

AWISA THE MAGAZINE

FOR THE CABINET, JOINERY, FURNITURE, TIMBER AND PANEL INDUSTRIES



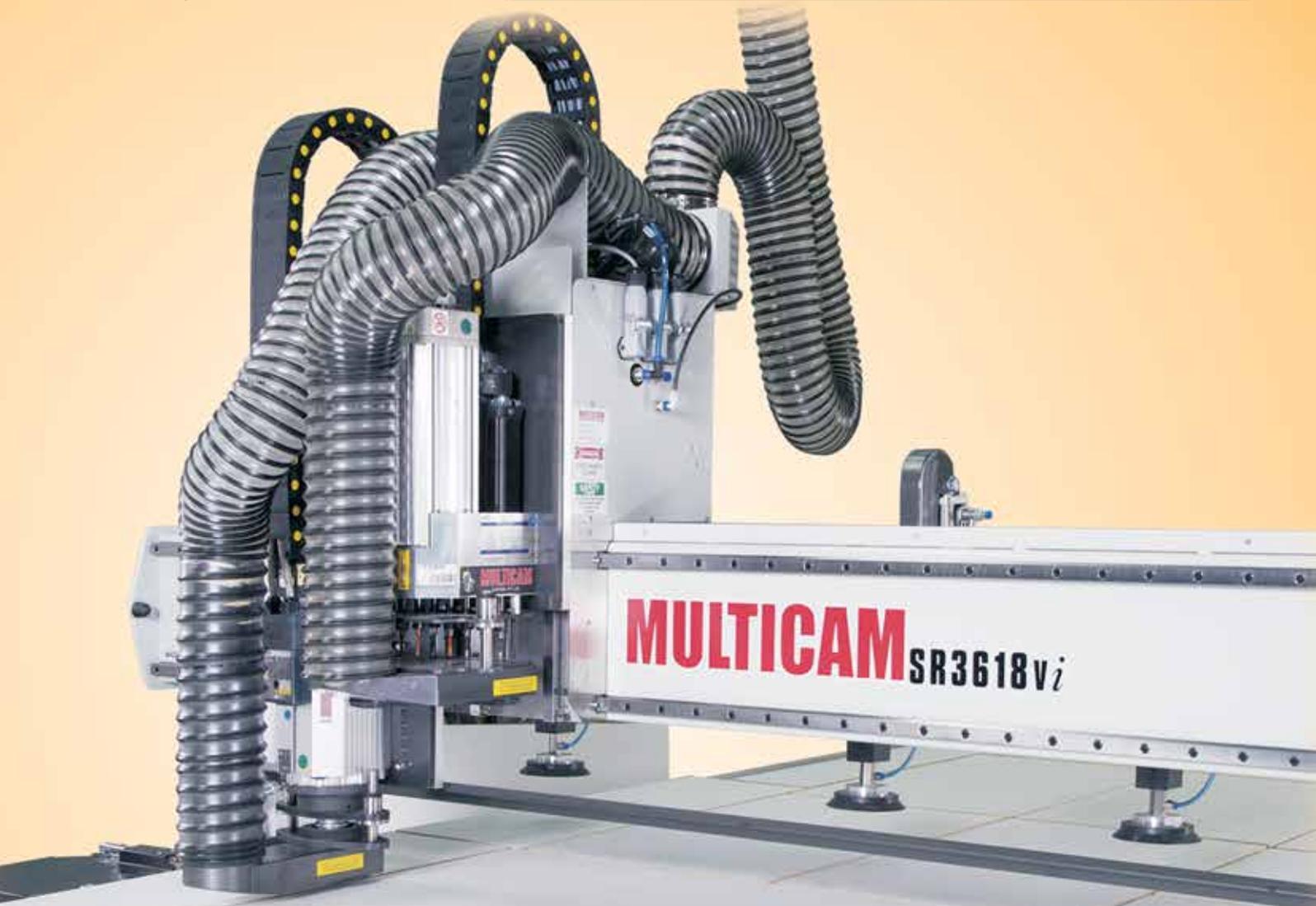
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Special Feature



Australian manufacturers working together to achieve success.

Haice Kitchens is a family run business that has been manufacturing kitchens for 20 years. From their new modern premises in Carrum Downs, they service their clients with passion, experience and the knowledge to manufacture to their particular design.

Owners Haissam Ismail and Noura Naim say that their vision from the outset has been to deliver exceptional results and to always offer the best customer service. "Our philosophy is to provide customers with quality kitchens that are functional, elegant and, more importantly, designed for the customers' home." says Haissam.

The move to the new premises prompted a serious re-think about the machinery they use to realise their objectives. In order to remain competitive in a very competitive market, both Haissam and Noura recognised that they would need to investigate some new machinery. Traditionally having beam saws, it was decided that a CNC routing machine would offer the best solution in terms of productivity and flexibility.

A long and litigious battle with a previous supplier of an imported machine, which eventually resulted in a win for Haice Kitchens, has left them very wary of many suppliers and suppliers of imported machinery in particular.

The driving force behind the quality production at Haice Kitchens, brothers Zee and Wazi, say that the poor service and support that they received in the past from their machinery supplier meant that this was a top priority in any future decision-making process.

Noura adds that their experienced designers work with clients to bring the kitchen they imagine in to reality. "We help to create the ideal design and bring their kitchen to life by using the latest design trends, materials and manufacturing processes." says Noura.

Kitchens are manufactured to the clients exact specifications based on their individual requirements. These include taking in to consideration their ideas, lifestyle, design preference and ergonomic needs. Such as adjusting bench heights away from industry "standards", to suit shorter or taller people.

There are a couple of CNC router suppliers in close proximity to the Haice Kitchens factory and the decision was made to purchase a Multicam CNC routing machine from Multicam's Victorian office. Even though there was another brand CNC routing machine supplier virtually across the road, the fact that they were offering imported machinery basically put them out of contention.

"Some of the main factors in our decision to purchase a Multicam machine were that they are fully Australian manufactured, so availability of parts isn't an issue, if we need them. There is a



Multicam sales manager, Cleon Kennedy congratulates Haissam on his purchase.

Multicam office just 20 minutes down the road staffed, by a specialist service team, so we can get prompt response to our needs. Lastly, there are a lot of Multicam machines out there that have been in service for many years." says Haissam

"The Multicam router and software package makes all of this much easier for us, especially for Wazi & Zee, who need to produce the end product."

Cleon Kennedy, Sales Manager for Multicam in Victoria, says that "Just as Haice Kitchens treat the needs of their clients individually, so we approach the needs of our customers in the same manner. Every Multicam owner has their own set of unique requirements, but what they all agree on is that local service, local knowledge and local support is paramount. Of course being Australian Made adds to this."

To contact Haice Kitchens go to www.haicekitchens.com.au

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DEAR READER,

I'm writing this editorial a few days before the Furniture Cabinets Joinery Alliance's (FCJA) fifth and final leaders' forum, that takes place in Canberra. For those readers who haven't read of the activities of the FCJA, it is the peak organisation in our industry with the board being made up of representatives from the Furnishing Industry Association of Australia, Cabinet Makers and Designers Association, Australian Window Association, Australian Shop and Office Fitting Industry Association, and AWISA.

One of the main aims of the FCJA is to raise the profile of the industry among politicians and bureaucrats, both state and federal. Leaders' forums have been held in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth, and the series now culminates in the Canberra forum. Subjects cover issues such as ensuring that the FCJ industries remain vibrant, the need for full regulatory compliance, creating value through design, innovation and collaboration, the union perspective and the views of government.

Up until the founding of the FCJA, the FCJ industries had a low profile in Canberra, and the forum will do a lot to raise this profile and to get the message out that FCJ industries are major employers and major contributors to the economy. The next issue of this magazine will have full coverage on the Canberra forum.

One of the many issues that FCJA discusses is an issue that is often raised with me, namely the problem of finding good staff. On page 63, Rick Lee comments on one aspect of this under the title, "The age of entitlement". We are not the only ones with this problem. This morning the Sydney Morning Herald has an article about restaurants. I quote one owner talking about newly trained chefs: "They want to jump straight into that rock-star role but the reality is they don't want to do the hours." The same old age of entitlement.

Geoff Holland

General manager
Australian Woodworking Industry
Suppliers Association Limited

FRONT COVER: Blum's new Legrabox Pure drawer system, one of a number of new drawer systems launched by AWISA members in the last 12 months.

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by Rob Ditessa

Innovative wood designs from Andrew Simpson's Vert Studios

A KAYAK and a wooden boat stand amidst a number of objects that are in various stages of development on the polished wooden floor of the corridor outside Vert Studios, Andrew Simpson's industrial design business. A walk along a tree-lined street in inner Sydney takes you to the renovated warehouse that contains his office where six young designers are at work rather quietly and with evident intent. They design everything, from half million dollar precision medical machinery right down to two-cent plastic widgets. "As well, we have been using timber polymer composites which effectively create an injection mouldable timber, and we have even been working on a timber bird feeder that contains hand-blown glass and intersecting forms," Simpson tells AWISA. The tools they use for innovative design work include computers, pencils and sketchbooks, and a CNC.

Using the CNC as a creative tool, Simpson explains they will CAD-mill up an article that is in design to see it visually as a prototype to determine the scale and the proportions, its materiality, for instance to judge how much it weighs, and test the functions. Having the CNC in-house means Simpson and his team do not rely on a third party to make prototypes. "I'll turn up some samples, and maybe the way I get there is somewhat unorthodox. There might be some more scraping and gouging, a bit more sanding than necessary. If it's going to be a production piece, say of furniture, and as we're not jacks of all trades, we'll take that prototype to a specialist turner, and take his advice on the best way to do it. The in-house CNC also gives

us the capacity to prove that a design works. Sometimes a manufacturer will say 'Oh, that's too difficult'. We can say that if we're able to do it with our low cost machine, you should be able to manufacture it." In one current challenging project, they CNC the joints for tables and chairs to make a complex joint that has a flowing form, and is reproducible without a lot of labour, making for a very desirable consumer product.

Simpson designed the kayak that stands in the corridor. He says the project followed on from the work his firm did for the Balmain Boat Company (Sydney), and that they applied a lot of their knowledge base, including for instance about dog boning the internal radiuses and about sheet selection, to make the design lightweight, strong, cost effective and reproducible. Nesting also plays a big part in getting a design like this to be a commercial success, he says, and continues, "The O Six Hundred kayak is a reimagining of a 4,000 year old Inuit design where animal skins would be stretched over a wood or whalebone-skeleton frame. Our 2015 design is a flat pack kit that you assemble yourself." This project won the 2015 Good Design Award in the Sport & Lifestyle category.

"It is a timber frame construction that slots together like a model aeroplane with a translucent Kevlar skin that glows in sunlight. At just 10kg anyone can get to the water with ease," he explains. In the design, with the use of the CNC it was simple to make the 9mm thick marine quality ply for the parts of the frame.





The way I get there might be unorthodox but having a CNC in-house gives us the capacity to prove a design works.

Andrew Simpson and
Ben Cooper with kayak.

The CNC came into his possession "opportunistically". He was in the market for a CNC, and one of his suppliers no longer had a use for two of theirs. A then associated workshop bought one, and Simpson purchased the other. Because both machines run off the same code, Simpson can double his capacity by shipping out work to his friends. He sums up, "We run a small three axis mill in the office and use it for producing prototypes as well as small production runs and one-offs. It allows us to experiment with forms and types of joints, amongst other things. The Benchman CNC runs well and we use BobCAD to generate our cutting files from our solid-work models. We did away with the tool changer to get more space on the bed. It has a manual override and we get good use out of it."

Wood based design work constitutes a small part of his firm's total business, but accounts for about forty per cent of Simpson's own design work. Wood, he reflects, is a very clean forgiving material. "It is not this dirty, hard mess of metal. It is more natural, and there is often a great cost advantage in using wood. There are so many choices of tones, and finishes. In one form there is a number of different materialities. Different timbers can have a very real and different feel in terms of its value, weight, texture, and tone. Wood is a beautiful material." He spends a good deal of effort in choosing the right timber for a design project, and he is concerned about the timber's performance but also its sustainability, especially for ply because of the volume of its use. To select the right timber, he works

with a specialist supplier, Anagote Timbers in Marrickville (Sydney) and he has enjoyed working with American oak, Fijian mahogany, and sassafras they have supplied. But he does not have a favourite timber because each has its own unique qualities, although he confesses, he does not enjoy working with pine. "You make a beautiful thing and get it down to a sanded finish, and it yellows. You never get a good enough finish with it," he decries.

Simpson's own interest in wood was fostered by his familial environment from an early age. His grandfather, a plumber by trade, was a "shed kind of guy" who loved woodworking tools, using them and looking after them. On weekends Simpson visited his grandfather who would teach him how to hammer a nail properly, how to get a square cut on a saw, and he passed on all his woodworking skills. "At school we used to be able to sneak into the workshop at lunch time and after school. My major project in year 12 was making a rocking chair which turned out badly proportioned, over scaled with five per cent difference in scale. It was almost a sight gag in terms of its visual impact. I made skate boards, and sold them to kids, and I realised that you can make something for a low cost once you've made your moulds. You can produce a \$100 product with \$15 of materials." At university he studied industrial design and although he lived in shared houses, he always had an equipped workshop. He worked as a glassblower, and also made glass blowing benches using recycled ironbark timber. He graduated in 2005, and today Simpson's successful career is a case



► study cited in the books used in NSW design technology courses. At home he works on his commissioned projects in his workshop comprising a three car garage, running single phase that "limits your options", with good dust extraction, and has an array of tools and equipment, table saws, drill presses, mill, and metal timber lathes.

Turning his attention to some of his projects, Simpson talks about his firm's major work for the Bennelong Restaurant at the Opera House. The job included designing wooden tables, chairs, serving dishes, and also designing a cutlery box. As timber is the predominant material in the restaurant, wood was the natural choice for the box but the challenge was sound dampening and avoiding damage to the cutlery.

On a smaller scale but no less intriguing for its innovative design and use of materials was a bird feeder. It was a bespoke piece he designed for a business concerned with the ethical treatment of animals that wanted to include his work in their art exhibition. "We milled a block of mahogany, and because we used the CNC it was an opportunity to do very new shapes, very fluid forms. It's something I really wouldn't do by hand but we were able to do using the CNC. We milled it in two halves, inside and out, cut the cavity, and then joined them together with dowel, and encompassed the hand blown glass work for the feeder and for the water container. I made a very rough hand-made one, just to get the sense of its scale, how things would work. I made a few tweaks, and then we took that very rudimentary model into the CAD, refined it in there, and scaled it to work within our

own capacity, and also of the quality of the material. We know we have a five millimetre wall section and that it then extends out into a 20 millimetre wall section, and so we will require a dowel."

A recent commission saw Simpson design a wooden bottle. The brand wanted to communicate the sense in their product of the colour and flavour that comes from distilling in wooden barrels. The challenge was to make the wooden bottles water tight when soaked but not split when dry, and also be cost-effective. In what he describes as "a reasonable challenge", they progressed through the design and prototype process. In the end he decided to construct the bottles out of four joint sections instead of a solid piece of timber. "The shoulder is all end grain, and soaking goes directly through end grain. That was one of our biggest issues, the length of end grain. As well, the length of the plug makes a difference in getting an airtight fit."

He adds that in their overall work, they also make sand casting patterns which go to a foundry, timber glass moulds for glass blowing, and moulds for plastic back forming. It is all work where wood is not the hero, but used in a process. It is all very much part of the mix, Simpson says before again putting wood work at the centre of attention, explaining that Charlie, one of his designers, is working on an innovative and creative project making timber frames for spectacles. "We've made a timber pattern. We're getting thin veneer and laminating the curved arm and curved faces." ■



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by John Halkett

Rolling out the barrels in South Australia



Barrel firing and toasting ... part of the ancient craft of oak barrel-making.

WINEMAKING remains so much of the romance, tradition and economic fabric of South Australia. Iconic South Australian wine labels like Penfold, Jacob's Creek, Yalumba and Henschke are recognised across Australia and around the world.

Still considered a craft or an art form by many, Australian winemaking has moved to an industrial scale. South Australia is the country's largest wine producing state, accounting for more than half of Australia's wine grape production. In 2014 the state produced 544 million litres of wine, most of which was sold overseas.

In addition to grape varieties, soils, climate and the finesse of master winemakers a critical ingredient of wine's 'magic formula' is the barrel, imparting as it does much of the colour, taste, texture, value and mystery of wine.

