Morgan's IGA celebrates a golden business milestone

Morgan's IGA is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Jack and Audrey Morgan founded the business in 1971 when they opened their first supermarket in Melton, under the Tuckerbag banner.

A 100 percent family-owned and operated business, Jack and Audrey Morgan's sons Roger, Neal and Peter later expanded the brand into other towns. Now, Morgan's IGA has stores in Melton, Sunbury, Gisborne, Delahey and West Sunshine. Roger's son Jay and Peter's son William are both heavily involved in the business, carrying on their family's legacy and proudly representing the Morgan name.

> "We have some employees that've been here for decades" - Neal Morgan

As a community-based business, Morgan's IGA is pleased to be able to give back to the local area. Through sponsorships, donations and more, Morgan's is able to support the community that has been expanding with it as a business over the past 50 years.

"We've been running the business for ages, and I've been around the whole time," said managing director Neal Morgan.

"We have some employees that've been here for decades, and the customers love seeing their familiar, friendly faces."

Ross Brancatisano has worked at Morgan's IGA for 20 years, while fellow staff members Judy Corrall and Gerry Patmore have been a part of the team for an impressive 40 years.

Employing locals young and old, Morgan's IGA is proud to provide an exceptional level of service and high quality products to customers. One cent from each IGA-branded product marked with the Community Chest logo is set aside for a local group or charity, which is chosen at the end of the year and receives the funds raised throughout the past 12 months.

Two organisations supported by Morgan's IGA are Reach, providing workshops for young people run by young leaders, and the Country Fire Authority.

It is set to be an exciting 18 months ahead for Morgan's IGA, with significant store developments in the works.

For member rewards, weekly specials and locations, visit www.morgansiga.com.au

Above: Judy Corrall, Gerry Patmore, Neal Morgan, Peter Morgan and Ross Brancatisano. (Damjan Janevski) 255639_01

Left: The original Morgan's IGA began under the Tuckerbag label in Melton 50 years ago. (Supplied)

Enjoy a fun-filled escape at Xplosions Bar and Bowl

Xplosions Bar and Bowl in Melton was started by three locals who felt that the area needed more in the way of fun for all ages and abilities.

Since opening in August 2019, Xplosions Bar and Bowl has become a family-friendly escape from everyday life, where everyone can enjoy a few hours of good old-fashioned fun.

With ten lanes of tenpin bowling, a pool room, digital darts, over 35 arcade games and a fully licensed cafe, Xplosions Bar and Bowl is perfect for functions such as kids parties and corporate events.

Owners Lisa Houston, Mark Mullins and Mark Opie all came from various corporate backgrounds and wanted to try something new and exciting.

"We started chatting over a few bevvies and wanted to try something a little different," Lisa says.

"I'm not sure at the time that we knew what we were getting ourselves into – we did know we wanted to do something that was fun that involved the community in the west where we all grew up."

With the business motto of 'don't grow up, it's a trap,' Xplosions Bar and Bowl is entertainment suited to all members of the family, from little ones to grandparents, with the venue accessible to prams and wheelchairs.

Xplosions has created a program that recognises positive interactions and behaviours by kids in grassroots sport programs. The Contribution Awards Program provides rewards to kids involved in community sport associations for things such as helping their coach, assisting in the community canteen without being asked and even kicking or shooting the winning goal in a game.

As a relatively new business, Xplosions has certainly faced pandemic-related challenges like most other small businesses in Victoria. However, locals from the Melton and surrounding areas have remained supportive of their community and its businesses.

"It's been very challenging due to COVID, and we are very grateful to the local and outer communities for their continued support during each lockdown," explains Lisa.

"We aim to be around for a long time and in the future to bring new, exciting games and in time, to eventually extend the venue to incorporate the latest craze - whatever that may be in this forever changing landscape."

With the lifting of lockdown well underway, you can present this article to the friendly staff at Xplosions and with the purchase of one game of bowling, you can receive your second game for free (for a limited time only).

Staff members Nadia, Aiden, Lisa, Sue, Melissa and Mark. (Damjan Janevski) 249446_02

Xplosions Bar and Bowl is located at 1-25 Bakery Square, Melton. For more information, visit www.xplosionsbarandbowl.com.au