



home life



Taking it outside
Georgie has decorated outdoor shelves with some of her interesting finds (above)

Material magic
Part of Georgie's extensive collection of fabric, which she loves (left)



Stop for a second
A cushion and painted chair provide a pretty rest stop (above)

Outdoor atmosphere
The LECKEYS enjoy dining outdoors on the picturesque veranda (top)

Country road

Charming and graceful decorating makes this a serene family abode

>> Words Joanne Trzcinski >> Photography Chris Groenhout

Imagine, for a moment, an idyllic country home. What are you picturing? A return veranda laden with climbing roses, perhaps? Comfy chairs in a cosy living room? A thriving veggie patch, dogs flopped in the shade and chickens clucking contentedly about their coop?

Well, welcome to Georgie Leckey's home, nestled deep in the heart of the Victorian countryside. Surrounded by paddocks, and with mountains a distant misty blue, the homestead dates back in large part to 1920, with graceful high ceilings, well-proportioned rooms and atmospheric verandas that go the whole way around.

Georgie shares her picturesque home with her grazier husband, Will, their children, Eliza, 7, and Hugh, 5, and their clutch of pets – labrador Bonnie, kelpies Sophie and Minnie, and Digby the cat.

Theirs is the kind of unpretentious, welcoming decor that makes you feel like curling up in one of the cosy lounge chairs for several hours with a book or lingering longer at the dining table after a feast of country fare. Georgie explains her decorating style as a mix of "town and country".

"This home is very much a collection of special pieces gathered over time," Georgie explains. "Each piece tells a story, and the soft furnishings and the cushions and the throws add the final layer of comfort that ties it all together."

Original artworks give splashes of colour to walls (many of the botanical artworks are by Georgie's mother-in-law, Barbara Leckey), while gracious sideboards and timber cabinets provide surfaces for decorative collections.

Georgie trained as an interior decorator, but these days she devotes much of her time to creating upholstered bedheads (and co-ordinating valances) under the Heatherly Design label (www.heatherlydesign.com.au).

Her designs can be seen in the home's bedrooms and, as Georgie points out, they give a finished look to the rooms.

The main bedroom is a serene affair of blue and white, which Georgie nominates as her favourite spot in the whole house.

"This is really where Heatherly Design had its beginnings," she says.

"I would rest against a cold wall each night when reading and think here is an opportunity to add another layer of comfort."