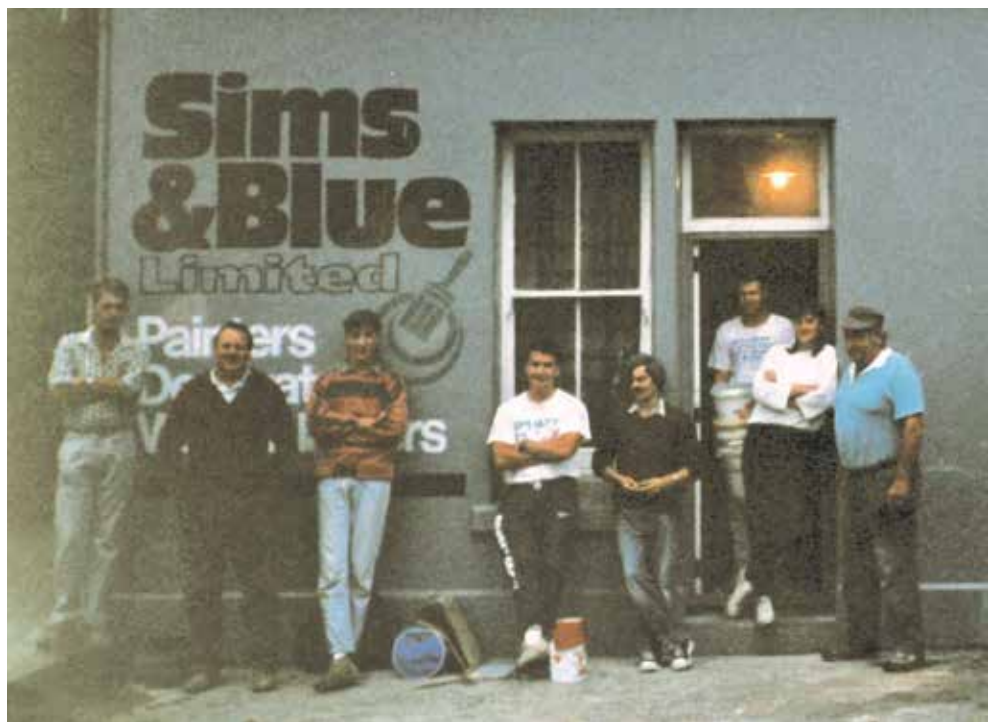


Sims & Blue Ltd  
Painters & Decorators



# CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Welcome everybody as we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Sims & Blue Limited.

Thank you to you all for taking the time and effort to join us on this special night.

In the room we have a cross section of people. From the current team, to the teams of yesteryear, travellers and trade associates, painting firms that started their journey through Sims & Blue Ltd, special clients, friends and family.

We would also like to acknowledge our relationship with Master Painters New Zealand who we have been heavily involved with since 1964, and are still proud members to this day.

We hope you enjoy mixing and mingling with everybody, I am sure you will see a lot of familiar faces.

We are very proud to have reached this milestone and look forward to many more.



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FOR SAFETY CLOSE COVER BEFORE STRIKING

# COMPANY STORY

John and Gilbert first met at Tainui School in the late 1940's. Living in the same area, and playing sports together, they became mates.

Gilbert went on to become a painter for Duncan Brothers Painters. John went on to become a carpenter working for his father John Sims Senior, JA Sims Builders.

John eventually went out on his own building houses around Dunedin, and Gilbert ended up doing the painting for him through Duncan Brothers Painters. It didn't take them long to understand that there was more work in painting than in building at the time. The pair then worked as painters for Duncan Brothers. The Duncan brothers were starting to wind up so Gilbert and John formed a partnership, Sims & Blue. That's where it all began.

In the coming years the firm grew, and became Sims & Blue Limited. They started employing staff and training apprentices. The first yard was old stables down North East Valley and their work was mainly residential homes.

The next yard was in Fox Street, South Dunedin. Things just kept plodding along in those days.



The next move was to 29 Lees Street, just above The Oval. This is where things started to move forward. Raewynn came on board and the office side of things was brought up to a high standard, and things were done right. At this stage we had a team of up to 18 staff.

The tough times hit. Things tightened up with the banks and work dried up, however this was a sign of the times. Things inevitably turned around.

The next move was to our current yard at 23 Braemar Street, beside the Old Gas Works. Work continued to increase through residential work and a lot of schools.

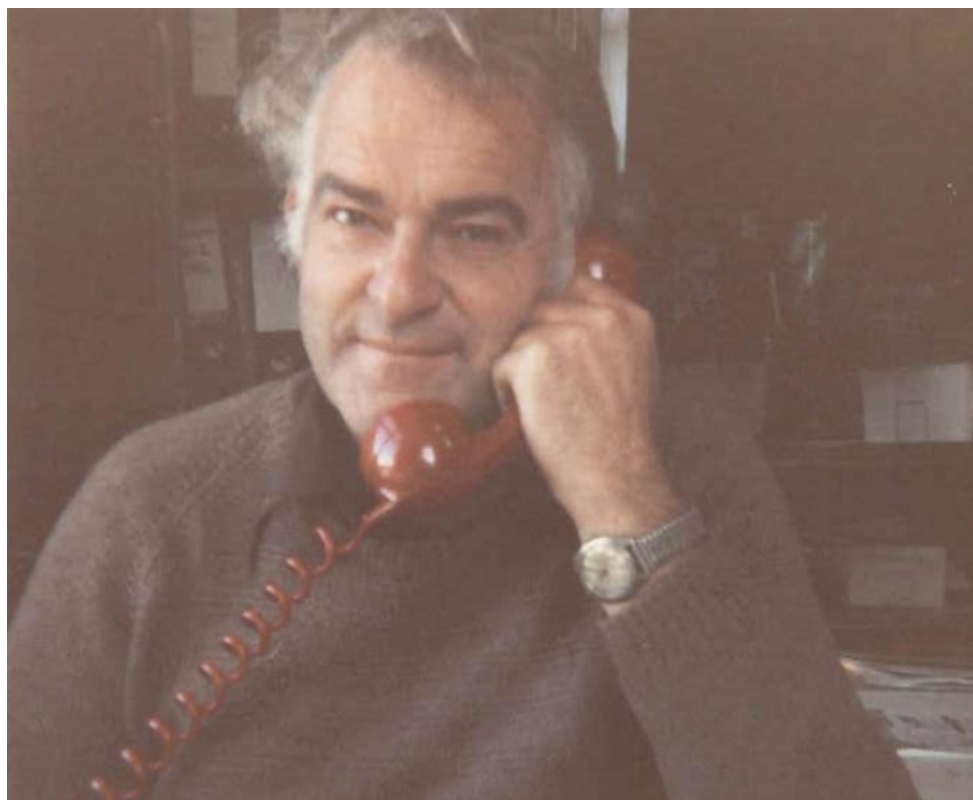
Gilbert retired, however was still at work daily helping as he could. Sadly Gilbert died, followed by his wife Raima a few years later.

