

## MY BUSINESS

OPERATING SINCE 2000,  
AND ME TOO WAS TAKEN  
OVER BY NIC MACISAAC IN 2007  
AND SHE HAS NEVER LOOKED BACK

Nic Maclsaac is the owner of And Me Too – a clothing label that provides trans-seasonal garments for boys up to eight years and girls aged up to 12. Combining contemporary style with a classic colour palette, the pieces include denim, and plain and printed designs in rich colours such as red, blue and pink.

### How does the business operate so efficiently?

We have a passionate, tight-knit team of four. We're all mothers, and have established a friendly working environment.

### What gives And Me Too the edge?

Unlike most other clothing labels, which make two seasonal ranges, our core pieces are available from one season to the next.

### Nic's top tip

Running a business requires a genuine passion for the product or service you're offering. Confidence in your own ability and a strong belief in the concept are also essential.

*Image Gypsy Top, \$65. See [andmetoo.com.au](http://andmetoo.com.au).*



## MC LOVES

Are you looking for a different way to celebrate your little one's birthday this year? Want to show them and their friends the time of their lives? How about giving a reptile party a go? Feature Creatures lets party-goers get up close and personal with a wide variety of reptiles, amphibians and animals, such as turtles, pythons, lizards and frogs. Whether it's for children's parties or school showings, your next event is sure to be remembered. For more information and kids' activity sheets, visit [featurecreatures.com.au](http://featurecreatures.com.au).

## FIVE FAVOURITES

LA TORIANA'S ELIZABETH MURPHY SHARES THE TOP FIVE PRODUCTS SHE JUST CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT

Living on a rural property in central Victoria with limited retail outlets, Elizabeth Murphy found travelling to the city to go shopping was a chore in itself; which is why online store La Toriana was born. The place to go to find unique gifts for every little one, it even caters for premature bubs. Here are her favourite items right now:

### 1 CHIYOGAMI ADDRESS BOOK

Having numerous meetings and speaking appointments, I'd be lost without it (pictured). Sold for \$36 from [beckoningdesigns.com.au](http://beckoningdesigns.com.au).

### 2 LITTLE CRITTERS ARTWORKS

We recently had our twin girls' handprints developed into customised canvas art. Priced from \$70, check out [littlecritters.com.au](http://littlecritters.com.au).

**3 AUSTRALIAN BABY GUIDE** Packed with great shopping, information and advice, it has been the best resource I've found to date. Pick it up for \$29.95 from [australianbabyguide.com.au](http://australianbabyguide.com.au).

### 4 TORQUAY FRONT BEACH HOUSES

We holiday here to escape work and the dryness of the country. Situated in Victoria, there's a beautiful beach, playgrounds and restaurants. Check out [frontbeachtorquay.com](http://frontbeachtorquay.com) for family friendly accommodation from \$165 night.

### 5 PREMATURE BABY DOLLS

Made by Tummy Bear, these amazing keepsake dolls are custom made with your preemie baby's measurements – because we all know how easy it is to forget. They're available from \$99.95 from [latoriana.com.au](http://latoriana.com.au).

## WHAT A GREAT IDEA!

All you tech-savvy mums out there, it's now time to express yourself with an innovative Lap-rap. Not only does it protect your laptop lid from scratches, it's also easy to install and remove when you feel like a change. Allowing you to personalise any laptop, you can get yours by indicating your laptop size, and either uploading your own image or choosing one from the gallery. Priced from \$19.95, visit [lap-rap.com](http://lap-rap.com).



## PURCHASE OR PERISH?

WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR IN A CHANGE TABLE?  
VICTORIA ATKINSON FROM CHILDPROOF.COM.AU  
OFFERS SOME HANDY POINTERS TO HELP OUT

Stocking the nursery can be fraught with indecision – and overcrowding – but a change table is one of the most-used baby items, so it's worth researching prior to purchase.

### Functionality

Change tables should have a firm and water-repellent changing surface. Fitted mattress covers look beautiful but in reality need washing so often they can become impractical.

Whether the table itself is made of plastic, wood or metal, it should be sturdy and wide-based to prevent tipping. It should also provide shelves or drawers in which to store nappies, wipes and lotions; everything you require needs to be close and readily accessible one-handed!

Some tables, such as the Stokke Care change table, offer adjustable height settings to allow different people to comfortably reach baby.

### Safety

Make sure any wheels are lockable, that creams and talcs are stored out of reach of little hands and that babies are never, ever left alone on a change table; not even for a minute. Don't place the change table under windows, dangling curtain cords or heavy shelves and pictures.

### Style

Safe and practical does not have to mean ugly. Stokke and Danish By Design provide sleek European styling whilst Boori offers an elegant Australian alternative.

