



mini CHILD

THE REAL GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Home + Living

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- COLOUR OF THE YEAR NURSERY
- ECO-FRIENDLY NURSERY
- AUSTRALIAN FAMILY HOMES
- + MUCH MORE!



FREE

OCTOBER 2016



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TO PICK UP
YOUR CHILD!



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MOTHERHOOD

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Ed's Letter

We are so thrilled to bring you our first
CHILD Home + Living mini mag!

Who doesn't like to have a sneak peek into other people's homes? So we are giving you a tour of some amazing Australian creative's and family homes from iconic Australian Children's book artist, May Gibbs, to a dollhouse filled with handmade miniatures of local interiors brands furniture and décor!

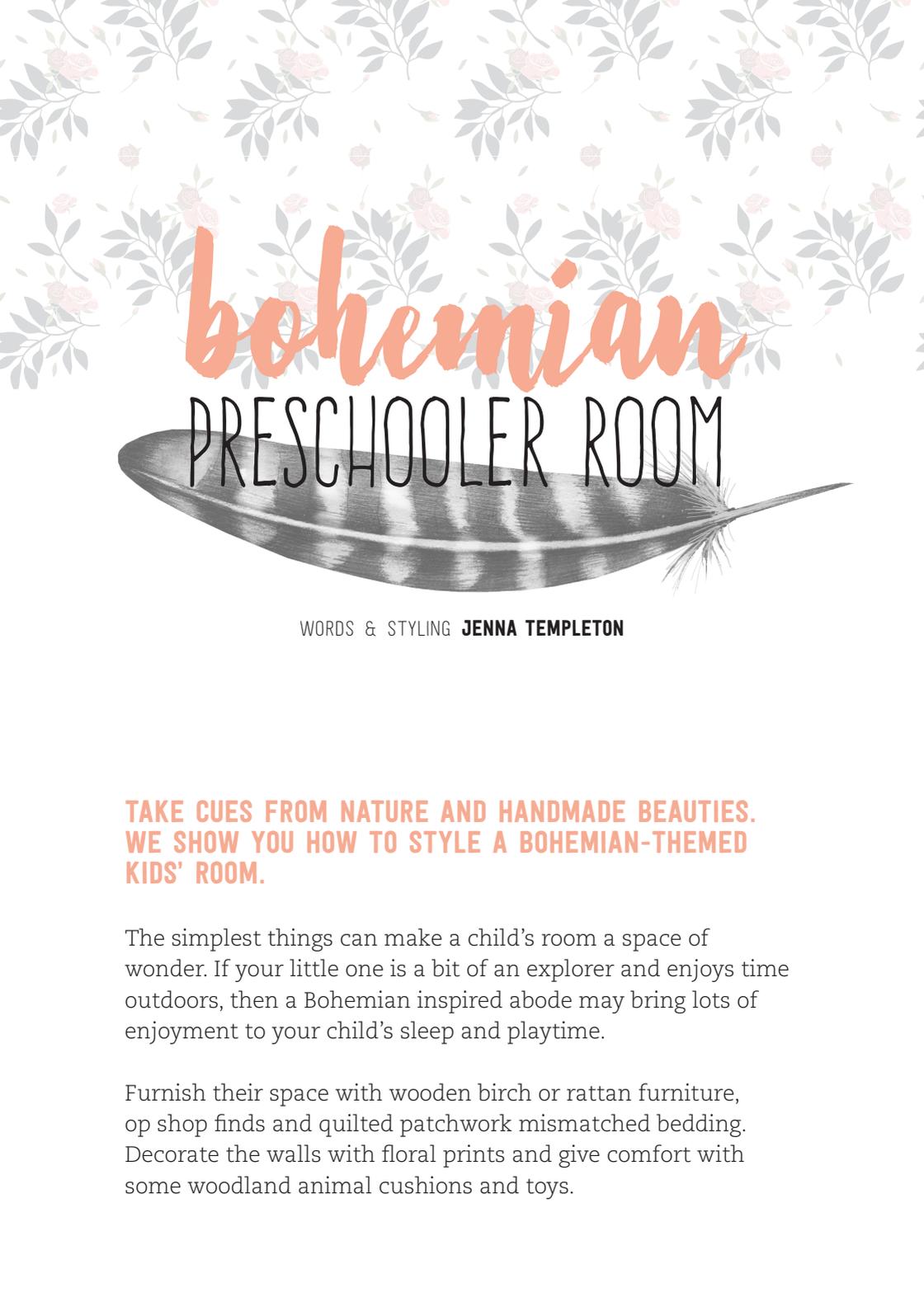
We also show you how to make an eco-friendly nursery, create a kids craft corner and style a bohemian pre-schooler room.

Happy home!

xoxo Jenna



MAKE A
MATCH
STYLE



bohemian PRESCHOOLER ROOM



WORDS & STYLING **JENNA TEMPLETON**

**TAKE CUES FROM NATURE AND HANDMADE BEAUTIES.
WE SHOW YOU HOW TO STYLE A BOHEMIAN-THEMED
KIDS' ROOM.**

The simplest things can make a child's room a space of wonder. If your little one is a bit of an explorer and enjoys time outdoors, then a Bohemian inspired abode may bring lots of enjoyment to your child's sleep and playtime.

Furnish their space with wooden birch or rattan furniture, op shop finds and quilted patchwork mismatched bedding. Decorate the walls with floral prints and give comfort with some woodland animal cushions and toys.