John continued to run the office with Raewynn's help, and Glenn started to actively run the jobs which then moved into measuring work and meeting with the clients.



The firm has now moved into its new formation. Nathan joined and now runs the office and coordination side of the company. Glenn is fully emersed in running the team on the jobs, meeting with clients, and making sure their needs are met. Together making a good working combination, heading towards a successful future.







# JOHN SIMS

Sims & Blue Limited is John's life, but like most John needed an outlet. Outside of work John played golf on a Sunday with Harvey and enjoyed watching the boys cricket.

Through work we started a social ten pin bowling club, and this moved onto social indoor cricket. Indoor cricket became very popular and the Sims & Blue Indoor Cricket Club was formed in 1985. The club is still active to this day and has had over 331 players, including some who have gone onto play provincial and international indoor and outdoor cricket.

Nowadays John enjoys coming into work and keeping the boys on their toes.





# GILBERT BLUE

Gilbert's passion was his greyhounds. You could find him once a month at the Forbury Park Greyhound Racing Club. Gilberts blue C20 van would often be seen driving around the racetrack on race day, however it was great advertising! Gilbert had greyhounds of his own, and was also involved with racehorses, another passion of his.

Gilbert also loved old vans, and driving. He could often be seen late at night driving around listening to the Police radio, keeping an eye on the goings on in Dunedin. This also helped the young apprentices in town get a ride home later in the night!

Nothing was ever a problem with Gilbert. He would always say 'yep, she'll be right'.

Everybody got on well with Gilbert, he was a lovely man.





# GLENN & NATHAN SIMS

Turning up at the yard at 7.30am daily, there is a certain energy within the group. You can see the pride the team has working for Sims & Blue Limited. This shows in the work produced.

We are so proud of the company, something that we have both been brought up around. To reach 60 years is something that Dad and everyone that has been involved in the company should be very proud of. Everyone of the people who has come through the front gate has added something, and contributed to form the company as it is today.

The two of us fully understand the foundation of the company and what sets it apart from others. Businesses like this don't happen overnight, there has been a huge amount of blood, sweat and tears that has gone in over the past 60 years. But also a lot of respect for the profession and what it means to be a good Master Painter.

Our vision is to continue to build on these solid foundations, and add new ideas and energy and take the company well into the future.

We look forward to the journey together with our team.

Glenn & Nathan Sims.





# **SIMS & BLUE**

**PAINTERS & DECORATORS**  
**18 McKerrow St. Highcliff**

**43-028 - Phone - 52-461**

**MEMBERS OF O.M.P. ASSOCIATION**



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**to the Otago Master Painters**  
**Association on the**  
**75th Anniversary, and**  
**welcome all visiting members**

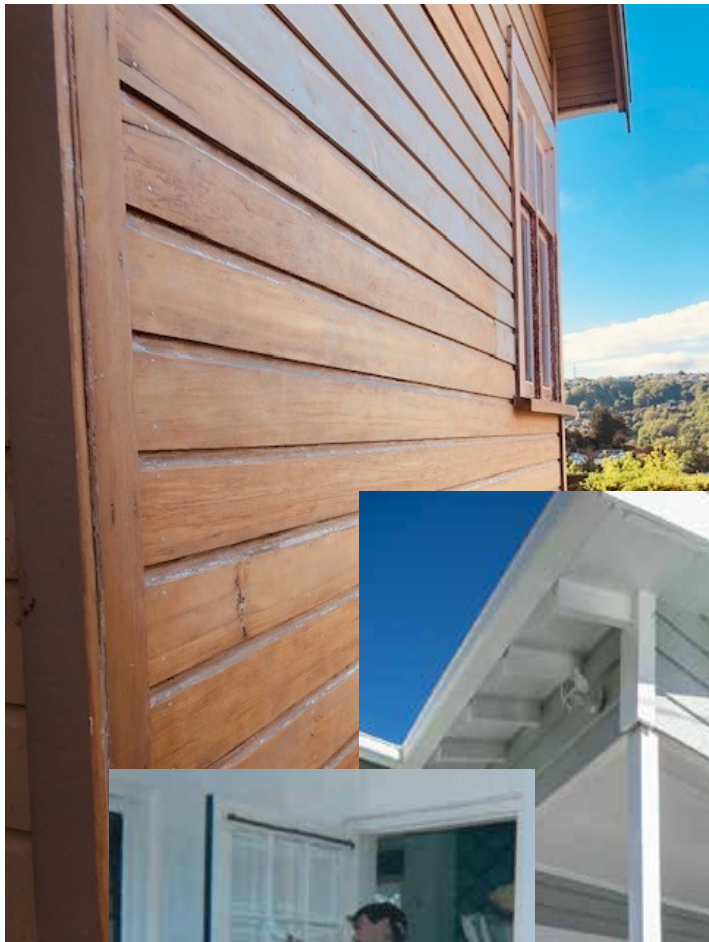
**"INSIST ON A MASTER PAINTER"**



OTAGO DAILY TIMES Wednesday May 17 1989



Top Otago apprentice painter and decorator Sharlene Pepper removes the old paint from this Somerville Street residence in preparation for a new coat.





# COMPANY DEDICATION

## 30 YEARS KELLY BRODERICK

Kelly came to us as a trainee at just 16 years old. John distinctly remembers Kelly's Grandfather bringing Kelly into the office. John initially sent Kelly to work with another painter, Phil Ravenwood for some experience. Phil decided not to employ Kelly, so he returned to our office with his Grandfather. We gave Kelly a trial and the rest is history.

Kelly has turned out to be a fantastic worker. He is a meticulous man for preparation (he must dream of the hot air gun!), and one of the best in town for sure!

A loyal team member and one that we are very thankful for.





