

Lisa Phillips



Lisa moved from London to St. Ives, Sydney in 1976 as a small child, with her family and faithful bearded collie, Austin.

They arrived in Australia when we had just begun to shrug off the yoke of yore. A new wave of immigrants was arriving, mostly from Vietnam, adding spice to our essentially *Tip Top* society. SBS premiered in 1978, offering a more worldly choice to *The Don Lane Show* and *Countdown* had just nestled into its 6pm Sunday timeslot, showcasing homespun talent in embarrassingly snug satin pants and platform shoes.

Lisa wanted to be a singer/songwriter and she's damn good at it too! She can sing, play piano, compose and perform. For some years, Lisa attended the *Johnny Young Talent School*, where Tina Arena was her contemporary. She even won *New Faces* with a stellar performance of one of her own songs!

But wishes are slippery things. Her father, flushed with pride yet concerned as to whether Lisa had a skin thick enough for the hurly burly of show business, recommended Lisa go to secretarial college. Her first real job was secretary to a lunatic in an advertising agency, high on cocaine and self-importance. Regardless, being the savvy person she is, Lisa was soon made responsible for radio advertising production.

However her heart wasn't in it. She left to work as a piano bar performer, where she spent many successful years belting out *Piano Man* over the sozzled chit chat. Lisa then changed tack and completed a beautician course at *Ella Baché*, opening her own salon on Sydney's north shore. She made a terrific success of that too, until becoming a full-time mum.

Lisa met her current partner Mike 16 years ago, when scrolling through a drool of prospective suitors on *RSVP*, with her seven-year-old daughter Amy on her lap, who declared Mike *the best of a bad bunch*. The rest is kismet. Even though Mike proposed to Lisa on top of the Eiffel Tower over 14 years ago, they're still engaged.

No rush really.

It was Lisa's erudite mum who introduced her to bridge. Wanting a new bridge partner, she booked Lisa into lessons for her 40th birthday (Lisa had hoped for a spa treatment, yet part of the genius of being a mum is giving you what you need). Lisa has never looked back. She is now a Bridge Director and tutor for our very popular beginners' lessons, that run twice a year.

Her other hobbies include word games and music of course, which remains her elixir, particularly pop/rock -everything from *Abba* to *ZZ Top*, Kate Bush, Ed Sheeran and *The Weeknd*. She is also the doggiest dog person there is. Her fur baby, Toby, is the love of her life, although Mike might be smarted to hear that.

Lisa believes that youth is overrated, a bit like the blue eye shadow and perms that accompanied it, preferring the age she is now. She keeps fighting fit with gym workouts, bike rides and long beach walks. Her favourite place in the world is her home in Mount Coolum, which backs onto a beach reserve. There is literally no other place in the world she would rather be.

Buoyed by a loving family, Lisa feels she's living her best life. A rich life, where the best maybe yet to come.