

CHRISTMAS 2023

CHEERS TO SUMMERY CHRISTMAS LILIES

GIFTS TO WIN!
BAG A GREAT PRIZE FROM SANTA'S JOLLY SLEIGH
SEE P74

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TRACE, SNIP + ASSEMBLE

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- Easy-as festive recipes to please a crowd
- Bite-sized sliders you can't stop eating!

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SEASONAL TOUCH

- STEP INSIDE AND FILL YOUR HOME WITH MERRY STYLE
- BRING COMFORT AND JOY OUTSIDE FOR SUMMER SOIREEs

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MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM BHG TV

Lights, camera, Christmastime! Finally, it's here and we are so ready for the revelry and feasting we've been waiting for all year

As the classic Chrissie song goes, "There's no place like home for the holidays..." And for the past 12 months we've been showing you ways to get your abode feeling like an oasis in which you can both relax and entertain. From all the team at BHG TV, we hope we've inspired you to create a festive celebration at home to remember. Have a fun, safe break, and see you in 2024!



TOP, FROM LEFT The *Better Homes and Gardens* TV team - Ed Halmagyi, Peter Colquhoun, Juliet Love, Karen Martini, host Johanna Griggs, Charlie Albone, Adam Dovile, Graham Ross, Dr Harry Cooper, James Tobin and Melissa King. So, get ready for another stellar year of clever ideas and inspiration to spark your next creative project - inside and outside your home.

ABOVE Karen's Prawn cocktail sliders, see page 82.



Season's greetings

Our Christmas issue is a special gift from us to you!

This season is all about giving, and we're giving you more than 320 festive ideas to help you turn December 25 into a Christmas miracle! We all love a feast, but the frantic prep can dampen the joy - unless you follow our simple yet scrumptious recipes, drinks included (page 14). Then, bring a seasonal vibe to every corner of your home, from the front door (page 46), to your rooms inside (pages 62, 66) and those outside (pages 118, 124), and bedazzle everyone with the prettiest poinsettias, both real and lovingly handmade (page 38). And it wouldn't be a true blue Yuletide without a patch of Christmas lilies (page 92). We've got thrifty but thoughtful gift ideas to make (page 164) or buy, and they're all wrapped up, too (page 54). There's so much to look forward to. We all wish you the easiest, merriest summer festivities. Catch you in 2024!

DORA



CHRISTMAS COOKIE CUTTER AND STAMP SET

If you haven't received this cute-as cookie cutter and stamp set with this issue, grab one at our *BHG* Shop (page 37) and create sweet delights and decos (page 28).

ONLY
\$9.95
PER SET*



14 62

60



come inside

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watch us on tv

Every issue we bring you projects and recipes from the show for you to make and cook



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FOOD

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- 80 Karen Martini** Prawn cocktail sliders; Miso fish with daikon and fried ginger

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- 124** Upgrade your outdoor spaces with a quick refresh of your deck and timber table, put up a merbau screen for privacy, build a hot tub shelf and install a floating towel hanger
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DECORATING & CRAFT

- 118** Set the scene for an Aussie-inspired Christmas with a handcrafted tablescape, festive hanging Chrissie bells fashioned from plant pots, and a giant green bauble made with salad greens and herbs!
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DIY & BUILDING

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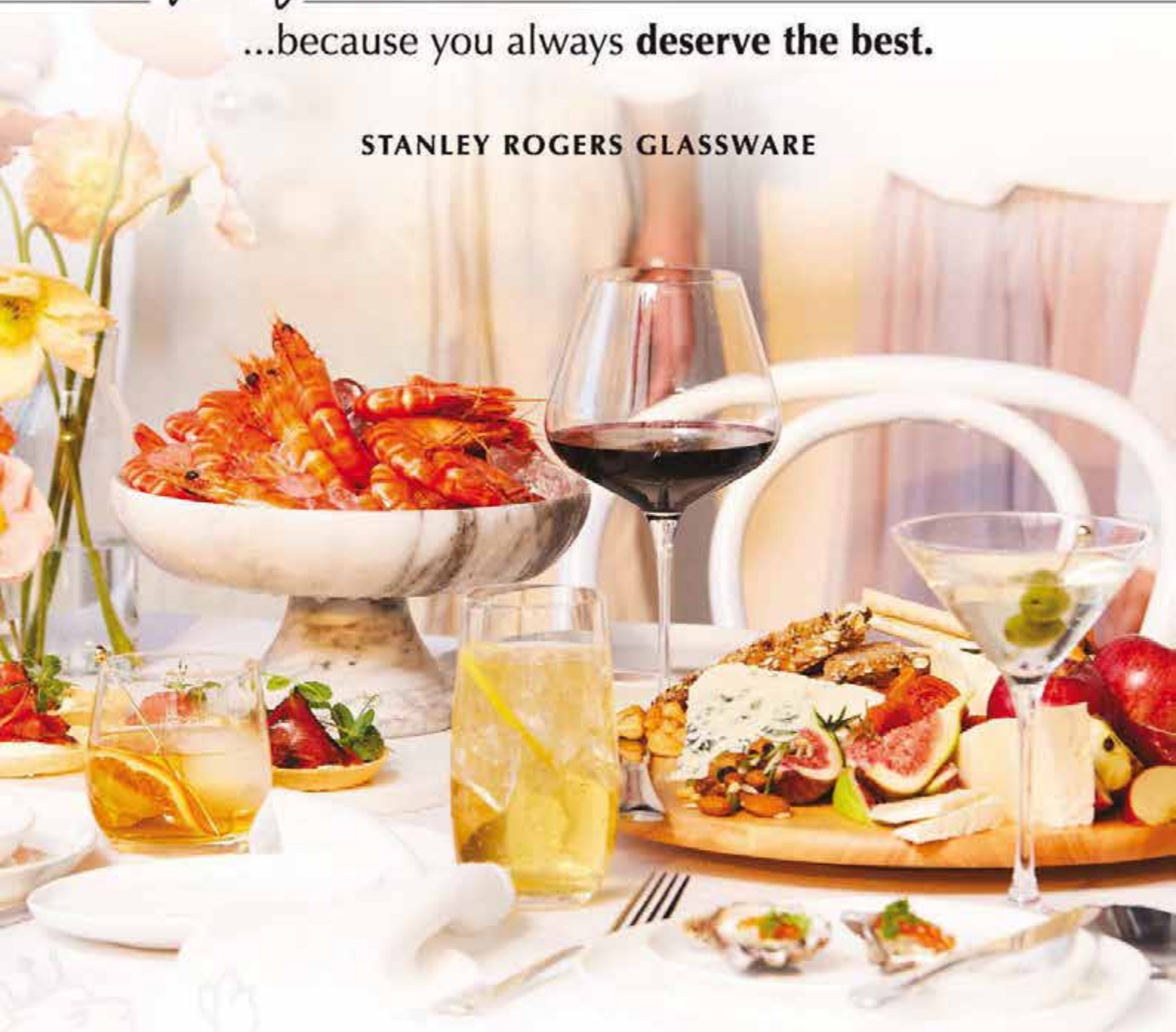


Brighten up your
home with crafty
ideas to display
pretty poinsettias
— and not just in
classic Chrissie
red! (Page 38)

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Stanley Rogers



A festive Christmas table setting. In the background, a Christmas tree is decorated with red and gold ornaments and warm white lights. In the foreground, a white tablecloth is set with three champagne flutes filled with bubbly. Several wrapped gifts are scattered around: a large red gift with a gold ribbon, a smaller white gift with a red and white striped ribbon, and a small pink gift with a gold ribbon on a white plate. A striped napkin with a gold fork is also visible.

Create a delightful
Yuletide spread that's
effortless and so good –
everyone will be coming
back for seconds!

TABLE MATTERS

For a festive table with real impact, sprinkle beautifully wrapped pressies down the middle of it, interspersed with baubles and garlands if you wish.

**Stanley Rogers Tamar Champagne
Flutes, \$69.95, set/6.**

A JOLLY EASY FESTIVE FEAST



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GLASSWARE NEEDS, VISIT
STANLEYROGERS.COM.AU.



**SURF AND TURF
ROSEMARY SKEWERS
WITH ROMESCO SAUCE**

Raid your herb garden for the 'skewers' in this handheld holiday twist on classic surf and turf. Then, whiz up the romesco sauce in a flash.

Recipe on page 170

**Stanley Rogers Barossa Bordeaux
Glasses, \$79.95, set/6.**

**ROASTED CHERRY
CROSTINI WITH
WHIPPED RICOTTA**

Top crunchy toasted slices of baguette with a rich combo of creamy, garlic-spiked ricotta and baked cherries. These tasty toasts are an easy starter and pack a big flavour punch!

Recipe on page 170



ADD MINT SPRIGS
INTO ICE CUBE TRAYS
BEFORE FREEZING
FOR IMPRESSIVE
PUNCH CUBES!

**LYCHEE AND
PASSIONFRUIT PUNCH**

Mix up rum, mineral water, summery fruit and snazzy homemade ice cubes for a light, bright and merry fizzy delight!

Recipe on page 170
Stanley Rogers Tamar Tall
Tumblers, \$59.95, set/6.

**SNAPPER CEVICHE
WITH TORTILLA CHIPS**

Get creative with your dips and chips offering with this inviting bowl of fresh fish paired with zippy lime and in-season mango. It will have everyone sneaking back for seconds... and thirds!

Recipe on page 171



**TOMATO,
PROSCIUTTO,
BURRATA AND
PINE NUT SALAD**

For a simple yet stunning take on caprese salad, slice up juicy, ripe tomatoes and add salty prosciutto, velvety burrata and fragrant basil.

Recipe on page 171



**1000-LAYER
DUCK FAT
POTATOES**

Dig into the best roast spuds around! Use a mandolin for quick, even potato slicing, then toss with duck fat to turn this side into a showstopper.

Recipe on page 172





**ROAST CARROT,
LEMON AND
GRAIN SALAD**

Combine hearty buckwheat and pearl couscous with tender roasted carrots for a vibrant and filling festive side. No yoghurt? Scatter crumbled feta instead.

Recipe on page 171



**WATERMELON,
POMEGRANATE AND
FETA SALAD**

In cheery Christmas colours of red and green, this stunning salad will garner all the oohs and ahhs. To save time, buy a punnet of pomegranate arils from the supermarket - too easy!

Recipe on page 172





SAGE, PANCETTA AND GARLIC BREAD-STUFFED CHICKEN

What a clever chook! Use storebought garlic bread three ways in this succulent roast bird: to create your stuffing; for a crispy side of crumbs; and in your sauce.

Recipe on page 172

Stanley Rogers Tamar Stemless

Wine Glasses, \$59.95, set/6.



**BAKED HAM WITH
CARDAMOM, CHERRY
AND PORT WINE GLAZE**

Your Christmas table centerpiece comes together with just a handful of ingredients you probably have in your pantry. How very jolly!

Recipe on page 172

**Stanley Rogers Tamar White
Wine Glasses, \$69.95, set/6.**

**ROASTED PORK RACK
WITH MAPLE PEACHES**

Make your traditional roast pork a real peach this year with sticky roasted stone fruit - it's the perfect salty 'n' sweet balance. Can't find peaches? Try nectarines instead.

Recipe on page 173





**GINGER, MANGO AND
HONEY CHEESECAKE**

Spike cream cheese with honey to fill your gingerbread base, then top with mango and pistachios for a dreamy dessert to star on your table.

Recipe on page 173

**Stanley Rogers Tamar Champagne
Flutes, \$69.95, set/6.**

FROZEN BURNT BRANDY BUTTER CHRISTMAS PUDDING

Scoop your way to the coolest dessert of the season with brandy-infused fruit, ice-cream and shards of toffee and honeycomb - it's the ultimate festive fare!

Recipe on page 174

Stanley Rogers Tamar Champagne Flutes, \$69.95, set/6.



IN THE MIX

Sunbeam Mixed Fruit includes festive fave glacé cherries, making it the ideal addition for your frozen Christmas pudding! sunbeamfoods.com.au.



**STRAWBERRY
'SPlice' JELLY BUNDT**

Prep this super glam sweet the day before, so all you have to do on the big day is decorate and serve it! ■

Recipe on page 174

**Stanley Rogers Tamar Champagne
Coupes, \$69.95, set/6.**



FOODIE'S GIFT GUIDE

Make the day of your fave gourmet with lovely eats and treats so sweet

1 PLATE UP Serve festive eats on an In the Round House 25cm plate, \$29.95 each, intheroundhouse.com. **2 SWEET TREAT** Unwrap Buttery Salted Caramels, \$19.95, or Chocolate Buttery Salted Caramels, \$24.95, pepesaya.com.au. **3 TEA TIME** Indulge in Sicilian Citrus Tea, from \$36.95, monistatea.com.au. **4 TOP TIPPLE** Celebrate in style with Kim Crawford Rosé, \$22, kimcrawfordwines.au. **5 CANDY LAND** Enjoy a Candy Cane Block of choc, \$6.90, whittakers.co.nz. **6 SIP IN STYLE** Raise an alcohol-free glass with Banks Botanicals Citron,

\$49.99, banksbotanicals.com. **7 IN THE MIX** Upgrade your baking with a KitchenAid x Alemais Stand Mixer, \$1199, kitchenaid.com.au. **8 COCKTAIL HOUR** Glam up your drinks with Smokin' Chilli Cocktail Salt, \$15, olssons.com.au. **9 PIZZA MASTER** Head outdoors with a gas-powered S1 Dome pizza oven, \$1999, au.gozney.com. **10 TEA PARTY** Count down with The Tea Lover's 24 Day Fabulous Feast Tea Bag Advent Calendar \$48, t2tea.com. **11 COLOUR POP** Merry and bright Noelle tea towel set, \$22.95, madraslinkonline.com.au. ■

FESTIVE FINISH

KICK BACK AND SAVOUR EVERY MOMENT OF THE HOLIDAYS,
KNOWING FINISH HAS YOUR DISHES GLEAMING.

Here's to the year-end festivities and all the entertaining that goes with it. From Christmas parties to Boxing Day, end of year barbecues to New Year's Eve, there's no end of occasions to amp up your baking, cooking and entertaining prowess with family and friends. But how to make it easier? Planning ahead, sharing the menu ideas and welcoming extra sets of hands on the day will certainly make things easier.

AN EASY FINISH

When everyone's gone home, the post-entertaining challenge will be your last hurdle and that's where Finish Ultimate Plus

dishwashing tablets can lend a hand. Wine glasses will be sparkling and tough baking stains will be sorted.

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Finish Ultimate Plus dishwashing tablets leaves tableware, glasses, cutlery and cooking essentials with an extraordinary clean. The tablet also has CYCLESYNC™ technology, which releases an enzyme at the right time. For an enhanced drying cycle add Finish Rinse & Shine Aid which delivers 2x superior drying,* reduces water spots with ease and helps safeguard your glassware from cloudiness all year round. Cheers to that.

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**STRAWBERRY
SNOWFLAKE COOKIES**

Top buttery shortbread with three shades of pink fondant for a glam glow-up.

Recipe on page 176

OH WHAT FUN!
MERRY MAKES

Use festive cookie cutters to put simple, snazzy twists on Christmas treats and decos



»
SEE AND SHOP OUR
CHRISTMAS COOKIE
CUTTER STAMP SET
ON PAGE 37 AND AT
BHGSHOP.COM.AU.

**SPICED GINGER MAPLE
SANTA CAKES**

Pile delicately spiced cakes
with fluffy red buttercream
and jolly fondant Santas.

Recipe on page 176

CARAMEL AND PISTACHIO SANDWICH COOKIES

Add indulgent caramel and vibrant pistachios to amp up this classic baked-good winner. **Recipe on page 177**



**REINDEER
GINGERBREAD FUDGE**

Press adorable reindeer
bickies into rich chocolate
fudge for a special treat.

Recipe on page 177





TREE TRIMS

Dangle these delightful handmade clay decorations from decorative branches or from your Christmas tree. They're a snap to make with cookie cutter stamps.

Instructions on page 178



COUNTING DOWN THE DAYS

Assemble an amazing advent calendar with handcrafted clay decorations made from cookie cutter stamps, Christmas-themed bits and pieces you have at home, a few stickers and folley bells.

Instructions on page 179



GORGEOUS GARLAND

For a fun garland, wire a length of clay decorations. Go next level by winding LED string lights and leaf trim around the wire. **Instructions on page 179**



« Making a wreath? Use fine gold wire to string and attach beads and clay decorations to the ring. Then, attach eucalyptus snippets to the ring using evenly spaced fishing line.



« To colour air-dry clay, add acrylic paint to a ball of it. Knead until the paint is evenly dispersed.



RING IN THE SEASON

Whip up easy-make cookie cutter-stamped gift toppers to mount on your beautifully wrapped pressies. ■

Instructions on page 178



ON SALE NOW

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READER OFFER

This merry set of four cutters and stamps will put a jolly festive mark on your gift and decorative makes and bakes

CHRISTMAS COOKIE CUTTER + STAMP SET

Have fun and get creative with *Better Homes and Gardens'* Christmas cookie cutter stamp set. Ideal for making sweet treats to gift, festive tree trims, garlands and decos, you can also enhance your presents with a Christmas-themed accessory or two!



ONLY
\$9.95
PER SET*

EACH SET INCLUDES

A cookie cutter and stamp set with four different designs - Reindeer, Santa and Sack, Snowflake and Merry Christmas.

Each design comes in two parts - cookie cutter and 'stamp'.



Photography Alan Jensen; styling Jaimee Curdie. Prices are approximate and a guide only.

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PETAL POWER

Think beyond the red poinsettia and give this classic plant, synonymous with Christmas, a refresh with ideas and crafty projects that show off its spectacular range of colours...

DELIGHTFUL DISPLAY

If you've never seen an orange, green or yellow poinsettia before, that's because nurseries stock the more usual varieties of reds, pink and white. But there's a whole array of colours to inspire your mantle display. So your arrangement doesn't look too stiff and formal, mix plants in different sizes.




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AND ALWAYS”

ON POINT

One of the Christmas season's showiest plants, poinsettias make fabulous indoor decorations and are a great alternative to cut flowers. While they were traditionally best known in scarlet red, the range of colours has expanded hugely and these days covers cream, yellow, white and multiple shades of pink, including some lovely two-tone variations. The showy 'flowers' of poinsettias are actually modified leaves (known as bracts), which explains why they last so long, the true flowers are the cluster of small buds in the centre. If you buy them as potted plants now, you can enjoy many weeks of colour indoors, before repotting, cutting back and giving them a spell outside.

GROWING ON

While they're happy indoors for a few weeks, poinsettias are not long-term house plants. They need to be moved outdoors if you want to keep them growing and they must have a frost-free climate - tropical, subtropical and warm temperate zones suit them best. After the flowers have faded, trim plants back and repot into fresh potting mix. Place in a warm sunny spot, keep well watered and feed occasionally with a liquid fertiliser. If the conditions are right, you can enjoy another colourful display in mid-winter.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

In the wild, poinsettias bloom naturally in the winter months. To produce them for Christmas time in Australia, they are grown in light-controlled greenhouses. By extending the period of night-time darkness, plants are coaxed into early bloom.

Words Roger Fox







SUSPENDED SPLENDOUR

Hang poinsettias in an empty corner and you'll fill it with glorious colour. And, it will keep the plant leaves out of your pet's paws (as eating them can irritate their stomach). To get a pot Christmas-ready, coat it with a metallic spray paint, following the manufacturer's directions to ensure the best results. When the paint is dry, fill the pot with as many plants as space will allow for an abundant and cheerful display.



ARTISTRY IN BLOOM

Impressionistic in style, these pots were once clear vases. For a similar effect, clean inside and out with rubbing alcohol (from chemist). Let dry. Working with one colour at a time, use stencil brush to pounce multi-surface enamel craft paint, here and there, inside the vase. Do not cover entire interior. When dry, paint entire interior a different colour. Apply gold leaf to 'pot' exterior, following the manufacturer's directions.

TEXTURED TERRACOTTA

Chances are that you've got a couple of unused terracotta pots. Time to give them a glitzy new life! Seal first, then spray-paint your pot in your colour of choice (red, here). Let dry. Spray adhesive on one side of a piece of hessian, wrap around pot and press in place. Use light, even spritzes to spray-paint the hessian gold. Gently remove hessian to reveal a cross-hatch pattern. Let dry.



COAT THE BOX LID WITH GOLD LEAF ADHESIVE; LEAVE TILL IT IS CLEAR AND TACKY. COVER LID WITH GOLD LEAF; BRUSH EXCESS AWAY. SEAL WITH A GOLD LEAF SEALER.



PLANTER OF PURE JOY

For a personalised planter, découpage a papier-mâché lidded box with decorative paper in tones of your poinsettia's colour. Measure circumference of box plus 1cm, and height plus 5cm. Use these measurements to cut out paper. Lay box on its side, then coat a section with découpage medium and a sponge brush before placing paper on top (with 2.5cm overhang at top and bottom) and smoothing it in place. Continue gluing paper around box, noting end of paper should overlap starting edge. Snip into excess paper at corners of box; fold excess paper inside box and underneath box, and secure with découpage medium. Coat box with medium to seal it. Let dry.

THIS IS UPCYCLING AT
ITS BEST - FROM
GROCERY BAG TO
LUSTROUS GIFT BAG!



IT'S IN THE BAG

Do you have an abundance of paper grocery bags? This project ensures your bags are destined for more than the recycling bin! To make this bright pot cover, cut a 38 x 65cm piece out of the bag. Roll into a ball to crinkle it, open out and lay it flat. Apply pink paint (or colour to match poinsettias) to one side. When dry, rub gold lustre (try Rub 'n Buff). Hot glue 38 x 65cm piece of gold crepe paper to unpainted side. Form a tube, overlapping and gluing ends. For base of cover, at one open end of tube, fold opposite sides to the middle, overlap slightly and hot glue. Fold and glue remaining two 'points' at sides in the middle. Roll top of bag down to right side for a contrasting cuff.



YOUR PAPER
POINSETTIAS
ARE VERSATILE
- TREE DECOS,
GIFT TOPPERS
AND ALSO
HOME DÉCOR.



FILL A
NON-WORKING
FIREPLACE WITH
PRETTY BLOOMING
POINSETTIA GIFTS.

FOREVER FLOWERS

Crepe paper has the characteristics to mimic poinsettia bracts so well, you almost can't tell these tree decorations aren't the real thing.

Follow the instructions and templates to create your poinsettias and, once you get the hang of it, you'll be able to churn them out quickly. Then all you need is a dab of glass glitter in the centre. The tape-wrapped florist wire stems make it easy to attach them to your tree. At the end of the season, store in loosely wrapped tissue paper in a waterproof box, and they'll last for several years to come. ■

Instructions on page 180

ROUND & ROUND

Deck your door with any of these wreaths for the prettiest welcome! Be it frosty, beachy, woodland or gilded in its finery, each starts with a basic wreath and easy-to-craft embellishments

Choose a base
Each of these looks starts with a simple storebought faux greenery wreath.

Snow flower

Snip white ribbon into 8cm pieces with V-cut ends. Layer and glue three together, as here, top with a small dusted ornament. Hot glue to wreath.

Frosted flakes

If your ideal Christmas looks like the interior of a snow globe, this wreath is for you.

1 THE BIG IDEA

Guarantee a white Christmas with a snowy white wreath makeover.

2 THE BASE

Flock a plain wreath by spraying it with water, sprinkling on flocking powder and spritzing

again to set. Let dry, then coat with strong-hold hairspray. Like a '60s beehive, the snow won't budge.

3 SNOWFLAKES

Divide flat plastic snowflakes into two equal groups. Cut one

group into halves and hot glue a half to the front and back of each whole snowflake for a 3D effect. Coat snowflakes in spray adhesive and sprinkle with glass glitter.

Attach florist wire to snowflakes and insert in wreath.

4 SNOWBALLS

Cut wooden skewers into 8cm pieces. Using hot glue to secure, push skewers into foam balls to create picks. Brush foam balls of different sizes with PVA glue, then dip in glitter, faux snow or flocking powder.

**FOR SHOPPING DETAILS,
SEE OUR STOCKISTS PAGE**



Shimmer + shine!

Dress up magnolia leaves, pine cones and nuts in gilded festive finery.

1 THE BIG IDEA

Green, gold and gorgeous, this luxe wreath looks tricky but comes together quickly.

2 GATHER

You'll need an evergreen wreath (cut a few sprigs from it), gold spray paint, pine cones, walnuts, acorns, magnolia leaves (real, faux, or go for both, as here) and satin ribbon.

3 BUNDLE

Create groups of golden bouquets: start with one to three magnolia leaves and use florist wire to attach pine cones and nuts to the stems.

4 ARRANGE

Tuck in painted evergreen sprigs and attach the clusters to the bottom of the wreath with florist wire and hot glue, covering about half the wreath. There is such a thing as too much gold, so on the top half of the wreath, let the greenery take centre stage, placing pine cones and nuts in small groupings here and there.

5 MAKE A BOW

Glue together three loops of satin ribbon (small, medium, large), placed one on top of the other. Cinch the bundle in the middle with florist wire, then cover the wire with ribbon before hot-gluing your bow onto the bottom of the wreath, as shown (right).

Go for gold
Spray-paint the pine cones, walnuts, acorns, magnolia leaves and cut sprigs gold before assembling your wreath.

Make it stick
Hot glue a short wooden skewer in each cluster to make it easier to attach to the wreath.

Spray station

Place pine cones, nuts, leaves and pine sprigs in a disposable roasting pan and shake it with one hand while spray-painting with the other.



Rejoice, reuse
If you're using a live
wreath, snip off the
cardinals, nests and
faux branches to
save for next year!





Snowy sparkle

Give basic faux branches or picks an upgrade with glass glitter (available at craft stores or online).

Woodland wonder

Snow White had bird friends who helped her with her chores. Now you've got a few taking care of your Christmas décor!

1 THE BIG IDEA

Cardinals symbolise love and devotion. Welcome guests with a wreath brimming with them.

2 GATHER

You'll need faux nests, birdies, berry branches/picks (found online) and an evergreen wreath.

3 GLITTERISE

Create a festive, frosted look by coating berries and leaves with spray adhesive, then dipping in glass glitter. **Better tip:** Create a spray booth, 40 x 40cm or larger. Tape one side closed and keep one side open toward you. Spray and

sprinkle items inside the box to keep adhesive and glitter corralled.

4 ATTACH + ARRANGE

Once the glitter has set, cut the ends of the berry branches/picks with wire cutters. Twist florist wire onto the nests and birds. Attach all items to

the wreath, arranging the berries evenly throughout and placing the nests near the bottom.

5 TIE ON A BOW

Use wide red satin ribbon to tie a simple floppy bow to the wreath, as shown (left).



Coastal charm

Covered in gifts from the sea, this wreath sets a serene scene for any who come 'aboard'.

1 THE BIG IDEA

Subtly decorated on top and lushly covered on the bottom, this is what a wreath might look like if the tide washed over it, leaving lovely beachy treasures behind.

2 GO BLUE

A blue spruce wreath carries the ocean colour scheme. If need be, lightly spray a faux evergreen wreath blue.

3 GATHER

Think low-tide treasures - driftwood (it's really a grapewood branch from Amazon), tiny round matt ornaments similar to pearls, and seashells, sand dollars and starfish covered in green and blue glitter. Regular glue won't cut it. Brush strong, tacky craft glue onto items, then shake glitter on top.

4 ATTACH

Hot glue a wooden skewer onto the back of the pieces to help hold the items in place.

