

Evangelos K Dellis



King Style Furniture, Newtown

Before Marrickville became 'Little Athens' by the mid 1970s- early 1980s, it was Newtown, and surrounding suburbs such as Enmore, St Peters and Erskineville, that were the major Greek suburb in Sydney. Prior to Marrickville Road becoming an artery of Greek shops from Marrickville to Dulwich Hill, as Greeks converged on this vibrant shopping strip, it was King St which was lined with Greek shops- from nightclubs to delicatessens, from hairdressers to takeaways.

One family who has been trading in Newtown for several decades is the Dellis' who run the furniture shop, King Style Living (don't you love the pun!) on southern side of King Street.

Vasilis Vasilas recently interviewed Evangelos Dellis about his story as a used furniture/furniture trader, which he found very interesting how Evangelos went from delicatessens to used furniture shops, and has witnessed the great changes to Newtown as a suburb. With his brother, Kostas, they opened their first used furniture shop in Arncliffe and then moved to Concord- where they introduced new furniture to the shop. From there, they moved to the northern side of King Street, Newtown, where they traded for a couple of decades before moving to their current premises in the early 2000s. His customer base was always very different. As Evangelos points out, 'It does not matter what nationality our customers are; they can be from very different background. What is important to them is the best price! Our customers can be university students or professionals. They can be old migrants (like myself) or 'newer' migrants.'

For many years now, Evangelos has both his sons, Giorgos and Dimitris, working with him, ensuring the business passes to the next generation.

What impressed Vasilis about Evangelos' story was his passion for the work he does as he recounted having to deal with several customers across a wide floor space (in the old shop) at the same time- you can be dealing with one customer but I had my eye on another- and his description of getting a great deal in buying furniture- from deceased estates or auctions- was like an adrenalin rush.

Vasilis also enjoyed Evangelos' sense of local history, as he recounted how, in the 1990s, the stretch between Alice Street and Lord/Concord Streets was dead and so many shops were empty. For some years now, this part of Newtown has enjoyed a renaissance with so many cafes and restaurants opening up, 'This part of Newtown has come alive again...'

