

## AUSTRALIA'S MOST EXCEPTIONAL HOMES REVEALED 2022 HOUSES AWARDS WINNERS

Australia's most extraordinary homes have been revealed in the 2022 [Houses Awards](#), Australia's premier residential design awards. The winners, to be revealed to the public on Friday 29 July, represent the very best residential architecture from across the country, offering an insight into inventive Australian home design, the forefront of sustainability and the most exciting up-and-coming designers.

The complete list of the 2022 Houses Awards winners can be viewed on the [Houses Awards website](#) from Saturday 30 July (and in the below pages of this media release).

In an unprecedented turn, one standout home was honoured with four awards. [Autumn House](#) by Studio Bright in Victoria took out the premier title of **Australian House of the Year**, won the **House Alteration and Addition Over 200 Square Metres** and **Garden or Landscape** categories, and was a joint winner in the **House in a Heritage Context** category.

"This is the first time in the Houses Awards' twelve-year history that one home has won this many categories, such is the calibre of Autumn House," explains Houses Awards Jury Chair, Alexa Kempton.

"It is a superbly executed alteration to a Victorian terraced house in Melbourne's inner north. Every inch of this alteration and addition is well-considered and has been addressed with precision and skill by Studio Bright. Terraced houses make up a significant proportion of our existing housing stock, and this home is testament to what can be achieved in the inventive reworking of the terraced house. It maximises useable space on an inner-suburban block, yet it is also generous to the street; it thoughtfully preserves the home's heritage elements without being beholden to them; and it is peppered with thoughtful and serene garden spaces."

"For the past two years, we have expected more of our homes than ever before. They have simultaneously needed to be places for interaction and retreat, working and learning, play and rest. Autumn House meets all of these needs and more. It demonstrates how comprehensive design thinking can shape a humble terraced house into one of the most outstanding examples of residential design in our country."

Other winners in the 2022 Awards include the Sustainability award recipient, [The Hüft 01 Passivhaus](#) by

Partners



artedomus



Australian Institute  
of Horticulture Inc.



HOUSES



SUSSEX

TAUBMANS

Latitude

**Melbourne Design Studios**, located in Coburg, Victoria. This new home sits snugly in a small, wedge-shaped block near a railway line, setting an example for small-scale urban densification and doing more with less. The house sets a new standard for practical and measurable sustainability, delivering a playful family home that aspires to both net-zero energy and carbon neutrality.

The **New House Over 200 Square Metres** winner, [Always](#) by **Kennedy Nolan**, celebrates its spectacular coastal setting while also integrating house and landscape. The home sits thoughtfully and respectfully on the stunning Flinders coastline, and will in time become engulfed by its gardens. Also in Flinders is [Corner House](#) by **Archier**. This elegant response to a suburban block arranges the home around a central courtyard, creating opportunities for both independence and connection. It took out the **New House Under 200 Square Metres** category.

Further north in Brisbane is **House Alteration and Addition Under 200 Square Metres** winner, [Cascade House](#) by John Ellway (Ellway's Three House, also in Brisbane, was named 2021 Australian Home of the Year). Cascade House is a cleverly planned addition grafted onto the side of a Queenslander house in hilly Paddington, with staggered living spaces that step down the sloping site. Modest in both scale and budget, it exemplifies how site constraints can be harnessed to achieve delightful outcomes for family life.

[Inala Apartment](#) by **Brad Swartz Architects** took out the **Apartment or Unit** category for its decisive and pragmatic reworking of a compact 1960s apartment, reorganising living and sleeping spaces to suit contemporary patterns of use. This transformative renovation is a true reimaging of what is possible in the apartments located in our cities' middle ring, mid-rise suburbs.

Joint winner for the **House in a Heritage Context** was [Fusilier Cottage](#) by **Bence Mulcahy**, a porous living pavilion addition to a historic bluestone home in Hobart's Battery Point.

**Emerging Architecture Practice** was taken out by [Placement Studio](#) with the jury noting the collaborative nature of the studio and its strong commitment to working with local craftspeople.

