

ed's note

Happy New Year stylistas, and welcome to the first edition of what is sure to be another excitement-filled year of Style magazine.

This edition you may notice a few changes, starting with the introduction of our new guy columnist Lincoln Humphries, who I'm sure will entertain everyone with his fresh perspective and winning charm.

We're also getting more tech savvy, allowing you to get up close and personal with all our columnists and see all the behind the scenes fun we have here at Style HQ — so if you have Facebook, Instagram or even Twitter, make sure you click and follow.

Last month I also introduced my plans to tick off one popular New Year's resolution each month and document my journey so those with similar resolutions can either draw inspiration, laugh hysterically at my attempts, or be deterred altogether, and I can say the first item on my checklist, volunteering, while harder than it looks, is rewarding.

Inspired by our story on health fads, I'll be quitting sugar for January.

You can read my experiences for both quitting sugar and volunteering at thechronicle/stylemagazines.com.au or by checking our Facebook page or

following
[@stylemagazinestooowomba](https://www.instagram.com/stylemagazinestooowomba)
on Instagram.

I hope you enjoy
this edition and I
wish you the
best for a
great start
to 2015!



“I WANT TO SHOW PEOPLE YOU NEED TO EXPOSE YOURSELF TO WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND YOU,” — KIM WILDMAN



rediscovering her roots

TOOWOOMBA NATIVE KIM WILDMAN HAS RETURNED TO HER HOMETOWN TO SHARE HER EXPERIENCES AFTER EXPLORING DISTANT CONTINENTS AS A TRAVEL WRITER, AS NAOMI J. MATTHEWS DISCOVERED

Kim Wildman had has a career that most people would envy.

After growing up in Toowoomba attending St Ursula's and Downsland Colleges, Kim studied photography in Brisbane before doing a short stint in retail to save for a trip to Africa.

"It was during that first trip to Africa I realised I wanted to travel and write, so when I got back to Australia I quit my job and enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts with a major in journalism at the University of Southern Queensland," Kim says.

As part of her degree, Kim needed to do an internship and rather than looking for an easy, local option, Kim showed her go-get-them attitude by ringing Lonely Planet in Melbourne — a move that kickstarted a career globetrotting through remote and exotic countries.

"I was given an internship and spent two weeks sifting through previous editions of Lonely Planet

guidebooks for upcoming editions," Kim says.

"Then when I finished my internship they asked me to submit a chapter to apply for a position as a guidebook author.

"I wrote the chapter about Toowoomba and the next thing I knew, I was off to Romania for my first assignment."

What followed for the next decade was a series of assignments to countries including Cambodia, Egypt, Mozambique, Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Africa.

In fact, Kim has travelled to Africa 11 times, and lived in South Africa for three years while she completed her Master of Public Studies in African studies, making her an African travel writing expert.

"South Africa and its capital Cape Town is one of my favourite places to visit," Kim says.

"Ethiopia was also another country that blew me away because it was not at all what I expected.

"I expected it to be like the famine-ravaged, barren

images we associate with Ethiopia, but many parts of the country were mountainous, green and lush."

It was experiences like these that lead Kim to realise there is colour and beauty all around us — an ethos she wants to share now she is back in Toowoomba.

Kim's The Art of Travel project is something she is intensely passionate about, as is her position as communications coordinator at USQ's Alumni and Advancement Office.

"I have always had a strong connection to Toowoomba so when the option to work for my old alma mater came up, I jumped at it," Kim says.

Since returning to her hometown, Kim has expanded her The Art of Travel project, and she recently released a 2015 calendar filled with the unique and captivating images taken on her travels.

"I want to show people you need to expose yourself to what's going on around you and see the colour that is everywhere."

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