

# HOME *Garden* & LIFESTYLE GUIDE





Do

DIY

It

YOURSELF

SUMMER  
BACKYARD

**Joanna Tucker**  
JOURNALIST

WHILE tiling can be challenging for beginners, it has not stopped Moonta couple Amanda Allen and Riley Cranwell from achieving the backyard of their dreams.

Amanda and Riley built their home together a few years back and have since completed a series of DIY projects in their backyard.

Now Riley, with help from his dad Greg Cranwell, is tiling their backyard and they hope to complete the project by New Year's.

Amanda believes DIY projects are becoming increasingly popular due to the availability of learning resources and their cost-effectiveness.

"It has definitely increased in popularity because of the cost and the fact that there is a lot more availability on the internet nowadays," Amanda says.

The pair began tiling due to issues with the cement laid in their backyard when the house was built. These problems forced them to choose tiles over their original plan to use pavers.

"My pavers were 20 millimetres and, if we put those in, they would have gone above my door level," Amanda says.

"Seventy-five millimetres or under is the standard for any house, and the cement was laid way too high for our original pavers."

After selling the pavers and buying new tiles, the project officially began five weeks ago — and if they finish by January, it will be a total of six weeks.

"With the physical labour of the tiles, they (Riley and Greg) have been doing it every Saturday," Amanda says.

Having a family member with experience in a range of odd jobs has been invaluable for Amanda and Riley.

"If he (Greg) was not able to teach Riley, we would have had to pay someone and we cannot afford that in this economy," Amanda says.

"Back in the old days, everyone used to DIY. Parents would do it, and they'd teach their kids and then their kids learned how to do it."

"Nowadays, kids are not taught this stuff — we weren't taught in school and now we have to rely on our older generation to teach us."

Despite the challenges they've faced, Amanda and Riley have found creative solutions and recommend DIY projects to others looking for cost-effective ways to upgrade their homes.



SHARING KNOWLEDGE... Greg Cranwell helps his son, Riley Cranwell, tile his backyard just in time for summer.

## In-demand trades on YP

ACCORDING to a recent study highlighting the most in-demand trades for 2024, most searches in Yorke Peninsula and surrounding areas were for "electrician near me".

And figures from Indeed show tilers and electricians command some of the highest average hourly wages, at \$52.78 and \$45.49 respectively.

Electrician is ranked first in BizCover's list, with 460 Google searches on YP in 2024.

This is followed by plumber 450, concreter 200, roofer 180, builder 160, carpenter 150, foorer 130, landscaper 120, tiler 80 and painter 60.

- Hourly wage averages**
- Electrician: \$45.49
  - Plumber: \$41.97
  - Concreter: \$37.79
  - Roofer: \$41.31
  - Builder: \$37.29
  - Carpenter: \$41.57
  - Foorer: \$35.36
  - Landscaper: \$35.36
  - Tiler: \$52.78
  - Painter: \$36.46

SOURCE: Indeed

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# DECEMBER DECOR

## What's trending this Christmas

Joanna Tucker  
JOURNALIST

WITH Christmas only days away, most have already put up their tree, decorated their homes and hung up the Christmas lights.

However, there is still time to add flair to your pre-existing decor choices and weave in some of this year's trending topics.

According to Good Housekeeping, this year has been all about ditching traditional baubles and store-bought garlands — they even say the colour palette has extended beyond the classic red and green.

Bows, ribbons, whimsical accents and even disco balls to decorate the mantel are some of what's been trending this holiday season.

Reigning as one of the most popular trends

among homes this year is bows, of every size and colour — and on everything.

These can be tied to your tree as ornaments, or placed around the home, on your cutlery, wine glasses or hung on the door.

Coming in second is the gingerbread theme, which people are embracing this year by including gingerbread-themed pillows on the couch or miniature gingerbread villages in the centre of their dining room tables.

Christmas mushrooms are also showing up as ornaments or tabletop decor.

The festive fungi, mostly in bright red, has made its way into holiday decor.

Swapping the bright red accessories for moody colours, such as burgundy, is also a common theme among trendsetters this year as an easy way to add more richness

and warmth into traditional Christmas decor.

Sustainability and cost-effectiveness are key themes, exemplified by projects like hand-painting ornaments and using paper for home decorations.

Hand-painted ornaments create a cosy, personalised environment, which people have been opting for instead of mass-produced ones to add character to their homes.

Paper crafts, such as paper chains and snowflakes, have also gained popularity and add a personal touch without breaking the bank.

