

A Repurposed Life

By Ronni Kahn with Jessica Chapnik Kahn

'I could never have imagined that a small problem at work would lead me to change my life forever, and that just by doing that it led me to my joy, and to redesigning, reconfiguring, and repurposing my life.' Ronni Kahn.

As the owner of a successful events company, throwing away huge volumes of leftover food at the end of the day came with the territory. But when Ronni Kahn hit midlife, she found herself no longer able to turn a blind eye to her food waste problem. Hand delivering the untouched food to homeless shelters around Sydney became her renegade solution. Little did she know that fixing her small problem at work would lead her to unlock a hidden purpose at the very core of her inner life.

Written in collaboration with her daughter-in-law, Jessica Chapnik Kahn, *A Repurposed Life* is the deeply personal story of how Ronni found her voice, her heart and her deepest calling. For the first time, Ronni shares her early years growing up under the brutal system of apartheid South Africa, the time she spent in a socialist commune in Israel, and the years of decadence that ultimately led her to a profound new way of living and giving.

'These days I'm often asked what the ingredients are to a 'purpose-filled' life. All I can tell you for sure is that the day I really started questioning what was meaningful to me, everything changed,' Ronni writes.

Now founder and CEO of the food rescue organisation OzHarvest, Ronni leads hundreds of staff and thousands of volunteers with the goal to nourish Australia. She serves in an advisory capacity to government and is an instrumental leader in changing federal laws to improve social justice and environmental policies.

Shared with the humour, warmth and energy that have made her an internationally renowned keynote speaker, this heartfelt exploration of the choices that define us will speak to anyone seeking a more passionate expression of being alive.

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A Repurposed Life

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'Inspiring, wonderfully honest and very much needed.'
TIM FLANNERY

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'I hope that this book inspires each and every one of you to really live the very best expression of your life, because that is really all that we can do - to be the very best we can and to give whatever it is that we have to offer to this world,' Ronni says.

Praise for *A Repurposed Life*

'You don't get used to living permanently behind the eight ball - no matter how long you've done it, it doesn't get easier. There's a constant sense of shame that eats away at you, making you feel that you're just not good enough. Some people are so poor that they can't even afford to feel shame. Ronni Kahn, through her work with OzHarvest, does the very thing that offers hope to those in the poverty trap: restore dignity and remove shame. This is her story.' **JIMMY BARNES**

'From the founder of OzHarvest, an ebullient, generous memoir with an exhilarating message.' **ANNABEL CRABB**

'Brimming with energy, altruism and refreshing candour.' **QUENTIN BRYCE**

'The inspiring story of a woman with a big heart who dared to make a difference. This is a must-read book. I couldn't put it down.' **ITA BUTTROSE**

'Ronni Kahn is a force of nature. She has taught so many of us about the importance of embracing community and compassion through offering and sharing our food to those most vulnerable in our society.' **KYLIE KWONG**

'Ronni Kahn is a one-woman freight train for the force of good. She is living testament to the awesome power of living in a way that is real and wholehearted, and whether people know it or not, that is why they are drawn to her. This book is not only a beautifully conveyed account of Ronni's story, but it also serves as inspiration for anyone who chooses to see life's challenges as opportunities to grow. Through serving others, there is the very real possibility we may find a sense of purpose, connectedness and joy.'

MELISSA LEONG

'Inspiring, wonderfully honest and very much needed.' **TIM FLANNERY**



About the Authors

Ronni Kahn is a South-African born Australian social entrepreneur and founder of the food rescue charity OzHarvest. She is an advocate, lobbyist and activist well renowned for disrupting the food waste landscape in Australia. She appears regularly in national media, serves in an advisory capacity to government, and is a keynote speaker all over the world.

Her mission towards sustainable action is supported through close collaborations with some of the world's finest chefs, including Jamie Oliver, Massimo Bottura, Neil Perry and Bill Granger. Ronni is an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) and was named Australian Local Hero of the Year in 2010. In 2018 her journey became the subject of a feature film, *Food Fighter*, directed by Dan Goldberg.

Jessica Chapnik Kahn is an Argentinian-Australian singer-songwriter, actor and writer. She has worked in theatre and TV, played in the bands of some of Australia's finest artists, and released two solo albums under the moniker Appleonia. She is the author of children's book *Lenny and the Ants* and poetry collection *MADRE*, which was inspired by the birth of her son, Lev. Jessica lives in Sydney and is married to musician Nadav Kahn. She is happy to call Ronni her mother-in-law.



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