



## MEMORY KEEPERS

These days, newspapers are printed using state-of-the-art technology. But in a nod to the past, the Penrith Museum of Printing is preserving the memories of years gone by, showcasing incredible machines and equipment that once reigned supreme. **Lauren Suttie reports on page 20.**

## Passion for print is alive and well

LAUREN SUTTIE

After closing its doors for renovations, the home of some of Australia's oldest printing machines is once again open to the public.

After shutting in August 2016, the Penrith Museum of Printing underwent extensive redevelopment.

But now the museum's publicity officer, Graham Elphick, said the fully functioning printing museum, located at Penrith Paceway, was back better than ever before.

"The exciting extensions to our museum has given us more floor space to accommodate a lot more machines and printing paraphernalia, a lot of which we already had in storage," he said.

"We have a much larger floor space and a beautiful new entrance with a wonderful vestibule, which leads the visitors through into the print shop to embark on their journey through the ages of Letterpress Printing."

But it wasn't just structural change, as the renovations also saw new machines join the museum's already impressive collection.

"Among our new machines, we have an Intertype type-setting machine in

marvellous condition, having only been retired from full service fairly recently," Mr Elphick said.

And while the progression of technology has seen the world move on from this type of printing, Mr Elphick, who is a fully qualified hand and machine compositor, said that print would always remain as an important part of the world's history.

"I think it's important to keep this part of history alive because when they invented the printing press they changed the whole world as it gave the masses a chance to read," he said.

"There isn't many printing museums around, and hardly any at all that are functioning and for Sydney to have one, I think that is wonderful."

With the museum run solely by volunteers who rely on sponsors, donations as well as the \$5 entry fee to continue operation, Mr Elphick said that a helping hand was always appreciated.

"We welcome all visitors and would love to see any person who would like to become a member of our museum, or maybe become a sponsor to help keep alive our dream of 'Preserving the Printing Past for the Future,'" he said.

For more information, visit [www.printingmuseum.org.au](http://www.printingmuseum.org.au).



Volunteer Des Lane with one of the historic printing presses. Photo: Melinda Jane