

PROFILE

# Q&A

5 minutes with Bronwyn Fenech



## “Bronwyn Fenech

Starting a business from scratch with \$50 ... was a very hard and tough learning curve for us but I wouldn't have had it any other way.

# Success behind the scenes

Last thing Bronwyn needs is a genie in a bottle

**What is your name?**  
Bronwyn Fenech.

**Current Employment?**  
FMSTUDIOS: Fenech Multimedia Studios.

**What was your first job and what was it like?**  
Selling \$3000 vacuum cleaners door to door about 15 years ago... it taught me great selling skills.

**What is the best thing about your job?** Meeting new people and dealing with a vast variety of local and regional business across Queensland and throughout Australia.

**What do you do to relax?** I love to get out into the garden, it's a weekly routine ... edge the paths, line weed, hedge the hedges, mow and gurney the pavement bricks.

**What's your favourite childhood memory?**  
Definitely not getting up at 6am every morning before school and milking 30 cows with my parents.

It would have to be growing up on a farm, there are too many to list.

My younger brother and I were very adventurous, mischievous and wild; we had no fear.

That still sticks with me today.

**What was the scariest moment of your life?**

Flying from Amsterdam to Milan on a \$5 flight – standing in the luggage compartment ... only joking ... the turbulence was very scary but thrilling.

**One word that would best describe you?** Bright! (Hair and personality).

**How do you think your friends would describe you?** Always trying to sell something, loud and out there.

**What is the nicest thing anyone ever said to you?**

Thank you for being you!

**What was the first LP/CD/tape you bought?**  
Nirvana, Nevermind.

**What did you want to be when you grew up and why?** I don't really remember about a particular occupation, I just wanted to get off the farm and live in a city.

**What was your most embarrassing moment?** I don't really get embarrassed. Sometimes my actions can embarrass others.

**What has been your best travel moment?** New Year's Eve on Dam Square in Amsterdam with Kirsty and Leanne, actually our

entire Europe eight-day holiday was fast and fantastic!

**What is something that you have had to learn the hard way?** Starting a business from scratch with \$50 – it was a very hard and tough learning curve for us but I wouldn't have had it any other way.

**If you were down to your last \$10, what would you spend it on?** A bottle with a genie in it.

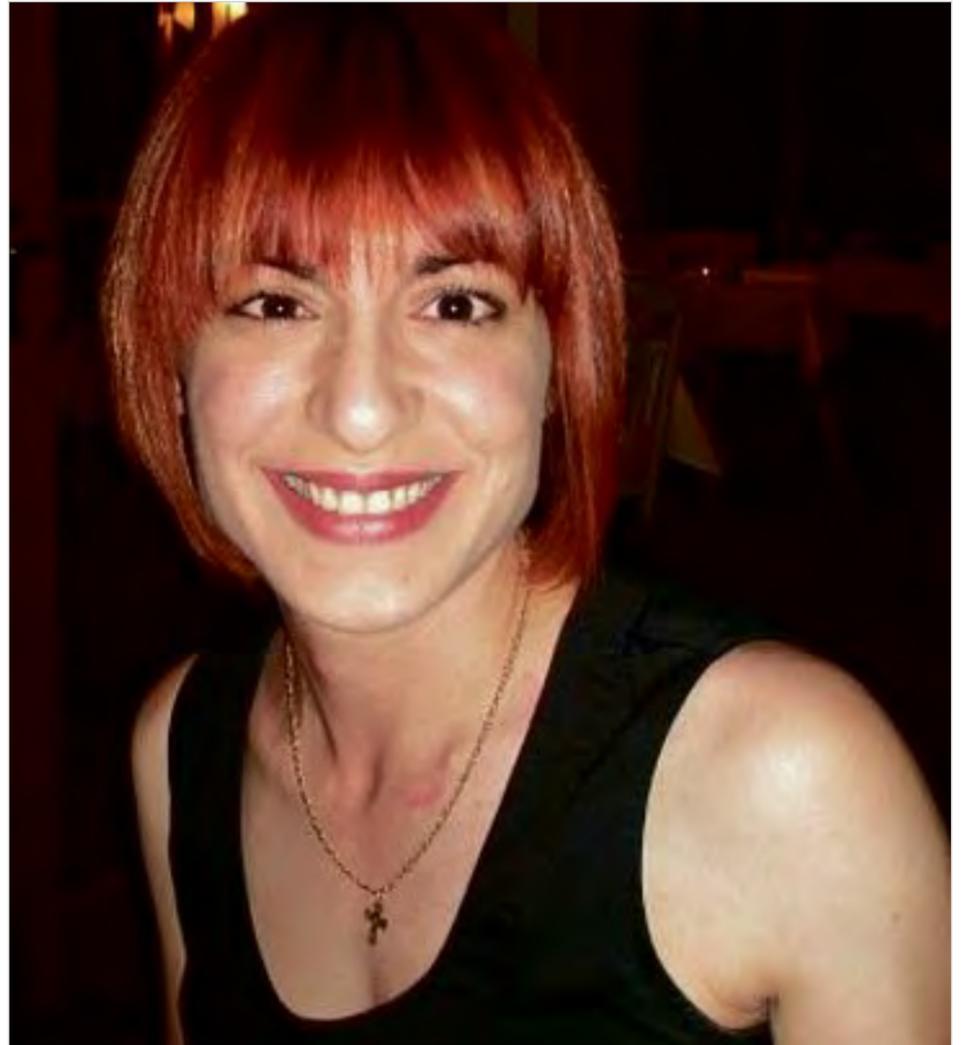
**If you could change something about the world to make it a better place, what would you do?** For all people to have equality throughout the world and not to judge people.