5 ARRANGE

Glue driftwood around bottom half to two thirds of the wreath. Add each shell, sticking skewers into wreath and securing with florist wire and hot glue. Attach large shells at the bottom, getting smaller and sparser towards the top. Finish by wiring on clusters of 'pearl' ornaments.

Watery colours

Let the aqua hues of sea glass inspire the sky and surf palette of your wreath.



*Year-round
colours*

After Christmas, snip off items and place them artfully in a glass bowl or hurricane vase as a centrepiece. ■

FOR SHOPPING DETAILS,
SEE OUR STOCKISTS PAGE



FOR A MOTTLED
EFFECT ON PLAIN
WRAPPING PAPER,
APPLY COLOUR-
OXIDISING SPRAY
IN TWO SHADES OF
GREEN, THEN MIST
WITH WATER.



THE JOY OF GIVING

You've found the ideal pressie. Now the real fun begins: wrapping it in a style that's undeniably you! Match your style to one of these one-of-a-kind DIY gift-wrap ideas for a present that is next-level pretty



STAMP OF APPROVAL

Use rubber stamps, colour stamp pads and oxidising sprays to make a watercolour effect on gift wrap. Let decorative pine branches, berry sprigs and pine cones double as unique stamping tools.



ARRANGE A SHELL NECKLACE
INTO AN INITIAL FOR A
PERSONALISED GIFT TAG.



SWATHE WITH
SHELLS, SAND
DOLLARS
AND STARFISH
TO CREATE
PRESENTS THAT
DOUBLE AS
DECORATIONS



UNDER THE SEA

Take your cues from the classic blue and white palette of beach houses. Tie burlap ribbon, sparkly tulle, or white rope around pale blue wrapping paper. Layer natural-looking materials – such as sand dollars, starfish and feathers (white plus pale brown ones for depth) – with shimmering or metallic ribbons for a look that is nautical yet glam. Tuck in glittery seaweed-like greenery and pile scalloped shells and starfish on top. Want to add extra glitz? Attach shiny ornaments or tie on strips of tulle for fluff. A little glue makes for a secure hold.



↑
CHECK YOUR FABRIC
STASH FOR LEFTOVER
LACE YOU CAN USE AS A
TRIM TO HELP MAKE
YOUR PRESSIES THE
PRETTIEST UNDER
YOUR TREE.

**FOR SHOPPING DETAILS,
SEE OUR STOCKISTS PAGE**

LOVELY AND LACY

Wrap your gift boxes with a sweet, soft pink wrapping paper and fancy ribbons. Tie a velvet ribbon into a bow, then glue another bow on top for added flair. On another gift, use a small ring as a centrepiece, tying variegated yarn in place of ribbon. Crocheted lace, or coordinating patterned paper along one side of a parcel will add variation. Tuck in or glue on feather plumes, pine sprigs, cotton balls, faux berries and/or dried or preserved flowers and glittered snowflakes. The results are almost too exquisite to open. ■

TO PERSONALISE A GIFT, HOT GLUE SNIPPETS OF FAUX FOLIAGE, PINE SPRIGS AND DRIED FLOWERS ONTO A METAL RING. WHEN THE GIFT WRAP COMES OFF, DANGLE THE WREATH FROM YOUR TREE.



CRAFTER'S GIFT GUIDE

Charming and fun pressie ideas to spark your loved ones' creativity

1 LEAFY IMPRINT Leafy Wreath Table Runner Block Printing Kit, \$124, theindianblockprintco.com. **2 MINI TERRARIUM** Glass Garden Embroidery Kit, \$45, hawthornhandmade.com. **3 BOHO LOVE KNOTS** Diomand Macramé Wall Hanging Shelf for plants, \$38.99, amazon.com.au. **4 24 DAYS OF ART** Born Advent Calendar, \$29.96, officeworks.com.au. **5 STARRY, STARRY NIGHTS** Stars & Snowflakes by Jennie Lantz and Cecilia Möller Kirchsteiger, \$32.99, murdochbooks.com. **6 FOR THE BOOK-LOVERS** Tabby and

Tweed green bookmark weaving loom kit with hand-dyed yarns, from \$58.20, etsy.com/au/shop/TabbyandTweed. **7 DECORATIVE PAPER CUTS** Fiskars Paper Edgers Mini Pinking & Scallop scissors 2/ pack set, \$14.39, officeworks.com.au. **8 SHAPE YOUR IMAGINATION** Craft Maker Pottery Kit, \$10, kmart.com.au. **9 EASY KNIT** Cocoon Vest 12 ply pattern (pictured in Brass), \$8, Wagtail Yarns 12 ply hanks 60% mohair/40% wool: \$27.50/100gms, \$15/50gms and \$9/25gms (see pattern for required yarn quantity), wagtailyarns.com.au. ■

GET DOTTY WITH DIAMOND DOTZ

Dazzling, colourful and a hit with the whole family, all you do is dot 'diamonds' onto the pre-printed canvas. It's so easy, you'll love it!

**FAB
KITS
TO BUY**



▲ **PINK GALAH & BANKSIAS**
ONLY \$59.99
Size 51 x 41cm
Code DD10.058

▶ **BOHEMIAN ELEPHANT**
ONLY \$59.99
Size 51 x 41cm
Code DD11.002



▼ **BLUE PEACOCK**
ONLY \$89.99
Size 60 x 84cm
CODE DD13.012



▲ **MYSTIC UNICORN**
ONLY \$59.99
Size 51 x 41cm
CODE DD11.004



▲ **KOALA & EUCALYPTUS BLOSSOM**
ONLY \$59.99
Size 51 x 41cm
Code DD10.055



▲ **KOOKABURRA & GUM BLOSSOM**
ONLY \$59.99
Size 51 x 41cm
Code DD10.056



▲ **WHITE COCKATOO & WARATAHS**
ONLY \$59.99
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INCLUDED IN YOUR KIT

- Colour-printed fabric
- Faceted beads, pre-sorted by shade
- Stylus
- Wax caddy
- Craft tray

Prices are approximate and a guide only. Due to the printing process, colour reproduction is a guide only.

**Better
Homes
and Gardens**

SHOP

TO BUY YOUR DIAMOND DOTZ KITS, VISIT BHGSHOP.COM.AU

Postage and handling additional. Delivery within Australia only. Offer available while stocks last. Prices are subject to change at any time.

Bring the allure of fir and eucalyptus greens, silver greys and snowy whites inside to create a refreshing palette you can enhance with sparkling golden accents

A GREEN

A living room featuring a sage green sofa with various patterned and textured pillows. A tall, thin lamp with a pleated shade stands behind the sofa. The wall is decorated with a botanical mural of green leaves. A window with blinds is visible on the left, and a radiator is below it. A small table with a vase of flowers and a gift box is next to the sofa. A tufted ottoman is in the foreground.

Blinds in
Christopher
Farr Cloth
Japura in Green,
ascraft.com.au.
For wall mural
details, see
buffet and
hutch overleaf.

1 LAYER YOUR COLOUR

Avoid a single shade of green, as you run the risk of your living room looking flat. Pair a chalky sage green paint with a botanical wallpaper to create a restful space with depth and interest. Bolster the feel with rich forest and leaf greens for your sofa and cushions.

SENSATION



2



3



4

2 DESIGNS ON A HUTCH

Your buffet and hutch will become a striking focal point when lined with wallpaper and arranged with glassware and a twinkling garland! Choose a colour from your wallpaper to paint the wall behind the unit for a coordinating backdrop. And get creative by wrapping string lights around a leafy brass garland. Romo designer wallcovering Aula in Hummingbird, \$630/roll, nattypolly.com.au.

3 WRAPPED WITH LOVE

Enhance your gift-wrapping with beautiful gold satin and organza ribbons (40 to 50mm wide) and plush green velvet ribbons (9 to 22mm wide). Embellish with vintage or amber glass baubles and silvery eucalyptus foliage for a seasonal touch. Ribbons, spotlightstores.com.

4 SET THE SCENE

For a stylish take-home gift, wrap small handmade soaps in pretty paper to suit your Christmas palette. Finish off your place settings with soft preserved or artificial moss to continue your nature-indoors theme. For moss, visit koch.com.au and spotlightstores.com.

“EVOKE A SENSE OF NATURE
INDOORS WITH REAL AND
FAUX FOLIAGE”

5 WELCOME HOME

Display gifts in your entry to create an inviting ambience and extend a warm, unspoken welcome to your guests. A mini tree with charming all-white ornaments and a gorgeous staircase swag with add-on baubles completes the festive setting. ■

Folia wall mural in
Teal, roll size 2.1W x
3.25mH, \$649 per roll,
wallpaperdirect.com/au.

Photography Future Publishing. Prices are approximate and a guide only.



1 THE MIDAS TOUCH
Gather gold and brass trays to create groupings of Christmas decorations, such as candles and glittering tabletop trees. Even if mismatched, the simple action of grouping gives cohesion, but do vary heights to create rhythm and movement.

SPARKLE & SHINE

Team a smart, contemporary palette of black and white with shimmering gold and silver metallics for a swoon-worthy air of sophistication!



2 PUTTING ON THE RITZ

Having decided on your colour scheme, ensure there are pops of festive cheer in every room, not just on the tree. Try adding gold picks to a simple garland to add volume and fullness. A bowl of baubles can bring glitz to tables!

Mono magic

A decorative combo of monochromatic neutrals is timeless and suits any style of home. Mix silvery greys and classic marble patterns to soften the contrast between black and white. Touches of luxe gold and silver objects and ornaments will raise the bar, adding sophisticated opulence.

For this look to really succeed, look for crisp lines and geo patterns.

3 GO FOR DRAMA

Black may not seem like the most festive of backdrops but it can look dramatic, chic and contemporary. Here, white orchids pair with grey marble, elegantly tapered candles, and pops of gold, literally!

Play on texture

For this upmarket, luxurious take on monochrome, texture is key. Juxtapose matt finishes with gloss, say matt or low-sheen walls with gloss furniture and polished floors. Consider too, the look and feel of your upholstery and soft furnishings. Velvet always hits the spot, bouclé offers a modern edge, while leather adds gravitas.

Shine on

Dress your sideboard, hall, console and dining tables, and especially your evergreen tree, be it living or faux, with sparkling decorations in a mix of sleek metallic finishes. Gold is an obvious choice for this glam look, but you can crank it up a notch by combining it with other metallics. Think silver, pewter, copper and bronze to create extra depth and interest.

Look at me

Invest in a statement piece - a dining table, sideboard or sofa - when choosing your furniture, particularly as it's likely to see you through years of decorative styles as trends come and go. Elegant, clean lines and quality materials will stand the test of time.





4 BETWEEN THE LINES

Put the pizzazz in your dining space by creating a grid-style wall effect with painted vertical stripes in graphite and white, as here.

Wall-to-wall floating shelves in a rich dark stain are the icing on the cake.



5 COCKTAIL HOUR

Set up a dresser as a smart drinks station with bar and glassware in the one place. For a similar look, paint your cabinet a matt black with a warm white interior. Accessorise with grey marble serving trays and gold bar tools.

**FOR SHOPPING DETAILS,
SEE OUR STOCKISTS PAGE**

6 FAN CLUB

Play with scale and height to create a fabulous floor-to-ceiling display of paper fans in varying sizes and colours, or stick with mono and metallic tones, as here. Party fan kits are available from party shops. ■

←
WOW YOUR GUESTS WITH A DRAMATIC BACKDROP FOR YOUR PARTY CELEBRATION!

Champagne



better decorating

[THE LATEST PRODUCTS AND HOME INTERIOR TRENDS]



ROCK IT

Swing into relaxation mode with this sturdy outdoor chair. The seat even folds flat for easy storage in winter. Marquee Sorento Foldable Hanging Egg Chair, \$329, bunnings.com.au.

SO BREEZY

Kick back and enjoy summer in stylish comfort. You'll love the robust eucalyptus frame and moss-toned rope weave detail of the Monument outdoor range: 3-seater sofa, \$1499, 4-seater sofa, \$1699, armchairs, \$799 each, and coffee table, \$599, domayne.com.au.

Eco treasure!

Are you on the hunt for beautiful furniture that embodies the principles of sustainability? Look no further! This character-filled piece celebrates the use of recycled materials - think metal, timber and hardware - while also offering storage and display opportunities. Henry Suitcase Chest, \$599, mcphails.com.au.



Light up!

Add a warm glow to rooms with this elegant lamp featuring a natural stone base, shade and brass detail. Made By Mayfair Rhodes 1 Light Table Lamp in Travertine, \$499, beaconlighting.com.au.



FEEL THE JOY

From enchanting trees and decos to beautiful tableware and gifts for your fam and friends, head out to your merry one-stop-shop for all things Christmas. For everything from classic to fun novelty pieces, visit bedbathntable.com.au.

Prices are approximate and a guide only.



DECORATOR'S GIFT GUIDE

Thrill the most ardent decorator in your life with this selection of pressies!

1 DESIGN SECRETS Made for Living by Amber Lewis, Cat Chen, \$69.99, amazon.com.au. **2 MAKE SCENTS** Moss St. Fig & Pear Ceramic Candle 360g, \$49.95, mossfragnances.com. **3 POST IT** Medium Mail Box in Soft Aqua, \$99, carnivalhomewares.com.au. **4 SERVE UP** Palm Leaf mango wood bowl/server set, \$115, sanctuarystudio.com.au. **5 EYE-CATCHING!** Jonathan Adler Le Wink coaster set, \$169, davidjones.com. **6 ARTY WARES** Rest Relax jug, \$73.95, Be Different pedestal bowl, \$99.95,

robertgordonaustralia.com. **7 BAG IT** Coral Velvet Santa Sack, \$69, kipandco.com.au. **8 GLASS ART** Oiva Toikka Mini Glass Birds, \$109 set/3, iittala.com.au. **9 WELCOME** Banksia Olive Doormat, \$29.95, madraslink.com. **10 WOODY WONDER** Wood decorations, \$2 each, kmart.com.au. **11 STOCKING FILLERS** Champagne & Red Raspberry Mini Room Spray, \$14.95, and Small Candle Bon Bon, \$24.95, peppermintgrovefragnances.com. **12 CUSHY** Ikat Multi lumbar and square cushions, \$52 each, madraslink.com. ■

SIX
PRIZES
TO BE WON

Better
Homes
and Gardens.

Christmas



1 CRICUT JOY XTRA BUNDLE, \$429 This bundle of Joy is set to make your Christmas dreams 'Xtra' special this year! Organise, personalise and customise to your heart's content. You can create truly unique custom cards, gift tags, T-shirts, full-colour stickers and more at a moment's notice.

2 EMBER SMART MUG 2, \$170 Designed for your home or office, the Ember Mug 2 with charging coaster does more than keep your coffee hot. This smart mug lets you set an exact drinking temperature, so your coffee is never too hot, or too cold.

3 TINECO FLOOR ONE S5 COMBO, \$849 The FLOOR ONE S5 Combo wet and dry vacuum is a multifunctional two-in-one appliance - a floor washer and hand vacuum in a single unit. From hardwood to tiles, it's the perfect cleaning companion for a wide range of surfaces.

4 VITAMIX ASCENT SERIES A2300I, \$1099 This is the gift that truly keeps on giving! Making delicious, healthy, wholefood recipes has never been easier with the Vitamix Ascent 2300i high-performance blender.

Better Homes and Gardens is giving away six great products and you have the chance to win one of these prizes for yourself or to surprise a loved one!

Giveaway



HOW TO ENTER

To enter, scan the QR code or visit bhg.com.au/christmasgiveaways and simply tell us in 25 words or less which of these products you'd like to win and why.



5 ECOVACS WINBOT W1 PRO WINDOW CLEANING ROBOT, \$799

Sit back, relax and enjoy the view. You'll save time and energy with the WINBOT W1 PRO window cleaning robot, which suctions onto the window, shower screen and other glass surfaces as it intelligently maps and cleans its way around it.

6 WILTSHIRE DIAMOND WHITE 12-PIECE DINNER SET AND BAKEWARE PACK, \$189

Serve up festive dishes and make your

tablescape the envy of all with the chic Diamond White 12-piece set (valued at \$99). The glossy finish and embossed texture make it ideal for special occasions or to elevate the everyday. And, say "ho ho ho" to the Wiltshire Rose Gold SmartStack Bakeware 7-piece set (valued at \$90)! From Christmas baking and beyond, this space-saving bakeware set is sure to bring on all the Christmas cheer! ■

Conditions apply, see bhg.com.au/christmasgiveaways. Commences 10th November, 2023. Ends 15th December, 2023. AU residents 18+. Max 1 entry per person. Total prize pool \$3535. The Promoter is Are Media Pty Limited (ABN 18 053 273 545) of 54 Park Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000. This is a game of skill.

FAST ED'S KITCHEN

Fill your home with the delicious aroma of spiced fruity chutney and give your Sunday roast a scrummy upgrade!

CHRISTMAS STONE FRUIT CHUTNEY

Transform in-season stone fruit into a flavour-packed condiment ready to add to cheese platters, sandwiches or even roast dinner!

Recipe on page 78



ED HALMAGYI

Join me as I show you how to give your meals and desserts a seasonal makeover on *BHG TV*, Fridays at 7pm on Channel 7. (Apologies, may be subject to change.)

Go to bhg.com.au for more food tips and tricks.

**ROAST PORK
SHOULDER WITH SPICY
PUMPKIN SAUCE AND
BROWN SUGAR VINEGAR**

Take classic roast pork to new levels with a zippy vinegar sidekick, flavourful sauce and, of course, there's also the crackling - yum!

Recipe on page 78





CHRISTMAS STONE FRUIT CHUTNEY

Preparation time 25 mins

Cooking time 1½ hours

Makes 3½ kg (7 jars)

3kg stone fruit, peeled (we used a mixture of peaches and nectarines)
3 red onions, diced
2 cups raw sugar
8cm piece ginger, finely grated
4cm piece turmeric, finely grated
2 long red chillies, deseeded and very finely chopped
1 Tbsp curry powder
2 tsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp ground cloves
2 tsp fine salt
2 cups apple cider vinegar
2 tsp yellow mustard seeds
1kg jam-setting sugar

STEP 1 Chop stone fruit into ½cm dice. Combine 2kg of the chopped fruit in a large saucepan with 2 of the onions, sugar, ginger, turmeric, chilli, curry powder, cinnamon, cloves, salt and vinegar. Cook on medium heat and bring to a simmer. Simmer, uncovered for 45 minutes, stirring regularly.

STEP 2 Meanwhile, in a small frying pan on low heat, cook mustard seeds for 4-5 minutes until toasted. Transfer to a mortar and pestle, and crack lightly. Add to simmering fruit mixture. Once mixture has thickened, add jam-setting sugar, increase heat to high and boil rapidly for 10 minutes. Fold in remaining stone fruit and onion.

STEP 3 Spoon into jars while hot, place a square of baking paper over top, then fit lid tightly. Put a tea towel in base of a saucepan of boiling water that covers jars by at least 3cm, then place jars in it. Simmer on low for 30 minutes to preserve, then carefully remove and ensure lids are tight. Put jars upside down on a wire rack and allow to cool completely without moving. Store in a cool, dark place for up to 3 months.



ROAST PORK SHOULDER WITH SPICY PUMPKIN SAUCE AND BROWN SUGAR VINEGAR

Preparation time 10 mins

Cooking time 3 hours 10 mins

Serves 6-8

2kg boneless pork shoulder
2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
Sea-salt flakes and freshly ground black pepper, to season
1kg Kent pumpkin, peeled, chopped
100g caster sugar
1 tsp sesame oil
1 tsp ground turmeric
1 tsp smoked paprika
1 cup malt vinegar
¼ cup brown sugar
1 cinnamon stick
2 star anise
4 cloves
2 tsp arrowroot
Steamed green vegetables, to serve

STEP 1 Preheat oven to 220°C fan-forced (240°C conventional). Remove pork from netting. Use a sharp knife to score lines in skin. Roll up again, secure with kitchen string or metal skewers. Drizzle with oil. Season with salt.

STEP 2 Put pork on a small rack in a roasting tray and roast for 20 minutes. Reduce heat to 160°C fan-forced (180°C conventional) and roast for 2½ hours. Increase heat to 220°C fan-forced (240°C conventional) roast for 20 minutes. Set aside to rest for 15 minutes.

STEP 3 Meanwhile, steam pumpkin until tender. Press through sieve, discard solids, combine with caster sugar, sesame oil, turmeric and paprika in a saucepan on medium heat. Cook for 10 minutes, stirring, until thickened. Season.

STEP 4 Combine vinegar, brown sugar, cinnamon, star anise and cloves in a saucepan on medium heat, simmer for 10 minutes. Strain. Return to saucepan. Mix arrowroot with 1 tablespoon of water, whisk into vinegar mixture, simmer until thickened. Carve pork and serve with pumpkin sauce, vinegar and vegetables. ■

TURN IT ON... MOSQUITOES GONE



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COOKING

Create beautiful bite-sized party starters and a moreish midweek fish grill

WITH KAREN



PRAWN COCKTAIL SLIDERS

These mini burgers make the most of summery seafood, fresh lettuce and creamy avo! Add an easy-as-homemade tangy sauce and you'll have a sure-fire crowd-pleaser!

Recipe on page 82



KAREN MARTINI

Join me as I show you how to make delicious dishes on *BHG TV*, Fridays at 7pm on Channel 7.

(Apologies, may be subject to change.)

Go to bhg.com.au for more food tips and tricks.

SEEN ON BHG TV
FRIDAYS 7.00 

**MISO FISH WITH
DAIKON AND
FRIED GINGER**

Pair crispy marinated fish with a low-fuss, big-flavour crunchy veg salad and a yuzu dressing that adds a zesty citrus punch!
Recipe on page 82





PRAWN COCKTAIL SLIDERS

Preparation time 40 mins

Cooking time 10 mins

Makes 10

- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 1 Tbsp tomato sauce
- 2 tsp sriracha sauce
- Juice of 1½ limes
- 2 Tbsp pickled jalapeños, finely chopped
- ¾ bunch chives, finely sliced
- Sea-salt flakes and freshly ground black pepper, to season
- 10 small brioche buns
- Butter lettuce, sliced avocado and lime wedges, to serve

PRAWN AND FISH PATTIES

- 300g raw prawn meat (approx. 12 large prawns), very finely sliced
- 5 green onions, white part only, very finely sliced
- 20g ginger, finely grated
- 1 Tbsp light soy sauce
- 1 Tbsp white rice vinegar
- 450g flathead or ling fillets, bones and skin removed, diced
- ½ tsp sesame oil
- 2 tsp salt flakes
- 1 Tbsp caster sugar
- 2 free-range egg whites, plus 1 extra, whisked
- 100ml cream, chilled
- ¼ cup white sesame seeds
- ¼ cup vegetable oil

STEP 1 To make sauce, mix mayonnaise, tomato sauce, sriracha and lime juice together. Stir through jalapeños and chives. Season and refrigerate until needed.

STEP 2 To make Prawn and fish patties, combine sliced prawn meat,

green onion, ginger, soy and rice vinegar in a non-metallic bowl. Cover. Refrigerate until needed.

STEP 3 Add diced fish to a chilled food processor bowl. Pulse to a soft mince and add sesame oil, salt and sugar. Then add egg whites and blitz to combine well. Add chilled cream and puree to make a smooth mousse. Transfer mixture to a large bowl, then fold in marinated prawn mixture.

STEP 4 Roll ¼ cupfuls of mixture into balls. Dip each patty into whisked extra egg white, then coat in white sesame seeds and press to flatten. Refrigerate for 15 minutes to firm slightly. When ready to cook, heat oil in a frying pan on medium heat. Cook patties in batches for about 3 minutes on each side or until cooked through.

STEP 5 Top buns with sauce, lettuce, avocado, prawn patties, more sauce and bun tops. Serve with lime wedges.



MISO FISH WITH DAIKON AND FRIED GINGER

Preparation time 20 mins plus

2 hours marinating

Cooking time 15 mins

Serves 4

- 120g white miso paste
- 3 Tbsp mirin
- 2 Tbsp sake
- 1 Tbsp sesame oil
- 4 x 200g fish fillets (such as blue-eye), skin on, bones removed
- 1 bunch asparagus, sliced on an angle
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil, plus extra, for shallow frying
- 150g sugar snap peas, trimmed and halved lengthways

- 300g daikon, peeled and finely julienned
- 8cm piece ginger, peeled and julienned
- 1½ Tbsp white sesame seeds, lightly toasted
- ½ sheet roasted nori, finely snipped

YUZU DRESSING

- ¼ cup light soy sauce
- ¼ cup yuzu juice
- ½ tsp ground white pepper
- 100ml extra virgin olive oil
- 1½ tsp caster sugar

STEP 1 Combine miso, mirin, sake and sesame oil in a bowl. Rub over fish in a non-metallic dish. Refrigerate, covered, for at least 2 hours.

STEP 2 For the Yuzu dressing, combine all ingredients in a bowl and set aside.

STEP 3 Toss asparagus in vegetable oil and cook on high heat in a frypan for 1-2 minutes, tossing, until lightly coloured. Transfer asparagus to a bowl and toss with sugar snaps, daikon and yuzu dressing.

STEP 4 Heat 3cm of extra oil in a large frypan on medium heat. Fry ginger until lightly golden, remove from oil, transfer to a plate lined with paper towel (ginger will crisp as it cools).

STEP 5 Preheat oven grill on high. Wipe excess marinade off fish with paper towel and scatter fish with sesame seeds.

STEP 6 Put fish on a foil-lined baking tray, skin side up. Grill for 5 to 6 minutes until skin is well-coloured. Remove tray from oven and rest fish for 2 minutes (it will continue to cook through while resting).

STEP 7 Serve fish with asparagus salad, topped with fried ginger and nori. ■

CHRISTMAS

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Photography Will Horner. Prices are approximate and a guide only.

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Here's cheers!

Toast the festive season in style with Stanley Rogers' Tamar Collection. Featuring tumblers, white and red wine glasses, and ultra-chic champagne coupes, turn your seasonal soirées into glam affairs! From \$59.95-\$69.95 set/6, stanleyrogers.com.au.



BAKE-OFF

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Herald the holiday season with a flourish by growing a spectacular fanfare of Christmas lilies!

Forget the holly and mistletoe that our northern cousins love so much, the ideal plants for a Christmas Down Under are Christmas lilies. Whether you fancy hippeastrums with their long naked stems, or royal lilies with their feathery foliage, both explode with big, bold flowers in your garden or pots just in time for the big day, and both linger around to trumpet in the new year!

FESTIVE FLOWERS



**1 RED POWER AND
PASSION**

Hippeastrum flower colours range from white to green-yellow to red and orange, but if you chose red and team them up with the creamy white flowers of royal lilies, you've got beautiful, natural festive banners!

GROWING HIPPEASTRUMS (H. sp.)

If you are looking for the wow factor you can't go past these bloomers!



You can get up to four trumpets on each stem.



2 SUCH A SHOW-OFF!

The big, bright trumpet flowers say, "Look at me, look at me!" These extroverts thrive in pots - you can move them around indoors and out to be the centrepiece of your party.

3 MAKE IT ROOMY

If planting in a pot, cut stems close to the bulb after flowering has finished, take the bulb out of the pot - with its leaves - and plant it into your garden or a larger pot.

CLIMATE

Cool, temperate or hot climates with dry summers and wet winters.

ASPECT

Full sun, part shade.

SOIL

Well-drained.

WATER

Once a week, even in dry periods, as over-watering will cause stem rot and rust.

FOOD

When shoots appear, feed every two-three weeks with liquid plant food.

SIZE

20cm wide x 40-60cm high.

PLANTING

They come as a bulb which you plant in autumn into your garden, or in spring if in a pot. Leave the top third of each bulb protruding above the soil. Space bulbs 30cm apart as flowers bruise easily.

