

ROSKILL STH KINDERGARTEN

SHOP PROFILE

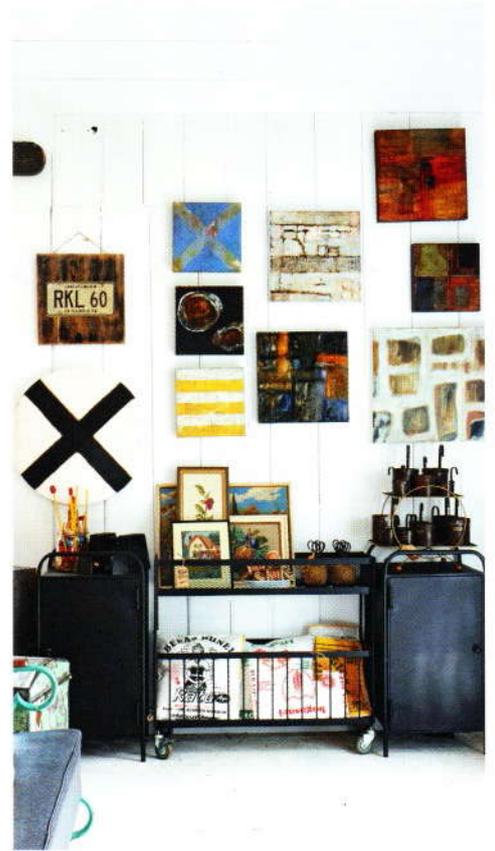
Old School Inc

This Matakana store stocks vintage treasures, New Zealand design and imported industrial-style gems

Text by Sharon Stephenson. Photography by Melanie Jenkins.



The Roskill sign was found in a skip and the shoe lasts came from an Auckland factory. The metal cafe stools, chair, trunk and blanket box are part of a recent haul from Bali.



**M**any of us dream of moving to the country for a quieter life. Last year, Haidee Dowling did just that. Along with husband Craig and their twin 11-year-olds Texas and Coco, Haidee swapped a suburban Auckland home (featured in *Your Home and Garden* in the July 2013 issue) for a 10-acre section in Matakana.

Ironically, the former graphic designer is now busier than ever. Having already dipped her toes into the vintage/industrial homeware market with a pop-up shop set up in her mother's garage in Ponsonby, Haidee says the family's move north coincided with a desire to have her own store.

Fortunately, the Matakana property obliged: aside from the family home, there were three outbuildings, including two flats (one is rented and the other is operated as a Bed & Breakfast) as well as a 100-year-old former schoolhouse. The previous owners had moved the schoolhouse onto the property six years earlier and it was, recalls Haidee, a vision in burgundy.

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Many of the products are sourced on twice-yearly trips to Bali, including the hand-forged industrial lampshades and light cages, 1940s cafe stools and old school desks.

"We also stock as many New Zealand vintage items as we can find, sourced from hospice and tip shops, garage sales and Trade Me."

It's also a family affair: Haidee's sister in Tokyo, who collaborates with her on their children's clothing label, Playhousekids, also sends interesting finds, and Haidee's mother, Auckland artist Jenny Hill, sells her work in the shop.

Haidee also loves to re-purpose items, including turning a grease-covered garage bench into a stylish kitchen island.

"I'm always the one poking down around the back of someone's garage, wanting the things that others turn their noses up at!"

Old School Inc is part of the Matakana Collectibles Trail which offers a guide to five local vintage stores. ●

## OLD SCHOOL INC

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oldschoolinc.co.nz

This page, clockwise from top left The canvas ruler height charts came from Canada, while the large wardrobe is from Bali; the cow hip bone was found on the property. The shop is a relocated ex-schoolhouse. The trolley and hospital bedside cabinets were made for Haidee in Bali; the vintage oil measures on top are from Java; all the art is by Haidee's mother, Jenny Hill. The vintage maps are from Haidee's personal collection, while the hospital tea trolley, trucks and skittles were gleaned from auctions and garage sales.