



Josh Allen, Chris Buckley and Harry Whyte with the Homag S-380 edgebander.

Reducing lead times

Harry Whyte, the son of Resero founder Hamish Whyte, initially had no intention of joining the family business. However, circumstances led him to work for the company's sales division in Melbourne starting in 2017. In October 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated warnings from Winston Peters prompted Harry to return to his hometown of Hawkes Bay. There he took up the opportunity to work as production manager in the company's Hastings factory.

Harry's experience in sales has provided him with valuable insights that have proven beneficial in his current role. For instance, he has an excellent understanding of how manufacturing defects or delays can impact customers, which has led to renewed focus on quality control.

Resero specialises in manufacturing high-quality furniture for educational spaces and community centres to enhance learning outcomes. Under its

Furnware and Sebel brands, the company exports to many countries, with New Zealand and Australia being the primary markets. The expansion into additional overseas markets has helped to spread seasonal demand, but has also presented challenges, particularly during the COVID pandemic. Fortunately, much of the materials for Resero's Hastings factory are sourced locally in New Zealand, but lead times still increased from the typical 8 weeks out to 12-14 weeks.

To help reduce lead times and increase productivity, Resero invested in a new Homag S-380 edgebander, supplied by Jacks. Edgebanding quality has significantly improved, and the new machine has helped get lead times back to within the 8 week range. Since its installation in February 2022, Maintenance Team Leader Chris Buckley and Panel shop Team Leader Josh Allen have been thrilled with the Homag's performance.

They particularly appreciate the Homag QA65N glue-pot, which is heated and ready to go in under 10 minutes. The glue pre-melter unit regularly tops up the glue pot. "We run the glue-pot at half full and have pre-melter topping up so we're always processing with freshly melted glue" says Chris. "After breaks, the glue is still in good condition with no lumps and it hasn't burnt – as was the case with our previous edgebander. The glue line is nice and thin, and with the spray units on the Homag we don't have any manual cleaning to do when the parts come off the edgebander. Previously we'd have to run blades over edges and clean excess glue away with solvents", adds Josh.

The new Homag S-380 has also reduced down time through its automatic glue-pot cleaning system and the ability to quickly access programs and switch between materials. Chris and Josh also love the top pressure belt. "It's so much better at holding smaller workpieces. Small parts

would sometimes skew around on our previous edgebander. Not anymore. We get consistent high quality edgebanding across our full range of materials," says Josh. Quick access to programs, multi-profile tooling for 2mm and 1mm thick tape, and the dual channel tape feed system reduce downtime to a minimum when changing materials. The S-380 runs at 20m/min and keeps pace with the company's three CNC nesting lines, processing across two shifts a day.

Harry is dedicated to continuous improvement initiatives and lean manufacturing principles. He believes that a fresh set of eyes, coupled with investments in new machinery technology, will keep Resero at the forefront of the industry for many years to come.

