



With big challenges, big decisions, big designs, and big Aussie families, Australia's biggest renovation show just got a whole lot bigger.

Six new teams from around Australia are set to take on the biggest challenge of their lives. They all have one thing in common: a lack of space. Their family has grown but their house hasn't. This time, the teams are doing it for their families. Together, they'll travel the country, hand over the keys to their homes and leave their opposition to transform every room in their house. They will need to make the most of every nook and cranny as they battle it out to become mortgage free.

Host Johanna Griggs will be in the thick of the action as six brave teams gamble with the most important possession in their lives.

Guided by just five House Rules, the teams will each be given a designated zone in the house. They must draw on all their creative talents, determination and strategy to deliver some of the biggest reveals yet.

Returning to guide the teams, and help them decipher the all-important House Rules, is acclaimed interior designer Carolyn Burns-McCrave. And with only one week to completely transform each home, the teams will need all the help they can get.

Expert judges - award-winning architect and designer Joe Snell and Home Beautiful magazine editor Wendy Moore - will score each team for their work out of 10. But ultimately it's the home owners who will decide their fate.

Without knowing who was responsible for each zone, the home owners will also score each team out of 10. Will they love what they see?

Back at Homebase, the scores will be revealed, and one by one the teams will be eliminated.

The two teams left standing will face-off in an epic Grand Final for a chance to win the most coveted prize on Australian TV...their entire mortgage completely paid off!

The six teams vying for the life-changing prize are:

MELBOURNE / Fil & Joe

NEW SOUTH WALES / Nancy & Daniel

QUEENSLAND / Luke & Cody

SOUTH AUSTRALIA / Brooke & Michelle

VICTORIA / Claire & Hagan

WESTERN AUSTRALIA / Rose & Rob

House Rules was a ratings hit in 2015, watched by more than 11 million Aussies. With a combined average audience of 1.6 million, it ranked in the Top 5 regular programs of the year. Two million* viewers tuned in to watch NSW father and daughter, Steve and Tiana, take home Australian TV's most coveted prize - their entire mortgage completely paid off.

For more information, go to the show's official website www.houserules.com.au

*Metropolitan and Regional Combined Audiences





The smallest house in House Rules history, Claire and Hagan's self-described one-bedroom "shoe box" on Victoria's Mornington Peninsular packs a lot into a tiny space.

Engaged for two years, these young lovebirds bought their first home – an old shop – three years ago and quickly renovated the front portion to create a salon for hairdresser Claire, 28.

"I've worked really hard to build up my business and we spent all of our savings renovating the salon," she says.

"It took us about four months to do," says Hagan, who did all of the renovation with the help of some mates. "We love what we have done to it, but we haven't done anything to the actual house."

With no money to spend on the rest of the house they share with their two daughters, Matilda, four, and Darcy, two, they can't wait to hand over their keys to the House Rules teams.

"We're not scared at all," says Claire. "We've come into this competition to have a go at everything and whatever comes out at the end we'll be grateful for whatever it is."

They all share the same window-less bedroom along with their Great Dane Cleo, while Claire's mum spends a couple of nights a week on the couch to help babysit while they're at work.

"We have five rooms in one," explains Claire.

"Our lounge room, dining, rumpus, kitchen and laundry. We really need extra room for the girls. Sometimes I catch Matilda pretending that a corner is her bedroom and I feel so terrible."

"I worry about our future, we're saving and saving and we still haven't saved enough to renovate. It's breaking us really," says 27-year-old plumber Hagan.

While Claire admits she loves that their home is "weird", she isn't such a fan of the mould. "I hate that it's tiny, and a bit yuck to live in. It got a bit mouldy last winter and I was starting to worry we were going to get sick from it."

Claire, who loves to paddle board, is hoping to introduce her fiance to yoga while they renovate to help with his stress levels.

"I am hopeless under pressure," admits AFL-loving Hagan. "I get stressed out and then I start rushing, then I get mad and angry."

