



The Good Store

Shop 2, 363-367 Albany Highway, Victoria Park

Phone: 9361 8271

Open: Seven days a week, 10am-5.30pm; Thursday 10am-9pm.



DO you still yearn for that lost childhood feeling of getting excited in a toy store? Get ready to find that elusive feeling again at a new shop in Victoria Park. The Good Store is packed with so much good stuff for sale, you'll still be exploring an hour after popping in for a quick five-minute browse.

The Good Store is the brainchild of former ABC Perth broadcaster, Marshall Martin, who aims to put the fun back into buying gifts.

"A shop like this has always been at the back of my mind," he says. "If it's someone's birthday, you don't have to give them a dud present. You shouldn't have to think, 'Oh no, what am I going to give them?' It should be a fun thing to do."

A baggy green cricket cap? A Bodum vacuum travel flask? Essenza coffee beans? A ball-juggling set? A shower cap or a skipping rope? The Good Store has a wide and eclectic range on display.

"Eclectic – it's one of my favourite words," Marshall says.

"The criteria for stuff I stock is that it has to be good-looking and also useful. There's good-looking stuff in shops, but what does it actually do? The stuff we've got here does something and, if you give it as a gift to someone, it'll last them for the rest of their lives."

Some items will be familiar: Leatherman knives, Moleskin diaries and notebooks, Pantherella cashmere socks. Some other goodies are much harder to find and some are exclusive to The Good Store.

"Look at this Mukka Express coffee machine, for example. Not enough West Australians know about this product," Marshall says.

Some lines in The Good Store are as much art as product – like the Ironman ironing board.

"He's not a cheap fella, but we've already sold our first shipment of him," Marshall says.

"The cord goes through his head so it doesn't get twisted; he's solid and made out of proper stuff; he's broad enough to take a decent-sized shirt; he's easy to adjust and even tall people can iron in comfort."

Another striking item is the hugging salt and pepper shakers. The porcelain black and white figures hug to

form the yin/yang symbol and have been the biggest seller so far this year at the Museum of Modern Art's design store in New York.

And some customers will be delighted to see some forgotten favourites, such as Splayds cutlery.

"They're iconic Australian products and they're coming back," Marshall says. "Splayds are a combined fork and spoon – your parents and grandparents would've got them for their wedding. They disappeared some time in the '80s, but they're one of those wonderful items returning."

Groovy cards? Tomato sauce squirters for \$5? Walking stick seats that fold away? A Philippe Starck fly-swatter? A feather duster with a wooden handle? You should be able to find something for even the pickiest person in your life at The Good Store.

And the shop is a hit. When we visited, a customer exclaimed: "I love a place where you can get a Leatherman knife, an Estwing hammer and a good pair of driving gloves, all under one roof."

"That's the point," says Marshall.

DAVID COHEN



Marshall Martin from
The Good Store
Pictures: Stewart Allen

Good choice