**Something most people don't know about me is ...** that I got my selling skills from selling one hell of a vacuum cleaning machine.

**Who is your favourite personality (TV, music, film etc) and why?** Steve Carell – he always plays a very funny character.

**My signature dish is:** My fresh, home-made spinach and ricotta ravioli

**What's the weirdest thing you have ever seen?** The red light district in Amsterdam – it's an eye opener!



LIVING DREAMS: Bronwyn Fenech has had an interesting career path. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

## ► BEREAVEMENTS

GOODA, Gerald Edward (Bimbo) of the Gangulu and Yiman people. Passed away Friday, November 11. Aged 57 years.

Jeppesen, Rossalynd Eva (Wo) (Jeppy) of Leichardt St, Springsure, passed away at Rockhampton Hospital on Sunday, November 13. Aged

74 years.

Newcomber, Marianne (Bany). Late of Charles St, North Rockhampton, formerly of Yeppoon. Passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 12. Aged 77 years.

Armitage, Noel Ross (Pop). Passed away

peacefully on November 11. Aged 71 years.

Guille, George Charles Joesepp. Passed away peacefully in Mount Morgan on November 6.

Holzheimer, Leslie Phillip. Late of RSL Sunset Ridge, Zilzie and formerly of Machine Creek, Mount

Larcom. Les passed away peacefully on Monday, November 14, aged 94 years and 11 months.

Miller, Brian (Wayne). Late of Mount Morgan and Mackay. Passed away on Monday, November 14. Aged 67 years.

Adams, Douglas Phillip.

Late of Margaret St, Rockhampton. Passed away Friday, November 18. Aged 67 years.

Adamus, Dallas Jon. Late of Yeppoon. Passed away Thursday, November 10.

Streat, Mona May, of Capricorn Garden Nursing Home, Yeppoon. Passed

away peacefully on Tuesday, November 15. Aged 95 years.

Gorle, Patricia (Pat). Passed away in Alice Springs on November 12.

Coombs, Kevin Leonard. Late of Fairfield, Stanwell. Passed away on Friday, November 18. Aged 73 years.

## RESILIENCE

Trauma is a strange beast and affects people in different ways. Following the floods that devastated the region early this year, there was deep shock that pervaded our community. We all banded together as people do during times of hardship, and slowly things returned to normal. However, one of the bizarre features of trauma is that it often reappears well after the initial event, and this can leave people frightened, confused and lacking in resilience.

Resilience is a word that makes an appearance in virtually every article written about what makes up a successful and strong community, yet the process of what builds and supports resilience is rarely discussed. Resilience, or the ability to bounce back from a traumatic event, is a process that has fascinated me for many years and I've done much reading on the subject. The readings describe heroic and inspirational stories of people who despite having experienced the most unfortunate of circumstances, manage to come out the other

end as strong as ever. Though the stories of recovery are all very different, they have one thing in common; connectedness. Every resilient person expressed that they had a strong and meaningful connection in some way in their life. For some people it was their neighbours, family and friends, and for others it was community or religious groups. Not everyone had these connections to begin with, yet expressed once they were formed, their recovery rate increased. Unfortunately, we humans tend to do exactly the opposite of what's good for us, and during trauma we often isolate ourselves which simply exacerbates our symptoms. If you find yourself in this situation, reach out to those around you, or if you see others struggle, offer support to assist people to reconnect. It can make a huge difference.

24 hour telephone counselling is also available by phoning 13 11 14.

Alex Johnson - Counsellor

 Lifeline  
13 11 14

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