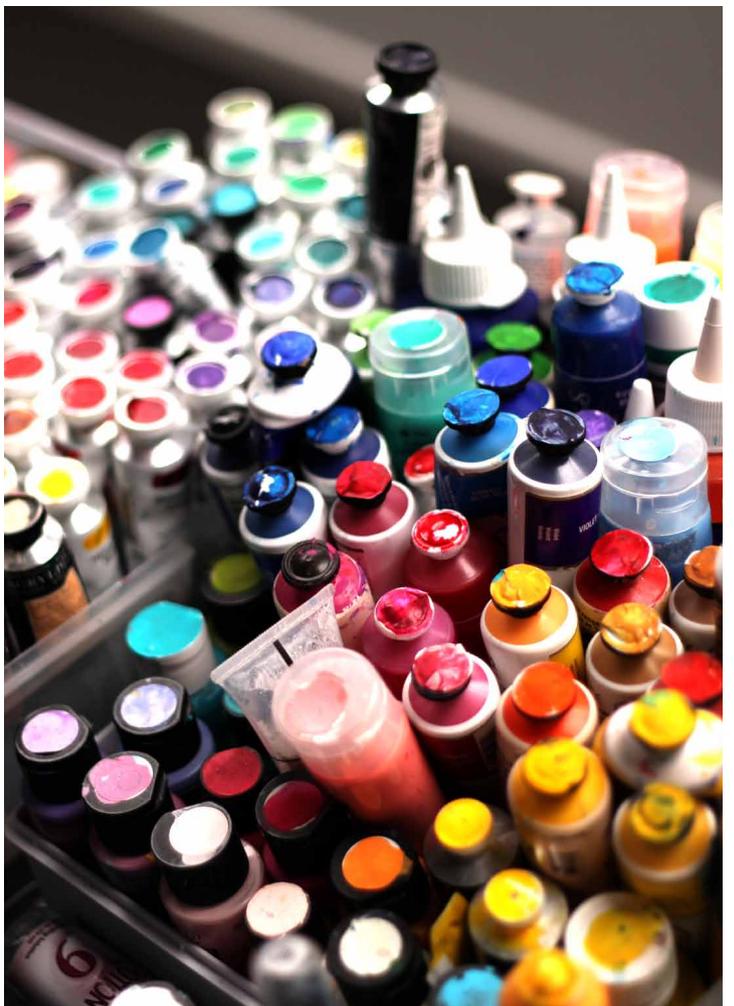
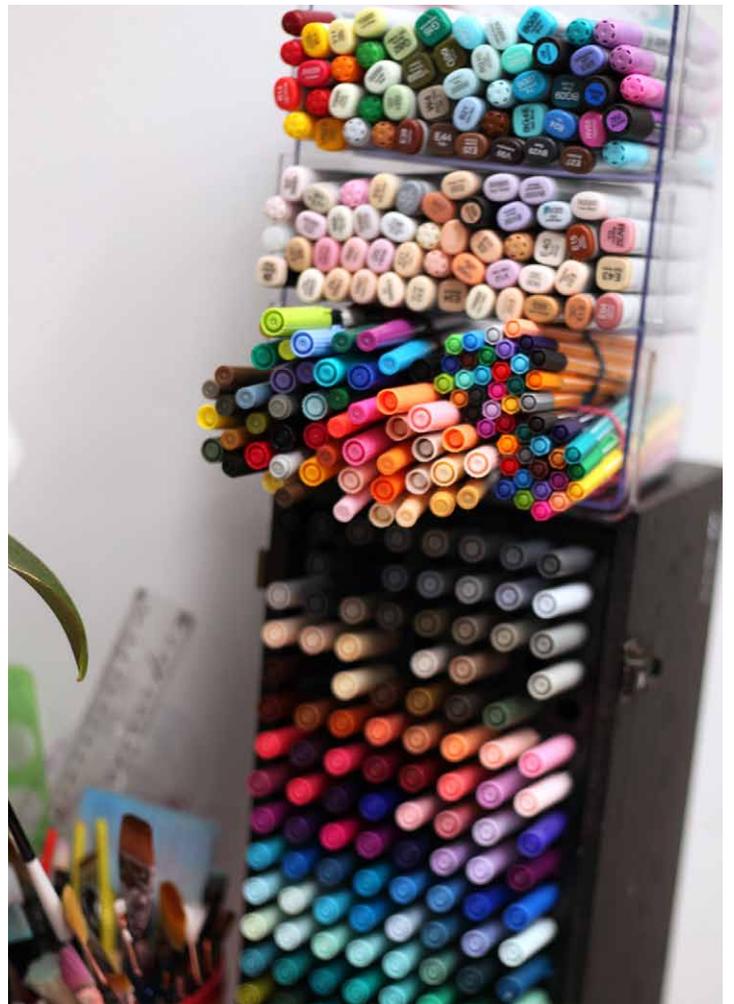
Oil Paint (too smelly!).

My favourites today are AquaMarkers, Peerless watercolors, coloured pencils (Prismacolors), Matte paint and Sumi ink.

inspiration

Inspiration itself is my inspiration. I love the feeling of it and am quite addicted to it. My mind races, there's fire in my belly, I'm restless and very focussed. So I always have my feelers out, picking up what has juice and the possibility of inspiring me. I am impossibly curious about things that interest me, and that generates a lot of energy!







Jane's at home studio, and a little peek at husband Angus and the 'dogettes'!

My artwork is quirky, whimsical and uplifting. Even when I am feeling unwhimsical, my artwork still comes out of me with a happiness at it's core. I guess I have an unquenchable happiness at my core instead of yoga muscles ;)

creative people i admire and am inspired by

I love Teesha and Tracey Moore - mixed media artists based in Seattle... I am teaching at their School the 'ArtFest Annex' in February.

I also have a complete fixation with Boticelli's artwork.

other passions

Photography, painting, journaling, drawing and sharing it all via my blog, website and online classes leaves me just enough time to chat to my husband and friends, go for a walk on the beach with my dogettes and plot my next holiday... there's no room for anything else!

support & networking...

I run my workshops and Journaling Group with info on my website: www.janedavenport.com/workshops

Next year I have 4 of my Own classes planned and am also a guest teacher on 21 Secrets and Lifebook.

typical day...

I wake early... and switch on the coffee machine (Angus is the best personal barista in the world!) and go and check my emails on my ipad (that thing has changed my life!). Angus wakes up, does the coffee and a surf check. then we all get in the car for a surfari. I take my journalling stuff and do some artyness after a nice long walk.

Then its on with the to do list, lunch and a relax for an hour or two. Back into it until tea. Maybe a movie or book and then a bit of night owl art if I feel like it. Sleep. repeat.



lessons learned...

1 You will be copied at some point if your work is unique enough. It will make you want to vomit, cry, and gnash your teeth and never share anything again. You will survive.

2 It's really hard to ask for payment when you enjoy what you do so much that it doesn't feel like work. But you deserve to make a living, just like everyone else.

3 Start a blog and add video.

4 Learn to read a contract!

“

I want to create artwork that I love all my life. I'll be pretty happy with that!



secrets of success...

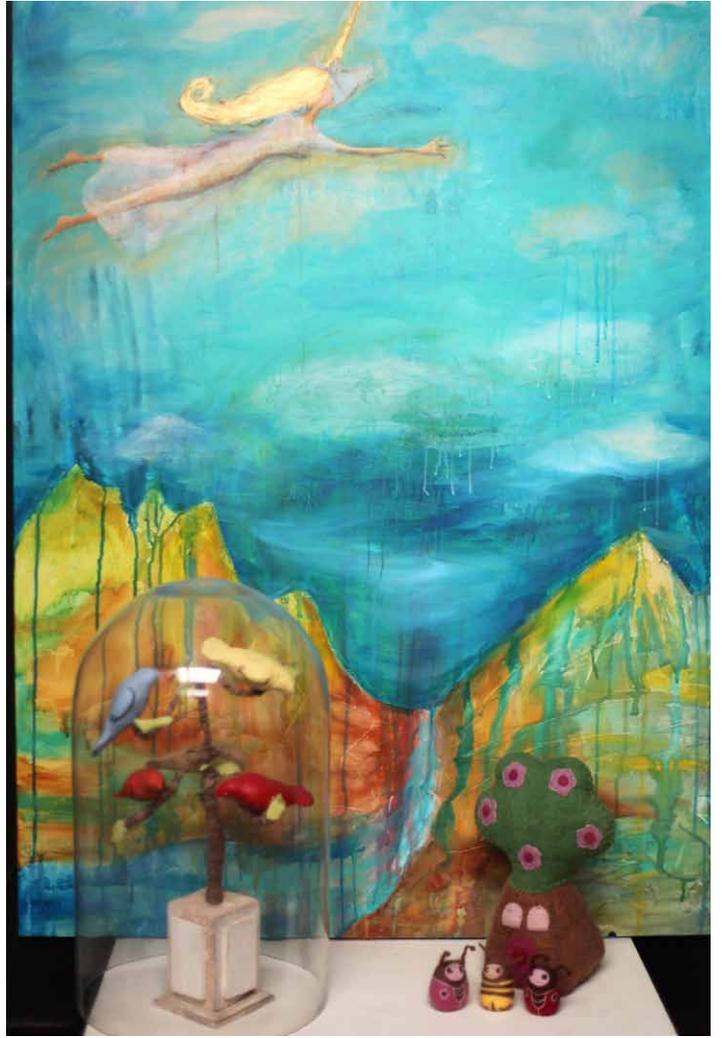
Being an 'artpreneur' is all consuming. It's amazing, fulfilling, fun and completely awesome.... but its full on. I mean FULL ON. And it can take years to make it as a viable business. But don't give up on your dreams.... they may take longer to appear than you want, but as long as you are having fun, keep at it!

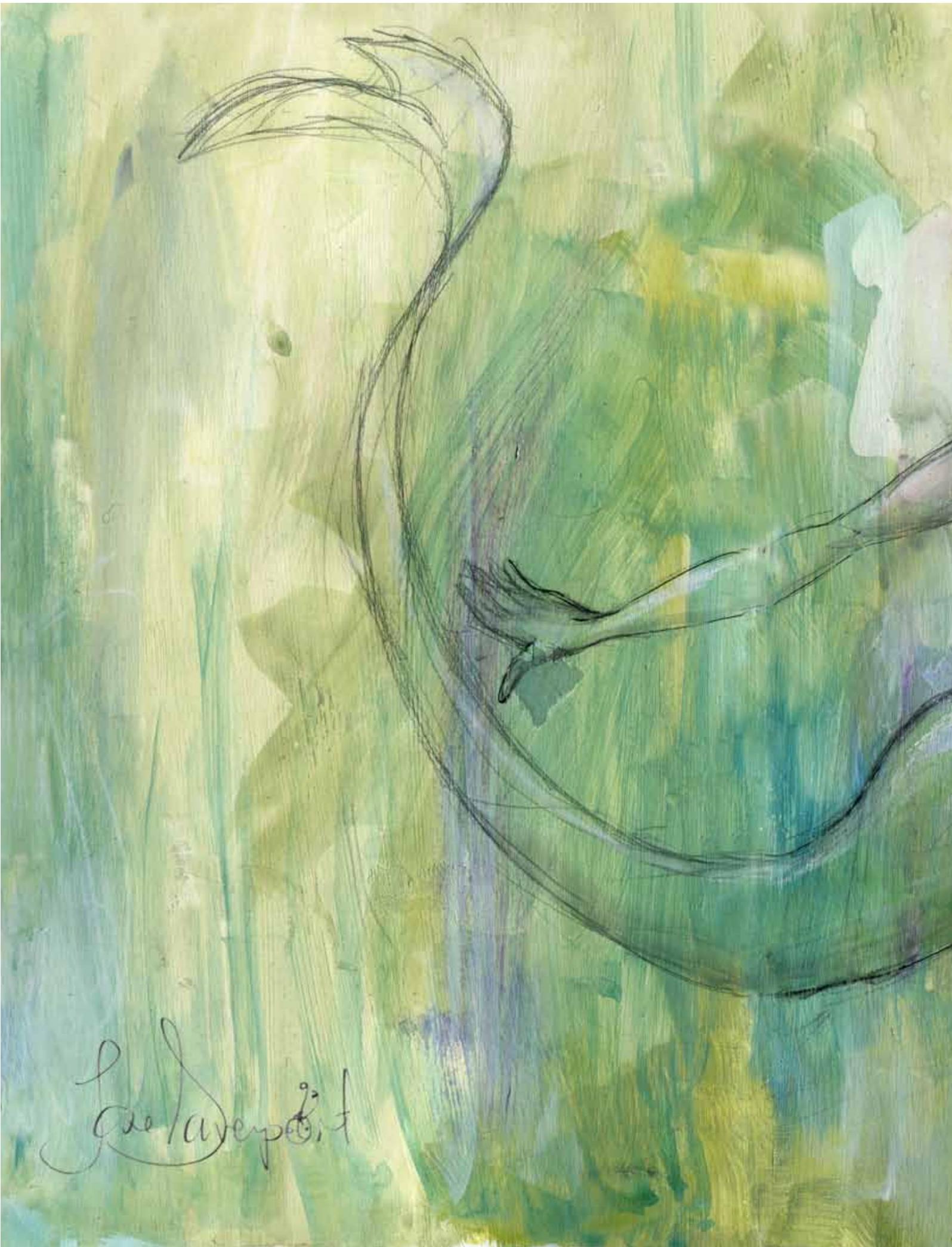
future plans...

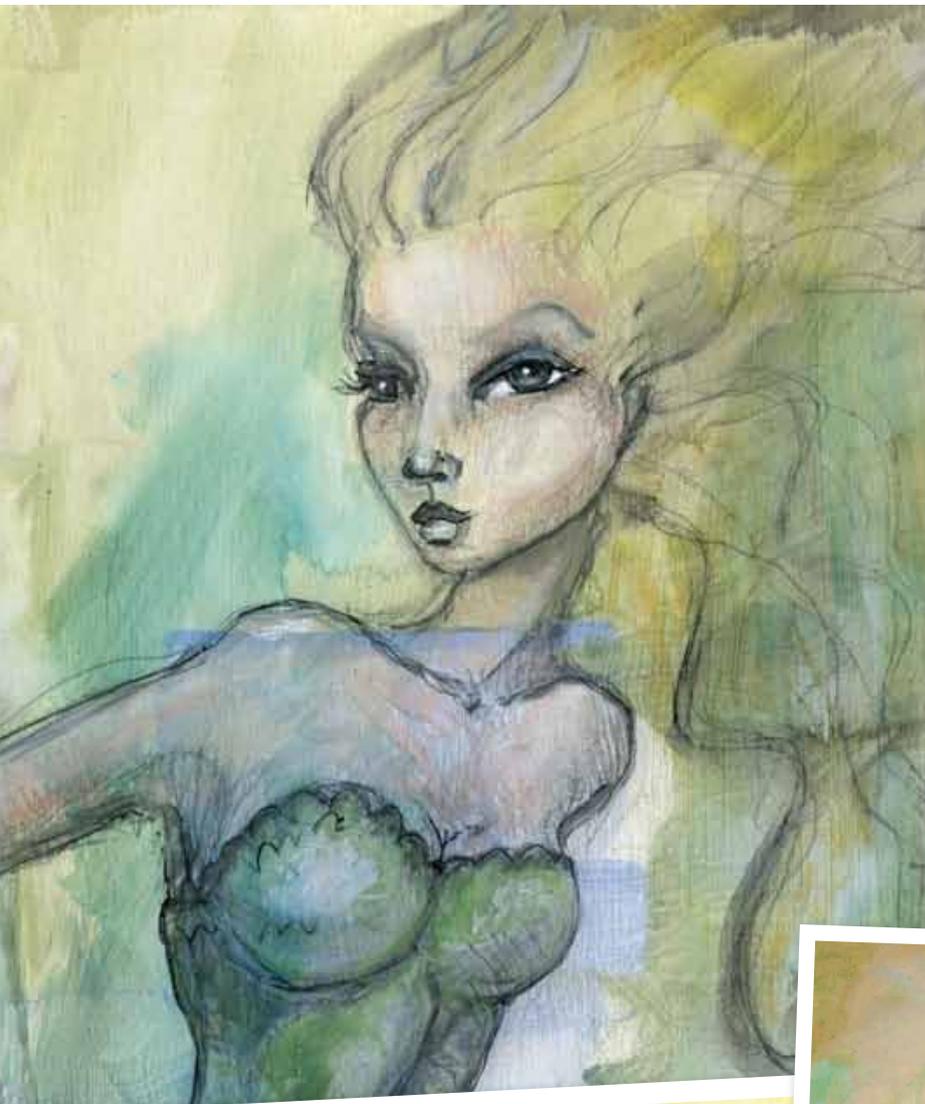
I am working on my Online School to grow and grow. My students and I have alot of fun, and walking with people on their creative paths is such a joy.

