

The Courier Mail

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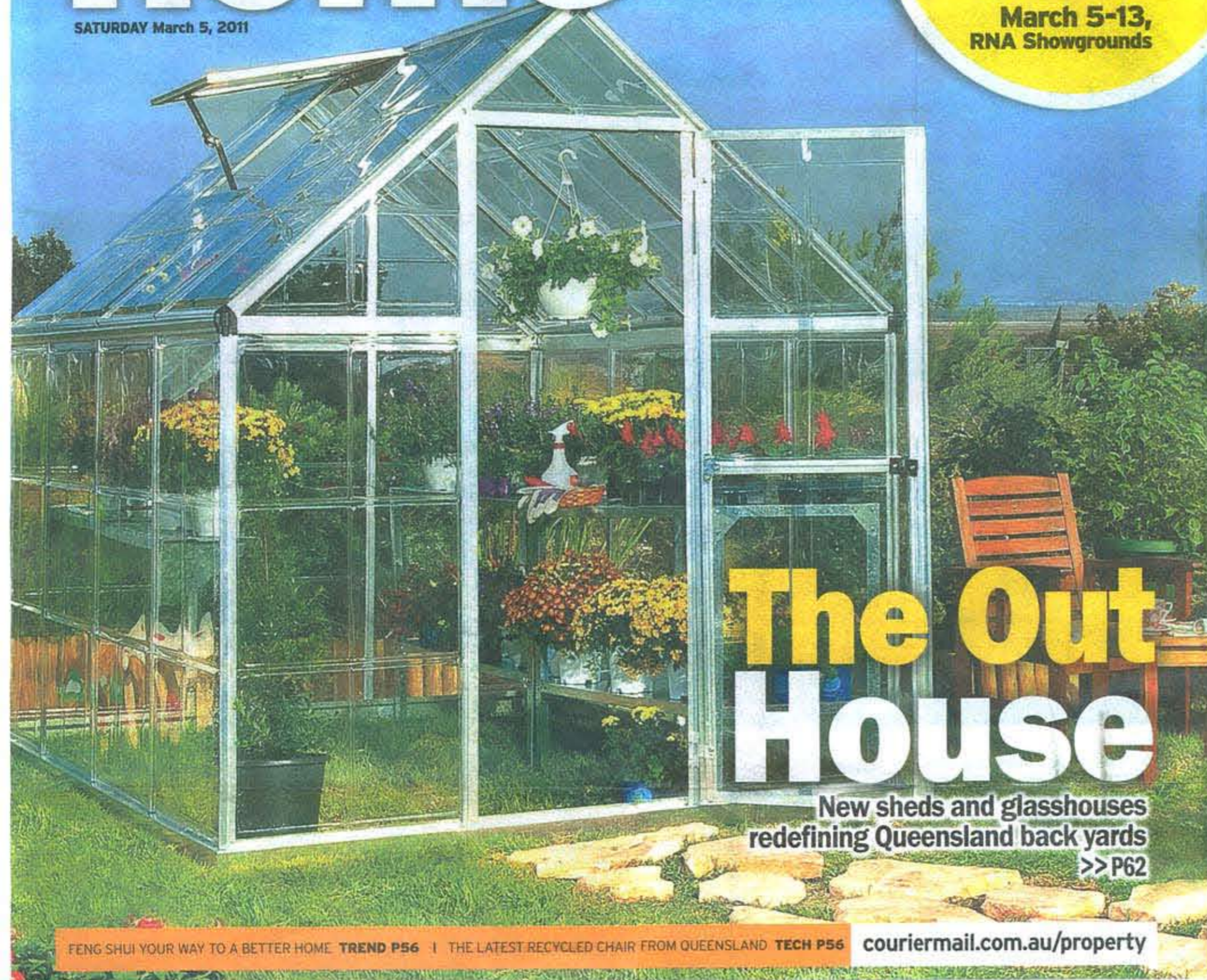
SATURDAY March 5, 2011

2011 Home Show

Courier Mail Sunday Mail

Queensland's Largest Home Show

March 5-13, RNA Showgrounds



The Out House

New sheds and glasshouses redefining Queensland back yards

>> P62

WHETHER you are after a basic slimline spacesaver garden shed to house a few trusty garden tools, or a 15m by 15m aircraft hangar, there's no end of options available today for adding some extra storage or living space to your property.

