

Before



Several yetis were probably hiding in Jarrod Dickson's work shed before Wendy (below centre) and the girls sorted it out.

After



WORK SHED Makeover

Professional organisers turn landscaper's grubby tool shed into a schmicko work space.

by Nathan Sykes

IT'S the bane of every tradie's existence: organising your gear and workshop so that you can get on with making a quid. Who's got the bloody time?

Wendy Hanes has. She's the secretary of The Australian Association of Professional Organisers, a non-profit organisation sponsored by Dymo. Their joint-mission is to spruik the wisdom of consulting a professional organiser about managing your living and workspace and getting, well, organised.

THE TRADIE put Wendy on to landscape gardener Jarrod Dickson in Black Rock, Melbourne. Finding anything in Jarrod's lock-up was akin to searching for a pint of Guinness in a blackout.

Chaos ruled the 38-year-old's work shed, which stores his supplies and important tools. He admits, "It was a dog's breakfast, everything was just thrown in there."

Jarrod, who'd amassed the mess while renovating his dream home, looked on as Wen and her four comrades declared a shock-and-awe campaign against Jarra's clutter.

Wendy describes the horror: "Lots of paintbrushes were mixed with his stuff, and tools were everywhere. We saw plenty of spiders and golf balls in amongst those tools, too."

The battle raged: "We figured out what

he had, and created space for each thing. Gathering like-items together, we gave them homes.

"We hung his hand tools in an orderly fashion on a pegboard, and his little things we stored in clear containers, then we labelled everything with a Dymo Rhino labeller. All up it took us five hours."

By the end of it, you could've knocked Jarrod over with a feather. His swamp was now an oasis and everything was easy to find.

Choking back a tear (well, maybe not), Jarrod conceded, "They did a good job. Now I can get to everything, they've made it a lot more functional."

He'll also save time and money not having to root around for hard-to-find tools when pressing jobs need to be done for impatient and demanding clients.

It's plain to see there are obvious benefits to becoming organised. As Wendy witnesses in the course of her work, "When things get as messy as Jarrod's space, people often waste money by doubling up and buying items which they already have, but can't find.

"When space isn't properly used, you're not really getting full value out of it either. Plus, there's also the safety aspect to consider. You don't want to have an accident looking for something because it's too hard to get to."

THE TRADIE'S 7 ORGANISING COMMANDMENTS

- 1 Figure out whether you want to use it as a workspace or a storage area.
- 2 Roughly, sort everything into a group, eg: plumbing supplies with plumbing supplies. You might find you've got duplicates of things.
- 3 Hoarding stuff can cramp your storage space. Instead of hanging onto bits and pieces, just in case they might be useful down the track, bin 'em if you can replace them cheaply.
- 4 Next, set up clear zones by placing power tools together, painting supplies together, etc.
- 5 Hooks and clear plastic containers keep everything visible.
- 6 Label your stuff with a Dymo Rhino label maker. It is the best for the toughest worksites, and the labels really stick.
- 7 If the whole thing's beyond you, hire an AAPO pro. You can find one by logging onto www.aapo.org.au

