



A celebration to remember

Migrating to Australia from Kalavrita, a small village in Peloponnese, Greece at the tender age of 11, little did Jim Ronis know that he would one day be a well respected real estate guru - celebrating 40 years in business.

Living in Redfern in inner city Sydney, Jim went to school at Gardeners Road, Mascot before taking over his parents' mixed business store on the corner of Chapel Road and Canterbury Road in Bankstown, named Dunlops Corner.

Meeting Kitty, his wife of 37 years, the pair were married and bought their first home in Greenacre.

Realising his passion for selling and real estate, Jim opened up a real estate agency in Bankstown, aptly named Ronis Real Estate.

Going from strength to strength throughout the years, Jim built a small empire and now has a staff of nine and many well respected friends in the local community.

With three children who are all successful in their chosen fields, Peter as a solicitor and Joanne who is employed in the banking industry, it was former motor mechanic George who decided to make the transition from his career to real estate.

Following in his father's footsteps, George has also made a name for himself in property management.

Honoured and humbled by the love of the community they service, George attributes his father's success to his honest and hard-working approach to business.

"I feel very honoured by the support we have received by the local people, this is a rarity in this day and age. To celebrate 40 years in the industry, we had a traditional Greek party, a night filled with drinking, eating, dancing and breaking plates", George said.

With more than 220 guests made up of customers, family and friends the night kicked off at 7pm with speeches from Bankstown Mayor Tania Mihailuk, Torch Newspapers Managing Director John Engisch and Bankstown Sports President John Murray.

A fabulous party was had by all.

"It was supposed to be a surprise party for my father but, of course, he found out about it", George said.

Happily residing in Picnic Point, Jim is

looking forward to Ronis Real Estate being an integral pillar in the community for many years to come.

Describing the 40th bash as a 'real Greek party' Jim Ronis was proud, yet humbled by the enormity of his achievements.

Breaking dozens of plates, dancing the Zorba with Bankstown Mayor Tania Mihailuk and enjoying the bouzouki player's solos Jim was happy that all his prominent guests enjoyed themselves.

"The night went on to 2am and everyone was dancing and having a great time. The speeches made me reminisce as there were so many things said that I had forgotten throughout the years, a lot of great memories", Jim remembered.

A salesman from the age of eight, Jim remembered selling fish in the village in Greece to make a living for his family, real estate though was another thing altogether.

Stumbling through the first few years, Jim worked his way through it all and now is a well respected community member.

"I did make the mistake of starting my own office without experience and it took a little longer to establish. I didn't know how to list properties in those days.

Eventually I learnt the trade and now I am here, Jim said. With plenty of good times throughout the years Jim remembers one in particular and still cannot help but giggle at it.

Going to appraise a property for an 85 year old man with former employee Ben, the pair were dressed in suits and ties, even though it was an extremely hot day in February and the pair were sweating. Wanting to hurry the process up as the heat was intense, the 85 year old man wanted to have a yarn in the backyard as he enjoyed their company, but upon stating that the house was nice until his wife had passed on, without a second thought, Jim replied, "that's good".

Luckily the elderly man did not realise what Jim had implied, but Jim still remembers it as one of those foot-in-mouth moments of all time. Passing the reigns of the business onto George in the future, Jim hopes that his legacy will continue through his grandchildren and generations to come.

Article from The Torch



More than 220 customers, family and friends helped Ronis Real Estate celebrate 40 years in the industry.