# COMPANY DEDICATION

## 30 YEARS HAYDEN MURRAY

Hayden came to the company as a 17 year old after completing the pre-apprenticeship training course. Hayden has grown in his time with the company into an excellent tradesman.

Throughout his time with the company Hayden has always had a passion for cars and motorbikes, and because of this his skillset is vast. Hayden often finds himself with a bit of a different task whether it be installing Autex murals, spraying a golden buddha, or painting a floor with a thrown grit additive. Hayden puts his creative mind to it and gets the job done.

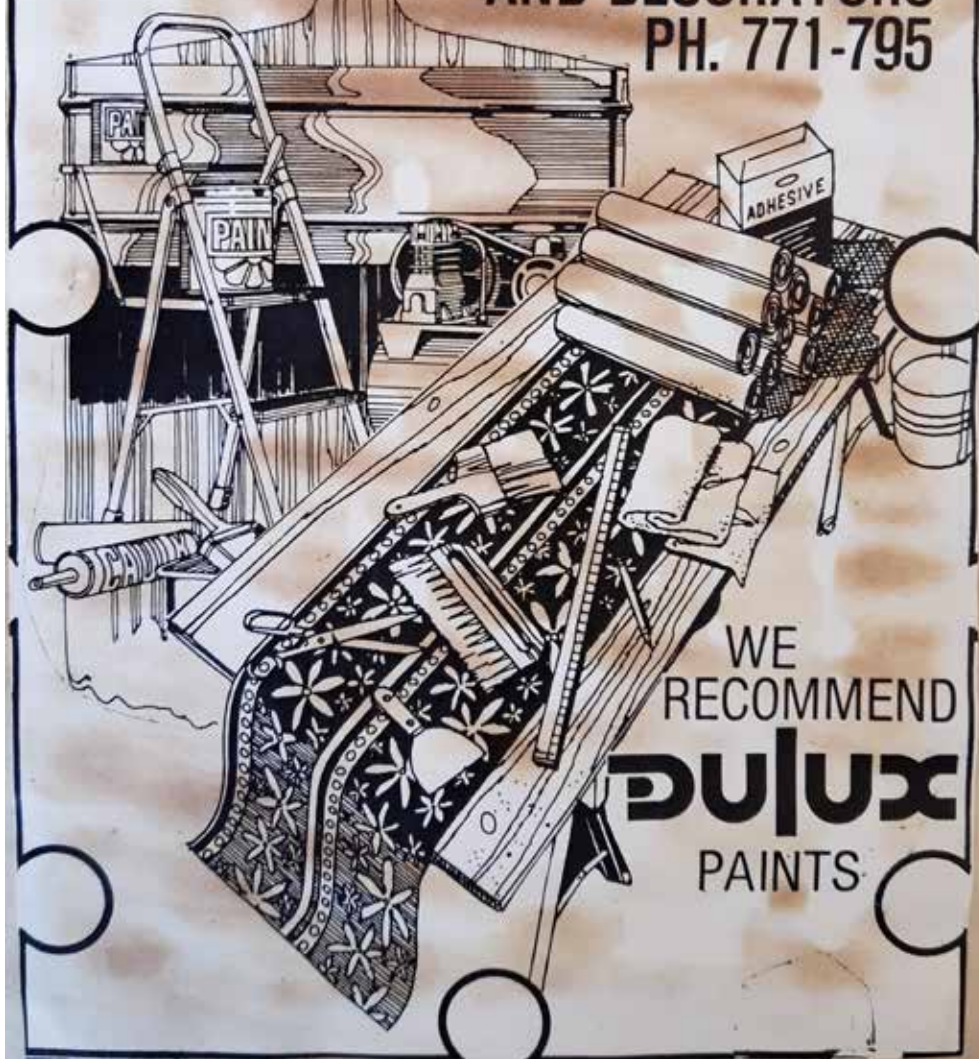
Hayden also enjoys passing on his knowledge to the younger tradespeople. We thank Hayden for his ongoing work and dedication to the company over many years!



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AND DECORATORS

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# COMPANY DEDICATION

## 10 YEARS COLIN AITKEN

Colin comes from a tradesman family, with his father Malcolm an electrician for many years. When Colin said to us he wanted to be a painter it was an easy decision.

Colin completed his apprenticeship and was very close to being one of the finalists for Master Painters Apprentice of the Year.

Colin runs jobs (both large and small), and deals with our clients with ease. Colin is also a great team mate to everyone.

We thank you Colin for what you have brought to our team and hope you have a long and happy future with the company.







# COMPANY DEDICATION

## 10 YEARS PJ WALLACE

PJ was brought to see us by Willie from the Kensington Training School. We were looking for a young person with potential to join the team, and this was PJ.

The real strength of PJ is he believes in getting the job done. PJ has just completed his apprenticeship and has been running his own jobs for some time.

A recent project PJ completed that we were all very proud of was the tower block of Otago Boys' High School. All those windows were done by PJ, not a bad effort!

Recently PJ has found the love of passing on his knowledge to the new team members. Well done PJ on reaching 10 years with the company!





Our work is up to a standard - not down to a price



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on the new Alexandra Post office

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are pleased to announce that we are able to carry out painting and decorating in the Central Otago area. For quotations prompt service - contact

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Phone 467 Ranfurly

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The Sign of the Master Painter



# CENTRAL OTAGO BRANCH

Our Central Otago branch was formed through Roddy Macdonald. Roddy run this branch with 2-3 men, covering the whole Central Otago region.

Given that Roddy was a local to the area, Sims & Blue Limited was well accepted.

Key jobs in the area include the brand new Alexandra Post Office, the Railway houses and buildings, and a number of schools. This along with new homes, and a large number of farm houses kept these guys busy for a number of years.

At times the guys would come down to Dunedin to give the local workers a hand.

The Central Otago branch finished up in the 1980s and work in Central Otago is now run from Dunedin.

This is still an area that is very pleasurable to work in, with many fond memories.





# RANFURLY CUPPA

We were painting a roof in Ranfurly, John was sitting having morning tea inside the ladies home. The two younger workers were trying to race each other to get the roof painted.

Sitting there taking a sip of tea and next minute one of the boys flew past the window, pot and brush still in hand. He hit the ground with a thud, didn't spill a drop of paint, hopped up and had a look around.

We put him back on the roof to finish the job!

\*\* no one was harmed in the making of this memory.