While a significant number of wine barrels are imported there are companies in South Australia practicing the ancient craft of cooperage - supplying barrels to vineyards in the Barossa Valley, Clare Valley, Riverland,

Adelaide Hills, McLaren Vale and Coonawarra, elsewhere in South Australia and beyond.

At the peak of the wine boom in the late 1990s the Australian market for barrels was about 120,000 a year. This has dropped to about 45,000 in the past twelve months in part due to cost pressures on wineries.

The leading cooperage in Australia, A.P. John operates from an expansive facility at Tanunda in the Barossa Valley. According to managing director Peter John, the company's range of French and American oak barrels can be found in cellars of premium winemakers throughout Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, California and Spain.

A.P. John makes about 15,000 new barrels a year, plus has a substantial operation refurbishing existing barrels and repairing both its own and imported barrels.

"As winemakers have become more sophisticated in their winemaking styles we have had to develop new products," says Peter.

"There are more than fifteen variations on the basic barrel these days - different regional forests and timber selection, grain profile, the amount of seasoning that it receives and where it is seasoned, the toast levels and so on."

"The most important thing that has changed is the relationship with the winemaker. We talk often, taste and analyse their wines to determine their needs and how we can meet them. It is an evolution that has us much more customer-focused and consultative," says Peter.

A.P. John has long standing relationships with foresters and specific regional sawmillers in the United States going back over 65 years ensuring only the finest quality American oak is sourced and milled for the company's barrels.

The company sources the finest American oak from the same mills and growers who have, in most instances, been suppliers to the company for well over fifty years. This generational relationship ensures timber supplies from sustainable forests that are



We talk often with the winemaker, taste and analyse their wines to determine their needs.

John McGovern... the company's French and American oak barrels can be found in cellars of premium winemakers throughout Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, California and Spain.

the envy of French and American cooperages – and the joy of Australian winemakers.

Peter says its French oak is sourced via its exclusive supply chain relationship with the Francois Group and its milling connections. "Our very fine grain oak is sourced from the Berce-Jupille region of France. The oak is seasoned in Burgundy and Bordeaux for 36 months prior to shipment to Australia."

A.P. John's regional sales manager John McGovern says that it is now fairly standard industry practice for wine below about \$15 a bottle to be made in stainless steel tanks using oak planks and chips to provide much of the flavour and texture.

"However, premium wines are still made in oak barrels – as next to grapes oak imparts much of the flavour, colour, texture and weight to wine and assists it to mature."

"A.P. John barrels are used for all Penfold's top-end wines, including of course its iconic Grange. There is no doubt that premium wine needs to be made in quality oak barrels," says John.

"Winemakers are starting to realise that the race to-the-bottom in terms of price is not helping the sale of Australian wines or protecting market share in export markets so there is a conscious move back towards quality and oak barrels, rather than stainless steel tanks," he says.

John adds that although in total the demand for wine barrels in Australia has contracted, domestically-made barrels are presently taking market share off imported barrels. "So a slightly smaller pie, but a bigger slice for locally-made barrels."

John argues that among the benefits of locally-made barrels is the ability to provide responsive and prompt service, more flexibility in ordering and delivery. "Plus presently the depreciation of the Australia dollar is assisting domestic barrel-makers."

The John family first settled in South Australia's Barossa Valley in the 1840's. Since then, five generations of the family have continued an unbroken connection with the viticulture, winemaking and coopering industries. ▶



S.A. Cooperage Roger Deves and Ray Dopson ... putting effort into servicing a growing demand for decorative barrels, specialised repair and barrel reconditioning.



Barrel-makers servicing an increasing demand for large oak vats to differentiate tastes, colour and quality for the whisky industry.

► The family began operating coopers late in the 19th century when Christian Paul John established what was then the Chateau Tanunda Cooperage in 1889. His son Arthur Paul John continued in his father's trade established the original A.P. John cooperage on the Chateau Tanunda site until moving to the current site in Tanunda in 1925. Today the business is managed by fourth generation master cooper Peter John, great-grandson of the company founder.

Towards the smaller-scale end of the cooperage business is S.A. Cooperage. Established by work colleagues Roger Deves and Ray Dopson in 1987 the cooperage, on the southern outskirts of Adelaide at Hackham, makes around 2000 barrels of various types a year. This versatile company also puts substantial effort into servicing a growing demand for decorative barrels and carries out specialised repair and barrel reconditioning work that extends to the Hunter Valley and Western Australia.

Commenting on imported barrels chief executive Roger Deves says imports are certainly not cheaper or better than locally-made barrels. "Australian barrel-makers can provide a much quicker delivery time frame and allow the winemaker detailed input into barrel specifications."

He also confirms that currently the wine industry has a job to do to win back market share and in an endeavour to improve quality is moving away from stainless steel tanks back to oak barrels.

Roger notes with pleasure that coopers in South Australia are continuing the ancient craft of barrel-making. "A trade, as we know it, that was started as far back as thirteenth century if not before."

"Since that time, the cooper's skills have been passed on from master cooper to apprentice throughout the generations to the present day," he says.

S.A. Cooperage manufactures a complete range of barrels and casks in American and French oak using traditional methods. "We only use quality oak that is sourced and seasoned in its country of origin before shipping. In addition our barrels and casks are fired to our clients exacting specifications giving the winemaker greater control over wine characteristics and quality, plus delivering cost savings."

S.A. Cooperage also knocks apart used barrels, re-machines them to expose fresh oak extending their useful life. In addition the company carries out barrel reconditioning on-site, plus refiring if necessary.

Roger says their barrel-making is about equally split between American and French oak. "French and American oak have their respective fans on account of the different tannins and flavours that react with wine, whisky or sherry."

He notes an increasing demand for oak casks for the blossoming Australian whisky industry. "Here again the finished product is partly dependent on the oak to impart different tastes, colour and quality." ■

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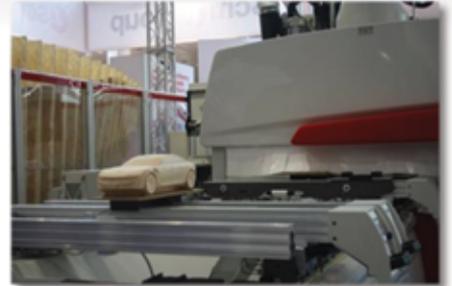
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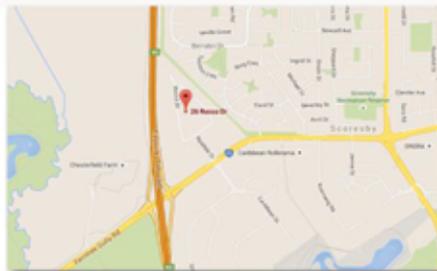


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by Geoff Bills

housing

Recent construction activity

Work done on new housing has been rising rapidly.

As Chart 1 shows, activity, helped along by falling interest rates, increased from an annual rate of around \$43 billion in the December quarter of 2013 to a rate of \$51.6 billion a year in the March quarter of 2015: a rise of 21 per cent over the fifteen months.

The rise did much to fill the gap in total construction activity left by the sharp declines in both mine construction, which fell by 24 per cent over the period, and other engineering construction which fell by 19 per cent.

Unfortunately neither housing renovations nor non-residential building did much to help. Over these five quarters, renovation activity struggled to maintain its initial rate of \$28.5 billion a year. In fact activity fell below \$28 billion a year in the September and December quarters last year, recovering to \$28.9 billion in

the March quarter of 2015 to be only 1 per cent higher than in the December quarter of 2013.

Non-residential building performed only slightly better, maintaining a remarkably steady annual rate of just over \$35 billion a quarter over most of the five quarters. But, as with housing renovations, activity at the end was just 1 per cent higher than at the beginning.

Approvals up strongly

The strong rise in new dwelling approvals in 2014/15 suggests that starts and building activity will continue to rise in the months ahead.

The 220,092 dwellings approved in 2014/15 was a record high, and 13 per cent higher than the previous record of 194,584 achieved the previous year. We have to go back to 1993/94 for the third highest number of approvals, of 188,884, and to 1988/89 for the fourth highest, of 188,341.

Among the larger states, the biggest increases were in Victoria (20%), Queensland (15%) and New South Wales (11%). They rose by 6 per cent in Western Australia but fell by 2 per cent in South Australia.

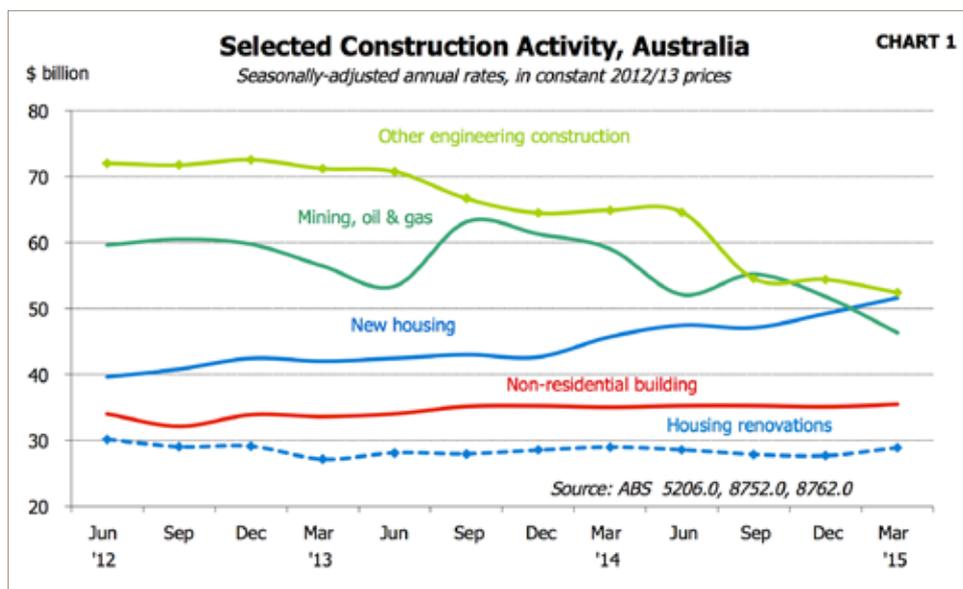
Those earlier peaks in national approvals were not only high in relation to past experience, but also high when compared with our estimates of the underlying requirement for new housing: estimates that take account not only of population growth but also of demolitions, holiday homes and trends in the number of persons per home.

The same is true today. Approvals in 2014/15 were about 3 per cent higher than requirements. In 2014/15, with approvals up and population growth down, they were 25 per cent higher than requirements. It is not surprising, then, that the trend rate of approvals fell in June, nationally and in most states. Whether or not they continue to fall depends on many factors, including population growth, affordability, consumer confidence and investor demand.

Population growth

In the year to December 2014, Australia's population increased by 330,200: 11 per cent less than the increase of 374,600 in calendar 2013. Natural increase of 146,100 was 8 per cent lower and net overseas immigration of 184,100 was down by 15 per cent. The rate of growth slowed from 1.6 per cent in 2013 to 1.4 per cent in 2014.

The ending of the mining construction boom clearly had a major impact on population growth. Growth was little changed in South Australia and





Geoff Bills

Geoff Bills is an independent economist with long experience analysing and forecasting economic activity in Australia.

Tasmania and weakened only slightly in New South Wales and Victoria. But there were big falls in the resource-rich states, of 35 per cent Western Australia and 17 per cent in Queensland.

Victoria's growth rate of 1.8 per cent in 2014 was faster than that of any other state or territory: ahead of Western Australia's 1.6 per cent and well ahead of the 1.4 per cent achieved in New South Wales and Queensland.

This slower national growth is likely to persist for a year or two at least, reducing the need for additional housing.

Affordability

In the March quarter of 2015, interest rates fell and the affordability of housing, as measured by the number of times pre-tax family income covered the average loan repayment, increased in all states and territories except South Australia.

The biggest increase, of 3.6 per cent, was in New South Wales. Nationally, affordability rose by 2.2 per cent but was slightly lower than a year ago.

With household incomes increasing only slowly, interest rates unchanged and home prices up 2 per cent, affordability almost certainly fell in the June quarter.

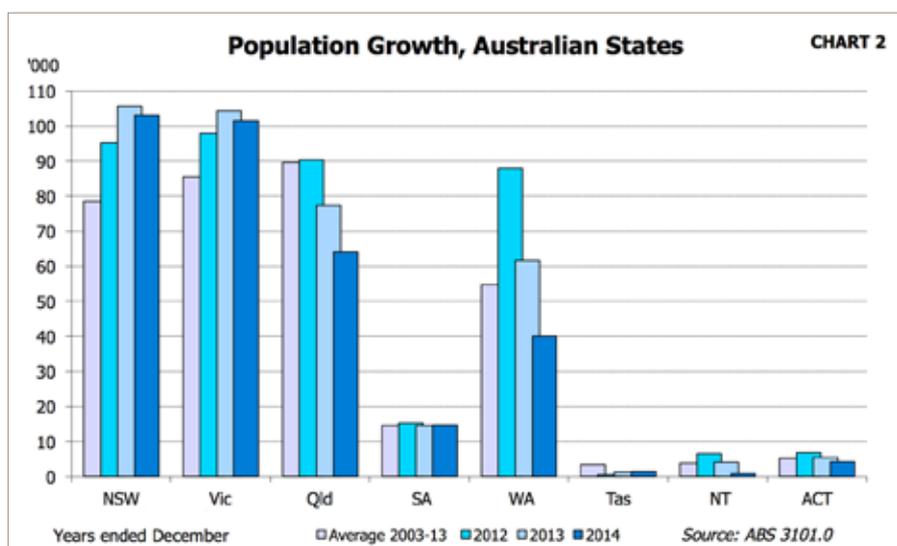
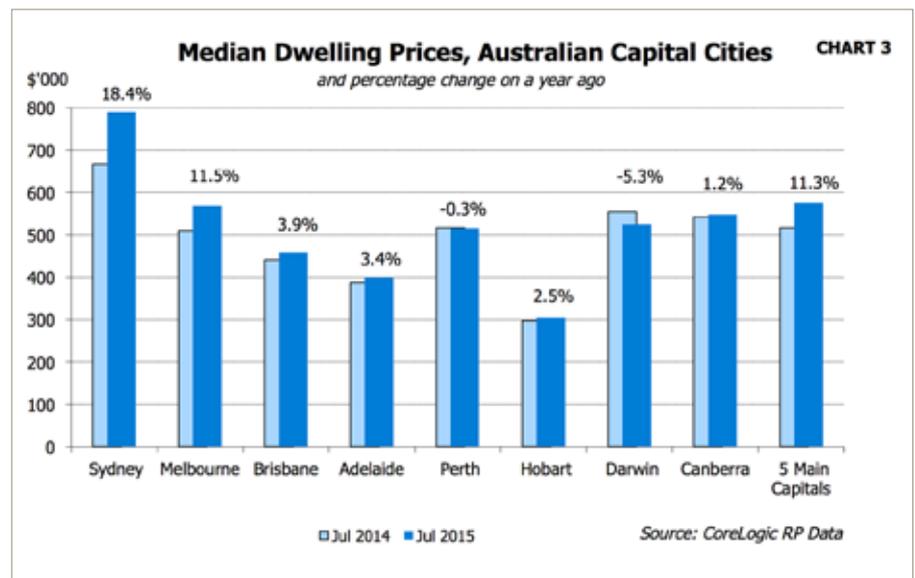
Home prices increased strongly again in July and, as Chart 3 shows, have risen sharply over the year to July in Sydney and Melbourne.

Although interest rates are unlikely to fall any further in the year ahead, they are also unlikely to rise. Nevertheless, home prices would need to stabilise for affordability to improve. Although that seems unlikely it is not impossible. We think that future increases in home prices will be modest and that there will be only a slight deterioration in affordability in the year ahead.

Consumer confidence

Consumer confidence has been weakening. The index fell in June and again in July, and over these past two months has fallen by 10 per cent to 95.3, well below its ten-year average. The reading of below 100 indicates that more respondents were pessimistic about the future than were optimistic.

