



## Summertime magic

**W**hat a wonderful season this issue covers. School holidays, Christmas, New Year celebrations, summer days, and that welcome Easter respite after the first rush of the year. Times of joy, reflection and relaxation, and time to share with those we care about. There is much to do and a lot

of fun to be had along the way.

So, have you got your gift list ready? Do you have tenacious determination to obtain the most special and unique Christmas gifts you can design or find? Each gift needs to speak for itself saying, 'I honour you by adding to your collection, fostering your interests, or

organising something you truly want and deserve, but would never consider buying for yourself.' What could be more unique and special than an antique or custom designed piece? Perhaps adding some engraving or gilt embossing to personalise it as well.

The important thing is creating wonderful times to spend with those you love. There are bedrooms to organise as we amazingly find space to fit in all the guests. I always look forward to creating a warm and sumptuous ambience in the formal dining room, with everything picture perfect. The light from the chandelier will have the gilding and silverware all a glimmer. Tables will need to

be fully extended to accommodate the influx of family and friends. They are marvellous when decorated and laden with healthy and naughty treats.

When the feasting is over the excitement draws us to the lounge room amidst the Christmas tree, and the colourful array of gifts around it. Children are drawn to the charm of yesteryear rocking horses and wooden and wind up toys. The adults can relax comfortably in the rocking chairs and well upholstered lounge seating, feasting on Christmas beverages and treats arranged on a delightful





array of occasional furniture. There is great pleasure in watching people unwrap their gifts. Their expression relays the reaction and the feeling of pleasure glows inside the giver, knowing they've achieved the desired effect.

However, the heat of summer can get oppressive, particularly for those without air conditioning. People readily escape to the cool of the verandahs, shady gardens, or for some, a lovely pool area. It is all very Victorian with the long cool drinks on the cane table, and people relaxing in squatter's chairs and cane furniture. Before long, someone will take over the daybed for an after dinner nap. Time for the cigars to be passed around for that once a year pleasure, and chocolate ahoy for everyone.

It is always good to get in early, ensuring that all the restoration, waxing and maintenance is done before family and overseas and interstate guests arrive. It is also advisable to organise the making and restoration of antique and classic gifts as soon as possible. Obviously we try and please everyone, completing orders in good time.

Illustrated are a selection of commissioned restorations and custom-designed furniture that we hope will provide inspiration if having trouble thinking of that perfect gift. Wishing you all a happy and safe summer.

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