John Sims



# WHAT SIMS & BLUE LTD MEANS TO ME GLENN SIMS

Memories for me started before I even started my apprenticeship.

As young school boy I used to go along and give Dad a hand in the weekends and school holidays.

Doing general odd jobs cleaning vans, cleaning up the yard and helping clean up on work site's... cleaning windows!

Once I got my licence at 15 I was allowed to do the paint deliveries to the job sites which I thought was a pretty cool job! I was even allowed the work van!

Dad gave me the opportunity to leave school at the end of Sixth Form and work full time at Sims & Blue Ltd. I then started my apprenticeship the next year in 1987 and completed it in 1991 being the Runner Up Apprentice for Otago/Southland and also completing my Trade Certificate.

As you can see Sims & Blue Ltd has been a huge part of my life from a very



young age and it has been a great journey to experience alongside Dad over all these years. I feel very proud of everything we have achieved together and where we are today.





Here I am now 35 years later helping lead our Sims & Blue Ltd team into the future with the knowledge that has been passed onto me and to pass it onto our current and future staff.

I'll always be very grateful to Dad for the opportunity that he gave me as a 16 year old.

I look forward to taking Sims & Blue Ltd into the future with the helping hand of my brother Nathan Sims now alongside me.

Glenn Sims  
Director





# A TRUE FAMILY COMPANY

Sims & Blue Limited is built off family values. The thing that you might find it hard to believe is that most of the Sims family has been involved in the company at one stage or another over the past 60 years.

For Glenn the company was just part of growing up, and it has been part of his families journey as well. Glenn's three boys Cameron, Hayden, and Mitchell have all painted for the company during school holidays over the past number of years.

Greg Sims, may have missed the painting gene, but his son Matthew is now on board and our most recent apprentice. Carmen helped as a child with the odd office job and Olivia has also been called upon for emergency office work a few years back.

John and Raewynn managed the office together for 26 years, and Nathan was always about from day one crawling along the floor in Lees Street.

Nathan's three boys are now doing their bit washing the trucks or joining us for toolbox meetings, enjoying every moment.







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# SCHOOL WORK

School work has been a massive part of the companies workload to date. In total Sims & Blue Limited has worked on 149 different schools around Otago. This includes a number of schools which aren't even running anymore!

Our first ever school we worked on was the Kaitangata School, followed by Heriot School. These were tendered for.

This record is something we are very proud of. There's just something about working at a school (especially a weatherboard one), and having the kids buzzing around asking questions.

John distinctly remembers working away in classrooms while the teacher was up the front teaching. One day at Kelso School John even took a lesson on painting for the children.

At another school we even had a children versus painters volleyball match!

Central Otago Schools	29
Dunedin Schools	56
North & East Otago Schools	13
South Otago Schools	23
Taieri & Mosgiel Schools	21
West Otago Schools	7
<b>Total Schools</b>	<b>149</b>
Most Southerly	Waikoikoi School
Most Northerly	Dunback School



## Dark paints used at client's risk

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## Burglary

Equipment and cash valued at \$1,000 are missing after a burglary at Sims and Blue, painters and decorators, in Lees Street early yesterday.



# ALEXANDRA TO DUNEDIN

As an 11 year old in 1988 at Terrace Primary School in Alexandra, Sims & Blue Limited were working at my school. I distinctly remember Glenn working there and his Mark5 Cortina Sport.

I was that annoying kid pestering Glenn and the workers, asking questions and watching on, even back at their accommodation.

Fast forward 5 years I was working at the company with Glenn and the team, and have been ever since!

Our wee yellow waterblaster was brought new for that job and is still going strong today!

Hayden Murray







 **Sims & Blue Ltd**  
Painters & Decorators





 **Sims & Blue Ltd**  
Painters & Decorators

# TEAM OF 2022

Our current team of around 12, uphold all the values and quality workmanship that we have become renowned for over the past 60 years. They work well together and are proud of the work produced.

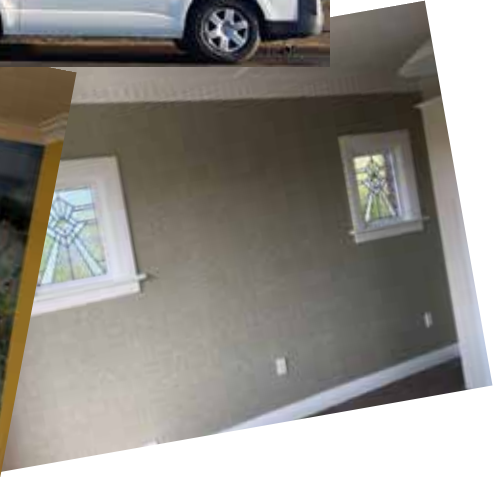
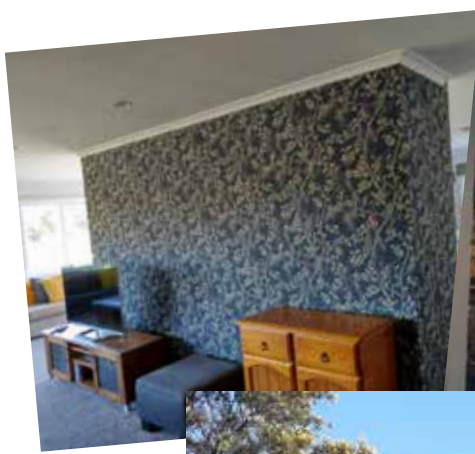
We are a mixture of tradespeople (experienced and new), apprentices, and trainees. This team is up there with the best we have had in the history of the company and we would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for the way they undertake their work and what they bring to our team.

The amount of positive feedback and return custom is a credit to these guys and girls and the work they produce.











# WHAT SIMS & BLUE LTD MEANS TO ME COLIN AITKEN

I am proud to say that I work for Sims & Blue Limited. It's great being part of a small family owned business that puts the time and effort into supporting the development and upskilling of all the team.

