



THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT "I love the kitchen," Heidi says. "It's a unique space with loads of natural light, which makes it a joy to be in"; a handpainted sideboard in the sitting room is topped with a mirror from a local homewares store, while the light fittings came with the house; the kitchen features a vintage workbench fitted with a sink. Heidi painted the wall with chalkboard paint, while the sign is from Mitchell Road Antique & Design Centre; "I don't think I could live in a house without lots of greenery," Heidi says; in the corner of the sitting room, a linen chair from Early Settler and cushion from Hale Mercantile Co. "I never set out to collect urns, but I do have quite a lot." FACING PAGE The secondhand kitchen table is small but works perfectly for Heidi and Jason. The woven bowl is from Mowgli Studio. For stockist details, see page 133.



Rather than renovating, Heidi has focused on adding texture to the interior, using furnishings found on visits to flea markets and country swap meets. "I like a house that feels lived in," she says. "I rarely buy an item for a specific spot. I'll buy something because I love it and worry about where to put it later."

She gravitates towards rustic pieces, with nothing too bold, and is hands-on when it comes to adding details to her home, whether that means stencilling blanket boxes or crocheting string bags. "The surrounding bushland is a huge influence," says Heidi, who also enjoys decorating her home with foraged finds from bushwalks and country drives. "My previous homes have been a lot more refined."

The large garden was another drawcard when the couple bought the property, and it continues to occupy a great deal of their time. Heidi and Jason enjoy spending time outdoors, shaping and maintaining the land. "We're not into anything too fussy," she says. "We prefer hedges and specimen trees — they give the garden good structure."

They have planted a lot of trees and look forward to watching them mature. "The conditions are not ideal, with tank water and sandy soil... It's a labour of love, but it does give us a lot of enjoyment."

In 2014, the couple bought a 180-hectare property near Mudgee, in the central west of NSW, and try to spend at least one weekend a month there. Their Mudgee home, which Heidi describes as "a two-bedroom cabin", is still in the early stages of rejuvenation, while Glenorie is closer to the way they want it. "No house of mine is ever finished... they just evolve," she says.

For now, the couple are happy to potter away on weekends. And then there is life to enjoy — entertaining in their outdoor area and taking in the sunsets over the distant Blue Mountains. "We feel very lucky to live here," Heidi says. "We like the bush, and the peace and quiet, but we're only one hour from Sydney — it's the best of both worlds, really." *CS*