



## First off the line

IT TOOK A LITTLE MORE THAN 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE, BUT FAMILY-OWNED TRAILER MANUFACTURER, **KRUEGER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT**, CAN NOW BOAST A NEW PRODUCTION FACILITY IN MELBOURNE. THE FIRST B-DOUBLE TO LEAVE THE STATE-OF-THE-ART TRUGANINA SITE HAS NOW HIT THE ROAD.

In September 2013, Krueger Transport Equipment announced the relocation of its long-established factory to a new 25,000m<sup>2</sup> site located just up the road in the Melbourne suburb of Truganina. Last month, the first unit produced in the new plant, a B-double 'Kurtainer', was officially handed over to long time Krueger client, Wadley's Interstate

Transport Services. To honour the occasion, Managing Director Brian Wadley travelled all the way from New South Wales to Melbourne to personally take delivery of the milestone unit. "Wadley's has been our valued client for more than 25 years," says Grant Krueger, National Sales Manager. "It was perfect timing as Wadley's had ordered the

new B-double right around the time the Truganina factory was near completion, and obviously we are delighted that the very first build will go to such a special client." Now running at full speed, Krueger's new site can boast 10,500m<sup>2</sup> of floor space, enough to manufacture a large variety of trailers at the one time – including their



well-known skels, Kurtainers, flat tops and drop decks, as well as a range of Steelbro side-loaders.

According to Krueger CEO, Andrew Arapakis, the Truganina site represents a "massive upgrade" from a manufacturing point of view. "It's all about improving the quality of production, increasing our physical output and the speed of delivery to our clients," he says. "We're constantly growing and with this much space, we can achieve anything – especially when it comes to innovation and handling bulk orders."

Six finishing lines, all developed in-house, allow Krueger to build B-doubles such as the Wadley's combination in large quantities, which the company says equates to a 25 per cent output increase. "We now have the capacity to manufacture large orders in a timely fashion. For example, if someone ordered more than two dozen B-doubles on a tight deadline, we could accommodate that request due to the added space and new equipment at our disposal," says founder John Krueger – revealing that some \$5m were invested internally on the latest in high-tech trailer manufacturing equipment. "We've really taken the opportunity to refine everything we do. For example, we have completely outfitted the plant with high-tech machinery – ranging from brand-new sandblasting and spray painting booths to state-of-the-art plasma cutting equipment. The new facility integrates 12 overhead cranes, as well as six new finishing bays, which all include special underground pits to make it a safe and more efficient workplace."

It's not just clients like Brian Wadley who benefit from Krueger's ambitious expansion course, but also the staff on the ground. The Truganina factory is just a 10-minute drive from Krueger's current head office in Derrimut, making the transition as convenient as possible.

"Our people are important to us, which is why we always kept our existing workforce in mind during the build of the new plant," Andrew explains. "We wanted to create the best working environment for our staff to excel every day, and I think the new site has achieved just that."

With the new site now fully operational, customers old and new can expect Krueger

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Krueger CEO, Andrew Arapakis, presents Brian Wadley (left) with the very first trailer to leave Krueger's all new manufacturing facility outside Melbourne.

to deliver on its long-standing promise of delivering a wide variety of products to the highest standards. "We're proud to say that we can now meet all those 'must-now' orders here in Truganina, which will benefit all our clients from around Australia," John adds.

"Regardless of lead time or volume, we have the technology in place to make anything happen. That might mean extending an afternoon shift or two on the

odd occasion, but the plant has been set up so we are prepared for all types of short notice scenarios without compromising on quality, reliability and innovation. It's a major milestone for Krueger as a brand and all our customers."

**Contact**  
 Krueger Transport Equipment  
 399 Boundary Road  
 Truganina VIC 3029  
 Ph: 03 9366 2133  
 Web: www.krueger.com.au