

One of the admirable aspects of shop keepers and their businesses is when the shop keeper fulfils a childhood dream and opens a business which he always wanted to do. On April 24, 2017, Vasilis has recently interviewed Harry Chondros whose family owns Enfield Produce and Pets... Yes, a Greek pet shop in Sydney! Jam-packed with products and pets!

Vasilis believes Harry is one of the most colourful Greeks he has ever met, 'When Harry was working in Tumut NSW (1960s), at the Excelsior Café, he became so much part of the local community that he played rugby league for the Wynyard Pub's team, Wynyard Wobblers, became a bull-jumper at the local rodeo club, which competed in rodeos all over NSW (and even Queensland) and even trained in Ju-jitsu... which is simply amazing for any Greek migrant at the time.'

Harry Chondros

*Never too late...
to realise a childhood
dream*



Harry's love for animals dates back to his childhood in Agia Paraskevi, Lesvos; his childhood dream to grow up and become a vet.

Although fate took Harry to the other side of the world, Australia, where he worked for decades in country cafes and seafood shops, his love for birds never ceased, 'In Australia, I bought my first two budgies from a shop in Wagga Wagga; as, I did not have a cage, I created my own cage. I remember asking my brother-in-law, Harry, if I could have a cage at the rear of our shop, the Excelsior Café. Once I started breeding birds, our backyard was full of cages! Our backyard was transformed into a mini-aviary!'

An opportunity came up to buy a 'general store' type of shop on Coronation Pde, Enfield. Over the years, the pet and produce aspects of the business simply grew and grew. Harry's wife, Kiki, was very supportive in transforming the business into a pet and produce shop. Over time, their sons, Miltos and Theodoris, have come to work in the shop. Harry proudly admits, 'They have really brought the shop to a higher level, as

they have taken advantage of the far reaches of the internet and the shop now sells so many products online. My sons also introduced gardening products to the shop and that part of our business has really been successful.'

On a serious side, Vasilis greatly admires Harry and his family's determination and love for their work. 'Having to compete with the megastores such as Bunnings and Petbarn does not daunt them in any way; they provide the customer service and good quality products customers want and this is why they have such a thriving business,' Vasilis explains.

