

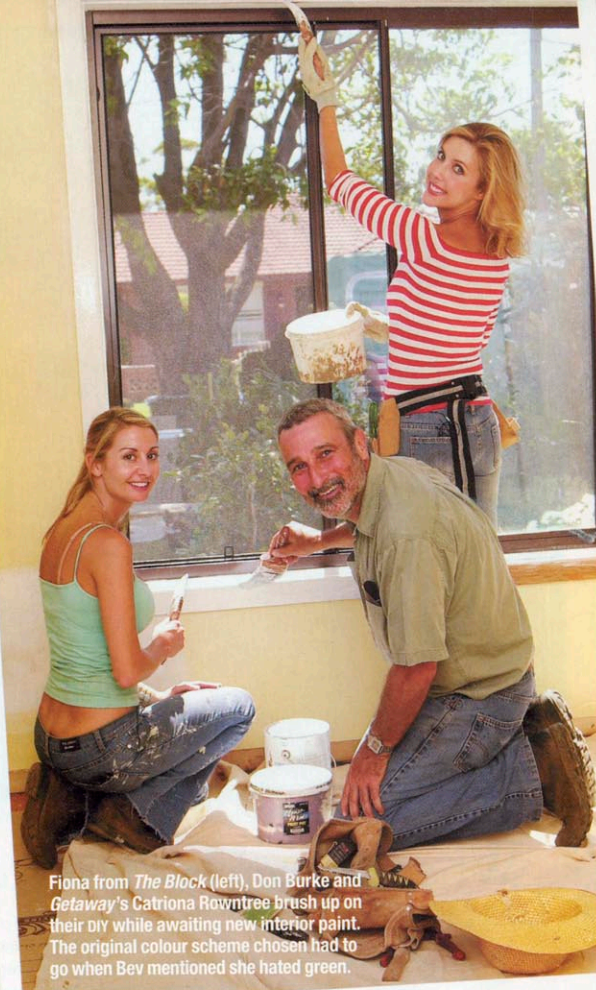
# PAINTERS & BLOCKERS

The team from TV's *Renovation Rescue* have dirty good fun fixing up a house for Bev Parker, foster mum extraordinaire

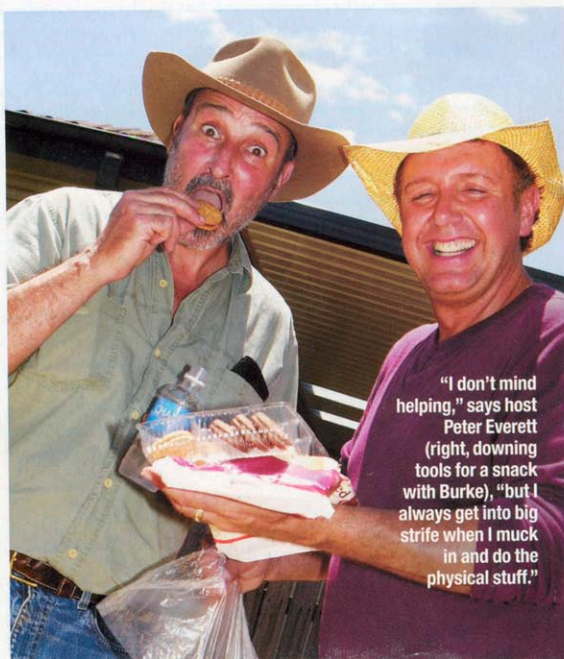
## THE RESCUE REMEDY

"It gives us a lot of pleasure," says *Renovation Rescue*'s co-executive producer Don Burke, "to help people who deserve a helping hand." Like 63-year-old Beverley Parker—veteran Meals on Wheels volunteer, former child abuse prevention counsellor (she enrolled in TAFE at 50 to get her HSC) and Seekers fan. Since 1997 the single Parker has opened her heart and two-bedroom fibro house in Sydney to 14 foster children in need of emergency care—especially kids born drug-addicted. As a thank you, the *Rescue* team treated her to two days of pampering, including limos, shopping, posh hotels, dinners, tickets to *The Lion King* and a reunion with a favourite former charge, a boy who was with her for a year from the age of 7 months. Says her daughter Karen (left, with her mum at the big reveal): "It was draining for her, being on the go 24/7. But worth it! She loves everything." (*Nine Network, Fri., March 5, 7.30 PM.*)

■ DEBORAH GRUNFELD



Fiona from *The Block* (left), Don Burke and *Getaway*'s Catriona Rowntree brush up on their DIY while awaiting new interior paint. The original colour scheme chosen had to go when Bev mentioned she hated green.



"I don't mind helping," says host Peter Everett (right, downing tools for a snack with Burke), "but I always get into big strife when I muck in and do the physical stuff."



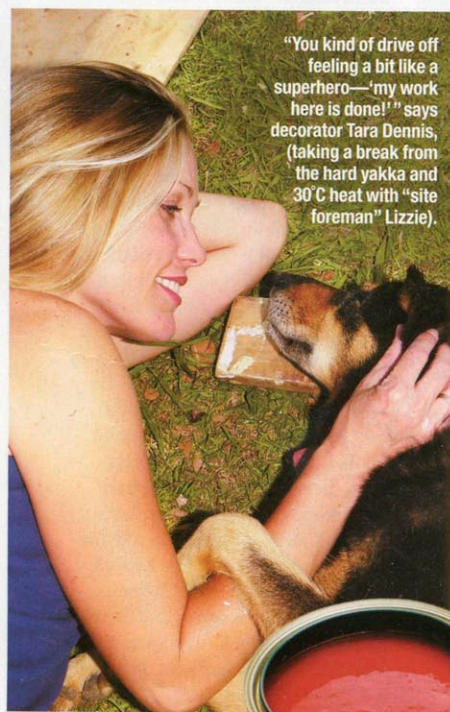
It "went all over the new plants," says Rowntree (right, with fellow paint-fight combatants and *Renovation* hosts Rebecca Harris and Everett). "Don is a little bit upset."



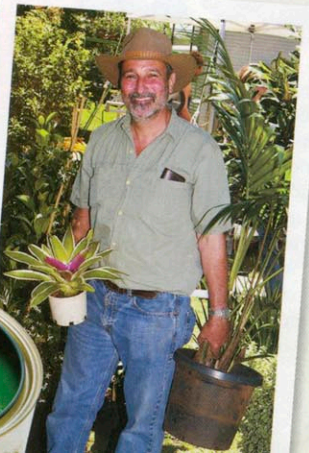
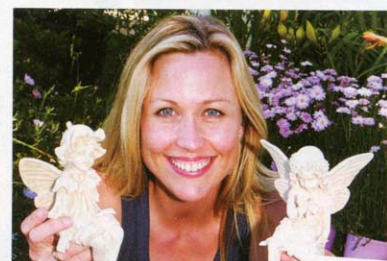
"He stopped and said, 'Jump in, it's air-conditioned,'" says Fiona of hitching a ride on a passing Bobcat.



"I had so much fun with that hammer," says Rowntree (right, with boss for the day, builder Scott Cam). Says Cam: "She's very attractive. I mean, she's very good."



"You kind of drive off feeling a bit like a superhero—'my work here is done!'" says decorator Tara Dennis, (taking a break from the hard yakka and 30°C heat with "site foreman" Lizzie).



"They just look like they had magic in them," Burke says of plants he handpicked for Tara Dennis's fairy garden (centre). Waiting for the Bobcat to finish so he could start "the awesome stuff" of planting, Burke bogs in. "Today I've done painting, digging, all sorts."