



THE NEWCASTLE HERALD JUNE 9, 2012

# W

weekender

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The many roles of Deborah Mailman





# STYLE REVIVAL

HOME  
JODI  
VIAL



A commitment to quality and class brought new life to this quaint city cottage.

**A**s sunny dispositions go, they don't get much sunnier than this cottage in Glebe Road at The Junction.

With its eye-catching sunshine yellow picket fence and co-ordinating striped bullnose roof, it takes the expression "street appeal" to a whole new level.

But the happy face is just part of the story – owner Renay Bull undertook the transformation of the Victorian-style cottage with the aim of one day being able to set up her podiatry clinic there. She recently opened the appropriately named Happy Feet Podiatry and couldn't be, well, happier.

"The house still needed to function as a home, and a clinic once needed, and it has

been planned out just perfectly to create a gorgeous comfortable stylish home and now a really nice atmosphere to work in every day," Renay says.

With the expert eye of interior designer Stewart Horton overseeing the project, Renay's brief was to create a "Hollywood regency" style.

"A chandelier and a King Louis chair were a must," she says.

"[But] it had to still have a warm, cosy homely feel to the place."

Stewart, who has recently returned to Newcastle and established his own business, Horton & Co. Interior Design, says the project was a real rags-to-riches experience.



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"The cottage was in pretty bad disrepair," he says.

"All the original architectural details had been stripped off and it was barely recognisable under a layer of brick and 20th-century alterations."

In order to bring the home back to its original grandeur, it was entirely gutted and the process of rebuilding began, from the smallest details such as reproduction period-style cornices, skirting boards and mouldings to complete replacement of all windows, doors, exterior weatherboards and even the roof.

"The only original part of the house which remained was the surprise find of the Oregon timber floorboards which were restored and added to," Stewart says.

Once the basic structure was there, it was time to begin creating the kind of space Renay envisioned.

"The clients' vision was something fresh and modern but with a strong nostalgic reference," Stewart says.

"In the end we blended traditional Victorian cottage styles with a more fashion-forward 'Hollywood Regency' style. Black and white are dominant but yellow was added to give a strong pop against the contrasting black and white."

The strong colours may be considered daring by some, but Renay was always confident the end result would be the perfect fit.

"I didn't want to restrict the design too much as I knew Stewart would create something amazing," she says.

"I really love the vibrant colour. The white and black gives the house a fresh crisp feel and the yellow gives it warmth and comfort."

The yellow is used to particularly stunning effect in the bathroom, where floor-to-ceiling mosaic tiles are a striking contrast against the bright white of the bathroom fittings.

Not a single detail has been overlooked, each chair and item of furniture specifically chosen to perfectly complement the overall style.

"It has a very polished, glamorous look but yet is comfortable and inviting," Renay says.

"From the moment you see the house from the street, walk through and then into the garden, everything flows."

Do you know of a home we could feature?

Contact [weekender@theherald.com.au](mailto:weekender@theherald.com.au).



## FAVOURITE FEATURE

"I am really happy with my home, I just love it all," Renay says. "Everything has a special touch to it, even the doorknobs are gorgeous!"

"I feel so lucky to have such a wonderful place to live and work in. It really has turned out above and beyond any of my expectations."



**SIMPLE AND CLEAR:** Sticking to black, white and yellow as the main colours gave the cottage a touch of Hollywood with warmth and a "strong pop". PICTURES: JASON BUSCH

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