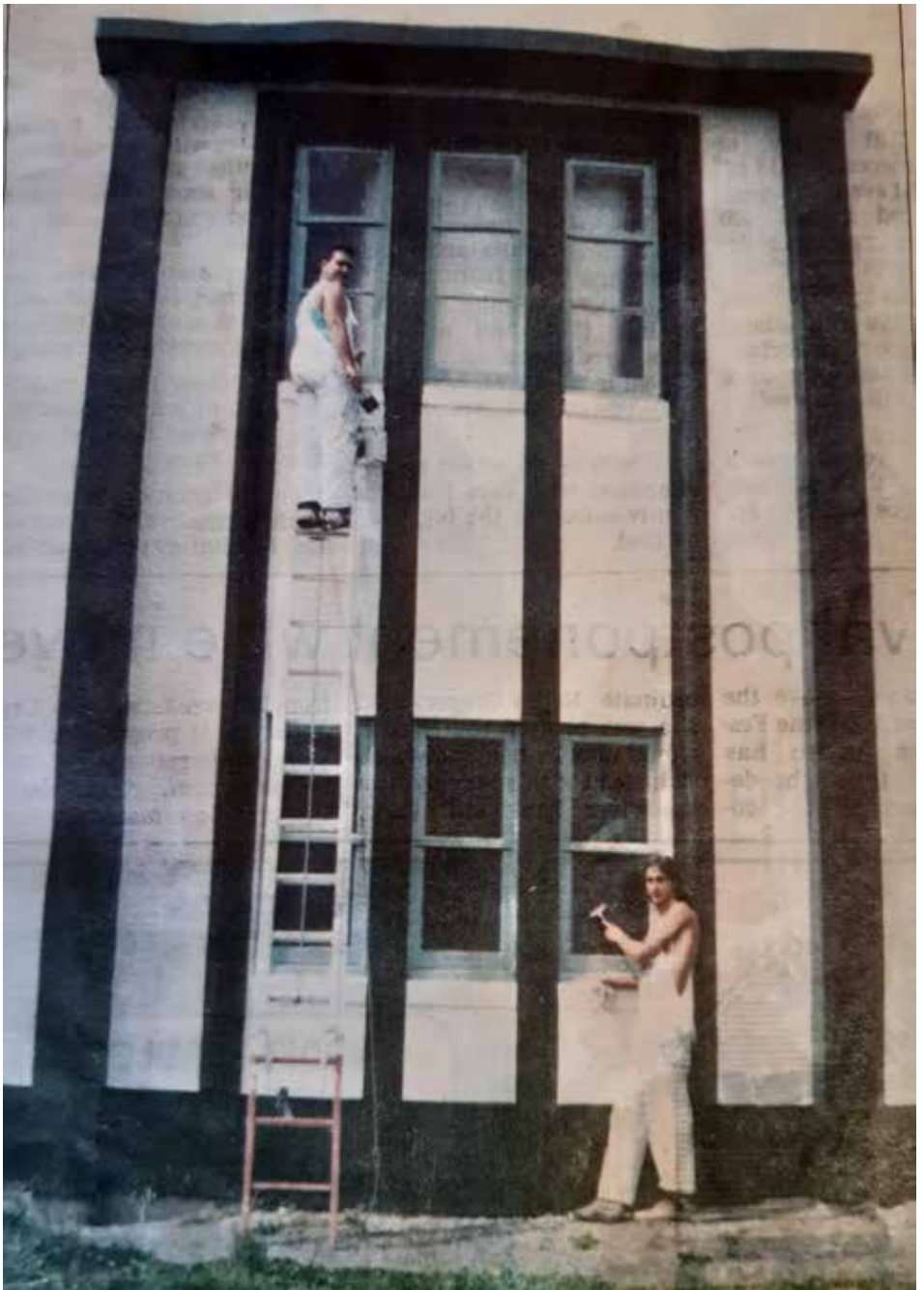
Sims & Blue Ltd have always emphasised the importance of quality workmanship and ensured that we have the best tradesmen for the job. We put pride in our work and it is really satisfying seeing the end result and achieving our clients goals.

After completing my apprenticeship at Sims & Blue Ltd I now get to pass on my knowledge to the next generation of trainees and apprentices which is also very rewarding.

I'm very proud to have worked for Sims & Blue Ltd over the past decade and I'm looking forward to many more years to come withing with this great team.

Colin Aitken





# RECOLLECTIONS FROM STRETCH

The crew at the time (1990) I served at Sims and Blue was; Occy, Squid, Charlene, Eric, Gilly, Chucky and Ray from memory.



**GILLY** – Remember painting the Balclutha High School with him. Gill was a very conscientious person. We would drive down in the old blue Datsun Van. I think Gill used to think he was a bit of a truckie, as he'd give a few of them a wave, 9 times out of 10 the truckies were almost driving in the back seat with me they were that far up our backside!



Being held up by Gill who hardly ever went over 80kph! Pretty sure we'd get down there by about 9.30. We'd get set up, Gill would get down to the basement and start to stir the paint and have a fag, he'd stir that paint till smoko to ensure all the pigments were properly stirred up "You've gotta make sure it's properly stirred Stretch" he'd say. We'd try to get Gill onto a subject he enjoyed, rugby, greyhounds, chicks haha if we got him talking sometimes we could push that smoko out till 1030 - 1045!

He was a good bugger, liked a beer and a laugh. Nothing seemed to bother him too much. Remember Gill coming to work one morning and he had his head and arm through his singlet. Pretty sure it was Squid who pointed it out for him. Funny thing was I don't think he even worried about sorting it out. I also recall Gills cap he used to wear. I always thought it was made of leather it had that look, brown, smooth like some type of leather. I recall though one day we got caught out in the rain and we all got soaked. Gilly had this brown water running down his face, I recall talking about it later and we realised that it was the old nicotine, paint dust and putty residue that had accumulated on his cap after a 100 years of painting that was running down his face! RIP Gilly have a beer or two for me!



**JOHN** – I can't speak highly enough about John. God knows how many apprentices he's put through in 60 years but there wouldn't be too many painting firms that could beat it, I wouldn't think. Certainly not in Dunedin.

I think Sims & Blue also very likely hold the record for the longest serving apprentice. With one lanky fella taking the best part of 5 years to complete his time due to having 90 odd days off! The fact John didn't kick the slack bugger for touch still amazes me. Thanks John the fact you stuck with me and gave me way more chances than I deserved, is certainly appreciated now!

**CHUCKY** – (Angela) Still makes me laugh thinking about it now. We were working at the teachers College, big building, lots of scaffold. We had to roll a concrete glaze on the exterior walls, these were those big white 20 litre buckets. Chucky tried to carry one up the scaffold and had done quite well getting a few floors up. Unfortunately as she tried to swing the bucket through onto the scaffold planks the bottom of the bucket caught one of the exterior handrails and tipped the bottom of the bucket over, inadvertently pouring the majority of the bucket over one of her co workers standing underneath (Glenn!).