FLOWERING

Flowering occurs between December and March.



4 WHAT A BLAST!

Hippeastrum stems are hollow, so break easily when there's a breeze.

Plant them next to a protective wall or fence. If you cut them for an indoor display, place the stems directly into the vase as floral foam will damage them.

GROWING ROYAL LILIES (LILIUM REGALE)

A summer stunner, these have beauty and elegance fit for their name



CLIMATE

Cool to subtropical, not frost-hardy.

ASPECT

Full sun, part shade.

SOIL

Rich, well-drained, with slightly acid pH.

WATER

Keep soil moist during growing season.

FOOD

Apply liquid fertiliser in autumn and summer.

SIZE

45cm wide x 1m high.

PLANTING

They come as a bulb that needs to be planted about 15cm to 20cm deep in winter. Tilt them slightly on their side as this helps prevent water collecting in the scales of the bulb which can lead to rot. Because they grow tall, plant them towards the rear of your garden border. You can leave bulbs undisturbed throughout the year. ■

5 SUNNY DISPOSITION

Royal lilies demand a hot, sunny summer. If they're happy in your chosen spot, they'll clump up so you can divide them in spring after a couple of years to get more bang for your buck!

6 OUT OF THE BOX!

The blooms of the royal lily are long-lasting when cut for indoors. Add to the Christmas flavour with cypress foliage and fill out with artificial berries.

Royal lilies have an intense, sweet fragrance, especially in the evening.





7 A ROYAL RIOT
Make royal lilies the centre of your garden bed surrounded by loyal courtiers, such as the lean, rusty foxglove, sweet flowering yarrow (*Achillea* sp.), scabiosa, scarlet salvia and thistle-like sea holly.

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT COUNT

Show your friends and family you care by giving them homemade green-thumb gifts

Give the gift that not only keeps on giving, but also keeps on growing! Recycle the cardboard cores of toilet rolls into biodegradable seedling grow pots for a lovely pressie that is good for the environment and your wallet! Or, pop a tillandsia into a hanging tealight candle holder as a pretty offering for your giftee (or gift it to yourself!) to hang from the Christmas tree along with other favourite ornaments.

1 ONCE IN A LIFETIME
A mature tillandsia – or air plant – will flower just once with striking blooms that reflect its membership of the bromeliad family.

2 BLUSHING BEAUTIES

As tillandsias grow and mature, their leaves can change from green to bright red - this is perfectly normal and indicates they're either about to bloom, or they're sufficiently hydrated and have been exposed to sunlight.



WHAT'S A TILLANDSIA?

These are also known as air plants because they don't need soil to grow – the soil, or sand, is just used to support them. They originate from the humid tropical regions of Central America where they grow on other plants, drawing their nutrients and moisture from the air. You can imitate their origins by growing them on clean driftwood or logs, and place them where they get indirect sunlight. If your atmosphere is relatively dry, spray with water every week.



WIRE TWISTED INTO A COIL IS ANOTHER CREATIVE WAY TO HOLD AND DISPLAY YOUR TILLANDSIAS!



TILLANDSIA ORNAMENTS

Gather your supplies

Hanging tealight candle holders; coloured sand; string or twine; small tillandsias; scissors.

Here's how

Pour sand into candle holder to depth of about 3cm, then position your tillandsia into the sand. Cut twine to length suitable for hanging, thread through loop, tie knot at top of twine, then hang!

You can also use a small, round terrarium that has a loop at the top.

MOUNT TILLANDSIAS ON CLEAN DRIFTWOOD WITH WIRE (NOT COPPER) OR GLUE.



CARDBOARD EGG CARTONS ARE GREAT FOR SEEDLINGS, TOO.

TOILET ROLL PLANTERS

Plants suffer transplant shock when moved from a container to a garden bed. Grow your infant plants in a biodegradable container so you can put both plant and container in the garden, preserving your plant's health.

Gather your supplies

- Toilet roll cardboard cores
- Seeds or seedlings of your choice
- Seed-raising mix or potting mix
- Gift paper or hessian

You'll also need

Scissors; small trowel or large spoon; old newspaper or paper towel; sticky tape or twine

mix (for seeds) or potting mix (for seedlings).

STEP 4 Sow seeds according to seed packet instructions. For seedlings, create a hole in the mix big enough to take roots, plant seedlings, then gently press back mix so seedling is snug.

STEP 5 Wrap planters with gift paper or, for a more organic look, hessian, and keep it together with tape or twine. ■

Here's how

STEP 1 Use scissors to cut 4 slits in the end of the toilet roll core.

STEP 2 Fold flaps in so they overlap and form the base.

STEP 3 Set base on newspaper or paper towel to keep your bench clean, then carefully fill the toilet roll with damp seed-raising



FOR PROJECT SUPPLIES, SEE OUR STOCKISTS PAGE



MELISSA KING

Join me as I show how to make these clever gifts on *BHG TV* on Friday, 24 November at 7pm on Channel 7.

(Apologies, may be subject to change.)

Go to bhg.com.au for more garden tips and tricks.

3 GET DECORATING

Tie a couple of tillandsias together with twine so they look like a bauble to hang on your Christmas tree. Or, make a host of them to hang from your indoor ceilings or outdoor pergola rafters! ■

BRINGING UP

From seeds, to seedlings, to a vegie patch filled with sweet, tasty produce – all it takes is love and attention

BABIES



You've sown your seeds, watered them, kept them sheltered, then two tiny leaves emerge from the deep. These are called cotyledons, or seed leaves, and in no way resemble the mature plant's leaf shape. They've taken up energy stored in the seed to grow and their function is to photosynthesize and return energy to the seed so roots grow and 'true' leaves can form. Once this happens, the cotyledons drop off and you have a seedling. Your journey to filling your pantry with fresh vegies now begins.




1 ALL GROWN UP
Beans, pumpkins, zucchini and chard all flourish when grown from seed – they don't do their best when transplanted.


RAISING YOUR SEEDLINGS

Seedlings need their growing mix to be consistently moist, but not soggy, as this can encourage pests or fungal attacks. The best way is to water from below so you don't damage the delicate seedlings – put your seedling cells or jiffy pots into a large tray and fill with enough water to cover the holes in the bottom of the pots so the water will be absorbed up.

If you covered your cells or pots with a

clear lid or cling wrap after you sowed the seeds, now is the time to give them ventilation. Prop up one side of the lid by about 3cm or poke a few holes in the cling wrap. Lift the lid a little more, or poke more holes in the cling wrap every couple of days until the lid is entirely open and the cling wrap is looking tatty, then remove it altogether. You need to check daily that the growing mix is still moist.

 **Once the true leaves appear** and if you have several seedlings in a cell, you need to thin out the strugglers, as they are all competing for water and nutrients.

 **Start feeding them liquid fertiliser** at the strength recommended on the label. Use natural organic fertiliser as synthetic chemicals can burn seedlings.

When seedlings have developed their second set of true leaves,

move them into indirect sunlight in a spot sheltered from wind and rain to harden them up. Put them into direct sunlight for a few hours, then increase the sun dosage each day thereafter. This new environment means you need to check the moisture more frequently as the growing mix will dry out more quickly.

Once the seedlings are twice as tall as the

cell or pot, they need to be transplanted to a bigger home – either a large pot or a garden bed. Enrich your soil with organic matter, digging it in to create air cavities. Create a hole with a trowel or dibber and, if you're growing in a jiffy pot, just put seedling and pot together in their new home. If not, ever so gently remove seedlings from cell, without pulling on the stem, and plant into the bed. Plants suffer transplant shock when they're moved and seedlings are very vulnerable.

Water the soil – not the seedlings.

Cover seedlings with netting or cloches as seedlings are much sought after by possums as delicacies. Importantly, follow growing instructions on the seed packets. ■



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PAGE 104 AND AT
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Avoid the heat
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transplanting
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THEM IN THEIR
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NEW HOME.

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PLUS BONUS

50 Plant Markers; 2 Planter Tools; Pair of Gloves



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- **Peat Pot Starter Set:** 39 Round Peat Pots 76.2mm;
5 Seedling Trays 220 x 85mm;
3 Black Drip Trays 230 x 370 x 55mm

PLUS BONUS

50 Plant Markers; 2 Planter Tools; Pair of Gloves



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BUNNINGS
warehouse





Jenny Dillon
Garden Editor

In your GARDEN

Make this Christmas a summer garden winner



GO FESTIVE

- Make a front door wreath with flowers from your garden, your local florist, buy artificial ones, or a mix of all three.
- Light garden pathways with twinkling solar lights and display a group of grazing reindeer at the far end.
- Share the Christmas spirit and adorn your letterbox with a big red bow and tinsel.
- Set up an outdoor Chrissie tree and decorate it with LED fairy lights.
- Plant colourful annuals such as petunias and calibrachos in an old wheelbarrow, first ensuring that it has plenty of drainage holes.

GO GREEN

Rather than pulling out your tired artificial tree this festive season, go green instead, with a real, living Christmas tree.

- Practically any potted tree can be used, but among the best are the Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), the conical dwarf white spruce (*Picea glauca* 'Conica') and the silver-blue Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) – or for an Aussie touch, the Wollemi pine.
- Choose a smallish specimen, decorate its pot in a Christmas theme, water occasionally and it's good to remain indoors for several days. You can even keep it in its pot outdoors for a few follow-up Christmases before planting it in the garden.



BE CREATIVE

Christmas Day comes but once a year, so you can afford to be creative indoors. Design a table centrepiece of silver or gold spray-painted pine cones, or go for a bush-themed table setting of gum leaves, gumnuts and a fire engine red grevillea bloom. Make place setting name tags using crisp white card and pressed flowers, and fill vases with brilliantly coloured red native bottlebrush, hibiscus or poinsettia.





“ Remember that children, marriages and flower gardens reflect the kind of care they get ”

H. JACKSON BROWN JR., AMERICAN AUTHOR

»» MIX PROTEAS WITH AUSSIE GUMNUTS AND GUM LEAVES.



PRIMA DONNA

A CRIMSON BEAUTY

The spectacular NSW waratah (*Telopea speciosissima*), which is the state's floral emblem, has a temperamental image. This crimson beauty is a fussy bloomer, sometimes in the wild not flowering more than once or twice in five years. Thankfully, newer domesticated strains are more reliable if given morning sun and free-draining though slightly moist, sandy soil. Some growers add bush litter believing it supplies beneficial organisms to the plant.



STEPOVERS ARE RIGHT AT HOME IN AN ORNAMENTAL GARDEN.

GARDEN SECRETS

How to grow an easy stepover apple tree

1

STEPPING OUT

You can step over these knee-high, space-saving apple trees. They're both visually stunning and highly practical - but they need training.

2

T-SHAPE

Buy ready-grafted stepover trees and grow espalier-style in a T shape along a wire 45cm high, supported on stakes 1.5m apart. Eliminate lower foliage.

3

GROWING ARMS

Cut off stem's top section just below wire, leaving healthy buds near top. Encourage two strongest upper shoots to form "arms" and attach with soft ties.



APPLES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS.

GARDENING ADVICE

◆ **CUT BACK** herbs that have run to seed. ◆ **TOP UP** mulch on garden beds and in pots. ◆ **TRIM** repeat-flowering roses that have already bloomed to encourage an autumn show. ◆ **NET** fruit trees to deter birds, possums, rabbits, rodents

and fruit-eating pets. ◆ **LIFT** mower blades to avoid scalping summer lawns. ◆ **PREPARE** for the extra hot days ahead by making shade cloth teepees that you can use to protect your vulnerable plants. ■

better gardening

[THE LATEST NEWS AND TRENDS]



CRIMSON JOY

With double crimson blooms and a wonderful fragrance, Dianthus 'Rebekah' is striking in a vase. Dry tolerant once established, it is happy in sun/part shade and needs no pruning. Deadheading encourages repeat flowering. Expect it to grow to 30cm high and 60cm wide. From Plants Management Australia, pma.com.au.

POT LUCK

TABLE TOPPER

Add zing to your table with a festive pot engraved with the merry message of your choice. This Queen of Green pot comes in three sizes and various colours, from \$95-\$115, (plants are an additional cost), queenofgreen.com.au.



MASTERCLASS

Life in design

Paul Bangay is one of Australia's most renowned landscape designers, having spent nearly 40 years creating beautiful gardens around the world. His lavish memoir, **Paul Bangay: A life in garden design** (Thames & Hudson, \$79.99), reveals the evolution of his design style and is filled with imagery from his inspirations to his creations.



WHAT'S ON?

Green thumbs only

Garden celebrities, talks, music, local growers and a plethora of plants for sale make Perth a mecca for all things green thumb at summer's Kalamunda Garden Festival, Sunday, December 3, from 10am-3pm in Stirk Park. Staged seasonally, tickets are \$14 online, or \$16 at the gate (concessions are available), under 16s free. For more information, kalamundagardenfestival.com.au.



Prices are approximate and a guide only.

Coastal Harmony

In the tranquil embrace of the coastal shore, harmony takes on a new range of colour. The soft powdery blues of the endless sky blend in effortlessly with the earthy sand tones, mirroring the delicate balance of nature. It's all about rediscovering the carefree elegance with an artisan craftsmanship that celebrate the handmade.

Coastal Harmony embodies a profound connection to the land and sea, answering the call for contemporary authenticity with a grounded, earthy aesthetic; orchestrating a sense of calm.

Connection, rejuvenation, and meditation unite, inviting you to bask in the peaceful harmony of the enduring bond between humanity and nature.





1. Sand Porcelain Paver 600 x 600 x 20mm, 600 x 400 x 20mm | 2. Natural Black Pebbles 20kg, 30-50mm | 3. White Harper Egg Pot 28cm, 31cm, 37cm, 44cm, 54cm | 4. Ocean Blue Corrugated Metal Edging 75mm x 10m, 150mm x 6m, 250mm x 3.2m

moon guide

Use the phases of the moon to your advantage by following Milton Black's planting guide

| DECEMBER 2023 | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
| | | | | | 1 Moon in Cancer | 2 Moon enters Leo 1:50pm |
| 3 | 4 Moon enters Virgo 1:50pm | 5 Last Quarter Moon 3:49pm | 6 | 7 Moon enters Libra 2:34am | 8 | 9 Moon enters Scorpio 1:34pm |
| 10 | 11 Moon enters Sagittarius 9:10pm | 12 | 13 New Moon in Sagittarius 9:23am | 14 Moon enters Capricorn 1:31am | 15 | 16 Moon enters Aquarius 3:55am |
| 17 | 18 Moon enters Pisces 5:58am | 19 | 20 First Quarter Moon 4:39am Moon enters Aries 8:46am | 21 | 22 Moon enters Taurus 12:50pm | 23 |
| 24 Moon enters Gemini 6:14pm | 25 | 26 | 27 Moon enters Cancer 1:15am Full Moon 10:33am | 28 | 29 Moon enters Leo 10:23am | 30 |
| 31 Moon enters Virgo 9:53pm | | | | | | |

 You must plant all **ABOVE**-ground crops during the moon's **WAXING** cycle.
 You must plant all **BELOW**-ground crops during the moon's **WANING** cycle.

Times are in **Australian Eastern Standard Time**, AEST. This applies to NSW, the ACT, Qld, Vic and Tas. For SA and NT, deduct half an hour. For WA, deduct two hours. **During Daylight Saving Time, add 1 hour.**

ZODIAC SIGNS

The 12 signs of the zodiac are divided into four groups - fire, air, earth and water.

Fire signs

Aries and **Sagittarius** are in harmony with all fruit. **Leo** is in harmony with nuts and all seed-producing crops.

Earth signs

Capricorn and **Taurus** are in harmony with all root vegetables that produce crops below the ground, including garlic. **Virgo** is in harmony with all herbs.

Air signs

Libra, Aquarius and **Gemini** are in harmony with plants that produce flowers and perfumes.

Water signs

Cancer, Scorpio and **Pisces** are in harmony with above-ground crops, including trees, shrubs, lawns, and leafy, juicy and fleshy vegetables.

-  Aries
-  Taurus
-  Gemini
-  Cancer
-  Leo
-  Virgo
-  Libra
-  Scorpio
-  Sagittarius
-  Capricorn
-  Aquarius
-  Pisces


How to use the calendar

 **Best days**  **Second-best days**


On these days, thin out seed boxes, sow all types of seeds and plant seedlings that produce their crop above the ground. These include all varieties of peas, beans, corn, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprout, eggplant, lettuce, celery, silverbeet, spinach, endive, Chinese cabbage, tomato, cucumber, asparagus crowns, artichoke, marrow, pumpkin, capsicum, melon, zucchini, chicory, sprouts, rhubarb, all herbs (except garlic) and all agricultural crops, such as sunflower, grains, cereals, canola and cotton. During these days, you can also plant flowering shrubs, annuals, flowers (not bulbs), cactus, flax, tree ferns, passionfruit vines and kiwifruit. Plant all fruit trees and trees that produce edible nuts, such as almond, pecan, macadamia and walnut. Grapes and banana can also be planted during these times. Take cuttings from established trees and shrubs, and propagate. This is also a good time for planting trees and climbers and sowing new lawns.


 **Best days**  **Second-best days**

On these days, sow all seeds and plant seedlings of root vegetables that grow their crop below the ground, such as carrot, parsnip, radish, beetroot, onion, leek, swede, turnip, sweet potato, seed potato, yam, cassava, peanut, garlic and ginger. This is a good time to plant flowering bulbs, or bulbs for propagation and development rather than flowers. Also, plant bare-rooted trees, to develop root growth, and refurbish established lawns.

 A favourable time for transplanting all types of established trees, shrubs, ferns and bulbs.

 Weed and lightly feed. Water with seaweed-type products only.

 Destroy or spray weeds, pests and noxious growth. Burn off, cut lawns, do heavy pruning and clear rubbish - don't plant or transplant anything. Prepare soil and fertilise garden beds for future planting; spread and make compost; feed all established plants, shrubs and lawns, then water in. This is the best time for dethatching or coring lawns.

 Do not plant or transplant anything, as the moon is adversely aspected with the sun.

Any questions? Email milton@miltonblack.com.au. ■



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GARDENER'S GIFT GUIDE

Make outdoors the best place to be with this delightful range of pressies

1 GET GROWING Be stylish with these Gro-Tube Propagation Vases, from \$8.95, meetjack.com.au. **2 ENJOY THE OUTDOORS** Keep mozzies at bay with a Heaven in Earth Citronella Hanging Chandelier, \$38.50 large, \$17 small, heaveninearth.com.au. **3 CLEAN'N' COOL** Garden in style with coral-patterned Lifestyle Gardening Gloves, \$18.95, cyclone.com.au. **4 MAKE A SPLASH** Attract wildlife with the elegant 50cm Tuscan Path Kensington Bird Bath with green interior, \$79.98, tuscanpath.com.au. **5 TOP TRIO** Go chic with this Monstera

Egg Tripod planter collection, S \$40, M \$80 and L \$120, northcotepottery.com. **6 CHEEP, CHEEP** Getting to Know the Birds in Your Neighbourhood by Darryl Jones, \$34.99, unsw.press. **7 MIGHTY TINY** Show off flowers and plants in a Kim Wallace Ink Bottle Vase, \$45, kwceramics.com.au. **8 WATER WONDER** Keep plants hydrated with a Plant Water Bubble, \$19.95, annabeltrends.com. **9 SEEDS FOR LIFE** There's everything you need in these Australian Native Flower Kits, \$24.95 each, urbangreens.com.au. ■

Prices are approximate and a guide only.

BioGuano+

Mother Nature's
Best Fertiliser

"I'M USING IT, YOU
SHOULD TRY IT TOO."

GRAHAM ROSS,
BioGuano Brand Ambassador



I have recently partnered with BioGuano Australia to be their official brand ambassador.

Gardeners love recycling and reusing things. When nature does it for you, to feed your plants, it's a win all round. BioGuano+ is an exciting new fertiliser - nothing artificial, a real organic treat for all our garden plants, trees, shrubs, veggies, herbs and lawns. I'm using it, you should try it too.

Graham Ross



bioguano.com.au



BioGuano Australia is a supporter of the MITO Foundation through IGCs

BioGuano+ is available from your local Garden Centre. Connect with us





Cyclone

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

FOR GARDENERS

This Christmas, spread the joy of gardening with Cyclone's range of premium tools, making every green thumb's holiday merry and bright.



Give the gift of flourishing gardens and endless delight this festive season with Cyclone.

GIFTS FOR LITTLE GARDENERS



SCAN TO SEE OUR FULL CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE!

Available at Bunnings, Mitre 10, Home Hardware and all other leading hardware retailers.

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OUTDOOR PARTIES

1 FEEL AT HOME
Create a laid-back outdoor Aussie Christmas vibe with gum leaves and waratah blooms - artificial but looking like the real thing. The napkin rings are rosemary twigs tied up with string - cute!



SEEN ON BHG TV
FRIDAYS 7.00 

2 SHINE A NEW LIGHT
A crystal chandelier is so not the Aussie thing. Instead, make this magnificent one with small branches and gumnuts from our iconic gum trees. If you wish, then weave tiny fairy lights through the foliage for starry, starry nights!

SET THE SCENE

If you're on hosting duty this Chrissie, put on a heartfelt open-air feast and create enchantment with a handcrafted tablescape, décor and festive foliage



So, you've been elected to host the big day, and hopefully with no La Niña to rain on your festive parade, you'll be decking the outdoors and firing up the barbie. Your mistletoe might take pride of place inside, but now it's time to recreate the same magic in the garden. It's gone to seed? You can bring plenty of ho ho ho to your summer soirées without overworking yourself, or the bank card! Put on your Santa hat and follow our steps to a stylish Aussie-inspired Christmas out the back!

3 BAUBLES AND BEADS
Dress your tree with what you have at hand – add colour with dried orange slices. Slice oranges 6mm thick and put on paper towel to drain moisture. Line oven tray with baking paper, place slices on tray so they're not touching and bake for 4-5 hours at 100°C fan-forced (120°C conventional). Flip every hour. Thread twine through beads, cinnamon stick and slices, then hang!



4 CANDLES IN WAITING
Try heath banksia as an airy Christmas tree. In cooler areas it produces flaming red-orange, candle-like flowers in winter – just in time for Christmas in July!

5 MAKE A FRESH START
Fill planter boxes with ornamental grasses, kangaroo paws and a festive bottlebrush!



6 RING IT IN

Make upsized Christmas bells to ring out the charms of your outdoor summer (see page 122). For a relaxed vibe, opt for lightweight wicker chairs and a long, roomy table so guests don't have to rub shoulders!

EASY STEPS TO CREATING GIANT BELLS AND BAUBLES

Go big or go home with these gorgeous oversized patio ornaments, made from plant pots. They'll help you ring in the party season without putting a dent in your wallet.

Gather your supplies

- Lotus 19 x 16.5cm black plastic plant pot (20)
- Painter's 48mm masking tape
- Hot glue gun
- 6mm natural jute cord
- Blue hot-melt glue stick
- Plastic primer spray
- Flat black spray paint
- Rust-effect spray paint in Bronze
- Paint tray
- Copper plant labels with ties
- Gold spray paint
- Green ribbon

You'll also need

Gloves; safety goggles; mask; wide paintbrush; scissors; takeaway plastic bowls

Here's how

- STEP 1** Apply a strip of painter's masking tape around top of pot, about 5cm in from top edge.
- STEP 2** Using hot glue gun, glue enough cord around top of pot, below tape, to meet cord end. Snip and press firmly to adhere.
- STEP 3** Repeat Step 2 to glue cord around top part of tape. Allow to dry
- STEP 4** Once glue is dry, remove tape from pot.
- STEP 5** Insert a blue hot-melt stick into glue gun and draw a squiggle pattern around pot within cord border. Allow to dry.
- STEP 6** Pull plug out of pot drainage hole. Cut a length of cord, 80cm, and thread through pot, then double it over. Hold cord up against pot to determine bell height, knot cord at this length. Thread cord through hole from inside and knot again on outside to hold in place.



7 CHANGE THE TUNE

For variation, make giant baubles from takeaway bowls glued together, spray-painted gold and decorated with green ribbon.

- STEP 7** Holding up cord to keep pot at a safe distance, spray plastic primer over pot to cover (wear gloves and mask). Allow to dry, approx. 10 minutes.
- STEP 8** Spray pot with flat black paint to cover. Hang in an open area, allow to dry.
- STEP 9** Spray bronze rust-effect paint onto tray. Skim paint over pot with brush, starting at squiggle border and working around

pot. Continue painting around pot until covered.

STEP 10 For bell cord, thread tie through hole on copper plant label and knot. Twist other end of tie around jute cord to secure. Repeat for other bells.

FOR SHOPPING DETAILS AND PROJECT SUPPLIES, SEE OUR STOCKISTS PAGE



STEP 1



STEP 3



STEP 7



STEP 2



STEP 5



STEP 9



JULIET LOVE

Let me show you how to make and style this stunning outdoor festive affair on *BHG TV*, Friday, 1 December at 7pm on Channel 7. (Apologies, may be subject to change.)

Go to bhg.com.au for more decorating tips and tricks.

EASY STEPS TO BUILDING A LIVING GREEN CHANDELIER

Breathe in the minty, honey aroma of fresh gum leaves – so quintessentially Aussie!

Gather your supplies

- Shallow bowl
- Rust-effect chain
- Black tie wire
- Selection of fresh gum branches and gumnuts
- Ceiling hook

You'll also need

Drill; 3mm drill bit, suitable for metal; long nose pliers; crimping tool; 100mm drill bit for timber

Note

Various laws in Australia protect native flora so rather than forage, buy your gum branches and gumnuts from a florist.

Here's how

- STEP 1** Cut chain into 3 equal length pieces according to the drop from the ceiling you want.
- STEP 2** Drill 3 evenly spaced holes in bowl lip, 10mm from edge. Open last link in chains with crimper, push through holes and close around lip with pliers.
- STEP 3** Drill 16 evenly spaced holes around top of bowl.
- STEP 4** Thread black tie wire back and forth across bowl, starting at a shorter end going one way, running wire under lip to next hole, then going the other way. Tie both ends together and trim.
- STEP 5** Insert branches and nuts through wire, allowing them to spill over the sides.
- STEP 6** Drill hole for hook in ceiling rafter and screw hook to rafter, then loop chains through hook.



STEP 4



STEP 5



EASY STEPS TO MAKING A GIANT GREEN BAUBLE

Pluck herbs and salad greens straight from a handy hanging garden to your plate!

size as plant root ball.

STEP 6 Gently insert plant roots into openings.

STEP 7 Water well, pop in water tub for 30 minutes. ■

Gather your supplies

- Coir-lined metal hanging baskets (2)
- Potting mix
- Cable ties
- Selection of fresh leafy veggies and herbs

You'll also need

Newspaper or paper towels; scissors or craft knife; gloves

Here's how

- STEP 1** Fill baskets with quality potting mix. Pack firm.
- STEP 2** Place baskets on newspaper and gently put one on top of the other. Expect some spillage.
- STEP 3** Wrap about 16 cable ties around metal rims to join, make secure, then trim excess ties.
- STEP 4** With scissors or craft knife, cut openings in coir where you want plants.
- STEP 5** Remove potting mix at opening the same



STEP 3



STEP 5



STEP 6

◀ **COOL CANOPY**

There's no retreat you can get to quicker than your own backyard, so make it serene with plenty of plants in a variety of planters and decorative hanging baskets. Here, the green-toned lounge set blends in with its natural surrounds.

