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PASSION FOR FASHION

Local designer's success proves to be inspiration for budding fashionistas

Olena Luggassi, a local fashion designer, has had many highlights during her fashion design career, however she finds true joy in sharing her passion with others.

Growing up in Ukraine, at the age of five, Olena first developed her passion for design by playing with paper dolls.

With a grandmother and a mother who loved to sew as a hobby, it was only natural that she would grow up with the same passion.

From the age of 12, Olena was taught how to sew by her mother and her talent continued from there.

After moving to Australia 12 years ago, Olena launched her own fashion line, but it wasn't without facing many sleepless nights.

"It was very challenging to develop my own line I spent all-day, everyday searching for design inspiration and preparing for my fashion show," she said.

In addition to her own fashion line, Olena has worked for the renowned Whitehouse Institute of Design in Sydney and she has qualifications in teaching and advanced qualifications in design.

Since creating her own line, Olena moved to Penrith where she has lived for four years.

"I am still designing every day but my passion now is teaching others to design and create a passion for the world of design within them," Olena said.

Throughout the year Olena runs courses and workshops at a home-based studio here in Penrith for anyone who is interested in fashion

design or manufacture.

"Fashion has always been part of my heart and part of my family and that is what I want to share with my students," she said.

Olena has had students who have gone on to launch their own fashion lines and others who have simply developed a great passion for design as a hobby.

"Every day is a highlight of my career. I spend every single hour of every day doing what I love and that is true success in life," she said.

"One day I hope that my students will share my passion for what I do."

Olena has a number of upcoming workshops in store. If you are interested in learning from Olena or joining one of her classes, visit her website www.fashionshoptilludrop.com.

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