His passion for football is often a bone of contention among the couple.

"Hagan loves football; it drives me crazy. It takes up a lot of his weekend, then he only has one day off and it tends to be sitting on the couch doing nothing so that frustrates me a lot," explains Claire.

And Hagan admits when they do fight, there's not really anywhere to go to escape one another's bad mood. "There's nowhere; probably go sit in the car!"

Claire, who loves to get dressed up for a night out with fake tans, a blow dry and make-up, says despite the long hours she'll be putting in renovating, she'll still make time to rise early before the cameras to make herself presentable.

"It's the only thing that will keep me sane knowing that I have my little routine, I like setting all my make-up up and having a chamomile tea when I do it."

#ClaireHagan





For Australian Navy logistics officer Rob and his wife of eight years Rose, the opportunity to renovate six houses across the country is like a second honeymoon.

It will in fact be the longest chunk of time they've spent together in the last five years.

"Rob has been away a third of the time we've been together and a large portion of that has been the last five years," says mum-of-three Rose, 29.

So, aside from the absence of their children, spending time together and having their house renovated will be a dream come true.

Rob was away at sea when Rose found the perfect house in Western Australia after a three-week search. "It was the backyard; I think seeing the kids running around the backyard is what decided it for me. It had big springy buffalo turf on it and a fair amount of dandelions as well," says Rose.

"It's a solid house, brick everywhere," adds Rob, 41.

And the one thing Rob doesn't want from their renovation is to encroach on that precious back yard. "If they built a 10-foot decking in the backyard I would be mortified. The backyard is a really good size but to do that would just shrink it."

Parents to three little boys - David, seven, Sampson, six, and Teddy, three - Rose says they all have very different personalities but they all like to "make a mess and they are very loud". "The mess is from me and the loud is from their dad," says Rose.

Their biggest weakness in the competition will be their feisty natures. "Neither of us will back down," Rose says. "Neither of us are necessarily the peace keeper and Rob, he's been in the military so he's good at telling people what to do."

Rob insists: "It's more that something needs to be done and it should be done in a certain way and it's my way."

Rob says their ability to master the long-distance relationship will have a flow-on effect in the competition. "Our ability to communicate over large distances is great," he says.

When it comes to renovating, Rose grew up with parents who both studied architecture and loved design. Although neither made a living from it, they have a passion and continually redesigned the family home.

"I grew up with architectural drawings on the kitchen table and my mother rendered an entire three story house. Mum and dad were very equal in their design and laboring, and we would get in and help."

Rob grew up surrounded by more modern design. "We all went away for six months and came back to a whole new house and everything that went into it was new, so we come from very different backgrounds but we bounce off each other quite nicely."

Their renovating experience is a bathroom design in a former two-bedroom apartment they owned in Sydney.

"I think we worked really well and we agreed on a lot more things than we thought we would which was nice," says Rose.

A former soccer player before kids came along, Rose is keen to ramp up her interest in furniture restoration.

A clean eater, Rose's other love is the vegie patch she planted in the back yard with the kids. "I did it while Rob was away and for the first time I had a whole meal (except for the lamb) that was from my garden, I had potatoes, the greens, beetroot and that was really fulfilling."



#RoseRob

LUKE & CODY



The youngest home owner on House Rules, Luke is extremely grateful that twin brother Cody has signed up to help him transform his rundown 1940s shack.

"I know he would do the same for me," says Cody.

"Realistically this is a once in a lifetime opportunity, so saying no to him would just be cruel. Plus I'm living in the house now so it's a benefit to have it done up!"

"Cody gave up a lot, I can't thank him enough," says 23-year-old Luke, who is the oldest by 21 minutes.

The boys live 10 minutes from parents Judy and Steve and their surprise baby brother William, who is nine, in the Darling Downs region of Queensland.

"We go out there a couple of times a week to play with him and give him a bit of a break from mum and dad," says Cody. "The best part about our home town is you go down the street and get a G'day and a yarn; it's never a five-second trip to go get bread or milk. It's a great country town."