**The 2022 Houses Awards winners are as follows:**

- **Australian House of the Year** - [Autumn House](#) by Studio Bright (Carlton North, VIC)
- **New House Over 200 Square Metres** - [Always](#) by Kennedy Nolan (Flinders, VIC)
- **New House Under 200 Square Metres** - [Corner House](#) by Archier (Flinders, VIC)
- **House Alteration and Addition Over 200 Square Metres** - [Autumn House](#) by Studio Bright (Carlton North, VIC)
- **House Alteration and Addition Under 200 Square Metres** - [Cascade House](#) by John Ellway (Paddington, QLD)
- **Apartment or Unit** - [Inala Apartment](#) by Brad Swartz Architects (Cremorne, NSW)
- **Garden or Landscape** - [Autumn House](#) by Studio Bright with Eckersley Garden Architecture (Carlton North, VIC)
- **Sustainability** - [The Hütt 01 Passivhaus](#) by Melbourne Design Studios (MDS) (Coburg, VIC)
- **House in a Heritage Context (joint winner)** - [Autumn House](#) by Studio Bright (Carlton North, VIC)
- **House in a Heritage Context (joint winner)** - [Fusilier Cottage](#) by Bence Mulcahy (Battery Point, TAS)
- **Emerging Architecture Practice** - [Placement Studio](#) (VIC)

This year's winners were chosen by a panel that includes renowned architects and designers, who have themselves been recognised for creating inspirational Australian homes. The 2022 jury included:

- Clare Cousins, Clare Cousins Architects
- Matthew Eagle, ME Architects

- Isabelle Toland, Aileen Sage Architects
- Kieran Wong, The Fulcrum Agency
- Alexa Kempton (jury chair) editor, Houses magazine, Architecture Media

The winners of the 2022 Houses Awards will be announced at a gala event at the State Library of Victoria on Friday 29 July. The winners and commendations of the 2022 Houses Awards will be published online, Saturday 30 July on the [Houses Awards website](#) and in the August issues of Houses.

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## 2022 HOUSES AWARDS WINNERS

### AUSTRALIAN HOUSE OF THE YEAR

[Autumn House](#) by Studio Bright (Carlton North, VIC)



**Photography Rory Gardiner** (full image gallery [here](#))

Autumn House is a superbly executed update to a Victorian terraced house in Melbourne's north. The design grapples with many of the problems that constrain alterations and additions to terraced houses and succeeds in establishing outlook, private outdoor space and a generosity to the public realm in a densely populated inner-suburban setting. The project responds to a common brief with uncommon skill, finding cohesion across a multifaceted design response. Every space has been resolved with care and precision, and the design unites three distinct eras: the formal order of the Victorian home, the warmth and intimacy of the 1980s extension by architect Mick Jorgensen, and the contemporary additions that hinge around their garden connections.

The planning of the new layers capitalizes on the potential of the site. Walls are pushed out to the boundary to maximize usable area, and gardens are carved into the plan to embrace a northern outlook and preserve a mature elm tree. Ground-floor living spaces are pulled apart to amplify garden outlook, with porous thresholds that draw you through the site and offer views between rooms.

A second-storey addition is pushed to the rear laneway. This singular, wedge-shaped form respects the scale of the street while accommodating the new rooms of the brief. This confident move does not confuse respect for the existing house with submissiveness; instead, it preserves the best heritage elements while responding in a wholly contemporary language. Over time, its delicate russet screen of expanded mesh will become engulfed by greenery, creating a planted enclosure that rises up from the brick perimeter wall. The walled site achieves the desired privacy, and yet it simultaneously enriches the public realm. This generosity is achieved principally through the garden spaces: a curved front fence improves the corner for passers-by, while the planted mesh adds a welcome burst of greenery to the rear laneway. The retained elm is visible from the street, encircled by the new home, its leaves registering seasonal change. In summer, this tree conceals the new work, and in winter, the enigmatic form behind it is revealed. Autumn House's multiple successes in this year's awards testify to the comprehensive design thinking that underpins the project. The jury admired the richness evident in every room, the successful integration of house and garden, and the respect shown for layers of history. This house is a stand-out example of what can be achieved in the imaginative reworking of the humble terraced house, and it is deservedly named 2022 Australian House of the Year.

