

Peter Spanos Fifty Years in the Local Area!



Between a snip and clip, there is a story, as Peter Spanos reaches the milestone of being a barber in the Bankstown area for fifty years.

Having been trained and then working in Athens, Greece, Peter and his family migrated to Australia in 1964. As a young seventeen year old, he balanced working at the Tip Top factory in Newtown, attending English lessons at night school and cutting hair for a Russian barber in Bankstown.

Finishing the fourth year of his apprenticeship as a barber, Peter worked for a Greek barber whose shop was in Tower St, north Panania but his dream was always to open up his own barber shop.

An opportunity arose when Peter found a vacant shop in East Hills and he could lease out the premises for a barber shop. At the time, trains terminated at East Hills as it was the last stop on the East Hills railway line.

Peter remembers East Hills in the late 1960s was like a small village, with only the East Hills Hotel and a couple of shops but, over the years, East Hills shopping centre began to grow with more shops.

In the early 1980s, Peter's stay at East Hills came to an end when the State Rail Authority plans for a new station, as the railway line was being extended from East Hills to Campbelltown, forced Peter out, 'After nineteen years, I was forced to leave. East Hills was my home; I had spent more years in East Hills and than in Greece.' Peter was lucky enough to find a vacant shop in Panania shopping centre and, after renovating the premises, opened Peter's Hairdressing Salon. Peter has worked in Panania ever since.

Although Peter has always striven to provide the best quality service for his customers, his barber shop is known for its friendly atmosphere, where people feel comfortable to meet and socialise.

One rewarding aspect of his job is when Peter cuts the hair of customers in the same family, who have been coming to the shop for decades and he finds himself having cut the hair of four generations,

'This makes me feel that I am part of their family too.'

Reflecting on his fifty years of working as a barber, Peter acknowledges just how important the local area is in his own life, 'I left school when I was thirteen years old and migrated here when I was only seventeen. I was blessed to have found my shop in Panania; in the 1970s, my family put roots in the ground and we have lived in the local area ever since.'

