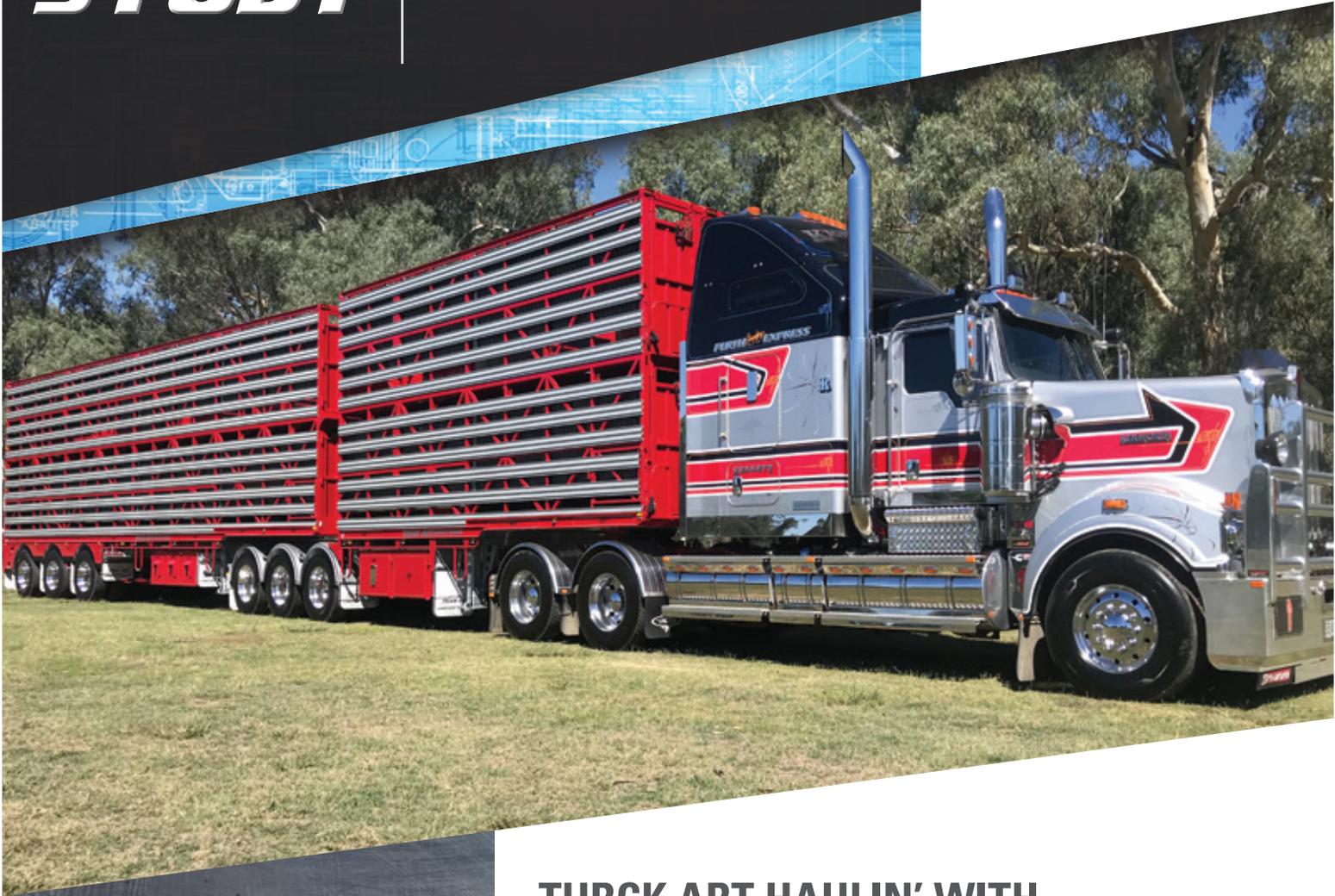


CASE STUDY

TRUCK ART TRAILERS



CATEGORY:
Transport

LOCATION:
NSW

PRODUCT:
ALUMINIUM

TURCK ART HAULIN' WITH BLUESCOPE DISTRIBUTION

In 1976, Terry Gibbs started a small spray paint and repair business in regional New South Wales. Over the ensuing years, word grew about the company's quality work, prompting a move to new larger premises, and adoption of a new name: 'Truck Art'.