Both trends can also involve the kids in the decor festivities.

And lastly, retro has returned, and glitzy disco balls have become a staple in many home decor stores — including Christmas decor.

# Regional residents stay put

A RECENT Regional Movers Index report indicates regional Australia is the nation's preferred destination.

While city dwellers continue to relocate from metropolitan areas, regional Australians are increasingly choosing to stay put.

Regional Australia Institute chief executive Liz Ritchie said data from their report shows city-to-regional relocations are now 19.8 per cent above the pre-COVID average and 1.8 per cent above the average recorded during the height of lockdowns.

“In contrast, the inter-regional migration index — which tracks regional-to-regional relocations — has fallen by 5.1 per cent, suggesting that more regional residents are content to stay where they are,” Ms Ritchie said.

“With the continuing strong job markets across regional Australia, increasing city property prices and ongoing cost-of-living pressures, it's no surprise the regions remain desirable.”

However, according to the Small Area Labour Markets report for the last quarter, the unemployment rate has increased from 5.2 per cent to 5.6 per cent in the Copper Coast Council region.

Yorke Peninsula Council area also increased from the previous quarter's 4.1 per cent to 4.6 per cent.

In the Barunga West region, the unemployment rate increased from 4.1 to 4.5 per cent.

These rates compare the March 2024 quarter to the June 2024 quarter.

Despite this, the overall unemployment rate in South Australia has fallen from 4.2 per cent in October to 3.9 per cent in November, bringing the state to the national rate of 3.9 per cent.

South Australia's overall unemployment rate has only had a three in front of it 14 times since its monthly records began 46 years ago.

Ms Ritchie said it was vital to recognise this shift, as regional communities would need to prepare and be prepared with support through more infrastructure, services and employment opportunities to meet a new demand.

“As a nation, we must acknowledge we are in a new area of migration where regional Australia is at the forefront,” she said.

The RMI report also revealed 35.6 per cent of people are moving from capital cities to the regions, rather than the opposite.

“Regional Australia is truly the nation's new frontier, there are so many opportunities in our regional communities,” Ms Ritchie said.

“But likewise, we know there are challenges — housing, for example, remains a key ongoing concern in many communities.

“Regional Australia is growing and, for that to continue, we need adequate foundations.

“The time to lay them is now.”

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# Immaculate shack with sea views

SEA views within 90 metres of the beach — what more could you ask for?

This three-bedroom, one-bath-room James Well property would suit any entry-level holiday-property buyer exceptionally well, Matt Easter from Elders Real Estate says.

“We’ve got a fantastic location with easy beach access and a good standard of accommodation at an affordable price point,” he says.

Perfect for the holiday season, this treasured shack has been held by the same family for over half a century (53 years) and has been lovingly maintained with modern upgrades in more recent years.

The layout offers two bedrooms and one bathroom with an open kitchen and living area on the first floor.

A covered balcony along the entire frontage is the perfect place to watch the sunrise; while the rear deck, sheltered between the house and the hillside, is the perfect shady retreat in the afternoon or if the wind picks up.

The ground floor is utilised as a third bedroom and for storage and parking.

“No shed? No worries. This block has an excellent frontage which will enable you to build one to suit your needs,” Matt says.

The roof was replaced about 10 years ago; this included a new switchboard and some electrical upgrades.

A 30,000 litre rainwater storage within the property is ample for a full-time single or couple.

The home is sold on a mostly furnished basis.

It is for sale via online auction with a formal sale campaign to be launched online in the new year, Matt says he is expecting good interest in the mid to upper 400s.

“Bring your crab rake and walk over the road — they’re in season,” he says.

For more information, call Matt on 0409 011 212.



FEATURE PROPERTY

JAMES WELL  
87 James Well Road

Agent Elders Real Estate Yorke Peninsula – RLA 62833  
Phone Matt Easter 0409 011 212



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# A commitment to professionalism

### Advertising promotion

PROFESSIONALISM is at the core of everything we do at NXTSTEP Construction.

From the initial consultation to the final handover, our team ensures every project is executed with the highest standards of integrity and excellence.

Our clients trust us to deliver on our promises, and we take that responsibility seriously; we believe true expertise is about more than just meeting deadlines and budgets, it's about exceeding expectations and building lasting relationships.

### Embracing country values

As a company based on Yorke Peninsula, country values are ingrained into our culture and mindset.

