



Penrith MUSEUM of PRINTING

NEWS: November 2019

Last LINOTYPE OPERATOR “Sydney Morning Herald” Michael Lunn visit the Penrith museum of printing



Way back in 1984, the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper finally changed from hot metal typesetting and letterpress printing to Lithograph and photosetting, meaning re-training for many of the 135 former linotype operators. The very last one to operate the very last linotype typesetting machine was Michael Lunn.

Michael recently visited the Museum just to nostalgically recall his time at the machine. He sat at the keyboard of the Model 8 Linotype; he smelled the oil and hot metal; he touched the keys and set a few lines and spoke of his years typesetting.

When he was satisfied and prepared to leave, Michael just happened to glimpse the museum's presentation on display of the Herald's last days. Unbeknown to him or to any of the museum's guides, the young man depicted on the presentation was Michael himself.

Michael said he recalled vividly that day when a photographer 'turned up with several cameras and many lenses, and said 'smile for the camera.' He heard no more of the event and put it out of his mind until some 35 years later when he saw it at the museum. The smile on Michael's face shows the satisfaction he felt having visited the museum.