

It started off as *Scotty's Place*, and then became *Our Place*. But there is no doubt in its hosts' minds what Channel 9's new lifestyle-cum-variety show should be called.

"It should be *Rosie's Place*," says Cherie Hausler, who will co-host the show with *Backyard Blitz's* Scott Cam – and Cam's seven-month old red cattle dog cross Rosie.

"She's really going to set the whole tone of the show, I think," says Hausler, best known as the former host of Ten's music show *Pepsi Live*.

"She's lovely. It's just so good to have an animal around because there'll be a lot of adlibs and a lot of spontaneity in the show but then by the time you throw an animal into the mix you definitely don't know what's going to happen, and I think it keeps you acting very naturally."

Cam says he has been training neither Rosie nor himself for the new challenge of live TV. "She's only a pup and so

we're basically just going to bring her on and let her go, and do whatever she wants. It's easy to train for that, isn't it?"

"And it's the same with me – I'm just basically a chippie doing live telly, so something's bound



Puppy love: Cherie with Rosie

to go wrong. If I was Don Lane or somebody I'd expect not to do anything wrong.

"But I've got no expectations of myself. You can only go out there and have a bit of fun and know that things will stuff up for sure."

Cam, Hausler and Rosie will

be joined on the show, which will be broadcast live in front of a studio audience, by a team of lifestyle experts including renowned Barossa Valley chef Maggie Beer, decorator Tara Dennis, vet Simone Maher and *Celebrity Overhaul's* health adviser Dr John Tickell.

In a lifestyle show first, there will also be an in-house band.

"We've got the Louisville Sluggers – they're a horn band and they're going to be our studio band," says Cam. "So there's going to be a whole heap of different elements in it, apart from lots of tips and new products and all that jazz. It's going to be very different to what we've seen before in lifestyle."

Cam was a regular on *Burke's Backyard* before its demise late last year, as well as the man in charge of putting decks and pergolas into the nation's gardens on *Backyard Blitz*. He says he has long hoped to make a different kind of lifestyle show.

"I think for years we've been doing similar things, and

I've been trying to say this for a few years, you know – 'let's do something different'," he says. "And that's exactly what we're doing."

Hausler agrees wholeheartedly. "I think we've had our fill of the usual lifestyle format," she says. "I'm just rapt that this is so different."

Despite having no background in lifestyle television, Hausler is well-qualified in terms of a lifestyle life – and admits she is at the moment living a sort of collective dream.

She and husband Damien live in a 140-year-old stone farmhouse on 10 acres in the Barossa Valley and are about to buy a clydesdale for the back paddock.

"It's all just come together in the last couple of months," she says. "We had been living in Sydney and you know, we thought let's take a risk, because of our heart, not because of our head."

"Because if we wanted to go with our heads we would have

bought an investment apartment in Sydney. But we wanted to have something that added to our lifestyle rather than being about money."

"And this has definitely added to our lifestyle. We've just finished our chookshed, and we're going to pick up some pullets on the weekend."

"And we've got a farm cat, and the clydesdale's the next addition on the list."

Hausler grew up in the Barossa, where her father is a vineyard manager, and her return to the region after nearly 15 years away has made her appreciate and embrace its way of life.

"It was just like putting on an old jumper that's been your favourite forever, and you just put it on and go 'yeah, this feels right'."

"It sounds like a cliché but I so appreciate my childhood here now – there are things that you just can't find anywhere

else and I don't want them to disappear." This includes the cutthroat world of competition baking and preserves on the local show circuit, which Hausler braved for the first time this year.

"I used to love the produce hall of the show as a kid and when I went back about two years ago as a grown up I could see it was all much smaller than when I was a kid – it was dwindling, and it seemed this generation is perhaps not out there baking cakes and getting into all those fantastic traditions," she says.

"So I did it all on my own at the last minute this year, and I thought 'oh OK, I'll go in the easy sections – I'll go in the lemon butter and cordial and chocolate cake categories."

"And I came up trumps – got three first prizes. So I was absolutely rapt. I was running around the

produce hall squealing, with my mum in tow.

"So next year I'll have to step it up a notch and go for a harder category. Maybe chutney. Chutney's tricky."

While she may bring some of her newfound country skills to *Our Place* – which in its pilot stage was known as *Scotty's Place* – she says she will not be bringing her own newfound country dog.

"Stella our border collie has always lived in the city but she's turned into such a farm dog now," Hausler laughs.