In July, the 'time to buy a dwelling' component of the index fell very sharply: by 15.4 per cent to be 14.7 per cent lower than a year earlier and at its lowest level since June 2010. The



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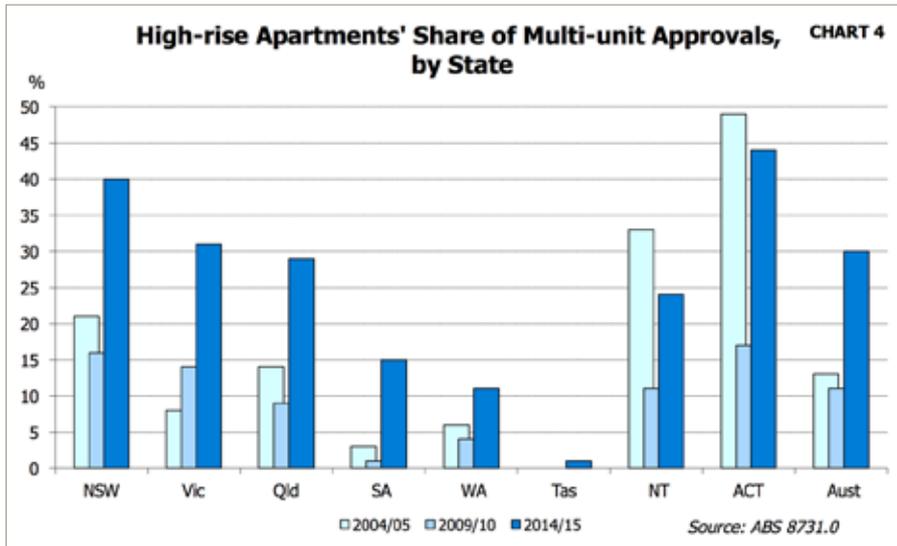
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fall is likely to reflect concerns about the impact of rising house prices on affordability. Despite these concerns, respondents expect even further increases in house prices. The House Price Expectations component increased by 8.2 per cent and was 2.3 per cent higher than a year ago.

Investor activity

Lending statistics show that investors have played a major role in driving housing

approvals higher. In May 2015, lending to owner-occupiers was 1 per cent less than a year earlier. Lending to investors, however, was up by 19 per cent. Much of this investment has been in high-rise apartments, which as Chart 4 shows, have grown rapidly to make up 40 per cent of approvals in New South Wales, and around 30 per cent nationally and in Victoria and Queensland.

In the five months to May, loans to investors made up 51 per cent of total lending and, in

each of the months of March, April and May, 52 per cent. In calendar 2014 they made up 49 per cent, and in the previous four years, averaged only around 43 per cent.

Even so, there are signs that investor interest is waning: lending approvals fell by 3 per cent in May. Tighter bank lending rules, especially on foreign investors, said by developers to account for some 20 per cent of new home sales in Sydney and Melbourne, are likely to slow investor activity still further.

New housing starts increased by 11 per cent to 180,970 in 2013/14 and are estimated to have risen by 17 per cent to 212,000 in 2014/15. They are forecast to fall by 6 per cent to 200,000 this financial year and by a further 6 per cent to 188,000 in 2016/17. ■

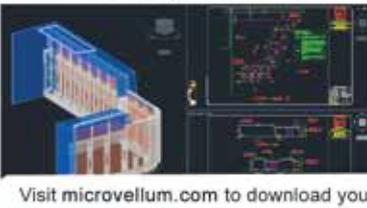
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In the thick of the action

Talk about being in the thick of the action. Elba Kitchens is now an integral part of the current western Sydney housing explosion – and for that matter strong new housing demand across NSW.

Concentrating solely on fit-outs for project home builders, Elba Kitchens has an impressive client list of Australia's major home builders with whom they have exclusive contractual supply arrangements.

"It's about pressure to perform and to deliver – on time and on budget - or don't come Monday. So yes we are pleased with our hard-won reputation," says Elba Kitchens' George Fabre.

George and Elba Kitchens co owner Nick Chiefari were former work colleagues. "George was my boss and saw the perfect opportunity to set up a business together - he has mellowed a bit since then!" says Nick.

They started out in June 2003 in Sydney's Wetherill Park. "Then we made anything - you name it we made it - it was about getting jobs in and establish ourselves," says George.

A somewhat understated pair, George and Nick now run one of the most impressive cabinet making and joinery operations in Sydney. Since October 2013 Elba Kitchens has been operating from a purpose-built, high production,

technology-savvy factory in Sydney's west at Eastern Creek.

With in excess of 50 staff the company pumps out about 26 projects a week, including kitchens, bathrooms, laundries, wardrobes, entertainment units, home offices and any other cabinet work or joinery required.

With high product levels and demands from its project home builder clients Nick says the company places real importance on machining capacity, reliability and quality. "So along with meticulous attention to design detail, modern CNC machinery that can deliver fast, precision manufacturing that does not compromise quality is essential. There's no argument - CNC routers together with edgebanding flexibility and quality are not negotiable," he says.

George says the company has enjoyed an increasingly strong relationship with Biesse over the past four years and now has a core of Biesse machinery at the centre of its production line.

This includes a Rover A G FT – the latest in nesting technology, with an extremely flexible work table and innovative loading and unloading systems that makes the router a very reliable, high through-put and competitive machine.

Coupled with the Rover A G FT Elba Kitchens runs a high versatility Akron 440 edgebander. With its heavy duty

Elba Kitchens has a particular interest in the changing trends, fads, lifestyle choices and budgets that sit behind modern kitchen design.

The kitchen is the heart of the home and needs to be attractive, practical, durable and easy to maintain.



seamless joints and quality finishes are prerequisites

construction and robust operating the Akron edgebander does the bulk of the company's routine edgebanding, delivering a high quality finish with great reliability under a wide range of working situations.

Another critical part of Elba Kitchen's Biesse production 'cell' is the new edgebander with AirForce edgebanding technology. The revolutionary AirForce System allows access to invisible glue line quality joints creating the perfect fusion that is resistant to heat and humidity.

According to Biesse's chief executive officer for Oceania Luke Tenaglia, the AirForce System emits forceful, very hot compressed air through a slot nozzle directly onto the reactive layer of commonly available laser banding. This activates that layer and bonds the banding to the substrate resulting in an excellent quality joint that is resistant to water and humidity.

George says the company's edgebander with the AirForce System is used mainly for finishing on cabinet doors where high visibility means quality finishes and appearance are critical. "So here the AirForce seamless joint and quality finish are prerequisites that are in a class of their own," he says.

Elba Kitchens demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the evidence suggesting that home purchasing decisions are substantially influenced by kitchen design and functionality. George says they have a particular interest in the changing trends, fads, lifestyle choices and budgets that sit behind modern kitchen design. "We are committed to providing our project home clients with great quality products coupled with the highest standards of workmanship."

He acknowledges that today kitchens are much more than just an area for cooking. "They hold many functions within our day-to-day lives – the local hangout, the home office, dining room and communications centre. The kitchen is the heart of the home and needs to be attractive, practical, durable and easy to maintain," says George.

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George Fabre and Nick Chiefari run one of the most impressive cabinet making and joinery operations in Sydney... pumping out about 26 projects a week.

George Fabre and Nick Chiefari with their edgebander with AirForce System.



Panel cutting technology without waste

Panel cutting - this can be completed either by a traditional saw or by using the nesting technique. As a manufacturer of horizontal pressure beam saws, Holzma has been setting standards in panel cutting technology for nearly five decades now. Nesting, on the other hand, is a fairly young technology. Weeke offers highly efficient concepts for this sector. Both technologies have become standard features of panel cutting technology; at the same time handling and logistics have been gaining in importance. As a systems provider, the Homag Group offers interesting combinations, such as the "store-saw-nesting combination" from Homag Automation, Holzma and Weeke.

As manufacturers, both Holzma and Weeke face the same challenges: Everything revolves around the question of improving performance and efficiency.

Companies that produce efficiently, improve their performance. In order to produce efficiently, "waste" has to be avoided - of this Taiichi Ohno was certain. Taking this approach, the inventor of the Toyota Production System systematically eliminated every instance of waste, which he categorized in his book into seven points (source: Wikipedia):

1. Overproduction (only produce what you need)
2. Unnecessary movements (by the operator and/or the machine)
3. Waiting times (for the operator and/or machine)
4. Transportation
5. Inappropriate processing (excessively complex and/or superfluous process steps)
6. High levels of material stock (within production and/or in the storage facilities for raw materials and finished parts)
7. Reworking and scrap

In the area of panel cutting there is, of course, also waste, i.e. so-called "non-value-adding activities". Holzma and Weeke have therefore set themselves the task of identifying these weak areas. They hold workshops with customers, scrutinize processes in both craft and industrial establishments from

a neutral point of view, analyze the operating sequences in depth and develop appropriate solutions with the customer - from storage and cutting to supplying downstream stations. The aim is to implement processes that flow from start to finish - fully in keeping with Holzma's Domino philosophy and Weeke's nesting concepts and always for the benefit of the customers.

Point 1: Overproduction

Only produce what's needed - this applies to series production as well as to classic batch size 1 production. The aim is to saw or cut the parts out of the panel in an ideal way so that as little as possible in terms of offcuts or waste is produced. What's more, all finished parts should be delivered at the right time, to the right place and in the right quantity. A key factor in this is the software. The Homag Group offers a number of established solutions, for example WoodWop 7 and WoodCADCAM, which can be used in discussions with customers, for planning and for generating CNC programs. The optimization software Cut Rite supplies cutting patterns via an online connection to both nesting machines and saws. The new Holzma destacking software tells the operator which part to place on which pallet and the precise position so that it is in the correct order for the subsequent processing station, for example, an edge banding machine.

Point 2: Unnecessary movements

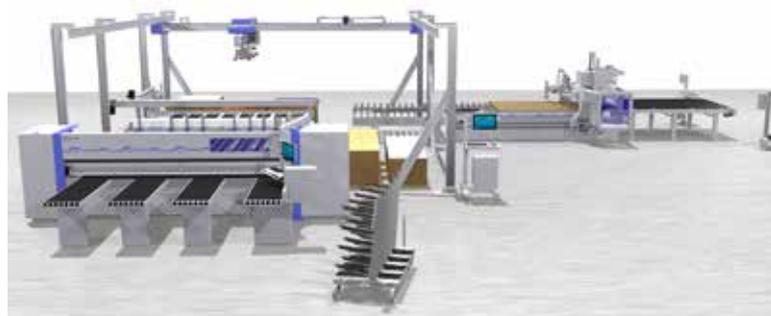
Operator and machine work more efficiently if there are no unnecessary movements. The Holzma destacking concept is a good example of an innovation in the cutting area that enables the machine operator to complete work more efficiently. Another example is the optimization of nesting processes on Weeke nesting machines. The software arranges (nests) the required workpieces on the panel in such a way as to ensure that processing can be completed in the shortest possible time and with a minimum of waste.

Point 3: Waiting times

The Holzma destacking concept also reduces waiting times for the operator by offering the option of buffering parts. The machine operator can first feed the next strip for cutting and then calmly destack the buffered parts. This ensures flowing processes and smooth workflows, as well as eliminating waiting times.

Waiting times can also arise when feeding the saw or nesting machine. There are comprehensive solutions for this too, for example, saw-store combinations: the storage system pre-stacks the panels during the night to ensure they are ready in the correct order for the next day. Even labeling of the uncut panels can take place at night. Doing so provides the ideal conditions for flowing processes without long periods spent

Store-saw-nesting





waiting. The Holzma feed-stacking table works in a similarly efficient manner, feeding the saw while the previous panel is still being cut. On request, the nesting machine can feed the new panel while the finished nest is being discharged. This allows the processes to mesh together seamlessly, without any waiting time.

Waiting times also arise if machines are not available when required. Machine availability is crucial if production is to be successful and, above all, efficient. For this reason, Holzma and Weeke are working hard to continually increase machine availability. For example, servicing is being made easier on an ongoing basis with the introduction of new designs. An example of this is the 5 series – the flagship of the Holzma series-production models was overhauled for the 2014 in-house exhibition Holzma Treff and significantly improved in many areas.

Point 4: Transportation

It couldn't be shorter: after being delivered, the panels go directly to the warehouse, from the warehouse to the saw or nesting machine, and from there on to subsequent processing stations - perhaps manually using "HuGo", the Holzma pallet truck with automatic height control. HuGo can transport the panels, for example, to the Weeke ABD horizontal drilling and doweling station or to the edge banding unit. A fully automatic connection to subsequent stations is also possible.

Point 5: Overprocessing

Those who want to reduce transportation still further and at the same time increase their efficiency will choose the Holzma HPP 300 MultiTec. This saw also performs routing and drilling work - ideal for builders of facades and partition walls, for example. It eliminates the laborious reloading

of what are predominantly large and heavy panels into other machines and also obviates the need for subsequent processing on the construction site. The Weeke BHP series offers similar features. It is therefore possible to choose between Holzma and Weeke depending on the requirement profile.

Point 6: High levels of material stock

Software-controlled storage systems play a key role in reducing unnecessarily high levels of material stock. They ensure that users are able to keep track of material and can reliably detect any "shelf warmers". The same applies, incidentally, to manual offcuts stores. These are available in manual versions - Homag Automation management software and Holzma optimization ensure that data is always up to date and that offcuts are fed back into the process. Semi-automated and fully automated solutions are also available.



Top: The new 5 series. Above:Destacking concept

Pallet truck "HuGo".





Store-saw-nesting.

► **Point 7: Reworking and scrap**

The usual reason for scrap being generated during cutting is parts being scratched or damaged. With this in mind, the Homag Group has taken a gentle approach to transporting and processing material. The range of solutions begins with vacuum feeding, whether via a storage system, a feed gantry or a lifting table equipped with the Holzma 2 in 1 feeding system. Specially flocked rollers, machine tables with air jets, adjustable pressure for the clamps and pressure beam - all of this ensures that a Holzma saw transports material gently and that processing is kind on panel surfaces. One of the latest inventions is the Holzma DustEx extraction technology. This greatly reduces the accumulation of dust from dust cuts and eliminates the need to perform a time-consuming blow-off of the machine. The machine tables remain clean and ensure that parts are transported without being scratched.

Weeke uses the CNC controller to achieve optimum extraction results. The controller switches the extraction system on only in the processing area that is active at that particular moment. This reduces the overall power required and nevertheless guarantees a consistent standard of cleanliness.

Point 8: Energy consumption

This point was not explicitly mentioned by Taiichi Ohno. Yet it is so important today, that it deserves a special mention. "Energy saving" is a key issue in the Homag Group - especially because the potential for savings with networked machines is exponential. Among the "EcoPlus" technologies is the standby button, integrated as a standard feature. This immediately puts machines into a power-saving mode but does not involve a wait when the machine is "rebooted".

Modern extraction systems also play a substantial role in resource efficiency at Holzma and Weeke, as do the load-dependent fans in Holzma air cushion tables, the demand-controlled vacuum pumps used by Weeke and many other features. Taking a holistic view, it is clear to see how much potential lies in energy consumption overall. A company that uses Homag Group solutions, from saw and edge banding machine to drilling and doweling stations, can cut its energy consumption by up to 30%.

Conclusion

Ongoing improvement of performance is a key issue in panel cutting. The focus is no longer solely on performance data such as kW figures or saw blade projection, but rather on achieving improvements in performance overall. To achieve such improvements, it is vital to consider both the machine(s) and the machine environment. This highlights the issue of flowing processes - in particular upstream and downstream of the cutting process: from storage and feeding to panel cutting and on to the subsequent processing station. The high level of performance of an individual machine becomes irrelevant as soon as queues form upstream or downstream, ultimately leading to waiting times.