We understand that our work has a significant impact on the community we serve, that's why we prioritise local engagement and relationships.

We work closely with local suppliers and subcontractors, to ensure our projects benefit both economically and socially.

### Celebrating our recent award

We were thrilled to have received the honour of being awarded the HIA SA Custom Build Home up to \$550,000 in 2024.

This prestigious award recognises our dedication to quality and professionalism in the construction industry.

It is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our entire team.

### Looking ahead

As we celebrate our recent award, we remain focused on the future.

The construction industry is constantly evolving, and we are committed to staying ahead of the curve.

Our vision is to continue setting new standards and excellence.

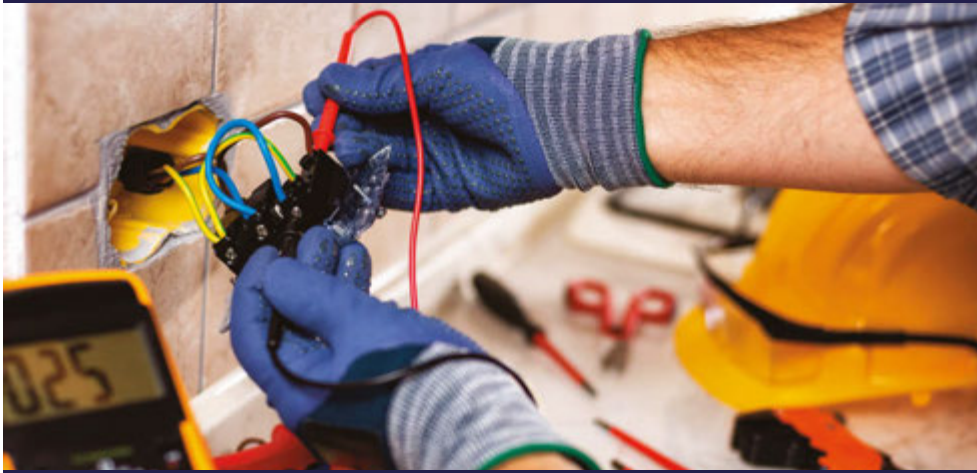
At NXTSTEP Construction, we are not just building structures; we are building a legacy of distinction, professionalism, and country values.

Reach out to NXTSTEP today, let's build something special together.



**WINNERS... NXTSTEP Construction** received the 2024 HIA SA Custom Build Home in the under \$500,000 category. Celebrating are Lucas Gordon, Tori Gordon, Brodie Maitland, Patrick Fry, Renee Hancocks, Dylan Mansell, Rebecca Willmott, Samantha Summerton, Deon Hayward and Matilda Jones.

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# Let Country Getaways help you achieve your lifestyle dreams

### Advertising Promotion

LOOKING to turn your property into a smart investment while still enjoying your holiday escape?

By listing your property with Country Getaways Holiday Rentals you can maintain a relaxed lifestyle, generate income and share your holiday home with others – all at once.

And engaging with a local business to manage your property means you can have peace of mind.

Operating on Yorke Peninsula for more than 25 years and centrally based in Maitland, Country Getaways is a high-profile and highly respected business with accommodation options from Port Broughton all the way down to Marion Bay.

Using your property as a holiday rental can potentially double the income you receive, compared to having a permanent tenant.

Access to Country Getaways' tailored owners' portal gives you control of the dates your property is

available for bookings, giving you flexibility to use it yourself whenever you please.

The comprehensive, user-friendly Country Getaways website is also the ideal place to look when booking a stay, allowing guests to search and make reservations 24 hours a day with instant confirmation.

By booking locally and direct through Country Getaways Holiday Rentals, you know your money is staying within the local community and not supporting large booking platforms, plus guests save on online booking fees by dealing directly with an SA business.

Country Getaways offers local knowledge and contacts, approved suppliers, monthly financial statements for owners, professional departure cleaning, mid-stay servicing and a dedicated local team to look after your property as if it was their own.

Partnerships with local suppliers across YP provide optional add-ons to

stays, and linen hire is available in some locations – all guests need to bring is themselves and their belongings.

The Country Getaways team manage more than 200 holiday homes across YP and Adelaide and are strong believers of supporting all things local.

The office team are happy to chat about the specific needs of guests and their requirements to ensure they can find the perfect accommodation – from small family getaways or corporate bookings, to groups of more than 10.

Giving a no-fuss way for homeowners to make their investment work for them, Country Getaways offers no-obligation inspections for owners considering using their home as a holiday rental.