Here are some of our picks for creating a Bohemian kids' space:

Birdy Design Co. Dream Catcher Tini Trader / Chrysalis Butterflies Lightly / Ostheimer Shetland Pony Honeybee Toys / Bobble Garland Lazy Bones / Daisy Peace Art Print Blacklist Studio / Rattan Flower Mirror Temple & Webster / Blue Ribbon Wooden Drum Big Dreams / Cole & Son 'Fontainebleau 99' Removable Wallpaper / Birch Stool This Little Love / Fawn Cushion This Little Love / TROFAST Storage Combination Ikea / Wooden Toy Sewing Machine Needle + Nail / Numero74 Peace Cushion Talo Interiors

COLOUR OF THE YEAR

nursery

WORDS & STYLING **JENNA TEMPLETON**

JENNA TEMPLETON SHOWS YOU HOW TO STYLE A BEAUTIFUL BABY NURSERY USING PANTONE'S 2016 COLOUR OF THE YEAR.

Each year, Pantone releases a 'colour of the year' that will be the shade to inspire trends, fashion and interiors for the year to come. For the first time, they've picked two shades for the 2016 colour of the year – Rose Quartz and Serenity (Pantone 13-1520 and Pantone 15-3919).

This perfect pastel pairing is a great choice for a babies abode, as they both bring a sense of calm and relaxation to a space.

Paired with light timber furniture and blush fairy floss pink, cloudy blue-greys and gold coral toned furnishings, they add just that extra pop of colour to bring the space to life.

Two colours can be just enough to inspire the look and style of a room. Here are some pieces I'm loving in nursery interiors at the moment that would make a lovely eclectic modern space for your little one.



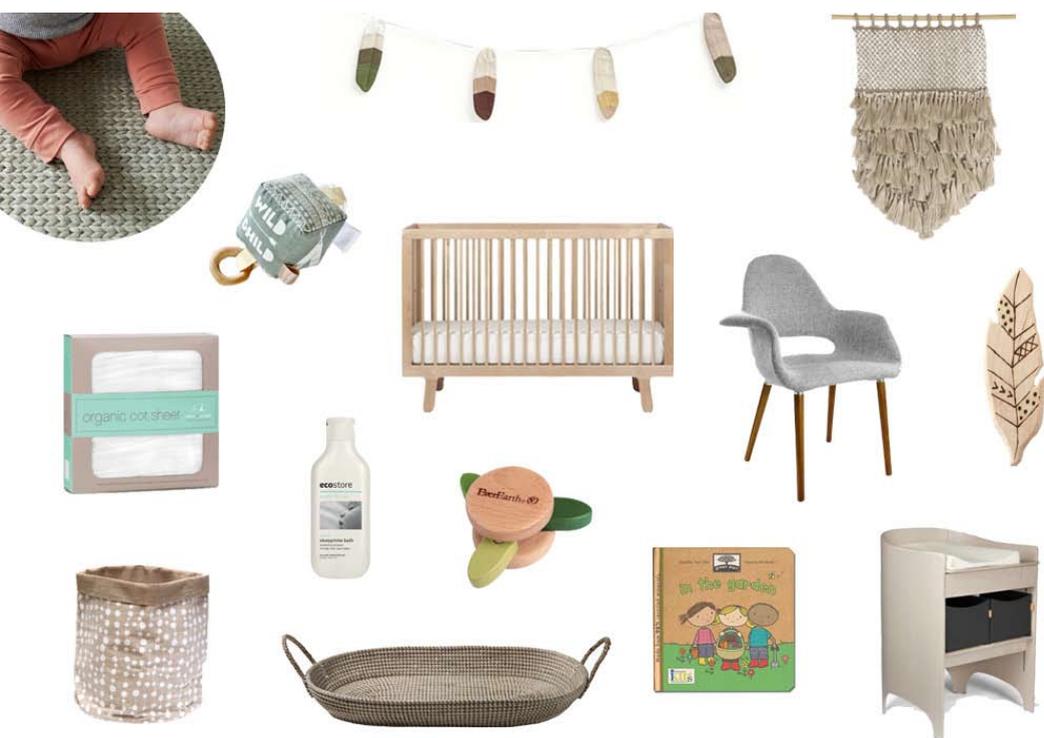
Areaware Wooden Animal Box Rhino Leo & Bella / Circle Mesh Shelves Bride & Wolfe / Suki Armchair Crate Expectations / Sprout & Sparrow Pear Wall Hook Down That Little Lane / Middle Of Nowhere To The Moon & Back Print Crate Expectations / Terra Fitted Cot Sheet Olli Ella / Coral Dipped Basket Olli Ella / The Pink Pig Wooden Toy Noc Noc / Sleepi Bed Cot Stokke / Budtz Bendix Changing Tower Table Leo & Bella / Green Toys Pig Push Toy Eco Child / Eco Friendly Wooden Tea Set Dear Friend / Vitra Eames Elephant Seat Space Furniture / 'Dream Weaver' Light Shades Pop & Scott / Milk + Sugar Floor Rug Cranmore Home



WORDS & STYLING **JENNA TEMPLETON**

JENNA TEMPLETON SHOWS YOU HOW TO PUT TOGETHER AN ECO-FRIENDLY NURSERY FREE FROM ALL THOSE HIDDEN NASTIES.

When you're creating a room for your little ones, your top priority is to create an abode that's clean and safe. Thankfully, there are many brands and makers that feel the same way and are producing products that are organic, non-toxic, and/or Australian Made using 100 percent certified materials and fabrics.



Here are a few pieces to make an eco-friendly nursery for your baby.

