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INSIDE OUT

cool calm holidays

INSPIRING HOMES WITH HEART

How to host Christmas the Three Birds way

LIVING BY THE SEA
 BYRON BAY
 GERRINGONG
 MORNINGTON PENINSULA
 TAMARAMA
 CAPE COAST

ON LOCATION
 ESSENTIAL COASTAL MATERIALS FOR SEASIDE PROJECTS

WHAT I REALLY, REALLY WANT...
 THE STYLE EDITORS' GIFT WISHLIST

SUMMER BAR 2022
 Secret ingredients for great parties at home

ALL FIRED UP TASTY IDEAS FOR BACKYARD GRILLING ON FIRE PITS & BBQS



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CHRISTMAS STYLE WITH THREE BIRDS

The trailblazing trio from Three Birds design and decorating share some of their favourite holiday hacks for a simple yet spectacular spread

WORDS AND STYLING **THREE BIRDS** PHOTOGRAPHY **MONIQUE EASTON**



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EVER SEEN A WREATH SALAD?
 It's so simple and so effective. And would you believe us if we said that it even tastes better in this shape? #truestory

hanging floral arrangement

Most people forget to look up when they're decorating a dining setting for a special occasion, but what a missed opportunity! Feast your eyes on the floral fantasy hanging over the table here. It brings a celestial feeling and is practically a piece of art — one that looks a million bucks. It's also a great holiday hack because it's not too tricky to put together. Bonnie's sons helped her make this one.

YOU'LL NEED

+ A ladder towel rail We got ours from Ikea, but lots of home stores stock them. If you already have one in your bathroom or bedroom, hijack it for the holidays and make this hack even cheaper!

+ Mixture of foliage: faux + dried + real from the garden We used dried palm leaves and pampas grass for their dramatic shape and interest.

+ Plant ties and plastic ties You'll need a few packets as there's a lot going on here.

+ Pergola For mounting the finished ladder.

+ Rope For hanging the ladder.

HERE'S HOW YOU DO IT

1 Lay the ladder flat on the ground.

2 Tie the plants to one side of the ladder, starting with the largest and most architectural pieces of foliage.

3 Keep going until you're happy with how it's looking, and you can't see any of the ladder through the plants.

4 Loop the rope around the ladder and then tie it securely — decorated side down — to the pergola, centred above the table. Enjoy your meal underneath this glorious creation!

HOT TIP Pile crushed ice into a giant clamshell and you have a stunning serving platter. Bring on the shellfish!



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creating a festive vision

For each of our projects – from a room restyle to a full-on rebuild – our first port of call is creating a vision board. Styling for Christmas is no different. For this summer-in-Australia vibe, we pulled together pics and inspo for outdoor dining, native flora, natural colours and all things casual and relaxed. Only then did we start shopping and collecting styling items. What does your dream theme look like? #holidaysathome #staycation



SHOWCASE THE HOLIDAY HERO

Why not turn the main element of the Christmas meal into a major moment? Spray a few palm fronds gold (dead easy), fan them out and then pop a few stems of pampas grass and fresh flowers in front of them to create a dramatic backdrop for your holiday ham. Drumroll please!



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YOU HAD ME AT HELLO!

Welcome your guests with a pretty-as-a-picture mocktail. Bundaberg Pink Grapefruit (ginger beer) + pink fairy floss (cotton candy) + edible flowers = a mocktail you'll have to fight the kids for. These saucer-style glasses are perfectly suited to serving champers or cocktails, and we feel just a touch fancier drinking out of them, too. Ooh la la!

sweet & simple mantel

This green garland (top right) is ridiculously easy to pull together and looks gorgeous atop any mantelpiece.

YOU'LL NEED

- + **A decent amount of greenery** Either real or fake.
- + **Wire mesh** Cut into a long strip that is slightly narrower than the width of the mantelpiece.
- + **Twist ties** Or plant ties.
- + **A few white candles** Of varying heights (but see our warning below).

HERE'S HOW YOU DO IT

- 1** Thread your greenery through the wire mesh and secure it with the ties so that you have a long runner of greenery.
- 2** Place the garland on the mantelpiece and arrange the candles around it.
- 3** Drape the garland down the sides of the mantel for even more drama.

A WORD TO THE WISE The shorter candles are purely decorative. Don't light them unless you want an actual fire burning on top of the mantel. #griswolds



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SPRINKLE SOME HOLIDAY SPIRIT AROUND

Fresh white sheets and plenty of pillows are always a good place to start when styling a guest bedroom, but they also provide the perfect backdrop for a few festive touches. A gorgeous wreath (such as this Aussie twist on a traditional one), some twinkling stars and a basket of pressies (real or fake!) will have your guests dreaming of pavs and plum puddings in no time.



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wow the crowd

Transform a corner of your yard into a glamping moment for a party like no other. A gorgeous canvas tent is an investment, but if you have to have one, then hop online and search for one large enough to host 'glampouts' and backyard parties (this one is 4.5 metres in diameter).

Alternatively, you may be able to find party stores that rent them by the day for a fraction of the price of buying one. Once you've got that gorgeous tent up (and, before you ask, a boring one from the local camping store won't cut the mustard!), create a soft and luxurious foundation by layering rugs and cushions.

Add a few low tables so your guests have places to set down drinks and food, then finish with a few pretty touches: think fresh flowers, candles and greenery.

HOT TIP String up some fairy lights and place a few lanterns around the garden to turn this into an unforgettable evening under the stars. We hung a charming chandelier from the entrance here — while it doesn't light up, it does ensure this tent is fit for a queen! #crowningglory

stylish stockings

(SEE PREVIOUS PAGE)

This hack is such an easy way to give everyone a cute stocking that makes them feel special without ruining the colour scheme you've worked hard to create. These ones look perfectly at home by this fireplace and they only cost a few dollars each.

YOU'LL NEED

- + **Plain Christmas stockings** From a craft store or discount department store.
- + **Festive-looking letters** And decorations such as stars of the same simple design.
- + **Greenery from the garden** One sprig per stocking.
- + **String**

HERE'S HOW YOU DO IT

- 1 Tie a letter and/or decoration plus a sprig of greenery to each stocking with the string.
- 2 Hang the stockings from the mantelpiece.

Job done! Now that you've hung those stockings with care, it's time to put your feet up. **ID**



This is an edited extract from *Three Birds Renovations: Dream Home How-To*, the second book by Bonnie Hindmarsh, Erin Cayless and Lana Taylor (Murdoch Books, \$39.99).