

**MY FAVOURITE THINGS**

▼ **Pirra's drawings** She's just reached an age where she says: "I've done this for you."

▼ **Stu's wall sculpture** He brings me home some weird things from the market sometimes. I don't like just pictures. These are Indonesia vines a friend fixed together and hung on the wall.

▼ **Aromatherapy candles** These ones are really good because they work. They're practical too, because you can put the lid on them and they're kid-proof. Their scent is also spot-on.

▶ **Travel photos** Stu and I have had great travels. I lived in London for a while; we've been to Mexico, Canada and Asia. They were happy times with no responsibilities. I only intended to go overseas for three months and came back two years later.

▶ **Children's clothes** Every mother is addicted to children's clothing because it always looks gorgeous on the kids. I like the handmade, hand-printed clothes from Prints Charming. I like things that are a bit unique.

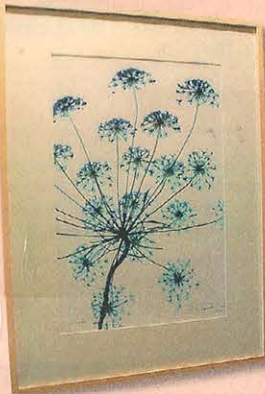
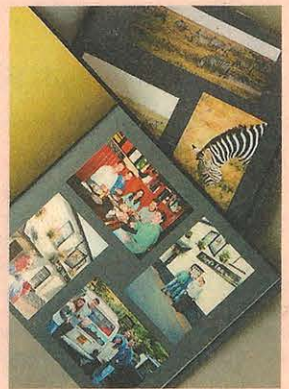
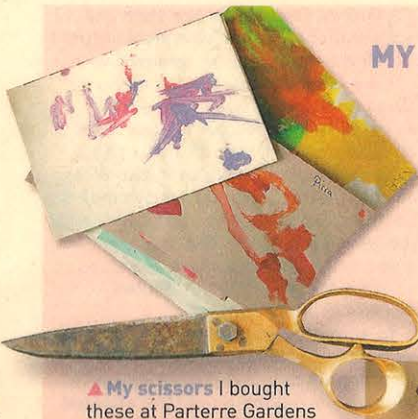
◀ **My mum's photo** My mum, Marcia, died when I was 15. This is one of the only photos of her on her own. There are all these things I want to know, especially as I get close to her age.

▼ **Hippo from Tanzania** Stu bought it for me in Africa. It's been the doorstep since we opened and every other person wants to know if they can buy it. It's lost a foot and an ear – like an old teddy bear. It's been there since we had the shop and the shop has been good to us.

▼ **Roses** We have lovely colours and there are a lot of varieties available. You develop relationships with the growers [at Sydney Flower Market]. Roses are yummy – they look different from the morning to the afternoon.

▲ **My scissors** I bought these at Parterre Gardens [in Woollahra] 10 years ago and use them in the shop to cut ribbon. They're awesome and have so much character.

▲ **Warwick Orme print** I'm a bit addicted to Warwick's amazing images. He's one of my customers.



**BLOOMING MARVEL**

Inner-west flower lovers consider Jodie McGregor a legend, writes **Robyn Willis**. Photos **Stephen Cooper**.

**K**nown for her fresh approach to flower arranging and her ability to cater with ease and individuality to her growing list of clients, Jodie McGregor is sought after by brides, stylists and savvy home makers alike.

So it comes as a surprise to learn she never planned to be a florist. "I got into it by chance," she says. "I took a part-time job in a flower shop because I needed some extra money and I just loved it. I quit my job in the textiles industry a fortnight later and did a TAFE course in floristry."

After working for other people both here and overseas for several years, Jodie opened her own

shop, Jodie McGregor Flowers, in Annandale in 1999. Three years ago, her husband Stuart White took paternity leave from his finance job to spend time with their daughter, Pirra, and never went back.

He and Jodie now divide their time between the shop and caring for their young family, including newborn daughter Remi. After more than a decade in floristry, Jodie clearly still enjoys working with flowers.

"I really like flowers because they move on," she says. "The next day you have different flowers."

"It's like watching a sunset. You appreciate the flowers all the more because they're only temporary." ■