Sierra Weave Rug Armadillo & Co / Birds of A Feather Garland MadebyMosey / Jute Macramé Wall Hanging The Dharma Door / Babee & Me Soft Activity Cube My Natural Baby / Oeuf Sparrow Birch Cot Babyography / Replica Eames Organic Chair Sokol / Clover & Birch Wooden Feather Teether My Natural Baby / Aden + Anais Organic Muslin Cot Sheets Nature's Child / Ecostore Baby Sleepy Time Bath Hello Charlie / Everearth Leaf Rattle Toy Hello Charlie / In The Garden by Green Start Green Pennies / Leander Change Table Eco Child / Hessian Duo Storage Sack Eco Child / Reva Basket Olli Ella



GET
CREA
TIVE

little linzi

DOLLHOUSE PROJECT



INTERVIEW **JENNA TEMPLETON**
PHOTOGRAPHY **LINZI MACDONALD**



Linzi Macdonald has created the ultimate dollhouse, filled with handmade replicas of modern designer furniture and mini versions of real-life homewares and accessories. It was the renovation of her daughter's dollhouse, titled Maddie's Dollhouse Reno, that Linzi shared via Instagram, that got people's attention and introduced us to the perfect handmade home. The popularity of Linzi's handcrafted dollhouse has led to her next project and the opportunity to give back – The Little Linzi Project.

I really enjoyed creating Maddie's Dollhouse, and wanted to continue creating these crazy miniatures, but wasn't sure how to go about it. Then I saw a dollhouse on Gumtree and thought I could do it up and auction it off, giving the proceeds to a family or individual in need. I'm still on the hunt for that family, but I'm hoping to have it all finished by Christmas... fingers crossed.

Some of the pieces I've created so far for my new project #thelittlelinziproject have been made in the actual designer's products, such as Printebebe dresses for the raccoons and Fictional Objects sent me their material to create the bed linen. All the prints were donated to me by the original artists, and I've made most of the furniture myself.

A Sylvanian Families raccoon wears a Printebebe dress, standing near a handmade replica of an Armadillo & Co woven rug. The room's walls are wallpapered in Bespoke Letterpress floral paper. A beautiful felt flower by The Grey Rose hangs above a trestle table with a Hubble + Duke gold crown sitting atop.

Linzi has turned a postcard print by Pampa into some living room wall art. That sits by a gorgeous Natalie Jones miniature weave hanging. The furniture is a replica of Kalon pieces with



a Carved 'Julia' Stump by Pop & Scott sitting nearby. In the corner hangs a Byron Bay hanging chair.

A gorgeous room decorated with a tissue paper tassel garland above the bed and Fictional Objects bed linen – oh so cute!

Mrs Raccoon makes the bed with bedding by Fictional Objects in a handmade miniature Printebebe dress.

The kitchen was ordered and bought off eBay, and modified along with the stools. Linzi replicated the Marimekko mugs and Uashmama bag. The wall prints are by Australian artist Kimmy Hogan and the Australia wall art is by American artist We Wear Art.

The bathroom is the latest dollhouse room from the Little Linzi Project to be completed.

You can keep up to date with the amazing [#thelittlelinziproject](#) via Linzi's Instagram account. We can't wait to see what Linzi makes next!







HOW TO MAKE A KIDS CRAFT CORNER

WORDS & STYLING **JENNA TEMPLETON**

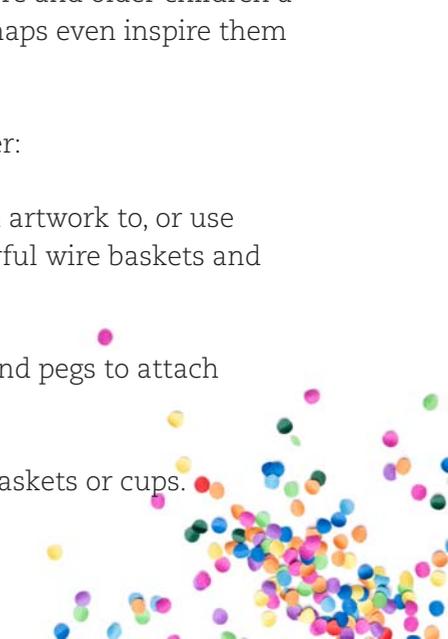
TIPS FOR MAKING A FUN ART & CRAFT CORNER FOR KIDS.

I always remember my first art table as a child. I was so excited to have a little space I could call my own (and decorate to my heart's content). It made me feel a little bit like a grown-up and it was an instant space of inspiration.

Art and craft corners are a fabulous idea for kids. You don't need a lot of space for one, a spare spot in the corner of their bedroom or another random nook in the home is a great place to set up. A few meters square is all you need to make little creative corner for your child.

It gives littlies a space to creatively explore and older children a place to hang up their artworks and perhaps even inspire them to get their homework done...

8 ideas for making an art and craft corner:

1. Hang a cork or peg board up to attach artwork to, or use to hang storage holders such as colourful wire baskets and cup containers.
 2. Make an art gallery wall using twine and pegs to attach kids' artwork.
 3. Store materials and tools in hanging baskets or cups.
- 



4. Fun and colourful hooks are great for hanging tools (like scissors) off.
5. Use a shadowbox as a display shelf for creations.
6. Decorate the walls with painted or washi tape frames to display artwork in.
7. Use different levels and put the everyday stuff down low and store the messier stuff up high.
8. Pop some inspiration nearby. Think famous artists, design posters or beautiful picture books.



