# Transcription of Enterprising Australians video Olivia O’Connor Rocking Horse

The video for this transcript can be found on the Questacon YouTube channel at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\_continue=44&v=jK1K-I5UjfY

## Transcription from video:

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| Isla:  Olivia:  Isla:  Olivia:  Isla:  Olivia:  Both:  Olivia:  Isla:  Olivia:  Isla:  Olivia:  Isla:  Olivia:  Isla:  Olivia:  Isla:  Olivia: | [music]  Olivia, you make rocking horses, how did you get into wood carving?  Well I was lucky enough I grew up on a farm, and my dad was a horse trainer so I was always around horses, and in high school I loved wood work, so after high school I went and studied furniture design and construction at RMIT but then I left there and I went to NIDA in Sydney where I studied prop making and scenic art, and there I actually made my first rocking horse.  A lot of my carving woodwork skills I learned actually from YouTube videos.  Really?  Yeah, I learnt a lot off YouTube videos.  Do you have a favourite person on YouTube that you follow, or?  No, it’s usually old men and their grandson has been like, “Oi, Grandad! Let me film you doing this!”  [laughter]  I thought it would be a fun business so that was the first step I guess. I saved for a year and a half so I would have enough money to buy all of the tools and machineries I needed.  I left Sydney and moved to South Gippsland and set up a workshop, and I went on a small business course.  What’s it like working in a setting where you don’t really fit the traditional mould?  Ah, well I work by myself and for myself so I don’t encounter it much on a day to day. It’s more when I do fairs like this, people expect me to be an old man, and they’re quite shocked, basically that I’m not.  It works quite well in my favour in a lot of ways because then people remember me and I stick out in their memories.  And you’re a part of this community, like the Lost Trades fair.  Yeah.  What’s it like working in a community like this?  Because a lot of us make work by ourselves, you just feel like you’re a crazy person stuck in a shed alone and it’s great to realise that there’s all these other people like it. And even though we all have different trades and skills, a lot of the practical skill side crosses over, but also running your own business and promoting yourself and everything, we can share a lot of information like that.  We live in quite a digital world where entertainment, and just, things, are really cheaply and readily accessible. How do you compete in a world like that with your rocking horses?  I think the best thing is I try not to compete with a disposable society and that in itself establishes my difference. You can buy a rocking horse for $80 off the internet, but it’s made of plastic and will last six months. Or, you can buy one of mine, that’s hand-carved timber. If you look after it, it will basically last you for five, six generations easily.  I’ve just started doing classes so I’m really excited about that, so it will be teaching people how to make their own rocking horse. So really, I’m trying to, because I self-taught myself a lot of the skills and I’m just trying to pass that on so that more and more people know how to do it basically!  If you had to give your younger self some advice, what would that be?  I hesitated starting a business because I was scared it would fail and I think it would be great to be like “Don’t be so nervous.” Because if you’re passionate about something, other people will follow through on that.  [Enterprising Australians Logo] |
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