Also remember on the same job that some of the scaffold didn't have to be quite as long the higher up you went, meaning the top scaffold stopped about halfway along the building with the lower sections stretching across the entire width of the building. Chucky who was on one of the top sections walked along and promptly walked right off the end (no closed off sections in those days) landing on her backside the next floor down. Luckily she wasn't hurt!

**ERIC** – Bet I’m not the only one to remember that Eric used to bring his own turps to work because he’d been rationed! I recall Eric showing me how to use the 40 footer when I first started. He was showing me how to extend it, he grabbed the rope and started to pull it but instead of the ladder going up Eric actually pulled himself off the ground. He was an easy going bugger!



**FORBURY RACETRACK** – Remember painting the dog rail there (Greyhound track) one day, it was pouring down with rain. We rang John to see if he had any other job we could go to. He didn't so he told us to paint the bottom rail "it'll be sheltered from the rain by the top rail" we thought he was mad, not thinking that was being a good bugger by not sending us home and therefore not getting paid. We sat in the old shed majority of that day burning out paint pots and talking shit!!!

**LEES STREET OLD YARD** – Jeez is it still standing? We'd all be there by 0745 waiting downstairs in the paint shop to be picked up and taken to our job. The Bosses up stairs deciding where to send the troops. I recall even in my early days of having a sense of pride in the work we used to do. Knowing that we were doing a good job and if it wasn't done right we'd have to do it again. I was and still am proud to say that I served my time at Sims & Blue.



Nayland (Stretch) Smith





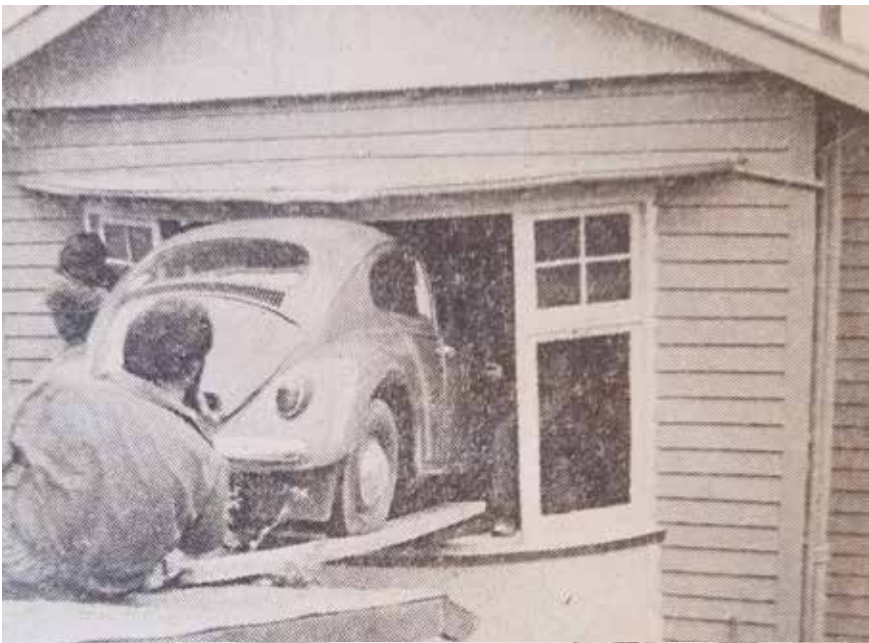
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Quotations Readily Available

" ALWAYS INSIST ON A MASTER PAINTER "



This VW Beetle made an unexpected appearance during our redecoration of an Arthur Street home crashing right through the front bay window. Lucky we had no one on site at the time!

# ASHMORE STREET

We had just completed work at a home in Ashmore Street in Wakari.

John was there collecting the guys, ready to move onto the next job. The instruction was given 'put all the gear on the street' so it could be sorted and removed.

The boys put all the gear on the street, jumped in the truck and left all the gear sitting on the side of the road!

John Sims



N.Z. Guild of Master Painters, Decorators & Signwriters  
(Incorporated)

This is to Certify that

Sims & Blue

of Dunedin

A Member of the Otago Guild

having complied with all the requirements of the Council of the New Zealand Guild of Master Painters, Decorators and Signwriters (Incorporated) has been enrolled and registered in terms of the Rules of the New Zealand Guild and is hereby entitled to use the designation

REGISTERED MASTER PAINTER

L. G. Selin President

J. Stewart Chairman

J. Deary Secretary

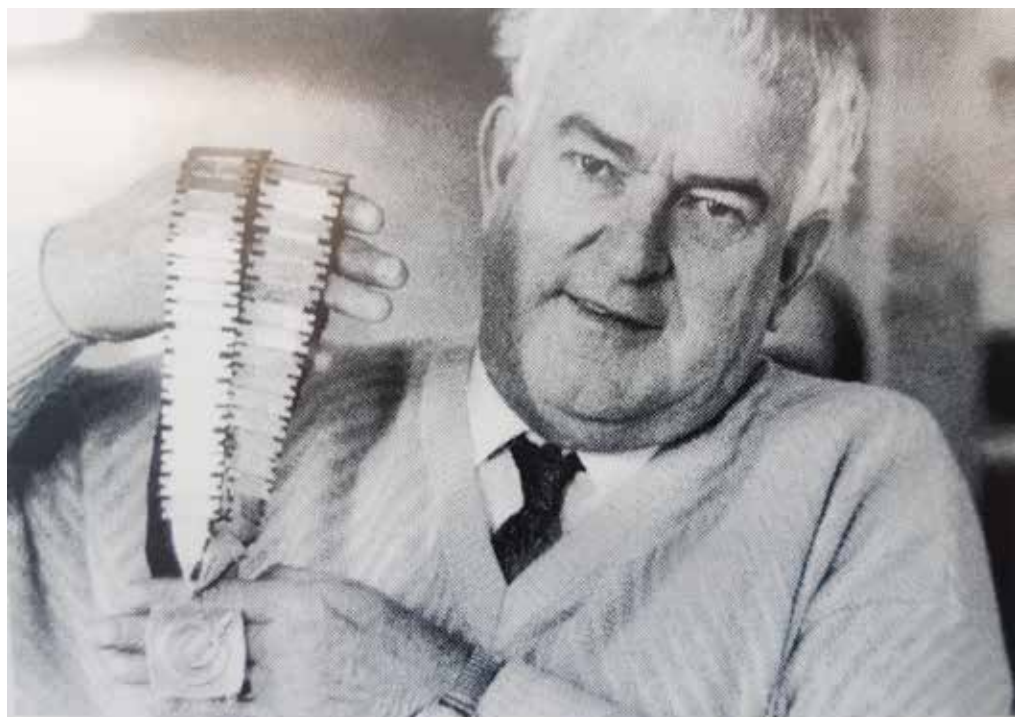


recorded at Wellington this 22nd day of December, 1969

No 359







John Sims enjoys his role as president, NZPCA.

