

GREEN MATTERS

VIRGINIA IMHOFF AND BARBARA SWEENEY EXPLORE ORGANIC AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING.



FASHION WITHOUT TOXIC WASTE

Sometimes it takes technology to catch up before the next leap forward can be made. For fashion designer Kelli Donovan it was the development of fabrics made from such 'new' materials as bamboo that

enabled her to change the way she works — and feel better about herself and her livelihood.

"Fashion is a high-wastage industry," Kelli says. "There's the fabric left over from when you cut, the synthetic fabrics that are just dumped, the left-over plastic from buttons, trims and zips. The wastage of mass production and my interest in the environment never mixed."

After more than 20 years in fashion, Kelli says she "broke out", studied to become a yoga and Pilates teacher, and moved to NSW's Northern Rivers region. There, the chance discovery of a swatch of bamboo fabric set her mind to fashion again — and her label was born.

Pure Pod specialises in comfortable clothes for lounging about, doing yoga or wandering along the beach. Kelli chooses sustainably produced fabrics that are pesticide-free and biodegradable. Her approach to design and production has also changed. "I try to minimise waste and look at ways of using offcuts. I use minimal trims, and rubber, elastic and coconut buttons. The studio is energy-efficient and I use recycled paper. Plus, I manufacture in Australia."
(02) 6684 4450; www.purepod.com.au



ORGANIC TEAS LOOKING GOOD

TO COMPLEMENT ITS PRETTY HOMEWARES RANGE, MOZI HAS INTRODUCED AN ORGANIC TEA COLLECTION. NATURALLY ENOUGH, THE TEAS ARE PACKED IN ATTRACTIVE MOZI-DESIGNED BOXES AND COME IN THREE REFRESHING FLAVOURS — CHAMOMILE & CINNAMON, MOROCCAN MINT AND ENGLISH BREAKFAST. EACH PACK COSTS \$16.95 AND MAKES UP TO 45 CUPS.
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Nuts about mulching

Did you know that walnut shells can be used as a long-lasting, biodegradable garden mulch? The hard shell is slow to decompose and when crushed has an abrasive texture that helps keep snails at bay. Because it doesn't absorb water, it doesn't go mouldy so can also be used as a bedding for birds and small animals. Wellwood Walnut farm at Wallace Victoria produces organic walnuts and oil and offers fine- and coarse-crushed shell for mulch. Available at the farm gate, a 7.5 kilogram bag of fine shell costs \$4.99; 12 kilograms of coarse shell costs \$9.99 (freight not included). www.wellwood.com.au



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