



Vasilis & Maria Rizos A Blooming Impressive Business

Maria's family, who come from Rhodes, migrated to Australia when she was only six years old. While holidaying in Rhodes, as an adult, she met Vasilis Rizos, who is from Trikala, and was working in Rhodes during the busy summer season. Fate brings them together and Vasilis migrates to Australia and, Maria and Vasilis marry in 1982. They have three daughters, Katrina, Helena and Joanna.

While they work in their respective jobs, they decide to buy a mixed business on O'Connell Street in 1987. The shop has a small flower section; Vasilis and Maria realise there is a growing demand for flowers.

Having studied fine arts, Maria undertakes a course in floristry. As the flower section of the shop continually grows, the mixed business subsequently diminishes until the shop is transformed into a florist.

B & M's Vasilis stresses what a great team Maria and he make, 'Maria does all designing for our flower arrangements while I buy whatever our shop needs. We make a very good team...'



So many times, we watch the news and see a Hollywood or music megastar arriving in Sydney and they are greeted by their hosts who often present them with a lavish bouquet of flowers, 'Welcome to Australia...' While our focus is primarily on the megastar, we often admire the beautiful bouquet and wonder which creative florist made such a flower arrangement... Vasilis Vasilas recently interviewed Vasilis Rizos, of the award-winning B & M Florist in Monterey, and was left awestruck at the picture-perfect work environment and finesse of the Rizos family's work. As Vasilis points out, 'Walking into B & M Florist is a floral pantomime; the fine beauty of the shop's décor captured in its detail, highlighting how well-thought everything is. It is no wonder this beauty has such a flow-on effect on the actual flower arrangements.'

Over the time, B & M, as a shop, has been extended and renovated (a few times) to the beautifully-decorated we see today. B & M's growing success will continue into the next generation as Vasilis and Maria's daughter, Katrina and Joanna, work in the family business too.

One fascinating aspect of B & M Florist's success is making the flower arrangements for QANTAS Airways. So, whenever a celebrity or a royal travelled to Australia with QANTAS, they were welcomed with bouquets from B & M Florist!

As Vasilis (of B & M) points out, 'It was funny to watch the arrival of superstar singer Katie Perry on the television news and see she was carrying a bouquet made by us!'

Coinciding with celebrating thirty years of their successful business, Vasilis and Maria's creative flower arrangements and success culminated with them winning Best Florist in NSW in the Fresh Awards (2017)... WOW!