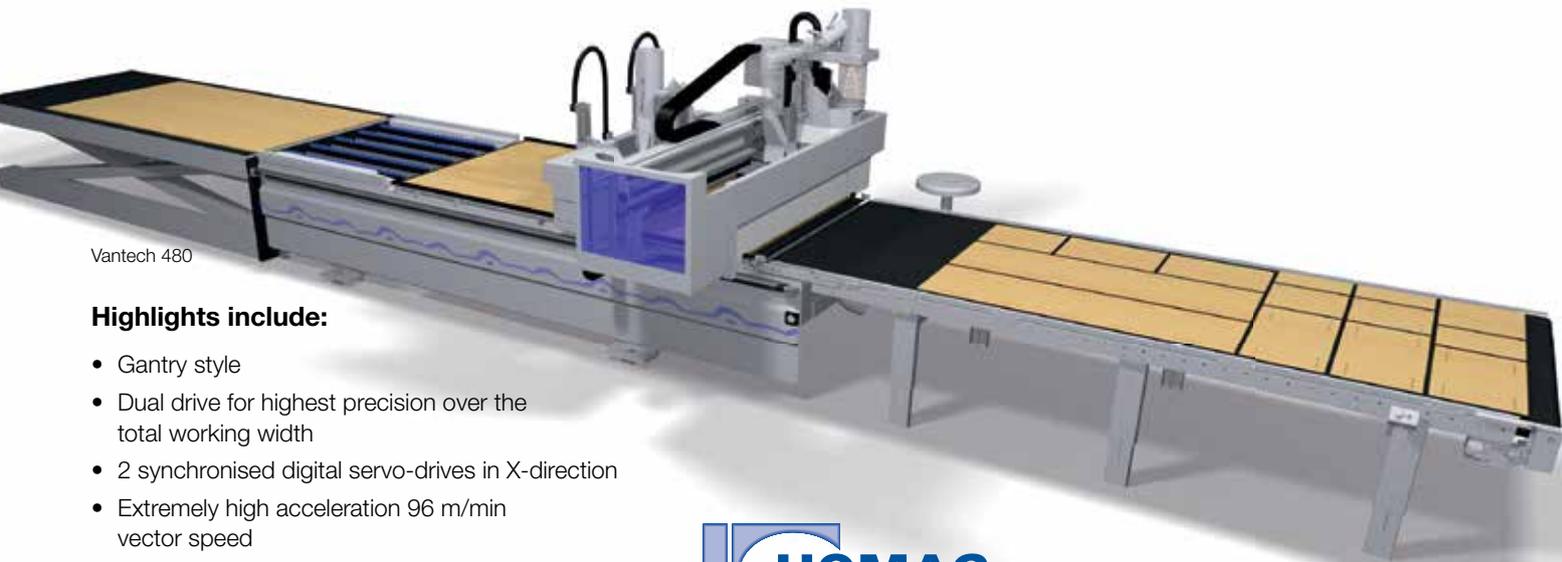


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FCJA coordinates company visits for the Hon Karen Andrews MP



FURNITURE CABINETS JOINERY

The FCJA recently arranged for the Hon Karen Andrews MP, parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Industry and Science, to take time out of her busy schedule to visit a number of cabinet and joinery businesses based in her own electorate on the Gold Coast, Queensland.

Ms Andrews has been very receptive to representations that the FCJA has made to her and her office since her appointment in December 2014, and it was agreed there would be merit in the parliamentary secretary seeing firsthand the nature of the industry and the types of innovations being made.

As a former engineer, Ms Andrews showed a keen interest in, and sound understanding of, the operations of the five companies she visited. The companies visited were Germancraft, Australian Joinery Products, Farmers Doors, C-View Windows, and Central Glass and Aluminium.

The common points of interest raised by these five diverse businesses included that they are heavily focussed on advanced manufacture but that this takes a relatively huge investment on their part; they are fully committed to eco-friendly practices, but once again this adds to their costs which are not incurred by many low cost imports; they are concerned about a perceived lack of genuine interest by government in small business even though this makes up the bulk of the Australian economy; and that they generate significant employment collectively for many who would otherwise find it difficult to get jobs.

The Furniture Cabinets Joinery Alliance Ltd is the peak representative body for the collective furniture, cabinet and joinery industries. The founding members of the FCJA are the Furnishing Industry Association of Australia, Australian Window Association, Cabinet Makers and Designers Association, Australian Shop and Office Fitting Industry Association and Australian Woodworking Industry Suppliers Association.

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Christian Farmer of Farmers Doors in discussion with Hon Karen Andrews MP.

Hon Karen Andrews MP (right) during her visit to Australian Joinery Products. At left is Rowena Ryan from the Department of Industry and Science and Jim Parsell from Australian Joinery Products.



New ideas and added support the difference - L & S LED Lighting



The L & S LED lighting range offered by Wilson & Bradley is constantly evolving. With many new products and services recently being added it is clear why both brands are synonymous with innovative products and services.

To make the decision and ordering process easier the Wilson & Bradley website now features a number of L & S kit codes so that purchasers can be sure they have everything needed to easily install any of the LEDs in the range. The kits include LED lights, transformers and accessories to ensure the customer has all required parts with one click of the mouse.

As well as making the purchasing process more streamlined the new informative installation videos for the L & S range guarantees the customer is confident when it comes to installation. This can be viewed

on either the Wilson & Bradley full site or the mobile site that can be viewed on smart phones and tablets. The L & S installation videos join an already extensive library of videos in the media centre including Blum, Sige Wire ware, Striplox connectors and Tensorgrip canister adhesives.

"In this era we are often time poor, this includes our customers. When our customers need assistance with anything, be it installation of a product, pricing or access to their invoices or statements they need access at a time that suits them. Our website provides this," says Trevor Wilson, managing director, Wilson & Bradley.

Along with the complementary L & S lighting services, Wilson & Bradley are also proud to introduce some new products to the range. Along with the much anticipated Malindi Meccano strip lighting with frosted diffuser,

the Toki Bluetooth speaker and charger is a must have in any room of the house. Toki combines a Bluetooth or USB connected speaker and charger with 2 power sockets to power any appliance.

Another newly introduced product to the range is the radio switch. This product switches the LEDs on and off remotely at a maximum range of 15 metres. These new products join an already diverse range of touch lighting, strip lighting, sensor lighting and the innovative emotion range that allows for the LED light to change from warm white to cool white as well as a dimming function.

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Planit helping Blank Joinery reach its goals

Blank Joinery is a young business with a committed owner with clear goals outlined for the business to achieve. Owner, Michael Neville, opened the business with the aim to focus on high detailed kitchen and joinery work. Blank Joinery has set itself a number of objectives, with one of the key ones being to steadily increase the output of the factory over the next 5 years. With this goal in mind, Michael began to research how he was going to be able to achieve it.

Michael has always been a tradesman who loves working with his hands and being involved in the manufacturing side of the business. So when starting the business, he was uncertain about whether he really needed to invest in software or not. This was before Planit came onsite and explained the role that software has in a business and how it will help reach the goals Blank Joinery had set. Through the discussions, Michael realised how software would help him improve his ability to design more efficiently, win more jobs and ensure information was correctly being sent to the factory.

Originally Michael was only using a panel saw for manufacturing. Planit's Essential Tools of the Trade package was the perfect fit, as it would provide Michael the drawing functionality that he needed, with the additional benefit of being able to optimise jobs and produce cutting patterns to use with his panel saw.

During the initial training, Michael spent time with a Planit integrator going through the process of drawing and getting these ready to present to clients. They were also able to set up his optimisation settings, including Michael's desired trim and optimisation parameters. Consistent use of the software and continually learning more began to pay dividends for Blank Joinery, with Michael becoming confident with the software and being able to reduce the amount of time he was spending preparing drawings for clients.

In early 2015, Michael took the step to invest in automating his manufacturing with a new CNC nesting machine. This was going to bring changes to the way the company would operate, however, this was something Michael knew was part of the next step towards reaching its goals. Michael was able to simply upgrade his software to connect to the CNC and provide greater functionality and flexibility in design and to ensure he was gaining access to the benefits the machine would bring.

When the new CNC was commissioned, Michael spent time both at the Planit Training Centre in Sydney and at the factory preparing the software. During this time, Planit was able to



work through Michael's system and ensure it was smoothly integrated so that manufacturing could start as soon as possible. "We've been able to achieve more than I thought we could. We've been able to increase production, yet keep the high quality that our customers expect".

Part of this improvement is based around increasing efficiency in the factory, with Michael benefiting from having the ability to send his jobs straight to the machine. Michael shares, "We have really improved the amount of time it takes us to draw the job in the office. Plus with the fact we can send the jobs straight to the machine, we've really increased the amount of work we've been able to take on".

With what Michael has already been able to achieve, he can see how much the business has progressed and is moving towards achieving one of its key goals a lot sooner than expected. "We've been able to continue moving forward and growing our business thanks to Planit. The software has been pivotal in helping us reach where we are now. Looking at it now, we can't operate without the software. Knowing how we used to manually do everything, I don't understand how people survive without software". Going forward, Michael plans to continue to push the capabilities of the software in order to continue to produce the high-detailed joinery Blank is becoming recognised for.

Michael understands the importance of keeping his staff engaged in the business, with Michael already working on a plan to have some of his workers begin to learn how to use the software and integrate into the office. "As the guys move more into the office, I'll be able to focus on going out and measuring, meeting with new builders and focus on getting new work".

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Altendorf's new F45



Since Altendorf's invaluable invention first saw the light of the day in 1906, countless improvements have aided the evolution of the saw, forever defining a new class of machines that industry is so familiar with. Today, the legacy continues as Altendorf redefines the golden standard with its newest line of F45 machines, boasting the latest design, newest technology, ease of use and unrivalled precision.

Wave goodbye to compromise. Despite carrying the most versatile features seen in any modern day saw, the new F45 range is designed to be truly without compromise; starting with the control units, users are able to select which unit they need for their requirement. This eye level control unit represents the central hub from which the user can execute all tasks. In fact, all control units are capable of controlling 2-way tilt, a feature the engineers at Altendorf have made possible for all F45 machine configurations.

Following the control unit selection, users are able to choose from a wide range of optional extras. The user is in control of selecting which features are needed for their specific factory floor. With freedom ranging from digital read outs all the way to a vacuum clamping system,

the new F45 range is more than just beautifully engineered machinery, it is also highly flexible to suit different needs.

"I believe the best part about this new system (F45) is truly how versatile and configurable the machine can be," explains Vit Kafka, managing director of Altendorf Asia Pacific, "You're not just getting the best in the industry. You now get to choose precisely what you need from the best in the industry."

The new F45 is a marriage of old and new, for it combines elements which have been tested and proven for a century with the newest improvements developed from large scale studies and feedback from woodworkers across the world. The comprehensively redesigned machine frame combines truly unprecedented torsion resistance with extremely low level of vibration, while the famous smooth running table gliding effortlessly on dumbbell rollers remains the undisputed benchmark for precision cutting.

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Greater flexibility... without compromise. Combining tested and proven elements.

by John Halkett

Swimming against the tide

HOW GREAT is it to see an Australian furniture manufacturing company successfully swimming against the tide of increasing imports and domestic business closures. One would be forgiven for asking how it is that South Australia's Meznar Furniture has flourished when other furniture manufacturers across Australia have long since folded up their tent and headed over the horizon.

While some domestic furniture makers have carved out a niche market for top-of-the-line customised furniture where design and quality, rather than price prevail, it is somewhat unusual to find a company in the main stream competing against imports and doing it with confidence, flair and success.

Characterised by good quality, traditional, solid timber furniture, Meznar crafts a range of furniture items for its own retail outlets and also makes one-off customised furniture for clients in South Australia and beyond.

Inspired by his father Rudi, Peter Meznar began making solid timber furniture in 1984. Today Meznar Furniture employs 28 staff including three apprentices.

According to Joe Meznar the family company is about honest quality manufacturing covering a range of styles and budgets. Furniture is made from Australian sustainable native timber, including Tasmanian oak, blackwood and jarrah and also from some imported timber, notably New Zealand pine.

"We stand by the commitment of quality furniture, built from beginning to end by skilled tradespeople. Yes, we have some of the latest CNC machining technology and are disciplined about the use of labour," he says.

"The secret has been to make everything ourselves in our own factory. We have a strong local focus and refuse to outsource work overseas. This means we have full control over everything and don't have to wait for a third party when we need something done."

It is apparent that one of the company's secrets to success is the linkage between its two retail outlets, one at Hyde Park on the southern fringe of Adelaide and the other in Gawler, and its manufacturing workshop also in Gawler. So a well-credentialed local reputation, lean manufacturing approach and a strong design ethic with an excellent understanding of 'fashion' trends in home furnishing are some of the ingredients to the success of Meznar Furniture.

Joe adds that their strong family tradition and values, together with carefully targeted local television and print advertising have all helped. "Our well-trained, passionate staff who share our values and commitment are also an important component of the company's business formula."

"While our machinery has been updated, we still do many things the way Dad did when he started out in business," says Joe.

"The Gawler workshop and showrooms are open seven days a week, giving customers more opportunity to come in for a look around and work through their requirements with us. We have customers that are very passionate about supporting local businesses and manufacturing."

Meznar Furniture can create exquisite pieces in a variety of styles from traditional to contemporary. The company also provides personalised measure and design for home or commercial requirements.

Keeping all manufacturing in-house enables the company to work 'end-to-end'.

"Furniture is built using traditional techniques - from the dovetail drawers to the trenched carcass shelves, the construction of every piece is always about quality, care and craftsmanship," says Joe.

"Our main goal is to keep quality, solid timber furniture manufacturing alive in South Australia. We are looking into new technologies and developing new product lines to ensure that we build upon the strong foundation of the business to take it well into the future." ■



Apprentice Nigel Murphy and Joe Meznar ...a combination of some of the latest CNC machining technology with the disciplined use of labour.





Quality furniture made locally from beginning to end by skilled tradespeople.

Workshop manager Ben Fauser with Joe Meznar ... one-off custom made Tasmanian blackwood sideboard and wine rack.



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New Tekform double wall drawer

After surveying the market about what stresses its customers the most with the current range of double wall drawers available in Australia, Titus Tekform found that customers are looking for easy assembly, quick adjustability, reliable performance, consistency and a built-in damping system.

The market is demanding quality and aesthetics at a reasonable price point. However, with so many options flooding the market place, it's difficult sometimes to understand the differences between products.

Tekform drawers by Titus offer a simple portfolio of features and benefits designed to meet the needs of the Australia furniture manufacturing, cabinet making and kitchen

industries. Titus Tekform has launched a family of double wall drawers characterised by a simple installation procedure and consistent performance throughout its life – called "Confident Close".

The quick release system and EasyFix front panel connectors require only one hand and a quarter turn of the screwdriver. Repeated assembly and disassembly is also possible. The vertical and horizontal adjustment on the front panel is intuitive and allows optimal alignment, increased functionality and efficient performance. The drawer has +/- 1mm tolerance on bottom width and a +/- 2mm height adjustment.

The Titus damper, which is integrated into all Tekform Drawers, adds value by providing a

reliable and consistent soft closing - quickly and quietly. The Tekform drawer has been quality tested (80,000 cycles) and certified by European specialised institutions FIRA Level H and CATAS.

And finally, the discreet, clean appearance is designed to enhance the overall user experience. The company is so confident that the Tekform drawer will meet customers' needs, that it offers each customer a lifetime guarantee. The drawers are available through Titus Tekform's Australia-wide offices and distribution services.

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New CNC helps Streamline production

Streamline Cabinets and Joinery was founded in 2003 and since then it has established a reputation amongst builders and private clients as excellent manufacturers of cabinets and joinery. The company's director and founder, Rob Biggs, has over 35 years of experience in custom build kitchens and dedicates himself to the design and creation of his cabinets and joinery. With a dedicated team on board, Streamline Cabinets & Joinery proudly provides the best in production and installation of top calibre joinery for domestic and commercial purposes.

Rob says "Our philosophy is to provide quality products whilst maintaining a strong working relationship with our clients. We firmly believe the client should be involved in all creative aspects of the project and we encourage active communication between all parties to ensure each project is fully realised."

To assist in manufacturing, the Brisbane based company installed an Aussie manufactured Multicam CNC router in 2007. A rapid growth in business and increased demand recently saw them trade in this machine and upgrade to a new 2015 model high speed Multicam CNC router that includes an automatic material loading and offloading system. The machine also features a multiple drill head that is popular with kitchen manufacturers, shop fitters and cabinetmakers.

"There is no doubt that the purchase of the Multicam machine has led to our continued success," says Rob. "When it became necessary to move to a higher level of production, Multicam was the first port of call. The reliability of the machine and support we received in the past meant that we had no hesitation in purchasing our second Multicam CNC router. This is huge investment for our company and I know we made the right



decision to continue with Multicam, it's an Australian made product and fully supported by Multicam's Brisbane office."

Peter Connolly, state manager for Multicam Queensland says "We have had a good association with Rob since 2007, and it is really pleasing for us to see how our local support has helped his business to grow."

Rob adds that "The Multicam staff have done a great job. From design, build and installation, including modifying the machine for our particular factory layout Multicam has been outstanding in its service. Our machine is now our flagship. Our CAD staff and operators really appreciate this machine and how well it integrates with the Microvellum software we run."

Together with the new, larger, Multicam high speed CNC router, Rob purchased KitchenCAD Pro Door software from Multicam. "The program is used to design and manufacture cabinet doors and

integrates tightly with the high speed CNC and allows us to quickly create nested sheets of doors for cutting," says Rob.

