

INSIDE

INSPIRING HOMES WITH HEART

comfort & joy

Everything you need to create
a beautiful Christmas at home

win!
100 gifts
under \$100
& you can
win the lot!*

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THE ROOF**
4 clever ways
to make the most
of your attic

BLOCKTAGG
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Shayna
space-savvy
solution

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Gourmet treats to give your friends & family



Bec Judd's
style advice



Andrew Winter
selling your home



LIVING AREA "I've always placed a huge importance on the space around me," says Taliah Lowry (above). The Lincoln Brooks 'Pretzel' chairs are topped with cushions made from fabric sourced in Hawaii. An olive velvet beanbag sits on a Moroccan rug from Tigmi Trading.

Taliah and Sein Lowry first spotted their future home in 2009 and managed to secure it only a few days later. In fact, it was the first time the property had been offered for sale in more than 40 years. The single-storey cottage is believed to be one of the original fishing weatherboard cottages, dating back to the 1930s when Byron Bay was a sleepy fishing town on the New South Wales coast. Taliah and Sean wanted to start renovating urgently as their third child was due in a few months. "We were in such a hurry that we had builders knocking walls down before we had actually settled," says Taliah. "The agent came over and shut us down but we started up again later that day when settlement was confirmed. Within six months, the house was finished."

Taliah, why did you decide to buy the cottage? We were ready for a tree change – or so we thought. We were about to secure a five-acre hinterland property when, by chance, we noticed an open-house sign on our way back from the beach. We walked in and the cottage had instant appeal. I love a place with character. It had a big yard, so we could still have chickens and rabbits and a fire pit, all of which we had had for years. Within minutes, we made an offer.

Did the purchase process go smoothly? We placed an offer to try to get an outcome prior to auction. The cottage was owned by a children's charity – the previous owner had left the property to them in his will. The offer had to be considered and voted on by the charity board. This took more time and created more stress for us. We also wanted to offer as much as we could; knowing it was going to benefit a children's charity weighed on our minds. A few days later, they accepted.

"THE COTTAGE HAD A CHARM AND ELEGANCE ABOUT IT THAT REALLY HAD MY HEART BEATING" TALIAH LOWRY, HOMEOWNER



star performer

Using bamboo is a clever and chic way to create shade and privacy, while also suiting the look of Taliah and Sein's home. The rustling sound as the breeze passes through means summer's coming.

