

Vicki Woods

Secretary & Co-founder

Women's Network (Hunter-NSW)



Vicki Woods in partnership with her husband Bruce own and operate the Bushrangers Bar & Brasserie at Largs. Formally the Largs Hotel, Vicki has operated this multi award-winning hotel since 1989.

Originally from Sydney, Vicki was educated at Tara Anglican School for girls in North Parramatta. On completion of her HSC, Vicki embarked on a catering career before moving into Customs, where she completed her Licensed Customs Agent accreditation from 1986 to 1989 at the Sydney Institute. Vicki moved to the Hunter when her father and husband purchased the hotel. Vicki has a son, Andrew who is eighteen years old and indentured as a third year apprentice chef.

Vicki has been actively involved in the Largs and Maitland community since first purchasing the hotel. Her first roles in public life started with establishing the school Council at Largs Public School in 1992 and being the chair of the P&C association. From 1995 to 1997 she was the Secretary/Treasurer for the Newcastle/Hunter branch of the Australian Hotels Association and a Council delegate to the NSW branch.

Other positions that Vicki is involved in include

- Executive board Maitland Chamber of Commerce (1997-present)
- Executive board member Restaurant & Caterers Association (2003-present)
- Vice President – Regional Restaurant & Caterers Association NSW (2005-present)
- Director Hunter Region Tourism Board (2004-present)
- Ambassador Multiple Sclerosis Society NSW (2004-present)
- Executive board Maitland Tourism Advisory Committee (2009 - present)
- Chairperson of Maitland Tourism Advisory committee (1999 -2008)
- Chairperson Maitland Liquor Accord (1998 - 2008)
- Chairperson Largs/Bolwarra recreation board (1997- 2008)
- Board member Hunter & Central Coast Regional Environment Management Committee (1999- 2008)
- Board member Hunter Councils Inc (1999-2008)

Vicki was elected to Maitland City Council in 1999, and again in 2004. It was in the 2004 election when Vicki ran an all women team in her quest to get more women involved in Council, that after much disappointment at again having only two women elected to Council, Vicki along with Bronwyn Ridgway formed the Women's Network (Hunter-NSW). From humble beginnings at our first meeting in November 2004, we have grown from 45, to in excess of 500.

In Vicki's spare time she has completed Level 3 and Level 4 in commercial cookery, (2000 –2002), has been involved in mentoring at various school's in the Maitland LGA, mentored in the DSRD women in business program, completed Train the Trainer in 2005, and became a Certified Professional Restaurateur and had her restaurant accredited in 2006. Vicki received her Diploma in Australian Institute of Company Directors in 2008. Vicki is also a practising JP.

Vicki is passionate about having more women elected into prominent decision making roles and encourages all women to become involved in the Network and make a difference.