

Allan Block

Always Better Wall of Fame

2021



allanblock.com



John Dyson

Founder of C & M Brick
Kangaroo Flats, Victoria, Australia

The “*Always Better*” Allan Block Wall of Fame continues to add quality people from all over the world who have impacted our company and the industry. This inductee embodies this and we are pleased to have John Dyson join the ranks.

Described as your ultimate Australian with a “walkabout spirit”, John Dyson is a shining example of why we are in the best industry, as we are working with one of the best people in the world! John’s journey in the block industry started at a young age when he wanted to travel the east coast of Australia near a region by the Great Barrier Reef. This is where it all started, where he learned to rebuild and end up running a Columbia block machine. From this chance beginning a career was born, one that helped chart the success of Allan Block.



John is an electrical and mechanical genius, and he grew his business the old fashion way, with his bare hands. He continued his involvement with block making and paver machines and with his two partners - Colin Kupke and John Ulner they expanded their business to multiple locations and started C&M Masonry, that came to be recognized across the continent. Having achieved what they set out to do, they sold their business to Adelaide Brighton Cement, but John continued on, to impart his priceless knowledge and experience with the new business team.

So, when and how did the story begin with Allan Block? In 1997, John contacted Allan Block and wanted to again expand, to get into the retaining wall business. At the time they were running concrete brick and pavers on a big board machine. This machine was not well suited for making a precision-controlled Allan Block, but where there is a will there is a way. John, working with Tim Bott, developed a modification to their main AB Classic unit, that has become known as the AB Aussie. This could now be manufactured on their Columbia machine, creating a product well suited for their new market of walls under 3 m (10 ft) and introducing No-Fines concrete into their site solutions.

As John was looking to grow his production capabilities, Tim introduced John to Matt Morey of Calstone Company in California, who was selling a 4 at a time Columbia block machine. John would now be able to produce four units per cycle. With production in mind, John purchased this for their Bendigo plant site. This upgrade allowed C&M/Adelaide the ability to produce and offer the full line of Allan Block products, which included being the first place in the world to offer the ability to build AB Ashlar Blend patterned walls.

With John's love of the outdoors, flying and his mechanical ability, in his spare time with his wife Pam, they were able to build their own airplane. They would fly all over Australia scouting areas where another block manufacturing facility would be best suited. Working with Tim Bott of Allan Block, John worked to find producers in Adelaide, Malvern, Sydney to name a few. This classified them as "Master Producers" and they soon became one of the top AB Markets in the world.



During one of the first of many trips Tim took to work with John and his team, John asked Tim if there was anything else he would like to see as they finished a two-week adventure. Tim's response was after all this time down under he had yet to see a kangaroo. After signing up a new producer in the Cairns part of the country, off to lunch they go at a local golf course pub. During lunch, shading under a tree, on the 18th green was a kangaroo. The kangaroo was about 12 m (40 ft) away from them. Tim ventures out to get a closer look. As Tim approaches, the kangaroo stands up and Tim realizes how big the creature is. Standing about 2 m (7 ft) tall, John yells to Tim to "Get the hell out of there".

On one adventure to expand AB production they found themselves in Darwin. It is clear why the Aussies are such a strong group of wonderful people and where Charles Darwin came up with his theory on the survival of the fittest. Even in a place that could be described as the end of the earth John helped to get AB in production.



We were fortunate to not have crossed the line with Miss Pam on an annual AB Summit many years ago. With Pam relaxing in a hammock on a little island after a marathon travel adventure to join us, someone rocked the hammock a bit and down she went into the warm unwelcoming sand beneath her. Needless to say, someone from Allan Block has been sleeping with one eye open when in her country. Her moto of getting ahead and not even is still hanging out there.

John and has been a great friend of Allan Block and was a tremendous addition to the worldwide success generated as a result of our great Producing Partners. He is a great businessman, and he was instrumental in many things we did first. We are thankful that he was a partner on our great walk-about in the Hardscape revolution. Although the pandemic has recently limited trips down under, he is one of the many foundation stones that help make **Allan Block Always Better** and we look forward to the time when we can spend more time together.