

Australia Day honours for Neil Tieman

Founder of Tieman Industries, Neil Tieman, has been awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in recognition for his contribution to the road transport and manufacturing industry and to the community.

For Neil, the nomination was completely unexpected. "I didn't think I was that important," he said after learning his fate. "It is a great pleasure to accept the award, but it hasn't just been myself or my family that have made the business so successful, it is all the staff and people, past and present."

Now 85, Neil had earned a sheet metal and boiler maker apprenticeship in the 1930s, but was forced out of the industry by a union strike post World War II. When he was locked out, Neil went bush and worked on cattle and sheep stations before meeting a young lady, up in Canberra, who had migrated to Australia from London. He has now been married to Jean for 59 years. Neil decided to set up a welding business in 1953 from the backyard of their house in Preston, together with two of his brothers. With his wife Jean as secretary, hard work ensued and nine years later they were able to open their manufacturing facility in Keon Park, Melbourne in 1961, where the company continues to operate today under the leadership of his sons, Joint Managing Directors Colin and Dale Tieman.

The business has since expanded greatly and has three factories in Melbourne; the



original Keon Park site, as well as factories in Campbellfield and Somerton and divisions in every other mainland state in Australia. Tieman now employs over 300 people nationally.

From humble beginnings manufacturing milk vats and tanks, Neil has seen his business manufacture in excess of 4000 tankers, as well as enjoying success in other fields including tail lifts, materials

handling and dock safety equipment, and vehicle access equipment.

Neil commented, "We pride ourselves on making one of the best tankers in the world. Quality is important, and so are the people you employ.

"It's taken a lot of hard work but the secret has been our people, who over the years have helped to build a great company."