**Kate Fisher wins Woman Changing the World for 2024**

Kate Fisher, Founder of Milkshakes for Marleigh, has been announced as the winner of Podcast of the Year, Author of the Year and Woman Changing the World of the Year at the 2024 AusMumpreneur Awards.

The 15th AusMumpreneur Awards were held in Melbourne, 14 August 2024. Presented by The Women’s Business School, they celebrate and recognize women in business achieving outstanding success in areas such as business excellence, product development, customer service and digital innovation.

Sunshine Coast, QLD’s Kate Fisher entered these awards to give her work a broader platform as she continues her mission to end critical blood shortages in Australia and around the world. She was thrilled to be the winner of three categories because, *“winning Podcast and Author of the Year for Milkshakes for Marleigh is a recognition from my industry peers that I have written the best book and created the best podcast of 2024. However, winning the Woman Changing the World Award recognizes the impact of my blood donation advocacy on a global scale and I know that is recruiting the blood donors who are saving lives every single day, all over the world.”*

The irony for Fisher is that its not gold trophies that she needs to keep her daughter Marleigh, alive. Now aged 8, Marleigh became unwell at the age of 3 with Autoimmune Encephalitis, a life threatening condition where her immune system attacks her brain, causing debilitating symptoms and life threatening seizures that can last for days. While there is no cure for Marleigh’s condition, treatment is possible with Immunoglobulin treatment made from donated human plasma. This is both lifesaving and life preserving for Marleigh and has so far give her “*5 bonus years*”.

Kate says, *“blood donors don’t just keep people alive they keep families together. People just don’t realize that 1 in 3 Australians need blood in their lifetime and when Marleigh is at her sickest, we can only prolong her life for 10 days at a time with plasma infusion. If not enough people donate between her infusions, her life is in danger.*

*I am deeply honored to win these awards but the irony is that no amount of gold trophies can save Marleigh’s life. I need Aussie’s to keep donating the liquid gold (plasma) so that Marleigh can have more bonus years with us!”*

This is the second big win for Kate this year. In May, 2024 she was invited by Dr Tererai Trent (Oprah’s all-time favorite guest) and the Duchess of York, Sarah Fergusson, to the United Kingdom to address The Women Changing the World Summit about the way she is revolutionizing blood donation advocacy. While in London, she was awarded the Women Changing the World Global Impact: Non-Profit Award in recognition of the thousands of lives that are saved every year by the blood donations made by those the Milkshakes for Marleigh story inspires.

Kate balances her advocacy alongside being a mother at the helm of a family with additional needs. She gives this advice for others thinking about starting their own enterprise, *“sometimes the most potent business ideas are inspired by the challenges we face. Don’t be afraid to embrace the creative ideas and business ideas that emerge in the moments of great desperation and vulnerability that motherhood can bring. As Marleigh’s mother, the only thing I can do to improve her quality of life and keep her alive and well is ensure that enough people donate blood and plasma so that she can receive the treatment she needs.”*

While in London in May 2024, Kate was invited to attend The Podcast Show, which is the world biggest podcasting event. While she met with Milkshakes for Marleigh fan, actor and podcaster James Cordon and the executives from USA based Sirius XM to discuss the future of her podcast, *“I attended James Cordon’s presentation with SiriusXM …… Scott and after they came off stage James spotted my book cover in the crowd and invited me backstage. He loved that there is no other podcast like this one anywhere in the world and that it has a lifesaving impact. I’m currently finalizing the details of a trip to New York later this year to continue these discussions.”*

Kate’s book, “Milkshakes for Marleigh: Extraordinary tales of survival thanks to Australian blood donors” was released in June 2024 and is available in all good bookstores, Peribo Distributers and KMD Books.

You can download the Milkshakes for Marleigh Podcast on all platforms.

For more information about the Milkshakes for Marleigh blood donation advocacy movement please visit:

[www.milkshakesformarleigh.org](http://www.milkshakesformarleigh.org)

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