## 2022 HOUSES AWARDS WINNERS

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### NEW HOUSE OVER 200 SQUARE METRES

[Always](#) by Kennedy Nolan (Flinders, VIC)



**Photography** Derek Swalwell (full image gallery [here](#))

Spurning the idea that a coastal home should frame a single view, this house celebrates its dramatic coastal setting while also offering a beautifully warm and calming refuge. Recessive in the landscape, it “remembers” the form of the old house that once occupied the site while equipping it for long-term inhabitation and enjoyment.

Integration with landscape is not only considered, but a key driver for the design. The building will disappear over time, at ease in its coastal setting, engulfed by a garden that will spill over and thread around its roof and courtyards. This home invites appreciation of both the surrounding environment and seasonal change. Materials and detailing dematerialize the form. Weathering timber, Coldstream stone walls and recessed timber-framed glazing slip into the shadows. Moments of compression and release are built into the interiors, with curved walls that draw you in and expansive windows that open up, along with timeless and long-lasting materials and finishes that feel simultaneously familiar and unexpected.

This exceptional house elevates the homeowners’ experience of an already spectacular site, crafting spaces of surprise, warmth, drama and delight. The resolution of the architectural response, combined with fine interior detailing and careful integration with the landscape, set this home apart as a worthy winner.

**Commendation:** Court House, Archier (Yackandandah, VIC)

**Commendation:** DD House, Bokey Grant (Stanwell Park, NSW)

**Commendation:** LiveWorkShare House, Bligh Graham Architects (Samford Village, QLD)

**Commendation:** Music Box, Multiplicity (Elwood, VIC)



## 2022 HOUSES AWARDS WINNERS

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### NEW HOUSE UNDER 200 SQUARE METRES

[Corner House](#) by Archier (Flinders, VIC)



**Photography** Rory Gardiner (full image gallery [here](#))

Corner House is an elegant solution to a clear and compelling client brief. The house is driven in plan and section by the constraints of the site and the brief to allow for both independence and connection for two design professionals.

Deceptively simple in overall form, the courtyard as a figuring device was used less to carve space, and more to pare light. Extensive glazing coupled with compressed circulation spaces and carefully edited walls create a beautifully orchestrated sequence throughout the day and night as one moves through the house.

Planning is tight and controlled, with delightful moments in section as the house responds to the changing levels of the site. Despite the compactness of the plan, Corner House's graduated gallery walks, diagonal vistas and lofted glazed walls create an expansive experience that is generous and ever-changing. Within a restrained and selective palette of materials and finishes, the deft construction logic and rigorous attention to detail is exemplary.

Robust and refined, elegant and effortless, Corner House is a study in how we can live with spirited connectedness in (sometimes drab) suburban contexts. Its mastery of light and shade, tactile restraint and calm inventiveness made it a clear and deserving winner.

**Commendation:** Erskine River House, Kerstin Thompson Architects (Lorne, VIC)

**Commendation:** House at Flat Rock, Billy Maynard (Bendalong, NSW)

**Commendation:** Spring Hill House, Owen Architecture (Spring Hill, QLD)

## 2022 HOUSES AWARDS WINNERS

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### HOUSE ALTERATION AND ADDITION OVER 200 SQUARE METRES

[Autumn House](#) by Studio Bright (Carlton North, VIC)



**Photography** Rory Gardiner (full image gallery [here](#))

In recent times, we have demanded more of our homes than ever before: post-pandemic, they have become places for care, learning, work, play, interaction and retreat. Autumn House meets all of these needs, and more.

Familiar yet undeniably of its time, the new addition presents as a remarkable landscape to the street edge while also establishing a tougher urban edge to the rear and side lane. Two existing dwellings are carefully navigated – a heritage Victorian terrace and a delightful 1980s extension, designed by Mick Jorgensen. The front corner is generously gifted as garden and the new addition is low set, preserving the scale of the existing terrace while revealing views to the existing elm tree. The elm tree is also used to conceal the second level of the addition at the rear of the site.

