



An innovative investment towards safety

WITH OH&S RISK MANAGEMENT AT THE TOP OF HIS PRIORITY LIST, DAMIEN RADBURN OF **KERDEN HAULAGE** DOES NOT COMPROMISE ON SAFETY WHEN ORDERING NEW EQUIPMENT. A **KRUEGER** CLIENT BY TRADITION, HE IS ALL ABOUT UTILISING THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE OPERATING A TRAILER AS SAFE AND EFFICIENT AS POSSIBLE.

Situated along the coast of New South Wales, some 160km south of bustling Sydney, Nowra has a rich rural and agricultural history. The region around Nowra is a farming community, sustaining a thriving dairy industry and lush forests, making it a prominent retirement and leisure area for Canberra and Sydney. Amidst the rural idyll, however, local transport business Kerden Haulage has gained renown as a forward-thinking fleet that does not hesitate to invest into a safe and productive workplace. Since its establishment in 1992 by Kerry and Dennis Radburn, the family-owned company has built a fleet of 42 trailers – including a pair of Krueger B-doubles that only just entered operation.

“Our key objective as a haulage business

has not changed over the years – we not only want to provide a premium service to our clients, but also invest into versatile, user-friendly equipment that our drivers can handle without putting them at risk,” says Damien Radburn, a 20-year transport veteran himself who has taken over the reins from his accomplished parents as Kerden’s Managing Director.

It is no surprise that a closer examination of Kerden’s latest purchase sees a strict focus on making each trailer as safe as possible, a value that has characterised the family business since day one.

Determined to find a suitable unit that could comply with Kerden’s strict OH&S requirements, Damien consulted long-

standing supplier, Krueger Transport Equipment when the most recent fleet upgrade was due. “Having used Krueger equipment since 1996, it was only logical to take up that long partnership and ask for their opinion first,” says Damien, who is a strong advocate for building personal relationships in the industry. “Damien had quite specific requests for maximising the loading space inside the trailer,” says Krueger’s National Sales Manager, Grant Krueger. “That’s why we recommended our new model mezzanine deck system to increase productivity without comprising the safety of his team.” After a lengthy consultation process, Grant and Damien would settle on two new drop

deck curtain-siders in B-double configuration, both incorporating Krueger’s unique load restraint curtain and mezzanine deck system, alongside sliding side posts.

“The load restraint curtain was specified primarily for its OH&S benefits and to reduce turn-around time for loading and unloading. Time is money in this industry,” says Grant. “From an OH&S and performance point of view, the fluidity of manoeuvring the curtains and posts makes it easier for only one driver to operate when opening and closing,” he says. “All they do now is flick a lever and the mezzanine posts can slide out of the way, waiving one of the major OH&S hazards when out in the field.”

And as Damien points out, the system is also flexible enough to accommodate both general freight and the odd full-length load. “To transport a full length load like polyethylene pipes, steel, timber or concrete materials, we can move the decks level with the top deck of the trailer and convert the trailer to a straight deck setup,” he explains. “On the return trip, we can then slot in the decks again to double-stack palletised general freight. That’s the beauty of the Krueger design – it gives us the flexibility to use each trailer for more than one job.”

In February 2013, Krueger delivered the first drop deck B-double, and the second unit joined it at the start of April. Both combinations went straight into service to complement Kerden’s fleet of 42 trailers and 19 prime movers operating all across



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Australia. To Damien, the trailers’ ability to accommodate various types of freight makes them a worthwhile purchase. But beyond mere product performance, he says the trust his parents built with the Krueger family over the years is even more important than the product itself. “We have dealt with Krueger since 1996, and they always delivered a reliable product according to what we have specified,”

he recounts. “They always stick to the deadline we agree on, and that’s exactly the kind of criteria I adhere to with our clientele as well.”

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