

A tidy prophet

Professional clutter-buster **CAROL POSENER** has a new book that teaches people to organise their home and office



How often have you looked at an item of clothing, knowing you haven't worn it in years, but baulked at the thought of throwing it out or giving it away. "As soon as I do, I'm bound to need it," you decide and so the item and clutter remains.

Being organised is definitely a struggle for some but it comes so naturally to Carol Posener she's made a career out of it.

Following a career in banking and stockbroking, Carol established her business, *Get Organised*, nine years ago after identifying a need in many offices to deal with clutter. She's also just written a book on the subject.

She helps chronic clutterers, procrastinators and people just too busy to stay on top of things. Her clientele ranges from professionals to homebodies.

"People think that if you're organised there's something wrong with you," says Carol at her North Shore home, admitting that she didn't acquire the ability until she was a teen.

"I love being organised and having a place for everything. It's just a matter of allocating one place to a thing rather than five."

Carol understands that those with busy lives can feel bombarded by the things they need to do and that for some people, getting organised can be stressful.

"They end up paying for three storage places," she says. "Most people have so many things and want to have them all out on show. You can't, of course, so it's all about rotating."

"It's about using everything you've got if you can't get rid of it," explains Carol, who describes herself as a coach or buddy to her clients. "It's more difficult now and we have to get the hang of recycling."

LILY ZILAR



MY FAVOURITE THINGS

[a] Deck: It's an extended living area and great for entertaining. It has wind chimes, pots of succulents and a bamboo table. I love breakfast here – it's the perfect quiet space to do my yoga and meditation in the morning.

[b] Storage boxes: They make it easier to organise things in a stylish way. You don't have to have the traditional archive boxes, you can have a beautiful rattan box and have it on display rather than hiding in the garage. I have boxes for tealight candles, my sewing kit, hair accessories and old jewellery I want to keep for sentimental reasons.

[c] Buddha collection: They're in the bathroom, on the coffee table and on my desk and deck. They give me a sense of stillness. One was a gift and I collect them whenever I see them.

[d] Office storage: I love my Kikki-k white storage boxes and products. They're sturdy, attractive and they keep things organised. You can find any size to suit your needs.

[e] Artworks: These watercolours were painted by my sister, Suzanne Maher. She gave them to me as a present. I love the bright, vibrant colours of the strelitzias and irises.

[f] Handmade glass coffee table: The original timber table was made by a friend. I wanted to update it so I asked friends in Bellingin, Janine Brown and Steve Slinger, to help me. We designed it together. Although it's hard to keep clean, it's amazing at night when it reflects on the walls and ceilings all the lights or candles.

[g] Moroccan side table: I found it at a Bellingin shop. I love the colours, its octagonal shape, and the whole Moroccan feel. It's just different.



[h] Sideboard: Home to crockery, cassettes, placemats and a drawer of incense. I found it in the *Trading Post* for \$110. It was painted brown and under a tarpaulin in someone's backyard. It took me more than four hours of sanding to discover its beautiful oak finish. I've had it about 10 years.

 *Get Organised!* by Carol Posener, published by Lothian Books, rrp \$24.95. Carol is running Spring Fresh Start Desk Flow Management workshops at Orson & Blake, ph 8399 2525 for more information.

PHOTOS: KATRINA TEPPER