"On a personal note I would like to thank Multicam Brisbane for their help with our new machine and their continuing support. Our decision to stay with a supplier for ten years speaks highly of the company," Rob added.

"Our specialty is customised joinery for any and every fit out. Like Multicam, we excel in offering quality service, from quotation to installation, with a range of high quality materials to turn dreams into reality," concludes Rob.

For further information on Streamline Cabinets and Joinery visit: www.streamlinecabinets.com.au

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Blum a sponsor at 2015 Houses Awards



Blum continues its support of residential design through sponsorship of the new Emerging Architecture Practice category of the 2015 Houses Awards program; awarded at the gala awards event last month.

Blum proudly sponsored the latest inclusion in the Houses Awards programme, awarding and recognising Australia's top emerging practice in residential projects with the new Emerging Architecture Practice award at last month's 2015 Houses Awards gala celebration.

Awards and commendations were presented during a sold out awards event in Melbourne on Friday 31 July, in front of over 350 industry guests. Due to this unprecedented demand, "residential architecture's night of nights" was held in the Great Hall of the National Gallery of Victoria (International).

A Houses Award is one of the most sought-after accolades for Australian residential design. Blum Victoria's commercial sales consultant Tommy Arvanitis presented the Blum sponsored Emerging Architecture Practice Award to Archier from Victoria. According to the jury "The architects' willingness to immerse themselves in an idea without fear of failure, in the knowledge that the outcome may well end up a better one than expected, taps into one of the great advantages of the emerging architectural position – the ability to take risks. Archier Studio's ability to make the most of this position makes the practice a worthy winner of the inaugural Emerging Architecture Practice award." A total of twelve projects were shortlisted for the award.

"We are pleased to have secured such an opportunity to engage with key stakeholders servicing the residential market. This ongoing category sponsorship allows us to embrace the achievement of Australia's emerging stars of residential design and share the value our products can add to the quality, functionality and design of residential projects", shares Blum's national marketing manager Kylie Peterson.

The Houses Awards program was established in 2010 to celebrate Australia's best residential architecture – rewarding excellence in eight categories. The program is now firmly established as a highly respected and essential event on the architect and design profession's awards calendar.

The results of the full awards program were published in the August issue of Houses and on the Houses Awards website.

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2015 HOUSES AWARDS
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invest more in innovation

Paolo Ravaglioli, owner of Diesse Arredamenti is in no doubt about the company's commitment to perfection: 130 employees, 10 million in turnover, ancillary industries involving many SMEs and around one hundred vessels furnished every year including 15 to 40 metre yachts. Although Diesse vessels sail all over the world, the company headquarters are in Forlì, Italy.

"I have been fitting out boats forever and have always opted for new technologies, but it was the financial crisis that gave me another push in this



direction. In 2009 I realised that I had to change the way I thought about production and invest more in innovation. We boosted the technical office, but still kept our 'artisanal passion', our manual skills. We enhanced the latter with 3D software and the latest generation numeric control machines".

The courageous decision paid off for Paolo Ravaglioli, now a partner of multiple leading boat building companies: Ferretti Group, Azimut-Benetti Group, Sanlorenzo, Monte Carlo Yacht and English motor yacht manufacturer Sunseeker International, which in 2014 named Diesse 'company supplier of the year' for quality. Diesse also works in the sailing sector, where the ability to produce high performance materials is essential.

"Precision is fundamental", says Ravaglioli, "and we've solved the problem with CNC machining centres: Morbidelli, SCM are partners that we have always worked with. They have allowed us to improve efficiency and productivity".

"The last investment was a SCM Group nesting machine, a machining centre through which every bit of furniture we make goes, from walls measuring several square metres to small parts just a few centimetres big".

That was the problem: for every order, each set of furniture on average is obtained from 250 panels, from which the company gets at least 2,500 pieces, all different. A solution to this complexity was found in the machining centre technology. Its high performance is thanks to a loading and unloading system that considerably speeds up the work done on the machine's two worktables. The effectiveness of the large SCM Group nesting machining centre is amplified by the special vacuum table that doesn't just position the panel on the worktables, but at the end of the cycle applies suction, carrying the panel to the unloading zone, where the operator separates the workpieces that will be used to build the furniture from the off cuts. "SCM Group technicians solved our problems, helping us to increase the quality of our product





and our work”, confirms Paolo Ravaglioli. “This machining centre has truly superior performance: we work on perfectly clean worktables, thanks to an effective sweeping-extractor system; we obtain elements whose dimensions are exactly what we planned; we have an excellent loading and unloading system which makes the operator’s work better and safer, and a vacuum system for workpiece hold-down that only comes on when it’s needed. To sum up, investing in technology allowed us to keep our place as top level boat furniture makers.”

For more information on SCM Group boat manufacturing technologies contact Gabbett Machinery.

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by Pam Kershaw

Multiple challenges for award winning cabinet maker

THE PURE WHITE island kitchen bench is a breathtaking sculptural form that conjures up images of icebergs. And, like an iceberg which has up to 90% of its mass concealed by water, this award winning unit concealed multiple challenges from cabinet maker Clinton Buckwell of Individual Design and Construction in Melbourne.

He originally estimated the project would take 160 hours. It took 572. He quoted \$19,000. If he did a another one, he would charge \$55,000.

But Clinton, a cabinet maker for 37 years, is philosophical. "It's part of the learning, and I look on it as an investment in the future," he says. "We only take on the challenging and interesting jobs. We do anything but ordinary."

The 'iceberg' bench, which won Individual Design and Construction the recent Australian Cabinet Maker of the Year Award, was designed by interior designer Debbie Ryan for her own kitchen. She and her architect husband Robert McBride are partners in McBride Charles Ryan (MCR), a high profile firm which has won multiple prestigious awards including World's Best House in the 2009 World Architecture Festival and Grand Designs' Best International Home 2010.

The project came to Clinton via CASF, suppliers of Corian from which the 4.5 metre

unit was built. They have referred a number of difficult projects to him, and he was the only cabinet maker to respond to this brief.

MCR's original concept was to rout out more than 30 different shapes, glue, stack and sand. Clinton calculated that they would have used about 10 times as much material and taken even longer than his estimated 160 hours.

Skeleton and moulds

Using MCR's digitally layered plan, a team of six led by 27 year-old Michael Bayliss routed the frame and the ribs from MDF to make a skeleton. As the unit was built, the skeleton was gradually removed. Individual moulds were made for each piece from MDF and flexible plywood. Sections which had pronounced curves or angles required male and female moulds to shape the thermoformable Corian, while the less angular shapes required only a single mould and were created on a vacuum table.

The pieces were glued, assembled by hand then sanded to remove every visible join and create a perfectly smooth, gloss finish.

"The time is taken in making the moulds, getting each part to fit and in the finishing," Clinton says. "It can sometimes take longer to finish than to fabricate, for example four hours to cut and glue a job in Corian and then four hours sanding to get a perfect finish."



“We do anything but ordinary”





Individual Design and Construction took three awards at the Australian Cabinet Maker of the Year Awards 2014-2015:

Australian Cabinet Maker of the Year Award

People's Choice Award

Best Built-in Furniture Award



► He has identified the areas where time-consuming mistakes were made on the iceberg bench, and estimates he could cut about 120 hours off another similar project.

Clinton regards Corian as a breakthrough material because it is relatively cost-effective, solid, can be worked like hardwood but is thermoformable, allows invisible joins and is environmentally friendly. Manufactured by DuPont, Corian has zero landfill status, is Greentag Certified and produces low VOC emissions.

A world first?

“Ten years ago we could not have built this unit,” he says. “If Corian had been around when the Sydney Opera House was being built, they could have used it for the curved tiles.”

The iceberg bench is quite possibly a world-first in design and manufacture, as nothing like it appears in any Corian promotional material. And this is where Clinton sees the future direction of his business.

“Technology is the future of the industry, but it has to be mixed with practical knowledge. We are creating a niche because we are one of the few companies prepared to spend time and invest in the people, equipment and the knowledge. It will pay off,” he says.

The iceberg bench has already led to another project, the Monash University Sound Shell, which was referred to him by MCR. Requiring about 300 different shapes and forms in Corian for cladding the new

building, the project is marrying Monash University’s technology with Clinton’s practical expertise.

A collaborative learning project involving a team of architecture students led by a Monash professor, the project has given Clinton access to a 6 axis CNC robot router which can reduce a day’s work of manually routing and moulding to about 15 to 20 minutes.

“The moulds for the iceberg bench, which were produced manually, would now be completely different,” he says.

While Clinton is learning to run Monash’s 3-D software and program its robot, students are learning the practical side of producing the 300 forms then piecing together and assembling this “jigsaw” of cladding.

Computer technology, including 3-D printers which enable an exact model to be printed out, will enable companies such as Individual Design and Construction to push the boundaries of cabinet making even further. It’s a challenge Clinton relishes.

Of his Cabinet Maker of the Year Award, he believes he was fortunate to have won, given the high quality of other work which was designed and built by entrants.

“We did not do the design work, we interpreted it then built the bench,” he says.

However, the 250 guests at the awards agreed with the judges and also gave him the People’s Choice Award. ■



Top: Mark Nickson, president of the Cabinet Makers and Designers Association (left) with Clinton Buckwell of Individual Design and Construction.

Above: The Individual Design and Construction team.



showcases

Hettich sponsor WA architecture award

Hettich Australia continues to support excellence in design and construction through the sponsorship of the 2015 WA Chapter Architecture Awards category sponsor for Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations and Additions). The program is an opportunity for the general public and other architects to recognise and promote architects and architecture in Australia and internationally.

“The Australian Institute of Architects is the peak body for the architectural profession in Australia, representing 12,000 members. The Residential Architecture category sponsorship aligns with Hettich’s continued partnership with the institute to ensure we support in working towards innovation, learning and passing on knowledge to the emerging future and professionals of this industry,” said Hettich national marketing manager Corene Roberts.

With over 120 entries, this year’s awards showcase a broad range of projects across the state including entries within remote areas. The projects from the WA Architecture Awards were displayed in Brookfield Place foyer again this year from 29 June to 10 July.

The Architecture Awards Presentation evening showcased the best in architecture and announced the winner of each award category on Friday 3 July 2015. Hosted by the ABC’s Fenella Kernabone the event was a great success taking place at Crown Perth. For further information on the 2015 WA Chapter Architecture Awards visit <http://architecture.com.au/events/state-territory/wa-events-awards>.

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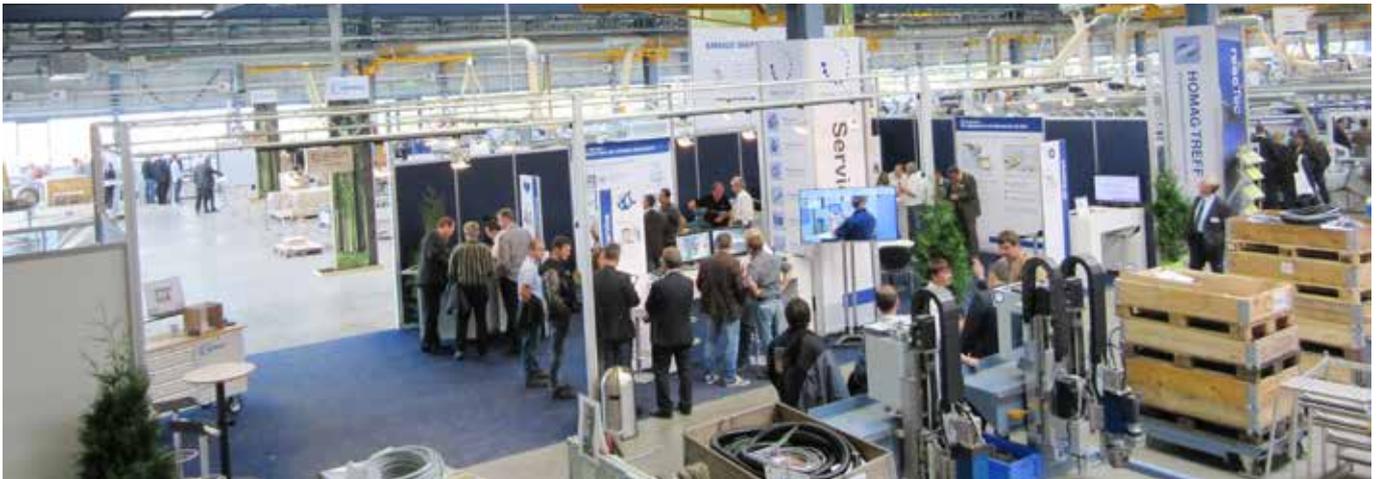
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Homag Treff in Schopfloch

From 22-25 September, at an exhibition area spanning over 10,000 m² in Schopfloch, Homag is presenting innovative machines, plants, and service concepts. Fantastic insights into transparent production over an area of around 50,000 m² and the presentation of the new "CompetenceCenter Surface" will make a visit to the Homag Treff an experience not to be missed.

Small to large-scale solutions, all in line with the motto "Growing with the Homag Group", show that the main theme of Ligna - furniture production on the way to Industry 4.0 - is not reserved exclusively for industrial businesses. Networked machines and integrated data flows are the key to being competitive today, regardless of whether the business is a small trade or an industrial operation

The advantages show how important networking is in furniture production today: Workpiece data only has to be entered once; data is prepared for production via rule-based systems; Avoidance of sources of error (manual interventions in production data are no longer necessary); Highly efficient production, maximization of potential; Maximum flexibility and a high level of individuality in end products; Less waste, reduced storage area; Paperless production; Individual furniture tailored completely to the customer's wishes - at the same cost as series production.

Technical features on individual machines also have great potential for impressing Treff visitors this year. In the throughfeed range, Homag is presenting numerous special

features in edge technology: from processing shaped parts in throughfeed mode, through edging 45° corners, up to door rebate gluing with AirTec and a thick edge for robust edges with a zero joint look. Especially designed for today's craftsmen, Homag is presenting the new KAL 370 edge banding machines and clever unit combinations on the machines for the new Ambition range, providing individual solutions for trade and industry on an optimized platform with price and performance advantages. For industrial companies, there is a live high-tech demonstration of batch size 1 plants for furniture and construction element production, with impressive features.

There is also a focus on surface processing in the new "CompetenceCenter Surface". Anyone wanting to produce high-quality surfaces will be impressed by the sanding options offered by Butfering as well as the surface lamination provided by the one-sided Homag laminating machine, not to mention the ReacTec process and the latest technology for profile casing specialists.

"Everything under control" is the motto in manufacturing of component parts, with the presentation of the new BMB 800/900 PowerProfiler machine concept live in action. Global experience from 20 years of CNC processing centers for timber window production is the basis for the new generation of machines.

The benefits: The new gripping and clamping technology opens up new opportunities in profile design; High performance in a small space: simultaneous processing of

technology opens up new opportunities



multiple components, faster tool change, loading and removal in one place; Everything in one machine: integration of all components (straight parts, curved parts, doors, and supplementary elements).

CNC processing with the new Venture range: Individuality becomes the standard with this range, from CNC entry-level models to high-tech five-axis processing centres or machines with gluing technology. What's more, all Homag CNC processing centres are fitted with the new generation of extraction hoods. Providing optimized collection and removal of chips, these extraction hoods combine a better suction result with lower air requirements. This solution has reduced the energy required in sample processing by up to 30% while also improving the degree of suction by 25%.

Holzma Treff in Holzbronn

In keeping with the motto "We set the trends", Holzma is yet again presenting a number of innovative products at the in-house exhibition.

In batch size 1 production, the focus is on the HPS 320 FlexTec - The highlight of Ligna for cutting processes adapted to customers' requirements. With the new Series 6 for cutting large quantities quickly and extremely efficiently, Holzma proves that it can also make series machines; the series

has been developed right on schedule to be presented to the public for the first time at the in-house exhibition.

In addition to many highlights for the trade (for example, the new HPP 130 and the new HPP 200), Holzma is also presenting Cut Rite V10, the brand-new release of its optimization software.

As usual, the exhibition also includes: the Holzma service team and numerous Practive innovations from the subsidiary companies of the Homag Group - Brandt, Weeke, Homag, and Homag Automation and Esolution.

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Small to large scale solutions with innovative products at in-house exhibition.

by Simon Hodgson

The colours and textures of Interzum 2015

WIKIPEDIA describes design as “the creation of a plan or convention for the construction of an object or system.”

In most instances they are correct but “creation” comes with its challenges, notably the space, the client, the budget and the materials. Materials form such a huge part of not only the structural integrity of a kitchen but are often the choice of one material over another that determines the look and feel of the end product.

