



One of the best-kept secrets of Sydney's Greek shops is found in Padstow, where Maria Voudouris and her family run the award-winning Maria's Florists. Vasilis Vasilas recently interviewed Maria about her incredible journey...

Maria Voudouris

The Power of Re- Invention

What is amazing about Maria's story is her motivation and determination to succeed as a florist. It should be emphasised that Maria and her husband, Tony, initially bought a milk bar in Padstow; it was Maria who introduced a small flower section in the milk bar which gradually grew. When the milk bar business slowed down (so much), Maria- with the support of Tony- showed enormous courage to shut the milk bar and re-open their shop as a florist.

Out went the counter and grill, in came all the flower arrangements! As Vasilis points, 'This is truly a family business; while Maria makes up the flower arrangements and Tony does the deliveries, their daughter, Marianna, works at the shop looking after all the paperwork and on-line business. During busy days of the year, their children, Alana and Athanasios, help out too.'

With sheer hard work and their warm-heartedness, Maria and her family have built a successful business and the accolades and awards have subsequently followed, culminating in Maria's Florist winning Business of the Year (2012).

Such is the admiration for Maria by the local community that Michael and Pat Lergos, who run The Wild Rooster Chicken Shop across the road, called her the 'heroine of Padstow!' What a blooming compliment!



MARIA'S
FRESH FLOWERS
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