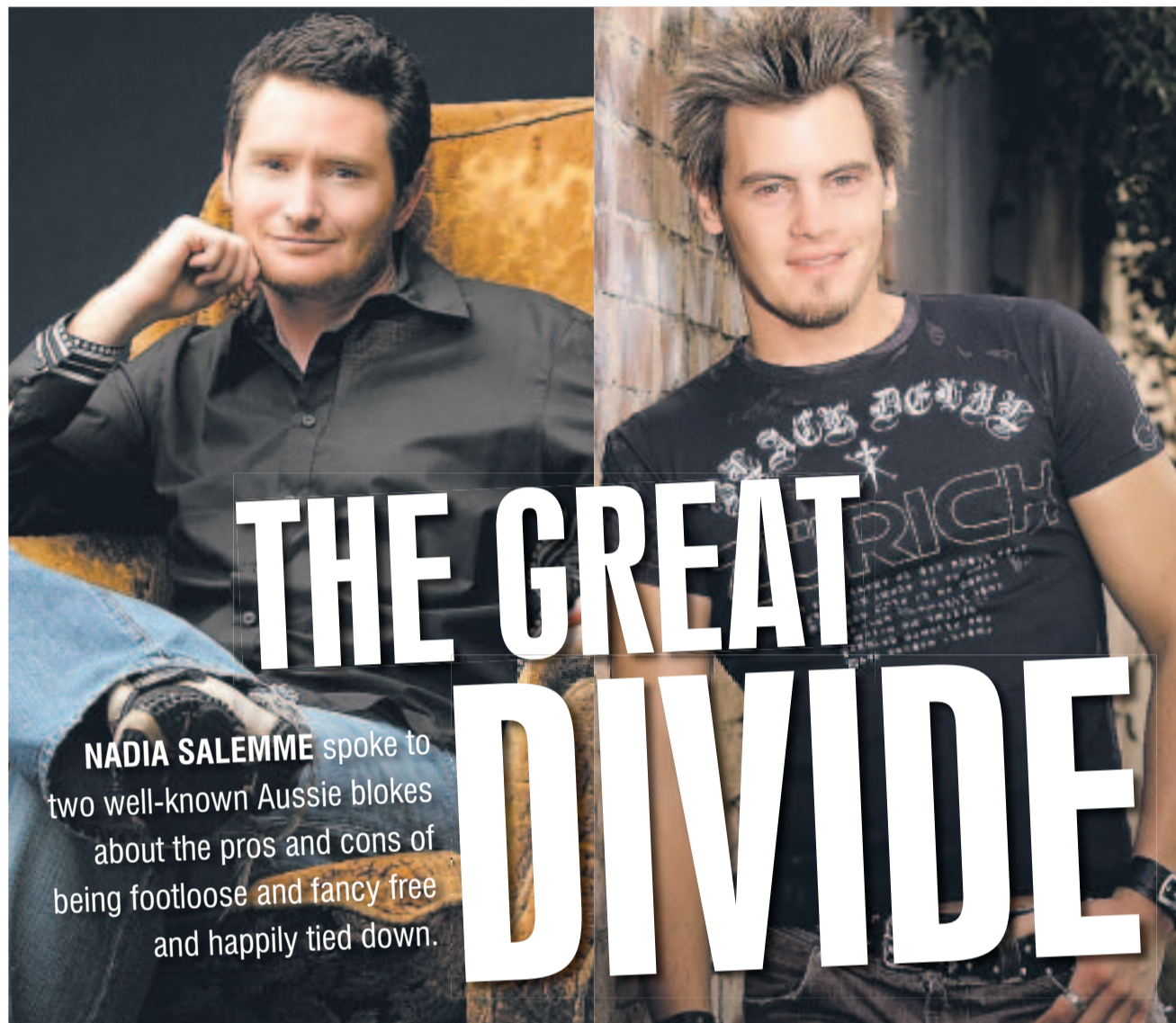


mxShagpile



THE GREAT DIVIDE

NADIA SALEMME spoke to two well-known Aussie blokes about the pros and cons of being footloose and fancy free and happily tied down.

ATTACHED

The Glass House co-host & Nova DJ Dave Hughes, 35

"I've been with my girlfriend Holly for nearly five years. We got engaged a month ago and we've lived together for two-and-a-half years.

She's my best friend.

To have someone who's always there for me, who knows what I'm about, it certainly makes my life a lot calmer. And a lot more fun, too. You want to be with someone who you can laugh with and who is on the same wavelength. I've got that and it's great.

Before she moved in, I lived in a very messy house. She's keen to wash clothes whereas I'd normally wait until I had absolutely nothing left to wear before I'd wash anything. I have to hang out more clothes just to keep up with it.

My house is in a lot better order than it was, there's no doubt, but she can be messy as well. I don't think we're the tidiest couple in the world.

There's always toilet paper now. And there's certainly a lot more stuff in the bathroom.