# MASTER PAINTERS

Sims & Blue Limited joined the Master Painters in 1964, approximately the same time as long time friends Derek Jay and Gavin Mead.

As part of the Otago Affiliate John was active as Otago President for a number of years as well as New Zealand President in 1993. This along with being disputes convener, meant John led a busy life.

Within the Otago Branch, John led a breakaway group forming a separate Otago entity in the 1990's which stood for 5 years, before re-joining the main association. This was due to something the group through was unjust.

The value of being a Master Painter over the years are many. From building friendships around the country and sharing ideas, attending conferences, and being set apart in terms of standards of quality and workmanship required to be a Registered Master Painters.

Sims & Blue Limited are proud to be Master Painters.



# ALL ABOARD

Over the years there are many, many things that have happened at Sims & Blue Ltd, here are just a couple that spring to mind.

We were driving up quite a steep street in Dunedin and the next minute the back doors of the van fling open and a full 4 litre of paint tumbles out into the morning traffic. I stop and all the boys hop out very quickly, grab a rag to try and mop up the mess, not very successfully I must say!. We all quickly got in again and took off. Needless to say Stuart Street had lots and lots of lovely white lines all over it for quite some time!

Another time we had just loaded up the van with all the ladders and were going along Highgate and heard a big bang. No one had tied the ladders onto the roof rack! I will not name anyone, but luckily there was no one behind us.

I think one of the funniest things I have ever watched was one of our painters coming down a ladder and stepping straight into his ten litre of paint at the bottom. Kaylee and I have recently watched a close family member do exactly this very recently to our delight (Nathan).

Sims & Blue Limited is a family business that has come a long way over the years, training many apprentices and producing very good tradespeople along the way. Every person that has passed through our doors has had an influence on us and hopefully us on them as well. It is with pride that I can see it going forward with the new generation into the future.







On that note a famous quote from one of our team,

*"Go in there like you own it!"*

Roddy Macdonald.

What I took out of that is that attitude is everything.

Raewynn Sims



# INDUSTRY TRAINING

Training apprentices is something the company takes a lot of pride in. Over the years the team has trained **90 apprentices**. Many of these young people have gone on to run their own successful businesses around Dunedin, Central Otago, Australia, and a couple in the North Island. Our first ever apprentice was Richard (Ricky) Hambleton in 1964.

This year, for the first time in our history, our apprentice Ashley Harris won the supreme award for MPNZ Best New Zealand Apprentice. This is an awesome achievement, well done Ashley!

As well as apprenticeship training, John has been heavily involved with the Paintercraft Trust course, which teaches young people the other side of the painting trade.

In 1994 John was involved in signing over the apprenticeship system from the Ministry of Works to the Painting Contractors Association, forming the Painting & Decorating Industry Training Organisation. This ensured that the industry was pointed in the right direction for the future, and training was suited to the time.

Currently the company has three young people undertaking the apprenticeships.



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# BULL AT THE BRIDGE

One day on the way to work in Rock and Pillar, Gordan McQueen and a couple of young boys get to the old wooden bridge at the Northern end.

On the other side of the bridge was a large bull standing there. We pushed onto the bridge, thinking the bull will just back off and we would be on our way.

However, that was not the case as the bull put his head down and charged the front of the Leyland van. He rammed into the van, looked at us and walked away. No significant damage caused, but a large dint in the front as we arrived to paint the new houses for Lands and Survey.

John Sims





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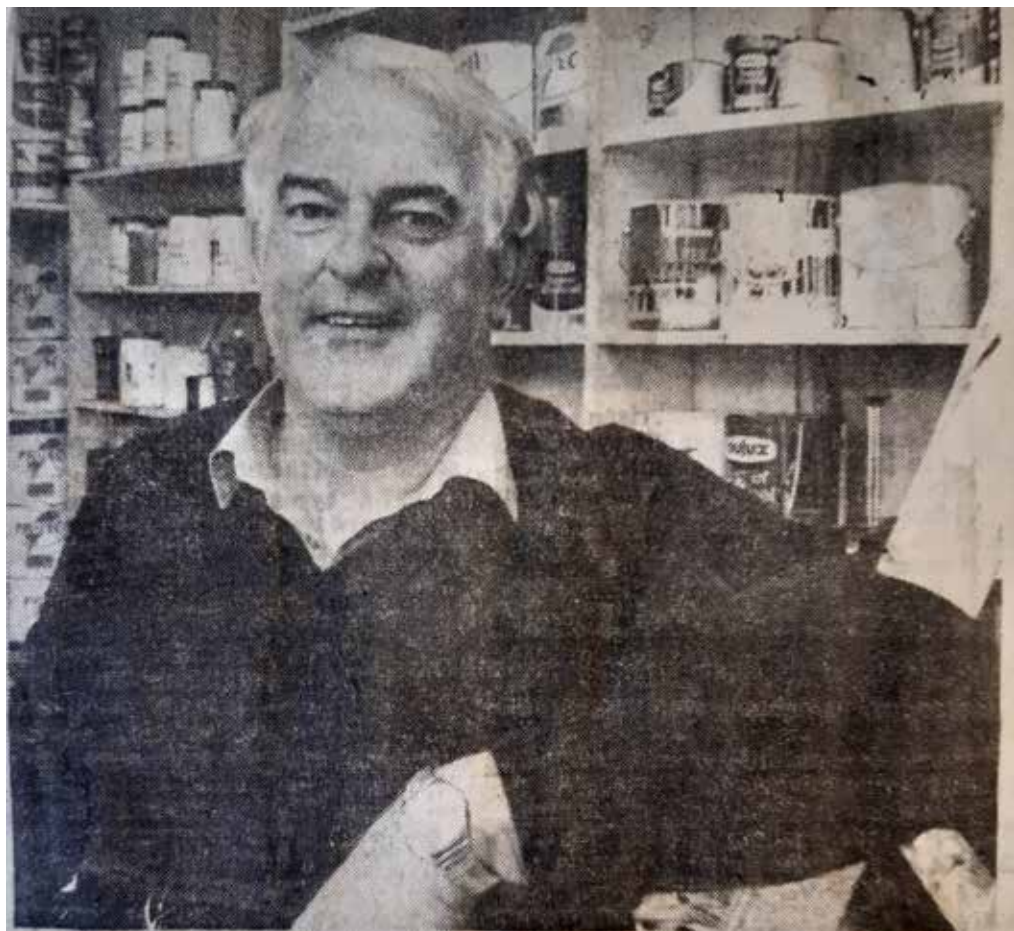
# SNOW DUMP

We were working up at Stix, painting an Education Board house in Winter.