I have also just had my first art product released (the BEST watercolour set in the UNIVERSE). And I will not rest until I have a flotilla of art supplies that I have created both on my own and with art companies.

I want to create artwork that I love all my life. I'll be pretty happy with that!



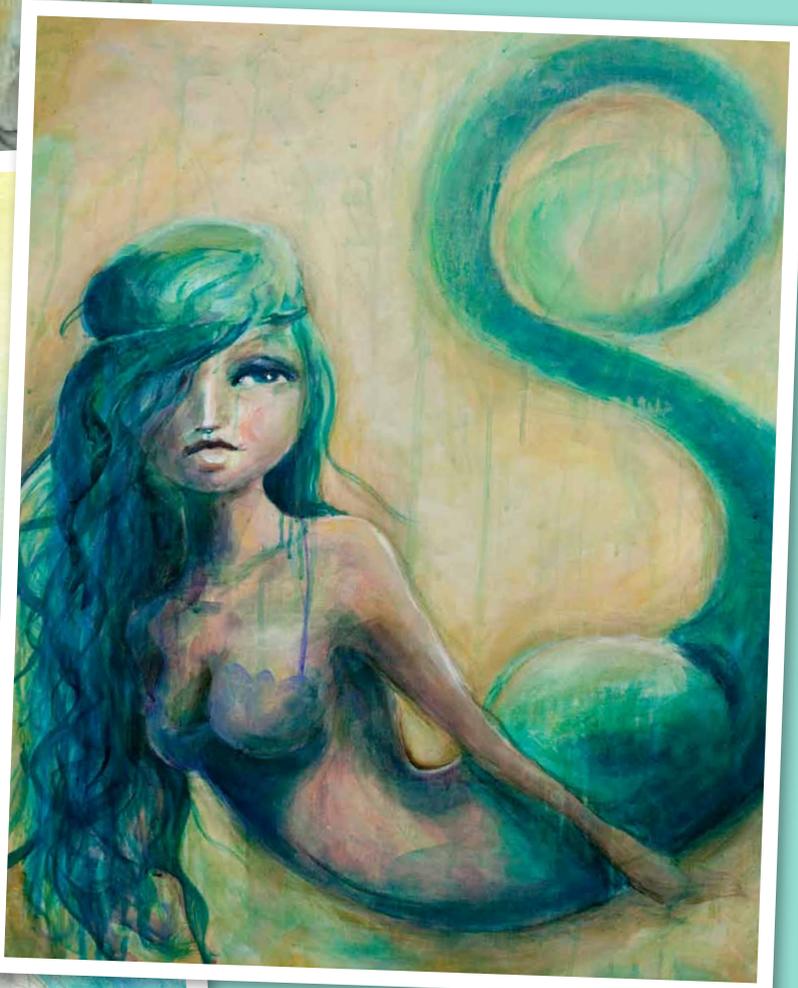




“

mermaids...

*Painting them
relaxes me. I can
use my favourite
colours and draw
my favourite
thing.... faces.*



Jane Davenport

www.janedavenport.com



Encouraging kids to embrace the essence of childhood in designs that let them be little fish.



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HANDMADE BABY & TODDLER CLOTHING



mermaid tales



ruffle
tablecloth
tutorial
page 32!

One way or the other, water was going to make it's way into our Mermaid Theme photo shoot...

...unfortunately it wasn't via our backdrop as originally planned but rather through rain on the day of the shoot. However we loved the opportunity to showcase how this sea-inspired theme can be styled with an ocean feel even at home!

As my blog and online party planning business 'Life's Little Celebration's' is all about sourcing party items, I was excited about the opportunity to coordinate a shoot showcasing how handmade items can contribute to a beautiful Mermaid inspired celebration. I teamed up with some talented ladies to form the initial brainstorming team: stylist Pauline from Sophisticated Yum who also owns party boutique The Party Studio, Li-Ann from Ham & Pea Design and Paperie and Denin from Spoon & Fork Cookies and Cake. From there we went on to source more contributors, keen to demonstrate the talent of handmade work in a party setting.



Making your own sweets for a party brings in a lovely homemade touch.



Inspired by the Mermaid printables of creative Ham & Pea Design and Paperie, our colour scheme was set with shades of blues and coral pink. We were able to include unique mermaid inspired food labels, wave patterned paper, mermaid tags and straw labels amongst other cute details. From there the foundation for the table was laid with the stunning ocean inspired ruffle tablecloth handmade from Vintage Sew & So. In cascading colours of blue it created the feel of desserts sitting atop the ocean and really brought this table to life. It was complemented by the seaweed inspired backdrop created by Sophisticated Yum.

Making your own sweets for a party brings in a lovely homemade touch. However if you can't do homemade – then including handmade sweets from talented WAHM's is the next best thing. On this table we showcased delicious macarons from Her Macarons, in blues and coral pinks. Pearl cake balls by Zsazsa's Delights were served on scallop shells for an added ocean touch. Spoon & Fork Cookies and Cake created





Kids tables and chairs are a great addition to any children's party as it creates a special space for the little one's to eat and provides another opportunity to bring the party theme to life.

seahorse and fish inspired cookies as well as the cake perfectly matching the printables and whose wave effect reflected the ruffle tablecloth.

Cupcakes with starfish fondant toppers and mini jelly's as well as gorgeous jars filled with sweets and shells also added to the table along with the mini sand castle and driftwood. Everything was styled and brought together with perfection by Sophisticated Yum.

Kids tables and chairs are a great addition to any children's party as it creates a special space for the little one's to eat and provides another opportunity to bring the party theme to life. They are easily decorated and we used shells, sand filled bottles and name cards swung adorably over each of the sweet blue chairs to decorate our lovely table and chair set from Sydney based Tiny Tot's Toy Hire. This table showcased some of the goodies available from The Party Studio such as the lovely bamboo plates and cutlery, glass cork bottles, aqua twine and funky straws.



We hope you've been inspired to incorporate quality handmade items into your next celebration to bring in a special 'one of a kind' touch for your special one of a kind little child!



Our little mermaids were dressed in handmade outfits from the very talented AnKBowtique who completely brought our vision to life and showcased how beautiful a customised handmade birthday outfit can be! The stunning (and soft) tutu, singlet and matching headband and arm/wrist bands were embellished with tiny starfish and pearls to coordinate with the table and printables.

Giving a quality handmade party favour for all the little one's to take home is another way to bring a delightful handmade touch to a party, as shown by the ribbon wands made by Pinwheels and Pearls which the girls twirled and waved around excitedly! The vibrant satin ribbons were gorgeous and would be a take home gift which would be treasured for many years after the party.

The essence of the shoot was captured by Tracy from Eclectic Photography + Design. Despite the weather she was able to still create the ocean feel as well as the joy of the two mermaids and the fun they had during the afternoon.



contributors

- Life's Little Celebrations - Coordinating & Sourcing of handmade items
- Sophisticated Yum & The Party Studio - Styling & sourcing of handmade items
- Ham & Pea Design & Paperie - Party Printables
- Spoon & Fork Cookies and Cake - Cookies and Cake
- Her Macarons - Macarons
- Zsazsa's delights - Cake Balls
- Tiny Tot's Toy hire - table & chairs
- Vintage Sew and So - Ruffle Tablecloth
- AnK Bowtique - Mermaid outfits and accessories
- Pinwheels & Pearls - Ribbon Wands
- Eclectic photography + design - Photography

create a ruffle table cloth

tutorial by Kerri Gravina- Vintage Sew and so & Gravina Sister's Kitchen



to fit a 150 x 75.5cm trestle table

 Make sure you have plenty of room around your sewing machine & plenty of time... it takes quite a long time to sew this.

you will need:

- + tape measure
- + scissors
- + lots of pins
- + sewing machine &
- + overlocker (if you have one)
- + Fabric A -2.75mt
- + Fabric B – 6.75mt
- + Fabric C – 3.6mt

step 1

Cutting the fabric

Top - piece 1

fabric A

cut 77 x 152cm

Main Skirt – piece 2

fabric B

cut 75cm x 6.75mt

Top Ruffle – piece 3

fabric A

cut 25cm x 152cm(spare from cutting piece 1), plus 5 by 25cm x 112cm

Middle Ruffle – piece 4

fabric C

cut 11 by 32cm x 112cm



step 2 Overlock edges of piece 1

step 3 Join all of piece 2 together to make a long strip then overlock bottom edge then hem. Repeat with pieces 3 & 4.

step 4 Set your overlocker to gathering stitch and gather piece 4 (if your overlocker doesn't have a gathering stitch you can get a gathering foot or ruffler attachment for your sewing machine. Or do it the old-school way with a wide stitch and hand gather it. It will take a while but the result is excellent and you have great control over your ruffles).

step 5 Place piece 3's top edge on to piece 2's top edge then gather together.

step 6 Lay the newly joined pieces 2 & 3 on the table and measure 19cm down from the top, this is where piece 4 goes.

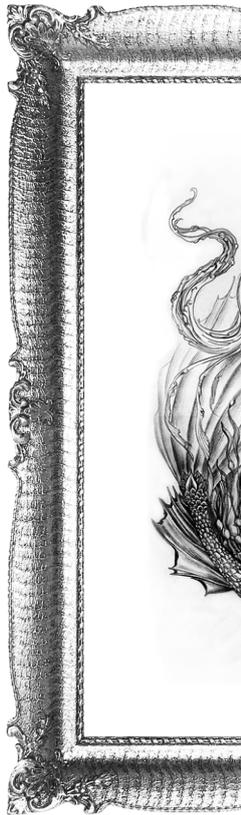
step 7 Pin piece 4 to piece 2 then adjust the gathers to fit (this is the really fiddly and time consuming bit), then sew the ruffle on, but do it slowly so you don't get extra fabric caught in the stitches. Now you have the first part of the skirt done!

step 8 Lay piece 1 on the table and starting at a corner, pin your skirt to piece 1, right sides together (you may need to hand gather the skirt into piece 1 by using a needle and thread with a running stitch to do this in sections). Once you are happy with the way it looks, sew around the edge with a small stitch, taking care not to catch extra fabric in the seam (if you do, just unpick and re-stitch).

step 9 Sew side seam together.

step 10 Turn right side out.

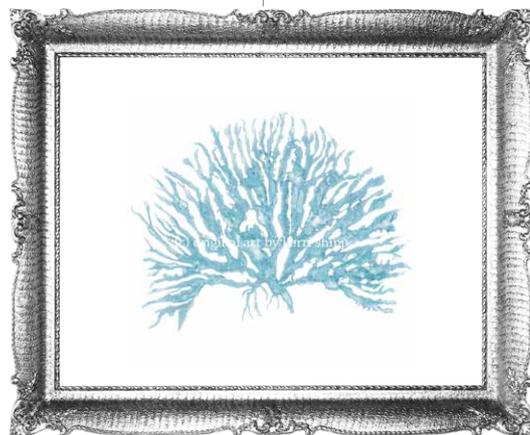
ta da! you have a ruffle table cloth and you will probably need a cup of tea or something stronger after this marathon effort.



gallery wall

a collection of our favourite sea inspired artworks

on the wall (left to right) Jane Davenport | Altar and Mantle | Ginger Kelly Studio | Driftwood In





a stitch in time

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHY **KATIA DONOHOE**

meet katia...

Hi everyone! I am Katia (Plushka) and I am a handmade designer. I make felt toys, love hand stitching, crochet and fabric. My micro handmade business is called Plushka's Craft that was named after my grandmother 's favorite pastry - 'Plushka'. It's a sweet and savory pastry which has a pretty heart shape. That's why I chose this name for my craft business as a symbol of my love for everything made by hand. Plushka became a label for felt toys, accessories, homewares and cross-stitched items.

creations...

My creations are made with love and passion for beautiful handmade items. I try to make them practical and decorative at the same time like my "For your craftroom from Plushka" collection of pincushions and crochet baskets that I hope to extend in the full range of goodies in the next few month! You can see how I see the world through my creations and every one of them have my emotions, love and creativity in every stitch.





It's still very surreal to me how fast it all happened!

how it all started...

I started over a year ago from small creations that I sold on etsy. I created my first felt toy in June 2010 and was so popular that I felt confident enough to make more toys. The same time my items were accepted to the Shop Handmade in Canberra which motivated me to make more stock and create new things! Madeit became my online shop and customer orders started coming in keeping me busy.... It's still very surreal to me how fast it all happened! I am very humbled that, although there are so many felt toys out there, people love what I create and order from me. However, long before the toys, crochet and felt creations, the love for cross-stitch got me into making things. I learned this craft as a child and would love to see it coming back in fashion. I am a strong believer in cross-stitch one day becoming more popular then other types of embroidery. I try to use it as often as possible in my creations that include key rings, notebook covers and Christmas decorations.



typical day

Every day is different from the last but a typical day usually starts with getting myself a cup of coffee and do things a round a house for an hour or so just to get myself in the mood. I also find it's easier to be creative when the space around me is more organized. Then I check emails and comments on my blog and spend some time on Facebook and writing blog post/s.

Before noon, while the light is still good for the pictures, I start on the new items that I want to list today in the shop and then customer orders later on the day.

I take a break or two during the day to check my emails and Facebook page once again. At about 4pm, I start cooking dinner so it's ready by 6pm. Evening time is when we go for a walk and spend some time together with my husband. Sometimes, I have to get into my studio and create something new or draw a sketch as inspirations comes. I try not to stop myself and even draw in my notebook while getting to work and back. Use every free minute of the day!



lessons learned

It's been an enormous learning curve for me since I've started Plushka's Craft. I learned a lot not only about the industry but also about myself. I learned multitasking, keeping focused and trying to stay creative while running a shop. I didn't realize when I started that I'll have to fit my new projects between making stock and completing orders. I also learned which colors are the most popular, when is the best time to release a seasonal items and improved my product pictures.

secrets of success

There is no secret, really. The most important thing that I've learned is to believe in yourself and what you do. Don't look around too much as it's easy to get distracted a loose your path. Be your weird and wonderful self whoever you are and you will find people who will love what you do.

The most important thing that I've learned is to believe in yourself and what you do...

tools + materials...

I work with felt, designer linen and quality cotton fabrics. Handmade for me is all about quality and unique feel of items made by hand. All my felt toys are entirely hand stitched and I love adding and correcting things as I go. To tell you a secret, I don't have a pattern for some parts, as I like cutting them out individually, creating unique face expressions.

other passions...

I rarely get a minute without craft but when I do, I love reading, cooking, learning other languages (currently French) and trying get my guitar skills back.

ating
made with love





inspiration...

Inspiration can get me anywhere! I get new ideas when I read magazines, books, blogs or even while I am on the bus. I quite often can 'see' a toy or other item and how it should be made/stitched together. I also have a little addiction to fabric, especially linen. If there is a new linen collection, I'll buy it! The texture of linen inspired me to decorate crochet baskets with hand printed linens by Australian designs. When I am really stuck, I clean, redecorate, reorganize etc to get my creativity back!

I get inspired by so many creative people and designers out there. Mostly, as I use Australian designer fabric in my creations, I've got a few ladies who's creativity is contagious and getting me making stuff without fail: Nic from Yardage design, Saffron from Saffron Craig fabrics and Thea from Thea & Sami.