### Space

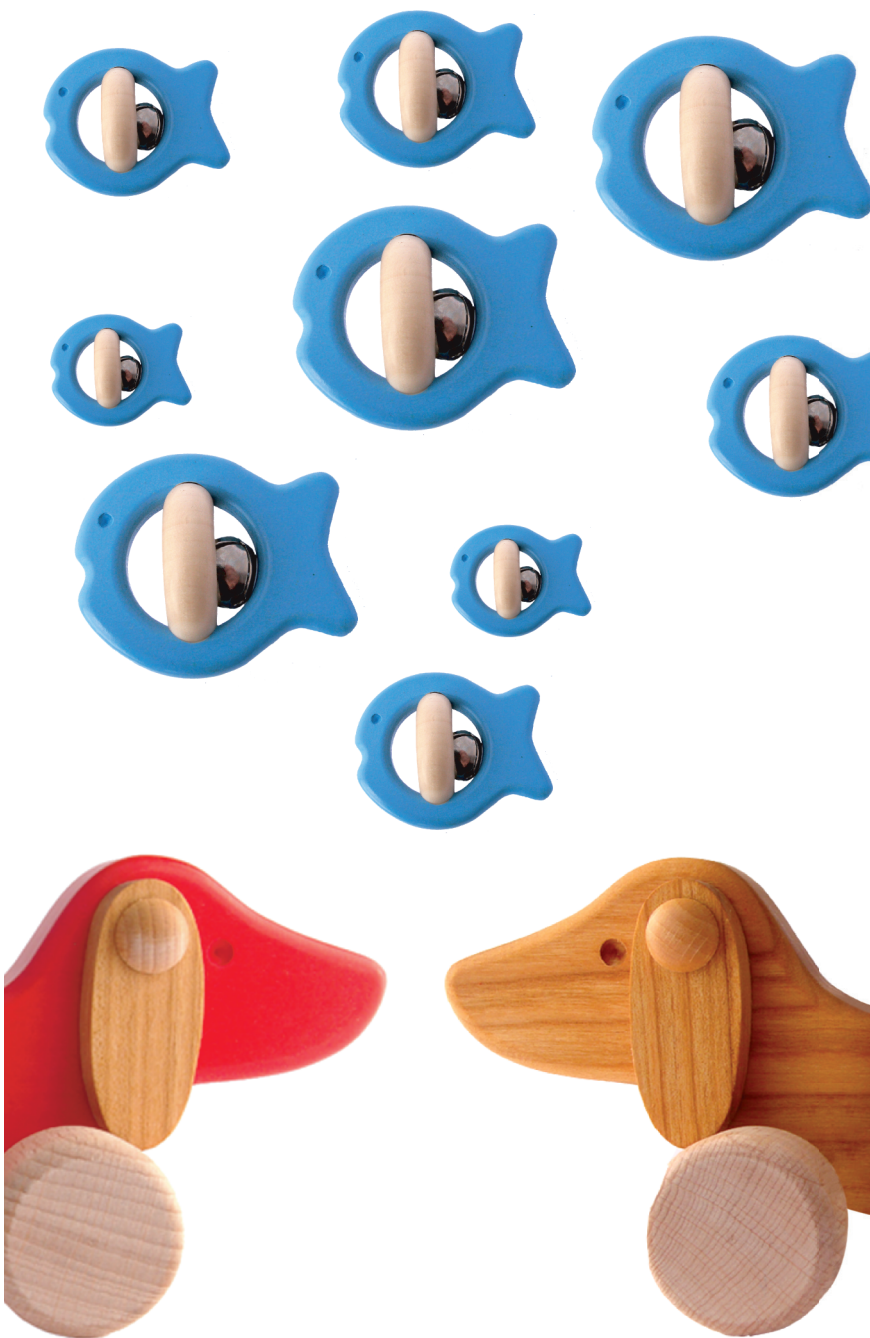
To maximise space, change tables may be integrated into other furniture such as atop the chest of drawers of the Boori Two Drawer Changer. Other changing platforms, such as the Childcare Universal Change Top, can be placed over any standard cot. Or the Chicco Lullaby LX Porta cot, \$399.95, includes a bassinette with an elevated changing table.

For the ultimate space-saving option, try the Nathi from Danish By Design, which is a wall-mounted, fold-out change space with an integrated storage area.

### Longevity

It's understandable to demand more bang for your baby buck. The Stokke Care change table can transform into a desk or bookshelves for use far beyond the nappy years. Imagine writing to your grandchildren from their mother's old change table; that's quite a family heirloom!

**Image** Nathi change table, \$799 (matches the Leander cot). See [danishbydesign.com.au](http://danishbydesign.com.au).