To find out more about how Country Getaways Holiday Rentals can get your property to work for you, call 8832 2623 or email [bookings@countrygetaways.com.au](mailto:bookings@countrygetaways.com.au) to request an owner's information kit.

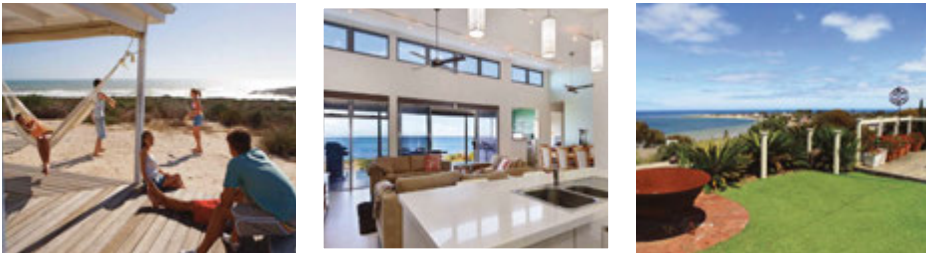


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# New land release in Ardrossan



FEATURE PROPERTY

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Land Division

Agent Blights Real Estate RLA 110  
Phone Neville Hibbard 0427 187 450

AN OPPORTUNITY has arisen in Ardrossan with 18 new residential blocks becoming available.

Neville Hibbard from Blights Real Estate says this is a great opportunity amid the current housing shortage on Yorke Peninsula.

“Ardrossan is prime as a destination for both permanent and holiday homes,” he says.

“With the pending opening of the Rex Minerals mine near Ardrossan, the town will experience a lot of housing demand from workers and their families relocating.”

The Hillside Project, 12 kilometres south of Ardrossan, is a large iron oxide copper gold deposit in the Gawler Craton, and is one of Australia’s largest undeveloped copper projects.

Work has already started at the site, with the mine expected to employ hundreds of workers.

For more information about the Hillside Project, visit <https://www.rexminerals.com.au/hillside-project>.

To register your interest in the new residential land release, email Neville at [neville@blights.com.au](mailto:neville@blights.com.au).





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Advertising promotion

OPERATING for almost two decades, KAS Civil (formerly Geoff Wilde Earthmoving) is a civil earthworks contractor on Yorke Peninsula. The company has a strong reputation for delivering high-quality civil construction services to YP and across regional South Australia. Prime movers, tippers, skid steer loaders, profilers and sweepers, rollers, excavators, graders, semi and rigid water tankers, rock saws, and medium and heavy-duty loaders are just some of the machinery KAS uses to get the job done.

"While our core business is larger civil works, we have always maintained a dedicated team for smaller domestic projects of all kinds," Simon Wilde, KAS Civil general manager and director, says.

With that in mind, from February, KAS Civil will have a fully operational sand and metal yard, backed by their civil experience, to provide a unique offering of supply and optional installation from a company with almost 20 years of experience.

"We will be a unique destination for quality sand and metal, tools and equipment, landscaping and concrete supply," Simon says.

"The very same products we use ourselves – what better endorsement of quality?"

"This will be supported by genuine earthmoving and civil experience with all the

equipment and machinery to do it for you, if you do not want to or cannot do it yourself.

"The sand and metal offerings will be the usual offerings: road base, gravels, concrete aggregates, as well as mulch, landscaping bark and more," Simon says.

"We will also provide bagged products such as cement, concrete, paving sand and bagged mulch and garden soil improver."

Licensed to supply potable water, KAS already delivers water to dozens of customers and can now supply and install the tanks to store it.

KAS Sand & Metal will also offer retaining wall products such as sleepers, iron and associated products, as well as OX tools – a high-quality tool manufacturer of everything from tape measures, line marking equipment, string lines, shovels, concrete trowels, cutting discs, hammers and more.

"These are all things you'd expect to need if you are DIY landscaping," Simon says.

"However, we are not and do not pretend to be a general hardware store."

While not fully operational yet, the sand and metal yard is partially open for delivery and pre-arranged pickups.

With years of expertise and experience, KAS can recommend, advise and deliver almost any quantity, anywhere and, if it all gets too much, they can build what you need as well!

For more information, head to [www.kascivil.com.au/](http://www.kascivil.com.au/).



**BOBCAT...** One of the many machines KAS Civil use to get the job done.

**Below: TIPPER...** One of KAS Civil's trucks moving a tipper from one site to another to complete a job.



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