

EPISODE 1

GOWRIE

List price: \$475,000
(reduced to offers over \$435,000 after valuation)
Sale price: \$440,000
Makeover Budget: \$14,000

Mia and Gary Cook thought they had the perfect family home, with its swimming pool and jungle gym, they couldn't imagine raising their 3 children anywhere else. But that was before baby Brodie fell ill. Doctors advised Canberra's climate was bad for the toddler's health, so they put the house on the market and snapped up a block of land in Merimbula to be closer to family. But 5 months later, they're still no closer to a sale and repaying the mortgage and the loan on the land, is sending them broke. They blame their agent for the lack of buyers, but he blames their unrealistic price tag and Canberra's flat market. So who really is at fault... and can our team get a sale?

Overview of Areas worked on:

THE INTERIOR

Andrew's description of Mia and Gary's home was "bland". Bland walls and bland furniture. To sell in a tough market it had to be well priced and very well presented, so the team set about transforming bland into beautiful.

A large chunk of the budget went into transforming the dated faux wood kitchen. Rather than rip out the carcasses and start again, new doors were supplied by Polytec and the new work-bench was fitted by Granite transformations. The splash back was tiled with plain contemporary white Amber tiles. Finally, new down lights were fitted and the transformation was stunning.

The living room had strange feature alcoves that did nothing for the design of the room, so these areas were filled in and the whole room was repainted and dressed.

The master bedroom and dining room also received new paint-work and dressing.

And to finish the house off, Shaynna used original paintings by local artist, Naomi Crowther.

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THE GARDEN

Canberra's harsh climate meant any additions to the garden would be a tough job.

Charlie set about improving the front of the property, by removing a large conifer and replacing it with a raised feature bed stocked with hardy natives. He continued the native theme, by removing Mia's roses and replacing them with drought tolerant plants. To finish the front façade, he painted the garage door and railing in a smart contemporary grey and put potted plants on the front veranda.

Mia and Gary had done a lot of work to create the perfect kid friendly back yard, but the finished result was rather scruffy and disjointed in places. Charlie's task was to create a feeling of continuity and flow, and to reduce the impact of drought ravaged lawns and plants.

The deck was in great shape, so all it just needed some feature planting boxes. The patches of dead lawn at the back of the house looked terrible, so Charlie dug them up and created 2 feature mounds planted with hardy natives.

Gary built a metal and wood box to cover up the pool pump and filter, and the surrounding flower beds were filled out to give the garden a real lift.

The other eyesore in Charlie's opinion was the kids shanty town play gym. Andrew wouldn't let him remove the structure as it would appeal to family buyers, but he did agree it could do with a facelift. Charlie put the kids to work to paint the multi coloured structure in a softer green grey. Suddenly the play gym blended perfectly into the garden, yet still performed its function as a kids paradise.

Plants Used

Echeveria
Westringia
Myoporum
Melaleuca
Braycombe
Prosthathera
Grevillia
Lomandra
Festuca
Banksia
Callistemon

ADDITIONAL EXTERIOR INFORMATION

Tools used for the job

- Petrol hedge trimmer
- Digging shovels
- Black bins for mulch
- Chain saw and protective equipment
- Mower
- Edge trimmer
- Cordless drills
- Wheel barrows
- Ladder
- Blower

KENNARDS HIRE

Kennards supplied tools to complete this renovation.

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- Well trained staff, that understand the capabilities of each piece of hire equipment

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ADDITIONAL INTERIOR INFORMATION

Paint used: All Dulux Colours

Kitchen/Dining – Seed Pearl & Camel Hide
Master Bedroom – Seed Pearl
Master Bedroom Wardrobe Doors – Seed Pearl
Toilet – Seed pearl
Garage door and railing – Iron Stone

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AMBER TILES

We used white tiles from Amber to dress up the kitchen White 200x200 ESW394/ WFEN506

Looking for stylish designs for the indoors and out? If you are looking for the latest home designs and trends from Australia and overseas, you can't go past Amber. Amber offers an extensive range of porcelain and ceramic tiles, natural stone, concrete and clay pavers, timber flooring, retaining walls and artificial grass. For inspirational home ideas, professional advice and quality products at affordable prices, visit your local Amber store.



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VALIANT HIRE

We used a variety of rental furniture to create the look for Gary & Mia's home from Valiant's Sydney showroom.

Valiant Hire is Australia's leader in office, residential, event and relocation furniture rental with locations in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. Selling your home? Valiant Hire offers the most extensive and stylish furniture range to achieve the best result. Our complete styling pack is the total one stop solution and includes design, planning, styling and full installation. Items can be chosen to complement your existing furniture or create a stunning new look. We offer a wide range of homeware to decorator pieces, from classic to modern, functional to designer.

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www.valiant.com.au

GRANITE TRANSFORMATIONS

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with having your kitchen replaced. After completing in excess of 12000 makeovers across Australia you are assured of a great result backed by our 10 year warranty.

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Contact Polytec on 1300 300 547



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NAOMI CROWTHER

We used the work of local artist Naomi to decorate Mia and Gary's home.



Painter Naomi Crowther first found her muse at nine years-of-age, when she joined a group of artists who set aside one room in their house as a canvas for their dabbings. 'It was most exciting to paint on the walls without getting into trouble. Since then, painting has been a major part of my life,' says Crowther.

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But the 33 year-old paints with a much broader brush. Following the advise of a Sydney curator, Crowther has entered her work in some of the most prestigious art competitions in Australia, including the Wynne (Landscape) and Sulman Art Prizes at the Art Gallery of NSW and the Dobell Prize for Drawing. She was named finalist in the Hills Grammar Art Prize with two of her popular Lake George Landscapes. She also was a triple finalist in the 2005 Canberra Art Prize, and awarded First Prize for Print Media at the 2007 Royal Canberra Art Show.

Crowther's exhibitions at Artespresso, Canberra, have proven extremely popular. The artist has been invited to exhibit again in December 2007, which will be her 6th exhibition at Artespresso since 2002.

In December 2004 Crowther exhibited with Geoff Dyer (2003 Archibald winner) at Aarwun Gallery in Canberra. Her works are hung in private and corporate collections locally and internationally, including a substantial Australian Government acquisition of six paintings in October 2006.

Crowther's signature style is her Poppies collection – a mixed media fusion of oil, acrylic and metallic leaf with a heavy polymer gloss varnish that accentuates the 3D texture and adds depth to the colours. 'I love to paint poppies because they are something you can do in a stylised, simplistic way,' she says. 'You can deconstruct a poppy down to its bare bones and still everyone the world over can recognize it. I love the (flowers) subtle imperfections, and people can associate with things that are a bit wonky. A lot of men buy my poppy paintings because they are so raw, not at all girlie like a traditional painting of flowers.'

Crowther is mostly influenced by Japanese traditional painting, which is predominant in her current work.. 'I've created a lot of negative space in my paintings, which people say has a calming effect. Her other influences are quite eclectic. 'My landscapes and figurative works are quite influenced by Russell Drysdale and Garry Shead, whose paintings display masterful use of colour.'

studio 61 2 6284 4496 mobile 0418 974 455
info@naomicrowther.com

Naomi Crowther Gallery Space
Open 10am - 4pm every Sunday
The Old Bus Depot Markets (upstairs opp the ATM)
Wentworth Avenue Kingston ACT
www.obdm.com.au

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