World-First AI Humanoid Robot Debuts on Cherie Barber's Ground-breaking Australian Reno Show

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Cherie Barber, Australia's Renovation Queen™ has launched a world-first social experiment exploring how an advanced AI humanoid robot will perform as her new *'renovation apprentice'* in what will be Cherie's most ambitious residential renovation project to date, *The Farmhouse.*

Set on 8.3 acres in Mulgoa, just minutes from Western Sydney's new international airport, this is no ordinary renovation or reality show.

Bringing the future to home renovation, the property sits within a critically sensitive environmental zone and carries a BAL 29 bushfire rating - one of the highest risk levels requiring materials and design to withstand extreme ember attack and radiant heat.

It's complex, unpredictable and high stakes. And yes, there are a lot of snakes.

And into that environment steps a humanoid robot.

Meet "Tinnie" - A four-foot humanoid robot with book smarts, curiosity and a lot to learn.

This is a genuine world-first, putting a humanoid robot into a live residential renovation project. It's not controlled. It's not staged nor is it an entry level robot that's more of a novelty.

"Tinnie is the world's first digitally advanced AI humanoid robot to set foot on a residential renovation site and that's what makes it exciting," Cherie Barber said.

Nicknamed "Tinnie" in a nod to both the Tin Man from *The Wizard of Oz*
and a well-earned end-of-day Aussie tradie reward; the humanoid robot will take on a central role as Cherie's digital apprentice.

But don't expect him to be on the tools!

"Tinnie's not here to replace humans, skilled tradies or pick up a drill. He'll welcome crews to site by doing site inductions, recite building codes, check product specs and offer guidance on products and design decisions, all while learning how a real build operates," Cherie said.

"Residential renovation sites can be hectic by nature so this social experiment is to gauge if Tinnie can be part of the team, genuinely add value and operate safely in that kind of environment," she said.

Tinnie didn't just appear on site overnight. He's the result of six months of planning, testing and collaboration between Cherie, her partner Matt Hume and robotics company, Unitree Robotics.

After months of preparation, earlier this year Cherie and Matt travelled to China to meet the team behind the technology, see Tinnie in action firsthand and start prepping him for life on an Australian residential renovation site.

"Seeing Tinnie up close was surreal and incredible, all at the same time," she said.

"Getting him ready for a real renovation project has been an interesting process. He isn't a gimmick, the technology is impressive and I was blown away by how advanced it is.

"Tinnie may even take on an unexpected role. When things get stressful on site, he might double as the team's motivational coach and if he can hand out a cold 'tinnie' at the end of the day, he'll be everyone's favourite," Cherie said.

But the experiment goes well beyond the build. While Tinnie learns the mechanics of renovating, Cherie will introduce him to everyday human experiences.

Audiences will watch as Tinnie, Cherie's humanoid robot apprentice, begins to understand not just how we build, but how we live, how we connect, communicate and experience the world.

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“He’s not just learning construction, Tinnie will be learning what it means to be human, how we think, feel and interact.

“From early morning coffees, learning tradie banter, outings to the footy and everything in between, we’re excited that Tinnie will experience much of what we humans do,” Cherie said.

“That’s where it’s going to get really interesting with the property and renovation itself adding another dimension.”

Alongside the structural transformation, *The Farmhouse* will attempt a paddock-to-plate lifestyle, developing a greenhouse to grow organic vegetables, fruit orchards, a luxury chicken coop, bee hives and a focus on sustainable, self-sufficient living.

It’s a project that brings together high-end design, sustainability, real-world challenges and future-facing technology all in one place.

From May 2026, audiences can follow every step as the build unfolds with Tinnie’s journey culminating in a nationally broadcast television series in mid-2027.

In addition to the TV series and launching tonight at 8.00pm, the multi-platform series will be filmed in real time with fortnightly progress episodes on Cherie’s YouTube channel, youtube.com/cheriebarberofficial alongside weekly behind-the-scenes and social content on YouTube and Instagram.

“Robots have been used in the commercial and industrial sectors since the early 1960s. Today, robotics commonly assist humans across many areas including in robotic surgery, assisted care, in research laboratories, precision farming and harvesting, and in environments that are hazardous to humans.

“Robotic vacuums, mops, pool cleaners and even lawnmowers are already making life easier for humans in the home so within the next three-to-five years we’re likely to see robots integrated into our daily lives performing more everyday tasks, just like the 1960’s cartoon series, *The Jetsons*,” Cherie said.

“The future is definitely here with projects like *The Farmhouse* helping people understand the future of robotics for what it is - a practical tool that works alongside us, not instead of us. People have a genuine fear of robots, and *The Farmhouse* series aims to show how they can make our lives easier, not be something that’s feared,” Cherie Barber said.

Blending cutting-edge, sophisticated robotics with real-world renovation, *The Farmhouse* represents an innovative new approach to building and a bold new reality format redefining what renovation shows can be.

When you combine a high-risk, challenging renovation, a sustainable lifestyle and a humanoid robot apprentice learning the ropes of renovating a home and what it takes to be human, anything can happen.

Follow Cherie and Tinnie’s journey on *The Farmhouse*.

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