



Marjorie Bligh's

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EDITED BY DANIELLE WOOD

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FOREWORD

When Danielle Wood wrote my life story in *Housewife Superstar*, I was very pleased. It was superbly written and eagerly bought by people near and far. It only lightly covered my ninety-five years of living, because of course it would take several books to write down the numerous things I have done, especially in recycling, helping others, touring the world and not wasting a thing.

I was born in 1917 in the Midlands of Tasmania. When I was young and went to school I had to garden when I returned home, go for the cows that could be anywhere in the streets, also get the sticks ready to light the fire the next morning. Then, after tea, I knitted or crocheted by candlelight until bedtime. Sundays were spent at Sunday school, church, visiting or walking in the bush.

I left school at fourteen years of age and started work as a cook on a sheep station called Riccarton. It was there that I met my first husband, Cliff Blackwell, whose job was caring for the animals. I received a pound a week wages, and I saved it all and bought a

two-storey home in the High Street of Campbell Town. I spent many evenings on that home, painting and papering, before Cliff and I married and moved in. I had two sons I named Gerald and Ross, who incidentally were both born on the twentieth of January, four years apart.

Cliff was very untidy and did not appreciate the lovely home I created. I craved mostly for happiness, freedom and peace of mind, but I always attained them by giving them to someone else. Cliff and I were divorced, and I married Adrian Cooper in the late 1960s, but Adrian and I had only a few years together before he died of a heart attack. He was an outstanding husband in every way. In 1976 I met and married a bus driver called Eric Bligh. He had a house, so sold it, and took me round the world with the money as he loved travelling.

Some of the important things that *Housewife Superstar* missed out are: I was Tasmanian Gardener of the Year in 2001 in the ABC Gardener of the Year competition, and received a golden shovel on a stand. I was on TV and radio as well. In 1989 I was presented with a plaque by the then governor of Tasmania for being the runner-up in the Tasmanian of the Year. I also carried the Olympic Torch in 2000.

HOME is packed with hints and recipes from my many books. I have written a hint book with five thousand hints in it with various sections, but although this book is smaller it contains many of my best ones. My favourite hint is: 'A place for everything and everything is in its place.'

I still do my gardening and cooking, and my favourite pastimes are scrapbooking and writing poetry and quotations, etc. I have made hundreds of scrapbooks and especially enjoy making them

for children. I have been making them for over eighty years, so have made gallons of paste with flour and water.

Imagine what I could do if I could do all I can, or God lets me keep living in my own home until I am a hundred. I suppose all I have to do is to accept the impossible, do without the indispensable, bear the intolerable and to be able to smile at anything.

This book is brim-full of hints just like these, and I hope you will enjoy them all. It is like a scrapbook made up of bits of all the books I have written.

Before I go, here is a little poem that I wrote the other day, three days after my ninety-fifth birthday:

PLANS

What's the use of making plans,
As tomorrow is in the Maker's hands,
Better say maybe instead of I will,
Because, by tomorrow, you could be nil.
But that's how it is, the future is dark,
Guess Noah thought the same when inside the ark.
You plan a holiday, or an outing or two,
Then all of a sudden, a tragedy hits you.
But to look into the future I don't want to do,
I would much rather say I haven't a clue,
So enjoy every hour of this very day,
And while the sun shines, go make the hay.

Marjorie Bligh
Devonport, April 2012