

McGRATH

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The Brothers Gill

How one Sydney trio are helping people clean up their act.

By Georgina Jerums



IT COULD, you would think, be a recipe for a relationship breakdown, but when three brothers, Geordie, 32, James, 37 and Hamish Gill, 35, began working together in one business, it proved a commercial winner. Even more telling, the trio remain best mates despite working in a two metre radius of one other for over a decade.

Eldest brother James established the rubbish collection service, 1300RUBBISH, 13 years ago. Initially it was a rudimentary operation on the lower North Shore using word of mouth and door knocking, but business quickly picked up and it wasn't long before James was clocking up 15 hour days. Two years later, he persuaded Geordie to jump ship from his futures trading role and Hamish from an options trading role, to join him.

The old adage, one man's trash is another man's treasure certainly rings true in their line of work. For

proof just look at their Rosebery boardroom where a five metre timber dining table and a set of leather chairs thrown out from an advertising agency at The Rocks, plus a rather saucy tomato red sofa donated by a hairdresser, take pride of place.

Instead of customer's wasting their weekends at the tip or hiring a skip bin which requires council approval and takes up space, 1300RUBBISH comes straight to the door, loads items, cleans up and takes it all away. Everything including worn out lounges, old bathtubs, grubby stoves is fair game- nothing seems to be off limits! This service is great for renovators, businesses, moving house or when tenants move out leaving unwanted belongings behind. The brothers coordinate all jobs from their head office.

“We cleaned out the home of a hoarder who had so much rubbish, the entrance was blocked!”

Geordie Gill

But it wasn't always that way. The Gills certainly did their fair share of truck call-outs in the first three years of working together with some, 'interesting' moments along the way, such as when they accepted a request to clean out a massive seafood shipping container left

stewing in the sun at Sydney's docks without refrigeration, for three days.

The brothers all share a big belly laugh at that memory, but no one was smiling when they swung open the container door. "There were rotting fish and flies everywhere, and the smell...", says Geordie, rolling his eyes. "Another time we were called to clean out the home of a hoarder who had so much rubbish, the entrance was blocked." Then there was the client who would have been a prime candidate for 'Drivers Behaving Badly'. Reversing her car into the garage, she put her foot on the accelerator instead of the brake, crashing through the garage wall into the kitchen and leaving a colossal mess in her wake, putting a new spin on a drive-through menu.

Are the brothers ever tempted to return to the sharemarket? With the franchising arm of the business expanding nationally, it's far from their mind; they've got plenty on their plate to keep them more than satisfied.

A nice touch about this business is its charitable arm: it donates \$1 from every job to Mission Australia. When doing a pick up in Sydney 1300RUBBISH will collect winter blankets, towels and bed items to deliver to Mission Australia.*

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www.1300rubbish.com.au