Pinterest is my new addiction and I just love 'pinning' new pictures into my boards, follow fellow crafters and see what inspires others!

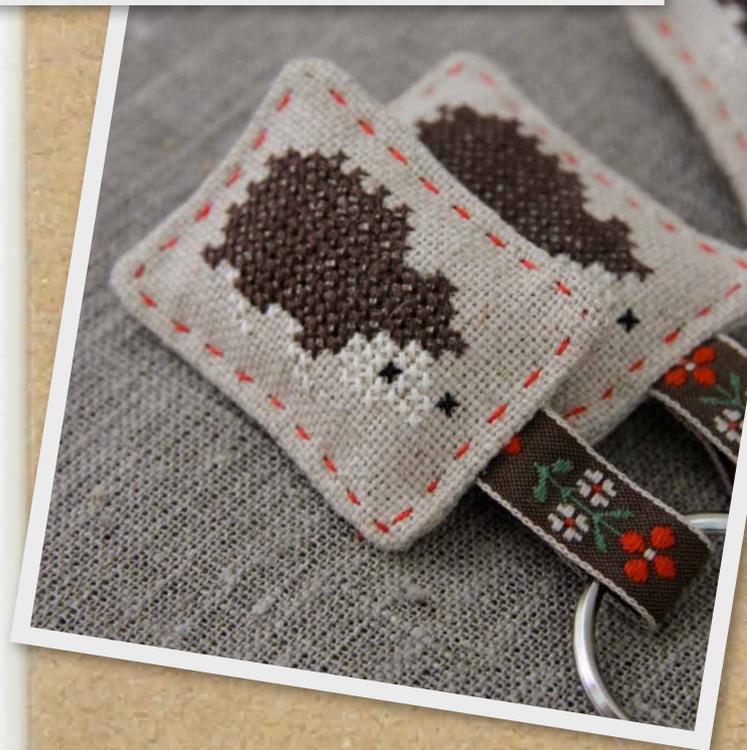
networks & groups

Facebook became a second home to Plushka after the blog. It's a great social space where I can share and get advice and feel connected to the world which is important when you work from home.

Pinterest is my new addiction and I just love 'pinning' new pictures into my boards, follow fellow crafters and see what inspires others!

future plans

There are a few new collections I am working on at the moment: new felt toys, Christmas collection and, maybe, a totally new product line....A lots of hopes for Plushka in the future but in general I just wish to be able to keep doing what I am doing right now! Create when I feel inspired and make things to bring joy.



Katia Donohoe

Plushka's Craft

www.madeit.com.au/plushka

www.plushkacraft.blogspot.com

www.facebook.com/plushkacraft





www.possumandbanjo.bigcartel.com

www.facebook.com/possumbanjo

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raspberryrockets



*I have spent
the last 15 years
working in the
magazine industry
and have had
some amazing
jobs including the
Art Director
of Donna Hay
magazine*



well crafted

WORDS SHANNON MORTON

meet shannon

I live in Newcastle, NSW with my lovely husband and beautiful little girl. I have just returned to Australia after living in the UK for 5 and a half years. When we moved back I decided that it was the perfect opportunity to stop dreaming about starting my own graphic design business and actually do it! I have spent the last 15 years working in the magazine industry and have had some amazing jobs including the Art Director of Donna Hay magazine and the Creative Director of Livingetc magazine in the UK. I am a magazine addict so leaving the publishing world was not an easy decision but the skills I

learnt there have proven invaluable in my new venture. My company *Shannon Morton Art Direction and Design* provides design services to all types of businesses - small and large.

design style

I would describe my style as clean and simple with a modern, hand-crafted twist. I like to bring the warmth to my work through illustration and graphic elements. I always believe that simple is best when designing however you need to have flair and personality in your work to separate it out from everyone else's. I also love colour and am not afraid to use it!

Colour combinations are a big source of inspiration for me, be it through paper or fabrics I might see, or just unexpected combinations I come across when out and about.



getting started

I am still in the very early stages having only started the company in August this year. When I am not working I spend time trying to expand my client list and build the business. I admire people who work in the hand-made and craft industry so tend to veer in that direction. I am also lucky to have a lot of contacts in the publishing industry, which has helped me greatly in the initial stages.

creative influences

I could go on for hours but my favourites would have to be Donna Hay (I have known Donna for a long time now and she continually inspires me with her creativity - so clever!), Ditte Isager (her photography is truly truly beautiful), Lisa Stickley (I am inspired by her cute, fresh designs), Rob Ryan (such intricate and delicate illustration), Amy Butler (I was incredibly lucky to meet and have a cup of tea with the lovely Amy Butler when I worked on Livingetc and she really inspired me - not only for her stunning fabric design but also for her advice on starting my own business - amazing!), Tricia Guild (no-one does colour like Designers Guild), and last but by no means least Jonathan Adler (I love his inventive and beautiful ceramics).

tools + materials

My beautiful new iMac, Pantone books, lots of papers, ribbons and crafty bits and bobs, a room full of magazines, books, design blogs, and one very supportive husband!

inspiration

My inspiration comes from so many things. Colour combinations are a big source of inspiration for me, be it through paper or fabrics I might see, or just unexpected combinations I come across when out and about. I am also heavily influenced by pattern and can spend hours looking at interiors websites and blogs - I love to see what trends are emerging in things like wallpaper and fabric design. Since starting my business I have been incredibly inspired by the other small businesses out there who produce the most amazing products and services! It is such a lovely network of people and I have been very impressed by how kind and open they have been.

secrets of success

Attention to detail, hard work, flexibility and patience! I think if you are passionate and you keep trying you will eventually end up being successful in your area of expertise. I also believe it is essential to keep learning new skills and to push yourself to keep feeling inspired and excited rather than just staying comfortable in what you are doing.

other creative talents?

Yes! My sister and I are in the process of designing a range of kids linens so watch this space...

www.shannonmorton.com.au

[e shannon@shannonmorton.com.au](mailto:e_shannon@shannonmorton.com.au)

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win!

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PHOTOGRAPHY



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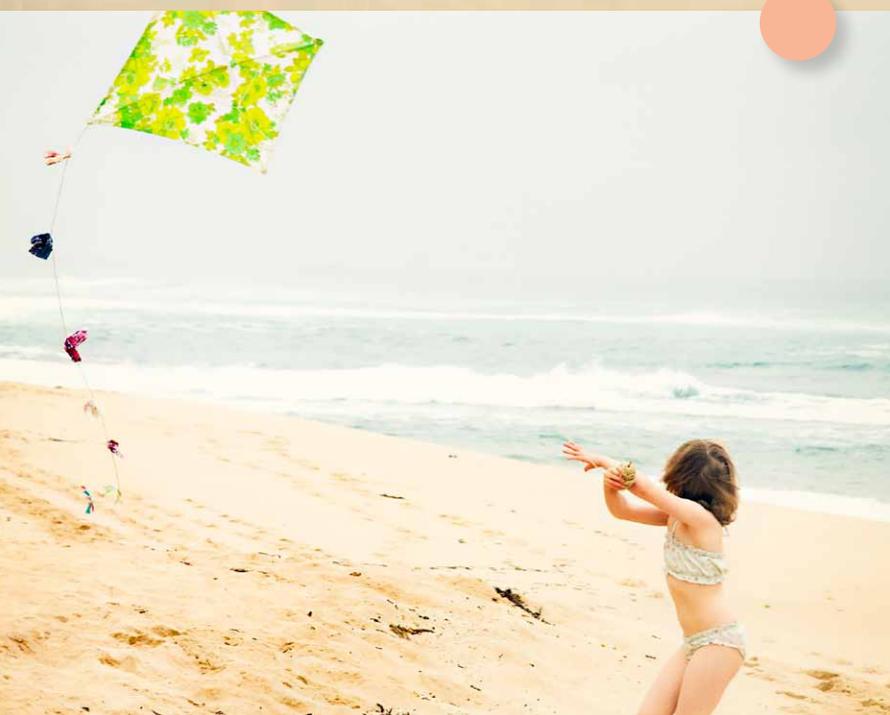
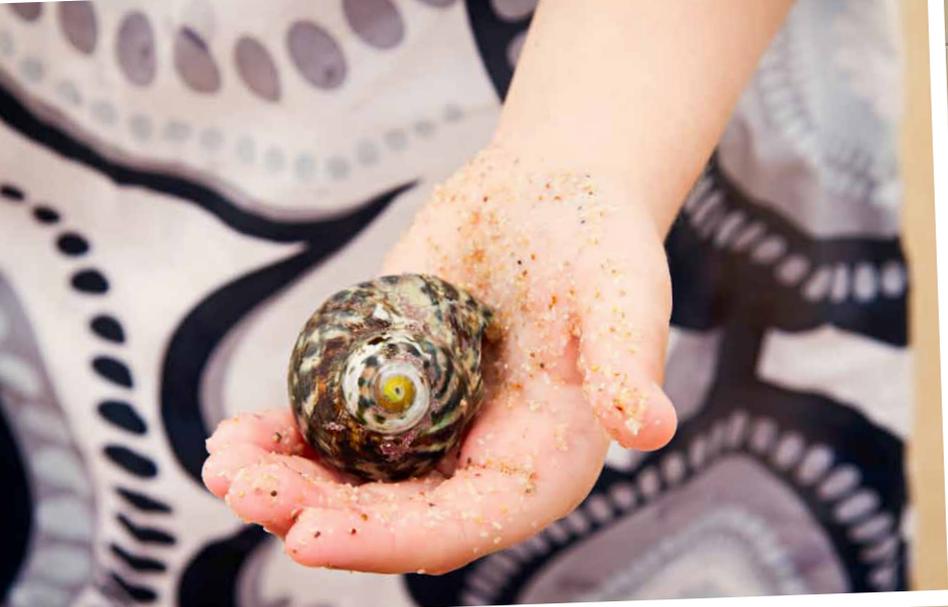
oh I do like
to be beside
the seaside

PHOTOGRAPHY **CURIOUSER** | STYLING **ELISHA OF MONET PAISLEY**
AND **WENDY OF LITTLE TREE KIDS**





this page Swimwear by Monet
Paisley, Jacket by Little Tree Kids,
Accessories by Sew Chirpy **left** Quilts
by The Textured Leaf, Accessories by
Sew Chirpy, Clothes by Dinky Me



top left Clothes by Polkadot **above** Tshirt by Polkadot Lane, Pants by Little Tree Kids **left** Swimwear by Monet Paisley **bottom left** Dress by Little Tree Kids, Accessories by Sew Chirpy **below** Food by Red Hill Mud **opposite page** Swimwear by Monet Paisley



*with wind in my hair and sand at my feet
this day will surely last*





*the clouds be so soft
and the trees be so rough
it's sad all soon shall pass*







left Dress by Dinky Me,
Shorts by Little Tree Kids
above Quilts by The Textured
Leaf **below** Swimwear by
Monet Paisley **opposite page**
Clothes by Little Tree Kids



*look up to the cliff where the birds do perch,
we watch them sing up high*

*as the day ends,
with the hours we spent,
away my kite will fly*



PHOTOGRAPHY Curiouser | www.curiouser.com.au

STYLING Elisha of Monet Paisley | www.monetpaisley.blogspot.com and
Wendy of Little Tree Kids | www.littletreekids.etsy.com

QUILTS The Textured Leaf | www.thetexturedleaf.blogspot.com

CLOTHES Little Tree Kids | www.littletreekids.etsy.com

SWIMWEAR Monet Paisley | www.monetpaisley.blogspot.com

CLOTHES Polkadot Lane | www.onpolkadotlane.blogspot.com

CLOTHES Dinky Me | www.dinkyme.etsy.com

ACCESSORIES Sew Chirpy | www.madeit.com.au/SewChirpy

FOOD Red Hill Mud | ph 03 5985 3595



this page Clothes by Polkadot Lane
left Swimwear by Monet Paisley

create a fabric kite

TUTORIAL **ELISHA OF MONET PAISLEY** | PHOTOGRAPHY **CURIOUSER & MONET PAISLEY**



Things you need:

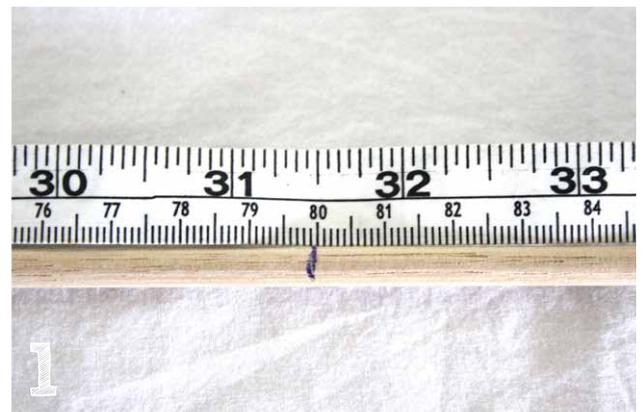
- + Vintage sheet
- + 1.8 metres 6mm dowel ball of string (preferably cotton)
- + Masking tape
- + Sewing machine threaded
- + Needle and thread
- + Wool needle
- + Scrap fabric
- + Stanley knife (or kitchen knife)
- + Scissors
- + Pen or pencil
- + Tape Measure

step 1

Mark your piece of dowel at 80 cms and again at 165 cms. Score dowel all the way around at each mark and snap through. You should have 3 pieces of dowel 80 cm, 85 cm and 15 cm.

step 2

Take the 80 cm dowel and put a mark with your pen at 40 cms, half way. Take your 85 cm dowel and put a mark at about 35 cm. Cross the two dowels where each mark is and tape together with masking tape to form a cross.







step 3

Tie the end of your string to one of the arms of your frame. Stretch your string up to the top of your frame, wrap a couple of times and secure with a knot. Stretch over and down to the other arm, again wrap and tie. then down to the bottom, wrap, tie, and back up to the starting point, wrap and tie. Make sure your string is taught but not so tight so as to distort the shape of your kite frame.

step 4

Take a piece of masking tape about 2 inches long and cover the end of each dowel that you have tied your string to. Take another piece of masking tape and wrap around the dowel and previous piece of tape just below the string. This is to keep the string from slipping out of place. The other way to do this is to cut notches in the end of each dowel... trust me the tape is easier and saves almost amputating your finger in the process.



step 5

Place your finished kite frame onto the wrong side of your vintage sheet. Trace all the way around your kite frame about 4 cms away from the string and tips of the dowels. Cut along the line you just drew and position your kite frame on your vintage sheet pattern piece.

step 6

Fold the edge of your sheet piece twice over the top of the string so that it forms a casing and pin. Leave the corners loose as we will deal with these later. Use the sewing machine on straight stitch to sew from one corner to the next. Backstitch and cut threads. Repeat on each side leaving the corners with a small amount of loose fabric.

step 7

a) pull the very corner of your fabric to the right (as in picture) b) fold the end up so that it is even with the edge of the kite. c) fold over to the left so that all loose ends are inside and there is a nice neat corner. d) hand stitch for about 3cm each side of the tip of the dowel, as close to the dowel as possible, to hold everything in place.



step 8

On the longer (85 cm) dowel make 2 marks, half way between the intersection of the two dowels and the ends of the dowels, one on each side. Cut a piece of string 40 cm long. Use your wool needle and thread string from the right side of the kite where you made the marks and tie around the dowel with a double or triple knot. Do the same with the other end of the string at the other mark you just made. By holding the string we just attached find the point on the string where the kite is balanced, this is where you will tie your really long string later.



step 9

take the smaller piece of dowel that you have left over and tie the string from the ball onto it and tape in place. Wind and wind..... and wind and wind..... and wind some more until you have absolutely had enough of winding. Find the point where your kite balances again and tie on the string you just spent ages winding.

step 10

Last but not least take another piece of string two arm spans long and tie to the dowel at the bottom corner of the kite. Cut about 8 rectangles approx 5 x 20 cm from the fabric scraps. Wrap the tail string around a fabric scrap and tie securely, then do the same every 20 cm or so for the length of the tail. You are now ready to take your kite to the beach or park and let it fly. (I don't have any advice for flying kites except that you really should keep away from power lines... oh and its best if there is a bit of a breeze...)