LET'S TAKE IT **OUTSIDE**

Create extra living spaces with these stylishly functional alfresco upgrades that make basking in the outdoors a breeze

Be ready! We're in for a long, hot summer and that means more time spent outdoors - in the shade! So, bring indoor comforts outside and provide bonus space for entertaining or just hanging out in style. But beautifying your backyard doesn't have to be time-consuming or costly, from reviving time-worn wooden furniture and decking, to building a screen, adding a handy hot-tub shelf and putting up a towel hanger, you can easily turn your garden into a great venue.



1 Arrange furniture to create zones with the table near the barbecue for a kitchen/dining area, and the lounge suite opposite for reposing. **2** If you run out of ground space for plants, go up! Fill metal baskets with coconut fibre, quality potting mix and shade-loving ferns. **3** Keep the 'play room' separate. Here, an elevated spot houses the wet area.



▲ **SHOOTING THE BREEZE**

All it takes is a weekend to bring a tired-looking deck and outdoor table back to life. Clean deck surface with a high-pressure washer, before giving it a fresh coat of white paint, which is heat reflecting. Then, for your tabletop, sand back and refinish with decking oil.



FRESHEN UP YOUR OUTDOOR TABLE

Scrub table with degreaser and scrubbing brush to remove dirt, then rinse and allow to dry. Sand tabletop with orbital sander and 80-grit sandpaper. Use a sanding block with sandpaper to sand bevels and edges of slats. Remove dust, then wipe table with methylated spirits. Apply 2 coats exterior oil stain with paintbrush, allow to dry after each coat.

HANDY NOTE MERBAU MAGIC

• Beautiful, durable and rot- and termite-resistant, merbau is a great hardwood option for building garden accessories, but it is prone to bleeding tannin. If left untreated, it causes unsightly stains on surrounding materials. You can remove tannins from new merbau with a deck cleaner, scrubbing brush and hose. Follow directions on the packaging.



EASY STEPS TO BUILD A SCREEN

Whether you need extra privacy or to hide an eyesore, a merbau screen will tick all the boxes and add an extra dimension to elevate your outdoor space.

Gather your supplies

- 90 x 90mm 3m treated pine post (2)
- 90 x 45mm 2.4m treated framing pine (4)
- 100mm galvanised bugle screws
- 90 x 19mm 2.25m merbau decking, 5 pack (3)
- 42 x 18mm 2.7m merbau screening (12)
- Exterior paint
- 200mm half stirrup post anchor
- Quick-set concrete 20kg bag (5)
- 50mm stainless steel decking screws
- Decking oil and stain

You'll also need

Tape measure; chalk spray; post hole pincer; combination square; pencil; mitre saw; 40-grit sandpaper; drill; 14G and 10G smart-bits; impact driver; speed square; nap roller and tray; level; hammer; clamps; large bucket; shovel; plumb bob; 15mm spacers; paintbrush

Don't forget your safety gear: Safety eyewear, mask and earmuffs.

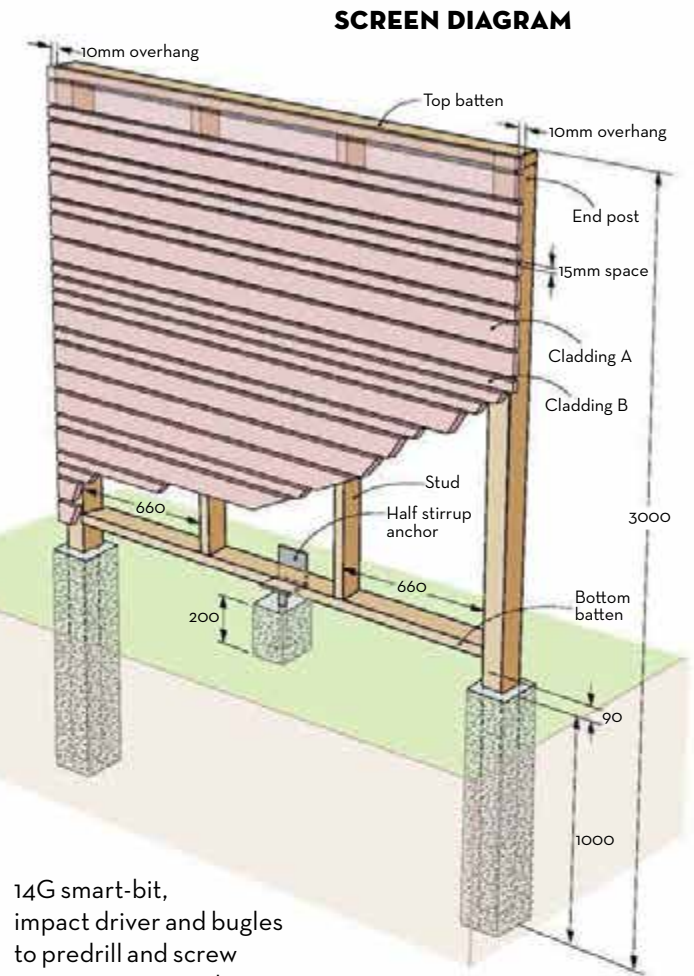
Important: Always use appropriate safety gear and clothing when operating power tools, handling chemicals or when exposed to dust or vapours. Hair should be tied back at all times.

Here's how

STEP 1 Determine location and screen dimensions for your space, then adjust Components list (below) accordingly. Using chalk spray, mark location where both End posts will be installed into the ground. Remove pavers. Use post hole pincer to dig both holes to 1000mm depth. Repeat to dig a 200mm hole for the half stirrup anchor at the midway point between End posts. Remove pavers. Use post hole pincer to dig both holes to 1000mm depth. Repeat to dig a 200mm hole for the half stirrup anchor at the midway point between End posts.

STEP 2 Measure, mark, label and cut all components (see list below) with tape measure, combination square, pencil and mitre saw. Sand sawn edges with sandpaper.

STEP 3 Assemble and attach all pine components according to Screen diagram (above). Use a drill,



14G smart-bit, impact driver and bugles to predrill and screw components together. Ensure all joints are square with speed square, and all parts are square and flush to front face of the screen frame.

STEP 4 Attach half stirrup anchor to Bottom batten at midpoint between End posts with decking screws.

STEP 5 Apply 2 coats exterior paint to screen frame. Allow to dry after each coat.

SCREEN DIAGRAM

STEP 6 With an extra pair of hands, lift frame and insert the End posts and half stirrup anchor into the holes. Adjust frame to allow for a small gap between ground and Bottom batten (around 70mm). Ensure frame is level, square and plumb with level and hammer. Clamp frame into position.

STEP 7 Use bucket, shovel and hose to mix 2 bags of concrete at a time, as per packet instructions. Shovel concrete into all 3 holes until level with ground. Allow to set.

STEP 8 To clad frame, pin an offcut to Top batten to overhang edge of End post by around 10mm. Hang

Components (for a 2.25 wide x 2.4m high screen)

| PART | SIZE (IN MM) | MATERIAL | QTY |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------|-----|
| End post | 90 x 90 x 3000 (uncut) | Pine post | 2 |
| Top batten | 90 x 45 x 2230 | Pine framing | 1 |
| Bottom batten | 90 x 45 x 2140 | Pine framing | 1 |
| Stud | 90 x 45 x 2355 | Pine framing | 2 |
| Cladding A | 90 x 19 x 2250 (uncut) | Merbau decking | 12 |
| Cladding B | 42 x 18 x 2250 | Merbau screening | 12 |



PRETTY AND PRIVATE NOOK
This stylish slatted screen offers privacy, conceals an unsightly shed and acts as a splashback for the 'outdoor kitchen', while also letting light filter through.



STEP 4



STEP 6



STEP 7



STEP 8



STEP 10

**FOR SHOPPING
DETAILS AND PROJECT
SUPPLIES, SEE OUR
STOCKISTS PAGE**

plumb bob over edge of offcut. Start with your straightest Cladding A component. Hold along bottom of frame, aligned and flush with Bottom batten and plumb bob. With a 10G smart-bit, mark and predrill 55mm in from both ends through the middle of Cladding component.

STEP 9 Use the predrilled Cladding A component as a template to mark and drill all Cladding A and B components, then return it to original position and attach with 50mm screws and impact driver. Check level, square and plumb.

STEP 10 To ensure all Cladding remains square



STEP 1

and level, put 15mm spacers in between Cladding at both ends. Create a random pattern with Cladding A and B components until you reach the frame top.

STEP 11 Apply 2 coats of decking oil and stain. Allow to dry after each coat.



STEP 3

EASY STEPS TO YOUR HOT TUB CADDY SHELF

Immerse yourself in an easy-to-build hot tub caddy shelf, then indulge in the bubbles with your snacks and drinks all within easy reach.

Gather your supplies

- 90 x 35mm 2.4m H3 treated pine
- 140 x 19mm 2.4m merbau decking
- 69 x 15mm 2.7m merbau screening (2)
- 40mm stainless steel screws
- Exterior water-based varnish

You'll also need

- Tape measure;
- combination square;
- pencil; mitre saw;
- 80-grit sandpaper;
- 8G smart-bit;
- drill; paintbrush

Here's how

STEP 1 Measure your spa width and add 100mm (for a 50mm overhang on both sides). Adjust Components list (below) accordingly. Measure, mark and cut components with tape measure, combination square, pencil and mitre saw. Sand sawn edges with 80-grit sandpaper.

STEP 2 Assemble and centre Top onto Base so overhang is equal on all



▲ MAKE A BIG SPLASH WITH A SMALL ADDITION

Building a simple timber bench over the top of your spa is a space-efficient way to add a place to set down your drinks and nibbles. Match the natural finish of your bar with the timber steps to complement the tropical-like backdrop, and paint your spa enclosure in a deep tone to provide a dramatic contrast.

sides. With 8G smart-bit, predrill holes 25mm down and in from all Top corners and into Base, then space every 250mm. Insert screws and screw tight.

STEP 3 Flip caddy and lay flat with Top face down. Assemble Stopper 70mm

from end of Base. To attach, predrill 2 equally spaced and centred holes through Stopper and into bottom of Base. Insert screws and screw tight. Repeat to attach second Stopper to other end of Base.

STEP 4 Assemble Cladding A flush onto both sides of Base. To attach, predrill holes 50mm in from all edges (and centred) through Cladding A and into Base. Drill holes every 250mm. Insert screws and screw tight. Repeat to attach Cladding B components to Base, with 2 equally spaced



STEP 4A



STEP 4B

screws on both ends.

STEP 5 Apply 2 coats of exterior varnish with a paintbrush. Allow to dry after each coat. Place the caddy with Stoppers on insides of spa walls.

Components

| PART | SIZE (IN MM) | MATERIAL | QTY |
|------------|-----------------|------------------|-----|
| Base | 90 x 35 x 2000 | Treated H3 pine | 1 |
| Top | 140 x 19 x 2300 | Merbau decking | 1 |
| Cladding A | 69 x 15 x 2000 | Merbau screening | 2 |
| Cladding B | 69 x 15 x 120 | Merbau screening | 2 |
| Stopper | 69 x 15 x 90 | Merbau screening | 2* |

(*For spa diameter 2.2m)

EASY STEPS TO BUILD AN OUTDOOR TOWEL HANGER

Gather your supplies

- 42 x 28mm 2.7m (3) merbau decking
- 70 x 19mm 0.9m merbau pickets
- Door stops or hooks (7)
 - 40mm stainless steel screws
- Exterior water-based varnish

You'll also need

Tape measure; square; pencil; mitre saw; 80-grit sandpaper; 10mm spacers; drill; 8G smart-bit; 5mm drill bit; paintbrush; nap roller and tray; level; 60mm screws; hammer drill; masonry drill bit; wall plugs



STEP 3



STEP 6



STEP 7

Note To create a feathered edge detail on your towel hanger, cut 1 Back strip at a random length between 1100-1600mm, then use the offcut for the subsequent Back strip component.

Here's how

STEP 1 Measure, mark and cut all components (see Components list below) with tape measure, square, pencil and mitre saw. Sand all sawn edges.

STEP 2 Arrange Back strips on a flat surface in a pattern of your choice so maximum

hanger width is 1600mm. Insert 10mm spacers between each strip for consistent spacing.

STEP 3 Lay 2 equally spaced Braces across (and square) to the Back

strips. With 8G smart-bit and drill, predrill equally spaced pilot holes 10mm from edge of Brace and into centre of all Back strips. Insert screws and tighten. Repeat for second Brace.

STEP 4 Flip towel hanger and drill two 5mm assembly holes centred into a Brace, in the top and bottom gaps between the Back strips. Repeat for second Brace.

STEP 5 Apply 2 coats exterior varnish with paintbrush, allow to dry after each coat.

STEP 6 For towel hooks, drill and attach the door stops/hooks with screws provided in packets. Space hooks randomly as desired.

STEP 7 Mark 4 holes on the wall using assembly holes on towel hanger as a template. Check for level. Drill holes

with hammer drill and masonry bit. Insert and hammer wall plugs into the wall. To complete, attach the towel hanger to wall with screws to fit wall plugs. ■



HANGING OUT Create a clean and orderly place to corral towels with this eye-catching floating hook rack. Match the varnish to the surrounding timberwork for a unifying effect.



CHARLIE ALBONE

Let me show you more ways to transform your outdoor spaces on *BHG TV*, Fridays at 7pm on Channel 7. (Apologies, may be subject to change.)

Go to bhg.com.au for more garden tips and tricks.

Towel hanger components

| PART | SIZE (IN MM) | MATERIAL | QTY |
|------------|----------------------|----------------|-----|
| Back strip | 42 x 28 x 1100-1600* | Merbau decking | 6 |
| Brace | 70 x 19 x 280 | Merbau pickets | 2 |

*Random lengths of your choice

LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE

Spruce up a sunny passage with an inviting bench and planter box combo!

EASY STEPS TO BUILD YOUR PLANTER BENCH

Make the most of an unused spot by building a seat for your morning coffee and planters to grow plants.

Gather your supplies

- 200 x 50mm 2.4m hardwood sleeper (30)
- 90 x 45mm 3m pine H3 framing (3)
- 90 x 19mm 2.4m merbau decking
- 140 x 19mm 2.4m merbau decking (7)
- Geotextile fabric
- Mushroom compost 25L (8)
- 1800 x 900mm corten steel screen (4)
- 85mm galvanised bugle screws
- 50mm decking screws
- Mulch

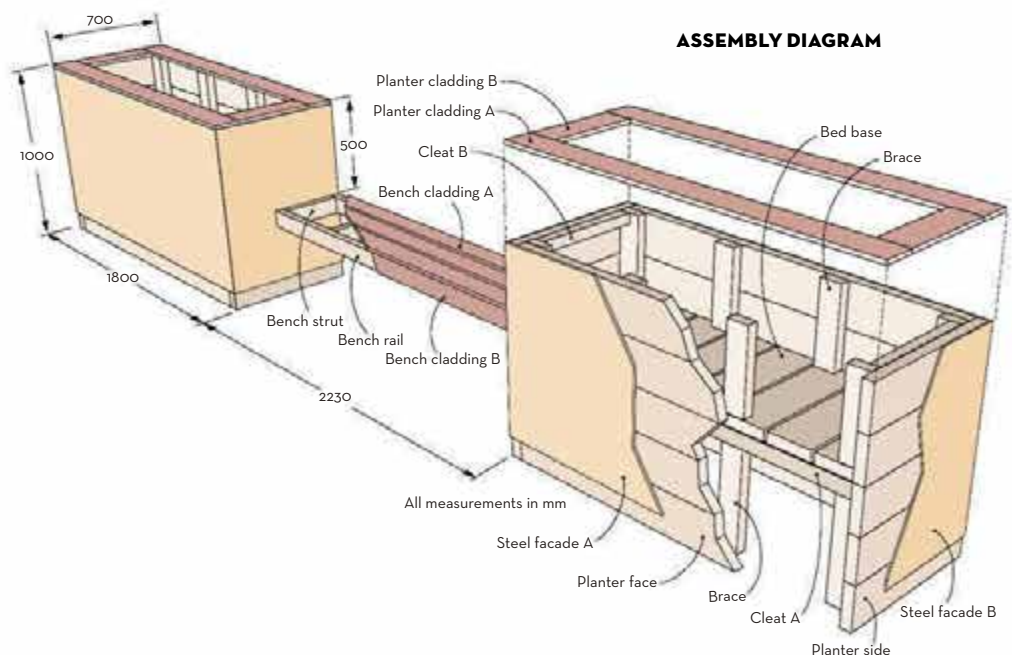
You'll also need

Chalk spray; mattock; spade; level; tape measure; pencil; combination square; circular saw; 40- and 80-grit sandpaper; drill; 10G and 14G smart-bits; impact driver; 3mm drill bit; hammer; angle grinder; file; flat head nails; 5mm spacers; selection of plants; safety gear: glasses, earmuffs, mask

Components

| PART | SIZE (IN MM) | MATERIAL | QTY |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----|
| Planter (2) | | | |
| Planter face | 200 x 50 x 1700 | Hardwood sleeper | 20 |
| Planter side | 200 x 50 x 700 | Hardwood sleeper | 20 |
| Cleat A | 60 x 50 x 1700* | Hardwood sleeper | 4 |
| Cleat B | 60 x 50 x 600* | Hardwood sleeper | 4 |
| Bed base | 200 x 50 x 595 | Hardwood sleeper | 16 |
| Brace | 100 x 50 x 445* | Hardwood sleeper | 32 |
| Planter cladding A | 140 x 19 x 1800 | Merbau decking | 4 |
| Planter cladding B | 140 x 19 x 420 | Merbau decking | 4 |
| Steel facade A | 900 x 1800 | Corten steel screen | 2 |
| Steel facade B | 900 x 700 | Corten steel screen | 4 |
| Bench | | | |
| Bench rail | 90 x 45 x 2230 | Pine H3 framing | 2 |
| Bench strut | 90 x 45 x 315 | Pine H3 framing | 4 |
| Bench cladding A | 140 x 19 x 2230 | Merbau decking | 3 |
| Bench cladding B | 90 x 19 x 2230 | Merbau decking | 1 |

*Ripped from 200 x 50mm hardwood sleeper



SEEN ON BHG TV
FRIDAYS 7.00 

1 RED EARTH
Blend corten steel and merbau hardwood with red brick and warm-toned mulch. Earthy!

“
Let your sidewalk offer scenic rambles through pretty plantings and seating for sunny days
”

FOR THE LOVE OF SUN

Bring your favourite sun-worshippers to the yard for speedy growth and an instant pop of colour.





STEP 2

Important

Always use appropriate safety gear and clothing when operating power tools, handling chemicals or when exposed to dust or vapours. Hair should be tied back at all times.



STEP 4



STEP 9



STEP 6



STEP 10



STEP 7



STEP 11



STEP 8



STEP 12

Here's how

STEP 1 Determine the best location for your bench and planters, then measure and mark the area on the ground (5830 x 700mm) with a tape measure and chalk spray.

STEP 2 To prepare a flat, level base, dig out marked areas with a mattock and spade, check with level. Tamp down the perimeter of the area by foot until stable and level. Set removed soil to side of marked area and remove any weeds or turf from removed soil.

STEP 3 Measure, mark and cut all components (see Components list on page 132) with tape measure, combination square, pencil and circular saw. Sand all sawn edges with 40-grit sandpaper.

STEP 4 Assemble and attach a rectangle frame with 2 Planter faces and 2 Planter sides. Place the Sides on Face ends for a flush butt joint. With drill and 14G smart-bit, predrill 2 countersunk holes through

Side (around 25mm in from corners) and into Face. Insert bugles and screw tight with impact driver. Check frame is square and level. Repeat for all 4 corners of frame. Repeat for a total of 10 frames.

STEP 5 Refer to Assembly diagram (page 132), attach Cleats A to the inside of both Faces (45mm up from bottom edge) of 2 frames. Predrill 6 equally spaced holes through Cleats into Faces (start at 50mm from each end). Insert bugles, screw tight, set aside.

STEP 6 To assemble planter, lay 1 frame onto the prepared ground. Hammer frame into bed until level, then stack 2 frames onto the first (third frame with attached Cleats). Check edges are flush.

STEP 7 Predrill 6 equally spaced pilot holes into 8 Braces (start 20mm in from both ends). Attach 8 equally spaced Braces beneath the Cleats. Predrill through the holes, insert bugles and screw tight.

STEP 8 To complete planter frame, stack 2 rectangle frames onto the first 3. Lay 8 equally spaced Bed base components onto the Cleats, predrill, then insert bugles and screw tight. Attach a further 8 Braces to the upper section of the planter (using the same method as the lower Braces). Repeat Steps 6-8 to assemble second planter, with a 2230mm space between the planters.

STEP 9 Cut steel for Steel facades (see list, page 132) with angle grinder. File sharp edges. Position Facades flush to top, use 3mm drill bit to drill 20mm in from edges and around perimeter with holes spaced around every



STEP 13



STEP 14

300mm. Insert nails and hammer nail flush.

STEP 10 Line beds with geotextile fabric. Fill with mushroom compost mixed with previously dug soil.

STEP 11 Install Planter cladding A and B to top of both planters. Predrill and insert 2 decking screws at ends, then space around every 300mm.

STEP 12 To assemble bench frame, form a rectangle with 2 Bench rails and 2 Bench struts (position struts within the rails). Predrill 2 pilot holes into end of Bench rail and into Bench strut, insert bugles and screw tight. Repeat for all corners. Using same method, assemble and attach remaining Struts so they are equally spaced within the bench frame.

STEP 13 To secure bench frame to planters, support bench in position (500mm down from top of planter). Predrill 3 equally spaced holes through end Strut and into planter. Insert bugles and screw tight. Repeat for opposite end. Check level.

STEP 14 To secure Cladding B, position flush to the bench front rail then use a 10G smart-bit to predrill 2 pilot holes 50mm from both ends and around every 400mm in between. Insert decking screws and screw tight. Repeat process for bench top with all Cladding A components. Use a 5mm spacer between cladding.

STEP 15 Plant selection of plants and water in with hose. Spread mulch around area.

FOR PROJECT SUPPLIES, SEE OUR STOCKISTS PAGE

CHINESE STAR JASMINE
THRIVES ON A WIRE
TRELLIS IN FULL SUN.

WIRE IT UP

Supplies to install a wire trellis for climbing plants: Hammer drill; masonry drill bit; hammer; wall plugs; screw eyelets; wire; swage; crimpers; turnbuckles.

Here's how:

With a hammer drill and masonry bit, drill holes in your walls spaced 350mm vertically and 1800mm horizontally. Insert plugs to all holes, then insert and tighten eyelets. Run wire horizontally through the eyelets and secure at one

end with a swage and a crimping tool. On the other end of the run, attach a turnbuckle to the eyelet and tighten until wire is taut. ■



PORTABLE TABLE

1

LIFE IS A PICNIC

Pep up your alfresco grazing with a handcrafted take-anywhere table to dine out in style

SEEN ON BHG TV
FRIDAYS 7.00 

1, 2, 3 PICNIC CHIC

Ideal for a day at the beach with your bestie or a park day with the fam, this folding table will keep your bubbles cool and your sandwiches sand- and/or grass-free! Serve with gourmet treats, great company and sunshine, for the quintessential Aussie summer day out.



With summer festivities in full swing, picnicking season has officially arrived! Enjoy every wonderful minute of it with this easy-build, fold-up, portable table made from off-the-shelf pine and sound joinery techniques. The sturdy design means you can plate up delish eats on a steady surface. Plus, the clever ice bucket and glass holder slots will keep your beverages chilled and drinks within easy reach. Cheers to that!



ADAM DOVILE

Let me show you how to build more awesome projects for your home and garden on *BHG TV*, Fridays at 7pm on Channel 7.
(Apologies, may be subject to change.)

Go to bhg.com.au for more DIY tips and tricks.

EASY STEPS TO A PORTABLE PICNIC TABLE



STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4



STEP 5A



STEP 5B



STEP 6



STEP 8



STEP 9



STEP 10

Gather your supplies

- 184 x 19mm 1.2m dressed pine
- 42 x 19mm 1.8m dressed pine
- Exterior PVA glue
- 6mm Tasmanian oak dowel 1.2m
- 50mm hinges (4)
- Kitchen timber oil
- 2L ice bucket cannister

You'll also need

Tape measure; combination square; pencil; hand saw; 80-grit sandpaper; large clamps; cloth; compass; chisel; hammer; 1L paint tin; drill and selection of bits; jigsaw; 38mm spade bit; orbital sander and 120-grit sandpaper; screwdriver; safety gear: safety eyewear, mask and earmuffs



STEP 12

Important

Always use appropriate safety gear and clothing when operating power tools or when exposed to dust. Hair should be tied back at all times.

Here's how

STEP 1 Measure, mark and cut all components (see Components list below) with tape measure, combination square, pencil and hand saw. Sand sawn edges with 80-grit paper.

STEP 2 Apply and spread PVA glue along 1 long edge of both Top panels. Join panels flush, then clamp together and allow to set. Wipe excess PVA glue with damp cloth.

STEP 3 To prepare folding legs for assembly, use the profile of a Leg as a template to mark a half lap joint on both ends of both Bases. Repeat to mark half lap joint on one end of all Legs.

STEP 4 With combination square, mark 9mm depth of half lap joint on all Legs and Bases.

STEP 5 Saw a series of parallel cuts on all Leg- and Base-marked half lap joints with hand saw. Clamp to bench while cutting. Use chisel and hammer to cut away half lap joints on all Legs and Bases.

Components

| PART | SIZE (IN MM) | MATERIAL | QTY |
|-----------|----------------|---------------|-----|
| Top panel | 184 x 19 x 600 | Dressed pine | 2 |
| Leg | 42 x 19 x 300 | Dressed pine | 4 |
| Base A | 42 x 19 x 305 | Dressed pine | 1 |
| Base B | 42 x 19 x 211 | Dressed pine | 1 |
| Dowel | 6 cut to fit | Tasmanian oak | 1 |

STEP 6 Apply PVA glue to both half lap ends on 1 Base and 2 Legs. Attach components to complete one folding leg. Wipe away excess PVA glue and clamp together. Repeat for second folding leg. Allow to set, then remove clamps and set aside.

STEP 7 To prepare Top for assembly, use a 1L paint tin to mark curved corners on Top, according to Top template (right). Then mark up ice bucket hole and 4 wine glass keyholes. Use compass, combination square and pencil.

STEP 8 Cut curved corners with jigsaw. Drill through ice bucket hole; insert jigsaw blade and cut hole to size.

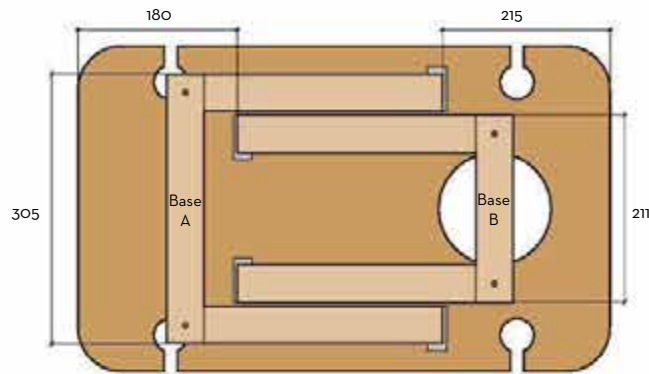
STEP 9 For wine glass holders, bore 4 holes with spade bit and drill, then cut 4 keyholes with jigsaw. Set Top aside.

STEP 10 On both folding legs, drill a 6mm hole through the centre of all half lap joints. Apply PVA glue to perimeter of hole, then insert and hammer dowel all the way through. Cut dowel flush to surface with hand saw. Wipe away excess PVA glue.

