



PAMELA HANSON
photographer

Hanson took to the streets of New York to shoot our 'Mod Squad' fashion story (p186). "It went really smoothly," she reports. "And was a lot of fun." Fun? We'll be sure to stamp that out next time.

GIVE US SOME PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS. Trust your vision, connect with your subject – and try to keep them in focus.

MAKES SENSE. WHERE DO PEOPLE TEND TO GO WRONG?

The biggest mistake is settling on a shot, even if you're not satisfied. The key is to push yourself and not get lazy.

WHAT IF YOU'RE SHOOTING SOMEONE WHO'S NERVOUS, HOW DO YOU GET THEM TO RELAX?

Make conversation – talk to them and ask them all about themselves.

WHO ARE YOUR FAVOURITE PHOTOGRAPHERS?

Jacques Henri Lartigue and Helmut Newton. Their images have so much life and emotion in them.

WHAT DO YOU USE TO SHOOT?

I tend to flit between a Canon and a Contax T2.



DAVID SMIEDT
writer

Losing a child prematurely is any parent's worst nightmare. While it's unquestionably devastating for mothers, how do the fathers cope? For our feature (p182), Smiedt looked into the male side of such tragedy.

WHAT SURPRISED YOU WHEN WRITING THIS PIECE?

How all those men I interviewed wanted to turn their experience into some kind of organisation to help other men going through the same thing.

IT'S NOT JUST THE SERIOUS TOPICS YOU TACKLE, RIGHT?

No, I'm a stand-up comic too.

GO ON THEN: MAKE US LAUGH.

OK. When I was growing up, Tinder was how New Zealanders liked their meat cooked. Get it?

HA. YOU'RE ALSO OUR GROOMING EDITOR – FAVE SCENT RIGHT NOW?

Chanel's Bleu de Chanel.

ANY WRITING ADVICE?

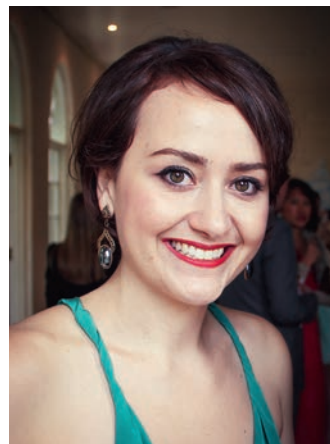
Short. Sentences. Work. Best. And read AA Gill.

WHAT CAN'T YOU STAND IN THE WORDSMITH STAKES?

People who dot prose with: 'I thought to myself...' Who else are you going to think it to?

YOU'RE @DSMIEDT ON TWITTER. WHO ELSE SHOULD WE FOLLOW?

@funnyordie for big-name actors in silly comedy sketches and @chartonbrooker – no one does venom better.



ALICE WASLEY
writer

Wasley recently upped sticks from Sydney to New York, where she investigated the dos and don'ts of accepting every man and his dog on LinkedIn (p160). "We're so used to social networking, it's important to remember this is about work," she tells us. "So keep your pants on and don't hit on people. It's not a dating app." We can't promise anything.

WHAT'S SURPRISED YOU ABOUT THE BIG APPLE SO FAR?

New Yorkers are actually extremely friendly. Even in my area, which is full of cool kids on skateboards.

WHO KNEW. AND THE DOWNSIDES?

Finding good coffee. It's getting better, but compared to Sydney it's dire. Also, figuring out how much to tip and remembering to call it the cheque, not the bill. You know, the big stuff.

HOW CAN WE IMPROVE OUR WRITING?

I like to track any changes to my copy. That was really useful when I was starting out. I'm also always reading something, from *Twilight* to Tolstoy – though probably more *Twilight*.

ANY CURRENT FAVOURITES?

A novel called *Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles. Set in 1930s Manhattan, it's filled with martinis, jazz clubs, martinis and people not quite as they seem. Did I mention martinis?



CONOR BURKE
interiors editor

Regular contributor Burke looked into local designers for this issue's 'Bachelor Pad'. "The Blakebrough and King 'Kite' stool was my favourite piece," he says. "It's such a clever design and use of recycled material. But mainly I love the way the modern shape contrasts with the raw straw." Check it out on p74.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST INTERIORS TRENDS AT THE MOMENT?

Metals are big – Austrian designer Carl Auböck had some classics. Locally, Henry Wilson also makes handsome designs that incorporate metals well.

TELL US YOUR PET PEEVE?

Chevron stripes. Please go away. **OH, BETTER CANCEL THOSE THROW PILLOWS. SAY MONEY'S NO OBJECT, WHAT WOULD YOU BUY?**

A pair of Charlotte Perriand lounge chairs – they're so charming and warm in their rustic style, and go well with contemporary pieces.

ANY INTERIORS ADVICE?

If you fill your home with objects and art that you love, you really can't go wrong.



WORDS: JAKE MILLAR.