Merry Christmas

win!

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time *flies*

WORDS **JACQ CHORLTON** FUNKY DORY | PHOTOGRAPHY **TANYA COLLIER**

*Artist, Jacq Chorlton,
lets us peek into her studio
and shows us some of her
latest creations!*

meet jacq...

My name is Jacq, I live in Bertram, Western Australia, with my husband and two little boys, Joseph 8 and Harry 6. We moved over from the UK 4 years ago and we are settling into a new phase of our lives.

I studied at the Surrey Institute of Art and Design in England and always wanted to have a business encompassing my creativity and so I started Funkydory in 2009.

Originally I spent a couple of hours a week painting and making cards. I also managed a couple of wall murals but when my youngest started school full time this year I had to knuckle down and find a new direction.

So, now I make clocks! I design, hand cut and paint original quirky bits of wall art that tick!



...I don't use templates or exact measurements but I think this adds to their charm and uniqueness...

background...

Funkydory started off as more of a hobby, some local markets etc but as soon as I had the school time on my hands it made sense to branch out. I am not a very confident person and find it very easy to sit in my art room painting and creating but coming out to sell my product is still something that I find quite hard.

I contacted a couple of boutiques and have clocks selling in Heavenly Handmade in Rockingham and Story Boutique, Floreat. I have a website (thanks to a very good friend!) and also a Facebook page which seems to be the 'done' thing right now on the handmade scene. I have sold at a couple of handmade markets and have some more lined up.

I have a small line of clocks and also do some screen printing for Georgie from MOTM. I think we have inspired each other with some designs!

style...

I sell a couple of main styles of clocks. For girls I have cuckoo clocks with swinging birds, clocks with screen printed wings and a new range of bird cages.

For the boys I make robots in 2 sizes all with curly wire legs and antennae. Having boys I have more of an affinity with the robots and my biggest critic is Joseph. He loves robots and always has a comment to make!





tools & materials

After spending a few months using a jigsaw I saw the light and invested in a Scroll Saw! This enables me to get fine cuts and be able to hand cut small bees and birds etc. Each clock is hand drawn onto the wood and cut individually; no 2 pieces are the same. I don't use templates or exact measurements but I think this adds to their charm and uniqueness. I currently use MDF, which is very dusty but very adaptable and I hope that I can soon incorporate some recycled wood into my practices....





inspiration...

My inspiration comes from many places. I always have a journal to hand, and next to my bed as I find ideas pop out at the strangest times.

I use the internet and Pinterest and see the styles and trends that are about. I draw things many times over until they are just right.

I also love to go to my local library and sit looking through design books.

I would describe myself as a hoarder and collector of 'pretty things' I love to hunt through Op Shops and find old children's books from the 50's and 60's, the colour palettes were very gorgeous back then...and the illustrations very quirky!

I truly admire the huge generation of WAHM's... It is very difficult and a juggling act but there is an abundance of talent out there, the home craft business is well and truly alive with an amazing network of vibrant characters.....

*I would describe myself as
a hoarder and collector of
'pretty things'*



I am becoming more confident with each market that I do and preparation is most definitely the key

typical day...

I don't really have a typical work day.

I still struggle to be entirely focused sometimes as there is always house work to be done but once I lock my self away in my artroom I pick up where I left off.

It is far more economical to cut lots of clocks one day, sand and prime the next but normally I am working on a few different designs at different stages. I am a fairly messy worker and will sit on the floor surrounded by clock mechanisms, wood offcuts, paper and paints; it is where I am the most comfortable!

lessons learned...

Getting to grips with power tools and using them with confidence has been a big learning curve. I am pretty confident with my scroll saw but I still make mistakes!

I am becoming more confident with each market that I do and preparation is most definitely the key.





It is so lovely having the huge network of support from other small businesses...

networking...

Facebook has been a huge turning point for my business. It is the most amazing marketing tool and gives my product a voice. It is so lovely having the huge network of support from other small businesses. I have met some amazing people and have some very good friends who are always giving Funkydory a 'tag' This has definitely helped Funkydory to expand and reach people that would otherwise have proved impossible.

I also belong to the Rockingham Artist network which is through my local council and have recently taken part in an large arts project for Rockingham. There are some amazing opportunities about for artists.

future plans...

I have a few ideas for next year and would definitely like to marry up my clocks and recycled materials in some way. I would like to bring out a range of bigger clocks, maybe even floor standing. Oh, and some different boy designs...I would also like to put clocks into more boutiques and find a greater audience! In fact I have quite a few ideas that have been put down onto paper but you will have to wait and see....!



other creative passions...

Once a year I enter a sculpture into the Rockingham castaway Awards, a sculpture competition held on the beach. The emphasis is on the 3 'R's and materials should be mainly recycled or recyclable.

Last year I entered a 4 metre round octopus made entirely out of woven plastic bags entitle '20,000 bags Under the Sea' which won the Peoples Choice Award and this year my sculpture 'Bloom' won a major award. It was 17 jellyfish made from old hanging baskets covered in milk bottle plastic.

I like to think that this is a practice that I can use in Funkydory somewhere, upcycled clocks???

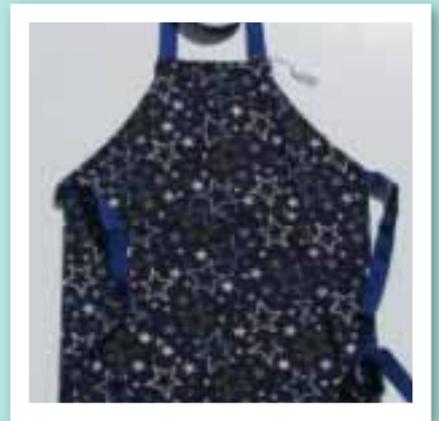
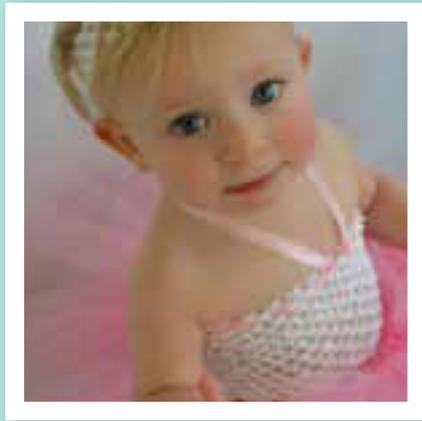
.....

*...this year my sculpture
'Bloom' won a major award...*



jacq chorlton
www.funkydory.com.au
www.facebook.com/FunkydoryArt

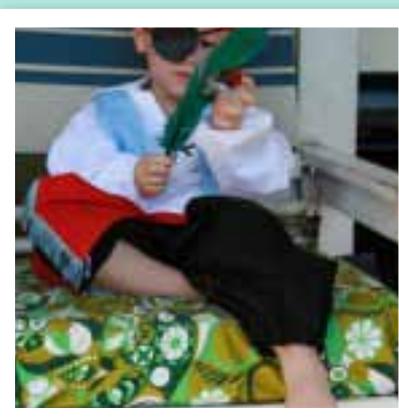
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BEACH
Cafe
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retro beach cafe

WORDS **LEANNE SCHMID** | PHOTOGRAPHY **TANYA CREMIN**

Sharing a talent for creativity and a selection of their own products, a group of Brisbane business mums gathered on their local beachfront, Sutton's beach in Queensland, creating a nostalgic retro beach cafe. So life-like, that even passers-by popped in for coffee and cupcakes.

The photoshoot symbolizes the sea change that five Mums have taken, stepping away from their usual career to do something they love and are passionate about. To allow more time with family, for the love of wanting to be stay at home mums and pursue their dreams of having their own business.

the smaller things in life can make you smile... we must remember these moments all the time...



{tanya}

AYNAT DESIGNS

Natural light photographer, Tanya Cremin of Aynat Designs, captured the retro beach scenes magically with a vintage summery feel. Once worked as a Graphic Designer, Tanya now relishes in her passion for photography and enjoys being a Mum. Her work is highly recognized and well respected by many work at home mums for product shoots.

Aynat Designs provides a professional photography service for the Mummy Tree Markets and their stallholders aswell as capturing the special moments for family portraits or special events in natural location settings.



BEACH

DRINKS

BEACH
Cafe
NOW OPEN



DRINK
COFFEE





Follow your heart...

{tash}

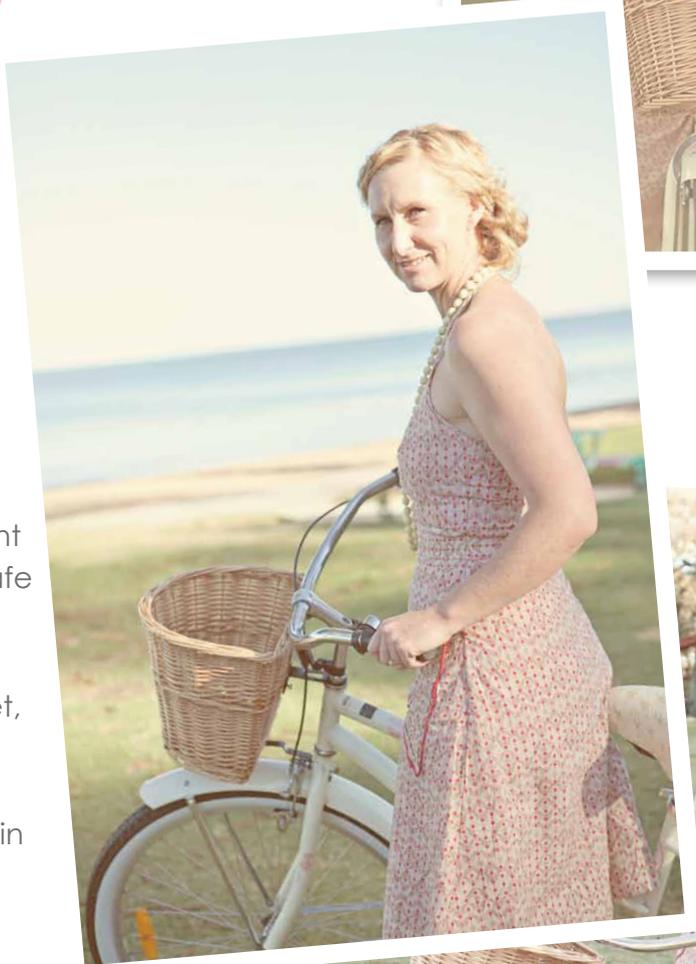
WHIMSY PETITE STYLING

To create this idyllic retro beach cafe, Event Stylist, Tash Kimlin of Whimsy Petite Styling.

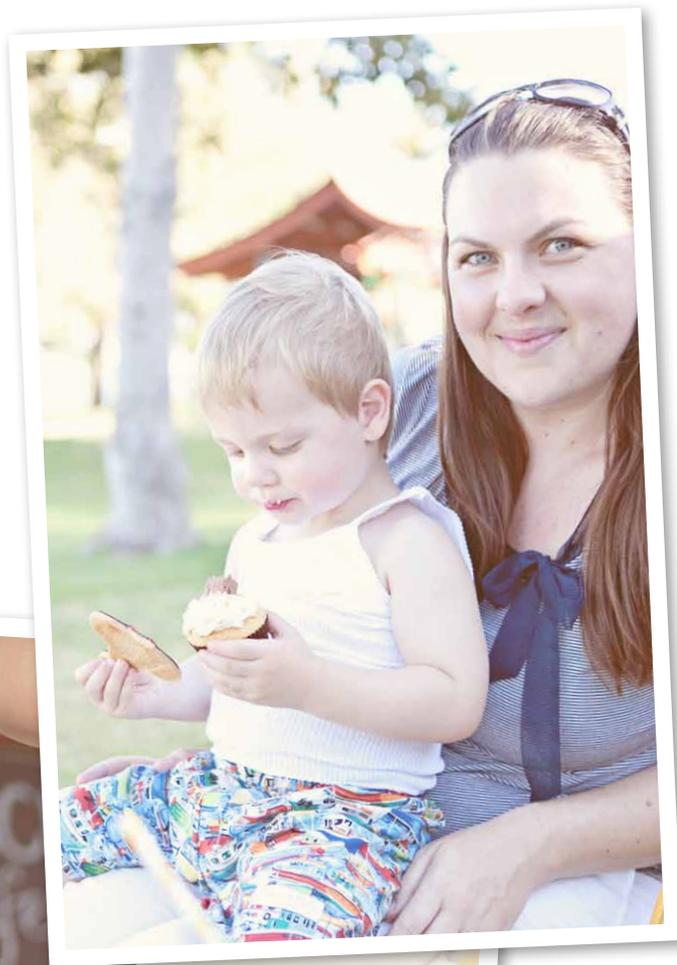
With a wealth of inspirational ideas, Tash sought the perfect props for the styling of a beach cafe with a retro summer vibe.

For Tash her business gives her a creative outlet, the enjoyment of working with people and financial support for her community aid work overseas. Plus with the help from her husband in making props, they share a hobby which they both enjoy together.

Tash has a beautiful website www.prettylittletouches.blogspot.com which reveals more of her unique styling work at recent events.



Throw your heart out in front of you, then



{leanne}

POSSUM & BANJO

The summer shorts for the boys were created by Leanne Schmid, Designer of Australian clothing label, Possum & Banjo. With a career background in mining and publishing, Leanne had always dreamt of developing a creative business that could be managed from home. With studies in Fashion Design, a love for unique fabrics and creating clothing for her own little boy, Possum & Banjo was born.

Leanne is passionate about creating styles that capture the coastal beach lifestyle in Australia and wishes to bring a much-needed focus to boys fashion. A favourite style chosen for the photoshoot were the retro inspired shorts with colourful kombies, worn by her son Sam and friend Josh.

You can find a selection of the Possum & Banjo range at Raspberry Rockets Kids Boutique Store on the Sunshine Coast, online children's boutique, Purely4Kids and Young Republic for emerging Australian Designers.



run ahead and catch it.





If you've got a dream inside you, don't be afraid to take a chance and bring it to fruition

If you've got a dream inside you, don't be afraid to take a chance and bring it to fruition

{vanessa}

DOLLY VARDENS

Coffee barista and purveyor of fine teas, Vanessa Hall from Dolly Vardens, Fine Teas and Nice eats, was the ultimate backdrop for the beach cafe with her vintage styled caravan. Vanessa is often found catering at special events and markets with locally produced Brisbane coffee, fresh organic milk and a selection of freshly homemade cupcakes from Design-a-Cupcake.

With the joys of motherhood, also came the struggle of post-natal depression. After leaving a corporate HR role and pondering the thoughts of starting her own business, Dolly Vardens was born. This gave Vanessa something to focus on, get out of the house and meet like-minded people. For Vanessa her business is a lifelong dream fulfilled.





Inspire all those around you...



