

Chrissie Catling
at her store.
Pictures:
Theo Fakos

PASSION BARED

Chrissie Catling says it could be the farmer's daughter in her that is seeking to find happiness as a designer in this fast-paced world

FASHION-SAVVY shoppers will already know of the beautiful Passion Seed label created by local designer Chrissie Catling. The good news is, Chrissie has now opened a concept store revealing her additional creative flair with homewares.

She spent about a year looking for just the right site before the Angove St premises, formerly home to The Gypsy Bead shop, became available for her S2 business.

"It is perfect as I have retail space in the front and wholesale space out the back," she says, "plus I live a block away which is ideal for my combined life as businesswoman/mum and how I feel about the environment.

"Walking is my greatest pleasure."

Chrissie says it had been a longstanding dream to have a concept store.

"Why stop at offering a great piece to wear when you can offer many beautiful things in the one space," she says of the new outlet, which opened this month.

"I was able to use my interior design background for the shop design and fit-out, begin my S2 homewares label (homewares are even more of a passion than clothes) – and I love sourcing beautiful products."

The homewares include a mix of S2 cushions and throws, Queen B 100 per cent beeswax

candles (which offer 90-hour burning time), handcrafted gift cards, Luna Gallery throws and cushions (made in Australia), soaps from Portugal and Italy and more.

Fashion is also well represented including designer accessories such as jewellery, leather bags, belts and purses.

S2 products are made in WA and Chrissie says the name represents stage two of her business.

"The design range has only just begun as part of the past 10-week opening schedule of madness," she says. "It is all screen-printed and made within WA, which I am hugely proud of."

S2 also offers a customised service.

"I am concerned about how we have become such a throw-away society," says Chrissie.

"I embrace finding a way to blend one season with the next, to combine one year with the next.

"We can make new out of the old and find beauty in the forgotten – like the rusted screen we have used for our artwork that sits alongside the stunning new floating wall box that we hang the clothes under.

"It may be the farmer's daughter in me seeking to find happiness as a designer in this fast-paced world!"

Mara Fox

