

**Polson Higgs**

# Making a wave in business

**DONNA HALL**

Business Advisory Manager  
cafe owner and startup supporter

International Women's Day celebrates the cultural, political and socioeconomic achievements of women.

We are taking this opportunity to recognise our business advisory manager, Donna Hall, for her achievements in business, and her community contribution.

An active supporter of the startup community, Donna enjoys following her entrepreneurial mindset and empowering others to get their business idea off the ground and validated.

Transferring this expertise into the real world, while snapping up the opportunity to utilise her creative flair, Donna and her partner, Ivan, purchased Mokha cafe in August 2021.

It's been a rocky road so far, juggling family, full-time work, operating two cafes and her ongoing work in the community, all among a Covid outbreak.

Not one to dwell on life's curve balls, Donna is always looking to move forward.

"Living in Warrington and playing taxi to two teenagers means time management is key," she said.



Polson Higgs business advisory manager Donna Hall.

"Alongside this, job flexibility, and the hard-working humans at Mokha, have allowed me to make the most of my opportunities.

"I love problem-solving so 'can't be done' is not in my vocabulary.

"I am always asking why and don't often take no for an answer!

"I am extremely passionate about everything that I do, but ultimately, I just love the getting stuck in and making it work."

**Staley Cardoza Lawyers**



**Teamwork** ... The team members at Staley Cardoza Lawyers are, from left, Pamela Walker, Susie Staley, Rachel Cardoza, Shona Squires and Mikala Wright.

PHOTO: THE STAR

# Pair indebted to women lawyers who paved way

Boutique law firm Staley Cardoza Lawyers is in the heart of Dunedin.

Susie Staley and Rachel Cardoza are senior lawyers who have been in business together for the past 24 years.

Susie and Rachel met when studying and continued their friendship as practitioners.

In 1998, they joined forces, their different fields of expertise meaning they offered a full range of legal services.

They made history as the first

"all women" partnership in Otago.

"We are really indebted to the women lawyers who paved the way for us and hope we can support other women lawyers in a similar way," Rachel says.

Susie and Rachel observe women successfully combining both parenting and careers and, while International Women's Day is a great chance to celebrate how much has been achieved by women, it's also a time to reflect on what is still

required, Susie says.

"Women and girls in some of the most violent countries are certainly not treated equally and do not have access to many basic human rights."

Rachel and Susie have contributed to the Dunedin community by way of voluntary positions held, including University of Otago, Community Law Centre, Save the Children, Mirror Counselling Service, St Margaret's College, and iD Dunedin Fashion Inc.

**STALEY CARDOZA LAWYERS**

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International Women's Day

#BreakTheBias

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**International Women's Day**

International Women's Day is commemorated annually on March 8.

It is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

It is also an opportunity to raise awareness about women's equality, lobby for gender parity and fundraise for female-focused charities.

Gloria Steinem, world-renowned feminist, journalist and activist, once explained "The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist, nor to any one organisation, but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights".

In New Zealand, this year's UN Women's campaign theme is "Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow".

It recognises the contribution of women and girls around the world who are leaders in building a sustainable future for everyone.

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