AUSTRALIAN
FAMILY
HOMES

KIMMY HOGAN: *beauty in still life*

INTERVIEW **JENNA TEMPLETON**

PHOTOGRAPHY **KIMMY HOGAN**



JENNA TEMPLETON CHATS TO AUSTRALIAN GRAPHIC ARTIST KIMMY HOGAN ABOUT HER CREATIVE PROCESS AND MOTHERING TWO CHILDREN UNDER THREE.

I fell in love with Kimmy Hogan's beautiful mosaic-style artwork after seeing her work in an interiors magazine. After recently buying my first home, I was on the hunt for some artwork to decorate the walls. Then, for my birthday, my loving husband gifted me with one of my favourite prints of hers – Still Life I. This will be hung in the entry way of our home, the perfect piece to greet guests with. I'm beyond thrilled to be given the opportunity to chat with Kimmy for child mags blog.

"I grew up in a very small country town in north Queensland, so growing up my siblings and I had to be creative to keep ourselves entertained. My mother is also very creative with sewing and drawing. I remember being in awe of her when she sketched my siblings and me.

After completing a Bachelor of Communication Design in 2004, I dived straight into the corporate world of graphic design. I've done just about everything from magazine publications, newspaper, advertising, websites, logos and business collateral, but I've always had an underlying passion for art and home interiors. I realised that my skills in digital illustration could be my pathway to the arts industry and started developing my technique from there. I've been designing in the corporate world for over 10 years but have been focusing more on my personal art for the last four years.

Once I began working in the creative arts industry, I did a lot of research on printing methods and working with paper. I tested lots of print samples and did all the leg work to source packaging and shipping information. I then invested in a beautiful large format fine art printer and set up my online

store. The last few years have been a huge learning curve and I have to just keep fine-tuning my systems as I go.

Since deciding to focus on my own art four years ago, I've dabbled with many different illustrative techniques across different styles. In the last year, I feel I've made the most ground in developing my style and have created something really unique and true to myself. My latest collections are inspired by my love of oil paintings and I worked hard to recreate that fluid, painterly look in a digital way. This style has worked for more traditional subject matter, as seen in my 'Still Life' collection, as well as my more modern and abstract art seen in the 'Flat Lay' collection. These collections have been the most pleasant and rewarding work I've done to date.

I felt like I'd 'cracked the code' when the designs started coming together – a vision that I had for so long that was finally coming to fruition. And the fact that it's been so well received just warms my heart.

There's not a whole lot of 'work' going on at the moment while I have a baby to care for. My eldest son Walter goes to daycare two days a week and that used to be my 'intensive' work days, tending to emails, printing artwork on my fine art printer and shipping orders. They were a VERY busy two days! Now that baby Arthur has arrived, I use those two days to have a bit more mummy and baby time and I reserve computer time for when Arthur is sleeping.

I'd like to spend the next few months working on a new collection, but it's a hard thing to do without any real solid blocks of time. My online store is still closed at the moment, but soon I'll start to fill wholesale orders on a monthly basis. That'll be something I'll have to do on a weekend when my husband can look after both boys!



Becoming a mother has been the most amazing experience. I feel like I've slowed down a lot (in a good way) and am really taking in what's around me and appreciating life so much more. You realise how precious time is. When I'm not with my children and am spending time working, I really need to make every minute count.

My biggest tip for other mothers who may be trying to combine their lives as creatives and caretakers would be to put your child in daycare for a couple of days a week (or whatever suits you). It's far better to have designated time for 'work', so on the other days you can really enjoy your children. I found it hard to take that leap initially, as I felt like being a creative wasn't a 'job' (it doesn't feel like work) but since treating it like a job, my business has done so much better.

My workspace at the moment is generally chaos, as I haven't been able to properly set up a permanent office in our new home (knowing baby was on the way, it just wasn't a priority). I have my sights set on a workshop space in our giant garage – a place for being creative and for filling and shipping orders and not having to pack it away constantly. I really can't wait to get started on it.

The rest of our home feels fun, bright, eclectic, with touches of both modern and vintage, a little bit Scandi and a little bit boho (or 'sco-ho' as my husband and I jokingly refer to it). I'm crazy about indoor plants and natural light. A lot of pieces in our home are sentimental and I always make sure things 'make sense' and have a place and purpose. I don't clutter the house with unnecessary items.

The most exciting place to see my work featured is in homes, gallery spaces and interior magazines. There've been so many amazing experiences it's hard to pick one. I'd say the most surprising was probably Inside Out magazine – they mentioned they were going to run one of my photos but I had no idea how, where or when. When I finally picked up the magazine one month, I was thrilled to see that they had ran a full page that included my work near the front of the mag – my jaw seriously hit the floor! Also being part of the Rebecca Judd Style School was super exciting. One of my artworks was featured in the study nook – styled to perfection by Julia Green. It was definitely a 'pinch myself' moment and the photography was absolutely beautiful.

I'm inspired by a myriad of artists from traditional to digital. What's truly inspiring are artists who are making a career out of their work, which is an extremely difficult thing to do. Some of those artists would be Beci Orpin, Rachel Castle





Leah Bartholomew, Emily Green, Sandra Eterovic, Sarah Kelk, Miranda Skoczek, Laura Jones, Mia Oatley and Rachel Levit. Nature is especially inspiring to me and I find I always have my iPhone handy to take snaps of flowers or trees while I'm out walking.

A dream project would be doing a collaboration with a stylist or fashion and homewares label to create an art line or home décor items or even fabric design."

