



CNC operators Andrew Leckie & Phil Harris found the Jacks training and support exactly what they needed in becoming familiar with the new KDT.

# Calder Stewart

## *A legacy of craftsmanship meets CNC precision*

In New Zealand's competitive industrial and commercial markets, Calder Stewart has earned its reputation as a trusted leader in property development and building solutions. With a proud history as a family-owned business that started in 1955 in Milton, Calder Stewart has grown its team to around 450, delivering projects that range from intricate local builds to major national developments. Today, Calder Stewart's extensive services span an impressive land portfolio, end-to-end property services, design-build solutions, as well as manufacturing and construction services across the country.

To meet the demands of complex large-scale projects, Calder Stewart recently made the decision to invest in a state-of-the-art CNC. The machine, manufactured by KDT - one of the world's largest and most advanced producers of CNC machinery - was chosen for its quality, functionality and the assurance of meeting

New Zealand's stringent safety standards. "We could have bought a CNC directly from China at a much cheaper price," says Senior Maintenance Coordinator Sam McKay. "But we wanted a machine that met all the NZ safety standards and had local support." This decision came after the team realised the unique needs of CNC equipment compared to simpler machinery they could "chuck timber through." With numerous moving parts and a significant software component - a CNC machine requires both reliability and dependable local support.

From installation to training, the Jacks team played a critical role in ensuring the whole process was smooth and efficient. "The Jacks technician was really focused on us during training, making sure we understood and were comfortable with the features of the machine," says Phil, the CNC operator. "Even when we had a question a few weeks after training, we could just call and

get the support we needed." This level of accessible expert support has proven essential in keeping projects on schedule and avoiding unnecessary downtime.

The KDT CNC has quickly become a vital tool in Calder Stewart's workshop, allowing them to complete a wide range of tasks, from stair stringers and ply boxing to cabinetry, vision panels in doors and louvre work. Equipped with workpiece hold-down rollers, the machine provides stability and precision even with challenging materials like plywood and stair stringers. "I push the button and walk away," adds Phil, underscoring the machine's efficiency and ease of use.

With the KDT CNC, Calder Stewart has seen significant efficiency gains, already halving production times on many jobs. As operators continue to master the design software, they're expecting to cut project times

to just a third of what they once were. This investment in a CNC solution from Jacks has not only streamlined operations but has also proven to be a wise choice for Calder Stewart's long-term goals. "Knowing what we do now, we made the right decision to partner with Jacks and not go it alone," say Sam and Phil. "It would have been a nightmare otherwise."

With their new CNC capabilities, Calder Stewart is well-positioned to continue their legacy of delivering some of New Zealand's most ambitious and complex projects - bringing precision, speed, and versatility to every build.



*The KDT range of machinery is sold and serviced in NZ by Jacks.*  
[www.jacks.co.nz](http://www.jacks.co.nz)