OK, so maybe you don't need an aircraft hangar, but a garden shed (of whatever size takes your fancy), workshop, greenhouse, aviary, carport, patio, pergola or garage might come in handy. If you live in a rural area and have a bit more space, there's always an industrial-sized shed, American or Quaker barn, stable, arena or multiple-bay farm shed to choose from.

Manufacturer Stratco has now introduced a "shed in a box" range making buying and installing your new storage space or retreat from the world a quick and easy job.

"Every Australian needs a shed and the new range makes them more accessible," Stratco's Michael Stenhouse says. "They're a necessity for every home owner yet they can be timely to purchase, transport and install."

Available online or in-store, the range was designed to help time-poor consumers find solutions to storage issues around the home. Made from high-tensile steel, they also fit under eaves, making them ideal where space is limited. Stenhouse says the sheds, packed in a compact box, are easy to take home from the store or have delivered.

"Not only can you buy a shed online from the comfort of your living room, you can get it delivered and then follow the simple instructions to put it up yourself," he says.

Stratco also has a range of sheds designed for use in areas with cyclonic conditions.

'You can buy a shed online from the comfort of your living room'

Featuring reinforced walls with heavy-duty internal stud frames and a braced roof, the cyclonic sheds use sturdy ridge beams to withstand the weather.

But if zinc or Colorbond is not your style, a new type of shed has now entered the market - the Maze Greenhouse, available as a special order from Bunnings Warehouse.

Maze managing director Ronen Mazor says that while the greenhouse is a simple and convenient way to house and grow plants, it can also be turned into a great family activity "instead of television, the internet or gaming stations".

BLOOM: The Maze Greenhouse range (below right and cover page) helps keep pests away from your flowers, fruit and vegetables.

MORE SPACE: An insulated patio roof (bottom) is a stylish addition.

"It's a great way to teach kids how things grow," he says. "The home vegetable patch is now a common use of garden space, especially as a result of the skyrocketing prices of fruit and vegetables."

"The Maze Greenhouse allows you to grow large healthy fruit, vegetables and flowers all year round."

Made from a rust-resistant aluminium frame and clear polycarbonate panels, the greenhouse is 100 per cent UV protected, sheltering plants from pests and unpredictable weather. Optional extras include shade cloth, shelves and automatic vents.

When making a shed selection, it's important to consider what you need it for, the space available, your budget and any council restrictions or approvals required for your area.

There are also plenty of choices when it comes to roofing - flat, gabled, curved, sunroof or with skylights - and other optional extras like personal access doors, windows, heritage finishes, sliding or hinged doors.

A large shed or garage may be just what you need for your teenager's band practice or out-of-control beer can collection but, if you are really in need of more living space, then stepping up to a modular home extension could be more appropriate.

Trueline Patios & Extensions managing director Shane Hammond says adding a room to your home is a straightforward process.

A purpose-designed room to suit an individual's requirements can be built within seven to 10 days once council approvals have been met. This includes all doors and windows, lighting and power points and rendering or cladding of external walls.

Hammond says the Add-A-Room is perfect for a rumpus, home office, bedroom, play area, gym or study.

The modular panels are pre-insulated, meeting new green energy efficiency standards, and are also fire rated. Hammond



says the Add-A-Room takes a fraction of the time and cost of conventional building.

Other options for extra living space include Trueline's Controlla Shade Opening Pergolas with opening-closing roofs; insulated patio roofs and the Queensland Room which is attached to an existing external wall using windows on three sides. The windows are fully screened and can slide down to uncover 70 per cent of the wall, letting in the breeze.

Find more ideas for sheds, extensions and other home improvements at *The Courier-Mail* and *Sunday Mail* 2011 Home Show opening today and continuing until Sunday, March 13, at the RNA Showground from 10am to 5pm daily; March 10 from 10am to 9pm. Tickets: Adults \$15, concessions \$10, children under four free. Parking is available at the showground for \$10.