We're all about celebrating Australian motherhood and creativity on child mags blog. What does it mean to you to be an Australian creative who's also a mother? I feel extremely lucky to have a fulfilling creative career which I can run from the comfort of home. It gives me so much flexibility around my babies' schedules. To be an Australian creative is like being part of a big creative community. I've found that Australians like to support each other and I've had no end of encouragement and kindness from so many people around me.

Kimmy Hogan, 32, is an Graphic Artist and mother. She lives in Victoria with her husband Nick and two boys, Walter, 23 months, and Arthur, four months, along with their well-loved mini dachshunds Honey and Rio. You can see Kimmy's latest pieces via her website and keep up to date with her current work in progress on Instagram.





MAY GIBBS' sydney home

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHS **BRON BATES**

**IF YOU HARBOUR FOND CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF
SNUGGLEPOT, CUDDLEPIE AND THE GUMNUT BABIES,
YOU'LL WANT TO KNOW ABOUT NUTCOTE, AUTHOR MAY
GIBBS' HOME IN NEUTRAL BAY, SYDNEY.**

It's well worth the visit to experience standing in her studio where her iconic Australian characters came to life, and wander through the rooms the artist lived in from 1877 to 1969.

May came to live in Nutcote via a childhood in Western Australia, after arriving in Australia by boat with her family when she was four years old. She developed her creative skills with the encouragement of her artist father, Herbert Gibbs. Explaining in later life, "I could draw almost as soon as I could walk... And I loved everything. I used to lie down in the grass so that my eyes were on the same level amongst the grass stalks as the ants... I loved drawing".



When she was just 12, her first illustration was published in the Christmas 1889 edition of the W.A Bulletin. She went on to attend art school in her home country of England. In 1916 the Gum-Nut Babies and Gum Blossom Babies were published by Angus & Roberston.

It's intriguing to know that before her delightfully illustrated tales of the bush babies and their friends were published, May did a few fashion pieces for the West Australian, and created feminist cartoons supporting the women's suffrage movement.

It is sobering to consider that around 1925, May was paid five guineas (the equivalent of about five pounds) for her popular newspaper comic strip, Bib and Bub, where Ginger Meggs artist Jimmy Bancks was paid 40 to 50 pounds for his strip. For her next comic strip, Tiggy Touchwood, May used the pseudonym 'Stan Cottman'.





BABY ROSIE'S

nursery



INTERVIEW **JENNA TEMPLETON**

PHOTOGRAPHY **JAZ BLOM**



WHOSE ROOM IS THIS?

This is a nursery I designed for my baby daughter, Rosie.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR INTERIOR STYLE?

I love to mix up high-end statement designer pieces with really affordable, interesting finds to create a unique look with pops of colour. When I'm designing a room I always try and search for pieces that aren't seen everywhere, and really appeal to my clients' individual taste, so applying these principles to my own nursery was a lot of fun.

DID YOU STYLE ROSIE'S ROOM WITH A PARTICULAR THEME IN MIND?

When I found out I was having a girl I wanted to create a nursery that was really gorgeous and pretty with a sophisticated edge. I wanted to create a look that was different to all the traditional 'cutesy and girly' nursery looks I was seeing at the time and instead take inspiration from a modern Scandi feel.







One of my all-time favourite colour combinations is grey and dusty pink, so this colour palette really formed the design brief for my nursery, mixed in with oak and small pops of copper and black.

I already had the Vulu cot and change table from my son, Leo, so it was important that these furniture pieces worked into the new design.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO CHOOSE THIS THEME?

I had been admiring the Scallop Dots Wallpaper in rust from These Walls since it launched and was thrilled to be able to use this as a gorgeous and sophisticated backdrop to Rosie's nursery. This was the first item I started with and thought it looked perfect with the cot. I let the copper from the wallpaper become subtle highlights throughout the room and felt it worked well with the modern Scandi vibe.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF THE ROOM?

My favourite part of the room is the leather strap shelf from Interior Motives and all the beautiful art and decorative items styled around this. I think this wall with the shelf makes for such a lovely vignette and is filled with such unique and special pieces, each one chosen because I have loved it, not just to act as props in the room.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE PIECES IN THE ROOM?

My favourite pieces in the room are the gorgeous reindeer hide on the floor as it just feels so lovely and soft, adds a rich texture, and works beautifully with the cot.

I'm crazy about the dusty pink and grey Puku ottoman from Coco Flip and the Douglas and Bec melon lamp as it gives off such a low, lovely soft pink light at night – perfect for feeding!



I'm obsessed with the Odette felt swan from Growing Footprints and the wall hanging from Warped Threads as well as beautiful items from Zilvi like the feather garland, swan hanger and Hello Little Birdie wild heart plaque.

Change tables are one of those things that never look pretty so I styled it with a mink grey washable cover and soft grey lambswool. The colours, layers and texture just look beautiful.

This time around a really comfy and stylish nursing chair was mandatory so I was thrilled when I came across the Ro-ki Rocker from Olli Ella. It just looks so beautiful with the Puku ottoman from Melbourne designer Coco Flip, an item that I have been lusting after for quite some time.



Artwork is always a really important design consideration for any space I am working on. I love the pastel pink circle woodblock print from one of my favourite local designers Lumiere Art & Co. The hand-printed design and detail makes a bold statement on the wall and sets off the tone of the room. I have complemented this with a stunning Vee Spears print “The Birthday Party Untitled #16” and “Mrs Mighetto, Miss Ester” print from Norsu to draw back to the Scandi feel and add a sense of sophisticated playfulness to the room.

The cot is adorned in Castle linen and sumptuous velvet penny round cushions topped with a Ferm Living quilt from Design Stuff and throw from Uimi.



