

## WORKING FORWARD

### STORIES OF WOMEN IN CAREERS IN TRADES

#### Career Pathways for Women and Girls:

#### Emergent & Non-traditional Occupations and Industries [Viable Work]

## MAREE

### Painter and Decorator

I became a painter 11 years ago at 42 years of age. I did my apprenticeship and now I am self-employed. When I divorced at 42 I had already some experience in painting. I did a Work Opportunities for Women course at TAFE in Painting and Decorating. This was very useful to get me started.

I find it an advantage being a woman in my trade. I take more interest in my work and my clients see me as caring, helpful and considerate.

But I don't have the strength of a man when sometimes it's

needed, so I hire men when I need this strength to get a job done.

If women and girls want to do a job like this I would recommend it - they should go for it if they want to do this.

More information and advertising is needed to let girls and women know there are possibilities out there. I will tell my story of how I became a painter and if I can do it, anyone can.

I think we should organise free seminars, print fliers and distribute them to employment offices and bring women who have succeeded together to talk about their jobs



SALT – *Supporting & Linking Tradeswomen* assisted WAVE to examine critical factors to promote more women having successful careers in trades areas – this is Cyndi's story.

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See [www.wave.org.au](http://www.wave.org.au)