

SHARON YOUNG AND JUANITA STROH

FRIENDS Sharon Young and Juanita Stroh know all about being busy thanks to years of mixing hectic work schedules with even busier family lives.

The pair – both married with two children each - met as young singletons in their early 20s while working at the same tropical island resort in Queensland. The friendship grew when Juanita moved from New South Wales to Sharon's hometown of Melbourne to take up a job as a production accountant on a film set.

Sharon soon followed her friend into the fickle but fun world of film and television and they worked together over the years on top-rating Australian productions such as *Halifax FP*, *Good Guys Bad Guys* and *Evil Angels*.

Sharon eventually notched up 12 years in the industry, and her best friend 15 years, before both women decided to take a break from television and careers to concentrate on bringing up their children. Ironically, they have their equally busy family schedules to thank for their new business venture.

The idea for the **Schoolwise Family Organiser** came last year when Sharon and her family spent a month in China with the Strohs, after Juanita's husband transferred there temporarily for work. Juanita was busy getting the family's information in order after the move while juggling a constant stream of new paperwork from pre-school when Sharon told her about her own fridge overloaded with invites, school newsletters and notes. The idea for an organiser to take control of the chaos was born.

The friends devised a list of all the things a good organiser should have and created a prototype after returning home to Australia. They tested it on a dozen different families, each with children ranging from newborns and toddlers to teens and everything in-between, to rave reviews.

Juanita lives in the Melbourne suburb of Hampton with her business consultant husband of eight years, Tim Stroh. They have two gorgeous sons, five-year-old Parker and three-year-old Marley.

Sharon lives in Box Hill South with her song-writing, record-producing husband Clive Young. They have been married 19 years and have two equally gorgeous children – 12-year-old daughter Courtney and six-year-old son Charlie.

The Schoolwise Family Organiser (RRP \$39.95) can be ordered online from www.schoolwise.com.au or by calling 1300 786 484.

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