



## **Maria Rampa**

### **Journalist, Executive, Entrepreneur, Charity Contributor**

#### **Alumnae Year 1981**

Maria has lived a varied and interesting life in Australia and overseas. She has climbed the corporate ladder and built her own businesses. Maria's many skills and experiences inspire her to share with others and to help them succeed personally and professionally.

Maria started at Mount Alvernia in 1977. Each year she was Dux of her class, culminating in Dux of the College when she graduated in 1981. Maria was also College Vice Captain in her Senior year.

From 1982 to 1984, Maria studied for a Bachelor of Arts (UQ), majoring in Journalism, English, History, and Government. After university, she worked with the Australian Tourism Commission in Melbourne, providing communications support.

Upon moving overseas, Maria was employed by Red Dragon Radio (Cardiff) and worked as a senior journalist for three newspapers in South Wales. She then moved into the role of Marketing Executive at Cardiff Airport, followed by Marketing Executive for Cardiff Bay Development Corporation. While in Wales, Maria completed a Graduate Certificate in Management (University of Glamorgan).

Maria returned in Australia and, in January 1994, began her own business, *Maria Whaley Public Relations*. Over a twelve-year period, Maria provided marketing and communication services to a variety of clients in the tourism, professional services, arts, education, charity, and public sectors.

In 2006 Maria returned to the corporate sector and was the Corporate Communications Manager for Ergon Energy. She then accepted a role as Global Marketing Manager for an engineering consultancy in the resources sector. In 2015, Maria once again established her own business, *Ewoke Pty Ltd*. This consisted of *Ewoke Consulting* (providing marketing and communications services), *Ewoke Bespoke Experiences* (travel and event design services), and *Ewoke Bespoke Skincare* (providing skincare, and health and wellness products).

For over twenty years, Maria has worked in a voluntary and consultancy capacity for *Act for Kids* and, since 2012, as a Board Director. *Act for Kids* has grown from a small charity in Brisbane to a nationwide service with over 300 staff and revenue of close to \$30 million.

Maria is also passionate about the empowerment of women. Having had a long career in corporate life, mostly in male-dominated industries, she has seen clever, capable women overlooked for promotion and opportunity. Through her company, Maria is now focusing on using her skills and experience to inspire and lead women to support and empower each other; to become the best versions of themselves and to live successful lives emotionally, physically, professionally, personally and financially. Maria is doing this by providing business opportunities to women. This, in turn, enables them to fulfil their commitments to family while developing skills and earning an income.