{melissa}

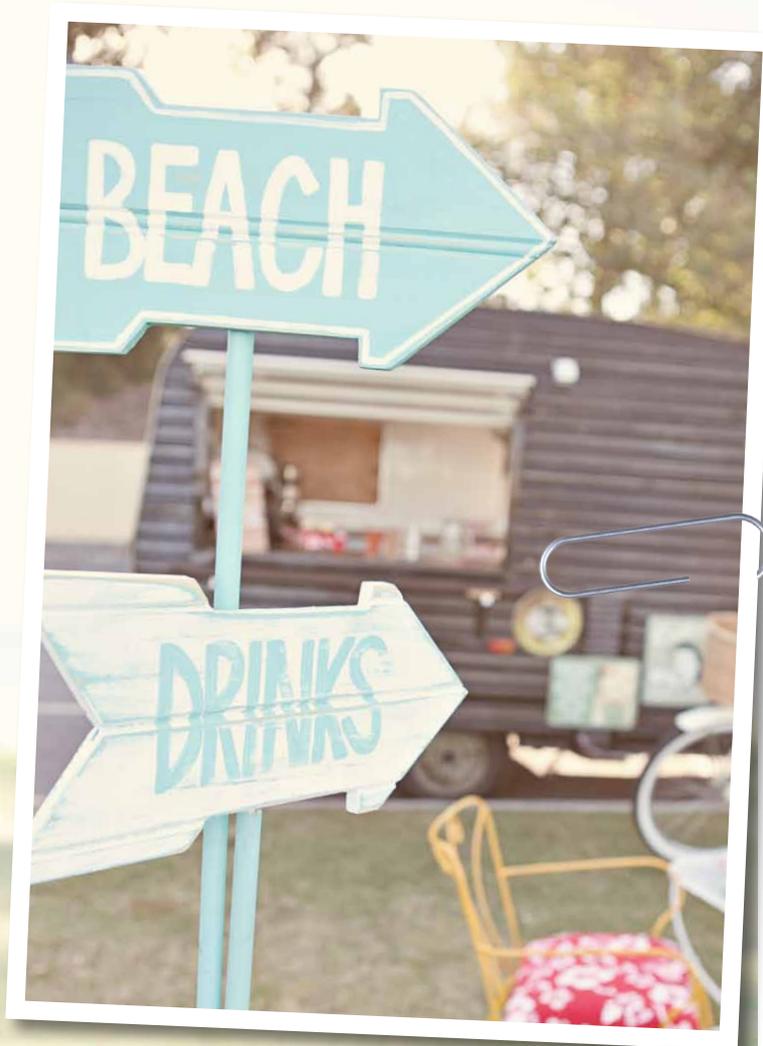
MISS MOLLY'S

Melissa from Miss Molly's designs and creates beautiful handmade photo.art.memory canvases from new and up cycled materials with a unique personal touch. Mel's motivation for starting her own business was not so much about the money, but creating a product for the person that was unique and personal to them.

Mel's Memory Canvases are for the whole family to see what they love and achieve in life pegged up on a piece of art in it's self. All lovingly made, often with remnant fabrics, up-cycling to suit any home decor, office studio or child's bedroom.

Mel started her business ten months ago which has grown in leaps and bounds, her memory canvases are sold at the boutique Mamma's Markets in Buderim and Belle Bazaar Boutique and the Twilight Markets in Mt Gravatt, amongst other retailers and pop-up markets on the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane.





a bird *in the hand*

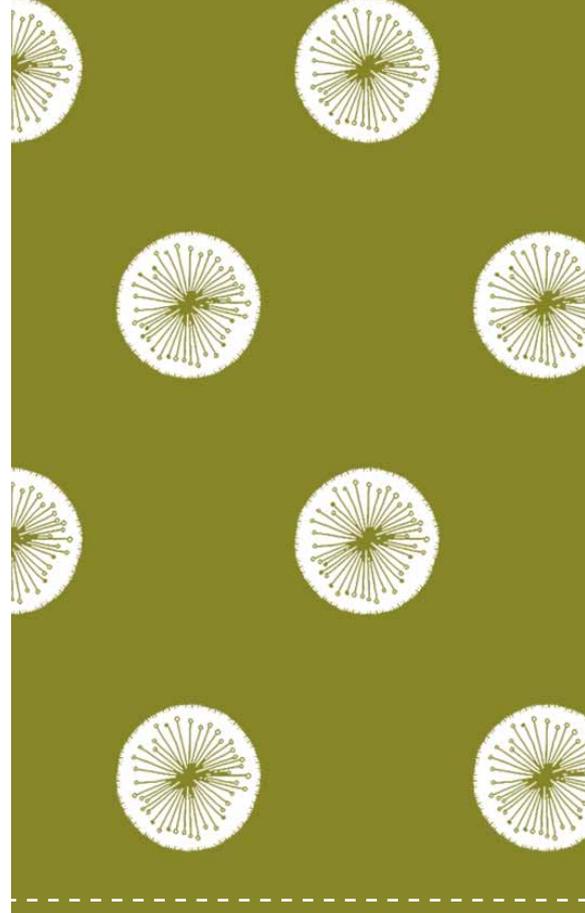
Heralded by Time Magazine in 2007 as 'one to watch', Bird Textiles is regarded as one of Australia's premier sustainable design brands, a pioneer in sustainable fashion, textiles and interior design practices. The brand is widely recognized for its environmental consciousness.

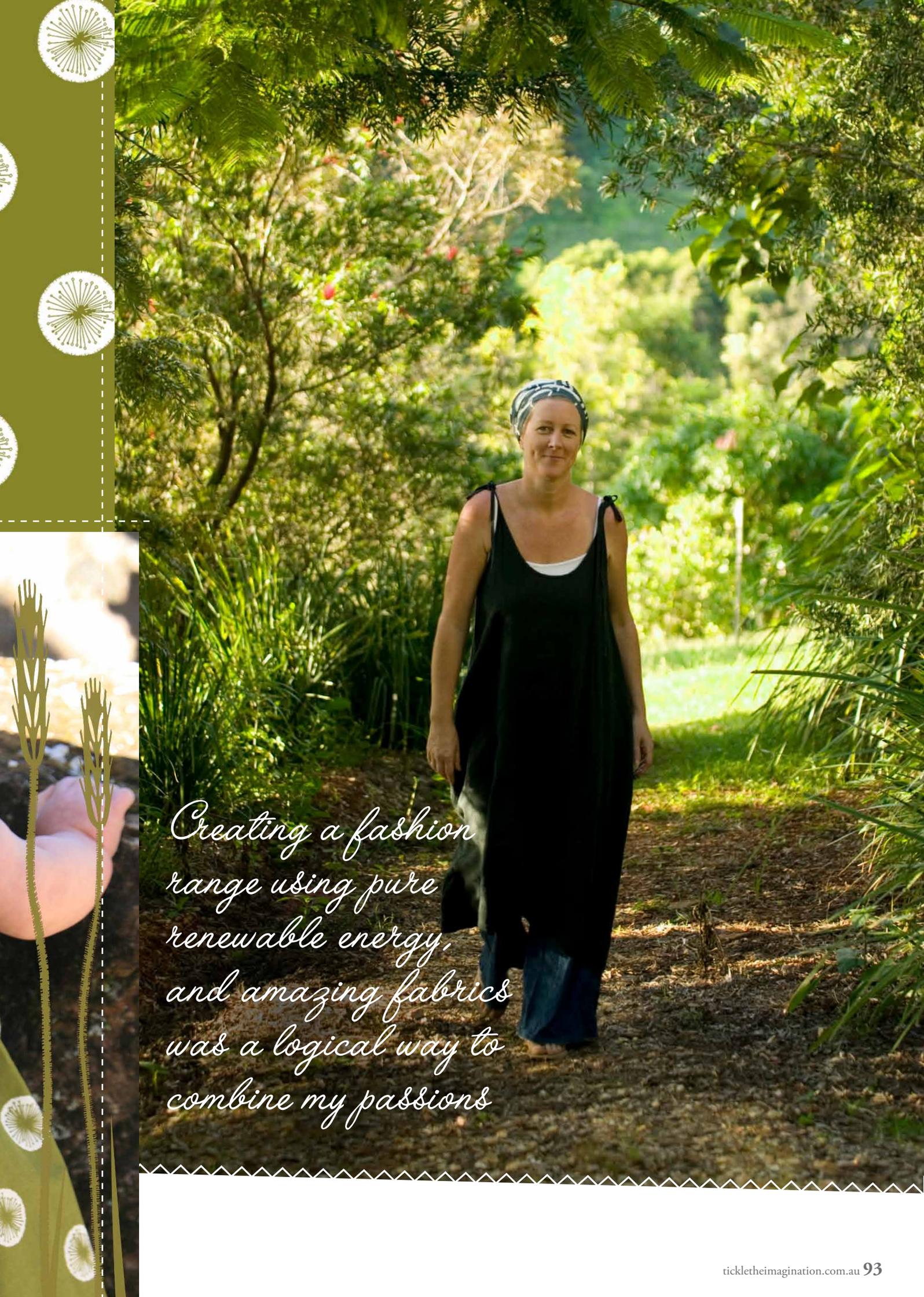
how it all began

I was really just trying to create a lifestyle based around my passions. Make work my passion rather than just a job. My background is textile design, project management and marketing. My passion is the environment, and finding ways to reduce our impact on it. Bringing the two together pooled a skill base built up over 10 years, and put it to use for something more than just personal financial gain.

Two years living in a small community focused on sustainability had given me hands on experience of living with solar power, roof catchment rain water supply, simple recycling grey water systems, compost toilets. I was blown away by this incredible natural resource, solar power, that was just so underused in Australia.

Creating a fashion range using pure renewable energy, and amazing fabrics was a logical way to combine my passions, and have some impact on an industry that I knew to have a shocking track record in terms of sustainability.





Creating a fashion range using pure renewable energy, and amazing fabrics was a logical way to combine my passions



style

Bird fashion, home, childrens and gift ranges are made from SKAL/CUC certified organic fabrics, patterns are designed in-house and hand printed in Australia using water based dyes. All products are manufactured using 100% renewable solar power. Bird became Australia's first climate neutral business in 2004. We are very much focused on being hand made, sustainably.

inspiration

My greatest inspiration comes from seeing how switched on children are to the changes we need to make. Our future lies with the children....and they are really clued up. I just bought a worm farm for my 5 year old nephew and he gets it. Loves it. Kids and nature. They are my teacher. My inspiration.

other passions

My garden! When I'm not doing 'Bird, or being mum, I'm in the garden. I'm happiest when I am doing all three at once, which is completely possible now I work from home!

tools & materials

Our fabrics are hand printed on a range of certified organic cottons. But like most design businesses, much of my time is spent sitting in front of a computer. Both the design work, and management of the business happens at my desk, so my most used tool would be my laptop.



My garden! When I'm not doing Bird, or being mum, I'm in the garden.

secrets of success

It would be very easy to count our successes as winning awards, showing at London Fashion Week, those sort of things, and of course it is exciting when they happen, but the joy for me, is always to do with individual customers. There are people who understand what they're buying.....green consumers. These customers realise that they're buying into something more than a dress, a cushion, and understand why, they're buying with ethical and sustainable consumerism in mind. And there are people who lives haven't been touched by environmentalism. These people

don't really want to know about greenhouse warming, water availability, salinity, soil loss, the decline in world oil and coal production. These guys are a bit more of a challenge. But these same people, like most of us, will always want to buy beautiful things. So our back door approach, subtly educating with messages on our swingtags, the website, and the product themselves. Impacting on people who wouldn't have made conscious buying decisions, its like a lightbulb switching on, when you see this happen, that is absolutely the greatest success for me. Value, and understand, your customers. They are the reason for your success.

typical day

Crikey, no typical day any more.

lessons learned

The last 3 years have been the biggest challenge for manufacturers and retailers, with the economic downturn affecting many aspects of our lives. People turn quickly to unsustainable, cheaper products when money is tight, and it has been challenging to stay strong and focused during this period. By mid 2009, I was starting to get frustrated with the constant negativity. Window displays, billboards and media messages were all so negative. We wanted to bring focus back to celebration. So we launched a new media campaign in the shop windows of our Sydney store, and a photoshoot for our autumn/winter 2010 fashion range under the theme 'Food for Thought'. We decided to build a campaign using food metaphors as positive affirmations.....half full... good egg...catch of the day....apple of my eye.....focusing on uplifting messages, using humour in our window displays. We found a fun way to engage people in the issues around sustainability, in a positive way.

Learning to (circum)navigate challenges is part and parcel of being a small business owner, and one that you become highly skilled at.

future plans

For years, customers had asked me to design a childrenswear range, it was on 'the list'. The list was very long! In October 2010 I gave birth to my first child, Quincy. There's nothing like having a baby to focus you, and in the moments between sleeping and feeding and the general mayhem of being a new mum, I wanted to make something special for her. She is such a gorgeous little poppet. Well, two and two makes four. We launched our new childrenswear label Little Bird, Little Bird last month, and so the next few months will be very much focused on new products and ranges for the Little Bird, Little Bird brand.



other thoughts

If business is managed from the heart, great things can happen. It doesn't matter how big or small our contribution is. Anita Roddick, of the Body Shop once said, if you think you're too small to be effective, you've never been in bed with a mosquito.

Bird started with 2 old car batteries and a solar panel. Seven years on, we are servicing a global market place, achieving sales and recognition around the world, but most importantly, we are continuing to educate and inform on issues relating to sustainability. If you can think beyond the traditional business model, where profit is the only motivator, and stay true to your vision, then everything else finds a way. Its less about me, me, me, now and more about building bridges for a future. It may not make us the most profitable business in the world, but business isn't just about making a profit anymore.

*If business is
managed from
the heart, great
things can happen*



Rachel Bending
Creative Director and Founder
Bird Textiles and Little Bird, Little Bird
www.birdtextile.com and
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OPPOSITE **Multi dot pillowcase dress**, RRP from \$35, www.missymelly.com | **Ella Rose Sunhat in Sunset Spot**, RRP \$33, www.winnieandclem.com.au | **Little Sister Drawstring bag** - Multi-dot with spearmint denim, RRP \$18, www.facebook.com/appleberrykids







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OPPOSITE **Tea party skort**, RRP \$35,
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Memento playsuit

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Little Sister Drawstring bag | Memento

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White cotton peasant top

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Denim and pink plaid cuffed shorts

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Little shopper tote in denim and pink plaid

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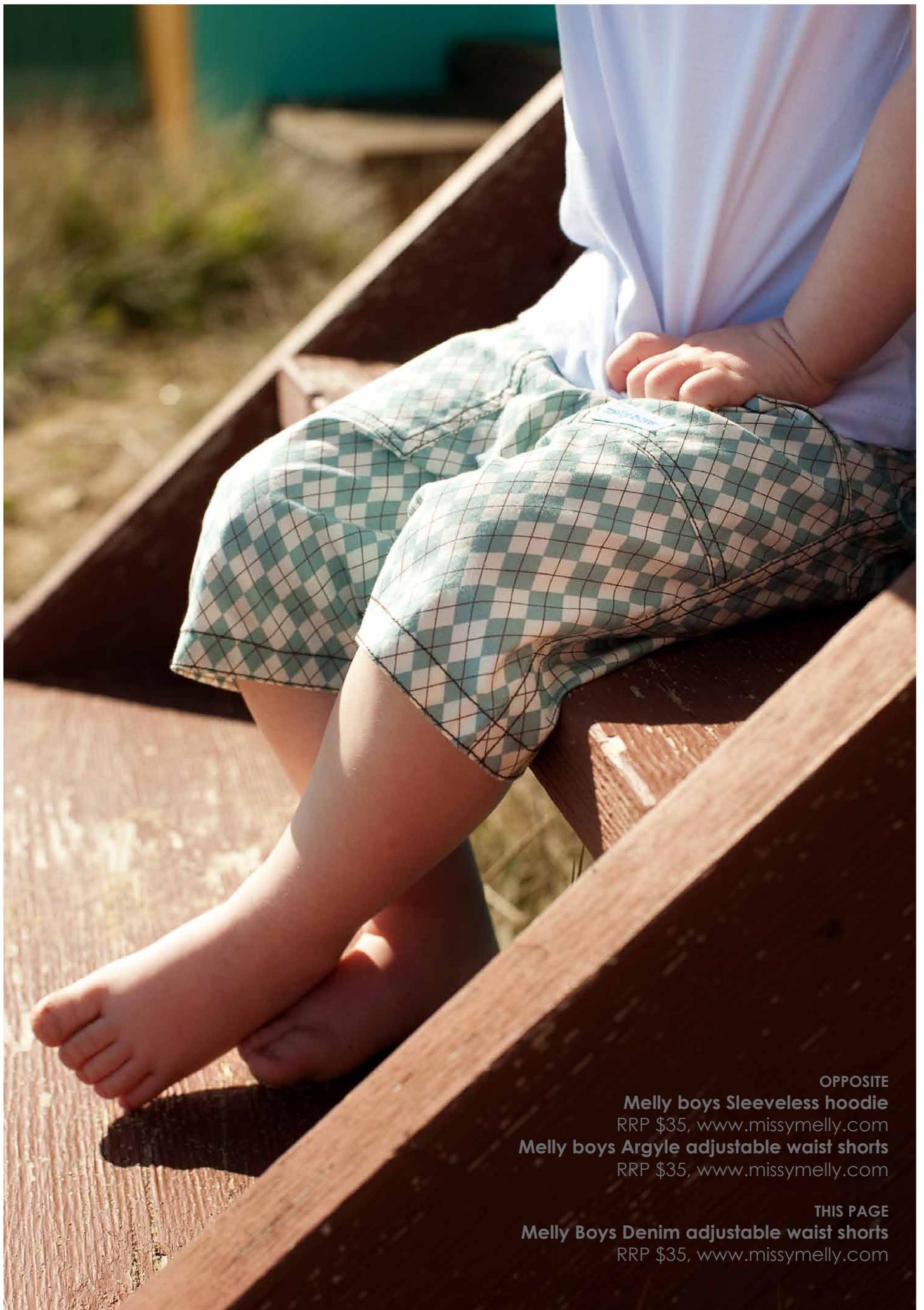
Grace Sunhat in Pink Plaid

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OPPOSITE

Melly boys Sleeveless hoodie

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Melly boys Argyle adjustable waist shorts

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Melly Boys Denim adjustable waist shorts

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wet and dry slime

Can you make a slime that is both firm and dry, and wet and sloppy all at the same time?