Interzum provides the industry with the forum to choose where material trends are heading. Manufacturers from around Europe and the rest of the world offer the design and supply community their own interpretation on where they see materials trending and let the likes of door manufacturers, veneer producers and benchtop fabricators determine the end products that are then offered to the end user.

By way of a historical note, Interzum, over the last few shows, has moved (as you may have noticed) from gloss to subtle texture to heavy weathered raw products so this year’s show was always going to be interesting from many angles – noticeably, where to now.

With over 1500 companies from over 50 countries exhibiting, finding a selection of products to choose from isn’t easy as there were many standouts. However what was and much easier to see was the view that there had been a line drawn in the sand. The roughness and irregularity of two years ago, whilst still apparent, wasn’t as predominant. The force and harshness that pounced at every stand corner had been controlled, even tamed, to a point where discipline had been engaged and a modicum of moderation had been dusted across those who controlled the products on display.

Querkus is Decospan’s answer to the contemporary interior design trends in Northern Europe at the moment. Recognised by the Interzum Press Office as one of the key “authentic” products at Interzum, this is an ecological design that combines authentic materials with rigid elements that reflect regeneration without breaking with their rich past. Oak is a key factor in this and can be used in various options in interiors as a sustainable product. This is firstly because of the recycling of old timbers, and secondly because new oak trees are processed alongside the recycling. These various materials are cut into veneers, which are glued to each other using a unique process to produce a single, solid picture. This technique also makes it possible to use various thicknesses of veneer to achieve solutions for all budgets and applications. The traditional character of this natural product is all the more apparent from the 3D effects so that the polished or unfinished surface has a rough feel.



Decolan Laminates...blues en masse.



Pfleiderer Everglade - stunning.

spectacular product releases

With shimmer and shine all around, it's matt that is the new top end, the sign of exclusivity. Dark matt is the new black, especially as part of classic black-white contrasts. Using tone-in-tone nuances, structures and ornament, matt black creates beguiling depth for surfaces. Together with metallic accents - glossy or matt and predominantly copper - and unusual colour combinations of red and pink or the popular coupling of turquoise tones and warm wood, the colour trend of this year's Interzum was characterised by matt and authentic-looking surfaces. Many nuances for lighter woods were also on display, from chalked oak to honey-coloured beech for floors and furniture.

Of course, wooden surfaces and a wood-based feel still dominate the high-end case furniture and kitchen furniture segments but we are seeing a greater acceptance of colour play in terms of being creative "Mix and Match" options", says colour expert Dr Hildegard Kalthegener while being interviewed by the Interzum organisation in their press release of July 17th said that she saw the influence of surface trends on furniture design. "Switching up the surface on a large piece of furniture or between the furniture and the wall creates a new dynamism for the private living sphere. Limed oak is paired with a deep, sober grey with a blueish tone, or Italian walnut with a subtle, smoky light blue. Cool turquoise tones with aquamarine, petrol and opal are also popular, particularly trendy when paired with warm woods for a complimentary contrast."

Dr Kalthegener also noticed honey-coloured woods with black-and-white accents and clever graphics at Interzum (at Schattdecor, for instance), where she sees the black-and-white look with alternating matt and glossy surface as the perfect complement to the currently popular nuances between copper and iron oxide. "In summary, four days at Interzum showed me that in addition to Bordeaux, cyclamen and lime, smoky blues and cool aquamarine turquoises are becoming established contrast colours for honey-coloured woods."

And speaking of wood, veneer specialist Danzer once again wowed the attendees with some spectacular new product releases. At this year's Interzum Danzer presented not only product and applications but also its development expertise: Concrete product developments at various stages illustrate how Danzer is supporting its customers by demonstrating its hardwood applications and versatility. For instance, the combinations of wood with light, metal and other materials was spectacular but the centre of the presentation was showcased by new products such as the enhanced 3D-Veneer basic, thick-cut veneers specifically for the furniture industry as well as innovative wood surfaces such as Amber Beech, Vinterio Rustic, Driftwood, Danzer Linea Smoked Larch and Figura Maple.

For the first time Danzer changed its exhibition concept and allowed a behind-the scenes glimpse into its product development work. "More and more customers are looking for new flexible solutions how to realise their hardwood applications," explained Eckart Schmitt, CEO of Danzer Specialty Division. "At the exhibition we showed detailed examples from the fields of interior design, furniture, automotive and industrial design that demonstrate how we can support innovative new products and as a reliable partner to our customers from idea to implementation."

The Danzer stand is always a must visit - new wooden surfaces such as Amber Beech, Driftwood and Figura Maple surprised many with various new interpretations of one of the main hardwood species in Europe: Amber Beech veneer with a darker than usual, golden brownish tone, Vinterio beech, which is characterised by fine stripes and as a third variant, Beech Driftwood with its natural rustic appearance.



New rustic and earthy Vinterio surfaces were on show and they were spectacular: Norway Spruce, Oregon Pine and Rustic Oak. The Danzer Linea product line had been complemented right before Interzum with Danzer Linea Larch and Danzer Linea Smoked Larch. In Cologne, Danzer Linea was also shown in American Walnut, American White Oak, European Birch and Silver Birch.

The colours of Interzum – as seen by Pfeleiderer.



Pfeleiderer St Tropez.

Thickcut veneers
– checking the
tolerances at Danzer.



- Pfleiderer also released some exciting new decors at the show. They added further twenty new decorative products to extend the decor and texture diversity, following the successful launch of its initial joint range in 2013. This means that the company now offers more than 300 decors and 16 different surface textures in their overall HPL range. More than 200 decors, 10 surface textures and 15 core materials are now integrated in the "DST system". Interestingly, along with Danzer, Pfleiderer also invited its customers to take a look behind the scenes of decor creation in what is becoming an increasing trend amongst exhibitors.

Pfleiderer told us the story of how each of the 20 new decors was created – from the trend observation, to development through to the finished product. "By explaining the origins of each décor, our customers appear to be immersed in a new world of experience," explained Sabine Spitz, who is responsible for decor panel product management at Pfleiderer: "You discover how we incorporate emerging trends into our designs." With each decor story, visitors take a wealth of inspirations home with them – "and in addition, plenty of talking points, with which to enthuse their own customers with new ideas," says Spitz.

From inspiring yellow Saffron and Turmeric to new green shades for "bon viveurs", and four new variations in brown (Antelope, Bison, Kodiak and a Copper Metallic) to some variations on "Scandinavian" colours (Masurian Birch, Fjoord Beech and Natural Pine Fano) amongst others – these were heavily featured. However it was their Oaks that were the standout.

"Oak can do more" says Spitz. They question the old traditions with its new Oak decor: Grey Sonoma Oak which displays a lightness that you are not accustomed to with classic oak. "Our oak is just as modern as it is versatile."

Vinterio Rustic
from Danzer.



Whereas the grey-brown St. Tropez Oak has a far more rustic effect as if "it had defied the sun, wind and weather for many years" comments Spitz: "With its balanced naturalness, this decor is best suited for combinations with more muted colours." Alpine Spruce is similarly ethnic: its intensive figure lends each room a natural touch – with urbane chic.

The same applies to the wood of the walnut tree: Dark with fine figuring, it is a cut above all fashion trends. With Madison Walnut Pfleiderer has added two new colour combinations to its range. These are especially suitable for gracious, timeless interiors – above all in combination with conservative plain colours or gently grained stones.

The Everglade decor services a completely different taste – as homage to one of the most fascinating nature reserves in the world with its alligators, pumas and flamingos living in the wild. "Coarsely grained, the rustic Everglade gives an impression of the natural surroundings of this flora and fauna on the east coast of the USA," explains Spitz and recommends that this highly expressive decor be set in contrast with orange, blue, silver grey or aluminium. "Plenty of freedom for new design ideas".

And she's right. If you couldn't get an idea of where colours and textures are heading after being at Interzum, then either your colour sense is slightly off or you stayed out too late every night you were there. Creating the image in your mind of a colour and texture choice for your client is one thing – getting them to understand what you are trying to portray is another – however understanding where global trends are going is a good start. ■



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Miniwinch by Effegi Brevetti: a unique mechanism for folding flap doors

Lincoln Sentry has introduced Miniwinch by Effegi Brevetti to its range. This unique mechanism for folding flap doors has spring dampening action for both opening and closing. This, along with the subtle metal support cable, makes Miniwinch both decorative and functional within home furnishings.

Different spring models are available to accommodate various door heights ranging from 200mm up to 480mm. All models have the ability to adjust the opening and closing strength, allowing mechanisms to be used with different material and weights up to 14.5kg. Designed and manufactured in Italy, Miniwinch is available with 3 select polymer cover caps – white, black or metallised matt silver.

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Simplifying manufacturing - the SCM Melbourne showcase

Gabbett Machinery is providing the opportunity to get up close and personal with all the latest manufacturing techniques in automation and materials handling.

The company's upcoming SCM Melbourne Showcase is the chance to be part of the official release of the K360 series, the latest innovation in entry-level edgebanders. Highlights of the K360 series include: end cutting unit with cut and 'radius' in a single operation; rounding unit with edge angles finishing on straight and shaped panels; and R-K trimming unit. Designed specifically for the Australian market, these modular machines are compact and easy to use.

The SCM Accord range of 5 axis machines will be on display at the showcase. The SCM 5 axis machines eliminate aggregates, simplify programming and reduce the costs associated with previous models. The machine is also fitted with a quick release vacuum system and remote setup via a portable console.

The latest in nesting machinery will also be on show - from stand-alone machines through to fully automated nesting cells. The latest release from SCM Group, the Pratika series is a cost effective fully automatic nesting machine. A compact machine with additional safety features that eliminate the need for peripheral fencing, the Pratika can significantly increase productivity and reduce costs. Join Gabbett Machinery at the showcase to view this machine in action.

As part of the showcase, the purpose built demonstration unit will be geared up and ready to run. Everything from panel saws, edgebanders, thicknessers, planers and spindles to wide belt sanders will be on display with full product demonstrations available. This is a great opportunity to see and learn about all the latest machinery on offer.

Gabbett Machinery's SCM Melbourne Showcase will be an informative opportunity to get up close with some of the highest quality machines available. One lucky attendee will win an iPad.

SCM MELBOURNE SHOWCASE

Date: 25 - 26 September

Time: 10am to 6pm daily

Location: 26 Rocco Drive, Scoresby, Victoria.

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Quality synthetic stone with perfect vacuum technology

Diresco N.V. in Belgium produces synthetic stone slabs from quartz granules and synthetic resin. They are marketed under the brand name "Diresco Stone" and are used primarily as work surfaces in kitchens, and as wall and floor tiles in bathrooms. Diresco products are manufactured with the latest equipment to offer customers the best possible quality. Diresco uses Busch vacuum technology to produce slabs completely free of gas inclusions and cavities. Vacuum is supplied to the material presses of both production lines, ensuring top quality appearance and optimal structural integrity.

Diresco was founded in 2003, and specialises in synthetic stone slabs and tiles. Quartz granules are used to create materials deceptively similar in appearance to stone surfaces. Other surface textures can also be supplied. Diresco products are available in a number of finishes, from gloss to matt and "Anticato". In comparison to real stone, synthetic stone has the advantage of reproducible appearance – the surface texture is always the same. Synthetic stone is resistant to water, food acids and food colourings. It is also scratchproof, non-fading, long-lasting and easy to clean.

Diresco markets its products to well-known kitchen and furniture manufacturers and interior decorators throughout Europe and in Canada, USA and New Zealand.

All "Diresco Stone" products are manufactured at the main site in Opglabbeek in Belgium. 65 employees work

with highly automated equipment in a three-shift system producing synthetic stone slabs with a dimension of 3.2 to 1.4 metres each.

After the mixing of various quartz granules and blending with synthetic resin, the material is fed automatically into a mechanical press. To create an absolutely perfect surface vacuum is applied to the pressing process. Even the smallest indentations and cavities can become visible after processing – the reduced pressure ensures that they cannot form. The individual slabs are then hardened in an oven at 100 to 125°C.

After cooling they are stored for at least 24 hours before further processing. Every slab is subjected to extensive quality control examinations before leaving the factory.

Vacuum technology plays a major part in the manufacture of high-quality products, as even the smallest air or gas inclusions cannot be tolerated. The liquid ring vacuum pumps originally used for the vibrating press were unable to prevent the formation of all air, steam and styrene vapour inclusions. As a result, in 2006 the Diresco management decided to use Busch rotary vane technology. Two Busch R 5 rotary vane vacuum pumps with a pumping speed of 1600 m³/h each were installed, substantially increasing product quality and reducing the duration of the pressing process. Busch R 5 rotary vane vacuum pumps achieve an ultimate pressure of 0.1 mbar, which corresponds to a vacuum level of 99.99%.

Vibrating press in a "Diresco Stone" production line with Busch vacuum unit installed above the press.





In order to meet increasing product demand, the pressing process was further accelerated by the addition of a Panda vacuum booster before the parallel arrangement of rotary vane vacuum pumps.

Diresco was extremely satisfied with this solution, and when a new production line was introduced in 2009 an identical Busch vacuum system was installed.

Maintenance work is carried out by Busch under a service contract. There are only two services per year, although at

times the vacuum pumps are in operation 24 hours a day. Servicing is confined to inspection, oil change and filter replacement. All the smaller R 5 rotary vane vacuum pumps used in numerous production handling units are inspected at the same time.

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Left: "Diresco Stone" products in a Diresco showroom.

Above: Rotary vane vacuum pump R 5 01600 A: two of these vacuum pumps with a Panda vacuum booster each form the vacuum system for one vibrating press.

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Achieving good recycling practices in the workplace

Recycling in the workplace is being made easier through the installation of Hideaway Bins. The drive towards recycling and the management of waste in the commercial sector has never been stronger. Part of this is establishing easy to use and workable recycling practices that all company employees can follow easily.

The installation of 50 litre Hideaway Bins side by side is an innovative solution for separating waste and recycling. The bins, once used to dispose of waste or recycling, are slid away out of sight keeping the room clear of clutter.

Hideaway Bins are designed and made in New Zealand and are made from only high quality materials to ensure the units will withstand the challenges posed in a commercial environment. For strength, the framework is made from high-grade zinc treated steel that is then powder-coated for durability. High quality German soft close runners are designed to hold upwards of 52kgs and they over extend to ensure the buckets will come clear of the bench top easily. Unique to Hideaway Bins is the friction-fitted lid that remains in the carcass when the bins are open and closes down onto the unit when closed, locking in odours.



This lid is coated in a Clinikill™ antibacterial powder coat designed to fight harmful bacteria, yeast and fungi. This keeps the bin solution hygienic - unique to Hideaway Bins.

All buckets are made from food grade polypropylene, complete with a liner holder designed to keep the bin liner in place. All buckets fit standard bin liners available from local supermarket chains. If space is limited, twin bin solutions are also available with 15, 20 and 40 litre double bin solutions to choose from. With many distinctive features to select from, there is a Hideaway Bin for every commercial requirement.

Hideaway Bins are distributed throughout Australia through national distribution partners: Hettich, Nover and Galvin Hardware.

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Furniture manufacturers are constantly facing the pressure to deliver unprecedented levels of product customisation. In order to meet the demand, local manufacturers need to be able to accommodate very short production runs with the same efficiency as mass productions. Therefore, a combination of integrated, intelligent production plants and flexible, highly efficient stand-alone machining centres are necessary to remain competitive.

When automation concepts started to become extremely fashionable for small to mid-sized Australian cabinet making shops, Proform Products was one of the first to jump on board. The Perth-based company with managing director Mark Anderson was one of the first companies Australia-wide to invest in automation solutions from Homag Australia.

Early investment in automation pays off

At present Proform Products employs 55 people and runs nine machines from Homag Australia including CNCs, edgebanders, beam saws and a large panel storage and distribution system. Producing on a manufacturing area of 5,400 square metres in the Perth suburb Malaga, Proform does everything from CNC routing, benchtop production, cut-to-size, drilling and edging. Additionally, the company recently started to provide assembled jobs to its clients.

The TLF helps to reduce utilised capital from storing up to sawing and the material used is coordinated with the ordering system and the order planning.

“When we started operating in 1991, the main idea was to make our own benchtops with a PVAc gluing process that no one in WA was doing at the time instead of buying them made with contact glue,” explains Mark Anderson. Even though benchtops still form a big part of the company’s main sector, over the years it has extended its services to custom-made products including benchtops, doors and components for kitchens, bathrooms and office fit-outs. “We supply fully customised carcasses to customer requirements in regards to colour or finish”, says Mark Anderson. In order to meet these requirements, an investment in automation was the logical step.

