

Clem Jacob celebrates 20 years in business



Company founder and owner, Clem Jacob.

PAUL MOONEY

Clem Jacob Hire, a prominent family-run Waterford-based plant and machinery hire company, is celebrating 20 years in business this month.

Since it was founded in May, 2006, by owner, Clem Jacob, the company based at the Six Cross Roads Business

Park, has grown exponentially to become the largest provider of plant, machinery and access equipment hire in Waterford and the south east.

The company also expanded its services to offer customers a state-of-the-art Training Centre, providing professional courses to help companies and businesses to

upskill and grow their team.

Founder and owner, Clem Jacob sat down with The Munster Express to speak about his two decades at the helm of his company, how the company has grown, how it weathered rough periods like the 2008 economic crash and the two year Covid pandemic, and how the company has been recognised for its sustainability efforts, including a nomination for a prestigious Sustainability Award at the upcoming World IFAF Summit, taking place in Turkey later this year.

BACKGROUND

Clem is from Cheekpoint. Although he lives in Carriglea, near Faithlegg, he vows to return to live in his adored home village someday, when the time is right.

Clem went to school in Faithlegg before attending De La Salle College in Waterford.

"I had a fantastic time in De La Salle, it was brilliant



Clem, Gilly and family.

school, brilliant teachers and brothers," said Clem, speaking to this newspaper. "To me that was life-changing. I was boarding in there for five years and that was an incredible five years of my life. The De La Salle Brothers, all the teachers, but especially the brothers were just fantastic."

After De La Salle, Clem attended WIT to do a course in mechanical engineering. It was during the summer holidays of his first year at WIT when he got a job in Déise Hire Ltd., a small, local rental company owned by the late Paddy Griffin and Tom Fitzgerald.

"I worked there for the summer, side by side with the one and only, Padraig Ó Griofa. I enjoyed the work so much that I never went back to college that September," said Clem.

"I nearly broke my father's heart not going back to college but I decided I wanted to stay working and they offered me a

full-time job, it was great. I worked there for three years. It was really good and a great learning curve."

Clem went to Australia in 1989, but after three months,

he returned to Ireland because Sam Hire was buying Déise Hire.

"I was asked to come home

Continued on Page 3



A mobile welfare unit which is manufactured by Groundhog just outside Swansea in South Wales, who supply the unit to Clem Jacob Hire. The unit includes an onboard generator, seats and table; canteen area and toilet area.

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