It snowed during the night, and we thought there might be a little dusting the next day. When we woke we were surprised to find we were snowed in. The boys got out the shovels and started digging the van out, ready to get on with the job!

John Sims





Mr John Sims in familiar surroundings ... Sims and Blue Ltd, painters and decorators.

## Junior vice-president of contractors group



# WHAT SIMS & BLUE LTD MEANS TO ME JOHN SIMS

A lifetime of work.

Meeting many people which I have enjoyed immensely.

Really enjoyed what we were doing.

Proud to get to 60 years in business, and hopefully many more.

Proud to have my family involved so heavily.

I would like to thank everybody, but special thanks must go to;

Gilbert Blue

Derek Jay, friend and fellow painter.

Gavin Mead, friend and fellow painter.

Jim Lang, friend, advisor, and first accountant.

Roddy Macdonald, Central Otago right hand man.

Kelly Broderick, 30 years dedication to the company.

Hayden Murray, 30 years dedication to the company.

Glenn Sims, proud to see you progress through the ranks to the top.

Nathan Sims, great to hand the reigns over and see if grow further.

My family for their ongoing support in many, many ways.

Quote to live by, *'You never stop learning'*, John Sims.

**Hopes for the future would be to see the company achieve 100 years!**



# GROWING UP SIMS & BLUE

Sitting at my desk at Bayfield High School on the second floor daydreaming out the window during maths. It was two o'clock, and to my surprise I saw Glenn in full uniform and school bag on his back briskly walking out the gate (trying hard not to be seen).

Off to Sims and Blue of course to work I thought - a place better than school. This became a constant pattern. Nothing was said at home, it was just the way it was meant to be - a natural next step.

Going up country to work was also a way of life for a girl with a father that was self employed. For us three kids it meant sitting in the back of the 1977 Holden Kingswood ute with canopy (thank goodness).

We all sat there along with the smelly paint pots, (oil based, I would presume), brushes, paint covers etc mixed with the petrol fumes. We all felt slightly giddy but not too bad until we got to the Manuka Gorge and then it was all on.

I would bang on the window to alert Dad that one of us was going to be ill! A classic response back would be don't worry, there are only a couple of corners to go to we get to Alex? Really?

Sitting in the Kingswood outside Shingle Creek Tavern with my brothers was another highlight - eating Smiths salt and vinegar chips and a coke and raspberry in hand was the order of the afternoon in the ute, as Dad caught up with a few people in the trade in the tavern. It was all about making connections over a beer in those days. It sure got hot in the ute though!



Throughout my life I have always found Sims and Blue Limited to be a friendly place because of its staff. Like anything in life people set the culture - the people are always the most important part.



Rae always gave me a job around the office throughout the years which made me feel a great sense of belonging to the firm - whether it was folding the pamphlets, doing the dishes or collecting up the ash trays.

As I got older I found all the young apprentices very friendly to me as well, probably to my brother's disgust .

Even just recently I had some work completed on my home. I could not have asked for a better group of people to work on my house. I do feel privileged to have met all these people through Sims & Blue Limited.

Carmen Sims







# THE GREAT WALL

Working on a large retaining wall in a new suburb in North Dunedin. We used so much of this particular oil based stain that there was almost none left in town.



Glenn managed to get his hands on one last bucket that was set aside for another company.

Funny thing was that they ended up working right beside us at the property next door, and here we are putting their stain on our wall!

Hamish Ferry

23 Braemar Street

# Sims & Blue Ltd

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# THE ONE ARMED PAINTER

We were working on schools around the region and took a young fellow on who only had one arm.

This proved to be no disadvantage to him at all. He was a mighty worker, holding the pot on his stump and happily painting away with all the school children watching him.

He didn't have any fear as he swung along the scaffold and just got stuck in. It just shows you that whatever cards this World deals, it is all about attitude.

Glenn Sims



# THE VIEW FROM 1984

Back in 1984 was the first time I heard the name John Sims. I was working as an apprentice painter in Alexandra called Graham Keogh. He used to go on about this guy called John Sims, who would be working around the area.

Graham would tell me about some of the discussions they would have about working in each others area, and that Sims & Blue Ltd should stay out of Central Otago.

This painted a picture for me of a tough businessman and someone that you probably didn't want to mess with.

In 1997 I started my own painting business Andreus Painters Ltd, and joined the Master Painters.

After attending a few meetings and getting to meet John, I realised that picture I built up in my head of this guy was nothing like the person that was in front of me. He has always been very supportive of new young people starting out on their own, and happy to give them some advice on how to grow and run a successful business.



Over the years our relationship grew through working together on the local Master Painters board. During this time John and myself clashed heads several times over different topics. The thing I liked about John was regardless of how heated or how far apart you were on your opinions once it had been discussed that was the end of it. Apologies given, and you would move on. This trait has served John well over the years and is something that I admire.

Don't be shy to voice your opinion, don't hold grudges, just get on with it and things will work out okay. This is something that I can see has become the culture of Sims & Blue Limited. I can also see this in Glenn and Nathan.

60 years in business seems amazing and he still comes up with some great ideas and stories that I haven't heard before. I've really enjoyed spending time over the years with John.

He will always stay in my fondest memories. The amount of time and effort he has put into supporting the industry with apprentices, Master Painters, and supporting other painters is amazing.

All the best for the future!

Andre van Leeuwen











**Sims & Blue Ltd**  
**Painters & Decorators**





Written and compiled by Nathan Sims.  
Thanks to everyone who contributed their stories and memories.