

## **A Passion To Change Perceptions**

Why Lipstick Motorbikes? “It’s fairly obvious really; we’re girls who love riding bikes but still love to be feminine.”

In an era where boys will be boys and girls also will be boys, especially when it comes to riding motorbikes, Maria wants to emphasise a girl can still be a girl, even if she does ride a motorbike.

“I want to change the perception of girls who ride. *Lipstick Motorbikes* isn’t about being ‘pretty in pink’, it’s about being proud of our femininity.”

“It’s good being a girl.”

Maria Vamouklis is a first generation Greek Australian who suffered from Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) when she was younger. As she grew older, the stigma attached to ADD became the inspiration to change perceptions.

“It was taboo to seek help or advice so we dealt with it through medication. We kept it secret and that was challenging at times.”

“After finishing school I was determined to find a way to help others, and to help without using pharmaceutical medication.”

Maria became a Naturopath and was having tremendous success, treating children and adults through better nutrition and herbal medicines. Eventually though she found that limiting and decided to get a deeper understanding of how the mind functions.

“I only seemed to be treating the symptoms, getting permanent change was elusive, so I studied behavioural patterns and became a neuro-linguistics practitioner.”

Now, through her bike riding and her company, *Iconic Bodies*, Maria’s passions are changing perceptions, and the message will be spread across the country.

*Follow Maria* as she rides her BMW F700 GS from Sydney to Perth in support of *RUOK?*

“I was 29 when I first began riding a small road bike in 2012, then this year I crossed over to adventure riding and a whole new learning curve. Now I keep riding when the bitumen stops. dirt, sand, mud and river crossings add a new dimension to riding.

I want to inspire other women like myself, who will in turn be an inspiration themselves.”