Truck Art is now a national business group that is still proudly owned by Wagga locals and founders, Terry and Sheryl Gibbs. Since its inception, Truck Art has enjoyed strong success, providing a range of services including smash repairs, truck air conditioning and custom sleeper cab manufacturing for the heavy vehicle industry.

Not resting on previous achievements, Terry and Sheryl could see that an opportunity existed to further diversify their business within the heavy transport sector. With this in mind, in 2010, the couple purchased Dickinson Trailers, significantly adding to the heavy vehicle services already provided by the broader Truck Art Group.

A year later, Dickinson Livestock Trailers was rebranded to Truck Art Trailers to reflect its place within the Truck Art Group. The acquisition brought the number of businesses within the broader Truck Art Group to five: Truck Art Trailers, Truck Art Smash Repairs (both based in Bomen, NSW), Truck Art Melbourne, Truck Art Adelaide and Truck Art Perth, providing the capacity to service all states of Australia including Tasmania.

“ Having a company of the calibre and reputation of BlueScope Distribution behind us, will be a huge benefit. ”

- Wayne Storer, Site Manager - Truck Art Trailers

As the Truck Art Trailers name gained a foothold in the livestock bulk handling industry, demand for the product increased markedly, leading to further development of the Truck Art Trailers production environment, according to Site Manager, Wayne Storer.

“A heavy schedule of work booked beyond 12 months led us to increase our production facilities to 10 bays. Each bay is capable of holding a ‘B’-Double trailer set, and this ensures that we can provide the best manufacture and repair support for our customer base,” Wayne said.

“Staffing was also increased and we now boast a team of 35 people across the Truck Art Trailers business alone.”

“Having a company of the calibre and reputation of BlueScope Distribution behind us, will be a huge benefit.”

The demand for steel, alloy sheet and unique-shaped aluminium extruded products grew with the business and presented a significant challenge, due to tight manufacturing timelines and the isolation experienced in New South Wales regional areas,” Wayne said.

“Truck Art Trailers sought the assistance of BlueScope Distribution to solve this issue and have since formed a partnership that works well for both businesses. BlueScope Distribution’s ability to draw material from a number of sites across Australia has quite clearly taken the stress out of our material acquisition and handling.”

To help achieve this, BlueScope Distribution in consultation with Truck Art, agreed to a local stock holding of products, further improving lead times, and also provided weekly stock holding reports to keep accurate tabs on the materials on hand.

Also ensuring a more efficient build process was BlueScope Distribution’s ability to provide precision cut and powder coated sideboards on spec with no extra in-house cost, less handling, and technical advice on which aluminium and steel products would best suit the end application.

AN EVOLVING INDUSTRY

The livestock bulk handling industry continues to evolve, and like all industries, is subject to environmental, animal welfare and Workplace Health & Safety legislation. Meeting the needs of the customer and ensuring legislative requirements are maintained has fostered development of new effluent control and labour saving devices being fitted to Truck Art Trailers.

Truck Art’s highly experienced staff continually identify opportunities to innovate. An example of this is the company’s design and manufacture of a remote controlled hydraulic gate system that eliminates the need for the operator to be in the trailer with stock during loading and unloading, reducing the likelihood of injury while increasing efficiency.

Truck Art Trailers’ innovative effluent control system is designed to operate remotely and remain sealed when a trailer loses its air (such as when uncoupled from the prime mover), ensuring no loss of effluent.

According to Wayne, corrosion is one of the greatest enemies of any trailer carrying livestock.

“Managing corrosion is a challenge that actually starts during the manufacturing process and is impacted by the materials we use during the build,” he said.

“‘Stress corrosion’ (material in a corrosive environment under continual stress) is perhaps the most insidious form of corrosion. Truck Art Trailers and BlueScope Distribution have developed an extra strong high profile aluminium deck rail extrusion that has eliminated this issue.

“This is an enormous achievement as this problem has been undermining trailer deck stability across the industry for in excess of 15 years,” Wayne added.

With its quality workmanship, ongoing innovative thinking and partnership with BlueScope Distribution, Truck Art Trailers is well placed to continue delivering quality products that fit well with the business group’s mission of: “providing the Heavy Vehicle Industry with Service Excellence allowing them to succeed in their business”.

To learn more about Truck Art’s range of trailers, visit: truckart.com.au

Phone: 13 72 82
www.bluescopedistribution.com.au