Luke bought his house two years ago after saving hard while doing his electrical apprenticeship. He is now a qualified electrician.

"It was a very run down house but I saw potential in it," he explains. "I was renting for a year or two and it was dead money so I was wanting to see my money go towards something good."

Cody moved in after finishing his diesel fitter apprenticeship at Toowoomba 12 months ago.

"There was no point me renting in Toowoomba as it cost a fortune and I was never there and whenever I was home I was mostly at Luke's place anyway so I just moved in."

The boys did make a DIY start on renovations but the ensuite only got as far as the framework and the kitchen and laundry are in dire need of a makeover.

"The laundry is just on the back deck. Actually, there is no laundry. And it's not even a back deck, it's the top of the step," admits Luke, meaning mum Judy gets more than she bargained for when they visit sometimes. "Sometimes I do it, but mum gets the ironing still as we are terrible at ironing."

Cody's biggest concern with the house is its lack of insulation. "It's bloody cold in winter and smoking hot in summer. There are holes in-between the floorboards where the breeze will come up through. I spend most of the time in the sun as it's cooler than inside the house; it's ridiculous."

While their dad is a builder, both boys admit renovating is still a big learning curve for them. They're also concerned about the styling side of the competition.

"The design and the prettiness we struggle with," says Cody. "We both want to get in and do the physical side. But I bet he'll pull the older brother card and I'll be sent shopping."

Coming up with the House Rules for Luke's place was also a bit of a struggle for the boys.

"From looking at photos we like the style of modern country but we don't really know what it is!" says Cody.

"We don't want to strip it right back to a bare shell of a house and make it look like new, we want to keep that country feel. We like that original style house," adds Luke.

To unwind, these brothers like to enjoy a cold beer and a BBQ with mates in Luke's backyard.

"You can carry two cartons home from the pub and have your mates around for a few beers; it's the best location," says Luke. "You sort of forget he's a brother and just think of him as a mate."

Cody loves riding motorbikes, while Luke is into rugby union and wood chopping.

HOUSE RULES

#LukeCody



As the oldest team in the competition, Melbourne's Fil and Joe bring with them a wealth of experience.

During their 22 years of marriage, the pair have renovated several houses together.

"Our first renovation was a 1920s Californian bungalow more than 20 years ago," says Joe, who counts painting as his biggest strength. "It's a cycle; we buy a house, we change it, we look at it and go, 'Let's sell it! It's time to move on."

But Fil, 45, and Joe, 48, bit off more than they could chew when they bought their 1950s weatherboard.

It's practically unliveable and a giant mortgage has left them with no money for renovations. "The kitchen isn't workable, the roof has holes in it and the ceiling leaks," Joe says.

Fil adds: "The whole kitchen slopes on an angle, which means every minute we're walking through we have to close the drawers. They continuously fall open."

The home's one redeeming feature is the view from the deck. "You can see the river and it's high up in the valley; it's the reason we bought the house," says Joe. "But the deck is all coming apart. It's uneven."

The couple describe themselves as competitive, but in a 'nice way' and think they actually work better when they're stressed. "We've had a lot of stress in our life and it's just how we work best," Fil explains.

Neither are shy about speaking up for what they believe in but don't expect them to ruffle any feathers "We will pick our battles, put it that way," says Joe. "But we both have an Italian background which means expressing ourselves loudly."

And when it comes to who's boss, it's very clear who's in charge. "Fil can definitely wear me out," Joe laughs. "I let her be the boss. I wear the pants to work but that's probably where it stops!"

Fil, who currently works at a wooden toy store, has a keen eye for design and spends her spare time reading design magazines.

She's hoping House Rules will be the catalyst for turning her hobby to a career. "I'm hoping to start a new phase in my life. I would love to do this full time."

Joe, an accountant, will be keeping a close eye on both the budget and Fil, who admits she's a keen shopper. "I love shopping much to Joe's disappointment," she laughs.