Considered planning provides for adaptable modes of living, ensuring the family home has

flexibility and longevity as children grow up. There is also potential for the dwelling to be reconfigured into two. Organized around two thriving gardens, the house has a generosity that belies its suburban context. Despite being tightly planned, there is an expansive quality to the internal spaces, which enjoy different garden aspects that shift with the seasons.

The dwelling is carefully crafted and finely detailed, and its sinuous spatial sequences are skilfully negotiated. Autumn House is a remarkable home on every level and a deserving winner in this category.

**Commendation:** Bardon Undercroft House, Kieron Gait Architects (Bardon, QLD)

**Commendation:** Beck Street, Lineburg Wang (Paddington, QLD)

**Commendation:** Courtyard House, Ha Architecture (Hawthorn, VIC)

**Commendation:** Noosa Heads House, Vokes and Peters (Noosa Heads, QLD)

## 2022 HOUSES AWARDS WINNERS

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### HOUSE ALTERATION AND ADDITION UNDER 200 SQUARE METRES

[Cascade House](#) by John Ellway (Paddington, QLD)



**Photography Toby Scott** (full image gallery [here](#))

As its name suggests, Cascade House steps effortlessly down its sloping terrain, traversing a significant four-metre level change across the site. The visually recessive addition is cleverly grafted to the side of a characterful weatherboard cottage to better connect its occupants with ground and garden.

This topographic approach challenges the convention of elevating the Queenslander to accommodate additional program underneath, instead locating new living and social spaces to the side and a few metres below the existing house. The rooms of the timber cottage are appropriately repurposed for sleeping and bathing spaces. In the addition, split levels are leveraged to define functions while keeping spaces open and connected to one another. These social rooms are generously open to the street, yet the strategic placement of program, walls and lush vegetation ensures occupants experience seclusion and comfort. An inviting new entry sequence from the street and off-street parking area deftly caters for domestic needs, providing the homeowners with practical bike and pram storage at street level before they step up into the elevated home.

Cascade House is a remarkable alteration and addition delivered on a modest budget. It exemplifies how harnessing the constraints of the site can lead to utterly delightful outcomes for family life.

**Commendation:** Arcadia, Architecture Architecture (Brunswick, VIC)

**Commendation:** Arthur, Oscar Sainsbury Architects (Melbourne, VIC)

**Commendation:** Little Black Cabin, Smith Architects (Blackheath, NSW)



## 2022 HOUSES AWARDS WINNERS

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### APARTMENT OR UNIT

[Inala Apartment](#) by Brad Swartz Architects (Cremorne, NSW)



**Photography Katherine Lu** (full image gallery [here](#))

### Jury Citation

Le Corbusier said: “A house is a machine for living in. Baths, sun, hot-water, cold-water ... hygiene, beauty in the sense of good proportion.” The 1960s red-brick apartment block that is home to Inala Apartment may well have been driven by these ideals. But how we live now – and the ways we want our homes to function – has changed. Today, the challenges of reworking older housing stock lie in fixing cramped kitchens, improving awkward circulation and connecting social spaces to the world outside.

Inala Apartment responds deftly and decisively to its modern occupants’ aspirations for flexibility and dynamic social interaction. Despite its modest footprint, it exemplifies the transformative power of design and the capacity to reimagine space as a backdrop to everyday life. From arrival to relaxing, socializing and sleeping, Inala re-prioritizes spaces and surfaces to suit contemporary patterns of use. The radical re-working of the apartment’s compact plan allows for new engagement with the city, and stronger bonds for the growing family that call it home.

Each deceptively simple yet carefully calibrated move has been handled with precision. The hallway now accommodates a concealed pantry, laundry, refrigerator and wine rack; living spaces have been relocated to enjoy a sun-filled corner location; and sliding doors and inbuilt joinery maximize efficiency.

Inala Apartment re-imagines what is possible in our middle ring, mid-rise dense suburbs, invisibly placing the “machinery of living” at the disposal of a generous and full family life.

