

McGRATH

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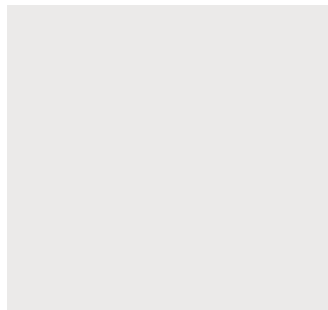
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Recycled and reclaimed timbers are shedding their novelty status and being transformed into the antiques of tomorrow.

XX Café/Recipe

XXXXXX
 XXXXXXXXXXXX



06 Property of the week

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XX auctions and open for inspections

Alexandra	44/206 Lawrence Street	2:00	
Annandale	177 Johnston Street	12:15	1
Alexandra	44/206 Lawrence Street	2:00	1
Annandale	194 Johnston Street		1
Artarmon	9/28 Hampden Road		
Artarmon	6/342 Mowbray Road		1
Avon	28 Barons Road	2:00	1
Avoca Beach	8/20 Avoca Drive		
Avoca Beach	8/20 Avoca Drive		1
Bellevue Hill	1/212 Victoria Road		1
Bellevue Hill	1/212 Victoria Road	10:00	1
Birchgrove	1/18 River Street		1
Birchgrove	1/18 River Street	10:00	
Blakehurst	77 Stuart Street		1
Blakehurst	77 Stuart Street	11:00	1
Blakehurst	79 Lynwood Street		1
Bondi	1/2 Castlefield Street	12:15	1
Bondi Beach	2/41 Brighton Boulevard		1
Bondi Beach	113 Hastings Parade	11:00	
Bondi Beach	2/41 Brighton Boulevard		1
Bondi Beach	113 Hastings Parade		1
Botany	1479 Botany Road		1
Bronx	7 Brown Street	11:00	
Bronx	3 Blandford Avenue		1
Bronx	7 Brown Street	11:15	1
Bronx	3 Blandford Avenue		1
Bull	7d Port Street		
Buraneer	10 Dunkeld Close	11:00	1
Buraneer	29 Shell Road	1:00	

Designs that are anything but wooden

Recycled and reclaimed timbers are shedding their novelty status and being transformed into the antiques of tomorrow.

By Elizabeth Joyes



THERE'S something extraordinary about sitting down at a grand wooden table and having its 100 year history reflect back at you. Every tree ring represents a calendar year and tells the history of its growth conditions. Dark rings speak of rainfall and nutrient-rich soils, while light rings show the tree's struggle for survival in merciless Australian elements.

Husband and wife Peter Crutchfield and Juliet Barr from Wildwood Designs know this only too well. For the past 10 years they've been evolving the centuries old art of timber furniture making to align it with today's growing eco-friendly mindset.

The result is unique custom-made furniture pieces using only hand-picked Australian hardwoods. Materials include recycled timbers, those sourced from plantation forests, and reclaimed timbers from trees that were cut down for farming 30-40 years ago and just left in paddocks.

"We love using River Red Gum from the Murray River, blonde Blackbutt and deep burgundy Jarrahs from Western Australia," Peter says.

"And we use Spotted Gums too, which are surprisingly a lighter colour in NSW than their identical Queensland counterparts. It could be the XXXX beer and the Broncos up there that make them strong, tall, dark and brown."

"Sometimes you can see borer marks in the wood, or where wild cockatoos have chipped away at the trunk to snack on the borers. We've even found bullet holes a few times!"

Peter Crutchfield

Wildwood Designs source their boutique logs from small country mills where they undergo a particular sawing method to retain the regular undulations in the grain. "This texture is referred to as fiddleback and you retain more of it depending on the way the wood is cut. For instance, floorboards are cut in a way that maximises the use of the timber. The method we use wastes 20-30 percent of the timber, but it does show up this incredible natural pattern which also increases its value. Sometimes you can see borer marks in the wood, or where wild

cockatoos have chipped away at the trunk to snack on the borers. We've even found bullet holes a few times."

A cabinet maker by trade, Peter began creating furniture pieces for friends on the side, first using building leftovers then recycled woods like fence palings and railway sleepers. Today the Wildwood Designs range consists of hardwood dining tables and chairs, coffee tables, low lying units, side boards, beds, and pigeonhole units, sold through both their Gladesville and the newly-opened Stanmore stores.

"They're just so fantastic because they're not mass produced," Juliet says. "Each piece is manufactured in Sydney by our own team of professional cabinet makers and designers. They're indestructible and will only go up in value."

Forty percent of the company's business is custom orders, and they regularly work with architects and interior decorators. "Our customers are a constant source of inspiration," Peter says. "They come to us with their own ideas, knowing exactly what they want and thinking in a really practical way about how a piece will fit into their everyday life."*

**Wildwood Designs Stores
Gladesville and Stanmore
wildwooddesigns.com.au**

