

Past Student Spotlight

Lisa O'Neill (1999)



Graduating in 1999 marked the beginning of my preparations for an extraordinary year in Zimbabwe as a Rotary Exchange Student.

Achieving the best possible academic results became my primary focus to qualify for selection. At that time, my thoughts were consumed by this goal—not university, TAFE, or work, but the incredible opportunity to repeat Year 12 in a foreign country. St George State High School hosted a local Rotarian to speak about this program, and I couldn't resist the opportunity. After six months of rigorous selection and preparation, I was ready for what would become the most incredible year of my life.

Returning to Reality and Starting My Career

Upon returning, reality set in, and I needed to start my working life. I was offered two opportunities in St George: one at the Chemist and another at the Balonne Shire Council. I accepted the position at the chemist and began a traineeship to obtain my Dispensary Technician certificate. Pharmacy was a great starting point, serving as a reliable "fall-back" job between family commitments and other career pursuits.

Pursuing My Passion and Upgrading My Credentials

Despite the job satisfaction, the pay was not sufficient, prompting me to seek further qualifications. While raising a family and working at the chemist, I earned a Certificate III in Floristry from a School of Floristry, which ignited my entrepreneurial journey. A side business provided a wonderful way to supplement my income and engage in something I was passionate about. Specialising in wedding and funeral floristry, I kept busy but felt a desire to learn more and pursue a childhood dream.

A New Career Path and Further Education

At 38, I enrolled in university to study Criminology and Criminal Justice, leading to a new opportunity at Kingaroy Community Corrections. This role fulfilled a life goal, allowing me to contribute to community safety and help rehabilitate individuals re-joining society after prison. Although I enjoyed the work, the politics didn't align with my values. It's crucial to fully love what you do!

Embracing Entrepreneurship and Sharing My Journey

Continuing my florist work on the side, I now run a second business that offers flexible hours and excellent income, all online. If you'd like to know more about starting your entrepreneurial journey, follow me on Facebook (Lisa O'Neill - hot pink profile pic) to see how I use social media to generate income. I'm always looking for goal-driven, heart-centred individuals eager to learn, super coachable, and ready to transform their lives through starting their own unique

entrepreneurial business. Feel free to DM me to learn more about joining my team at any stage of your journey.

Reflecting on My Journey

I absolutely love being a successful business owner, setting goals, and completely smashing them! None of this would have been possible without the solid education from St George State High School. Despite not being an "A" student, across all subjects, my education laid the foundation for my lifelong learning and success. I still have "pinch me" moments reflecting on my journey, and I am truly grateful for the skills and resilience developed during my teenage educational years. These skills have been instrumental throughout my working life and continue to drive me forward.

Advice for the Future

Looking back, my advice is that Maths and English are crucial—everything else can be learned along the way! I will never stop learning, and I will never slow down. Remember, life is all about the journey. YOUR journey! Live it the way your desire - dreaming is the first part of that and is often forgotten as we age. Dream big, action it and see it come into fruition.

Lisa O'Neill xx