Margaret McMaster's Memories at 50yr Celebration

I have been asked to speak on some of the highlights I can remember whilst
working at C-Mac.

1. I remember buying our first proper piece of machinery and (me) learning
to swing on the hand folder and polish the stainless still sinks with kero
and cornflower(I think).

2. Then the move to Gladesville, the factory with a dirt floor and no
telephone. All phone calls were done on our home phone at Carlingford and
anything urgent I would drive to the factory with the message. Sometimes it
would only be a change of measurements on the drawing.

3. There was the move to Top Ryde behind JA Electronics, they were one of
our customers. We now employed our first apprentice, tradesman and soon a
foreman (and there was a phone).

One of our staff we bailed out of joal twice for being on railway property.
He was a good worker and a real young gentleman, he didn't last long it was
third time unlucky.

We soon had 10 employees.

4. It was time for a much larger factory so we moved to 72, it was hard to
get finance, so we sold the home and used the money as a deposit. Interest
was 14.5 %. I was in the early days always responsible for chasing finance.

5. Soon we had a trip on the Indian Pacific to WA to source out some
machinery and a week touring around Albany. Whaling was still the in thing.

6. Again in 1978 a month trip around the world with the MTIA (Now AIG)
looking at other sheetmetal shops and all the tourist attractions. This to
me was a real treat and very enjoyable. The ATO didn't seem to mind!

7. Remember one weekend coming into work to raise the factory roof while the
council workers were sleeping.

8. I tried to get finance for the purchase of No. 74 but we couldn't afford
it and then paid an extra $100,000 for it the following year.

9. I sacrificed my lovely green holden to entice an estimator not to leave.
Very soon he wrote it off, DUI. Then he tickled the till to meet his
gambling needs. That was the last straw, he was sacked and my car was
replaced with an old Mazda.

10. In 1979 buying PTW was a big adventure, i took over the office duties.
One duty was keeping the staff sober and not allowing them to go to the St
Mary's pub for a very long liquid lunch. I took all the orders for tanks and
the most frequently asked question by the customers was "if it rains how
much water will go into a tank".

11. The property at St Mary's was sold and the business moved to No 72. I
retired to read my Woman's Weekly sitting in the sun. I still haven't
achieved this!

12. I received no superannuation or long service leave and am still awaiting
for my payout and gold watch.

13. The greatest highlights for me were the Christmas parities at different
venues each year. How every one got home safely i will never know as there
was no DUI then.

I enjoyed teaching Michael Sebastian from Aeolus how to play tennis and
having outings with him and his wife, Agnus.

14. Dinners out with the family who we're all involved in C-Mac. There was
no taxes on entertainment in those days.

15. Most of all i enjoyed the Orange field days with the family and kids all
coming up to help. I am sure the MT10 nuts and bolts on the TSA Tanks will
be well remembered and the breakfasts at McDonalds.

I could prattle on for hours.

I would like to thank all the staff both past and present for your service
over the years because without you there would be no C-Mac.

It is also great to see Frances working  in the factory as females in the
shop was always a very contentious subject. Good on you Frances we girls are
needed.

I hope you are all enjoying our get-to-gether and all have a safe and happy
Christmas.

Happy birthday C-Mac and may you survive another 50 years.

Margaret McMaster (Director)