The driving force behind their decision to be on the show is their two children - Jayden, 18 and Celeste, 15 - who they want to keep at home for as long as possible. "The way the house looks now they don't want to stay," Joe says.

"They're not happy. We're doing this for them. Every time I think about my children leaving, it brings tears to my eyes," adds Fil.

A new house will mean the world to them but having their mortgage paid off will be life-changing. "Winning House Rules would allow us to enjoy these last years with our kids before they move on to their new lives as adults," Joe says.

HOUSE RULES

#FilJoe

NANCY & DANIEL



Nancy and Daniel settled on their south Sydney home four years ago because its location was a perfect halfway point between their parents' houses.

And with two kids – Jonathan, six, and Sophia, three – there really is a lot of benefit to having the grandparents close by!

"My son is more Dan and my daughter is more me," says Nancy. "My daughter looks like Daniel's family but her personality traits are a lot like me - she's bubbly and cheeky."

Married for nine years, Daniel had to prove to Nancy's strict Egyptian parents that he was worthy of courting their daughter.

"I couldn't necessarily date, it just happened over time and we became friends first," says Nancy, who moved to Australia from her native Egypt as a five-year-old.

The pair spent their honeymoon in Mauritius, where Daniel's parents are from, and are keen to ensure their children grow up with influences from both of their cultural backgrounds.

When it came to choosing their home, its dire condition almost scared them away.

"When we first walked in, we went, 'Oh no, no' and we walked out," says Nancy.

"But then we came back," adds Dan, after realising its potential.

Three years later and with no renovations started, they were considering selling the house just before they were accepted onto House Rules.

Explains Dan: "We were in the process of deciding whether we were going to actually go ahead and renovate, or if we were going to detonate and rebuild or sell, so we were tossing all of that up at the same time. We were leaving it up to fate."

They have a lot of concerns with the house, like dampness in the roof, poor layout and just being plain old and worn out.

Wanna-be house proud Dan shies away from inviting people over because of the state of their home.

"The reason we have applied for House Rules is because if someone is coming over Dan says, 'Have they seen the house before? How long will they stay? Do they have to come over? Why can't we go to their house?' " says Nancy.

A can-do attitude is what will see this pair through, who have limited hands-on experience in renovating.

"I wouldn't call myself a renovator, not even a handyman," says Dan. "I work in IT so I do a little bit of tinkering around computers, that sort of thing."

What they lack in experience, they make up in enthusiasm. "I'm not afraid to get on the tools and figure out how to use it," Nancy says. "I'm not worried to get in there and get my hands dirty."

Ironically, it might be Dan's super laid-back nature that creates the most tension between these pair.

"What will always get me fired up with Dan is his lack of urgency; it drives me insane sometimes. At home he is so chilled it could take us an hour-and-a-half to get out the door with two kids," says Nancy, who loves to run and go to bootcamp before work.

A House Rules renovation will give the couple the greatest gift; valuable time with their precious children.

"We were going to renovate in stages and that would have taken so much of our time away from our children with every weekend spent on planning and renovating, so I really feel like this buys us 20 years with our children," Nancy says. "We are doing this because it buys us time with our children at an age when they actually want to hang out with us."

#NancyDaniel







Adelaide parents Brooke and Michelle were ecstatic to buy a house in their dream suburb.

"We love the area; we love the people. It's a great little community especially for Michelle as it's very arty. We are so close to the city, the trams, the beach, close to everything. It's a lovely little area," says Brooke, 43 a landscaper and ex-footballer who spent a year on the Adelaide Crows list and notched up 165 games in the SNAFL for West Adelaide and Glenelg.

Adds Michelle, 42: "We are set up for retirement - we are next to the bowls club, the tennis club and the croquet club!"

But the only reason they could afford their house is the fact it sits, literally, right next to the freight train main route from Adelaide to Melbourne.