It's hard to just pick a few favourite things, as each and every item in the room has been chosen with care and love.

DOES ROSIE'S ROOM INCLUDE ANY FAMILY HEIRLOOMS?

There are no family heirlooms in the room (yet). I have loved choosing new and very special pieces that Rosie can treasure forever and hopefully together we can create some new family heirlooms. I particularly love the handmade Rosette from designer Skinny Wolf and I hope Rosie treasures this piece forever and hands it down to her daughter one day.

I'm so happy with the result of this nursery. I feel like I have created my dream girl's nursery that will last the test of time and is a really modern haven for me to enjoy with my baby.

AIMEE'S TOP 4 TIPS FOR CREATING A ROOM LIKE THIS:

- 1.** Design rooms that kids can grow into. You won't see anything too specifically 'kiddie' in my rooms, but instead some playful pieces that give the room character and add a sense of fun.
- 2.** To design a Scandi-inspired room, choose soft neutral colours and stick to a colour palette of three colours so the room feels very considered and easy on the eye.
- 3.** Always choose pieces you love that really resonate with you and your child, don't just choose random items to fill a shelf. Even the books you choose to dress a shelf will matter – pick books that have a special meaning or message.
- 4.** Norsu has a great range of gorgeous Scandi prints that are great value and have a lovely soft and sophisticated look when framed – they look divine in a nursery or kids room.





Vulu Cot & Change Table Dresser Love N Care / Wallpaper These Walls / Artwork over cot Lumiere Art & Co / Wooden Garland Projekt Frankie / Artwork over change table Norsu / Ro-ki Rocker Nursing Chair Ollie Ella / Louise Roe Architect Cushion Norsu / Puku Ottoman Coco Flip / Tripod Side Table Globe West / Lamp Douglas and Bec / Felt Mushrooms Amarillo Plus / Wall Hanging Warped Threads / Leather Strap Shelf Interior Motives / Crown Gold Frankincense + Myrrh / Flower Print Castle / Arrows Children of the Tribe / Twig Creative Camera Growing Footprints / Pink Moccs Hubble + Duke / Canvas & Leather Mini Storage Bag Interior Motives / Black Feather Garland Zilvi / Rock & Pebble Wooden Dolls Norsu / Vee Spears 'The Birthday Party' Print Norsu / Louise Roe Copper Wall Hook Norsu / Swan Hanger Zilvi / Pink Linen Romper Hubble + Duke / Wild Heart Wall Plaque Hello Little Birdie / Cot Sheet, Round Cushions Castle / Cot Quilt Design Stuff / Lucky Boy Sunday Bad Eye Lily Doll Design Stuff / Rosette Skinny Wolf / Felt Swan Growing Footprints

Aimee Tarulli is an interior stylist with her own biz Archer Interiors and heads up the interior design department of boutique Melbourne builder Thomas Archer Homes. Aimee lives in Melbourne with her husband, Frank and is mum to Rosie, 2 months, and son, Leo, 2. You can see more of Aimee's beautiful work via her website and follow her on Instagram.





*Simone, Simon
+ Kids' Sydney
Home*

INTERVIEW **JENNA TEMPLETON**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SIMONE DUCKWORTH**

hello

WHO LIVES HERE?

I live here with my husband Simon and three boys, Noah, Jasper and Finn, and our dog Dash.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR HOME?

We live in a modern home on the Northern Beaches in Sydney, which has four bedrooms, two living areas and a fantastic backyard. We love to entertain outside when it's warm, and it's really designed for that with an undercover area, BBQ and pool. The back of the house opens up completely, so you really get that indoor and outdoor living feeling in one.

The boys love playing outside – it's a bit of a paradise out there with the trampoline, pool, and their own skateboarding half-pipe. I don't know who loves it more, the boys or Simon!

WHEN DID YOU BUY YOUR HOUSE?

We built our house 13 years ago when I was pregnant with Finn, and it has evolved over time. The floor plan has always stayed the same, but we have updated some of the finishes. We changed the kitchen cupboard doors to white and bench tops to Ceasarstone in Snow a couple of years ago. This gave the









house a little lift and refreshed it. Fresh white paint throughout the house every five years keeps everything looking bright and new. I do like to change homewares around to keep things feeling fresh. I change cushions, rugs and vases a few times a year. We love where we live – it's close to the shops, kids' schools and activities, family live just around the corner and the beach is a 10-minute drive away.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR INTERIOR STYLE?

It's really light, fresh and airy. I love white spaces – they have such a peaceful vibe, and it's a great neutral base for adding texture and pops of colour with furniture and homewares. I've always got lots of books around, fresh flowers and a candle burning. I've got quite a few indoor plants and I'm planning to add more. I just love the cosy feel and life they add to a home.

Home is where we truly relax...with life so busy these days it's nice to have a place that gives you that calm feeling when you walk through the door. I wanted lots of plants and greenery, and to be surrounded by the things that make me happy.

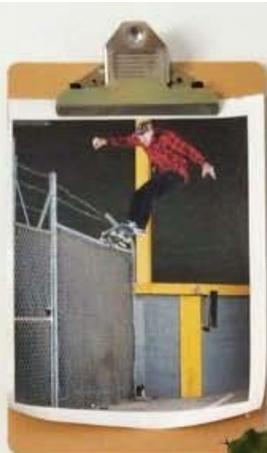
WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ROOM AND WHY?

Our living space is the heart of the home. It's all open-plan and quite a large space. Everyone congregates here to relax, talk or watch TV together. In summer we open up all the folding doors to let the breeze in, and I love to look out to the tree tops and the ocean.