**Commendation:** Caringal Flat by Ellul Architecture (Toorak, VIC)

**Commendation:** Small Grand Apartment, Tsai Design (Melbourne, VIC)

## 2022 HOUSES AWARDS WINNERS

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### GARDEN OR LANDSCAPE

[Autumn House](#) by Studio Bright with Eckersley Garden Architecture (Carlton North, VIC)



**Photography Rory Gardiner** (full image gallery [here](#))

This cleverly layered home succeeds in providing abundant opportunities for outdoor living in a suburban setting, skilfully meeting disparate needs for refuge, retreat and conviviality. The planning of the external spaces finds joy and value in the elements of an existing garden, while improving and expanding it out to the very edges of the site. In the centre, an existing elm tree was retained, with the floorplate of the new addition dancing around it to create a central focus. A deciduous tree with leaves that turn distinctly orangey-red in autumn, the elm provides shade for outdoor dinners and play.

Autumn House maximizes the potential for landscape connection, both for its owners and for the wider neighbourhood. The interior courtyard is a secluded garden for daily life, the front yard is a social space with herb and vegetable planters addressing the street, the rear yard provides a place for afternoon sun, and the rooftop is a quiet and protected terrace.

An ethereal mesh screen wraps the top of the addition, providing a frame onto which a climbing garden of scented and seasonally flowering plants will grow, giving life and vibrancy to the laneway. Importantly, this above-ground planting explores alternative opportunities for biodiversity in increasingly hardscaped inner-suburban areas.

In this home, the gardens are considered as a series of outdoor rooms – each with their own features, character and purpose. Autumn House sees the garden as we should in a home: exterior spaces that are treated with equal importance to their interior counterparts.

**Commendation:** Always, Kennedy Nolan in collaboration with Amanda Oliver Gardens (Flinders, VIC)

**Commendation:** Eastham Street, Muir with Openwork and Fytogreen (North Fitzroy, VIC)

**Commendation:** House Revisited Landscape, Pangkarra and David Boyle Architect (Macmasters Beach, NSW)

## 2022 HOUSES AWARDS WINNERS

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### HOUSE IN A HERITAGE CONTEXT (JOINT WINNER)

[Fusilier Cottage](#) by Bence Mulcahy (Battery Point, TAS)



**Photography Adam Gibson** (full image gallery [here](#))

Fusilier Cottage is a Georgian bluestone building with sandstone dressings built in the late 1830s. The state-heritage-listed property is a local landmark and a highly valued part of Hobart's historic Battery Point. Through the addition of a new living pavilion, the architects have transformed the cottage to meet contemporary living and regulatory standards on a highly scrutinized site. The clever design exhibits both architectural restraint and generosity of spirit.

A careful approach to the heritage fabric allowed the form, materiality and garden setting of the historic cottage to remain visually dominant. Changes were made by reworking the rear lean-to and undertaking modest repairs and interventions. The new flat-roofed addition, placed on the rear boundary, preserved the substantial sycamore tree and private garden facing the street. In scale, it acknowledges the importance of the original cottage, and yet it is also courageous in exploring a porous edge that contrasts with the solidity of the bluestone.

Practical and warm with a vertical timber interior and bluestone floor, the addition is a flexible living space permitting views to the cottage, garden and street. Sliding timber screens and glass doors allow the occupants to moderate privacy and sunshine as needed, or open the room completely to celebrate connection with the sycamore tree and the heritage streetscape. This design is an artfully balanced heritage outcome that rewards the occupants and successfully continues the dialogue between the original cottage and its community of admirers.



## 2022 HOUSES AWARDS WINNERS

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### HOUSE IN A HERITAGE CONTEXT (JOINT WINNER)

[Autumn House](#) by Studio Bright (Carlton North, VIC)



**Photography** Rory Gardiner (full image gallery [here](#))

Autumn House is a wonderfully cohesive family home orchestrated from disparate parts. In a Victorian streetscape of attached terraces, the home occupies a double block. Studio Bright's design retains only the most valued components. The street entry to the Victorian terrace is restored, and the 1980s addition by Mick Jorgensen serves as design inspiration for further development of the site. New walls envelop the balance of the property, creating courtyard gardens to capture northern sun and embrace an elm tree. The result is a dynamic street relationship that both comfortably sits in its context and hints at the extraordinary design within.

