

AT HOME WITH...

# LUKE VAN DYCK

**Words** Karen Miles **Photography** Sue Stubbs

**H**e's a third-generation builder who grew up on building sites, picking up nails for pocket money. With a completed home reno and new family in tow, one of Australia's favourite chippies and all-round nice guy, Luke Van Dyck, talked bathroom makeovers with Karen Miles.

**Karen:** Talk me through the renovation and any problems you needed to fix.

**Luke:** I fell in love with this house and its address. Inside, however, the house needed to be gutted and redone. The walls were yellow, it had blue carpet, a blue kitchen and cork floors. If I wasn't a builder I wouldn't have bought it as there was a lot of work there. We chose the house for the size, good bones and beautiful aspect, so we're getting a lot of value – and we got it at a good price. I was working on three other homes in the space of doing mine so it took about 10 weeks – and that's all-new timber floors throughout, outdoor deck, kitchen and bathroom. Any problem elements with the bathroom were ripped out because everything was gutted, including the walls, and we started from scratch, the expensive way. I designed the layout and my wife Aime chose the finishes and fixtures.

**Karen:** Tell us about the new bathroom.

**Luke:** I love the size of the bathroom. It's quite a big, grand room so we went with the "his" and "hers" double basins on a custom vanity, with a hand-painted finish that injects some colour. We opted for a traditional, classic design that's personal, timeless and homely. We've added detail with the use of tall skirtings, cornices, rebated cabinetry, a limestone floor from Italy which I love, with nice tumbled edges, and a freestanding bath. The benchtops are Organic White Caesarstone 40ml.

**Karen:** Renovating can sometimes feel overwhelming. What kept you motivated?

**Luke:** Having a pregnant wife! It's been a common theme lately in my work and it's a great motivator. It's like, "Right, we need this done now before the baby comes." I now know firsthand how important it is to get it done in time.

**Karen:** I have to ask, what are your initial feelings about being a new dad?

**Luke:** I think I'll need to take less risks in my heli-skiing and surfing. Actually, the inspiration for my son's name came from a British Formula 1 racing car driver, Jenson Button. There was also the 1970s sports car, the Jensen Interceptor!