"Even though we are used to them and they don't bother us that much, every now and then this massive freight train comes by." says Michelle. "Everyone's got to stop talking for a while until it goes quiet and it is a bit embarrassing."

Oh, and the inside was a bit of a shambles as well, bringing the price down into their price range.

"I had always wanted a house we could do work to; an old character home we could put our love and inspiration into," says landscaper Brooke, who admits to having plenty of love but not enough money to bring his ideas to life.

But he had a good start with some basic renos when they first moved in, mainly because cooking in the original kitchen ended up producing inedible meals.

"The chimney was still open so every time you were cooking if there was wind then soot would come down all into your food," explains Brooke.

So they installed a new kitchen, but admit it is in the wrong location in the house as the bathroom sits right off it.

"But at the time we knew we couldn't live in that kitchen and it was all we could afford to do to knock that wall out and keep the kitchen in the same spot," says Brooke.

They did other basic necessities like painting, floorboards and fixing the ceilings – but alas, they have cracked and sagged again already.

"They are still the original horsehair ceilings so they have all dropped and so you can see all the gaps and the dust coming through," he says.

Designer Michelle admits to being extremely nervous about handing over her keys and the design of her home to anyone else.

"I'm really particular and I know how I like things," she admits. "People say that when they buy me presents they are really nervous as I'm quite fussy; it's rare that someone buys me something I love."

Which husband of seven years Brooke says is exactly the reason he doesn't buy her presents!

"So that is a worry for me. You might say that you love black and white but people's interpretations of things are so different. My black and white might be completely different to their black and white but at the end of the day we know how lucky we are to get our house done."

Parents to Addison, eight, and Tildie, five, they wrestled with the idea of leaving their kids behind to embark on a national renovation tour, but in the end they say they are doing it for the benefit of their family.

"The reason it is all happening is for them, we stressed to them the whole time we are going to build a new house so you have a new room and can invite people over," says Brooke.

#BrookeMichelle









DESIGNER

CAROLYN BURNS-MCCRAVE



As the resident design expert and mentor on House Rules, Carolyn Burns-McCrave is there to guide the teams.

She believes paying close attention to the House Rules is the key to success in the competition, and the rules and needs of these crowded houses are more important than ever.

"Designing homes that work with children at all different ages is a huge challenge for our teams and the pressure is huge," she says. "Trying to get your head around someone else's space, let alone their family dynamic is enormously stressful and just adds another dimension to the competition.

"I've never seen teams so focused and determined. There really was a sense of 'eyes on the prize' that I just haven't seen before. It's a very intense ride!"

Carolyn's work is featured routinely in some of the country's most popular and prestigious home magazines. Her passion for interior design stems from her childhood when she spent her free time "going to display homes and looking at beautifully designed houses."

In the 80s she recalls moving her parents' furniture around, sponging walls, using baking paper to trace over real estate floor plans and obsessing over how she could make people's houses better.

After completing a Diploma of Arts in Interior Decoration and Design, Carolyn spent the next eight years working at Melbourne firm SJB Interiors before setting up her own

business, Burns-McCrave Design, with husband Leonard almost a decade ago.

Not content to just collaborate at work, the pair also designed and renovated their 1950s cottage in Melbourne from top to bottom.

But, just like this year's contestants, Carolyn's family's needs are changing and there's a new house in the works.

"We are presently building our new family home. This has been on the drawing board for a long time and we are so excited about moving on and creating a space that works for the life stage we are at now – we now have 11 and 13 year old sons and this house is all about our changing needs as a family and embracing a new space.

"We are at frame stage at the moment and we still have many, many months ahead of us until it is ready for us to move into – it's a totally different mind-set from a House Rules build! It makes me even more in awe of what our teams create in such a short space of time."

The effervescent designer is excited about utilising her skills again to encourage a new group of budding designers.

The mother of two boys - Fintan, 13, and Lorcan, 11 - enjoys travelling and taking photos as inspiration for her work.

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