From the street, the proportion and setback of the walled addition is broken by the playfulness of an elongated window, allowing a glimpse of the activity beyond. However, it is the placement of a wedge-shaped addition at the intersection of two lanes to the rear of the site that is a master stroke. It allows the elm tree to remain visually dominant while effectively managing the form and bulk of the new structure, at once meeting the brief and retaining open space.

The materiality of the walls celebrates the 1980s bagged brick and then dissolves the inner thresholds between the courtyards and the addition. On the upper level, steel mesh wraps the rear building in a colour that recalls the red brick of the laneway structures. As the greenery punctuates this mesh, the public realm will continue to change as the lucky occupants enjoy the beautifully crafted interior.

**Commendation:** Caringal Flat, Ellul Architecture (Hawthorn, VIC)

**Commendation:** Courtyard House, Ha Architecture (Fitzroy, VIC)



## 2022 HOUSES AWARDS WINNERS

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### SUSTAINABILITY

#### [The Hütt 01 Passivhaus](#) by Melbourne Design Studios (MDS) (Coburg, VIC)



**Photography Maitreya Chandorkar** (full image gallery [here](#))

This house sets a new standard for practical and measurable sustainability, delivering an oasis-like family home on a challenging site that aspires to both net-zero energy and carbon neutrality. With a rail corridor immediately adjacent to the site and a noisy road nearby, the building strategy was to counter the busy locale with high-performance fabric and systems. The finished project represents the opportunities of sustainable development over the sacrificial mindset that often ensues.

The home delivers an aspirational objective of ultra-low environmental impact, including consideration of its inhabitants' comfort and wellbeing, and offers a resilient environment ready for the trials of a harsh and changing climate. The CLT fabric and extensive natural finishes both reduce embodied energy and enhance biophilic outcomes, and the obvious deliberation is to be commended. The use of simple but high-performance technologies and dematerialization further enhance the credentials.

With a very small internal footprint of just 78 square metres, the home exemplifies the sustainable ideal of doing more with less, and the site selection and response represent gentle urban densification for deliberate small-footprint living. The house generates a significant portion of its own energy on-site, which is especially commendable given the vertical scale. The considered garden complements the house with natural beauty and multifunctional approach, including the accessible green roof. Hütt 01 Passivhaus is a place where its occupants can thrive, and it exemplifies a new standard with no sacrifice of architectural outcome.

**Commendation:** LiveWorkShare House, Bligh Graham Architects (Samford Village, QLD)

**Commendation:** Engawa House, Inbetween Architecture (Ivanhoe, VIC)

**Commendation:** Spring Hill House, Owen Architecture (Spring Hill, QLD)

## 2022 HOUSES AWARDS WINNERS

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### EMERGING ARCHITECTURE PRACTICE

#### [Placement Studio](#)



#### Photography Tom Ross

Placement Studio is an emerging Melbourne-based practice founded in 2019 by Stephanie Kitingan, Jacqueline O'Brien and James Flaherty, who first worked together under the skilled guidance of Emilio Fuscaldo at Nest Architects.

The spaces of their built residential work are layered and quiet – tinged with nostalgia, yet still of their time and place. This spatial richness demonstrates a deft understanding of sensory qualities and longevity over short-term fads. This understanding is important now more than ever, as our homes have taken on multiple roles in recent times. Beautifully composed and detailed materials strike a delicate balance between robustness and softness, familiarity and newness, light and dark.

The jury was impressed with the collaborative nature of the studio and its strong commitment to working with local craftspeople, which is evident in the carefully made work presented. The jury also admired the studio's design methodology, which empathetically prioritizes listening and the tracing of memory in the generation of a design response. The jury looks forward to the future work of this promising young studio.

**- ENDS -**

*Houses is Australia's leading residential architecture magazine for designers and their clients. Houses presents inspiring residential projects by Australia's best architects and designers. These projects reveal the way that a house, through occupation, becomes a home – the architectural ideas, and the people and products behind them. Houses includes extensive pictorial coverage and engaging stories together with floor plans and detailed lists of the products used. It is the only residential architecture publication to carry endorsements from both the Australian Institute of Architects and the Design Institute of Australia.*