DID YOU HAVE A PARTICULAR THEME OR STYLE IN MIND WHEN STYLING THE BOYS' ROOMS?

I tried to create a room filled with the things they love. I wanted their rooms to have lots of storage to help keep things tidy. All their rooms have a neutral base and the colour and interest comes from their bed linen, rugs, art, books and toys.





DID YOU INCLUDE ANY DIY ELEMENTS IN YOUR HOME?

I'm always painting some piece of the boys' furniture white. In Finn's room we popped up clipboards to display all his surfing and skating posters, rather than sticking them straight onto the walls. This looks cool, but it's also easy to change up the pictures regularly. We also installed skateboard racks on his wall to store all his skateboards neatly.

In Jasper's room I took an old noughts and crosses set and painted it black and white to look more modern and blend into his room. Also in Finn's room his gumball machine was red but I sprayed it white.

DID YOU HAVE TO MAKE ANY RENOVATIONS?

Earlier this year we had a bit of a disaster when a repair man didn't fix our dishwasher hose properly, which resulted in flooded floorboards. Everything had to be ripped up and we had to move out for six weeks while our floors were fixed. We had to make a quick decision on new flooring and we decided to go with white concrete floors. We wanted something hardy and low maintenance (they are surprisingly easy to keep clean!). Despite all the frustrations of the renovations and having to move out, the floors were totally worth it. We love them, and it's given the whole house a refresh. Everything looks new!

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE PIECES?

In Noah's room, I love his 'Noah' pennant, elephant head, his anchor light, which he uses as a night light, and the 'Wild Thing' print sums him up perfectly!

In Jasper's room I love his round mirror, plants and various wall prints. In Finn's room I love his 'Hell Yeah' tea towel from Rachel Castle that I framed, his lightning bolt light and the wall of clipboards displaying his favourite surfing photos.

WHERE DID YOU BUY & FIND YOUR FAVOURITE PIECES?

I buy a lot of things online from Etsy and I always come across cool pieces on Instagram. Most of the boys' bed linen is from Cotton On Kids or Adairs. I love the lights from Little Letter Lights Co. Rugs are from Freedom – you can pick up some great bargains in their sales. Ikea for storage and bookcases. I also come across great finds at Kmart and Target.

WHAT IS YOUR CHILDREN/S FAVOURITE PIECE?

Noah loves his Tiger poster, as that was the first animal sound he knew. Jasper loves his J for Jasper light. Finn loves his skateboard racks.

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP 5 KEY (MUST-HAVE, CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT) ITEMS?

1. Storage: I love a Billy bookcase from Ikea and have them in most rooms. The trick is to build them in so they look more polished.
2. Cool bedlinen, rugs and cushions: they add colour and personality to the room.
3. Art: I can't go past a Typography quote! Blacklist Store is a favourite.
4. Books: we're all bookworms around here and I love that Finn's books have been passed on to Jasper and now Noah.
5. Lamps and lighting: overhead lighting can be so harsh, so it's nice to dim the lights and pop on a lamp at night to relax, read by and get the boys ready for bed. I love a novelty light to add interest to the room and double as a reading or night light. My favourites are Little Letter Lights as they are such great quality.

YOU HAVE THIS AMAZING CHANGEABLE LIGHTBOX IN YOUR KITCHEN – HOW DID THAT COME ABOUT?

I came across the Lightbox a few years ago at Koskela. We were just getting our kitchen redone and I knew that I needed it for my shelves! It's one of my favourite purchases ever, as it adds









such fun and personality to our space. I'm always changing it up for birthdays or to a cool quote I've seen. It's made by Page Thirty Three. I've just bought some new letters for it created by Blacklist Studios, so that has given it a little refresh.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR HOME?

What I love most about my home is who I share it with.

DO YOU WORK FROM HOME?

I work from home on my blog – Honey and Fizz – and also my Etsy store, which sells prints and banners. My two older kids are at school and Noah is at preschool three days a week. I usually don't look at my emails until the school run is done, but once I start I'm quite aware of how quickly the day flies until school pick up time. Usually, the night before, I put together a list of what I want to achieve and a loose running schedule. I don't get a chance to do any work in the afternoon as I'm taking the boys to their after-school activities and helping with homework, so I might check my emails and do any other work once they're in bed. I have a little desk at home, but I usually find myself working in the living room and jumping up every now and then to pop on another load of washing or to empty the dishwasher. The usual mum juggle.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO START YOUR WEBSITE?

My blog originally started as my online diary – a place to keep track of interiors I loved, recipes I wanted to try, dream travel destinations and documenting special family occasions and moments I wanted to remember. Honey And Fizz was originally my online mood board, but opened up into opportunities of selling my own prints and banners and working with different brands. I'm about to launch a service utilising my love of interiors by setting up home consultations for styling and online design boards. I love the freedom and flexibility of working from home and for myself. I like that each day is

different and I can use my creative side and work with things that I'm passionate about.

It's important as a mother to find time for yourself and to nurture your own hobbies and creativity. It could be doing a class at a workshop (The School and DTLL Workshops have some fun ones), taking photos, or trying out a DIY project. Surround yourself with people who have similar interests and inspire you. I've found blogs and Instagram to be great for this. There's a great community feel, and it's amazing how you find like-minded souls. It's about finding a balance that works for you and your family.

Simone Duckworth is a Sydney-based mum of Noah, 3, Jasper, 8, Finn, 13, and lifestyle blogger of Honey and Fizz. She is interiors obsessed and loves taking photos and capturing the every day.



the wife life
HOME TOUR

INTERVIEW **JENNA TEMPLETON** PHOTOGRAPHY **WHITNEY BARBER**





TELL US ABOUT YOUR HOME, YOURSELF AND WHAT YOU DO.