Ingredients:

- water
- cornflour (corn starch)
- food colouring

How to: Place 2 cups of cornflour into a bowl. Add some food colouring to water and slowly add to the flour until it becomes a fluid paste. If you add too much water, just add more flour. Take a handful really gently and it will ooze out of your hand like sloppy liquid. Grab at it or thump it hard and it becomes solid!

please explain:

This amazing goo is totally addictive but be prepared for some major mess!

school holiday fun

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHY **TANIA McCARTNEY**

The long summer school holidays are upon us. [Got plans?](#)

If you're not fortunate enough to own a backyard water park or be getting off for six weeks on the Amalfi coast, it's likely you're staring down the barrel of plenty of hot and sweltering "I'm bored"s, interspersed with the odd craft session or trip to the shops.

I'm a big believer in letting kids feel the boredom, and so find their own way to create imaginative pursuits and self-embellish the simplest of ideas. These summer holiday ideas are sure to get that childlike creativity bubbling... and with only the merest little push from you.

spinning ball

Can a small ball stay spinning inside an upside-down jar?

Ingredients:

- a small rubber ball
- a jar with a wide mouth

How to: Place the ball on a table and put the jar over the top. Start moving the jar in a circular motion whilst keeping it against the table top. Once the ball starts spinning around the inside the jar, lift it from the table top and the ball will continue to spin inside. This takes some dexterity.

please explain:

Due to the force of the spin and speed of the ball, it will continue to spin until it loses its speed, and gravity pulls it down and out of the jar.



publish your own memoirs

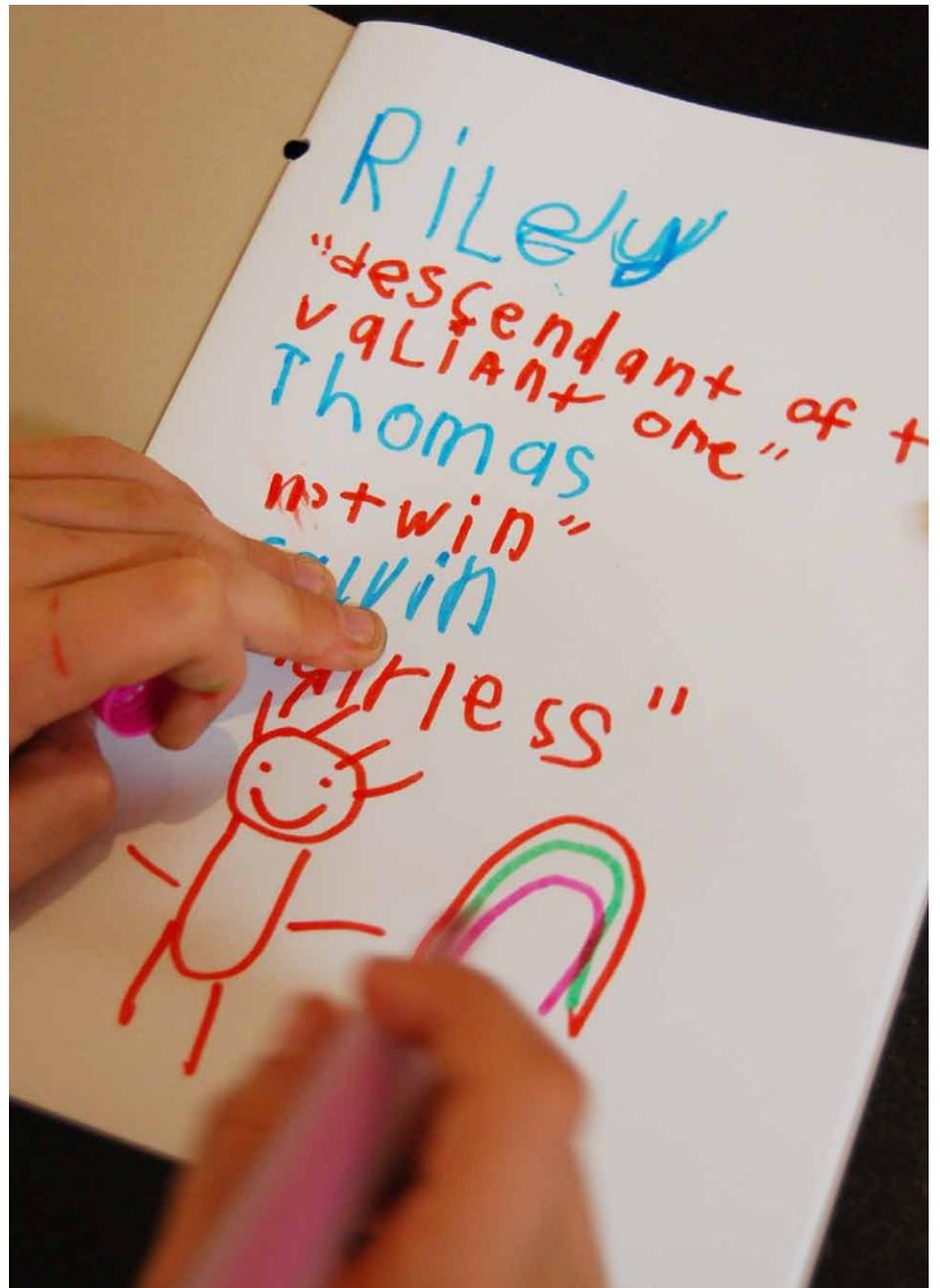
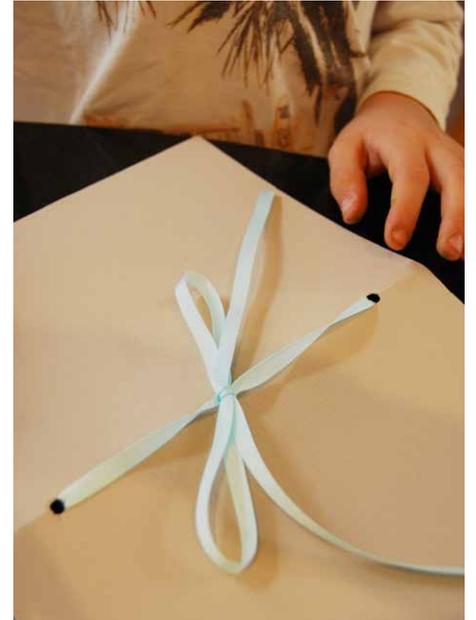
Who doesn't want to publish their own memoir? With a few basic supplies, kids of all ages have the capability of designing, writing and binding their own precious book - chock-full of stuff All About Me.

Ingredients:

- 1 x A4 card in a pretty colour
- 5 x A4 sheets of white paper
- half a metre of thin ribbon
- textas

- a holepunch
- photos, if desired
- decorative-edged scissors
- sparkles are absolutely optional

Start by folding your A4 card in half. Run a knife along the edge to get a nice sharp crease. Fold your five sheets of paper in half and crease along the edge, same as the card. Carefully punch two holes at the very





edge of your folded card. Insert your white pages and mark the paper through the hole in the card. Remove the pages and punch holes right on the spine. Thread ribbon through the holes from the inside pages to the outside cover, and tie in a bow.

Now it's time to design your front cover. Write the title: All About Me!

page 1: Write down all your birth names and then write the meaning underneath in a

contrasting colour. You can look up the meanings on the internet if you don't have a special book.

page 2: Draw a big hollow number – your age – and then decorate it any way you like, but most especially with things you love.

page 3: This page is dedicated to your sanctuary... call it My Room. Draw items from your room or draw a picture of your room, but the



trick here is to label things. Do you know how to label a diagram?

page 4: My Pet – write down your pet's name, age, colour, type... You can also draw a picture. If you don't own a pet, perhaps you can write about your favourite animal. And if you don't have a pet and want one really badly, don't worry – just keep pestering. It WILL happen.

page 5: This is the fun section – My Favourites! The first one, of course – is food. Draw your items then put their name right alongside.

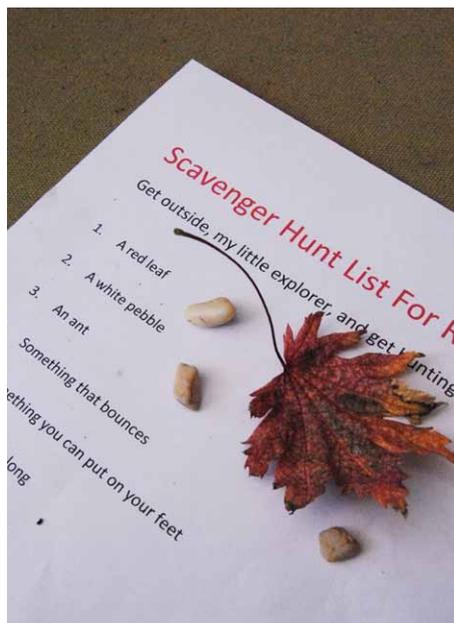
page 6: Next is your favourite place. It could be somewhere you've visited or somewhere you reeedally want to go. Choose anywhere you like, and draw a picture.

page 7 onwards: you choose! You could do a family portrait, a self-portrait, a list of your friends, your dreams for the future... What will you choose?

scavenger hunt

Above and beyond an innate need to explore, kids love to find. The reward at the end of the hunt – that is the stuff real explorers hanker for. You don't need a sunny day or a grassy lawn to have a scavenger hunt. The beauty is that they can be held anywhere and with any amount of children – even just one. Depending on the age of your child, you can be obscure or crystal clear or set riddles or puzzles to solve. You can leave notes or simply hand out a list of items or set time limits to encourage a wee bit of healthy competition. You could even make a theme out of your hunt, and run it for as long as the kids have puff.

Reporting back their hunted spoils will have them bursting in the face pink.



.....

candle in the wind

Can you blow out a candle behind a glass?

Ingredients:

- matches
- a tealight candle
- a tall glass or round vase

How to: Place the candle just behind the glass and light it. Ask your child to blow against the glass, from the front, at the same level as the candle. What happens?

please explain:

Air flows around the contour of round containers. This is what happens to an aircraft during flight. When the flow of air meets around the back of the glass, it snuffs out the flame.

.....



three layer float

What happens when you drop three different items into a glass filled with three different liquids?

Ingredients:

- water
- oil
- honey
- a cork or half a wooden clothes peg
- a coin
- a grape
- a tall glass (or vase or bottle)

How to: Pour 5cm of honey into the glass. Pour in 5cm of oil. Pour in 5cm of water. Watch the liquids separate. Drop in the coin, grape and cork and see what happens.

please explain:

All three items stop at the three different fluids because each have different densities. The most dense is at the bottom and the least dense is at the top.



swirled milk

Can you make food colouring dance and swirl through milk, all on its own?

Ingredients:

- food colouring
- liquid detergent
- a shallow dish
- full-fat milk

How to: Pour some full-fat milk into the dish and allow it to come to room temperature. Add a few drops of different coloured food colouring to the milk. Add a few drops of liquid detergent and marvel at what happens. You can keep adding small drops of soap to make new patterns.

please explain:

The fat content of the milk is broken down by the liquid soap. This causes the food colouring to swirl and twirl and boggle the eyes!

message in a bottle

Can you mix together oil and vinegar?

Ingredients:

- ½ cup oil
- ½ cup vinegar
- food coloring
- small, plastic drinking bottle with lid

How to: Add some drops of food colouring to the vinegar and pour into the bottle. Shake. Add the oil. Shake until the two liquids blend together. Let it sit. What happens? Go to the sink and slowly pour some of the liquid out. Which one comes out? Put your finger over the bottle opening and let the liquid drip out. Which liquid comes out?

please explain:
Oil and vinegar just don't mix.



blow up a friend

Can you lift a friend by blowing into a plastic bag?

Ingredients:

- a large, heavy book
- a thick plastic, airtight shopping bag
- some lungs

How to: Lay the plastic bag on a table so its top third hangs over the edge. Place the large book on top of the bag. Have

your friend sit on the book. Gather together the end of the plastic bag and blow into it. Keep blowing and see what happens!

please explain:

This is incredible. The air blown from your lungs is spread over a wide area, so it can support a lot of weight.

blogging

Have budding writers or film-makers in your family? Have kids with something to say or art to share? Setting up their own blog – to which you hold ownership and password rights – is a brilliant way to immerse kids in some serious publishing savvy. You can control the settings to limit public exposure or even make the blog invitation-only. You will need to be prepared to keep an eye on things, and do the old “no names, addresses or personal details” talk, but otherwise, let the kids have carte blanche to create their own bloggy voice. Free and lots of fun.

firefighter

hannukah

library love

If your kids have their noses pretty much glued permanently inside a book... if you have so many kids' books you've created a library on the floor... if you love to explore the written word... you'll love this literary activity.

Write down a list of ten items, for example:

- an animal
- a city
- a job or career
- a natural wonder
- a country
- a famous person
- a cartoon character
- a mode of transportation
- a festival or holiday
- a sport

(add, change or subtract from this list, according to the child's age)

When you have made this list, grab the library

marilyn monroe

cards and library bags, then take your kids to the local library. If you don't have library cards to your local library, please get some immediately!

When you get to the library, have the kids take out the list and look it over. Their challenge is to find a book on each of the 10 items you have listed. How are they going to find these books? Where will they start looking? What resources does the library have to help them on their search?

When they've found every book on the list, congratulate them on this major achievement. Then go to the counter and borrow the books, take them home and encourage them to open each book and look through it. They can read as much or as little as they like, but they should look through the book long enough to get an idea of what this book is about.

Next, have your child take the original list of topics and write one sentence on each book – but here's the trick – each sentence must be about something they learned from the book. Something new. Something they didn't know before.

