

A Life

DECLUTTERED

What do you get when seven eager professional organisers gather to declutter a competition winner's kitchen and wardrobe? A full day of fun, and one very organised home!



before



after

KITCHEN TIPS

- Use Dymo plastic labels (not paper labels) in the kitchen as they can be wiped over and over again. – *Sarah Cottman, Heavenly Order*
- When organising your pantry, place items you use most often on the middle shelf, to avoid unnecessary bending and stretching. – *Kat Tate, Kat & Kaboodle*
- Have a plan to succeed. Identify what's working, what's not working and create goals and an action plan for success. Always start the job with the end in mind. – *Charlie Chapman, The Organised Family*
- Use labelled storage containers in the pantry. They save time in the long run. – *Ingrid Wilson.*
- Invest in some clear plastic storage containers for the kitchen pantry. Use them for the dry ingredients so they are protected from 'critters' and moisture. This also allows you to see, at a glance, how much you have in stock. – *Linda Eagleton, Creative Surrounds*

WARDROBE TIPS

- Do not keep clothes based on what you paid for them. – *Sarah Cottman, Heavenly Order*
- If items such as wedding dresses are to be stored over a long period they should be professionally cleaned, wrapped in acid free paper and boxed correctly. – *Sue Blake, In an Organised Fashion*
- Sell or give away unwanted items ASAP. Take them to Vinnies or a charity bin, if clothes are lightly worn, consider giving them to 'Suited for Work' (www.sfw.org.au)

IN THE MAY/JUNE ISSUE we offered up a Dymo Declutter Makeover, and Kim Russell from Padstow (NSW), won the prize and welcomed members from the Australasian Association of Professional Organisers into her home, in the hope they could help declutter her life. As a result, seven declutter queens – Sarah Cottman, Susan Blake, Belinda Grundy, Linda Eagleton, Ingrid Wilson, Charlie Chapman and Kat Tate – all pulled out their Dymo labellers to organise Kim's space.

The declutter queens worked in two groups to whip Kim's kitchen and wardrobe into shape. Their first task was to find out what Kim needed from each area and how many people the spaces needed to serve. Once assessed, they started to categorise all items 'to keep' and 'to go'.

Four hours later, every item was sorted, containerised and labelled, creating a clutter-free haven for Kim to enjoy throughout her current pregnancy and beyond.

'The makeover was fabulous,' says Kim. 'The team arrived on time and went straight to work reorganising my cluttered kitchen cupboard and disorganised wardrobe. The results were fantastic! I've gained extra storage space and have managed to rid myself of stuff that was adding to the clutter. I was most impressed with the professionalism of the team; they constantly consulted with me before making any changes, using my input in their decision making. It was a real joy to watch the transformation take place. Thanks so much for the opportunity once again. It has made a huge difference to an area that has been bothering me for years.'

Information written by Sue Blake, In An Organised Fashion (www.organisedfashion.com.au)
Photography by Scott Ehler (www.scottehler.com)



before



after