

Celebrating 30 years

Stephen O'Hara takes a step back in time

FOR 30 years Moree Retravision (now Leading Appliances) has served the Moree shire.

Owner Stephen O'Hara took over the role when his father Geoff passed away in 1998 and has seen the store move from the Criterion Centre to its current location on Balo Street.

He had previously spent time in Dubbo and felt he didn't "want to see the business go", he said.

Before Retravision, the company traded under the name of Betta Electrical Buying Group which they traded under until 1990.

A shop next door in the Criterion Centre closed down in 2000 and the ambitious crew at Retravision then expanded into the store.

"We were fairly crammed into the old shop," Mr O'Hara said at the time.

He said the new location in Balo Street had allowed them to become more competitive and was twice the size of the old store.

"We've got that frontage onto the main street instead of being in an arcade.

"Within the shop itself we can now display things a lot better than they previously were."

One of the many benefits of the store has been the minimal turnover of staff with many of the current members being around the company for a long time.

Margaret Hobday, Janice Cook, Stephen O'Hara, Ian Patterson, Dave Cunningham, James Cubis and Brent Kendall stood out the front of the new building in 2008 after moving from the Criterion Centre. Margaret, Janice, Stephen and Dave are all current staff at Leading Appliances.





MOREE RACE CLUB INCORPORATED

RACING CALENDAR FOR 2014/2015

MOREE RACE CLUB	
THURSDAY 24 TH JULY 2014	- TAB RACE DAY
SUNDAY 7 TH SEPTEMBER 2014	- MOREE CUP (TAB)
FRIDAY 31 ST OCTOBER 2014	- 'TRADIES' TAB RACE DAY
SATURDAY 20 TH DECEMBER 2014	- TWILIGHT XMAS
SATURDAY 21 ST FEBRUARY 2015	- COTTON CUP
SATURDAY 28 TH MARCH 2015	- EASTER SATURDAY

The Moree Race Club wishes Steve, Casey and their staff congratulations on a great milestone, and also thanks them for the support they have given the Club in the past."

Carrying on tradition

AFTER winning the local 'Jetsetters' competition in 1987, Geoff O'Hara, pledged a lifetime commitment to supporting local businesses.

Geoff's son, Stephen, has decided to carry on tradition and sponsor the competition, so all of his shoppers have the chance to be a winner.

In 1987, Mr O'Hara said he "had a funny feeling" about the Jetsetters competition when he entered the draw

on 2VM. "I said to Pam (Mrs O'Hara) I think I'm going to win it - and I did," he said. He won a 29-day trip to Europe, where he stayed in first class accommodation in Singapore, England, Belgium, Holland, Germany Switzerland and Austria.

The competition is still running today, but is now known as the Summer Daze competition and first prize is a car.



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Members of the Leading Appliances team: Casey O'Hara, Janice Cook, Margaret Hobday, Steve McWilliams and Steve O'Hara stand under their birthday banners. Some staff are absent.

Long associations with O'Hara businesses

MARGARET Hobday and Janice Cook are two of the friendly faces which will normally greet you when you walk in the door at Leading Appliances.

Margaret's connection with owner Stephen O'Hara dates way back to the 1980s when his father Geoff ran a HomeCrafts business.

She followed him to his Beta Electrical business and she stayed on as an employee when it changed to Retravision in the early 1990s.

Geoff passed away in 1998 and now Stephen runs the busi-

ness, but Margaret is still there and she said she had taken pleasure in being around the family-run business for more than 30 years.

"I must enjoy it because I wouldn't be here otherwise," she said.

Ms Hobday said the arrival of computers over the years had made her job much easier.

"Before we used to have to send all our paperwork to the man in Sydney," she said.

Fellow sales assistant Janice is another long-serving employee at Leading Appliances and said she

saw working there as being like part of a family.

Originally from Moree, Janice started working at Retravision after she spent around 18 years working at Chandler's.

"It's very, very good and I just love working here," she said.

Both ladies were happy with the direction Leading Appliances was taking and said the local township was lucky to have good business people in charge.

"Stephen's put his whole life into the business," Mrs Cook said.

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