

## TOY MAKER & PROPERTY CONVEYANCING UNLIKELY BED-FELLOWS?

Anke Gibbons, Licensed Conveyancer and Viktoria Darabi, Rocking Horse Maker, have struck up an unusual but symbiotic relationship thanks to the Hawkesbury City Chamber of Commerce Inc and Department of State and Regional Development supported *Young Entrepreneurs Stepping Up Program*.

The program seeks to match sixteen mentors with sixteen mentorees. The mentorees are aged 18-35 and need to have run their own business for at least one year. The mentors must have run their own successful business for at least five years. The mentors provide at no cost to the mentorees, eight hours of face to face mentoring time plus they attend the "Meet Your Mentor/Mentoree Evening" and the "Young Entrepreneur's Business Expo Evening."

Anke and Viktoria met for the first time on 21 October at the Sebel, as program facilitator Vanessa Van Wyk introduced the program and the participants introduced themselves to the group. There were some very interesting matches including: a Concept Men's Gift Store Retailer mentor being matched to a Bakery retailer mentoree and a National Crispbread Manufacturer mentor being matched to a local Hairdresser mentoree.

Mentor Viktoria Darabi is looking forward to helping Anke with ideas to take her busy Property Conveyancing Business, *Conveyancing and Property Solutions* in Richmond, to the next level. "I love the idea of being able to give back to my community in this way. I have so much I would like to share and this is the perfect way in which to share one's knowledge of business, marketing and perhaps help Anke avoid some of the pitfalls along the way," says Viktoria.

"There is not much scope for creativity within the rules and regulations of property and title transfers, so I am delighted to be able to exercise my creative marketing muscles with some encouragement from Viktoria," says Anke.

Anke and Viktoria also found they shared some other common ground. Both have two children, both have husbands 'on the tools', and both have a passion for porcelain dolls. "I am a fraternal twin and have collected fraternal twin porcelain dolls in my travels, so I am interested to see the fraternal twin dolls that Viktoria has made," continued Anke.

Program facilitator, Vanessa Van Wyk says, "I have been running these programs for a number of years and it never ceases to thrill me the outcomes and friendships that result from the process. Many mentors and mentorees remain in close contact years after the program is completed. It is a deeply satisfying experience."

Hawkesbury City Chamber of Commerce Inc President, Cate Richmond says, "The benefit to the Hawkesbury community at large is far reaching. It starts from the spark ignited through the *Stepping Up Program* between individual mentors and mentorees and is passed between mentorees whilst they network at the workshops. The waves of positive influence radiate to each mentoree's own business. Mentors themselves take many of the attributes from the program into their daily lives. It is easy to see from just these two factors how it's just a step, hop, jump for the whole of the Hawkesbury to share in the benefits of the program. The Chamber is very proud to be associated with the growth of the Hawkesbury community and the wonderful individuals who comprise this year's program"

If you would like more information about how you can become part of future Mentor/Mentoree programs that will be run in the Hawkesbury next year, please contact Vanessa Van Wyk on 8883 3347 or email [vanessav@binarix.com](mailto:vanessav@binarix.com).

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For more information, to schedule an interview or photo shoot

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