There aren't many cons to being attached. Although I feel slightly guilty watching

sport on TV whereas if you're on your own you can watch as much as you like. You're not allowed to go to the game and then come home and watch the replay straight away. That's frowned upon.

You're reminded that you don't do enough around the house. You're reminded that you don't cook. Apparently cooking a meal is a sign of love. I am not a big cook. I've cooked a couple of

meals and was quite proud of myself. She was very impressed. But over the years she has done the bulk of the cooking.

I normally pick her up from work and I claim that it's my sign of affection. I pick her up from work, I drive her home and then she cooks.

For single guys, every Saturday night brings a new possibility and there's excitement about that, but being single also batters your ego around a lot. You're constantly in a game competing with others over affection off ladies.

If you don't win, you're insecure, trying to prove your worth. That can be stressful for a single person – and that's not a bad thing to give away."



Hughesy and fiancée Holly get frocked up for the Logies.

SINGLE

Neighbours star Dan O'Connor, 27

"I've been single for too long – about 18 months. I've had three girlfriends. Most of my relationships have lasted on and off for three years.

I like the freedom of being single. Not that when you're in a relationship it's like you're in jail, but just the ability to do whatever you want without having to consult someone. It may sound a bit selfish.

There's nothing too incriminating about my single behaviour. I'm a pretty good boy, but I like going out, partying and hanging with my friends.

I still have a lot to learn about myself.

The past few years have been a huge lifestyle change for me with *Australian Idol* and *Neighbours*. I'm still working out where I'm headed. I have goals I want

to achieve and, not that a relationship would hinder that, but I'm pretty focused on getting to that place. And once I do, I'll be in a better headspace to put a relationship into the equation.

I miss the intimacy that's involved in a relationship. When I had a girlfriend, I liked the fact that there was always someone there when I needed to talk and someone to go out with. The girls I've hooked-up with (in a relationship) have

always been really nice girls. There was usually a pursuit for a few weeks but in terms of having to take them on expensive dates or anything, they haven't been into that.

In two out of three of my relationships I haven't made the first move. I think this is the way the world is headed. Back in the day, it was certainly the guy who made the first move but things have certainly changed.

When I approach a girl, I don't use pick-up lines. There are some guys who do, but whether they have any success with those is

another story.

I don't really date. I'm a firm believer that if I were interested in a girl, I'd want a relationship with her. The first thing I notice about a girl is her smile. And then once I get talking to

someone, it's her personality that attracts me to her. It may sound like a cliché, but I genuinely believe you could have the hottest girl ever but if she doesn't have a nice personality, it doesn't make her as attractive.

I look for a girl with a good sense of humour, who's grounded and laid back. Also someone who's genuine. I think I'm pretty good at picking out who those people are."



Dan in the social pages with *Big Brother's* Anna

HOW WAS IT FOR YOU?

DR BELLA



"Clean your work space. If your desk isn't cleared, how can you have sex on it?"

I recently bought my first house. This gave birth to an obsession greater than my previous ones – shopping and men – combined.

I was no longer flittering away in the capricious winds of love gained and lost.

My house, unlike my boyfriends, was built of brick and mortar.

My house, unlike my relationships, would last.

If I couldn't control the outcome of my love life, at least I could control my colour scheme.

In a world of increasing political instability, dependence on technology and job insecurity, people are constructing their homes as a place of refuge.

Research indicates Australians searching the internet for new homes are predominantly urban middle-aged females.

With too much time on my hands, I began studying Feng Shui. The books promised if I arranged my furniture in a certain way, not only could I become rich, I could also attract the love of my life.

The goal of Feng Shui is to balance natural energies or "chi" in one's surroundings to create beneficial effects on our lives.

Ancient cultures placed great importance on space arrangement, and in some such cultures, such as Bali, this is still the case.

Like the "Zidane incident" in the World Cup, the great offence of Feng Shui is clutter.

Definition: things you don't use/love; unorganised or

overcrowded spaces; anything unfinished/broken. To clear clutter is to let go, enabling fresh starts.

Then I saw the connection. Like the home that must be cleared of clutter in order to promote good chi, the heart must also be cleared of "baggage" in order to promote good love.

TIPS: FENG SHUI FOR THE HEART

Houses are divided into an energy map, each bagua governing a specific aspect of life.

The love bagua is found in the southwest corner of the home in relation to the front doorway.

The far right corner of your bedroom is also a powerful love spot.

Symbology: dump solitary portraits and single decorations. Replace them with paired objects (candles, flowers, plants) and pictures of couples or landscapes.

Warning: putting three objects together can create *Desperate Housewives* type love triangles.

Objects hold personal associations. Let go of old memories by tossing out stuff that reminds you of your ex. (Note to self: stop sleeping in his T-shirt).

Clean your work space. If your desk isn't cleared, how can you have sex on it?

In summary, like only choosing beautiful objects for your home, only choose beautiful people for your heart.

BTW

Our man-hunting coup takes place soon. Any other single gals out there who want to join Operation Good Man? Email me: drbella@mxnet.com.au