

THE Sunday Telegraph

AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST-SELLING NEWSPAPER

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spotlight

this barrister is obsessed with designer shoes

louise mcbride

TAX BARRISTER AND INVENTOR OF SHOO STICKS

AGE She's 49

LIVES Potts Point, NSW

PROFILE Louise McBride is a renowned tax lawyer, notorious socialite and self-confessed shoe-aholic. She became frustrated by the lack of products on the market that could keep her designer sling-backs in check on her feet, so after quite a lot of experimentation, she created Shoo Sticks, now available across Australia in selected retailers and David Jones stores.

I AM OBSESSED WITH perfecting Shoo Sticks, a product I invented last year to keep my sling-back shoes and mules on while walking. My flat is taken over with samples of backing paper, various glues, silicone and latex strips, cardboard and tubes. Being a tax lawyer, I never thought I could get so obsessed about the feasibility of a sticky strip!

I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT chocolate and coffee.

I AM PETRIFIED BY snakes and I don't like the thought of snakes much either.

I AM PROUD OF my parents. My mother, in her late 70s, still works six days a week as a doctor, in a very busy practice. My father is an amazing person and responsible for preventing thousands of children from being born with deformities. He was prepared to stand up for what he believed to be true. They have both taught me how to be resilient and determined.

I REALLY NEED TO learn how to detach. Detachment doesn't sit easily with my driven personality. I am always trying to control the outcome, which in life you just can't do.

I REALLY DON'T GET WHY the Government can't reform the income Tax Assessment system. We should have a simple flat rate of tax. In this century there is no excuse

for the abhorrent mess we have ended up with - it does no credit to the society in which we live. But I gave up wasting my breath on tax reform and decided to fix my shoe problems instead.

I THINK ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE IS important. Both my parents are medical practitioners with a healthy interest in alternative medicine. We grew up with open minds.

I RELAX BY listening to music or going for a swim in the ocean and taking a walk along the beach - especially in winter when there are very few other people around.

MY WORST VICE IS being impatient, and expressing my views. My daughter hates it when I roll my eyes. She tells me I don't have to say anything - my facial expressions say it all. So I will never be a poker player.

MY FRIDGE USUALLY CONTAINS chocolate, alcohol and steak. There is nothing remotely macrobiotic about me.

MY TEENAGE YEARS were quite stressful. I have such a strong perfectionist streak; I nearly drove my entire family insane growing up. But I have managed to calm down and be a little less neurotic as I have grown older.



MY FAMILY IS the most important thing in my life. I adore my children. They make me laugh and give me funny advice. Of course sometimes I would like to kill them, especially when my son says, "Oh, don't worry, that's just Mummy being crazy".

MY FAVOURITE THING IS an old red pair of Rodolphe Menuder shoes. I also have a museum-worthy pair of red satin Manolo Blahnik mules which are 10 years old.

FRIENDS DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I want to be a good barrister and why I have even the remotest interest in tax.

ATTITUDE TO EXERCISE IS presently, terrible. I used to exercise regularly by swimming or going for a surf on when I lived at Whale Beach. I am just out of my routine since moving to Potts Point, but I'm hoping my body will remember how to exercise again once I get my life a little more ordered!

RELATIONSHIP WITH MY BODY IS like most women's - a love/hate one. However, I am lucky that I am physically very healthy and strong, so you couldn't kill me with a stick.

FOOTY FINALS SPECIAL

Manly overpower Rabbitohs

SPORT LIFTOUT

By political editor
GLENN MILNE

JOHN Howard has bolstered his "green" credentials ahead of an election possibly being called as early as Wednesday.

APPC's 21 leaders yesterday signed the "Sydney Declaration", committing both developed and developing members to reducing greenhouse gases.

The declaration marks a historic decision by China and the US to sign up to Mr Howard's non-binding global warming targets.

The success of the meeting, however, continues to be overshadowed by news that even some of Mr Howard's own supporters now believe he should reconsider his future.

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Agreement: John Howard with President Bush