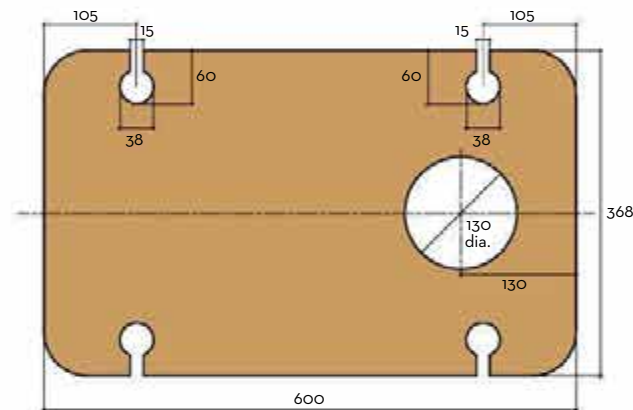
STEP 11 Sand folding legs and Top with orbital sander till smooth. Sand edges of holes by hand, wipe away dust. Apply 2 coats kitchen timber oil to every piece, allow to dry after each coat.

STEP 12 Mark hinge positions on underside of Top according to Underside template (top right). Predrill and attach hinges to folding legs and underside of Top with drill and screwdriver to complete.

UNDERSIDE TEMPLATE



TOP TEMPLATE



ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM



**FOR SHOPPING
DETAILS AND PROJECT
SUPPLIES, SEE OUR
STOCKISTS PAGE**



WOODWORK UNPLUGGED

Are you getting into your groove with woodworking, or in the market for a professional hand saw, or a collector and lover of vintage tools?

In its heyday, a quality saw could cut a 0.6mm kerf (i.e. split a pencil line!), but if you talk to any chippy, they'll tell you, "They don't make them like they used to!" That's where the Vintage Tool Shop in Northcote, Victoria, comes in.

This unique store restores and rebuilds high-quality vintage saws from around \$200. The Vintage Tool Shop team also proudly handcrafts

Australian-made hand saws, including bespoke saws (with the perfect handle, sized to your hand!) from \$350.

All hand saws are tested and tuned to ensure smooth, free and accurate cutting, ready for a lifetime of woodworking and carpentry projects. For more information, visit vintagetoolshop.com.au.

com.au



DIYER'S GIFT GUIDE

Treat the handy person in your life with must-have gifts they'll use and love

1 PAINTING PERFECTION Upcycle like a pro with an Upcycling Gift Hemp Bag + Trucker Cap, \$47, twofussyblokes.com. **2 RENTER RENO Safe And Sound** A Renter-Friendly Guide to Home Repair by Mercury Stardust, \$55, penguin.com.au. **3 LISTEN UP** 3M WorkTunes Call Connect Bluetooth Ear Muffs, \$99, bunnings.com.au. **4 HOLEY MOLEY** Drill the ideal hole with a handy Milescraft DrillBlock Drilling Guide, \$14.90, timbecon.com.au. **5 ROLL UP!** Keep your chisels sharp and safe with a Leather Chisel Roll, \$95, vintage-toolshop.com.au.

6 SOOTHE HARDWORKING HANDS Give your mitts a helping hand with Epic Hand Salve, \$25, troublesmiths.com.au. **7 CLEVER COUNTERSINKING** Macsim clever tool, \$30.46, bunnings.com.au. **8 PERSONALISE IT** Add their initials to a Classic Full Grain Leather Apron by MAHI Leather, \$226.17, hardtofind.com.au/bhg. **9 EASY DOES IT** Woodwork Step by Step by DK, \$32.99, penguin.com.au. **10 RIP IT UP** Blow the budget with the ultimate tool, a Festool TS 55F 160mm Plunge Cut Saw with Rail, \$1298.99, festool.com.au.

Prices are approximate and a guide only.



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HONG KONG HOT SPOTS

Long favoured as a rest stop on the journey to Europe or North America, the city of Hong Kong is now being rediscovered by Australian travellers as a rich and vibrant holiday destination in its own right

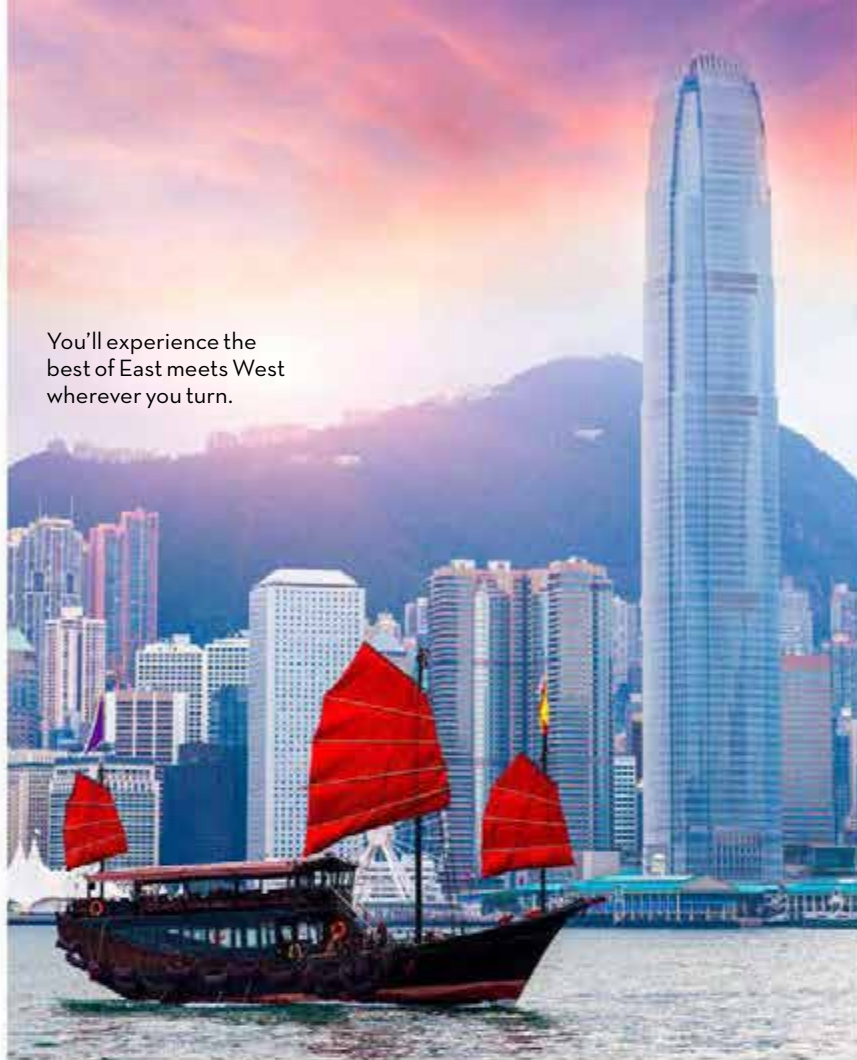
With its storied history and melting pot of nationalities and cultures, “Asia’s world city” offers all the excitement of a bustling metropolis with unbeatable shopping, lively nightlife and incredible food. If the great outdoors are more your pace, there’s no shortage of tree-lined bays with beautiful swimming beaches, forest hikes and more. In Hong Kong, there’s never a dull moment!

OUT AND ABOUT

A visit to Hong Kong isn't complete without a ride on the famous Star Ferry. Linking Kowloon and Hong Kong Island both day and night, it's well worth a trip after dark to catch the impressive light show! With a 552m elevation, Victoria Peak rises spectacularly up over the city. The Peak – as it's locally referred to – offers jaw-dropping vistas of the dense city below with its dazzling skyscrapers fringed by waterways and forests. On the Sky Terrace observation deck, soak in 360-degree views before grabbing a refreshment at The Peak Lookout restaurant, a historic cottage that promises cool mountain breezes on its rear patio. Still feeling energetic? Try one of the paved nature walks that loop the mountain, affording you postcard-like glimpses across the glittering sea to the leafy neighbouring islands.



Views for days! Take a trip to the top of Victoria Peak – it's always a showstopper.



You'll experience the best of East meets West wherever you turn.

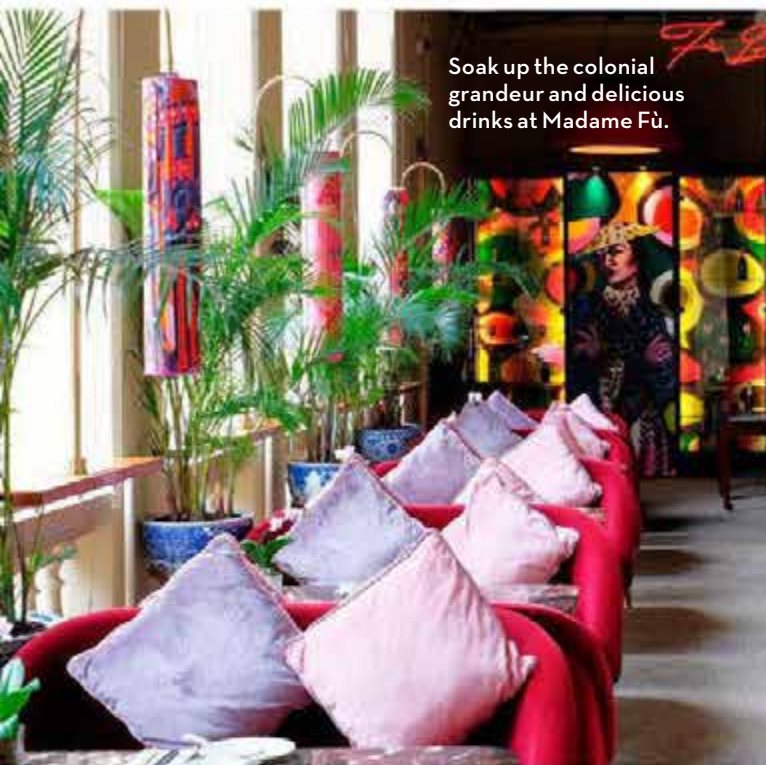
SHOP TILL YOU DROP

When it comes to retail therapy, bargain hunting or window shopping, Hong Kong has you covered! From the gleaming and air-conditioned ifc mall in Central, where every major brand and label is present in eye-popping style, to the sprawling Horizon Plaza outlet mall, a 28-storey fashion and homewares mecca offering all your

favourites at bargain prices, this city is the stuff of fashion fairy tales. For a more local experience, haggle with vendors at Hong Kong's thriving outdoor options, such as the Ladies Market in Mong Kok (where everyone's welcome!), or go on a treasure hunt for vintage souvenirs and unique finds at the Cat Street flea markets in the Sheung Wan antique district.



Hit the markets for an authentic Hong Kong experience!



Soak up the colonial grandeur and delicious drinks at Madame Fù.



Unwind or take a dip in the beautiful beach of Repulse Bay.



3 WINE AND DINE

Around every corner a world of delicious cuisines and cocktails await! Climb to the third floor of the Tai Kwun heritage compound and be rewarded with a taste of colonial grandeur combined with contemporary Chinese flair at Madame Fù. Grab a seat beneath the gentle waft of fans on the Red and Blue Verandahs overlooking Tai Kwun's Parade Ground and sample the delicious Cantonese menu! For some of the best casual bites, try buzzy Peel Street in SoHo where you'll find the likes of Francis West, a cosy spot offering North African flavours designed for sharing. Whether kicking your night off or wrapping things up – drop by one of Hong Kong's newest hot spots, Bar Leone, the home of classic cocktails and delectable nibbles in an authentic Italian local bar setting.

4 ART AND CULTURE

Surrounded by lush gardens, perched right on the water in the city's new West Kowloon Cultural District, M+ museum and gallery is home to world-class travelling exhibitions as well as four permanent collections showcasing design, modern art,



Installation view of *Dots Obsession - Aspiring to Heaven's Love* (2022), part of the *Yayoi Kusama: 1945 to Now* exhibition at the M+.

fashion and architecture – it even has a cinema and a casual waterside restaurant. As you soak in all the creativity, you'll be rewarded with frequent glimpses across the harbour to the impressive Hong Kong skyline and Victoria Peak. One of the largest visual culture collections in the world, the museum is an architectural wonder in itself, especially when lit up at night, featuring a 100m facade with terracotta cladding and LED panels.

5 THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Hong Kong is better known for its soaring towers and busy streets, but one of its greatest secrets is its

incredible natural beauty! This metropolis is scattered across 263 islands with countless hidden bays and lush green forests. If you're feeling adventurous, you're spoilt for choice with swimming, hiking and boating adventures possible throughout the year. Only moments from Hong Kong Island's gleaming commercial centre lies Repulse Bay with its golden sands, calm seas and an abundance of trendy eateries, cool coffee shops and colourful shopping opportunities. A haven for those wanting a quick reprieve from the hubbub of high-rise life, this swimming spot is a favourite of locals and visitors alike.

Photography M+ Dan Leung courtesy of M+, Hong Kong, Getty Images; words Owen Lynch

Lap up the luxury of the extraordinary Mandarin Oriental.

6 A LITTLE LUXURY

Celebrating its 60th birthday in 2023, the original Mandarin Oriental (MOHK) is one of the most historic hotels on Hong Kong Island, combining Oriental heritage with contemporary luxury. Famed for its nine restaurants and bars, legendary service and lavish suites, MOHK is a must for your bucket list as a guest or a visitor. Perched at the top of the 25-floor hotel is the iridescent blue Michelin-starred restaurant, Man Wah. This Cantonese offering specialises in delicious dim sum, a Hong Kong classic, served against a backdrop of uninterrupted harbour views. Equally as beautiful but offering a stylish change of pace is The Aubrey. This swish cocktail bar and eatery is recognised as one of 'Asia's 50 Best Bars' and serves a Japanese-inspired menu set amongst eclectic décor and great music. After taking in all the excitement of Hong Kong, there is no better place to pamper yourself than the award-winning MO Spa. Recognised by both locals and hotel guests as one of the best, this haven of tranquillity spans three floors of the hotel. For the weary traveller recently off a long-haul flight or just in from sightseeing, the MOHK signature facial is guaranteed to refresh, rejuvenate and reignite your sense of adventure! To book, visit mandarinoriental.com. ■

HOW TO GET THERE

Jetting to Hong Kong couldn't be easier! For over 50 years Cathay Pacific has been bringing Australians to Hong Kong. Today, it offers direct and connecting flights from every capital city with one of the most luxurious and modern fleets in the sky. On Cathay - the first airline to be awarded 'World's Best' four times by Skytrax - warm smiles and 5-star service are guaranteed!

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The amazing Man Wah restaurant with its incredible food, interior design and views.

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Gold Coast



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Designed with modern, Mediterranean-inspired finishes and retro-influenced furnishings, this luxurious home provides expansive spaces for living, relaxing, and entertaining.

Wake up to the sound of the ocean on Christmas Day before enjoying festive celebrations on your alfresco area with barbeque and pool or sunset drinks on the entertainment deck, both with sea views and breezes.

This could be the start of your new Christmas tradition!

1ST PRIZE \$6,186,405

Includes: **\$226,948 Furniture & Electrical** • **\$50,000 Gold Bullion**
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DRAW 532

CLOSES 20 DECEMBER 2023 | DRAW 22 DECEMBER 2023



Draw 532 closes Wednesday, 20 December 2023 at 11.00pm AEST. Drawn Friday, 22 December 2023 at 12.00pm AEST. Draw to be conducted at Suite 5 Cordova Street, Milton QLD 4064. Facebook Live draw. Public welcome. Winners notified by phone and in writing by email and registered mail on the day of the draw. Results published on the yourtown website at yourtownprizehomes.com.au/winners on Friday, 22 December 2023. Persons under the age of 18 years are not eligible to enter. Promoter: T J Adams, yourtown, Suite 5 Cordova Street, Milton QLD 4064; GPO Box 2469, Brisbane QLD 4001. Phone: +61 7 3368 3399. In Australia free call 1800 555 079. Website yourtownprizehomes.com.au "yourtown fundraising in aid of yourtown programs and services provided nationally". yourtown ABN 11 102 379 386. QLD licence No: 29586. ACT Permit No: R23/00180. VIC Permit No: 10378/23. NSW Permit No: GOCAU/2322. SA Permit No: M14484 For full terms and conditions of entry please visit <https://yourtownprizehomes.com.au/terms-and-conditions> information on how to play responsibly call Gambling Helpline 1800 858 858 (Aust) or online at <https://gamblinghelponline.org.au> All prize and ticket values refer to Australian currency.

better finance

[SPEND YOUR CASH MINDFULLY IN THE LEAD-UP TO THE FESTIVE SEASON]

—LAST-MINUTE SHOPPING HACKS—

Save cash online with these handy hints

COMPARE BEFORE YOU COMMIT

You've seen the daunting Christmas list from the kids, but instead of going to the one online department store for all items, be sure to compare first on Google Shopping, which aggregates most retailers. You may be surprised at the range of prices, some with deep discounts. For instance, Adidas Samba trainers ranged from \$120 to \$220 with some stores offering free delivery.

GET THOSE CASHBACKS

Those little rewards can add up. When you're next on your phone, consider downloading cashback apps, such as ShopBack and Cashrewards. You may be able to earn up to 30% cash rewards on purchases. These apps operate as an upfront discount in reverse, and work especially well for big ticket items such as laptops and TVs.

HARNESS DISCOUNT CODES

If you're about to commit to a purchase and you notice the retailer asking if you have a promo or discount code, here's what to do: take the time to search online for current promo codes for that retailer, or simply download an extension app, such as Honey, which does the searching for you. You may save around 10% when you find a code, which means more money in your pocket.

WORDS OF WISDOM

NO ACT OF KINDNESS, **NO MATTER HOW SMALL,** IS EVER WASTED

Aesop

This financial information is general in nature and does not take into consideration your personal circumstances. If you need advice, please seek out a licensed financial adviser.

GENIUS CHRISTMAS TIPS+TRICKS



KRIS KRINGLE TWIST

Go sustainable with your Secret Santa by agreeing to make 'vintage' (secondhand) gifts – anything from a potted plant (from cuttings) to a vinyl record.



USE GIFT CARDS

Are your gift cards about to expire? Why not use them to buy pressies for loved ones. It's a win-win situation – you'll save \$\$\$ and make good use of a soon-to-expire asset.



KEEPSAKE PHOTOS

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This Christmas, help us give vital support to children with developmental delays.

To give your support, visit
benevolent.org.au/supportchildren



The Benevolent Society acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

BEAUTY GIFT GUIDE

Spoil your family and friends with festive treats and luxe delights this Christmas



1 BETTER BATHING Treat him to a shower gel with citrus notes, Percival Shower Gel, \$119, Parfums de Marly. **2 INSTANT REFRESH** Soothe tired eyes, Gel Eye Mask, \$8, Bathefex. **3 FLORAL TREAT** A woman's fragrance that's ethereal and enchanting, Sweet Almond Blossom Eau de Parfum 50ml, \$133, Floral Street. **4 HOME OR OFFICE** Infuse their space with a delicious aroma, Fir & Cedarwood Mini Candle and Diffuser Set, \$39.95, Palm Beach. **5 SPOILT FOR CHOICE** Spoil him with a scent for every mood, Discovery Set,

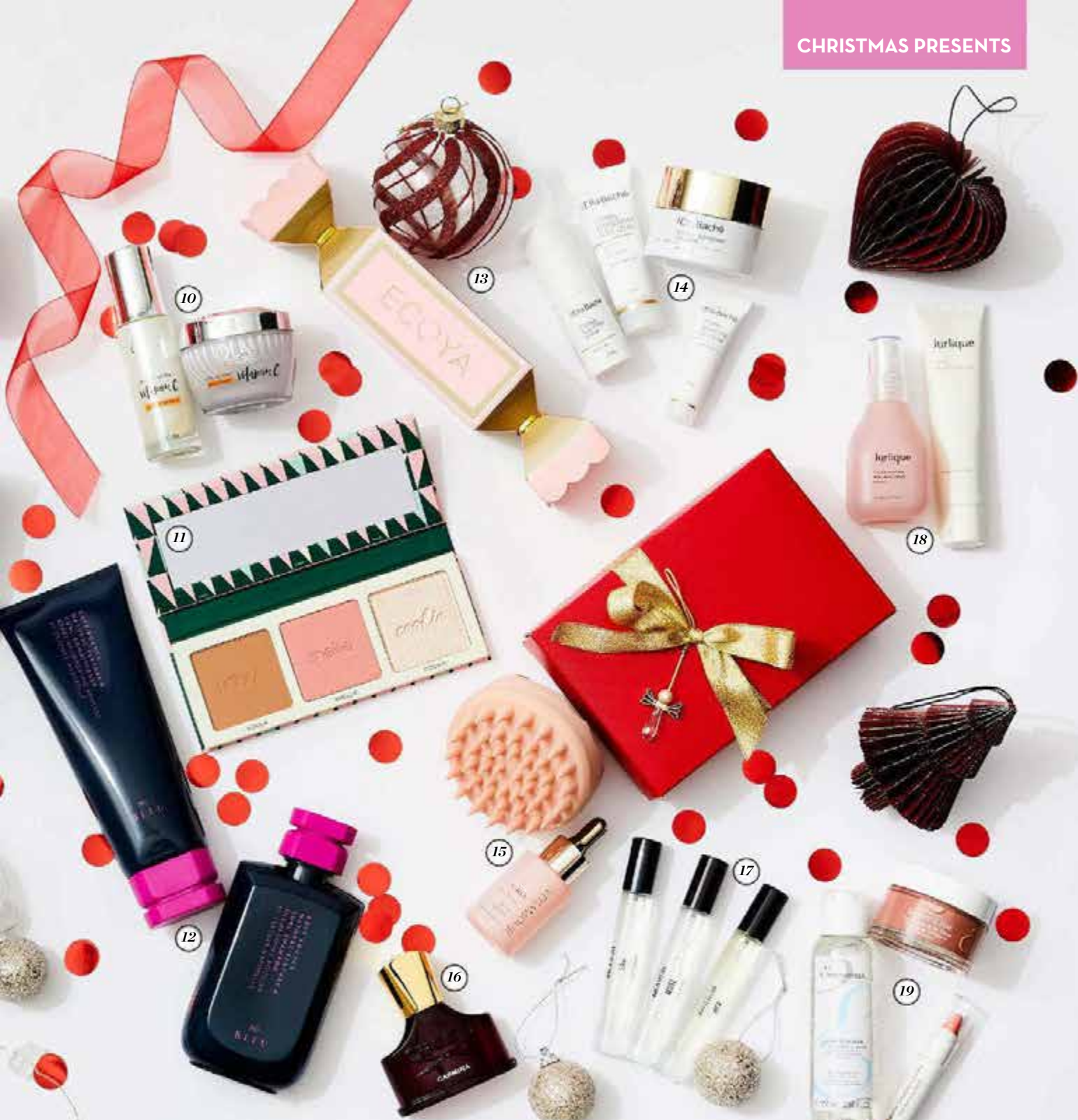
\$255, Matiere Premier. **6 TWO BEAUTIES** A brush for scalp and haircare, Resin Flat Brush, \$145, and a wet and dry hair comb, Resin Detangling Comb, \$70, Oribe. **7 SPOIL ALERT** Awaken his senses with soft, floral notes and warm spices, Layton Eau de Parfum 125ml, \$498, Parfums de Marly. **8 STYLE MAKER** Make every day a great hair day, Dreamland Limited Edition Helios Hair Dryer, \$345, GHD. **9 NATURAL GOODNESS** Feel-good body cleanser and cream, Giving Body Kit, \$55, Grown Alchemist.



SURPRISE HER

1 PRETTY PERFECT This cutie will be her pride and joy, Babee Makeup Bag, \$250, Estetika. **2 GOOD HAIR DAYS** Make her hair-styling a breeze, Style Gift Set, \$99, Mr Smith. **3 TWICE AS GOOD** The keys to glowing skin, Twice as Nice Cleanser Combo, \$120, Bespoke. **4 BUBBLES PLEASE** Say cheers! Champagne & Red Raspberries Hand & Body Cream, \$25.95, Peppermint Grove. **5 NOW YOU'RE TALKING** This duo will put a smile on her face, Divine Lip Duo, \$31, Laneige. **6 BODY OF WORK** Help her

love the skin she's in, Head-To-Toe Body Duo, \$61, Paula's Choice. **7 NATURE'S BOUNTY** Natural products are a winner, Pink Grapefruit & Lemon Aspen Hand and Body Duo, \$45, endota. **8 BATHROOM BLISS** Take her bath-time to blissful heights, Tranquility Experience Gift Box, \$109.99, BathCalm. **9 MAKING MAGIC** She'll get endless joy from this magical gift, Shine Christmas Gift Box, \$120, AgeRich. **10 VITAMIN BOOSTER** Boost her skin's glow factor, Glow Getter Duo, \$119.98, Olay.



Whether it's the gift of softer, smoother skin, gorgeous locks, a blissful bath treat or a sensual pleasure, she's sure to be delighted

11 LOOKING GOOD Give her cheeks a pop of colour, Cheery Cheeks, \$79.00, Benefit. **12 LOVELY CURLS** Make her curls soft and bouncy, Soft Bounce Natural Texture Curl Shampoo and Conditioner, \$80 each, R+Co. **13 SWEET AND DELICIOUS** Yes to softer, scented hands, Sweet Pea & Jasmine Hand Cream Bon Bon, \$14.95, ECOYA. **14 SKIN CARE** Gift her a set of great skincare products, Rejuvenating Skin Collection, \$150, Ella Baché. **15 HEAD TRIP** Treat her to a healthy scalp and glossy locks,

GRO Better Duo Scalp Revitalizing Massager and Hair Serum, \$125, Vegamour. **16 BOLD AND PASSIONATE** She'll love this powerful fusion of notes, Carmina Eau de Parfum, \$299, Creed. **17 THREE-IN-ONE** A trio of scents for summer days and nights, Summer Nostalgia Collective Trio Eau de Parfum, \$70, Who Is Elijah. **18 COMING UP ROSES** Gift her with roses, Rose Hand & Mist Duo, \$62, Jurlique. **19 VIVA LA FRANCE** Uplift her with rosy-looking skin and lush lips, Nude Glow, \$91.00, Embryolisse.



INDULGE HIM

1 SIMPLE PLEASURES A solution for his hair if it needs a little helping hand, Repair Shampoo and Conditioner, \$16 each, People. **2 THE WHOLE DEAL** For the man who takes pride in his appearance, Face 4Ward Deluxe Kit, \$164.99, Shakeup Cosmetics. **3 HYDRATION PLUS** Help him to restore his dry hair to tip-top condition, Eksperience Hydro Nutritive Trio, \$80, Revlon Professional. **4 ESSENTIAL CARE** Set him up

with a daily skincare ritual, Active Essentials, \$29.95, Natio For Men. **5 PEEPER PAMPER** Give his eyes the kind of lovely treat they deserve, 5 x Eye Smoothing & Depuffing Masks, \$50, Wrinkles Schminkles. **6 SKIN MATTERS** Keep his skin well and truly hydrated, Super Moisture Collection, \$96, ClarinsMen. **7 STYLED UP** Help him enjoy thicker and healthier-looking hair, Forming Cream Duo, \$39.95, American Crew.



From small treats to products that answer his self-care and grooming needs, there's something for every man this Christmas

8 BODY LOVE He'll feel like a new man after using this pack, Shower Power Pack, \$140, The Groomed Man. **9 SAFETY FIRST** No more excuses for not using sun protection, Hydrating Sunscreen For Men SPF 50+, \$13.69, Cancer Council. **10 SENSORY DELIGHT** Light up his world, Palin Candle Cup Gardenia and Bergamot, \$49.99, T.House Shop. **11 PLANET FRIENDLY** Small in size, big in benefits, Aloe Vera Hair Food

2-in-1 Shampoo Bar and Banana Hair Food 2-in-1 Shampoo Bar, \$14.49 each, Garnier. **12 BALD IS BOLD** His bald scalp needs tender loving care, Bare Skull '101' Kit, \$100, Bare Skull. **13 CHEAP AND CHEERFUL** Give his hands and lips a treat, Magic Tree Kit, \$29.95, Mavala. **14 FULL PROTECTION** Top-to-toe sun care, To Save Body SPF 50+ Sunscreen, \$40, To Save Face SPF 50+ Superscreen, \$44, Mecca Cosmetica.