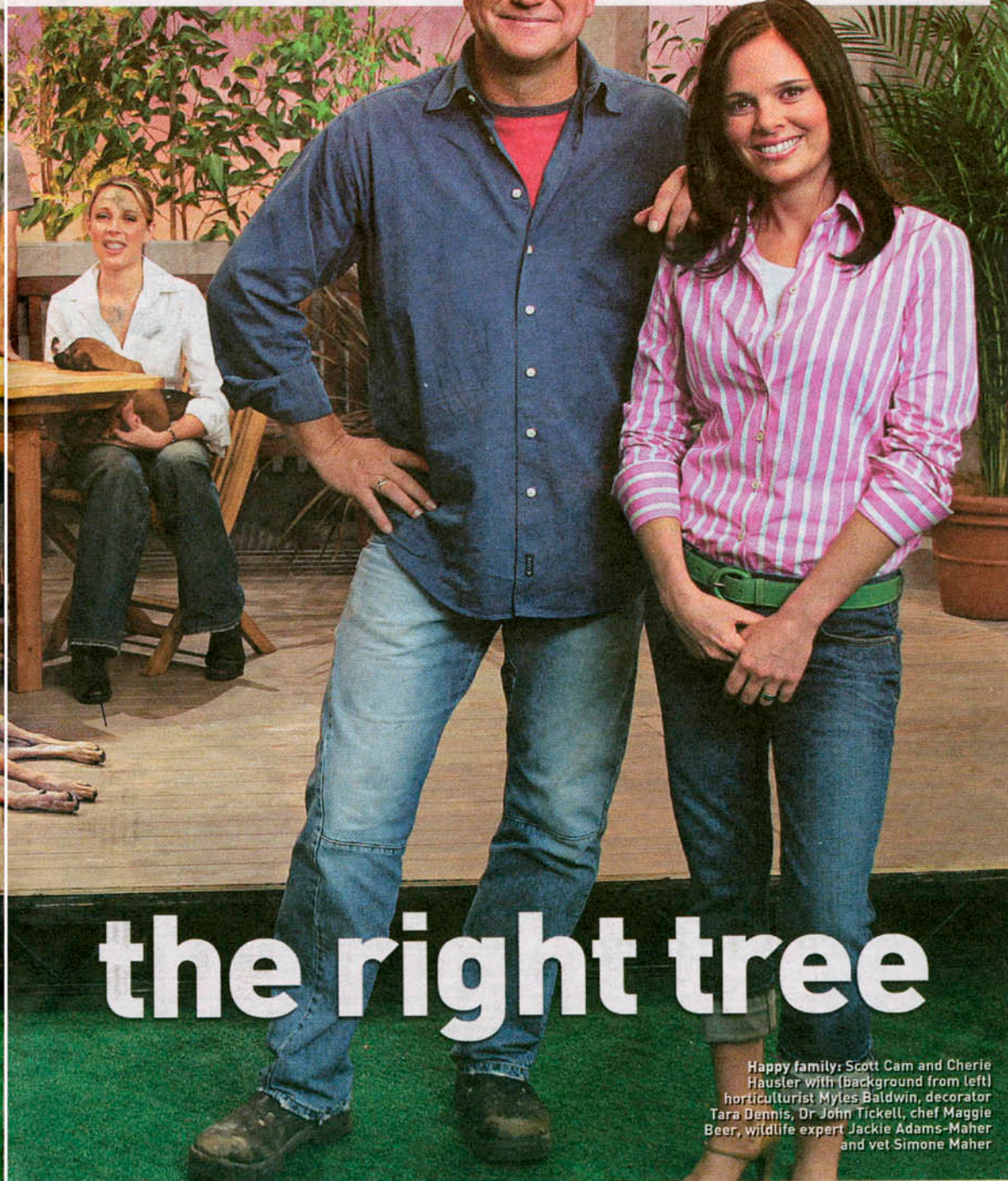
"She even follows the ute down to the end of the driveway and then turns back."

"If we brought her on to the show she'd run amok."

"She'd have to go up to every single person in the audience and make friends with them."

"So no, it's definitely Rosie's gig. And I slipped her a bit of Danish the other day, so I've got the boss on side."

*** Our Place, Friday, Nine, 7.30pm**
ELEANOR SPRAWSON



Barking up

Welcome to a new type of lifestyle show, where the in-house band plays and a cattle dog calls the shots

the right tree

Happy family: Scott Cam and Cherie Hausler with (background from left) horticulturist Myles Baldwin, decorator Tara Dennis, Dr John Tickell, chef Maggie Beer, wildlife expert Jackie Adams-Maher and vet Simone Maher