



Gregory Machinery 2nd Generation Celebrates 25 Years

When Keith Gregory left his job as a cabinetmaker to sell Sawmaster Radial Arm Saws to Queensland builders, he could hardly have foreseen that the enterprise he established in 1954 would still be flourishing as a supplier of woodworking equipment in 2009!

It cannot have been easy to convince builders of the need to embrace a new and radical way of working, particularly when it involved a substantial investment. There was a credit squeeze at the time and builders were facing increased competition in a dwindling market after the end of the post-War building boom.

In those days, houses in and around Brisbane where Keith lived with his wife Shirley and their three children, were built principally with wooden frames.

There were none of the soft options that are available today such as long, straight lengths of Radiata Pine and site-



delivered, pre-assembled components such as wall frames and roof trusses.

Tough, heavy hardwood, was delivered green to the building site and was worked exclusively with hand tools.

Bottom and top wall plates were trenched to accept the wall studs and mortise joints were sometimes used for

parts of the construction such as the roof frame.

A Radial Arm saw was a powerful addition to the chippie's tool kit but, desirable as it must have seemed, it was probably only Keith's demonstration of trenching that resulted in many of the sales that he made. He could show that the saw could perform the same work in only seven seconds as took three minutes to do by hand.

Increasingly, houses began to be built using Sawmaster Saws. So were many other types of building and members of the family remember a site at Broadbeach where a petrol-driven Sawmaster was set up among the sand dunes. It was there to assist in the construction of the original Lennon's Hotel, later to become a Gold Coast landmark.

During the years that followed, the saws were used for almost all of the other buildings on the Gold Coast.