HIS AND HERS

1 LIGHT AND SPEEDY Style hair in rapid time with the latest digital hair dryer, SpeedStyle, \$299, Shark. **2 NAILED IT** Tips and toes 18-in-1 manicure set, stainless steel professional pedicure set, nail scissors and grooming kit with a travel case, \$20.99, Dawntrees. **3 NEAT AND TIDY** For the man who likes to be super well-groomed, The Lawn Mower Male Body Groomer, \$149.99, Manscaped. **4 WHITE HOT** Gift them DIY brighter-looking teeth, Advanced

Teeth Whitening Kit, \$59.50, White Glo. **5 HEADS ABOVE** Improve scalp health and hair growth, Hair Essentials NuBrush and Holy Basil Hair Serum, \$162, Dr. Tanya. **6 DOUBLE DUTY** For the woman who likes to create waves, The Double Waver, \$99, Mermade. **7 BRUSH WORK** Longer hair will love this hair-styling brush, Oval Dressing Brush, \$55, GHD The Dresser. **8 TURN BACK TIME** How about a muscle stimulation device for a smoother, toned



Photography Alan Jensen; styling Nonci Nyoni. Prices are approximate and a guide only.

Tools, devices and gadgets to help take their self-care and head-to-toe grooming to the next level

FOR SHOPPING DETAILS, SEE OUR STOCKISTS PAGE

and refreshed look, FaceGymPro, \$1182, FaceGym. **9 SMOOTH OPERATOR** Ensure he gets the best results from his daily shave, Wet & Dry Rechargeable Shaver ES-LS9A, \$899, Panasonic. **10 SUPER CLEAN** Boost their cleansing routine, AgeLOC LumiSpa iO, \$410, Nu Skin. **11 VOLUME PLUS** Dry and style mid to short hair with ease, Black Gold Blowout Brush Small, \$149, Hot Tools. **12 TOP TOOLS** Must-have brushes for fabulous eye makeup, Brightening

Eye Set, \$44.99, Eco Tools. **13 TRIM AND TERRIFIC** Help him keep his beard in top shape, B5Style Series Beard Trimmer, \$79.95, Remington. **14 DEEP CLEANSE** Make having congested skin a thing of the past, Complete Package Silicone Cleansing Device, Clay Mask and reusable Microfibre Pads, \$99, Tyche. **15 GROW UP** DIY device to wake up hair follicles and help stimulate natural hair growth, Skin LED Hair Regrowth Device, \$1159, CurrentBody. ■

better health

[THE LATEST NEWS AND TRENDS]



EYES ON YOU

If you need help getting to sleep, settling down to meditate, or if your eyes get tired from too much screen time, these self-warming eye masks are worth a try. Once removed from the pack, they warm up and stay warm for at least 20 minutes. Available in five scents and also unscented, \$29.99 for a box of 5, Lula Eye Mask, lulaeyemask.com.au.

GOOD READS

BACK TO NATURE

Ladies, if you're looking for answers about finding your balance, read this. Naturopath Emma Drady is passionate about supporting women and nature. In her new book, **Women & Nature**, you'll learn how to reconnect with yourself and the natural world through the practices of inspiring women. **Women & Nature** by Emma Drady (Thames & Hudson, \$49.99), thamesandhudson.com.au.



PERFECT PLANNER

PAY IT FORWARD



A diary with health and wellbeing advice, a checklist, and more – how great! And, each

purchase funds breast cancer trial research, improving breast cancer diagnosis, treatment and eradication. The Breast Cancer Trials 2024 Australian Women's Health Diary, \$19.99, is available at selected post offices, newsagencies, Woolworths, and online from breastcancertrials.org.au/australian-womens-health-diary/.

SELF-CARE

What is normal for some women on a monthly basis isn't necessarily ok. New research has revealed three in four Australian women aged 35-52 have heavy periods and are suffering in silence. By not discussing your period health with your doctor, you could be at risk of not being diagnosed or treated, so make that call today.

GOOD VIBES

Go to your 'happy place' with a spritz of this long-lasting room spray into the centre of a room. The scent is a fruity blend of ripe raspberry, green apple, sweet orange and pear – the ideal combo to lift your spirits. Kori The Room Spray Of Hope, Cocktails & Dreams by Three Suns, \$44.95, hardtofind.com.au/bhg.



NEW TECHNOLOGY

INSTANT WRINKLE SMOOTHING WITHOUT BOTOX®!

INTRODUCING 48 HOUR WRINKLE FREEZE ICE ROLLER MASK SMOOTHS SKIN INSTANTLY BY UP TO 82%, WITH UP TO 90% WRINKLE SMOOTHING AFTER 24 HOURS!

Peptide infused

Coconut water gel mask

Cryotherapy

Patented ice-roller massage tool



3 technologies for instantly smoother skin

Breakthrough wrinkle freezing peptides smooth wrinkles for 2 whole days

Our refreshing coconut water mask is jam-packed with wrinkle freezing peptides at levels never seen before to provide an **82% wrinkle smooth in just 30 minutes.**

But the effect doesn't fade away in a few hours – in fact, the results get even better with up to **90% wrinkle smoothing 24 hours after you wash the mask off.** No Cinderella moment for you. Clinical tests show wrinkle smoothing is still significant 48 hours later!

Nature's electrolyte drink for your skin

Light your skin from inside-out thanks to coconut water's skin renewing growth factors, and a clinically proven hydration

Put your wrinkles on ice: New ICE ROLLER MASK instantly smooths skin with results lasting 48 hours!

boost that keeps hydrating your skin – after you wash it off. 24 hours later it's still boosting your skin's moisture levels and you'll remain hydrated for up to 72 hours.

Part treatment mask, part cryotherapy treatment with patented ice-roller mask

Like an ice-bath for your face, our ice-roller massage not only enhances the benefits of your mask treatment, it **instantly depuffs and increases circulation** – boosting radiance for a lit-from-within glow.

*Botox® is a registered trademark of Allergan Inc. freeze:frame has no association with Allergan Inc.

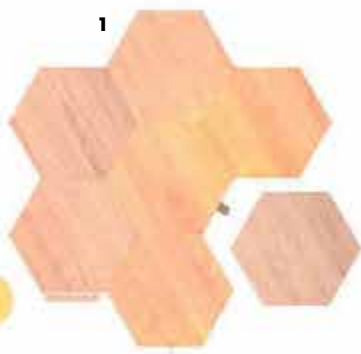


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TECH GIFT GUIDE

Check out the latest and greatest gadgets your giftees will love unwrapping

1 RAW BEAUTY Art meets tech with Nanoleaf Elements wall lighting, \$429.99, nanoleaf.me/en-AU. **2 CALL ME!** Dial up in style with a So Pink Nokia G42 5G, \$449, nokia.com/phones/en_au. **3 HANDS-FREE!** Vacuum like a Jetson with an Ecovacs DEEBOT X2 OMNI, \$2499, ecovacs.com/au. **4 DAILY GRIND** Skip the queues and brew your own barista-approved cups with a sleek JURA ENA 4, \$1599, au.jura.com. **5 WINE O'CLOCK** Gift wine-lovers an LG Wine Fridge, \$499, lg.com/au. **6 GOOD TIMING** Upgrade your kids' wrist game with Swatches, from

\$65, swatch.com/en-au/. **7 SUPERCHARGED** They'll never run out of juice connected to a BoostCharge Magnetic Wireless Power Bank 5k+ Stand, \$69.95, belkin.com/au. **8 HOUSE DJ** Parties really pop with the Logitech Ultimate Ears Wonderboom 3, \$149.95, logitech.com/en-au. **9 READY, ALEXA?** Always, thanks to the Amazon Echo Pop, \$79, amazon.com.au. **10 SUPERSONIC** Get unwired, wear a Logitech Zone Vibe 100 headset, \$179.95, logitech.com/en-au. **11 HOT DESK** Work beautifully with a Satechi Eco-leather Deskmate, \$59, jbhifi.com.au. ■

Prices are approximate and a guide only.

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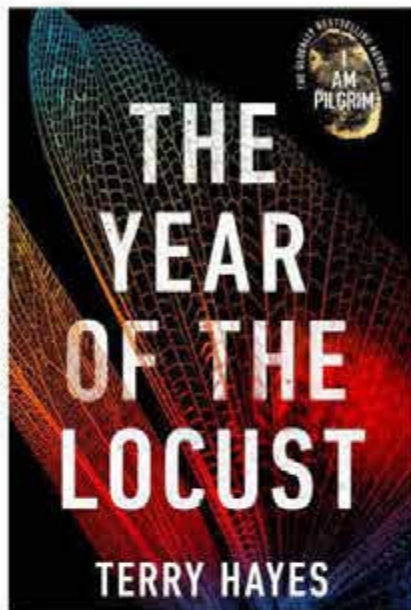
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SOLUGEL

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Woolworths, Chemist Warehouse
and your local pharmacy.**

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[THE NEWEST AND BEST NOVELS AND NON-FICTION]



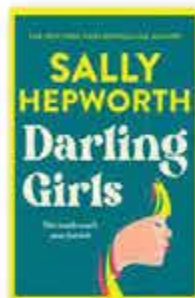
“TO SAY THAT IT’S EPIC IS SOMETHING OF AN UNDERSTATEMENT”

TERRY HAYES

The Year of the Locust

Terry Hayes
(Penguin Random House, \$34.99)

If, like Kane, you’re a Denied Access Area spy for the CIA, then boundaries have no meaning. You know when to run, when to hide – and when to shoot. But some places don’t play by the rules. Some places are too dangerous, even for a man of Kane’s experience. The badlands where the borders of Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan meet are such a place – a place where violence is the only way to survive. Kane travels there to exfiltrate a man with vital information for the safety of the West but, instead, Kane meets a clever, vicious adversary who will take the world to the very brink of extinction.

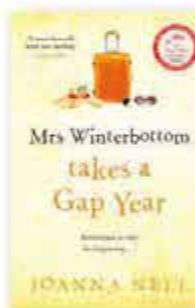


DARLING GIRLS

Sally Hepworth
(Pan Macmillan, \$34.99)

Jessica, Norah and Alicia have been told how lucky they are. Rescued from family tragedies and raised by a loving foster mother on an idyllic farm, it was a second chance.

But their childhood wasn’t the fairy tale everyone thinks it was, and when a body is discovered under the home they grew up in, the foster sisters are thrust into the spotlight as key witnesses. Or are they suspects?



MRS WINTERBOTTOM TAKES A GAP YEAR

Joanna Nell
(Hachette, \$32.99)

Husband and wife GPs Alan and Heather Winterbottom have worked side by side for over 40 years, but now they’ve decided to retire.

Heather dreams of exploring the Greek Islands, Alan dreams of growing vegies. When it comes to a head at a family lunch, Heather says she is taking a year off. Alone in Greece, Heather has incredible experiences and faces both pitfalls and temptations.

The Seven

Chris Hammer
(Allen & Unwin, \$32.99)

Fan-favourite homicide detectives Ivan Lucic and Nell Buchanan travel to a remote town to investigate the murder of a member of one of ‘The Seven’ founding families. These families built the town on an irrigation scheme, setting it up to fuel their own wealth and power. But all is not as it seems, danger and colourful characters abound in a district defined by both its geography and its history. Is the murder linked to the execution of another member of The Seven 30 years ago? With the killer on the loose, can the detectives crack the case before more people die?



THE SHALLOWS

Holly Craig
(Thomas & Mercer, \$29.99)

Neighbours in an exclusive suburb of Sydney, Emma and Ariella seem to have it all. But secrets lurk beneath the shallow waters. Ariella has been found murdered,

and Emma’s daughter, Kiki, not knowing what she’s filmed, innocently uploads footage of Ariella’s brutal death. Emma fears the killer will know what she and Kiki have seen. ■

SAFE TRAVELS

STELLA TRAVEL INSURANCE IS DESIGNED WITH WOMEN IN MIND TO BE FLEXIBLE, SUPPORTIVE AND RELEVANT.

Travel is back on the menu, with 70 per cent of Australians currently planning an overseas holiday. But in an unpredictable world, after you've picked your destination (and worked out how you're getting there), it's important to consider your travel insurance options. According to industry research, women are the ones who do the vast majority of travel planning, whether they're going on a solo trip, heading overseas with another adult or holidaying with children. What's more, women have specific priorities for their travel insurance, including flexible levels of cover, inclusions to suit different budgets and wanting transparency and trust from their insurance provider. Enter Stella Insurance. After bringing car insurance tailored to women, they are now expanding their offering to travel insurance. They have found plenty of ways to champion equality, making this important item easier and fairer for women. There are certain things you shouldn't have to worry about while you're away from home, no matter what's happening in your life. Stella's flexible offerings are designed to help you focus on your trip. What does that mean in practice? Here's one example: if you're pregnant, they'll

pay for essential treatment for any unexpected, serious complications that may happen on your holiday. You'll just need to provide a doctor's OK if you're travelling past 24 weeks pregnant with a single child, or 19 weeks where you're expecting more than one baby*. And if you experience an emergency as a result of a covered event while your kids are travelling with you, they'll cover up to \$200 per day for five days of child-minding services*. They also provide support for counselling up to \$500 and daily accommodation expenses up to \$200 for up to seven days in the case of domestic violence*. That's all in addition to their missing luggage policy, trip cancellation cover and the ability to select an excess, essentials and extras*. Plus, of course, the seamless Stella experience – from initial quoting through to contact centre calls, including 24/7 worldwide emergency assistance if you need it. Whether you're jetting off to the bright lights of London, bathing on the sun-kissed beaches of Bali or taking on the slopes* in New Zealand, you can enjoy the sights without the added baggage of stress. Stella's travel insurance is flexible, customisable and unapologetically designed with women in mind.

TRAVEL INSURANCE CATERED TO YOU

Stella builds cover to meet your needs. That means flexibility to customise your insurance with a modular quote journey, as well as price and product transparency.

TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE

Stella is passionate about challenging the status quo, championing equality and building products for a fairer world. That's why they partner with women-focused charities to drive actionable change for women. \$5 from every travel insurance policy will go to support women causes, helping to improve the lives of women and girls and live free from violence and discrimination.

DISCOVER STELLA TRAVEL INSURANCE AND GET A QUOTE. STELLAINSURANCE.COM.AU

stella★
Insurance that's
unapologetically for women

*Policy terms and conditions, exclusions and limitations apply. Read the PDS for full details. *Snow Pack is an optional extra. Any information or advice provided in this article is general only and doesn't take into account your individual needs, objectives or financial situation. Benefits are subject to the terms and conditions including the limits, sub-limits and exclusions of the insurance policy. You should consider the appropriateness of any such advice, and read the combined Travel Insurance Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) and Financial Services Guide (FSG) and the Target Market Determination (TMD) for this product, available at stellainsurance.com.au, before making a decision to acquire, or to continue to hold, the product. Stella Travel Insurance is issued by Pacific International Insurance Pty Ltd (ABN 83 169 311 193) (Pacific) and distributed by Stella Underwriting Pty Ltd (ABN 72 633 811 319, AR 001282046) acting as an Authorised Representative of battleface Insurance Services Pty Ltd (ABN 28 650 606 045, AFSL 536280) (battleface) which is acting under a binding authority as agent for Pacific.

MADE
WITH
LOVE!

SANTA'S WORKSHOP



*Beautifully
wrapped in time
for the sleigh.*

Make like Mr Claus' elves and handcraft these easy, last-minute, budget-friendly pressies - they're just as thoughtful (if not more so) than a big-time spree

Only days before Christmas proper, you realise there are still a few more gifts to buy, but you're all out of great ideas, an online order would never arrive in time, and you don't want to face the frenzy at the shops. Even if you aren't particularly crafty, you can pull off something special and meaningful without spending much, and in next to no time. These thrifty, yet thoughtful, homemade gifts will be finished on schedule for the big guy in the red coat to pick up and drop off.

EASY STEPS TO CREATING ALL-NATURAL ROOM SPRAYS

This heavenly air freshener smells like Christmas in a bottle - what better way to make the festive vibe linger. Added bonus, there are no mystery ingredients, and you can choose from one of three delicious scents, or make up a three-pack.

Gather your supplies

- A clean 100ml amber spray bottle
- Distilled water
- Witch hazel
- Essential oil blend of choice (see Choose your cheer, right)
 - Pack of black self-adhesive labels
 - Pack of kraft brown scalloped gift tags
 - Baker's twine

You'll also need

Scissors; black marker pen; hole puncher



STEP 1



STEP 2A



STEP 2B



STEP 3

Here's how

STEP 1 Put 30-50 drops of your favourite essential oil blend in a spray bottle, depending on the strength you desire (see Choose your cheer, right).

STEP 2 Fill bottle to half full with witch hazel, then top with distilled water. Screw on spray lid.



Add bush natives and dried orange as toppers to hint at what's inside.

STEP 3 Write your chosen oil blend on the gift tag, thread twine through hole and tie to bottle neck. Repeat Steps 1-3 with remaining oil blends if making up a three-pack gift.

Choose your cheer!

Christmas Tree:

Cedarwood, orange and sandalwood essential oil blend.

Holly Jolly: Pine, orange, cinnamon and clove essential oil blend.

Sleigh Ride: Peppermint essential oil and eucalyptus essential oil.

Note: Only use distilled water, not tap water, as it will preserve the room spray for longer, making it more suitable for gift-giving.

NOUGHTS AND CROSSES

Sure to keep everyone off their devices on Christmas Day, this display-worthy noughts and crosses game is fun to give, fun to play and fun to make. Slide a trimmed piece of cardboard inside a drawstring calico bag to prevent ink stains. Using a ruler and black permanent marker, mark out lines of noughts and crosses board on front of bag, then write Noughts and Crosses underneath. Mark all white pebbles with crosses in black marker and all black pebbles with noughts in white marker. To gift, insert pebbles and pull string to close.

EASY STEPS TO MAKE A JAR OF FRAGRANT FOOT SOAK

Odds are, your favourite person could always use a night of pampering, starting with a soothing DIY pedi spa using this scented formula, made with relaxing Epsom salts and skin-cleansing dried lemon peel.

Gather your supplies

- 2 fresh lemons, for dried peel
- 1 cup bicarb soda
- ½ cup Epsom salts
- Lemon, peppermint and rosemary essential oil blend
- Dried mint leaves
- Small clip-lid jar
- Baker's twine
- Small wooden spoon
- Pack of place cards
- Red festive ribbon, optional
- Craft glue

You'll also need

Scissors; black marker pen; hole puncher

Here's how

STEP 1 Grate lemon peel. Put peel on a baking paper-lined tray in the oven at 80°C fan-forced (100°C conventional) for about 10 minutes. Cool. Or, to retain



A Yuletide gift that's definitely worth its salt!

yellow colour, heat peel in microwave between sheets of paper towel, in 1 minute bursts, until dried, turning over paper towel each time.

STEP 2 Put bicarb, salts, 5-20 drops of essential oil, a sprinkling of dried mint and dried lemon peel in a clean, dry bowl. Stir with a wooden spoon to combine.

STEP 3 Spoon foot soak into jar. Label foot soak on card, write ingredients on

inside and punch a hole in corner of card. Tie twine around jar 3 times, winding around spoon to attach to jar. Thread twine through card hole and knot to secure. Wrap ribbon around jar and glue one end over top of other end for a seamless look.

Note: Only use once or twice a week to avoid drying out your skin, and do not use if you have open cuts.



IT'S A WRAP!

Anyone can achieve this gift-wrap hack. Measure circumference and height of gift, allowing for overlap at sides and adding 7cm to height. Cut paper to suit.

Overlap left and right sides at centre back, securing overlap with double-sided tape. Fold up 4cm at base, press fold, then unfold. Open bottom and create a triangular point on one side by pushing side fold in toward centre so side crease is even with 4cm fold line. Press to mark folds of triangular point.

Repeat opposite. Fold both flaps toward centre so flaps overlap, tape to secure. Sit bag up, put filler and gift inside. For top enclosure, fold to form a flap, double-tape to secure, thread ribbon around and tie a bow. ■

FOR PROJECT SUPPLIES, SEE OUR STOCKISTS PAGE



STEP 2



STEP 3A



STEP 3B



STEP 3C

Chicken that's **100% Aussie as.**



We only use **100% Australian RSPCA Approved chicken** from local suppliers like Inghams, Baiada and Turosi.

Changing for the better?

We're on it.

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ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS...

The ultimate gift guide to navigate
this festive season

\$20 OFF*
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SCAN TO SHOP



CURATED BY hardtofind.com.au

Discount code must be used at checkout to redeem \$20 off your order when you spend over \$100. Valid until 26.12.23 23:30.



1. 100 Piece Magnetic Puzzle, \$35. 2. Cotton Turkish Bath Towel, \$152.99. 3. Antipodes Gin Gift Pack, \$119. 4. Personalised 'Santa's Treats' Wooden Tray, \$64.99. 5. BBQ King Tool Set, \$180. 6. Personalised Name Crayons, \$31.95. 7. Adjustable Chest Harness, \$41.95. 8. Gin Baubles (Set of 6), \$89. 9. Personalised Star Glass Charm, \$18.50. 10. The Footy Jumper Book, \$90. 11. Polarbox Cooler Box Nude, \$109.95. 12. Coral & Peach Medium Pool Ring, \$59.99. 13. FEGG Unbreakable Silicone Tumblers, \$39.95. 14. Personalised Christmas Stocking, \$29.95. 15. Personalised Kid's Christmas Book - The Little Reindeer, \$49.99. 16. Sand Moulds I Peach, \$33.95. 17. Re-fun-able Colour Draw Set, \$49.95. 18. Pair of Kookaburras Steel Garden Art, \$125. 19. Mornington Peninsula Wine Region Tea Towel/Hunter Valley Wine Region Tea Towel, \$29. 20. Personalised 'Christmas with' Serving Board, \$64.99.

A JOLLY EASY FESTIVE FEAST



ROASTED CHERRY CROSTINI WITH WHIPPED RICOTTA

Preparation time 10 mins

Cooking time 18 mins

Makes 12

½ baguette, sliced on an angle
2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
500g cherries, pitted
½ bunch thyme sprigs, plus extra
250g ricotta
80g feta
1 clove garlic, crushed
Sea-salt flakes and freshly ground
black pepper, to season

STEP 1 Preheat oven to 190°C fan-forced (210°C conventional). Line an oven tray with baking paper. Brush baguette slices with 1 tablespoon of the oil. Bake for 10 minutes or until golden. Cool completely, transfer to a platter.

STEP 2 Meanwhile, in an ovenproof dish, combine cherries, remaining oil and thyme. Bake for 15-18 minutes or

until cherries begin to blister. Cool.
STEP 3 Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, whip ricotta, feta and garlic. Season. Spread whipped ricotta over crostini, top with cherries, drizzle with cherry pan juices and serve with extra thyme.



SURF AND TURF ROSEMARY SKEWERS WITH ROMESCO SAUCE

Preparation time 15 mins

Cooking time 15 mins

Makes 16

16 rosemary sprigs, cut to 12cm long
700g sirloin beef, 2-3cm cubes
16 large green prawns, peeled and
tails intact
16 cherry tomatoes
2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
465g jar of capsicum, drained,
oil reserved
1 cup roasted unsalted cashews
Sea-salt flakes and freshly ground
black pepper, to season

STEP 1 Remove ¾ of the leaves from the rosemary, wash stems well. Thread on beef, prawns and tomatoes.

STEP 2 Heat a chargrill plate or barbecue on high heat. Brush skewers with oil, grill in batches for 1 minute each side or until prawns are cooked through and beef is cooked to your liking.

STEP 3 To make sauce, process drained capsicum (including reserved oil) and cashews to a coarse paste. Season.

STEP 4 Serve skewers with romesco.



LYCHEE AND PASSIONFRUIT PUNCH

Preparation time 15 mins plus
overnight freezing

Cooking time nil

Serves 8-10

560g can lychees in syrup
24 small mint leaves, plus extra,
to serve
Pulp of 10 passionfruit

300ml dark rum, chilled
1 lemon, thinly sliced
2 x 1.25L bottles orange and passionfruit sparkling mineral water, chilled

STEP 1 Drain lychees, put liquid in a jug. Add ½ cup water to jug and stir to combine. Pour into two 12-hole ice cube trays. Put a mint leaf in each; freeze overnight. Cut lychees in half, transfer to a bowl. Cover and refrigerate.

STEP 2 When ready to serve, strain passionfruit pulp through a sieve and reserve 2 tablespoons of seeds. Return seeds to juice, discard remaining seeds.

STEP 3 Divide rum, passionfruit juice and seeds, lychees, lemon and mineral water between 2 large serving jugs, stir to combine. Top with extra mint.

STEP 4 Just before serving, turn out ice cubes from tray and add to jugs. Serve punch immediately.



SNAPPER CEVICHE WITH TORTILLA CHIPS

Preparation time 10 mins plus
 30 mins marinating
Cooking time 10 mins
Serves 6

8 corn tortillas
Olive oil spray
500g skinless saddle tail snapper fillets, diced into 1cm cubes
1 small red onion, diced
1 cup lime juice, plus lime wedges, to serve
1 mango, diced
1 cup coriander leaves
Sea-salt flakes and freshly ground black pepper, to season

STEP 1 Preheat oven to 180°C fan-forced (200°C conventional). Line an oven tray with baking paper. Cut tortillas into small triangles and spread out on tray. Spray with oil, bake for 10 minutes or until tortillas are crisp. Set aside to cool.

STEP 2 Meanwhile, in a medium, non-metallic bowl, combine snapper, red onion and lime juice. Mix well to ensure snapper is coated in lime juice. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes or until opaque. Pour out excess juice.

STEP 3 When ready to serve, add mango and coriander to snapper mixture. Season. Serve ceviche with tortilla chips and lime wedges.



ROAST CARROT, LEMON AND GRAIN SALAD

Preparation time 10 mins
Cooking time 30 mins
Serves 6-8

3 bunches mixed heirloom Dutch carrots, unpeeled, scrubbed
⅓ cup extra virgin olive oil, plus extra
Sea-salt flakes and freshly ground black pepper, to season
¼ cup buckwheat
1 cup pearl couscous
1¾ cups water
¾ bunch flat-leaf parsley, leaves picked, half coarsely chopped
Juice and finely grated zest of 1 lemon
¾ cup Greek yoghurt, to serve

STEP 1 Preheat oven to 200°C fan-forced (220°C conventional). Line an oven tray with baking paper. Add carrots, drizzle with 2 tablespoons of the oil, season and bake for 25-30 minutes or until golden.

STEP 2 Meanwhile, heat a medium saucepan on medium heat. Add buckwheat and toast for 2-3 minutes. Transfer to a bowl and set aside.

STEP 3 Add 2 teaspoons of the oil to the same pan. Add couscous and toast on medium heat, stirring, for 2 minutes or until just golden. Add water and bring to a simmer. Cover with a lid and simmer on low for 10 minutes. Remove lid, cook for a further 2 minutes or until liquid has absorbed and couscous is cooked. Fluff with a fork and add to buckwheat. Add chopped parsley, juice, zest and

remaining olive oil.

STEP 4 Serve carrots with grains, yoghurt, remaining parsley and drizzle with extra oil.