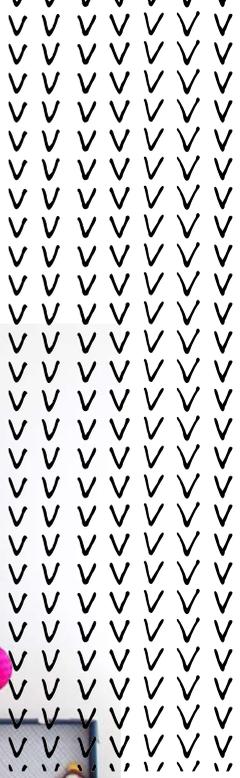
It's a little lovely weatherboard, post-war home with high ceilings and beautiful lighting, located just outside Brisbane city.

I am a stay-at-home, profoundly deaf mama. I spend most of the day baby wrangling, taking more pictures of my girls than I should, and trying to sneak in some writing when I'm not dreaming of travelling. My blog *The Wife Life* is a place I can escape to and use to inspire others with photography, fashion, interior, lifestyle and family-related things.

WE TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT WE CAN JUST SPEAK AND LISTEN TO OUR CHILDREN, SO HOW DO YOU FOSTER COMMUNICATION IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD?

I've signed to my girls from the day they were born. I'm very fortunate I'm able to speak. I teach my girls basic sign language (because of their ages) like, sleep, eat, please, thank you etc. I'll always sign to them because one day it's possible I may never hear their voices again. Sign language is such a beautiful language and I'm so thankful we have access to it.







WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE ROOM IN YOUR HOME?

That would have to be the lounge room. It's nice, bright and it's where we can all make a beautiful mess. My favourite piece in the room is our family-friendly mint lounge from Ikea. I love how I don't have to worry if the girls spill their drinks or snacks on it, as the cover can easily be zipped off and chucked in the wash. It's great! I'm always changing the cushions on it too. Change is always good. We're always playing shotgun when it comes to the big beetles beanbag from Kip & Co.

WHAT ARE EMILY & LUELLEA'S FAVOURITE PIECES?

The girls absolutely love their wooden cooking toys from Dear Friend. They have some very beautiful toys too.

There's a cubby house outside that was here when we first moved in. You can tell it's been very loved and that so many memories were made in it. It has such character. Luella loves the little vintage kitchen, and is always 'cooking' dinners in the toy microwave.

As well as the cubby house, I wanted to create a place where it was easy for my girls to run wild with their imagination and a colourful environment to play with their toys, so I created a play pen area for them. I was very lucky to find this beautiful rainbow rug from Freedom. I love adding honeycomb balls to any room – it adds some colour and they're very affordable too. Luella has a very strong eye for sweets and ice-cream, so the theme for her bedroom wasn't too hard to brainstorm for. We couldn't pass up Sack Mel's lovely donut linen. I also got some washi tape from Spotlight and created a little house and a chimney (and used some pompom balls for the smoke). Luella loves it and it was a really cheap and rental-friendly way to brighten up the walls.





For my bedroom, I wanted a fun summery look, so first stop was Kip & Co for my amazing quilt cover and pillows. I decorated the walls with a Jade Made Arts wall print. Lecky Studio for some funky photo frames and some lovely prints from Olive et Oriel.

The office space is where I sit in peace with a mocha frappe and type myself away into a world of my kind of fun. All I needed was a little desk that accommodates my Macbook and camera. I like to keep a throw near for when I get the chills after my mocha – it makes it much cosier.

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP 3 KEY (MUST-HAVE, CAN'T-LIVE-WITHOUT) ITEMS?

As a mother of two little rugrats, I believe these would have to be my top 3:

1. A good practical rug. It protects those crawling knees, hands and your carpet/floor from damage.
2. A lounge that has washable covers. Trust me, you need them!
3. I love our bookshelf. We place boxes in each square and each box has certain toys inside such as farm animals, train toys and cooking toys. It beats having one big toy box and not being able to find anything.

PEOPLE OFTEN SAY THAT PARENTHOOD CHANGED THEM. DO YOU FEEL THAT'S TRUE FOR YOU?

I feel that I've grown as person, yes. Parenthood can be hard. But it's all the little things, like the way my girls greet each other in the morning, that takes you to the highest level of happiness. I wouldn't change it one bit.

WE'RE ALL ABOUT CELEBRATING AUSTRALIAN MOTHERHOOD AND CREATIVITY ON CHILD MAGS BLOG. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO BE AN AUSTRALIAN CREATIVE WHO'S ALSO A MOTHER?

I'm really grateful I've finally found something I love doing besides being a mother. I love supporting small businesses and networking with my followers and fellow bloggers. To be able to integrate that as a full-time mama is a dream come true.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH OTHER MUMS WHO MAY BE TRYING TO COMBINE THEIR LIVES AS CREATIVES AND CARETAKERS?

It's really exciting when things kick off and you can't help but say yes to every client that wants to work with you. It's fun to have that many options you're excited about. Try to be wise about saying yes, because burnouts will come and partly kill your creativity and desire for your blog.

Whitney Barber, 29, lives in Brisbane, Qld, with her two daughters Luella, 2, and Emily, 11 months. Her blog [The Wife Life](#) captures her daily colourful life as a full-time stay-at-home mum (it looks like so much fun we want to join the party!). You can also follow and find more of Whitney's joyous adventures via her [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).