

This little girl is the youngest of 3 children

This little girl grew up in a Christian household, her father was an Anglican Minister and she lived in a house behind a church for nearly 18 years of her life. Life was simple, it revolved around helping and supporting people, church and family.

Despite the financial pressure, education was a priority and this little girl's parents sacrificed a lot to ensure that the three kids could get the best education possible. The sacrifice was real, even if it was not well understood. Due to the investment made, this little girl always put 100%+ into everything she did including her education, she wanted to make her parents proud and feel like their investment was worth the sacrifice.

Life was not always simple, there were health, money and work challenges that impacted the joy and simplicity of life. This little girl was big into justice and started to realise life was not fair, it was a hard lesson to learn.

This little girl liked playing with dolls, having friends over to play, social outings and loved people. This little girl remembers birthdays as a big thing, despite money challenges there was always a party, soft drink, a cake and a birthday present that you can find by following the streamer at the end of the bed.

This little girl learnt that you need to work hard to get anywhere in life, that things didn't just land on your lap and money would definitely give you more opportunities in life.

This little girl struggled in school until later in high school, prior to that her report cards always said 'she tries very hard but...'. So the career was never really something considered until year 11 and 12. Despite her mum being a teacher and that seemed a logic path to go, this little girl had an accounting teacher that fired a passion for accounting. This has had a profound impact on me my whole life.



When I finished high school, I deferred my Bachelor of Commerce / Arts degree to do an internship at a CA firm. It was a great experience; to the city everyday, dressed in a suit, a real job and pay check (if you call 16k including tax a pay!) but at the time it was a complete change.

This little girl worked throughout university to be able to live and life was not always simple but stoked to get a graduate position at Arthur Andersen (the year it became EY in 2002). This little girl loved working in a big firm; so much social, learning, challenge, and professional growth.

This little girl, married young, at 21 and is still married today (over 20 years later!) and just after finishing university this little girl's dad passed away. This has had a profound impact on her life, never has she quite go over it, but his legacy, his passion, determination and tenacity live on through her. She is his daughter, through and through.

After 10 years in Corporate, she had a passion for helping business drive change and she transitioned to Telstra and then started working in private equity. She loved private equity; fast paced, results driven and an opportunity to drive real change. Getting a CFO role at 34 years old, was a dream she never thought possible. She loved her team, to challenge them and to bring out the best in them. Working alongside amazing people and making a difference everyday is what she loves. Corporate life wasn't all roses and found out the impact of bad leadership, it's a good lesson to learn and you realise, life is too short to work in a toxic environment.

After a personal break, she co-founded Whiteark with one of her closest friends James Ciuffetelli in 2020. They have fun everyday helping their clients sell their business, transform their business and creating value along the way. Together they are passionate about working with businesses to drive value and their hands on approach is a refreshing change from PowerPoint packs and theory that most consulting companies provide.

Life has created much joy, heartache, opportunity and this little girl enjoys the challenge and brings passion, dedication and determination to everything she does especially her passions.

This little girl is me. #thislittlegirlisme

What advice would I give this little girl?

- ✓ Be confident in who you are, you are unique and that's ok
- ✓ Life is not fair but embrace what life has to offer you
- ✓ Life's short so spend time with people that encourage and uplift you and bring out the best in you

Why am I sharing my story? Because 70% of girls feel more confident about their futures after hearing from women role models.

I'm honoured to be part of the #thislittlegirlisme campaign to mark International Day of the Girl 2021, October 2021.

Learn more here: www.inspiring-girls.com

#thisgirlisme #internationaldayofthegirl
#womenleadership #leadership

