

**INTRODUCING:**  
MASTER GLAZIER TONY HODDER

**LOCATION:**  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

# ALL AREAS GLASS AND GLAZING

All Smiles for All Areas Glazing

Angela Farrell



It was the phone call that changed everything for South Australian Master Glazier Tony Hodder. It was 1985, and Tony was fresh out of high school, working at a car dealership. He received a phone call from the father of a school mate, asking if he wanted to become a glazier. 'I immediately said yes, thinking how great it would be to work with sheep. I realised after I hung up the phone he meant Glazier, not Grazier! And so, a 40-year career in glass began.' laughs Tony.

Tony learned the trade from 70-year-old Englishman Bernie, who had glazed 'half of London'. He was quick, tidy, and proud of his work. Tony considered himself extremely lucky to have learned the ropes from such an experienced glazier. Within a couple of years, he was working unsupervised doing hack outs for the local housing trust, private customers and local businesses.

The Englishman decided to retire, and offered the business to Tony, which he gladly accepted. A year later he employed his brother Grant who has been with the company ever since. He attained Master Glazier status alongside Tony. Very much a family business, Tony employed his (late) Father to assist with some projects, and his Uncle Graham, a bookkeeper (and former Australian roller-hockey captain) who keeps Tony's decision-making in check.

In 1990, Tony purchased a large factory in Elizabeth, where All Areas successfully traded until they moved to Pooraka in

2019, opting for a smaller factory close to a bustling residential area where the demand for windows and kitchen splashbacks was strong.

When asked how the glazing business has changed since 1985, Tony recalls 'I remember being one of seven people fitting a 6 mm thick glass panel! Before the days of 10.38 mm laminated safety glass, you needed many hands to help resist the bow in the glass. I remember handling the old, wired glass and hoping it wouldn't crack on us, whereas now we use toughened glass.' Even though Tony has played semi-professional football in Adelaide and has enjoyed keeping fit with other sports his whole life, he admits that the body feels those heavy installs. 'Panel sizes are getting bigger, and of course heavier!'

Back in those early days, Tony remembers spending '\$50,000 per year on yellow pages ads, but now thanks to search engines and social media, we don't have to spend a cent to get found! And of course, now I carry a pocket-sized mobile phone, not the brick phone and pager, which is a relief when you're on site and moving around.'

One of Tony's most memorable jobs was answering an emergency repair job for the captain of a container ship, who had literally phoned All Areas Glazing from the ship's bridge to replace a broken front windscreen, 10 stories up! 'We told him the best solution was to cut a piece of 10 mm Lexan to use as a temporary measure.' The job went very well, and the captain paid Tony in US dollar bills!

Tony also recalls delivering a frameless custom-made shower screen to Coober Pedy, some 8 hours' drive from the factory. 'When we arrived at the underground house, I asked the customer where the new bathroom was. He said he hadn't dug up the floor yet, because he was going to build the bathroom once he saw how big the shower screen was! Our business motto is Goolwa to Gawler, but that job stretched us and our motto!'

Moving forward, Tony sees the use of glass and its different fixing methods increasing even more. 'The number of glass varieties has increased so much that we now have to remove a sample from the client's window, screen or mirror, and then match the thickness and type before we can replace or repair it.' This approach must be working, because All Areas Glass and Glazing has retained some customers for over 30 years.

A few bad cuts as an apprentice, many overseas trips with the family, delighted customers, and a thriving glass business; Tony Hodder is glad to be providing stunning windows, splashbacks, shower screens and mirrors - not chasing around after sheep!