Homag’s power cell – integrated board store and processing centre

With the installation of the Homag Automation TLF 411 in 2013, Proform Products has got the largest integrated storage system in Australia. Homag’s salesman in Perth, Peter D’Adamo, says, “This storage is not only a highly functional system but also an integrated intelligent manufacturing cell. It is easy to operate and convinces in performance, reliability and quality. This is a truly multi-talented and is even more powerful in combination with our Holzma beam saw and Weeke CNC processing centres.”

The intelligent interfaces of the TLF 411 are the ideal solutions in combination with Proform’s Holzma saw HPP 380 that increases the capacity significantly. In addition to the store and saw, the Weeke CNC nesting machines at Proform are connected like the saw via a standard interface and therefore, turning them into even more effective operating centres whereby the work is always fed from the storage system as soon as a machine becomes available – pushing parts to the operator rather than waiting for an operator to start the next cycle.

In summary, all three machines work hand in hand and understand each other right away thanks to the standardised software. The Cut Rite nesting software from the Homag Group controls all of Proform’s sawing and nesting production. The WA-based company has been using Cut Rite for about 18 years now. Mark Anderson explains one of the main reasons to invest in the software package from Homag, “We also develop our own software for our internal quoting system and production tracking. Homag’s Cut Rite and WoodWop software is able to talk to our in-house software, and therefore capable of communicating with our machines.” This guarantees a smooth and highly efficient production process even for small or batch-size one quantity where Proform wants to see the business growing. “We are driven by the market and need to provide quality products on time.”





Inspiration from European high-tech manufacturers

Due to the fact that Mark Anderson rates software as the future for the business, he also believes software can be a decisive factor to grow a company. With reference to that, his IT team has developed a mobile app that assists stock product movement. "We use the app for tracking and printing labels with 2D barcode that we can scan; it's quicker than controlling everything from the office," Mark Anderson says.

Robotics, as Mark Anderson believes, may be the future for modern and smart cabinet making businesses. Not a long time ago, Mark went to Germany to visit the Ligna trade show where he saw a lot of production concepts including robots. On top of that, he participated in the Homag Australia Tech Tour where seven factories were visited. These visits included one of the most highly automated plants in Western Europe with only 3-4 people in the whole production producing approximately 2,000 parts per shift.

It goes without saying that Mark Anderson always gets his inspiration from his visits to Europe where the technology is far beyond Australia. "We go on factory tours and look at the European concepts. Back in 2009, we saw the concept of the TLF and I knew I would want that. We just needed to work out a price and understand the benefits", he says.

Improved efficiency through automation

The TLF 411 is an all-rounder for a wide variety of panels. Proform's TLF handles panels up to a length of 3,600 mm.

The TLF helps to reduce utilised capital from storing up to sawing and the material used is coordinated with the ordering system and the order planning. "We can run orders over night; there's no more handling necessary," Mark Anderson explains, "The TLF sets the program a night

before, picks orders overnight and is ready for production the next morning. Our benchtops are stored in the TLF."

Additionally, stock-keeping is managed as needed as well as offcuts managed automatically. "The TLF has reduced our benchtop production time and increased our machines output. This is managed through a link between Benchfab software and the TLF."

Furthermore, Holzma's Power Concept on Proform's HPP 380 significantly boosts the company's output up to 40 per cent and saves a considerable amount of time especially with cross cuts. "On some products we achieve a 50 per cent decrease in cycle time; it's a lot quicker than saws without the Power Concept," says Mark Anderson.

Thanks to the automatic labelling system on the rear of the saw every sheet in the stack can be labelled prior to cutting. "All in all, we could minimise our costs through automation."

In order to increase productivity, Mark Anderson has installed roller conveyors replacing most forklifts throughout the whole factory. Today, Proform runs eight different divisions, all well-organised with a flat structure and 9 team leaders. To keep up the flow, the company provides OHS training every year, which successfully leads to minimal injuries or downtimes. If there is an issue, Homag is located close by with service techs stationed in Perth. For a WA-based company like Proform Products it is very important that the machine supplier is also represented on this side of the country.

When automation concepts started to become fashionable for small to mid-sized Australian cabinet making shops, the Perth-based company Proform Products and its managing director Mark Anderson was one of the first to jump on board.

► To cover a wide range of services for the cabinet making industry, Proform has extended its product range from the cleaning spray Riepe and its design quoting and manufacturing software solution Benchfab. Special attention has also been given to the edging and board material supplier Egger from Europe, distributed by Proform in Western Australia, and Mark Anderson wants to grow distribution of board, compact laminate edging and HPL laminate. "We are just about to invest in design and production software to improve our speed and flexibility to the market. Our customers are then able to do a detailed drawing and send us the file. We want to serve our customers well and want to have a consistent pricing without depending on the market. Being a big company doesn't mean we are dear."

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In order to increase productivity, Mark Anderson has installed roller conveyors replacing most forklifts throughout the whole factory.



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Learn about Vionaro at new website

In order to guarantee optimal service and advice worldwide for its cubist drawer system Vionaro with precision moves, Grass has launched an international interactive microsite focusing on this product. Readers should visit www.vionaro.com where the centrepiece of the site is an image film, which effectively sets the scene for the system, along with powerful images highlighting specific product features. The idea behind this dedicated web presence was to give a special product its own special presentation space. Because it's not just in the teaser that Vionaro steals the limelight. Its minimalist design, perfect workmanship and precision movement also turn heads in the real world.

The dedicated web presence is intended to provide an emotional bridge between the customer and a modern, informative presentation of the movement system. "As well as informing our customers about the special features of Vionaro, we want to provide them with a virtually live experience of the product," explains marketing head Andreas Marosch. This idea has been achieved by incorporating targeted interactions that focus the visitor's attention on key details of the drawer system. The playful way in which the special features of the product are discovered by customers and prospects also makes these details more memorable among the target group. The company's passion for design and movement is reflected in the microsite's design, which is consistently oriented towards Vionaro's looks and visually echoes the product's minimalist and cubist lines. A specific insight into the world of the movement system draws every visitor into the site that, needless to say, can also be accessed using a smartphone or tablet.

The product behind the website is the state-of-the-art drawer system Vionaro. This cubist drawer system is a second-to-none designer solution developed on the basis of a concealed drawer slide solution. It is already used in many living room, kitchen and bathroom applications all around the world. The slender 13-millimetre drawer side in this complete system, which was recognised with the coveted Red Dot Award in 2014, is based on the concealed drawer slide Dynapro. As well as being successfully proven millions of times over in practical use, Dynapro was itself a winner of the internationally acclaimed design prize in 2010.

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High technology solutions no longer out of reach

CNC nesting machines have fast become a factory necessity in the Australian joinery market. The accuracy of these machines allows manufacturers to produce a superior quality product and through advancements in technology they are now accessible to all companies big and small.

The Sydney based company Selective Kitchens has recognised the benefits in this technology rearranging its entire factory layout to include an Anderson Spectra 48 CNC in the production line. "There was a bit involved but the end result was a well laid out and more streamlined production system", says Paul Lovett, director of Selective Kitchens, which was established back in 1992. "The value for money was way in front. Wood Tech offered ease and the complete package compared to other machines I looked at. The quality highlight is that we don't have a saw scribe line anymore and we get a perfect edge band on both sides."

Selective Kitchens has been leading the way in top quality kitchen design and engineering, servicing some of Sydney's most

upmarket builders. Now after the arrival of this machine, Paul is looking to expand the company by opening a luxury showroom to attract more private retail work. Currently operating with a staff of 4, "the machine makes 5!" jokes Lovett.

The Wood Tech Group is the exclusive distributor of Anderson machinery in Australia and has been for 23 years. Since the mid 80's Anderson Industrial Corporation has been instrumental in the design and manufacturing of quality CNC machining centres to serve the leaders of industries around the world.

Designed around many applications to suit a variety of clients with varying products, Anderson CNC processing centres reflect 40 years of engineering and technological development. Anderson's manufacturing facilities are world-class research and development, engineering and manufacturing operations, unparalleled in today's machine tool industry.

Anderson's in-house research and development (R&D) and engineering facilities, employing over 70 engineering

personnel, gives Anderson the ability to continually improve its standard lines as well as provide customised solutions to its client's needs.

Other key products in Anderson's range include PCB circuit board drilling and flatbed digital printing machines.

The Wood Tech Group is able to provide a one-stop service drawing on 240 years of collective sales experience in the woodworking machinery industry.

Wood Tech will go the extra mile and provide clients with factory layouts covering all facets from compressed air to dust extraction, all the way through to software implementation.

Scott Hickey, director NSW says "If you have a production or quality problem in your factory, you should come to us. We don't just sell machines, we sell solutions."

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Sharpening the personal saw - an event not to be missed

FIAA has announced a not-to-be missed industry conference under the theme 'Future-proof your business', to be held at the Novotel Hotel, Sydney Olympic Park Sydney, on 18 September. The theme will explore different ideas and solutions to help businesses become more competitive, productive, and efficient through innovation, collaboration and industry best practice.

Educational sessions covering finance, succession planning, marketing and how to better utilise technology are but a few of the conference topics. This is a rare and invaluable opportunity to hear from other professionals tackling similar organisational challenges and leading the way forward to address key issues that affect the industry. Another great reason to attend is the chance to build stronger networks with fellow industry members.

FIAA, partnering with Planit Cutting Edge Solutions, has arranged a great line-up of speakers including the key note address by the NSW minister for small business John Barilaro (himself a small business owner of a successful joinery shop) will make this a memorable and not to miss event.

Being the 'off' year from AWISA, this is a great chance to meet with major suppliers to the industry under the one roof such as Planit Cutting Edge Solutions, AWISA, Hettich, Borg Manufacturing, First Super, Finlease, ForestWorks, the NSW Business Chamber and Blum who all will be in attendance.

FIAA understands the hectic nature of this industry. And on that point, as managers and business owners, everyone should take time out for themselves, and ensure they continually improve and develop the necessary skills for their business to remain competitive - "Sharpening your personal saw."

Some of the key topics of the conference include:

- Clearly identifying what is of value to customers and delivering this value, and maximising prices.
- Discussing different exit strategies and what needs to be done to get maximum value out when selling a business or transitioning to the next generation.
- Talking about the lessons other businesses leaders have learnt over the years and how to survive and prosper in the Australian manufacturing environment.

- The efficiencies of 'get big' – leading edge technology supporting commodity production.
- The value of specialisation – differentiation and strategic competitive advantage.
- Business systems, discipline and process – ERP and MRP.
- Building, nurturing and protecting a brand.
- Excellent customer service.
- Content and social media, how to get leads to a business and website.
- Software innovation - current and future trends.
- Design and new trends.
- Finance solutions for business.
- Statistics on the future of housing and renovations.
- Innovation in the workplace through skills development.

Conference attendees are invited to attend the AWISA sponsored cocktail party. This will be a great opportunity to unwind and network with other attendees at the end of the day.

Those who are professionals in the industry requiring Continuing Development Points can attend the industry conference and secure half of their yearly requirements - 6 CPD points.

FIAA thanks its conference sponsors and partners. The major conference sponsor is Planit Cutting Edge Solutions, and the supporting conference sponsors are Finlease, First Super, Hettich, Forestworks and AWISA.

Want to learn how to work on your business, instead of in your business, then register now for the FIAA "Future-proof your business" conference.

For more information and how to register, visit the website, www.fiaa.com.au/events or phone the FIAA office on 1300 FIAA 4U.

Novotel Sydney Olympic Park, the venue for FIAA's "Future proof your business" conference, 18 September 2015.



by John Halkett

Australia's first five-storey timber-frame apartment building

THE FIRST five storey timber-frame apartment building and tallest in Australia, The Green built by Australand Property Group in Parkville, Victoria uses a new hybrid construction methodology, invented to create an efficient structure while improving on an age-old sector of the industry.

The hybrid construction methodology incorporates domestic labour force and supply chains to produce multi-residential timber frame buildings at a commercial level, resulting in a cost saving of nearly 25 per cent per apartment over conventional concrete construction methods.

Leading engineer Mark Paterson of Irwinconsult, designers of the Australand project says that an efficient structural design was achieved by "stacking" apartments to create an efficient grid system for the transfer of loads throughout the building.



efficient structural design achieved by 'stacking' apartments

"As the current Australian building codes and standards did not cover more than three levels of timber-framed buildings, all the walls up to level three had to be engineered. A centralised lift and stair core provided a strong stability system with a transfer podium slab at ground floor to assist with the load transfer to the car park below."

"The rest of the structure, above the podium, was built using prefabricated timber systems for the walls, floors and roof trusses, with prefabricated timber floor cassettes made with timber floor joists in panels sandwiched between engineered floor sheeting," says Mark.

"The floor cassettes were detailed similar to a precast concrete panel and dropped in by cranes, creating a layered construction with the prefabricated walling systems installation occurring concurrently as the levels were being completed." ■

Construction using prefabricated timber systems for the walls, floors and roof trusses, with prefabricated timber floor cassettes.

The Green ... Australia's first five storey timber-frame apartment building and tallest in Australia, Parkville, Victoria.

The age of entitlement

OVER MY YEARS in business I have had occasion to hire staff for a variety of roles. Boat builders, joiners, salesmen, secretaries and managers; these recruits had one thing in common, their diverse personalities and attitudes to work. Therefore it is always difficult to generalise when it comes to groups of employees. Having said that, I have been asked for help on several occasions now, on how to deal with an increasingly difficult section of the workforce.

Joe Cranky (not his real name), a shopfitter from Sydney, called me to ask some advice and to relate his increasing frustration at hiring young and newly qualified staff. To illustrate his dilemma he related the following story: Joe had promised his shop workers time off in lieu of extra hours needed to complete a large contract on schedule.

All was agreeable until a week later when without notice, four young workers decided amongst themselves to take off the following three days so they could go party on the Gold Coast; not a word of explanation to Joe or thoughts of the impact the action might have on fellow workers or the business. When confronted on their return, the four young employees were unrepentant and insisted they were entitled to take the time off. None could accept that they had acted without authorisation and in an unacceptable and thoughtless manner.

Joe's experience is not an isolated one. It is a characteristic of a new generation in the workforce where self-interest comes first. Thoughtlessness is a common trait and one that can cause great difficulty in the workplace because it impacts on everyone's performance as a team. Conflicts soon arise between colleagues and a division of functions brings on a 'not my job' mentality in everyone.

It is a fact of life that we have no option but to include each new generation in our workforce. Skills are in short supply and it is currently an employees market as we enjoy a very buoyant industry environment. So the answer is partially in understanding this new generation and managing them accordingly. Clarity is essential for young employees. What might seem blindingly obvious to us may need spelling out to them. A memo explaining that time in lieu will be given on the proviso that it is taken with the agreement and consultation of management for example, might have avoided Joe's headache. Anticipating their missteps and laying down clear expectations is essential in managing this young group.

Joe went on to catalogue his seemingly endless problems with a young workforce. "They know better than me and are not afraid to say it. They quit when I just have them at a stage where they are useful, and they can't accept any change to their schedule or tasks. Work just doesn't seem important to them."

This generation has been brought up expecting to be managers and business owners but don't seem to have been taught that these aspirations must be earned; doing ordinary work is something that gets in the way of their goals instead of being a path to them. Work life balance is not negotiable with the emphasis on personal life as a priority.

Joe's comments might sound familiar but there is hope and there are ways to bring out the best in this generation of youngsters. This is a generation in need of constant stimulation and challenge, but they will quickly lose interest if regular feedback is not given. Make a point of discussing performance as it happens and enforcing the positives as well as giving advice for improvement.

This generation does not take kindly to criticism unless you can demonstrate how



Rick Lee has over 38 years experience in the woodworking industry both in woodwork manufacturing and in machinery and software distribution. He now works as a consultant to the industry and can be contacted at Right Track Business Consulting on 0412 237 456 or at rick.lee@righttrackbusiness.com.au.

improvement will benefit them personally. It is a generational trait that they will take the shortest quickest route to achieve goals. This manifests itself in the 'I know better' attitudes Joe has witnessed. A task is often labelled 'dumb' and they will try to find a quicker and easier option unless they understand why it is done that way. Take time to listen to their ideas before dismissing them out of hand and make sure you explain the reasons for your methods.

