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Just a little bit cool

We spend lots of time collecting and styling the inside of our homes with photos, keepsakes from our adventures, and whatever it is that's trending. Yet often, there's a disconnect between the personality and vibe of our indoor areas with the spaces outdoors. The answer to this is Just a little bit cool.

It's summertime, and for most of us that means taking every opportunity we can to relax outdoors. The outdoor furniture has been dusted off, barbecues will be lit, and lots of quality time will be spent with friends and family on the deck and in the garden. Setting up an enjoyable space outside the home is a perfect way to maximise the sunny days.

"If an outdoor space is done well, it creates a great flow from the indoors to outside, as well as delivering an additional living space for your home," says Deb Swanson.

She has recently launched her new business Just a little bit cool, offering a picture-perfect solution to make your outdoor living spaces look unique, amazing and on trend.

"We provide quality, trending artwork for your outdoor area that is an extension of the style you have created inside your home and help to make your outdoor living space a place that makes you smile. Somewhere you enjoy relaxing and entertaining."

Deb has collaborated with Glenn Pelham, owner of Red Ant Design, Print & Signage in Mount Maunganui, to produce the high-quality outdoor artworks.

"I was impressed with his attention to

detail, and the high standard of quality of his work. Having Glenn involved ensures an industry guarantee of only the best," Deb says.

With a professional background in fashion, Deb certainly knows what's cool. She has worked as a buyer in women's clothing and as merchandise manager for a streetwear company for 10 years, which was a job she absolutely loved.

"I especially enjoyed the creative side of it. Putting ranges together, keeping up with the trends, and dealing with leading streetwear brands. Of course, I also didn't mind getting paid to shop and travel," she laughs.

All self-doubt aside, Deb decided to take a leap of faith earlier this year. She quit her job and created this exciting new business with Glenn.

For lifestyle, fun and family

"My family and friends have been amazing! I have talked for a while about doing something for myself, and something that I am passionate about. They've been so supportive and encouraging, and they also kept me focussed," Deb says.

What attracted her most to become self-employed was the freedom and flexibility it



brings. Deb lives in Papamoa with husband Johnny and their young daughters Charlie, 4, and Eva, 2, and she loves having more time with her family.

"It's so cliché, but they do grow up so fast and I really want to be present and enjoy these years. The reason we moved from

Auckland over two years ago was for the lifestyle. We absolutely love living in the Bay, we feel like we live in paradise," she says.

"It is so cool that I can work and do something I love and balance it with quality time with family and friends. I feel like our girls are getting a true Kiwi upbringing like