



Lefteris Samios: DIGASA metal Fabrication, Peakhurst

Migrating to Australia in the 1950s, Lefteris would work as a blacksmith at PMG for many years before his friend, Manuel Gazepis, encouraged him to go on his own (business). With Manuel and Sotiris Dimopoulos, the three of them established the metalwork business, DIGASA; how did they name the business? With the first two letters of their surnames; Di (mopoulos), Ga (zepis) and Sa (mios)!!! The three partners started with a workshop in Farr St, Marrickville; Lefteris and Sotiris would continue it at their factory in Hutchinson St, St Peters; as their business continued to grow, it became more and more difficult loading and unloading their trucks in their narrow street. So, Lefteris continued DIGASA with his son, John, and they eventually moved to Peakhurst. At their peak in the 1980s, DIGASA was booming, working on the construction of several Westfield shopping centres, Marrickville Metro, lots of schools and churches, Westmead Hospital and St George Private and Public hospitals. They even did work for Kerry Packer on his Elleston farm! Despite a significant setback during the late 1980s recession, Lefteris and John worked very hard to overcome their enormous challenges and continued working together until the mid 2000s.

In 2006, Lefteris decided to sell the premises and retired, with John moving on and working to Ace Gutters. When the passion burns in you, however, it just does not fade away! In Lefteris' case, he wanted to remain active and work with his passion-metal fabrication. So, he bought the current premises at Peakhurst and, with his loyal friend and worker- the brother he never had, Giorgos Zigas-, continues to measure up and create metal work. And John is always around after to help out too!

Don't you love when you hear of a trade or business being passed down from generation to generation, When you hear someone say, 'I come from a family of....' one only wonders what is it that connects a family to their chosen work over generations! It must a very special connection... One such family is the Samios' which have (an incredible) four generations of metalworkers and Vasilis Vasilas recently interviewed Lefteris Samios at his DIGASA workshop in Peakhurst. As Lefteris pointed out, his grandfather, Lefteris, had a metalwork/blacksmith workshop in Mytilene, Lesvos, and his father, loannis, worked with metal, he (himself) does metal fabrication and his son, John (loannis) also does so! Lefteris, loannis, Lefteris and loannis... That is four generations of metal workers!!!

