

## Gibson Hairdressing - Our Proud History..

Colin Gibson started his apprenticeship with Cec Benson in 1958 at the premises of 278 Crown St Wollongong, which was opposite Marcus Clarks. Half way through Col's apprenticeship, He was transferred to the second shop that Cec Benson opened in the Piccadilly Shopping Centre. Piccadilly Shopping Centre was opened in 1961, in those days this was the first multi shop complex built in Wollongong and was considered very modern and popular.

Col worked with Cec Benson until he was nearly 21 at which time he decided he would open his own business. His first shop was situated at number 1 Railway Street, East Corrimal and he continued working there for 23 years. During that time he built up a great clientele of which most people were more than just customers, many formed long term friendships which continue today.

His departure from Corrimal for 10 years saw him working from his home in Wollongong. This gave him the opportunity to spend more time with his wife Colleen and to help raise his three young children whilst working together. The majority of his devoted clientele followed him as his business moved around throughout the years.

As his three children matured, Col decided it was time to make the move back to Corrimal. This enabled him to expand his business and also give other young people an opportunity to learn the trade. He opened a successful business at 170 Princess Highway Corrimal (next to RSL club) where he operated for 9 years. Apart from his regular clientele, many of his former customers gradually returned when they heard he had re-opened in Corrimal.

After 9 years next to the RSL club, the opportunity arose to move to the current, more central position, on the corner of the Princes Highway and Russell Street, Corrimal. We have been operating in this shop for the past 15+ years. Col has successfully trained a number of apprentices including his daughter Kathleen, son Brendan, and daughter-in-law Rebecca.

Currently the business continues its proud history with Col's eldest son Brendan and daughter-in-law Rebecca running the family business. With Col now in his mid 70's he is just happy to lend a hand a few days a week. Col still enjoys his work, meeting new people and always catching up with old friends. From many of his loyal clients, Col and his family are now cutting the 3rd generation from the same family!

Hairdressing has given Col such fulfillment throughout his life. Not only the friendships formed but also the ability to educate others. Traditional barbering techniques are gradually being lost, he has been fortunate to pass on some of these skills. Col has this achievement to carry with him for the rest of his life, that the skills taught to his family and apprentices are being taught to others and his children will carry on the business he created well into the future.

Thank you for being part of our History.

GIBSON HAIRDRESSING – ESTABLISHED 1964