

Mary Centofanti

Never too busy to put back into the community

Mary Centofanti commenced her working life in Dresslier, the same hair products company, founded in 1930, that she and her husband John now own and manage.

She has lived and worked in Campbelltown for more than 20 years and still lives in the area, managing her international business from Campbelltown.

Mary's parents migrated from Greece during the 1960s and the family grew up in the Adelaide suburbs of Parkside and Edwardstown. Mary remembers that her parents were both extremely hard workers and this has influenced her own life.

She has fond memories of growing up in the Parkside area and playing with the many cousins who lived close by. The close knit family is still important with many involved in the Dresslier/ Davroe Hair Wellness businesses.

Commencing at Dresslier when she was 15 years old, Mary worked for the company for 23 years before she and her husband bought the business in 2007. They agreed that if the business was to survive they needed to have a different vision for the future. The market was requiring more sustainable products and as a result they were the first Salon brand to be sulphate, paraben and petro free as well as vegan and cruelty free. While the first five years presented many challenges including convincing clients that yes, they would be good for your hair as well as the planet, they are now widely accepted.

Mary and her husband believe in putting back into the community and that it is important to support 'grass roots' activities. She is a board member of the Campbelltown City Soccer Club and her business sponsors organisations including the soccer club, The Little Heroes Foundation, Adelaide Lutheran Sports Clubs and Norwood Payneham Union Football Club.

Mary is often spotted in the soccer club canteen serving pizzas and she believes that volunteering grounds you in community life. It's part of her work-life balance activities and it makes her happy to be able to do this.

“Believe in yourself and be prepared to work hard, remembering that there will be many ups and downs and unexpected external factors that may impact on what you want to do.”

Celebrating International Women's Day with the 'Women of Campbelltown' project – inspiring stories of local women, their achievements and contributions to the Community.

To see the full stories visit: www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au/iwd

Thank you to the women who participated and volunteer interviewers Di Booker and Katrina Spencer.