TOMATO, PROSCIUTTO, BURRATA AND PINE NUT SALAD

Preparation time 10 mins
Cooking time nil
Serves 6-8

6 mixed heirloom tomatoes
2 Tbsp white balsamic vinegar
100g prosciutto, thinly sliced
¼ bunch basil, leaves picked
2 fresh burrata
2 Tbsp pine nuts, toasted
Sea-salt flakes and freshly ground black pepper, to season

STEP 1 Thickly slice half of the tomatoes; cut remaining into wedges.

STEP 2 On a platter, arrange tomato, drizzle with balsamic, top with prosciutto, basil and burrata. Sprinkle with pine nuts. Season and serve.





**1000-LAYER
DUCK FAT
POTATOES**

Preparation time 15 mins
Cooking time 1 hour and 10 mins
Serves 8

2kg large sebago potatoes, peeled
150g duck fat, melted
3 rosemary sprigs, leaves picked and finely chopped
4 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
Sea-salt flakes and freshly ground black pepper, to season
½ bunch thyme, sprigs picked

STEP 1 Preheat oven to 200°C fan-forced (220°C conventional). Lightly grease a 25 x 20cm baking dish.

STEP 2 Using a mandolin, thinly slice potatoes lengthways (approx. 3-5mm). Transfer to a large bowl, toss with duck fat, rosemary and garlic, ensuring potatoes are well coated. Season.

STEP 3 Layer potatoes lengthways in dish so they sit upright and snug. Roast for 1 hour and 10 minutes, until golden and crisp, covering loosely with foil if they become too brown.

STEP 4 Remove from oven and rest for 10 minutes. Serve with thyme sprigs.



**WATERMELON,
POMEGRANATE
AND FETA SALAD**

Preparation time 10 mins
Cooking time nil
Serves 6-8

¼ watermelon, cut into wedges
100g marinated feta in oil, drained, oil reserved
4 green figs, halved or quartered
1 pomegranate, seeds removed
½ bunch mint, leaves picked
2 Tbsp pomegranate molasses
Sea-salt flakes and freshly ground black pepper, to season

STEP 1 Arrange watermelon, drained feta, figs, pomegranate seeds and mint on a platter.

STEP 2 Combine pomegranate molasses and 1 tablespoon of the reserved feta oil in a bowl, and whisk to combine. Season, then drizzle dressing over salad and serve.



**SAGE, PANCETTA
AND GARLIC
BREAD-STUFFED
CHICKEN**

Preparation time 15 mins
Cooking time 1 hour 45 mins
Serves 6-8

1.6kg whole free-range chicken
¼ cup extra virgin olive oil, plus extra 2 Tbsp
2 bunches sage, leaves picked
250g piece of pancetta, finely diced
400g storebought garlic bread
1 free-range egg, lightly whisked
Sea-salt flakes and freshly ground black pepper, to season
250ml chicken stock

STEP 1 Preheat oven to 180°C fan-forced (200°C conventional). Pat chicken dry with paper towel and put in a roasting pan.

STEP 2 Meanwhile, heat oil in a medium frypan on medium heat. Fry 12 sage leaves for 10 seconds or until vibrant green and crispy. Drain on paper towel. Add pancetta to frypan and cook for 7-10 minutes or until fat has rendered and pancetta is beginning to crisp.

STEP 3 Pulse garlic bread in a food processor to fine crumbs. Reserve 1 cup crumbs for sauce and add remaining crumbs to pan with pancetta. Cook for 8-10 minutes or until golden, stirring occasionally. Coarsely chop remaining sage and stir through mixture. Remove from heat and remove ½ cup of crumbs for topping. Stir egg through remaining crumb mixture to form stuffing. Season.

STEP 4 Fill chicken cavity with stuffing. Tie legs with kitchen string and tuck in wings. Drizzle with extra oil, bake for

1 hour and 15 minutes or until cooked.

STEP 5 To make bread sauce, remove chicken from roasting pan and transfer to plate, loosely covered with foil. Put pan over medium heat and add first lot of reserved uncooked bread crumbs. Cook, stirring, for 3 minutes. Add stock using wooden spoon, scraping any bits from bottom of pan. Simmer for 5 minutes or until starting to brown. Cool slightly before transferring to a blender. Blitz until smooth and thickened, add more stock if necessary.

STEP 6 Serve chicken with reserved cooked crumb mixture, fried sage leaves and bread sauce.



**BAKED HAM WITH
CARDAMOM,
CHERRY AND
PORT WINE
GLAZE**

Preparation time 15 mins
Cooking time 1 hour 45 mins
Serves 12-14

9kg leg of ham
1½ cups brown sugar
½ cup port
1 cup BBQ sauce
2 tsp ground cardamom powder
600g frozen cherries, defrosted

STEP 1 Preheat oven to 160°C fan-forced (180°C conventional). Use a sharp knife to cut around rind, 10cm from shank end. Run thumb under rind to separate from fat. Slowly peel back and discard rind. Score fat at 1.5cm intervals, ensure you don't cut through to meat. Score in opposite direction to create diamond pattern. Wrap shank in foil and put ham on a large baking tray lined with foil and baking paper.

STEP 2 Add sugar, port, sauce and cardamom to a medium saucepan on medium heat. Cook, stirring for 5 minutes or until sugar has dissolved. Add cherries and bring to simmer. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 8-10 minutes or until glaze thickens slightly. Remove from heat and use a slotted spoon to remove cherries for later.

STEP 3 Brush ham with $\frac{1}{3}$ of the glaze. Bake for 1 hour and 30 minutes, basting every half hour with glaze until ham is golden. Serve with reserved cherries and any remaining glaze.



ROASTED PORK RACK WITH MAPLE PEACHES

Preparation time 10 mins plus chilling

Cooking time 1 hour 15 mins

Serves 8

2.6kg rack of pork (8 cutlets)
2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
Sea-salt flakes and freshly ground black pepper, to season
6 yellow peaches, halved, stones removed
8 purple shallots, peeled
2 garlic bulbs, halved horizontally
 $\frac{1}{2}$ bunch of lemon thyme sprigs
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup maple syrup

STEP 1 Pat pork dry with paper towel, put in a ceramic dish. Refrigerate, uncovered, for at least 2 hours or overnight (if time permits).

STEP 2 Preheat oven to 220°C fan-forced (240°C conventional). Score pork at 1cm intervals. Put pork in a large roasting pan. Drizzle with 1 teaspoon of the oil. Season with salt. Roast for 30 minutes or until golden and crackling has formed.

STEP 3 Reduce heat to 160°C fan-forced (180°C conventional). In a large bowl, combine peaches, shallots, garlic, $\frac{1}{2}$ of the thyme, maple syrup and remaining oil. Season.

STEP 4 Add peach mixture to pan with pork. Roast for 45 minutes or until juices run clear when skewer is inserted in centre of pork and fruit is tender.

Remove pork from tray. Cover with foil. Rest for 10 minutes.

STEP 5 Serve pork with peaches, shallots, garlic and remaining thyme.



GINGER, MANGO AND HONEY CHEESECAKE

Preparation time 15 mins plus 4 hours

30 mins chilling

Cooking time nil

Serves 8-10

400g gingerbread biscuits
160g unsalted butter, melted
500g cream cheese, softened slightly
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup honey, plus extra 1 Tbsp
4 mangoes, thinly sliced
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup Sunbeam Australian Pistachios, roughly chopped, to serve

STEP 1 Put biscuits in a food processor and process until coarse crumbs. Add melted butter and continue to process until fine crumbs and combined. Spoon mixture into a lightly greased 35 x 10cm rectangle loose-based fluted tart pan. Using the back of a spoon, push mixture into base and up sides of pan. Put in fridge for 30 minutes or until firm.

STEP 2 To make filling, add cream cheese and honey to a bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment. Beat on medium speed until just combined, taking care not to over mix. Spoon mixture into tart shell and chill for 4 hours or overnight until firm.

STEP 3 Top cheesecake with mango. Drizzle with extra honey and pistachios.





FROZEN BURNT BRANDY BUTTER CHRISTMAS PUDDING

Preparation time 10 mins plus 4 hours soaking and freezing

Cooking time 10 mins

Serves 6-8

1½ cups Sunbeam Mixed Fruit

¼ cup brandy, warmed

60g unsalted butter

2L good-quality vanilla ice-cream, softened

50g honeycomb, coarsely chopped, plus extra shards, to serve

1 cup caster sugar

½ cup water

STEP 1 Combine mixed fruit and 2 tablespoons of the brandy in bowl. Soak for 1 hour or overnight.

STEP 2 Melt butter in medium frypan on medium heat. Cook, swirling pan occasionally, for 2 minutes or until foam becomes golden. Add remaining brandy and bring to simmer (take care not to let it catch on fire on a gas stovetop). Remove from heat, cool for 5 minutes.

STEP 3 Transfer ice-cream into a large bowl. Fold through soaked fruit mixture, honeycomb and butter mixture. Put in a 1.5L pudding dish, lightly greased and lined with plastic wrap, ensuring wrap overhangs edge by 15cm. Smooth ice-cream mixture, cover with excess wrap. Freeze for 2-3 hours or until set.

STEP 4 Meanwhile, line a large oven tray with baking paper and put on a wire rack. Stir sugar and water in a large saucepan on low heat until dissolved. Increase heat to high and bring to boil. Boil, not stirring, for 6-8 minutes or until golden. Remove from heat and pour over prepared tray to form thin, even toffee. Set aside for 20 minutes to firm completely.

STEP 5 Put base of pudding dish in a bowl of warm water to help loosen. Gently pull out plastic wrap to release pudding. Invert onto a serving plate and remove plastic wrap. Gently break toffee into shards.

Serve pudding topped with extra honeycomb and broken toffee shards.



STRAWBERRY 'SPlice' JELLY BUNDT

Preparation time 20 mins plus overnight chilling

Cooking time nil

Serves 8

3 Tbsp powdered gelatine, plus extra 2 tsp

¼ cup warm water

250g cream cheese, at room temperature

395g condensed milk

600ml thickened cream, plus extra 300ml

2 x 85g pkts strawberry jelly crystals

2 cups boiling water

200ml cold water

2 tsp dried rose petals

STEP 1 Sprinkle the powdered gelatine over warm water. Gently whisk to dissolve and set aside for 10 minutes to bloom. Microwave on HIGH (100% power) for 40 seconds.

STEP 2 In an electric mixer with a paddle attachment, beat cream cheese and milk for 2 minutes. Add cream and beat for 1 minute or until smooth. Pour in dissolved gelatine, mix for 10 seconds until incorporated. Pour mixture into a 25cm-wide greased bundt pan. Smooth top, put in fridge for 4 hours or until set.

STEP 3 Combine jelly crystals and extra 2 teaspoons of gelatine into a large, heatproof jug. Stir in boiling water, until dissolved. Add cold water, set aside to cool for 20 minutes.

STEP 4 Remove bundt pan from fridge. Carefully separate white layer from sides of pan and invert onto a board or plate. Clean bundt pan, dry thoroughly and lightly grease with canola oil cooking spray. Immediately flip set cream cheese mixture back into clean pan.

STEP 5 Pour cooled jelly into bundt pan. Carefully pull cream cheese mixture away from sides and middle so liquid can move below (white layer should begin to float on top of jelly). Refrigerate overnight to completely set.

STEP 6 Put pan in hot water for 3-5 seconds to loosen jelly, then flip onto a platter. Whip extra cream to soft peaks, transfer to a piping bag fitted with a small fluted nozzle. Decorate jelly with cream and rose petals. Serve. ■

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*Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census



OH WHAT FUN! MERRY MAKES

Get making and baking with oh-so-cute cookie cutters



STRAWBERRY SNOWFLAKE COOKIES

Preparation

time 1 hour plus chilling

Cooking time 20 mins

Makes 24

150g unsalted butter, softened

½ cup caster sugar

1 tsp vanilla essence

1 free-range egg yolk

**½ cups plain flour, sifted, plus extra,
for dusting**

**1 tsp Queen Straw'ry & Cream
Colour And Flavour For Icing**

**600g box white ready-to-roll icing
(fondant)**

Pure icing sugar, sifted, for dusting

Pink food colouring

2 Tbsp strawberry jam, warmed

STEP 1 Beat butter, sugar and vanilla in bowl of an electric mixer until pale and creamy. Beat in egg yolk until combined. Stir in flour to form a dough.

STEP 2 Divide dough into 2 portions. Transfer 1 portion to a separate bowl and stir in Straw'ry & Cream Colour And Flavour. Flatten each portion into a flat disc on clean bench. Cut both portions into thick strips. Layer dough, alternating plain and pink strips, then press together and fold a few times for a marbled effect. Flatten into a disc. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1 hour, or until firm. Preheat oven to 160°C fan-forced (180°C conventional).

STEP 3 Roll out dough between 2 sheets of baking paper until 5mm thick. Lightly dust Snowflake cookie cutter with flour. Cut dough into shapes with cutter (without stamp).

Put shapes on baking paper-lined trays about 3cm apart. (Re-dust cutter with flour as needed to prevent sticking.) Bake for about 10 minutes or until cookies are very pale golden around edges. Cool on trays for 5 minutes, then transfer to wire racks to cool. Repeat with dough trimmings until all dough is used.

STEP 4 Knead icing on a clean bench lightly dusted with icing sugar until smooth. Divide into 3 portions. Tint pale pink, mid-pink and dark pink with pink food colouring. Roll out icing, 1 portion at a time, between 2 sheets of baking paper until 5mm thick. Lightly dust Snowflake cookie cutter and stamp with icing sugar. Cut icing into shapes, pressing imprint firmly. (Re-dip cutter and stamp in icing sugar as needed to prevent sticking.)

STEP 5 Brush biscuits with jam. Top with snowflake icing shapes. Serve.



SPICED GINGER MAPLE SANTA CAKES

Preparation time 1 hour 10 mins

Cooking time 50 mins

Makes 6

Olive oil spray

150g unsalted butter, softened

⅔ cup firmly packed brown sugar

**⅓ cup maple syrup, plus extra ¼ cup,
for brushing**

2 free-range eggs

½ cup milk, warmed

1 tsp bicarb soda

1⅓ cups plain flour

2 tsp ground ginger

1 tsp ground cinnamon

**450g pkt ready-rolled white icing
(fondant)**

Pure icing sugar, sifted, for dusting

**Red lustre sprinkles and white sugar
crystal sprinkles, to decorate**

BUTTERCREAM

250g unsalted butter, softened

3 cups icing sugar mixture, sifted

2 Tbsp milk (if needed)

Red gel food colouring

STEP 1 Preheat oven to 160°C fan-forced (180°C conventional).

Spray a 6-hole ¾-cup capacity Texas muffin pan with oil.

STEP 2 Beat butter, sugar and maple syrup in bowl of an electric mixer until pale and creamy. Beat in eggs one at a time, until combined.

STEP 3 Combine milk and bicarb soda in a small jug.

STEP 4 Stir combined sifted flour and spices, and milk mixture into butter mixture in 2 batches, stirring until smooth and combined. Spoon evenly into prepared muffin pan.

STEP 5 Bake for 50 minutes, or until cakes are golden and cooked when tested with a skewer. Stand cakes in pan for 5 minutes, then loosen edges and turn onto a wire rack. Pierce top of hot cakes all over with a skewer. Brush with extra maple syrup. Cool.

STEP 6 Unroll icing on bench dusted with icing sugar. Lightly dust Santa cookie cutter and stamp with icing sugar. Cut out 6 Santa shapes, pressing imprint firmly. Arrange on a baking paper-lined tray. Before the icing sets, sprinkle red lustre over Santas, brush off excess with a pastry brush. Sprinkle with sugar crystals. Set aside to firm for 30 minutes.

STEP 7 For Buttercream, in an electric mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, beat butter until pale. Gradually add icing sugar mixture, beating on low until combined. Increase speed to high and beat until light and fluffy, adding a little milk if needed. Tint red using colouring. Transfer to a piping bag fitted with a fluted nozzle.

STEP 8 Trim any peaked tops from cooled cakes, pipe frosting over cakes in small pipes. Top with Santa icing shapes.



CARAMEL AND PISTACHIO SANDWICH COOKIES

Preparation time 1 hour plus chilling
Cooking time 40 mins
Makes 24 sandwich cookies

250g unsalted butter, softened
¾ cup firmly packed brown sugar
1 tsp vanilla essence
1 free-range egg yolk
2¼ cups plain flour, sifted, plus extra, for dusting
430g jar dulce de leche or caramel spread, chilled (must be chilled)
1 cup Sunbeam Australian Pistachios, finely chopped

ICING

1 free-range egg white
½ tsp lemon juice
1½ cups pure icing sugar, sifted

STEP 1 Beat butter, sugar, vanilla and egg yolk in bowl of an electric mixer until pale and creamy. Stir in flour to form a firm dough. Turn dough onto a lightly floured surface. Knead briefly until smooth. Divide into 2 portions. Flatten each portion into a disc. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1 hour, or until firm.

STEP 2 Preheat oven to 160°C fan-forced (180°C conventional).

STEP 3 Roll out 1 dough portion between 2 sheets of baking paper until 5mm thick. Lightly dust Merry Christmas cookie cutter and stamp with flour. Cut dough into shapes with cutter, pressing imprint firmly. Put shapes on baking paper-lined trays about 3cm apart. (Re-dust cutter and stamp with flour as needed to prevent sticking.) Bake for 15-20 minutes or until cookies are lightly golden around edges. Cool on trays for 5 minutes, then transfer to wire racks to cool.

Repeat with remaining dough portion and dough trimmings until all the dough is used.

STEP 4 For Icing, lightly whisk egg white and lemon juice together in a bowl. Gradually add icing sugar, whisking until smooth and combined. Transfer to a small snap lock bag and snip a small corner. Pipe around the curved indent of half the cookies, set aside for 30 minutes to firm completely.

STEP 5 Put chilled dulce de leche or caramel spread in a snap lock bag. Twist top and snip one corner. Pipe over base of 1 un-iced cookie, top with an iced cookie, roll edge of biscuit sandwich in pistachios. Repeat for all cookies. Serve.

COOK'S TIPS

- Keep unfilled cookies for up to one week in an airtight container.
- Once filled, keep cookies for up to two days in an airtight container.



REINDEER GINGERBREAD FUDGE

Preparation time 35 mins plus 5 hours chilling
Cooking time 30 mins
Makes 12

395g can sweetened condensed milk
425g dark chocolate melts
75g unsalted butter, chopped
1 tsp vanilla essence
Crushed candy canes and gold sprinkles, to decorate

GINGERBREAD

75g butter, softened
⅓ cup firmly packed brown sugar
2 Tbsp golden syrup
1 free-range egg yolk
1¼ cups plain flour, plus extra, for dusting
3 tsp ground ginger
½ tsp mixed spice
½ tsp bicarb soda

STEP 1 To make Gingerbread, beat butter and brown sugar in bowl of an electric mixer until light and creamy. Beat in golden syrup and egg yolk until combined. Stir in sifted flour, spices and bicarb soda to form a firm dough. Turn dough onto a lightly floured surface. Knead briefly until smooth. Flatten into a disc. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1 hour, or until firm.

STEP 2 Preheat oven to 160°C fan-forced (180°C conventional).

STEP 3 Roll out dough between 2 sheets of baking paper until 5mm thick. Lightly dust Reindeer cookie cutter and stamp with flour. Cut dough into shapes with cutter, pressing imprint firmly. Put shapes on baking paper-lined trays about 3cm apart. (Re-dust cutter and stamp with flour as needed to prevent sticking.) Bake for 10 minutes or until cookies are lightly browned around edges. Cool on trays. Repeat with dough trimmings until all dough is used (mixture will make approx. 20 cookies).

STEP 4 To make fudge, line base and sides of a 20 x 30cm lamington pan with baking paper, extending paper higher on edges (this makes the fudge easier to remove later).

STEP 5 Combine condensed milk, chocolate melts, butter and vanilla in a large, heatproof bowl. Microwave on HIGH (100% power) for 2 minutes, stirring halfway through. Stir until smooth and glossy. Pour fudge over base of pan and use the back of a spoon to level. Working quickly, while fudge is still soft, arrange 12 cookies on top, pressing gently into fudge. Scatter crushed candy canes and gold sprinkles around the reindeer cookie pieces (pressing into fudge if needed).

STEP 6 Refrigerate fudge for 4 hours or overnight until set. Lift fudge from pan and use a large, hot knife to cut into squares using reindeer biscuits as a guide. Serve with remaining reindeer biscuits.

COOK'S TIP

Fudge will keep for up to two weeks in an airtight container in the fridge.



INKED DECORATIONS

NOTE Using a red or green ink pad may result in a pale stamped impression – you may need to stamp twice or paint (see Inked decorations instructions below).

For inked decorations using a gold, red and/or green stamp pad, follow Steps 1–3 of the Air-dry clay decorations (right), then press the cookie cutter stamp onto the stamp pad covering the surface of the stamp well before pressing it into the clay as described in Step 4. If the red or green inked impression is a little pale, re-ink the stamp and carefully stamp the clay a second time. Or, you can touch-up the red or green ink once it's dry. To do this, coat with Mod Podge and let dry. Load tip of a very fine liner brush with red or green paint, remove excess paint on kitchen paper towel then carefully brush paint into the grooves allowing it to settle. If necessary, use a damp makeup sponge to clean any paint from surface of decoration.

AIR-DRY CLAY DECORATIONS

Gather your supplies

- Air-dry clay, white
- Cookie cutter stamps
- Stamp pad in red, green and/or gold
- Mod Podge Matte
- Artist's acrylic paints in red, gold, green and white

You'll also need

- Silicone baking sheet; roller; bamboo skewer; cake cooling rack; flat and liner paintbrushes; kitchen paper towel; makeup sponge; lint-free cloth; scissors

NOTES

- Wrap any unused air-dry clay in plastic wrap and place it in a ziplock bag and an airtight container to help prevent it drying out.
- Two-piece cookie cutter stamps are used here (shop the set on page 37).

Here's how

- STEP 1** Cut a piece of air-dry clay and knead to soften and make it more pliable.
- STEP 2** Working on silicone baking sheet, roll out the clay to about 4mm thick.
- STEP 3** Press the cookie cutter into the clay – do not remove the cutter.

PAINTED DECORATIONS

Follow Steps 1–7 of the Air-dry clay decorations (above), then apply a coat of Mod Podge and let dry.

Using a small, flat paintbrush, paint desired sections of the surface, such as Santa's hat, coat and/or sack or the reindeer nose. Use a damp makeup sponge to clean paint that may have gone outside the lines. Let paint dry.



STEP 4 Without removing cutter, press stamp into clay firmly. For inked decos, see instructions far left. Peel away excess clay, then remove cutter and stamp. Use excess clay straight away or store to reuse later.

STEP 5 To create a hole for a hanger, push a small straw or flat end of a skewer into the clay. If making the wreath (page 35), make 2 holes, opposite each other for threading wire. If using a straw, lift it straight out. If using a skewer, keep skewer in place, gently swirling to slowly enlarge the hole. Aim for a hole large enough to pass wire or a large-eyed needle with string, cord or narrow ribbon attached.

STEP 6 With your palm face up, place shaped decoration on the fingers of your hand then, using your other hand, use a damp finger to smooth outside edge of the clay shape.

STEP 7 Put your clay decoration on cake cooling rack and let dry. It can take up to 2 to 3 days to dry thoroughly, depending on the weather and humidity.

STEP 8 Optional: If painting your decorations, follow instructions below.

STEP 9 Use your clay decos to make a garland, wreath, gift toppers and even tree trims.



TREE TRIMS

You'll also need

- String/cord; wooden beads; large-eyed needle (to suit hole/beads/string or cord); 10mm-wide ribbon in colour of choice; hot glue gun/glue sticks

Here's how

STEP 1 Refer to Air-dry clay decorations instructions (left) to make desired number of ornaments.

STEP 2 For each tree trim, paint 3 wooden beads with a light coat or two of white acrylic paint. You will find it easier to do this if you thread the beads on a skewer then balance the skewer on a bowl before using a small makeup sponge or mini stencil pouncing tool to apply the paint. Let paint dry.

STEP 3 Double a 50cm length of string/cord, then make a holding knot 10cm from the looped end. Thread both loose ends of string/cord through the 3 beads and knot to hold them in place. Pass 1 loose end of string/cord through hole in clay decoration and knot with the other loose end at the back of the clay decoration. Snip excess string/cord.

STEP 4 Hot glue a ribbon bow onto the knot directly below the last bead.



GORGEOUS GARLAND

You'll also need

Fine gold wire;
LED string lights
(warm white light);
gold leaf-shaped
ribbon

Here's how

STEP 1 Refer to Air-dry clay decorations instructions (opposite page) to make desired number of ornaments to suit the length of garland.

STEP 2 Work with a long length of fine gold wire (about double the desired garland length) and allow for a 20cm tail at each end.

STEP 3 Working on a table, leave a 20cm tail (for attaching) at one end and begin to string wire through the hole of a clay decoration. Twist wire around itself 2 to 3 times directly above the decoration to keep it in place. Repeat this step, spacing your decorations evenly across the wire. Leave a tail and cut any excess wire.

STEP 4 Lay your garland on a table, then wrap LED string lights around

the wire followed by gold leaf-shaped ribbon. Keep ribbon in place with a twist of wire at each end. Use the loose tail ends to attach to a hook or similar to secure the garland.



COUNTING DOWN THE DAYS

You'll also need

A2 picture frame;
foamcore board;
wadding; linen fabric;
place cards or tags;
single hole punch;
38mm wig or craft
T-pins; clear packaging
tape; gold cardstock;
gold number stickers;
tweezers; glue stick;
mounting tape; mini
bristle brush tree;
50mm-wide satin and
organza white ribbon;
3mm-wide to
5mm-wide ribbons;
shank button/s;
large and small folley
bells in colours to suit;
mini baubles;
fine gold wire;
miniature glitter bottle;
preserved flowers;
faux leaves;
self-adhesive stars;
small gift-wrapped
parcel; miniature paper
fan wheel decorations;
spray adhesive;
needle and thread

Here's how

STEP 1 Refer to Air-dry clay decorations (opposite page) to make desired number of ornaments.

STEP 2 Dismantle an A2 picture frame. Cut foamcore to fit inside frame. Spray adhesive onto foamcore, then press wadding on top. Trim wadding to size. Cut linen to about 7.5cm larger all around than foamcore. Stretching it taut, cover wadding with linen and tape the excess fabric to the back of the foamcore. Reassemble frame.

STEP 3 Punch a hole at centre top of each place card or tag. On the back of each place card/tag, write a Christmas sentiment or have token trinkets, lollies, chocolate or adventures that can be 'redeemed'. Use T-pins to pin evenly spaced place cards/tags to the frame.

STEP 4 Determine which place card/tag will feature a stamped clay decoration then cut and paste gold card onto place card/tag, leaving room at the bottom for advent dates. Use mounting tape to stick clay decoration on top.

STEP 5 To create a ribbon flower, fold 70cm x 50mm-wide satin and/or organza ribbon in half lengthwise. Tucking in the raw end of ribbon and catching front and back of ribbon, use needle and thread to work running stitch along edge of ribbon, partially gathering ribbon as you go. As you near the end, tuck in the raw edge and continue working

running stitch to the end. Gather the thread taut to create a ribbon circlet and stitch to secure. Stitch a shank button to the centre. Mount or hot glue to place card/tag.

STEP 6 Using a dab of hot glue, attach preserved flowers and/or faux leaves, organza ribbon bows with a glitter bottle, miniature Christmas ornaments such as a mini bristle tree onto place cards/tags. Trim faux leaves and preserved flowers with 3mm-wide ribbon bows, using hot glue to attach.

