

One of the most underrated, and unrecognised, sections of the Greek community's contribution to Sydney business is definitely the automotive services industry. At its peaking in the late 1970's and 1980's, the inner-west Sydney industrial areas were filled with Greek-owned mechanic and other automotive - related workshops. One of the most important automotive workshops in Sydney is the auto electrical workshop, Dynamo Automotive.

On May 30, 2017, Vasilis Vasilas interviewed Jim and Roula Markellos, and their son, John, about the rise and rise of Dynamo Automotive and its long history.

## Jim & John Markellos: Dynamo, St Peters



It was Jim Markellos who established the business at St Peters in 1963. With its central and busy position on the corner of Princess Hwy and Gardeners Road, Dynamo became such a hub for auto electrical work for cars. Unlike so many Greek migrants who worked hard to save up enough money for a deposit for a house, Jim actually bought his business first and continued to rent a room while he continued to work hard to build up his business. During very busy periods, where it was a priority to finish all the jobs, Jim would not go home to sleep... he would sleep in the rear of the workshop!

Jim's brother, Vasilis, was also a partner in the business for a couple of decades.

From the mid 1990's, Jim's son, John, began working at Dynamo, ensuring the trade and business would pass to the next generation. Since 2010, John has taken over the business after his father's retirement.

In a very sad twist of fate, and after fifty years of service to community, the Markellos had to 'give up' their premises to Westconnex, for the proposed motorway, and they have since moved to 347 Princess Hwy, St Peters.

As John points out, 'Our old workshop meant so much more to us; it was a second home. I practically grew up there. Our family worked those premises for over fifty years; it was unfortunate that we had to leave our second home.'

Vasilis points out Jim's shops was one of the first Greek-owned auto-electrical workshops in Sydney and serviced so many service stations and mechanical workshops for alternators and starters right across Sydney, "Who did not drive pass the corner of Princess Hwy & Gardeners Rd, St Peters, and see the distinctive white building of Dynamo Automotive? The Makellos family were there for over fifty years!"

