

# HOMESPUN

## The Pink Issue

Guest Artisan  
Joanna Figueroa  
of Fig Tree Quilts

**WIN**  
a crafty weekend  
getaway for you  
and seven friends  
at The Parsonage  
OPEN TO AUSTRALIAN  
RESIDENTS ONLY

**13  
FANTASTIC  
PROJECTS**

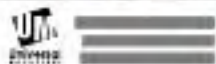
- ★ MOON SHINE  
DESIGNS
- ★ MELLY & ME
- ★ LARA CAMERON  
DESIGNS



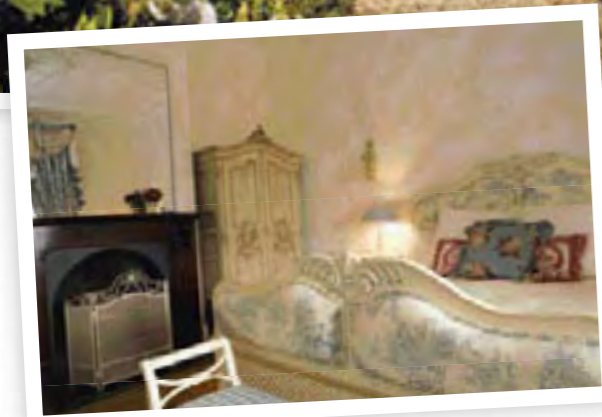
We're giving away  
Rosalie Quinlan's new  
book to celebrate  
Pink Ribbon Day

*Ooh La La*  
French-inspired projects inside

**PATCHWORK • APPLIQUÉ • STITCHERY**



# Celebrate Friendship At The Parsonage

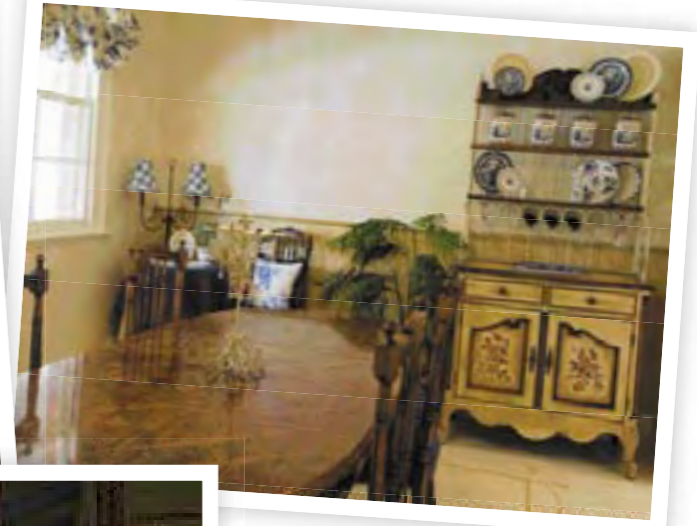


As many avid readers of *Homespun* would know, breast cancer support is a topic very close to our hearts (pardon the pun). The courage and determination of women afflicted by this insidious disease are an inspiration to us all. It is an unfortunate fact that there are few among us that have not been touched by it in some way, be it as a sufferer or as a helpless bystander as we watch someone we love and care for wage their battle for survival.

It is through adversity such as this that we come to realise how special the times we spend with our friends and loved ones are, such as the precious moments when the wolf is kept from the

door through a hearty laugh or a shared togetherness. As crafters we seek out these moments through our communal pursuits. We come together in stitching groups and quilting guilds to enjoy our shared passion in creating something homely and beautiful. Invariably, these interactions lead to strong bonds or kinship and some fantastic memories.

Rita Bosaid, owner of the amazing self-contained accommodation called The Parsonage in Maldon, Victoria is a passionate supporter of breast cancer causes and as a result has graciously offered a stay at her beautiful establishment in support of these wonderful



endeavours. Situated in the centre of the historic Victorian village of Maldon, The Parsonage has spent much of its long existence as a home to ministers, travelling lay preachers and people in need. It was the site of the first sermon preached in the Goldfields District back in 1858 and remained a part of church life until four years ago, when it was sold into private hands in a derelict state.

Fortunately, it has since been lovingly restored, with hand-hewn bricks, tuck-pointing and coining, 12-foot ceilings and original thatching under the roofline allowing a glimpse into another era. Walls have been expertly painted to imitate parchment, floors meticulously hand-finished and rooms accented with carefully selected imported fabrics, armoires, swags and tails, Louis-style chairs, chandeliers and gilded mirrors. Sweeping verandahs surrounding the building are dotted with tables and chairs for enjoying the garden. Urns and fountains are set among rose gardens and hedges; generous lawns and a French potager garden embrace the house.

The Parsonage has four bedrooms, with a total of eight separate beds to accommodate as many people at one time. Rita's eye for detail and desire to create a space that is both comfortable and truly luxurious can be seen at every turn. She has left nothing to chance — from Egyptian cotton sheets to hand creams and body care products, every creature comfort is catered for including hydronic heating, airconditioning, heated towel rails, an inbuilt ice-making and chilled water facility, a cosy wood-fired stove, TV, DVD and stereo, and much more. Putting it bluntly, Rita has forgotten nothing.

However, if you want more you'll be pleased to know that Rita is a keen patchworker who set up The Parsonage especially to cater to the needs of fellow crafters. This 'set-up' is actually a large, beautiful sun-lit conservatory housing a 10-seater worktable that will give you and your closest bosom buddies plenty of crafting space to whip up some masterpieces for someone special or to

honour someone's memory. All sewing requirements are provided, from standard and tabletop ironing boards to a choice of cutting boards and a light box, plus there are plenty of power boards and extension leads for the influx of sewing machines. Rita has another three trestle tables put away as well to give crafters plenty of cutting space, if required.

Importantly, this luxurious destination is just a one-minute walk to the quaint main street of Maldon, which includes the charming local patchwork shop The Village Patch and a great range of cafés. With all this, there will be plenty of opportunities to create treasured memories.

Thanks to Rita's incredible generosity, she is giving one winner (and seven friends) the chance to stay at this magnificent property.

The prize, valued at \$1320, includes accommodation and breakfast provisions for a two-night stay. Note: the prize does not include flights, transportation, tours or any incidental costs incurred by the winner or their guests.

To be in the running for this fabulous prize we want to read your most inspiring breast cancer story. This story should be about yourself or someone close to you and their struggle against breast cancer — current or past. The winner will then get the chance to either celebrate the life of someone who has lost their battle, or create those special memories for someone still with us. Your entry can be funny, heartwarming or even tear-jerking, and as creative as you wish.

To enter this extraordinary competition, send your entry to *Homespun's* The Parsonage Competition, Universal Magazines, Locked Bag 154, North Ryde NSW 1670. Entries close Friday, October 17, 2008. See the Conditions of Entry on page 17 for further details.

For more information about The Parsonage, visit [www.theparsonage.com.au](http://www.theparsonage.com.au) or see the Stockists & Contacts list at the end of the magazine for business details. Our thanks go to Jason Pleaner at Spectrum Photography for the beautiful photographs featured here.