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## TALKING TEXTILES

YOU CAN'T GO PAST THE QUALITY AND SOFTNESS OF COMBED COTTON KNITS FOR BABIES AND CHILDREN

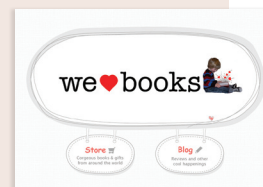
Have you heard about combed cotton knits? Combed cotton undergoes a strict process to remove any impurities and short fibres. It is then evened out, aligned and spun into yarn, leaving the finished item extremely soft and less likely to fray or unravel.

Australian-owned company Button has a delightful combed-cotton knitwear range that's dust-mite resistant – perfect for kids with asthma or allergies. 'We are able to knit using different gauges and designs to create products that are beautiful to wear all year round,' says Button's owner and designer Andrea Egan.

*Image Turn-up beanie, \$22.95, and double-breasted cardigan, \$79.95. See [buttonbaby.com.au](http://buttonbaby.com.au).*

## WEBSITE REVIEWS WE HEART BOOKS

Check out [weheartbooks.com](http://weheartbooks.com). It's where you'll find loads of high-quality books that are designed to inspire a love of literature in children from newborns through to 10-year-olds. There's also a fun selection of puzzles, toys and cool stationery available.



## MINIMEE

[Minimee.com.au](http://Minimee.com.au) has all the baby essentials you will need – plus a few snazzy extras. Stocking quality brands such as Grobag, Angelcare, Storksak and Mountain Buggy, there are loads of monitors, cots, strollers and more to suit every budget.



## MY IMAGINATION

Popular for their beautifully designed wedding invitations, [myimagination.net.au](http://myimagination.net.au) also creates modern and colourful stationery for engagements, baby showers, birthdays and christenings. Choose from the selected range or opt to design your own.



## ONESIES

[Onesies.com.au](http://Onesies.com.au) is completely dedicated to one thing – the onesie – and do they have a range! From Eeni Meeni Miini Moh and Gaia to Fig and Itch, your bub is sure to rock out in the ranges decorated with stripes, spots and assorted embellishments.



## XBOOK

Keep your snapshots safe and create your very own photobooks by simply downloading free software from [xbook.com.au](http://xbook.com.au). With the choice of three sizes – portrait, square or landscape – there are so many designs to draw inspiration from.



## RETAIL THERAPY

THIS NEWLY REFURBISHED NURSERY STORE IN METRO MELBOURNE HAS BOTH KIDS AND PARENTS TALKING

Check this out if you enjoy relaxing while you shop with the kids.

### What's the deal?

Bébé caters for children from newborn to four-year-olds and sells contemporary nursery products to suit modern parents.

### What gives it the edge?

They have kids' entertainment showing on the in-store plasma, as well as Brio wooden toys for the little ones to play with.

### Where is it?

Bébé can be found at 36-38 Toorak Road, South Yarra, in Melbourne or online at [bebeonline.com.au](http://bebeonline.com.au).



COMPILED BY SARAH FRIGGERI. ALL PRICES ARE APPROXIMATE





## GET TO KNOW

CO-FOUNDING THE BUSINESS WITH HER HUSBAND, DESIGNER LUISA SCACCHETTI TALKS ABOUT HOW MAMAS & PAPAS BEGAN AND WHY IT IS NOW LEADING THE WAY IN UP-MARKET BABY GOODS

While holidaying in Italy, Luisa and her husband, David, fell in love with a stylish pram that was perfect for their first daughter, Amanda, and rose above anything she'd seen in the UK. 'Our choice was admired by friends, with no other pram featuring the same design flair,' she says.

Inspired by Italy's strong design culture and realising there was a gap in the nursery market, they started to design their own range, which combined quality, style and affordability in products that were both functional and fashionable.

'I started a baby boutique with David and, as I worked for our family catering import business, I decided that I could open a store and import products from my native Italy. From this, we created the brand when we started to design our own products,' says Luisa.

With over 100 designers in-house, allowing them to work on global projects such as the new Go-Go rocker or the Luna pushchair, the brand attracts a celebrity following from Hong Kong to Hollywood. Recently, Nicole Kidman was spotted dressing her baby from head to toe in items from the beautiful Mamas & Papas kids' wear range.

'Every season we launch over 2,000 new products and our mission is to be the world's favourite nursery brand. The fact that many of our original customers are now introducing their daughters to the brand is a testament to the enduring qualities we try to put into everything we do,' Luisa says.

The wonderful collection of products, including prams, toys and clothes, has succeeded due to Luisa's impeccable eye for detail and interest in fashion and interiors, which has made her aware of quality both in fashion and construction. In the end, she says, the way she designs all comes down to her children: 'Being a parent has been the most influential experience in the design process as the comfort of my own baby was paramount.' *Image Star Lite Swing (styles may vary), \$299.95. Call 1300 663 034 for stockists.*

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