



FIRST LADIES

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WHETHER SHE'S A REALITY TV STAR, A GO-GETTER WITH 46 GRANDKIDS OR KNOWS DISABILITY DOESN'T STOP HER SON BEING PERFECT, WE CAN'T KEEP MUM ABOUT THESE SPECIAL GOLD COAST MOTHERS

THE MUM NEXT DOOR

A reality television show career, running a fledgling design and construction company and raising two kids could be enough to do many people's blocks in but Carlene Duffy has nailed it.

After appearing on Channel 9's *The Block: Glasshouse* last year with her husband Michael, the pair is now back on the small screen with *Reno Rumble*, which started on Tuesday.

The Tallebudgera mum to Paddy, 6, and Stella, 4, is glad to be back home on the Gold Coast for Mother's Day after a short but hectic filming schedule for the latest show.

"This one was nowhere near as long as *The Block*, which was 14 weeks – it was massive," Carlene says.

"I hope we're not doing much for Mother's

Day honestly. I'd just like a nice picnic in the park at Burleigh and a lazy Sunday."

It's no wonder Carlene wants a break, with the couple's business Cedar and Suede (think *The Block* but without a film crew capturing their every feature wall creation and bookcase installation) going strong thanks to their newfound public profile.

Carlene says, while construction has become her passion, building a family is also important.

Paddy and Stella's grandmothers Audrey and Joanne will also be joining them for Mother's Day on the Gold Coast.

"It was tough being away from the kids for so long during filming but it was too good an opportunity to pass up," Michael says.

"On these types of days I think it's just important for us all to be together."

While Michael responds with a cheeky, "sleep time" when asked about his favourite part

of being a parent, Carlene says both she and her husband were particularly enjoying the kids now they are old enough to start participating in adventures.

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"I love seeing them change and grow and becoming funny little personalities," Carlene says.

"Paddy is obsessed with *Minecraft* and his iPad but he also plays soccer and football.

"He's pretty good at sports. Stella is a bit more airy-fairy. She loves to role play with her dollies and she's dabbled in ballet.

"I love all of it really – except the tantrums."

Paddy in particular is quite taken with his parents' celebrity status.

He enjoys watching the shows, especially when he gets to make a guest appearance when they refer back to the families at home.

As the eldest, Paddy knows it is his job to look after Mum on Mother's Day and he already has a plan.

In keeping with the family's passion for interior decor, he is going to be making a special gift.

"At school we had to bring in a jar and there's going to be light in there," Paddy says.

"But don't tell Mummy.

"I like it when we do tickles and I like going camping with her."