The need for speed is paramount in the new workforce and they need a clear career path in order to stay content. They want advancement sooner rather than later and the old idea of putting in the hard yards no longer applies. If this generation does not see progress they will quickly move on in search of their goals. It is essential that employers discuss career expectations and progress on a regular basis.

The challenges for employers are significant in harnessing young talent and maintaining a new generation of workers. But while we may get frustrated, it is clear we must come to understand this intelligent and very capable workforce if we are to thrive in the future. ■

by Housing Industry Association

Non-conforming building products and residential construction

The use of non-compliant building products in the housing sector has been a growing problem for the industry for a number of years. With an increasing number of products being manufactured offshore, and increased access to these products by individuals, the need to focus on compliance has never been greater.

Product sectors such as engineered timber and board materials, plumbing and sanitary ware, electrical fittings, windows, and steel reinforcing can all provide examples of fraudulent certification and product marking being used. Where products don't meet Australian standards, it can cause significant economic loss to the economy through underperformance and the costs of rectification. Worse, they can be a risk to the

health and safety of builders, employees and consumers.

The recall of Infinity electrical cables in 2014 by the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission highlighted the need for all levels of government and industry to focus on the most appropriate methods to manage building and construction product compliance in Australia. What this case has made clear is that while these products were being sold through major retail chains that are household names, and on the face of it all the paperwork and certification appeared in order, it wasn't until further digging was done that it was revealed that the products did not perform as was claimed, or required by law.

Now, up to as many as 40,000 premises are left with varying degrees of non-conforming Infinity cables, presenting a risk to the safety of occupants and tradespeople, and as yet an unknown bill to repair.

Over the last decade there has been a shift in the supply chain to increase offshore sources along with the decreasing level of local manufacturing of these products. Combined with this shift, the ease of purchasing online has brought into the market a plethora of less informed buyers, sourcing small quantities, who do not have the knowledge to ensure products are fit for purpose. Once these products are in the supply chain, the provenance is lost and seeking a remedy when a problem arises becomes extremely difficult.

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The extent of the problem, and the impact on specific product sectors, has been significant enough to warrant a number of discrete industry led certification schemes to be established in the Australian market, including windows, reinforcing steel and engineered wood. Regulated certification schemes currently only exist for plumbing products (WaterMark) and electrical products (Electrical Equipment Safety Scheme – recently introduced and not national).

The industry is also concerned that manufacturers who do the right thing are being disadvantaged against those fail to test and confirm that products meet Australia's compliance standards. The evolution of compliance and enforcement in Australia appears to have not kept pace with changes to our economy, global supply chains, and how or where products are manufactured or sourced.

What HIA is doing to help the industry

This is a serious problem confronting the Australia community, and it begs the questions as to what can be done, and if anything, by who? Well the good news is that there is a movement for change now starting to gain momentum.

Over the last 5 years the Housing Industry Association (HIA) has been investigating how non-compliant products are entering the market and seeking to understand the structure of the current building product compliance framework in Australia. HIA played a key role in getting the problem into the national conversation, when it held a national summit back in 2012, Building Products: A compliance free zone?

Since then, HIA has investigated options to assist the industry in addressing the problem, such as the potential development of a product register for manufacturers and suppliers to list their products and provide compliance information to the marketplace.

Following recent calls from HIA for a national inquiry into non-conforming building products, the Senate resolved to investigate the problem. Supporting a motion by Senators Nick Xenophon, Jackie Lambie and John Madigan, the Senate inquiry will be conducted by the Senate Economic References Committee, and will report to the Senate on 12 October 2015. And while this presents no 'quick-fixes', it will be integral to getting the extent of the problem under the noses of our political leaders, many of whom have been somewhat slow off the mark.

There can be significant implications, both reputational and financial, to businesses that may unwittingly use non-compliant products, and unfortunately, the fact that something is for sale doesn't guarantee that it is compliant

or will perform to expectations or statutory requirements.

This means that in the interim, most of the solutions are likely to be found at the enterprise level until better systems are in place to improve the integrity of the product supply chain. Until then, perhaps it is time to update the old carpenter's maxim to measure twice and cut once, to 'check compliance twice and use once'.

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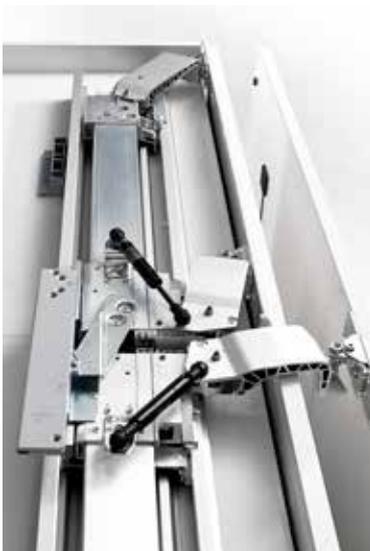
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Hettich's new premium sliding door system



InLine XL is the premium sliding door system for flush fitted fronts from Hettich. InLine XL provides maximum design flexibility, particularly in the use of handles. As InLine XL lets sliding doors open from the door's outermost edge, it provides the option of creating handleless fronts.

InLine XL can be used in many different applications: for wood or aluminium-frame doors up to 2,600 mm high, door widths from 750 to 2,000 mm and door thicknesses from 16 to 25 mm. The fitting is designed for doors weighing as much as 60 kg. An added touch of luxury and convenience comes from Silent System that gently and quietly slows doors down in the opening and closing direction.

When open, sliding doors are left completely flush, one in front of the other. This makes

internal drawers particularly easy to use – entirely without the need for spacers. Large cabinets are easy to create with InLine XL because the integrated height-adjustment facility is easy to reach with the doors in place, making them convenient to adjust for precision alignment. Infinitely adjustable door reveal and door tilt adjustment also help to give frontages a look of perfection. The preassembled fitting sets make short work of installation and ensure great results every time. There are ten different sets to cover all door widths. This reduces inventory costs and simplifies logistics.

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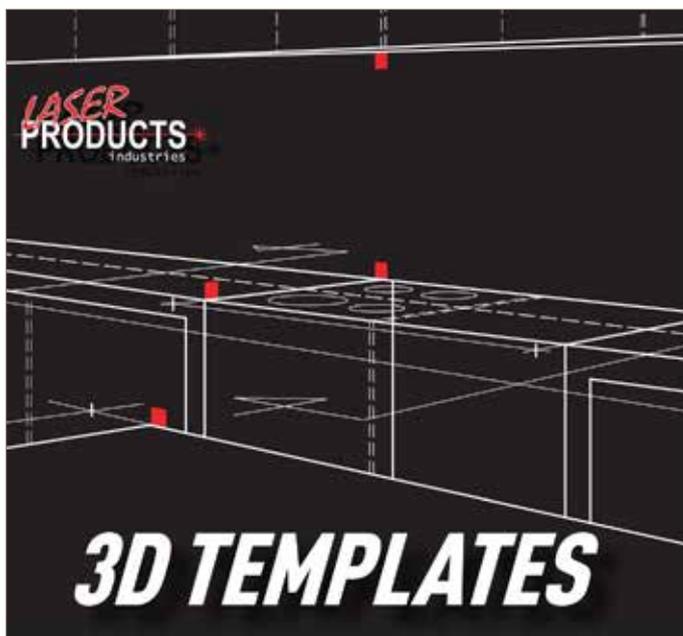
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AWISA 2016 – on track to being the biggest



With AWISA recently making the decision to book more space at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, and with 85% of the total available space already booked by exhibitors, AWISA 2016 is on track to being the biggest AWISA trade show ever.

“We have an initial sales process that is now complete for the AWISA-Design area of the show, and we are now in a position to accept new bookings for that area. In the machinery part of the show, we will not be open for new business until October, when we will have completed allocating space to those machinery companies that put in early bookings,” said Geoff Holland, general manager of the Australian Woodworking Industry Suppliers Association.

“By the time this magazine is distributed we will have contacted all the companies in our database that are relevant to the AWISA-Design area. AWISA-Design features hardware, decorative products and design software. I welcome hearing from potential new exhibitors. This dedicated area was introduced in 2012 and has proved to be very popular with exhibitors and with visitors,” he said.

AWISA 2016 takes place at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre from 6-9 July 2016. It is one of the largest trade shows in Australia and attracts visitors from throughout Australia and New Zealand. Over the years close to half the visitors to each show have travelled from interstate or overseas to attend.

AWISA welcomes new members and new exhibitors. Any reader who wants to find out more about AWISA 2016 should contact Geoff Holland on 0412 361 580 or at info@awisa.com.

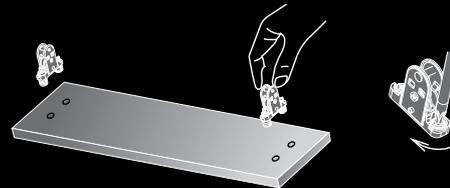
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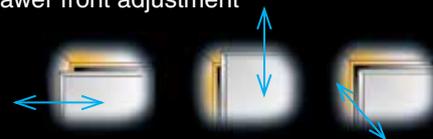
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Mistakes to avoid when first buying a nesting machine

ONE OF THE LARGER expenses for a new cabinetmaking company is its first nesting machine. While this investment can boost production and give significant advantages – there are key elements needed to get right.

This article highlights the key areas that purchasers need to be aware of, before they go shopping.

Sheet capacity

Most common nesting machine bed sizes are 2400x1200 or 3600x1800mm capacities, although there are other, less common, sizes available.

So which one is right for you?

This is dictated by your production requirements, your workshop flow and your material handling capacities. As a general rule, any nesting machine that will use 3600 x 1800 sheet sizes will need loading and unloading systems incorporated. If you do require larger sheets, it is always better to opt for the turn-key solution cell, rather than 'add on' scissor lifts and static tables. The reason for this is that the manufacturers have taken the time to optimise the efficiency of the loading and unloading operation.

Analyse your workshop, analyse what you need and stick to your requirements.

Not maximising your factory's performance

Traditionally, workshop flow in a cabinet shop can be broken into five main components:

1. Packs of board are received and stored.
2. Sheets are processed on the panel saw.
3. If required, components are drilled and bored.
4. Edging is applied.
5. Cabinets are assembled and taken to site.

If you introduce a nesting machine to your workshop, you are removing both the panel saw (2) and the drilling machines (3). They are no longer in your day-to-day workshop flow. Commonly, new machines are installed in the logical available space in an existing workshop. However, to gain the maximum advantage, take the time to look at your overall factory layout. Your panel saw may now only be turned on once or twice a day. It's a large piece of equipment, but does it need to be at its current location at the start of the product flow?

Not allowing for the hidden extras

There are a few key areas you need to research to ensure you don't get any hidden surprises. Additionally to the nesting machine itself, you will need to research extraction and ducting systems. Machinery requires good quality, clean (dry) pneumatic air. You will need to confirm your existing factory has the electrical capacity to run this additional machine.

Not getting the best performance from your machine

Here are few suggested criteria to work to when investigating software.

1. Make it easy to use: A sales presentation is good, but why not grab the controls, design a kitchen and prepare the machining files.
2. Make it visual: The software should be visual. There is a big difference between reading dimensions off an excel spreadsheet versus seeing a cabinet with length, width and height.
3. Make it Windows based: Does the software follow standard PC based operations? For example are the File, New and Open commands in tabs up the top? Keep in mind that this is how most computer programs work. Also ask these questions: What reporting is available? What is the drawing system?

Write down what you want the system to do. Mark each point as either critical or optional.

Not servicing your machine

If you invested \$100,000 in a motor vehicle, you would have it serviced regularly and routinely. If you invest in a nesting machine, you should take the same attitude. Remember, service is different to the day-to-day operation of the machine, it's getting into all the wearing components and making sure everything is working correctly.

There is not doubt that nesting technology will give your business a more streamlined operation. However with some advanced planning, you can maximise the benefits to both you and your turnover. ■



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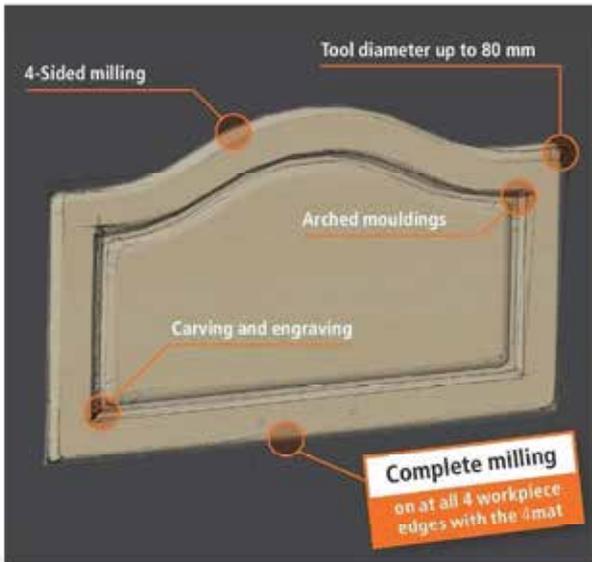
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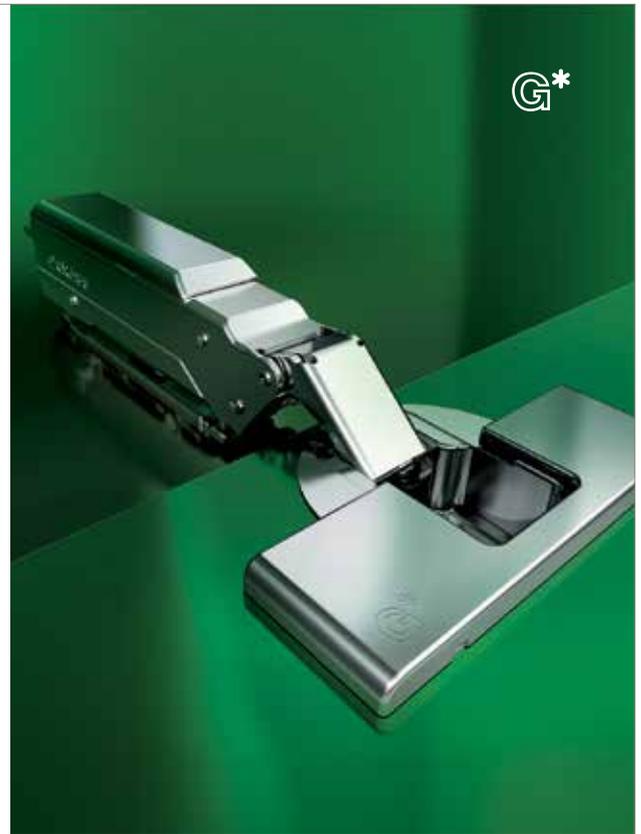
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First Melbourne show in 25 years

When AWISA 2016 takes place at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre (MCEC), it will be a quarter of a century since the last AWISA show took place in Melbourne. That show was at the Royal Exhibition Building.

The MCEC opened in 1996 and hosts a number of trade shows of the scale of AWISA, and is close to many hotels such as the Hilton Melbourne South Wharf, pictured to the right of the MCEC. ■



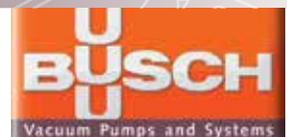
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Australian Woodworking Industry Suppliers Association Limited

AWISA The Association



AWISA was formed in 1986 by the principal suppliers to the Australian woodworking industry. The main aims of the association are to present industry exhibitions, publish industry magazines, co-operate with other organisations, and to uphold the highest ethical standards and encourage members to do the same.

Membership applications are welcome from Australian based companies, and from overseas companies with Australian agents or distributors that are also members of AWISA. Membership of AWISA includes suppliers of woodworking machinery, cabinet and furniture hardware, panel products and surface materials, portable tools, computer software, materials handling equipment, dust extraction equipment, components, and general plant and safety equipment.

AWISA The Exhibition



The exhibition has been held regularly since 1988, and attracts furniture manufacturers, cabinet makers, kitchen manufacturers, joiners, shop and office fitters, and other wood, timber and panel processing industries. Architects and interior designers also attend.

The next AWISA exhibition will take place in Melbourne from 6-9 July 2016 at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre. For more information visit awisa.com or phone Geoff Holland on 0412 361 580.

AWISA The Magazine



AWISA's magazine is published quarterly and is distributed free to a database of over 13,000 end users in the industry. AWISA's editorial policy is to produce quality editorial about business and technical issues that affect the woodworking industry, and to provide members with a means of disseminating information about their products. The association welcomes input from both members and end users about subjects that should be written about in the magazine.

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