

11th MAY
2015

Transport team makes light work of heavy lifting

"WE'VE all got to work together to make it happen."

And Membrey's Transport and Crane Hire managing director Craig Membrey certainly did his bit for Dandenong on Wheels.

His team transported a tram from Bombardier to Walker Street for the manufacturing showcase event on 17 April.

"It wasn't easy. It was a tight fit to get it where they wanted it to be," he said.

The family-owned Dandenong South business has been around since 1962.

"Bombardier gave us the contract about 12 months ago to move their 50 trams," he said.

"We move one approximately every month from Dandenong to the workshops in Preston."

But Dandenong on Wheels

presented a different challenge.

Staff started the process of moving the tram into central Dandenong at 1am.

VicRoads escorts diverted traffic so the tram-carrier could travel on the wrong side of the road.

It took nearly an hour to make the final turn into Walker Street.

"It just a tight spot to get around," Mr Membrey said.

But it was worthwhile.

"It was a good eye opener, I didn't realise we did that much in Dandenong, to be honest," he said.

"We've all got to work together to make it happen. It's a team effort.

"If you don't try, you never get anywhere in life."

- CASEY NEILL



The Membrey's team takes a tram over Stockman's Bridge, Dandenong.

Picture: GARY SISSONS

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MEMBREY'S TRANSPORT

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CRAIG MEMBREY INDUCTED INTO

SHELL RIMULA WALL OF FAME

AT THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Arterial roads and transport are in his blood

By CASEY NEILL

BERWICK truckie Craig Membrey was born with transport in his blood.

The managing director of Membrey's Transport and Crane Hire in Dandenong South on Saturday 29 August received recognition for his lifetime behind the wheel.

He was among almost 300 people inducted to the Shell Rimula Wall of Fame at National Road Transport Hall of Fame 20th anniversary celebrations in Alice Springs.

The nod acknowledged Craig's achievements and lifetime commitment to the transport community.

"It was an unbelievable feeling," he said.

"You couldn't believe how many people were there."

Craig's father Jack started J and N Membrey and Son in 1962.

"My dad was in trucks all his life," Craig said.

"I think I was born with transport in my blood and it just went from there."

He'd help out his dad every weekend.

"I left school at 14 years old. It wasn't meant for me. I went to work for dad," he said.

Craig tried a number of jobs elsewhere after "a few blues with dad".

They'd been talking about working together again when his dad had a stroke.

That was 26 years ago and Craig has been running - and expanding - the family business ever since.

"I wish he'd left me

a lolly shop sometimes, it'd be less stressful," he said.

The company had about five pieces of equipment when he took over which has since grown to 120, including forklifts, cranes and crane trucks across Australia.

"I've picked a good team who follow my dream," he said.

Since Craig's eldest son Rowan took his own life in 2011 he's devoted his time to raising awareness for depression through Beyondblue.

"It's a big honour to be involved in flying the flag," he said.

"I want to get more involved in Beyondblue where I can.

"I'm a bit of a make-it-happen man."



Craig Membrey receives his award.

MEMBREY'S
TRANSPORT + CRANE

DANDENONG JOURNAL

MONDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER, 2015