

## NEW DESIGN CLASSES INSPIRE HOMES PEOPLE LOVE

Fraser Coast residents now have access to an interior design course unlike any offered even in Australian capitals such as Sydney.

The first of The Bay Emporium's Bay Basics courses was just completed, giving seven local residents the confidence to direct tradesmen on home renovations or simply transform a dreary room into a space they love living in.

The four week course includes advice from local industry experts in everything from flooring and painting to kitchens and bathrooms delivered in weekly hands-on classes.

Bay Emporium owners Caroline Vinson and Linda Jeffery wanted to share their passion for interior styling with others

"So many of our customers are in the process of building or renovating their homes or have simply found a piece of furniture that they love but aren't sure how to fit into their existing design scheme," Caroline said.

"Many of them came in with horror stories about not knowing what questions they should be asking or stories about buying furniture that just didn't look right once they got it home," Linda said.

"The entire philosophy behind opening The Bay Emporium was to help people create spaces that allow them to love the way they live. We already had a store full of beautiful furniture and homewares but wanted to go further.

"One day we met Designer Tracey Hemmy who told us about her design philosophy of creating homes people love to be in. We knew that the opportunity to really provide a high-quality education service was too good to miss," Linda said.

Tracey Hemmy has 17 years of experience designing spaces in international hotels, entertainment centres, commercial buildings and in the last five years has helped more than 90 people transform their homes.

Using her experience she teaches students of the Bay Basics course to trust their taste, identify what they really want and plan out their design so they can be sure it works before they start spending money.

"I keep telling the Bay Basics class that designing a space or the interior of a entire home isn't rocket science. This course simply shows them how to look at what they're designing differently and then make it a reality through planning.

"My biggest tip is to keep pieces or colours that you love around you and build the design around that. You can design anything into a space when you know the principals behind it," Tracey said.

Participants get hands on with the creation of a mood board and to scale plans of particular rooms that include the selection of furniture, colours, accessories and budgets.

"The knowledge that people gain in this class can end up saving them thousands of dollars, simply because they'll do it right the first time," Tracey said.

"We have so much fun in classes and all of the participants become great friends. It's an excellent atmosphere to learn in."

“There really is nothing else like it out there. I’ve worked extensively in Sydney for years and courses there cost a fortune and take up to a year to complete. There is no other course that is as cost effective, short and jam packed with information.

“Between myself and our guest speakers participants gain first-hand industry knowledge and even get discounts at various Hervey Bay suppliers and a goodie bag to help inspire them,” Tracey said.

The next round of Bay Basics interior styling classes begin on Tuesday 29 April. Classes are kept to a maximum of 12 participants so if you are interested please contact The Bay Emporium on 4197 1000.



(Seated) Jan Chapman, Tricia Ponti and Meryl Klip get inspired by tutor Tracey Hemmy (standing) at the Bay Basic interior styling course.