When the list is complete – with 10 fascinating facts they didn't know before – have them ask you or your partner or other adult if they knew any of these 10 fascinating facts. Kids can give themselves one point for each fact the adult DIDN'T know.

point scoring:

1-3 = Your research skills are kind of scrappy

4-5 = Your research skills are quite good indeed, old chap

6-8 = Your research skills are so cool, you're frosty

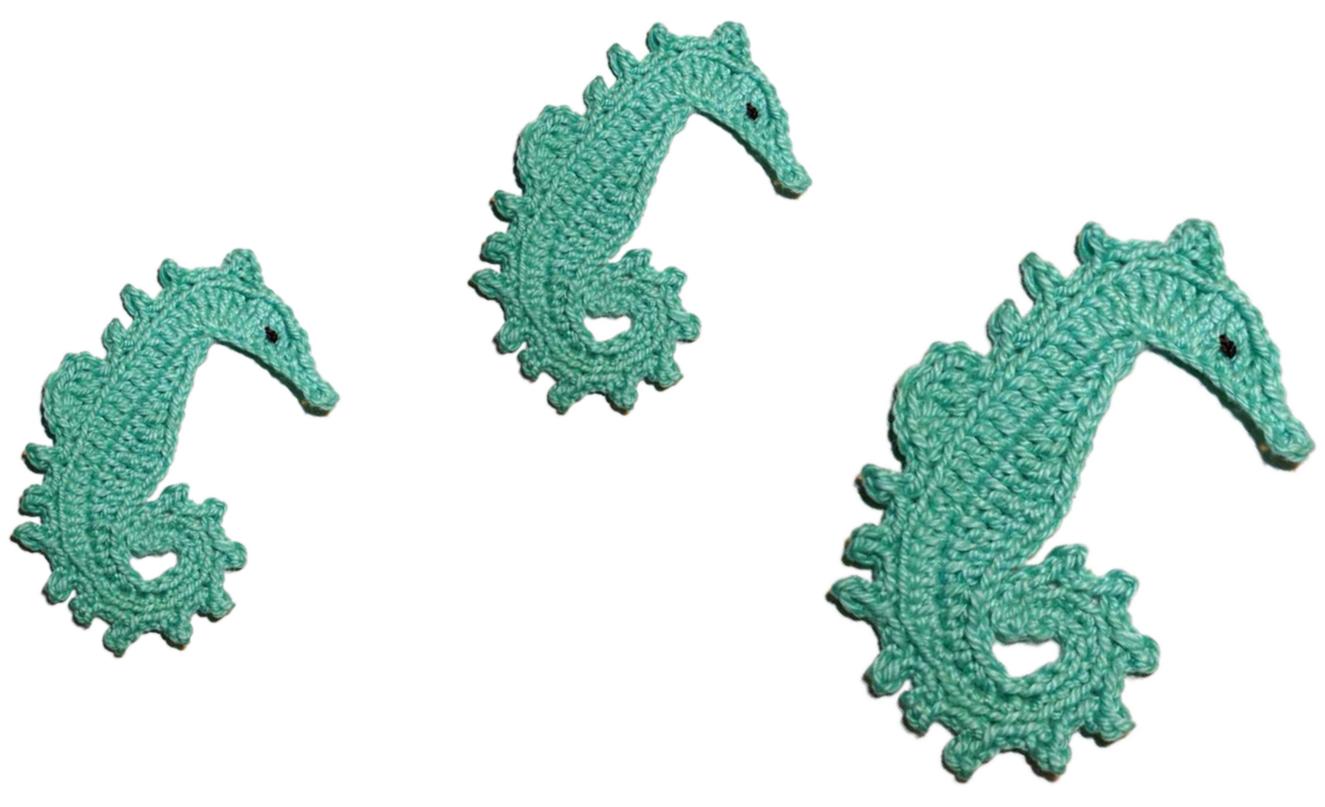
9-10 = Your research skills are awesomely unbelievable!

Tania McCartney is an author, editor, publisher and book lover. She is the author of the Riley the Little Aviator series of books, and also writes a variety of children's book genres, and adult non-fiction. She lives in Canberra with a husband, two kids, underneath a mountain of books.www.taniamccartney.com

S is for seahorse

*a gorgeous seahorse crochet pattern
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getting noticed

and why it can have nothing to do with your product!

WORDS BY LISA WALSH | THE MARKET MILL

If you frequent some of the stunning handcrafted markets that are popping up on the retail landscape, you may have noticed the talented creative types putting their heart and soul into creating stunning and note worthy products.

And, if you are one of those gifted creative makers you will know, in a crowded market, it can be somewhat of a challenge (and just a teensy bit frustrating) getting your beautiful, lovely things noticed.

After a long day, the experience can leave you more deflated than exhilarated. Perhaps lamenting at the puzzling lack of interest, only to prop yourself up with the hope (and a large glass of pinot), that next time customers will flock, fully appreciative, and complete with ooohs and aahhs...(and on bended knee would be nice) at your wares you have toiled day and night to create.

Not only for a healthy self-esteem but financially, without the ability to be noticed,

a business cannot survive. So why is it such a challenge for many 'creative makers' to stand out from the crowd. Making a mark and catching the customers' eye, let alone their attention, may sound obvious but for many it can be taxing and more exasperating than triumph.

Working to create beautiful things, means that most of your time is taken with creating, making and selling your products. Certainly, placing an emphasis on the product and making it stellar, is important – but it is only a small piece of the "standing out from the crowd" puzzle.

If you want to command attention and have your brand shout "I'm here, I'm amazing and you will not want to miss me" then it's "the everything else" you do – that will make a lasting impression.

So how do we allow some of that creative passion to spill over into our brand? >



...here are 6 helpful tips to help you get noticed and build a stronger brand

(that have nothing to do with your product.)

1 love your brand as much as you love your products.

Let your enthusiasm and passion spill over into your business. It is unrealistic to suggest you spend as much time on creating and building your brand as you do your products but at the same time it is important that you invest quality "creative" time working ON your business. Your passion is infectious so let your business enjoy some. Apply your creative thinking to areas like marketing (be it social media or traditional marketing), stock management and stall presentation .

Don't be predictable. Look outside your immediate category for inspiration. Often the most creative ideas can come from something completely unrelated and just because people in your own field are doing things "that way" doesn't mean you have to.

2 know your market.

We hear it all the time and it makes us feel like we are back at school...yikes... but doing your homework is essential..NO ...critical to understanding why someone will buy your products. If you don't understand what it is that you have to offer over your competitors, then how can you sell it? It sounds like a contradiction but knowing where you fit in is the first step to understanding how you can stand out!

3 communicate what makes you unique.

Not only do the successful brands know what it is about them that makes them unique – they sing it from the rooftops. Make sure your customers and potential customers know what it is that they are purchasing from you and why they should.





4 enlist the help of professionals.

Photographers, graphic designers and copywriters are just some of the professionals out there that can help to make your brand look amazing. Customers will form an impression of your business in the first glance and decide instantly whether to stop or move on. What is the impression you are giving? Is it one that says you are serious about your business?

5 be professional.

In everything you do – putting your professional foot forward shows those that need to invest in you can – with confidence. Often the only thing they have to go on is your presentation and how you conduct yourself. And how you conduct your self is a reflection of how you manage your business.

6 inject you own personality – consistently.

There is nothing so desirable to a customer than knowing a little about who you are- through your brand. People love to buy knowing there is a story attached, a little background and something they can share with their friends. There are lots of ways you can do this – but remember be consistent.



Creating beautiful things is a gift. Packaging it up as an entire brand takes work and regularity not to mention our most valuable resource – time. But having customers seek you out, notice you and keep coming back for more is utterly rewarding, not to mention uplifting.

Attracting attention is not just about your products. It starts well before you start creating and continues long after you have something to sell.

So in your hectic work life, make sure you schedule time to step back from your creating to see how the rest of your business is taking shape.



www.madeit.com.au/hallejay



www.madeit.com.au/kaile

www.handmadekids.com.au



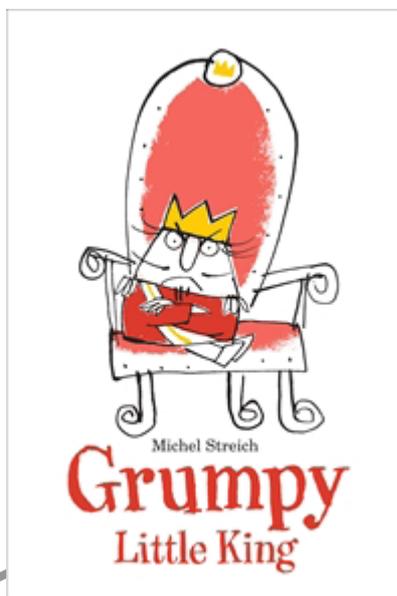
10 best children's books 2011

WORDS **TANIA MCCARTNEY** - KIDS BOOK REVIEW

Children's books are such a subjective topic, but when you see as many as we do at Kids Book Review, and when you live and breathe every single page you ravenously turn, those extra special tomes really do begin to stand out. Choosing ten 'best' books for 2011 was nonetheless a feat. Here are our top picks – guaranteed to delight both child . . . and adult.



Kids Book Review was founded by author Tania McCartney and has become one of the most respected children's literary forums on the web. Driven by a passion for literacy and covering news, reviews, interviews and educational articles, KBR is frequented by parents, authors, illustrators, teachers, librarians, book lovers and industry professionals from all over the world.



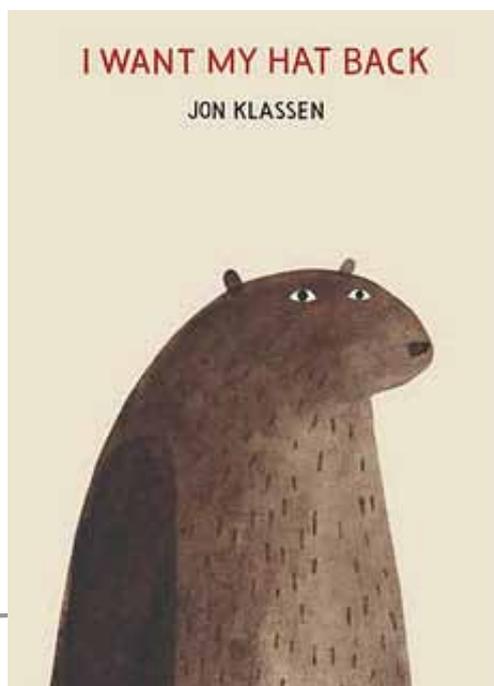
Grumpy Little King

by **Michel Streich**

Allen & Unwin, \$24.99

It's just so wonderful to open a book and have your toes curl with delight. So wonderful to feel an entire catalogue of retro childhood picture books come rushing back as you flick through each page - an idyllic balance of visuals, text and plot that leave you as breathless as the impressionable child you once were. Michel Streich has created a timeless classic that follows the travails of a king with serious small-man-syndrome - a small man hell-bent on becoming a bigger man... by starting a war. This gorgeous book covers the topic with humour and a featherlike touch that nonetheless manages to pack a powerful moralistic punch.

[Click here to read the full review...](#)



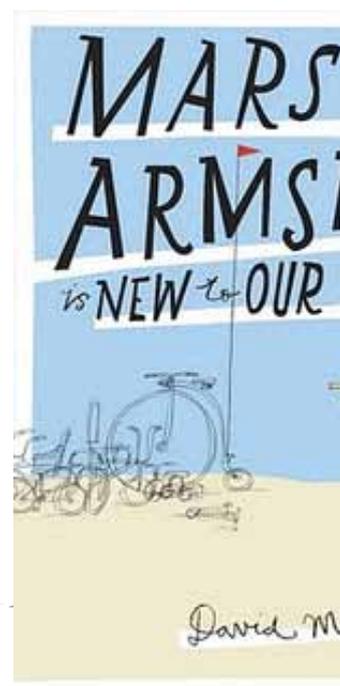
I Want My Hat Back

by **Jon Klassen**

Walker Books, \$24.95 RRP

Bear has lost his hat. Actually, someone has nicked it. And as he wanders around asking all manner of woodland creatures if they've seen his hat, he gives every critter the benefit of the doubt ... even those toting items on their noggins that curiously look like hats. Of course, everyone denies stealing the hat - until Bear has an epiphany. Hang on a second ... didn't he just see a certain critter wearing something suspiciously looking like his hat?! Needless to say, he gets his hat back. And Karma swoops. Featuring divine, folksy illustrations and dry, matter-of-fact dialogue, both adults and kids won't help but smile. And tip their hat.

[Click here to read the full review...](#)



Marshall Armstrong

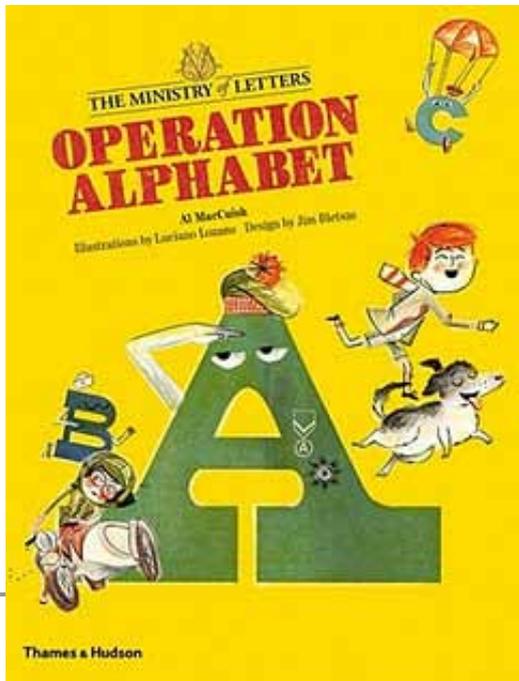
New to Our School

by **David Mackintosh**

HarperCollins, \$24.99

From its whimsical illustrations to its retro feel to its quirky character, this is one of the best books you file under 'K' ... K. When Marshall Armstrong, the narrator's school, it's not he looks different. His teeth are different. His ear looks different. His laces are straight, not crooked. His eyes are always looking at the front of the class. Yes, Marshall Armstrong just does. Not the language used in the book, the colours, the design, the crayon-like lines scooping up and down, not to mention the messaging about how to judge a book by its cover.

[Click here to read the full review...](#)



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full review...

Operation Alphabet

by **Al MacCuish**

Thames & Hudson, \$19.99 RRP

Ever had a case of the Alphabet-a-Heebiegeebies? Little Charlie Foxtrot certainly has. He knows lots about building dens and climbing trees and football and space rockets... but the ABC? This is where he runs into trouble . . . and who should come to the rescue? Two chaps from the Ministry of Letters who reveal the most creative ways for Charlie to pass his imminent ABC test. This is a delightfully witty and charming book. With adorable characters and vibrant use of imagination, it's nirvana for lovers of education and also visual design. A must for picture book collectors.

[Click here to read the full review...](#)

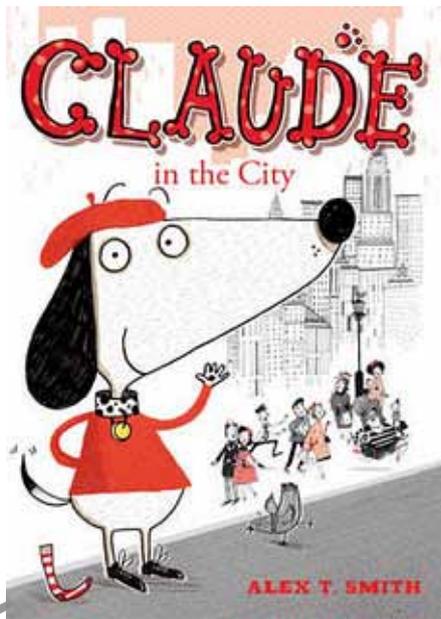
Press Here

by **Hervé Tullet**

Allen & Unwin, \$19.99 RRP

Warning. This is one of those books you just have to touch *immédiatement*! You just can't help your twitching finger from reaching out and pressing that yellow button, post-haste. And what happens when you press it? Kaboom! You're hooked on turning to the next page and diving into this utterly simple yet utterly breathtaking book. With snow white pages and a serious of coloured dots, kids are invited to push, tap and rub dots gently, then to do so in quick succession and with numbered taps. Next, shaking of the book is required. That's right - and just watch those dots tumble about! Mesmerising. Who needs an iPad with Hervé Tullet around?

