



Emma Gibbons

Huds and Toké

What do you love about your job?

I love being creative and innovative with our products, by listening, researching and utilising our team of taste testers (human and animal). I love that our training treats and gourmet treats for both horses and dogs can help build a better bond between an animal and owner.

What people inspire you?

Those who manage to juggle their family and business in a balanced, honest, positive and humble way.

Advice for other women starting out in business?

Say yes to all opportunities even if they seem too big at the time as that is what enables growth and productivity. You just have to have a can-do attitude and be able to survive a few sleepless nights.



Maggie Shalhoub

Live It Travel

What do you love about your job?

I love the lasting friendships I've made with my overseas business colleagues, the local people and the wonderful artisans, chefs and tour operators I work with on the Coast.

Advice for other women starting out in business?

My advice is to always keep focussed on why you are passionate about your business, why you will be successful, and why your business is different. Aligning yourself with a mentor is extremely important when starting out in business as the guidance and encouragement they can give you will be invaluable not only when you first start out in business, but throughout the development of achieving business success.



Tracey Ferguson

Ferguson Financial Planning

What people inspire you?

My parents. My father was a Ten Pound Pom, and one of 10 siblings who immigrated to Australia nearly 60 years ago. My mother was abandoned by her father when she was just 13, and together with her own mother, worked long hours in menial jobs to support the other children in the family. The ability of my parents to overcome these challenges; to work hard and to instil the values of family; and of honest, hard work in myself and my five sisters, is truly inspirational.

Advice for other women starting out in business?

Don't be afraid to take the leap. Believe in yourself and your abilities. There are always rewards that follow hard work.



Marilyn Black

Harlequin Blinds & Security

What people inspire you?

People who care enough about making a difference in the community they live in. As a board member of local charity SunnyKids, I would definitely say the dedicated staff and community who give and help the kids, and families that desperately need support. The staff go above and beyond their duties to help their clients. Also the staff at Suncoast Care, another organisation on the Coast that gives to the homeless and people in need.

Advice for other women starting out in business?

Have a good team around you, staff, advisers, and have good systems in place. Plus remember, you have to make time for yourself away from work as well. Work life balance!