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Goss helps others to learn new skills

By ROSITA GALLASCH
Education reporter

MICK Goss has gone from struggling to read to leading the charge for men in Launceston's Northern suburbs to learn new skills.

The Turners Marsh resident was a single dad on a disability pension when he made the decision to change his life.

His experiences over the past decade have seen him featured in a new book sponsored by Adult Learning Australia called, *Lifelong & Lifewide, Stories*

of adults learning, which was launched in Sydney last week.

Mr Goss said he can clearly recall being in year 5, yet unable to spell words of a year 3 level and his teacher laughing in his face.

From that moment on he hated school and did as much as he could to act up and be sent from class until he was finally able to leave in year 9.

"I left when I got the opportunity to work at a bakehouse and I didn't really need to read or write,

or I just avoided doing things, so people wouldn't work it out," Mr Goss said.

When he changed jobs, he did the same again.

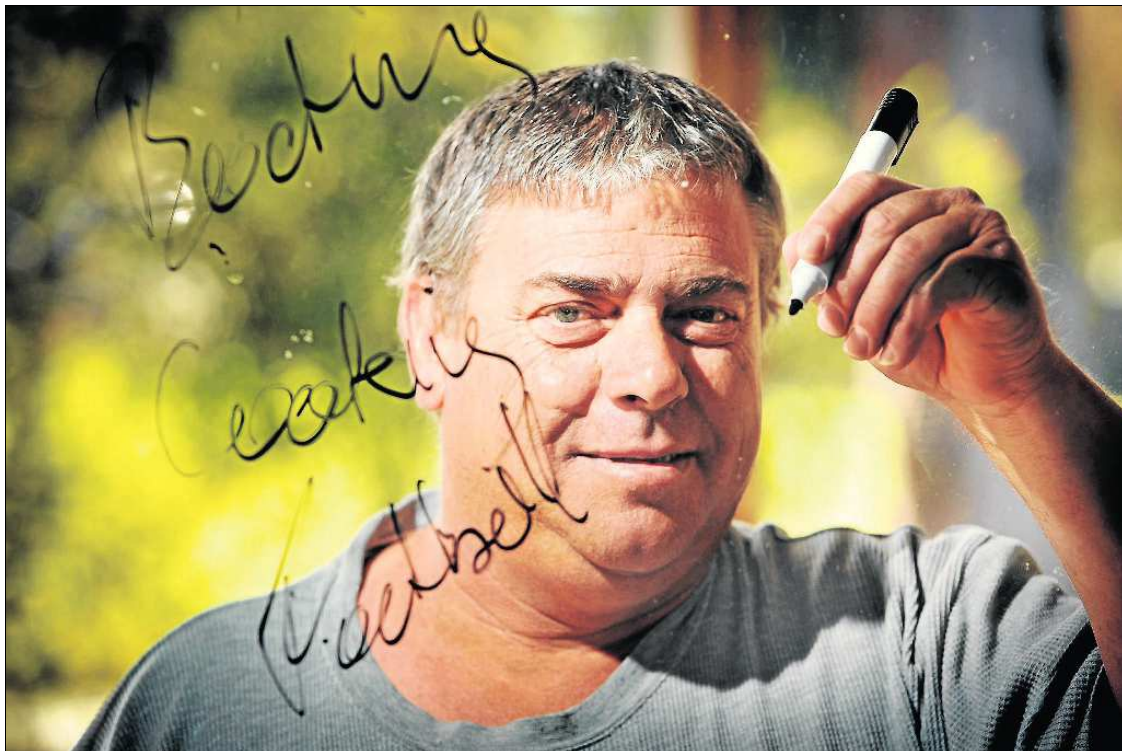
It wasn't until a serious back injury left him unable to work and he became the sole carer of his then three-month-old son that he decided his life had to change.

After three years of attending playgroup sessions with only women he decided to set up a men's group through the Northern Suburbs Community

Centre.

With the help of Relationships Australia and a bit of cajoling to get other men, dads and grandfathers to come along, the groups have progressed from helping men improve their literacy skills, to computer skills and now they're undertaking short courses in trade skills.

He said although it was hard at first to seek help, he found that love of learning again and is still doing various courses.



Turners Marsh's Mick Goss learnt to read and write as an adult after a difficult time during school.

Picture: SCOTT GELSTON