[Click here to read the full review...](#)

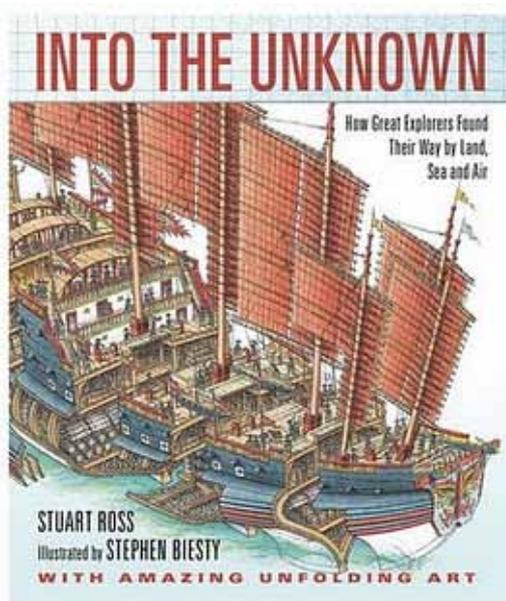


Claude in the City

by **Alex T Smith**
Hachette, \$14.99 RRP

This is the kind of book I wish was around when I was little. Everything from the Hilary Knight-style colours to the fantastically charming Euro-style illustrations, superlative characters and funny[dog]bone tickling text, the Claude series is a special one indeed. Claude is an adorable puppy of Francophile persuasion, complete with red beret, who lives with Mr and Mrs Shinyshoes, so called because their shoes are shiny. He and his best friend Sir Bobblysock, who smells a bit like cheese, set about town for a spot of beret shopping, art gallery-cruising, café-hopping and crim-busting. As you do. This junior fiction book is warm and humorous with whimsical illustrations that plant you firmly in a 1940s French comedy. Superb!

[Click here to read the full review...](#)

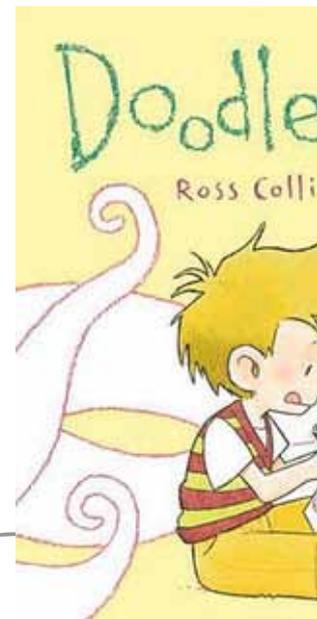


Into the Unknown

by **Stewart Ross**
Walker Books, \$39.95 RRP

Humans have a natural inclination to explore, and none more so than children. As fact is always far stranger and more dramatic than fiction, what better way to enthrall children with voyages into the unknown, than opening the pages of history? This extraordinary book features a striking dust jacket that unfolds into a map showcasing the voyages of 14 incredible explorers, from Pytheas the Greek (340BC) to Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin and their voyage to the moon. Part information book, part adventure, part art gallery, part inspirational tome, this is an unforgettable book. Complete with Index, Glossary and source notes, Into the Unknown is a teacher's dream. And a future explorer's priceless handbook.

[Click here to read the full review...](#)

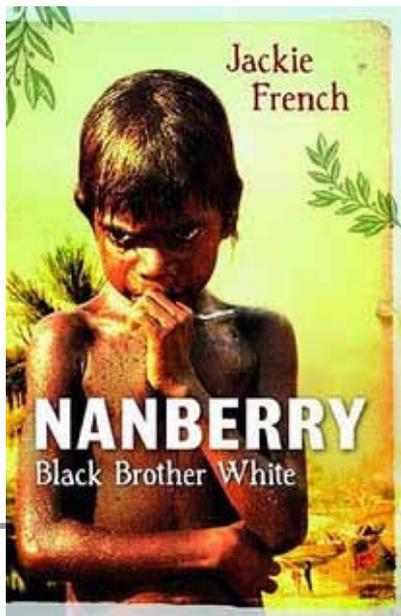


Doodle Day

by **Ross Collins**
Hardie Grant Egmont,

Harvey wants to draw. Mum says no. Why? Because Doodle Day, of course! Harvey can find out exactly how Doodle Day is, Mum doesn't go to the shops, leaving Harvey to sketch up a big, fat, horrible horror of horrors! the very suddenly appears in the Panicked, Harvey rushes to draw a big hungry spider isn't interested in Harvey's drawing on earth will Harvey draw the ensuing Doodle Day under control? My goodness won't want to know. Mum says, disaster is imminent, decides to do the only thing he knows how. He stands up, takes a deep breath and yells. Hilarious picture book!

[Click here to read the full review...](#)



Nanberry: Black Brother White by Jackie French,
HarperCollins, \$16.99 RRP

Not many can research and present history like Jackie French. The author truly succumbs to the past in her historical writing, and completely immerses herself in another time. By becoming part of the past, French speaks with a voice that rings as true as the diary entries and logs she frequents for her research, creating dialogue and visuals that goosebump the skin, and transport the reader to another world . . . where you can hear possums scratching, smell cornbread cooking, feel the dirt and grit and cold and heat and oppression and fear and joy . . . an impressive feat. This stunning account of a young Indigenous lad and his journey with the Chief Surgeon White of Australia's first settlement is a glorious feat indeed.

[Click here to read the full review...](#)

Will and Kate – A Love Story (e-book) by Ink Robin, \$4.99 RRP

This charming, witty and utterly gorgeous e-book is a joy – creatively, visually and audibly. Beginning with rather posh, regal music, illustrations combine with luscious colour photography, providing the ideal backdrop for a sweet love story between a young prince and his pretty country girl. Interactive elements include page-swiping for extended vistas, and plenty of birds, corgies and hilariously bleating sheep to tap on and giggle over. From the 'glimpse the bride' parade outside Buck Palace to the 'I Do' page and the bird's-eye view of the grand party held at granny's house afterwards, one you'll want to read this one over and again forever. Get set to laugh and sigh.

[Click here to read the full review...](#)

\$29.95 RRP

today but because it's . Before exactly what washes out to veay alone to airy fly. But every same fly ne kitchen! es back to der... but the n the fly... he's Dad! What raw to get ay disasters odness, you Needless to nt, until Harvey y thing he firm, takes ells: MUM! perfection.

full review...





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*A journal is the perfect tool for recording
planning your*

a new year's journal resolution

WORDS CATH CONNELL | PHOTOGRAPHY RED MANGO PHOTOGRAPHY

With New Year just on the horizon, our thoughts turn yet again to change... What changes are we going to make in our lives in the New Year? Will our thoughts turn towards becoming healthier, more focused, more family oriented or perhaps more in touch with the "real" things in life? New Year's Resolutions have a bit of a bad wrap, as many of us go in with good intentions, but fail to plan for success, and as soon as we hit the first hurdle, it all turns to mush.

Keeping a journal can be an important and useful part of ensuring your success. A journal is the perfect tool for recording your dreams, setting goals, planning your course of action and keeping track of your progress. It can also help you get back on track and refocus, if things go astray.

Or maybe your New Year's resolution is simply that – to keep a journal!

Whatever your reason for starting a journal, here are some ideas to get you started.

So what is a journal?

A journal is a record of "stuff" – thoughts, ideas, memories, dreams, actions, interests, creations, all kept together in a safe place – that's all!

It does not have to be a "Dear Diary" gush, like we did as teens. It does not have to include every little detail of our lives, as our memories can fill in the gaps if need be. It does not even have to be totally private – you might want to keep a family journal, or even a blog.

Keeping a journal allows you to store your thoughts, activities, plans and ideas somewhere outside your head (where they churn and burn day and night). Think of it as your "external memory drive".

Hopefully, by no longer carrying the burden of all this "stuff" in your head, you will experience the freedom to live more fully in the present.

*...ding your dreams, setting goals,
...our course of action and keeping track of your progress.*

7 tips for keeping a journal

1 Choose a journal you LOVE

Choose one that makes you smile, or that feels worthy to store your precious thoughts. Personally, I prefer a paper based journal that can fit in my handbag, so it goes everywhere with me. There are some truly divine handmade journals available through Madeit and Etsy, or a local craft market – or you may prefer the simplicity of a Moleskine. If you like using a digital journal, that is fine too (just remember to back up!)

2 Start small

Don't plan to write an epic blow-by-blow description of each day or some long-winded elegant piece of prose. It probably won't happen, and you're setting yourself up for failure. You want to achieve. I want you to achieve! Start with something small – such as a tiny moment from each day was special or inspired you, something funny that happened that made you smile, or one activity that brought you closer to your goal...

3 Pick a theme

A journal can be about anything. But if it's about EVERYTHING, it will all get too hard, too quickly. If you want to track your health, concentrate on that. If you're keeping a journal for the kids, don't get carried away recording the kitchen renovations, at the expense of the classic comment from Mr4! You might like to start a gratitude book or a dream journal. Whatever you write is up to you, but it is easier with a focus.

4 Plan for it

Make a precious time for your journal every day or one day a week. Mark it in your calendar. Ensure it's when you won't be interrupted. Then just do it. Keep your journal or another smaller notebook with you at all times, so you can also pop things down on the run.

l...

win!

a Girl Talk
Journal

CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS

5 Be creative

Journals don't have to be just text. They can be anything. Type the word "Journal" into Pinterest and see just how amazing they can be! Scrapbooking is just one example of how creative journal keeping can be. While you don't have to go that far, if you are creatively inspired, then let that guide you. Collect photos, fabric samples, magazine clippings, tickets. Use illustrations. Create a collage. Or not... it's up to you.

6 Encourage the kids

If your kids are old enough to read and write, there's no need to record all the details of their lives for them. Get them to do it! Even younger kids will enjoy telling stories, drawing pictures, and pasting photos into a scrapbook or journal.

7 Share... maybe!

Feeling brave? Maybe you'd like to make your journal into a blog – or write that book you've always dreamed about. It's possible!

*Good luck with your
journal journey in 2012.*



Cath Connell

Self confessed paperphile, lover of handmade goodness, blogger and mum to the Munchkin. Cath is also the Founder and Creative Director of the eco-friendly paper communications business, Leaf, and thoroughly enjoys bringing fun story telling games, journals and stationery to the world.
<http://www.leafjournals.com>



www.theolivetreemarket.com.au

Christmas Markets

Saturdays December

3rd & 17th 9am - 6pm

the **Olive Tree**
Market

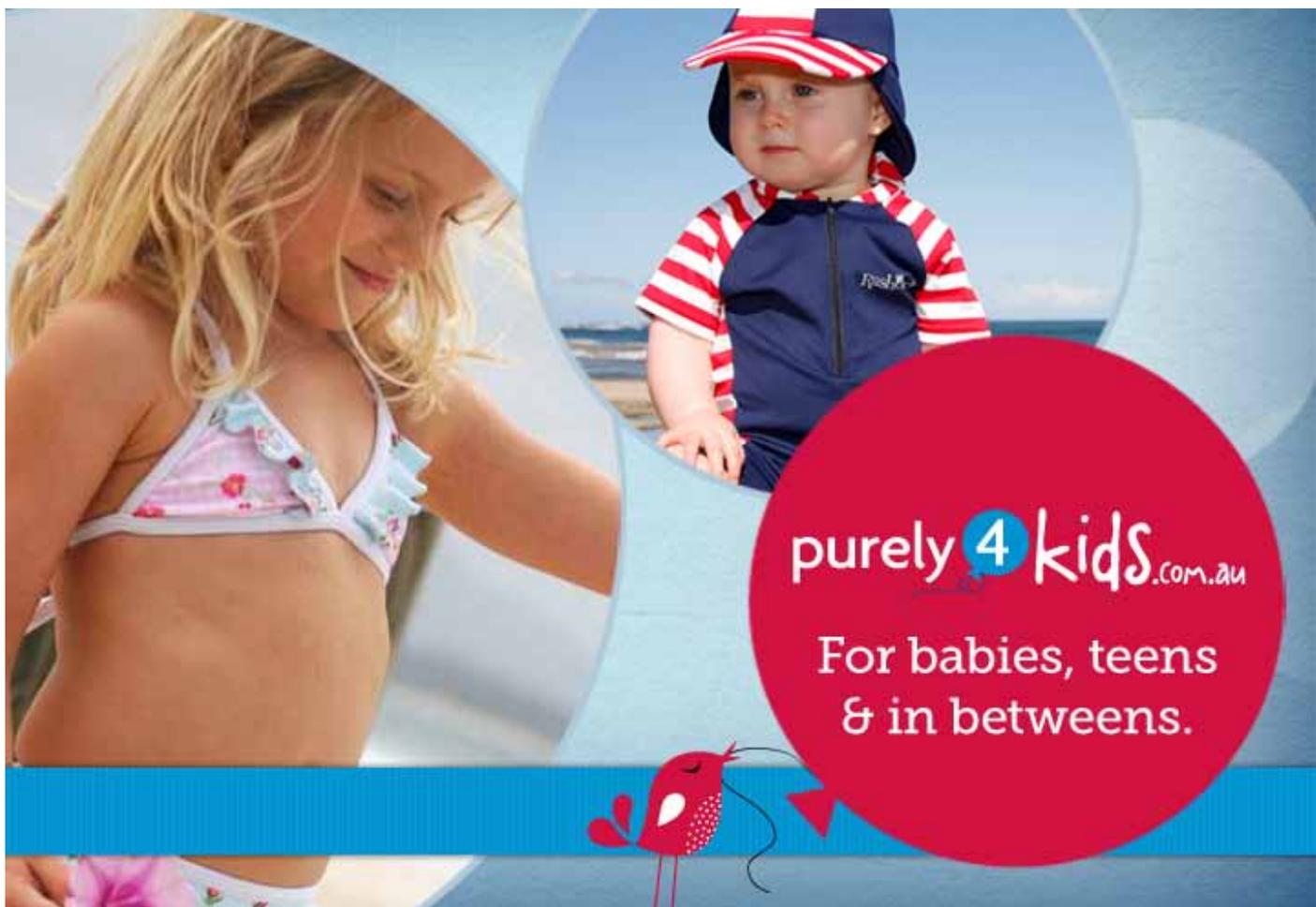



Creatures from the 'other' forest



facebook.com.au/TheForestFlaw

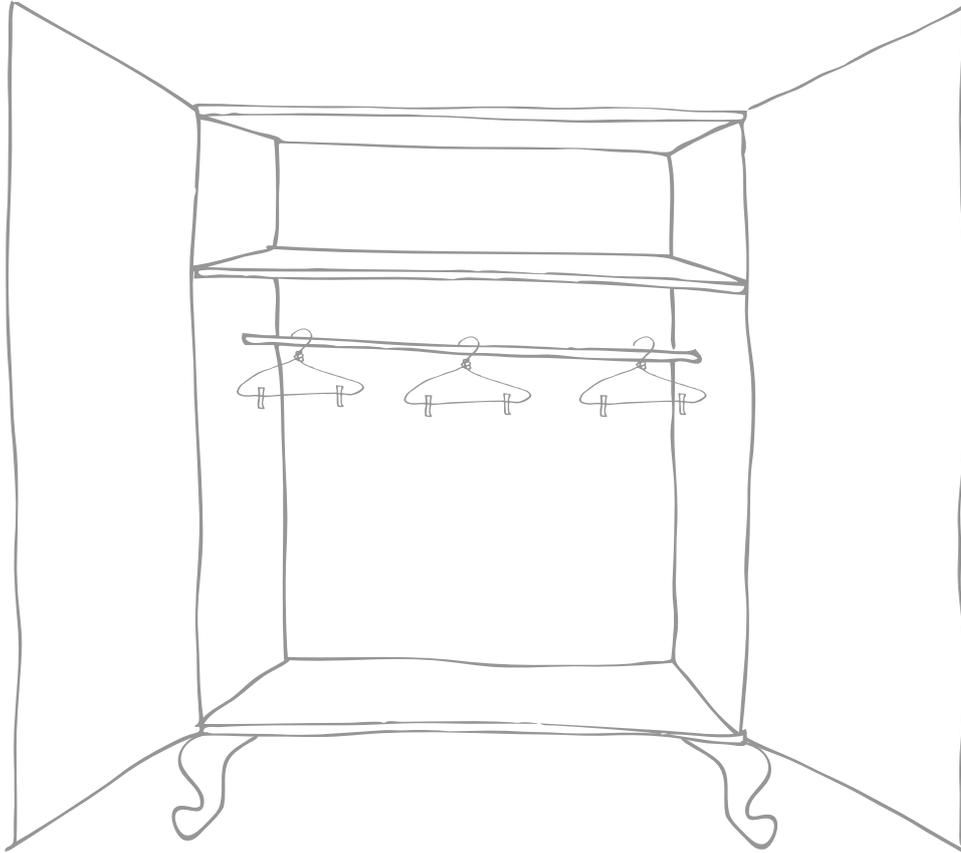
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