

Father and son learn tricks of steel trade

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RAISING teenagers would have to be one of life's more challenging undertakings.

Just ask anyone who's lived through these tumultuous years recently!

As so often happens, things have a habit of not quite going to plan, and ultimately it is often the parents who feel the most powerless to rectify a precarious situation.

However, Palm Beach dad, Bernard Thompson is not one to let an unpredictable but talented teenager throw away his trade and training without first tackling the issue head on.

This lateral-thinking father knew his son needed an injection of enthusiasm and support to continue to pursue a painting and decorating trade so he came up with a solution that not only ensured a positive response in his son Bernard junior, but ultimately provided him with the impetus to manage his own business in the near future.

And those of us who have decked out our homes and boats in trendy stainless steel fittings and fixtures are set to become the beneficiaries of the new Thompson & Son business venture.

"Stainless steel is a big problem for home owners," Mr Thompson senior said. "Many people are avoiding it because they know it will look bad in three months' time especially on the northern beaches with the salty sea air.

"It corrodes quickly and the visual evidence is 'tea staining' and rusting."

Mr Thompson's business idea came about as a result of his marketing consulting work with Cyndan, an industrial chemical manufacturer.

He convinced Cyndan to train both himself and his son to apply its unique stainless steel surface treatment product and the pair are now the first certified applicators world-wide.

"The Cyndan product is not oil-based, it is a treatment that removes contaminants, rejuvenates the surface and maintains the look of stainless steel for a long time," he said.

"I said to my son, one day you can own your own business as a painter and decorator, with a unique line extension.

"You'll be able to specialise and make more money per hour than you ever thought possible.



Bernard Thompson and son Bernard junior are masters at cleaning stainless steel.

Picture: ROS CANNON

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