STEP 7 Use mounting tape, attach a small gift-wrapped parcel, and mini fan wheel decorations (overlapping them if desired) onto place cards/tags.

STEP 8 Dangle Christmas folley bells and mini baubles from cord hung from the T-bar pins.

STEP 9 Stick self-adhesive glitter stars to place cards/tags.

STEP 10 Using tweezers, attach gold number stickers (1-24) to each place card/tag and let the countdown to Christmas begin! ■



FOR PROJECT SUPPLIES, SEE OUR STOCKISTS PAGE

PETAL POWER

CREPE PAPER POINSETTIA

Gather your supplies

- Crepe paper in assorted colours – heavy-weight is best
- Boyle Craft Glue, quick drying
- Florist wire
- Hot glue gun
- Florist tape
- Glitter glass, rose gold or to suit

Note

Colour match your floristry wire and florist tape to your tree – white for silver, green for an evergreen tree.

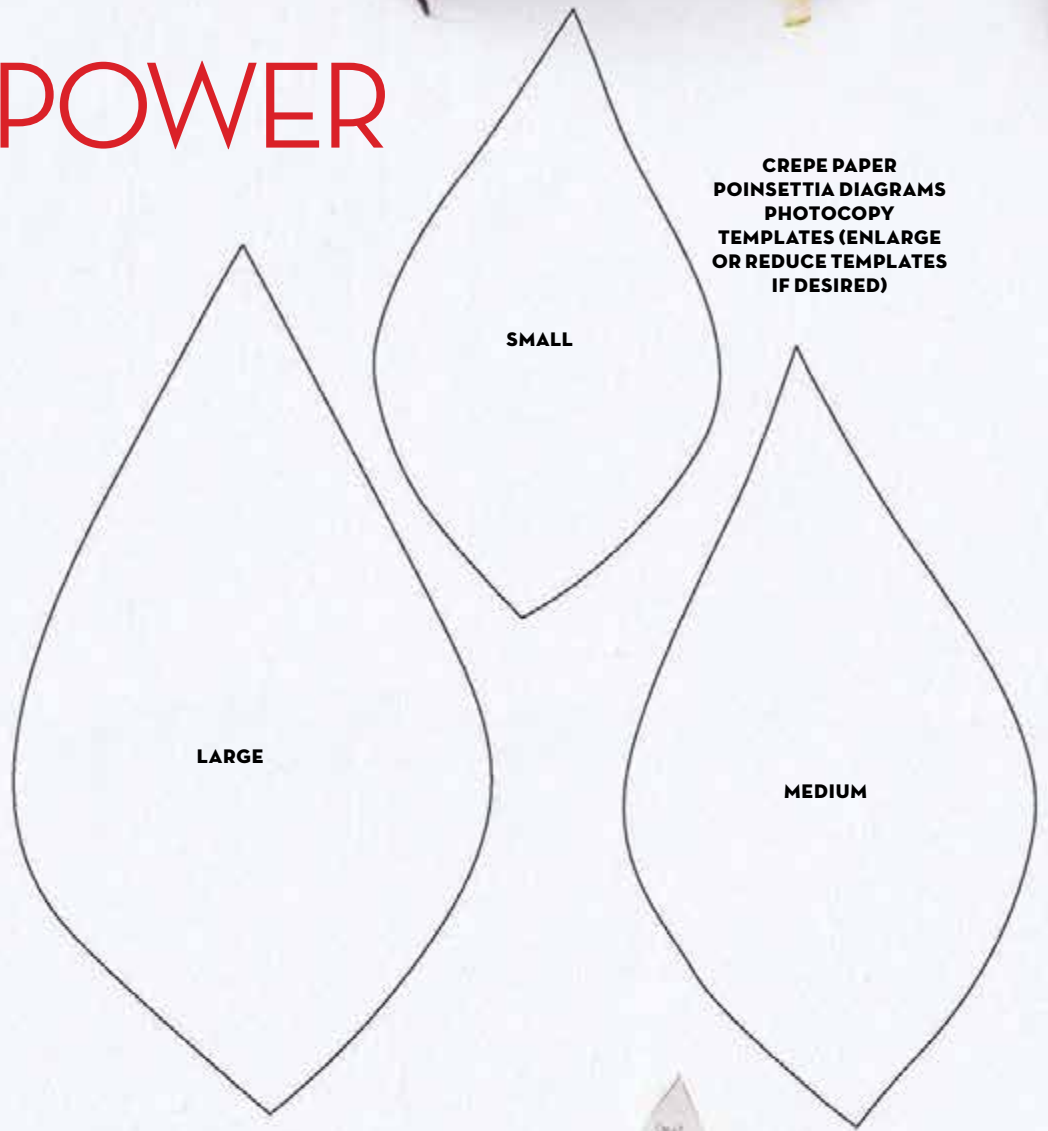
Here's how

STEP 1 Cut 16 squares to measure 12.5 x 12.5cm out of crepe paper (e.g. 6 in coral and 10 in light pink). Cut each square on the diagonal to create 32 triangles.

STEP 2 Put 1 triangle on top of another, long sides together. Fold back to create a diagonal 'seam' so lines of crepe paper point in opposite directions and create a V pattern for poinsettia 'veins'. Glue just long sides of seam together with craft glue. Let dry. Repeat this step for remaining 30 triangles.

STEP 3 When dry, open the triangle pieces and crease centres.

STEP 4 Use templates (above) to trace 6 large, 6 medium and 4 small petals on crepe pieces; cut out.



CREPE PAPER POINSETTIA DIAGRAMS PHOTOCOPY TEMPLATES (ENLARGE OR REDUCE TEMPLATES IF DESIRED)

STEP 5 Cut 12 pieces of florist wire, each measuring 7.5cm. Hot glue to back of large and medium petals.

STEP 6 Gather medium petals into a flower shape, petals slightly overlapping. Add large petals underneath, lining up points of large petals in between those of medium petals. Wrap stems together with florist tape.

STEP 7 In the centre of the flower, hot glue the 4 small petals on top of the medium petals, add a dollop of craft glue (about the size of a 5-cent piece), sprinkle with glitter and let dry. ■





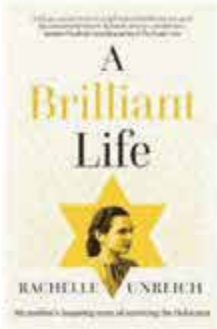
→
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→
Add sparkle with glittery flower centres.



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COVER

Shopping details Kip&Co Kissable velvet Santa sack, \$69. Red velvet Santa sack, \$69. **Kmart** Christmas green wreath 30cm, \$5. Oak-look round mirror, \$45. **Pottery Barn** Quilted velvet stockings, \$39 each. **Provincial Home Living** Festive cottage decoration, \$19.95. Festive church decoration, \$39.95. Bjorn dining chair, \$749. **Target** Christmas fabric gift bag (small) with candy cane stripe, \$5.

ROUND & ROUND, PAGE 46

Shopping details Amazon Flocking or snow powder, prices vary. **Bunnings** Mandala Art ocean breeze sea glass, \$11.88. **Kmart** 30cm Christmas green wreath, \$5. **Simply Shells** Starfish and shells, prices vary. **Shell Paradise** Sea biscuit/sand dollars, \$10 pk/10. White finger starfish, \$2-\$3 each.

THE JOY OF GIVING, PAGE 54

Shopping details Crafties Co. Tim Holtz distress oxide spray, various colours. **Discount variety stores** Christmas picks and berries. **Flower Power** preserved and faux flowers. **Simply Shells** Starfish and shells, prices vary. **Shell Paradise** Sea biscuit/sand dollars, \$10 pk/10. White finger starfish, \$2-\$3 each. **Spotlight** Various sizes and colours of satin, metallic, velvet, lace and fancy ribbons and tulle.

SPARKLE & SHINE, PAGE 66

Shopping details Discount Party Supplies Gold paper fan decorations, \$24.99 pk/8. Silver paper fan decorations, \$22.99 pk/8.

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT COUNT, PAGE 98

Project supplies Bunnings Seasol seed raising and cutting potting mix,

10L bag, \$6.96. Scotts Osmocote premium potting mix, 25L bag, \$9.28. Jack 1800mm hessian, \$8.99/metre. **Koch & Co** Glass hanging tealight holder ball, 10 x 12cm, clear, \$7.70 each. Cotton twine 2mm x 100m, metallic silver white or metallic white gold, \$4.95. **Officeworks** Kadink plain sand mixed colours, 1.3kg bucket, \$9.96.

SET THE SCENE, PAGE 118

Shopping details Bunnings Hartman Sorrento table, \$1050; Cairns dining chairs, \$175 each. **Freedom** Reko lantern, 35cm, in Natural, \$69.95 each. Heaton wreath, 56cm, \$89.95. Whiteberry garland, 150cm, \$79.95. **Target** Wine glasses, 4 pack, \$20. Windsor brass cutlery 16-piece set, \$30. **Project supplies Bunnings** Lotus 19 x 16.5cm black plastic plant pot, \$2.99 each. Metabo 18V glue gun,

\$129. Boyle hot melt glue gun pack, \$13.76. Crafted natural jute cord, 6mm x 50m, \$13.50. Dulux Duramax Rust Effect spray paint in Bronze, 300g, \$29.50. Dulux Duramax High Performance Enamel in Flat Black, 340g, \$15.50. Jack 40 x 40 x 15cm round oxy-shield cafe metal bowl planter, \$27. Zenith 2mm x 2.5m Florentine bronze oblong chain tie wire belt pack, \$11.19. Zenith 9.5 x 100mm zinc plated ceiling Hook \$4.10. Gardman 36cm black Georgian hanging basket, \$18.98. Scotts Osmocote premium potting mix, 25L, \$9.28. Crescent 370 x 7.6mm black cable ties, 25 pack, \$10.81.

LET'S TAKE IT OUTSIDE, PAGE 124

Shopping details Adairs Belgian vintage washed linen cushion

in Brown Sugar or Dusty Rose, \$59.99 each. Malmo linen cushion in Eucalyptus, \$74.99. **Bunnings** Hartman Valetta 4-piece lounge setting, \$1029. Marquee cement outdoor stool in Snow White, \$89. **Country Road** Alfresco cushion in Chocolate or Italian Clay, \$99.95 each. Merricks Australian cotton beach towel in Seafoam, \$89.95. Trinity Australian cotton beach towel in Pomegranate, \$89.95. Lorne jug in Husk, \$49.95. Lorne tumbler in Husk, \$14.95. Vivi glass jug in Clear, \$69.95. Vivi tumbler set of 2, \$34.95. Dane ceramic large vase, \$79.95; medium, \$59.95. Clive large vase, \$79.95; small, \$59.95. Souk dinner plate in Seafoam, \$19.95 each. **Project supplies** **Bunnings** Cabot's deck clean, 1L, \$18.50. Diggers methylated spirits, 1L, \$5.33. 90 x 90mm 3m Post F7 H4 treated pine premium KD, \$82.50. 90 x 45mm framing MGPI0 untreated pine 2.4m, \$12.96. Zenith 14-10 x 100mm galvanised bugle head type 17 timber screws, 50 pack, \$21.60. Specrite 90 x 19mm 2.25m merbau finger joined pre-oiled decking, 5 pack, \$66.70. 42 x 18mm 2m FJ pre-oiled merbau screening, \$9.90. Dulux Exterior Paint Weathershield low sheen in Black Caviar, 4L, \$115.90. Pryda post anchor half stirrup 200mm M10, \$11.65. Bastion Quik Set concrete, 20kg, \$8.75. Macsim 8G x 50mm stainless steel decking screws, 100 pack, \$15.65. Cabot's merbau Aquadeck exterior decking oil, 4L, \$95. 90 x 35mm framing MGPI0 untreated pine 2.7m, \$12.04. SpecRite 140 x 19mm 2.25m merbau finger joined pre-oiled decking, 3 pack, \$50. 69 x 15mm 2.7m FJ pre-oiled merbau screening, \$9.98. Zenith 8-10 x 40mm treated pine countersunk head screws, 100 pack, \$12.92. Cabot's satin water based exterior clear, 500ml, \$35.30. 42 x 28mm 2.7m FJ pre-oiled merbau screening, \$14.07. SpecRite 70 x 19mm 1.8m fence pickets merbau pre-oiled square, \$8.12. Adoored 60mm black monument door stop, \$7.18.

LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE, PAGE 132

Project supplies **Bunnings** 200 x 50mm 2.4 sleeper hardwood, \$37.90. 90 x 45 outdoor framing MGPI0 H3 treated pine 2.4m, \$18. 90 x 19mm Specrite merbau pre-oiled decking, random lengths, \$5.98 per linear metre. 140 x 19mm Specrite merbau pre-oiled decking, random lengths, \$9.93 per linear metre. Grunt 1 x 10m non-woven geotextile membrane drain mat fabric, \$43.77. Richgro all-purpose mushroom compost, 25L, \$5.54.

Tuscan Path 1800 x 900mm rust blackout screen, \$109. Zenith 14G x 85mm galvanised type 17 batten bugle head timber screws, 25 pack, \$14.20. Macsim 8G x 50mm stainless steel decking screws, 100 pack, \$15.65. Richgro pine bark mulch, 70L, \$19.93.

LIFE IS A PICNIC, PAGE 136

Shopping details **Adairs** Malmo linen cushion in Rust, \$74.99. Belgian vintage washed linen cushion large, \$74.99. **Country Road** Merricks Australian cotton beach towel in Pomegranate, \$89.95. Beau Australian cotton beach towel small in Sand, \$69.95. **Target** Capri flute glasses, 6 pack, \$7. **Project supplies** **Bunnings** 184 x 19mm 1.2m DAR pine premium, \$18.14. 42 x 19mm 1.8m DAR pine premium, \$8.50. Selleys 500mL Aquadhere PVA wood glue exterior adhesive, \$22.99. 6 x 6mm DAR square Tasmanian oak 1.2m, \$4.50. Lane 50 x 40 x 1.2mm zinc plated fixed pin non mortise hinge, \$1.73. Gilly's 250ml kitchen bench oil, \$33.99. **Chefs' Warehouse** Chef Inox 2L cannister, \$19.

BEAUTY GIFT GUIDE, PAGE 151

Shopping details **Dymocks** Vandoros Organdy Spice Red 25mm x 10m ribbon, \$5.50. Gift box purse in Emerald, \$5.95. Make it Pop by Simson rib hank GG 19 metallic gold 19mm x 2m, \$4.99. Make it Pop by Simson rib hank GG 38 gold 38mm x 2m, \$6.99. Gift box purse in Siren Gloss Red, \$5.95. **Officeworks** Quill red paper 210gsm A3 in Red and Emerald, \$1.45 each. **Pepperwhites** Red stripe baubles set of 2, \$19.95. Paper tree ornament Red and Olive Green, \$11 each. Mini champagne sugar bauble set of 12, \$14.95. Paper jewel ornament Red, \$11. Paper heart ornament Red, \$11. Emerald

scallop bauble, \$9.95. Gloss Emerald ribbed bauble, \$9.95. **Spotlight** Amscan metallic confetti circles Red and Gold, \$7 each. Celebrate 25mm satin ribbon Aussie Green, \$5. **Swarovski** Annual edition 3D ornament 2023, \$199. Annual edition festive ornament set 2023, \$239. Holiday magic angel ornament small, \$59. Annual edition festive ornament, \$110. Star ornament medium, \$149.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP, PAGE 164

Project supplies **Big W** Brilliant Basics clip-lock jar, 500ml, \$10. **CandleMaking** Eucalyptus essential oil, 30ml, \$8.20. Peppermint essential oil, 30ml. **Kmart** Chalkboard labels, 24 pack, \$3. **Officeworks** Born craft & create swing tags, 20 pack, \$3.40. Sharpie Oil-based bullet paint markers, 2 pack, \$14.93. Fine permanent marker in black, \$2.67. **Spotlight** Fiskars circle hand punch, \$12. Radiance wellness meditate cedarwood, orange and sandalwood essential oil blend, 10ml, \$18. Radiance meditate pine, orange, cinnamon and clove essential oil blend, 10ml, \$16. Francheville place cards, 10 pack, \$6.50. Shamrock Naturals bakers twine spool in black and white, 80cm, \$18. Helmar craft glue, \$13. Jolly & Joy ribbon, 63mm x 3m, \$7. **Target** Amber glass spray bottle, 100ml, \$2.

OH WHAT FUN! MERRY MAKES, PAGE 176

Project supplies **Bunnings** Air-dry clay white, \$3. Mounting tape, indoors, \$7.85. Dabber sponge brushes, \$2.65 pk/6. **Discount Party World** Gold mini fan wheel decorations, \$3.99 pk/4. Cake fan insert toothpick gold, \$2.99 pk/4. **Kmart** 5m silver wire string lights,

\$4. Anko A2 wood-look photo frame \$16. Anko Christmas craft artificial trees multi-coloured, \$3.50 tube/15. Small wood beads in natural. Gold stamp pad. 24-pack foil card stock \$5. Place cards with gold foil trim, 8.9L x 0.2H x 6.1Wcm, \$3 pk/30. **Koch & Co** Ribbon leaf garland string gold, 25mm x 10m, \$8.79. **Officeworks** Foamcore board. **Selected discount variety stores** Glitter star stickers. Mini craft bottles filled with glitter or sequins. **Spotlight** Air-dry clay in white, \$10/500g. Stamp pads in red and gold. Mod Podge Matte 473ml, \$27. Wig or craft pins silver 38mm, \$8.50. Gold number stickers, \$4.50. Satin, organza, grosgrain, hessian, metallic and fancy ribbons in gold, pink, red and/or white. Neutral-coloured linen fabric. Semco polyester wadding 200gsm, 1.5 x 1m roll, \$10. Artist's acrylic paints in white, red, and green. Gold shank buttons. Folley bells 10mm assorted colours, \$4.25 pk/25. Glue stick. Gold metal rings various sizes from \$3.25-\$9.50. Hot glue gun, \$16. Hot glue sticks, \$8 pk/20.

PETAL POWER, PAGE 180

Project supplies **Bunnings** Boyle craft glue quick dry. Mounting tape, indoors, \$7.85. Metallic spray paints in gold and various colours. Crommelin 750ml ornamental sealer, \$11.79. Boyle clear spray adhesive 350g, \$19.06. **Discount Party World** Crepe paper. **Flowers With a Secret** Solid crepe paper in assorted colours. **Spotlight** Glitter. Hot glue gun, \$16. Hot glue sticks, \$8 pk/20. Florist tape, green. Vivaldi cloth stem wires green 22 gauge, \$5.50 pk/20. X-Press It Gold Size 125ml, \$15. X-Press It Gold Metal Leaf, \$21. Mod Podge decoupage glue green 473ml, \$35. Artist's acrylics, various colours. ■

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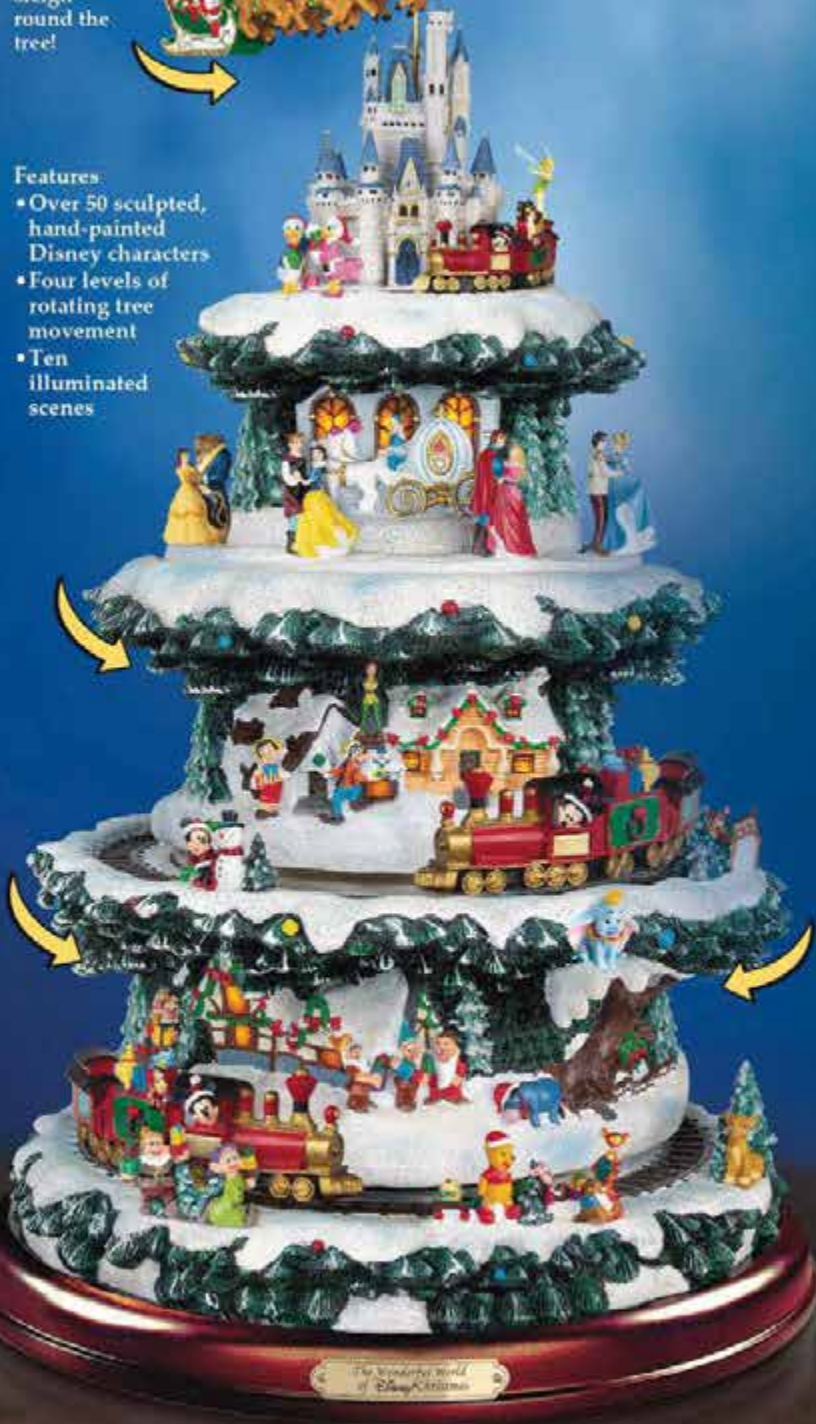
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©Disney. Winnie the Pooh elements based on the works of A. A. Milne and E. H. Shepard

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PETS GIFT GUIDE

Whether you have a dog, mouse or bunny, there's a present for every furry friend

1 FESTIVE FUN! Happy Tails Christmas Stocking Rope Toy, \$9.98, bunnings.com.au. **2 FOOD TO THRIVE** Ectotherm Lizard Food, from \$18.93 (350g), vetafarm.com.au. **3 TAKE FLIGHT!** Santa Claws or Elf Featherwear Flightsuit (reusable bird diaper), from \$48.95 each, getflocked.com.au. **4 SLOW DOWN DOGGO!** Superfeedy Ultimate 4-in-1 Slow Feeder, \$79, superfeedy.com. **5 MIGHTY MOUSE!** Pet One Tunnel Mouse Maze 5cm diameter x 35cm long, \$6.97, petstock.com.au. **6 HIDE AND SEEK** for hermit crabs, Cha Cha Leaf

Hut, \$24.99, krabooz.com. **7 SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL** Mini Horse Ball 190mm, \$71.75, aussiedog.com.au. **8 TOTALLY COORDINATED!** Salt Lakes design by Indigenous Australian Pauline Napangardi Gallagher: Dog Bandana, \$17.95, Leather Dog Lead, \$44.95, Round Dog Bed, \$139.95, outbacktails.com. **9 FRESH WATER FOR KITTY** Catit Senses Flower Water Fountain, \$74.99, petcircle.com.au. **10 COMFY LIVING** Guinea pigs and bunnies love to get cosy in the Nibble & Squeek Small Animal Igloo, \$54.97, petstock.com.au. ■

Prices are approximate and a guide only.

Why is it important to be prepared for the unexpected?

Being a pet parent is one of life's most valuable and rewarding experiences. But while we love our pets and do our very best to keep them out of trouble, sometimes they end up unwell and in need of expert care.

Pet insurance could be an option to help with the (sometimes unexpected and expensive) cost of veterinary care – to help keep you and your beloved pets healthy and happy together.

These are some common scenarios¹ where pet insurance might come in handy!

-  Unexpected illness
-  Unexpected injury from an attack in a dog park
-  Tick paralysis, and even snake or spider bites while at home
-  Serious accidental injury - bone fracture or traumatic ligament or tendon injury

As the cost of living skyrockets, paying for veterinary care can put a strain on your finances. But having pet insurance can help give you financial peace of mind knowing your fur baby will receive the care they deserve, if they need it.



With RSPCA Pet Insurance

there are four levels of cover to choose from, and depending on the level of cover, you can claim up to \$20,000 a year and get up to 80% back on eligible vet bills with no excess to pay². Plus, you won't only be protecting your furry friend but also other Australian animals in need – with a portion of first year premiums going to support the great work of the RSPCA.

These are only some of the reasons why it can be important for you and your pet to be prepared for the unexpected. If you're ready to find out more about RSPCA Pet Insurance, get a quote and find a policy that works for you!

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¹ Always read the relevant Policy Booklet for details of the specified accidental injuries and illnesses covered and any exclusions that apply.

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Add a little

SUNSHINE

to your *Christmas*

Pavlova Trifle

Serves: 8
Prep time: 20 min
Cooking time: 30 min

Ingredients

1 pre-made pavlova
400g strawberries, sliced
400g fresh raspberries
Fresh Mint to garnish

Rum Custard

½ cup spiced rum
3 tablespoons Sunbeam Sunmuscat Sultanas
2 cup milk
½ cup maple syrup
2 cinnamon sticks
2cm ginger, thinly sliced
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
4 large egg yolks
1 tablespoon cornstarch

Candied Pistachios

3 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons honey
1 cup Sunbeam Australian Pistachios
1 teaspoon sumac

Method

To make the custard: soak Sunbeam Sunmuscat Sultanas in the rum for 1-2 hours. Place milk, maple syrup, vanilla, cinnamon and ginger into a saucepan over low-medium heat. Bring to a gentle simmer but below boiling for 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and allow to cool slightly, removing the cinnamon and ginger pieces.

In a large bowl whisk together egg yolks and corn starch. Then, while whisking slowly mix in a ladle of the warm milk to temper the eggs. Continue doing this until you've mixed all the warm milk in. Clean out the saucepan and add the custard mixture back in. Heat over low heat for 20 minutes, whisking constantly, until the custard coats the back of the spoon. Remove from heat and stir through the rum-soaked Sunmuscats.

Pour into a heat safe bowl and let cool on the counter. Then, refrigerate until cold.

To make the Candied Pistachios: Add the sugar and honey to a small saucepan over medium heat. Cook, stirring, until sugar is dissolved. Add pistachios, salt and sumac. Stir to combine. Turn the heat up to medium-high and cook for 2 minutes, or until the syrup coats the pistachios and is very thick. Place pistachios onto a baking tray lined with baking paper and allow to cool and set. Let cool completely before using.

To assemble Trifle, in a large glass serving dish, layer chunks of pavlova, Spiced Rum Custard, Honey Candied Pistachios, strawberries and raspberries. Serve immediately. With fresh mint.

Create this recipe with
Minoli De Silva

For full recipe and step-by-step video tutorial visit sunbeamfoods.com.au or scan the QR Code

