

Kim Garvin

Village Manager, Golden Grove, Facility Management

I was fortunate to have a lovely neighbour Lois (Auntie Lowie) who was my inspiration.

Back in 1968 not many married Mothers worked or managed businesses. My neighbours lost the husband /father of 3 suddenly. This man managed a family plumbing business his Grandfather established in 1911 in Sydney.

Lois had worked as Office Administrator prior to their marriage .

When Harold passed whilst on holiday Lois returned to the business to manage the business. There were several male workers who did not agree she should be managing the business. In 1968 it was not popular for a Woman to be managing men in a male dominated industry.

Some of the men left as they were not happy working for a Woman .

Lois continued to go to work everyday managing this business juggling with 3 children at school.

The eldest boy followed the family business and became an apprentice after finishing school. The youngest son also joined the business when he finished school. Later the daughter stepped into the Office Manager role with Lois still the one in charge. Even in her 80s whilst receiving medical procedures she still had the say in the business.

Throughout all the years from 1968 until her passing 5 years ago Lois never put herself first. She never dated in all those years. Dedicated herself to her family and the business.

Today the 2 elder sons are managing the business with Lois grandchildren joining the family business following tradition.

Lois stepped into a male industry and continued to keep the business going successfully for all these years.

I will never know the true battles she faced overcoming the death of her husband, leaving her a widow in her late 30s with 3 children 15-3 years of age . A small lady who never seemed to show to us children the daily battles she must have been battling. She continued to ensure the family had their yearly holiday in the caravan Harold had always organized.

She was a beautiful lady who showed a Woman can Lead and Manage a business successfully.

