

It happened to me!

Cosmetic cures

Michele Curren, 60, Bondi Junction, NSW

I kept a steady hand as I glossed my client's nails. At 40, I was a beautician and owned my own salon but I was keen to branch out. 'What about cosmetic tattooing?' a colleague Val, 50, suggested.

'What's that?' I asked. Val explained it was like make-up, only semi-permanent. 'Lipstick, eyeliner, eyebrow colouring – it can all be done,' she said.

She explained that normal tattoos penetrated the third layer of skin while cosmetic tattooing only went to the second layer. It produced a softer and subtler result that would fade over two years. I was fascinated.

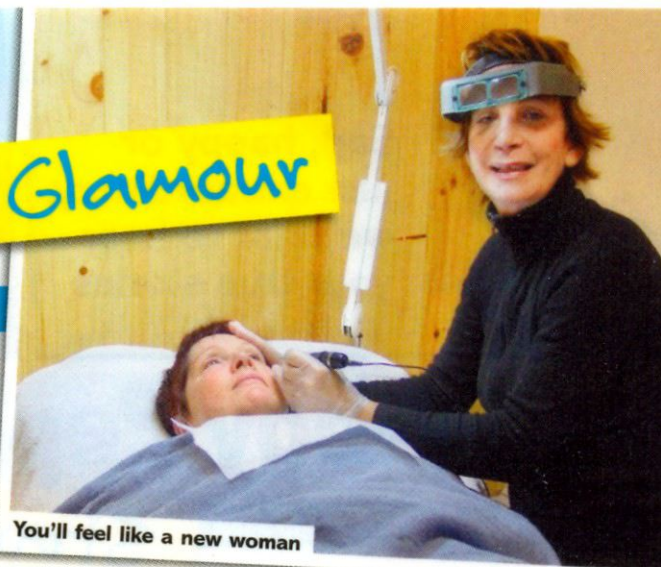
'You, a tattooist?' my husband, Donald, 56, chuckled when I told him. 'I'll try,' I nodded. 'Imagine the time it will save women.'

I signed up to do a course with Val and she suggested using my own face. I was terrified but knew I'd benefit from the experience. Without any anaesthetic, the procedure was painful and I wasn't convinced by the results at first. 'It's very dark,' I frowned, staring at my eyebrows in the mirror. Val said they'd fade and look natural and she was right. A week later my eyebrows looked terrific!

I immediately got practising. Fortunately, after a year, the tools of cosmetic tattooing improved and anaesthetic gels and creams were introduced.

With the qualifications under my belt, I opened my business, Cosmetic Creations. 'I'm scared,' my first client said. 'I was too when I first had it done,'

Glamour



I said. 'You're in good hands.' Because I was a perfectionist, I meticulously placed each dot in just the right place on her eyebrows. 'I love it,' she beamed.

After that, my client base grew. Elderly ladies whose eyesight and steadiness were deteriorating asked me to tattoo their make-up. Busy mums came in as they had no time to apply make-up.

One day, a 12-year-old girl came in with her mum. She'd had chickenpox and a large scar had formed on her hairline. 'The other kids tease her,' her mother told me.

When I'd finished tattooing hair strokes on the scar, the little girl was overjoyed. 'It didn't even hurt!' she said, beaming.

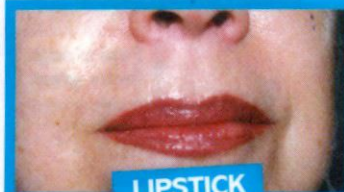
The most rewarding client

was a woman who'd had breast cancer. She'd had surgery and wanted the areola around the nipple recoloured to look more natural. I felt honoured to be part of her journey to recovery. 'Thank you,' she wept. 'I feel like a woman again.'

Men came in too. Many asked me to conceal receding hairlines. The tattoo needle can also make scars disappear. Without using ink, the needle stimulates skin to bring its natural colour back.

I've been a cosmetic tattooist for 19 years now and I'm amazed not many people have heard of it. I know for a fact it changes lives. ■

For more information, visit www.cosmeticcreations.com.au or call 0419 432 254.



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