



Tasos & Steliy Georgiou

Olympic Hardware



Times change. With the market continually changing, our shopping behavior changes too! There were times when bread and milk were delivered to people's homes! Decades ago, there were long strips of shops in the larger suburbs where you parked your car and went from shop to shop... shopping centres changed that. In more recent years, online shopping has dramatically changed the way shop, as we have access to the global market. We went from localised shopping to global shopping in a couple of generations!

So, it is a great feeling when you come across a family-run business where the shop keepers continue to provide good ol' fashioned customer service. On April 8, 2017, Vasilis interviewed Tasos and Steliy Georgiou of Olympic Hardware in Lakemba and incidentally are celebrating their 40th year of operation this year since their business opened to the public.

Interesting enough is the naming of their business 'Olympic', Is there a more Greek name than 'Olympic'? Tasos named the shop after his beloved soccer team, Sydney Olympic, who started their NSL campaign that year too. Tasos and his son, Steliy, recount a great story about receiving correspondence from Australia's Olympic Committee stating not to use the Olympic Games' rings as a company logo as they were patented; they even had an issue with the name Olympic. Tasos reaction was, 'They can have the rings but who are they to tell me not to call my shop, Olympic- I am more Greek than them.'

Steliy has worked with his parents, Tasos and Georgia, ever since he finished high school in 1986, making this truly a great family business.

As Steliy points out, the hardware industry has changed dramatically; there were always larger chains of hardware stores... they just got larger! As a result, so many of the local hardware shops shut down. And this has a domino effect because so many supplies went out of business too. So, this is what makes local businesses so special, as Vasilis states, 'These businesses continue to be competitive with the large 'monoliths' of business; what is special about Olympic is you can walk in there and Steliy has the experience and time to demonstrate how something works! In these megastores, it is often 'spot the staff member' or you have to rely on a monitor...'

After forty years, Tasos, Steliy and Georgia have acquired the invaluable experience and knowledge to provide a high-quality hands-on service to their customers- that's what keeps them coming back!

Happy Birthday Olympic Hardware and many happy returns.