



BAMBRA-HIGGINS - PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Stacks of flexibility makes Crown Walkie Stacker first choice



Left The forks have been fitted with slippers to assist the handling of 2m long pallets.

The fact that most people are buried or cremated within a couple of days of passing away means the undertaking trade has to be very responsive to meet the quick turnaround.

One of Australia's leading suppliers to undertakers and funeral directors is Perth-based Bambra-Higgins Pty Ltd

Located at Bayswater, Bambra-Higgins supplies around 95% of the coffins and caskets in Perth. The company also has associate businesses in Victoria and SA, making the group one of the country's biggest suppliers to the undertaking trade.

Lending a helping hand in the production of the coffins, caskets and other accessories at

Bambra-Higgins are two M Series Walkie Stackers from Crown.

Bambra-Higgins' Production Supervisor, Rick Hanson, said: "One of the biggest problems we have is actually handling the coffins once they have been crafted.

"All of the coffins and caskets are hand-made by skilled cabinetmakers, with the standard of finish at least the equivalent of that found on premium quality furniture.

"They are not particularly heavy, but they are



Right Crown Walkie Stackers prove their value with versatile, durable performance.

bulky and awkward to move around, with damage to a finished coffin or casket our biggest concern," he said.

Bambra-Higgins aquired its first Crown Walkie Stacker about two years ago.

"For years we simply man-handled the materials and products at the various stages of manufacture, however, as our production volumes increased, we thought there had to be a better way. We spoke to Crown, who suggested a Walkie Stacker for the job," said Rick.

"The introduction of the first unit was such a success that we soon contacted Crown and organised a second one," he said.

"We now make our own two metre long pallets to facilitate the handling of the finished products and Crown modified the Walkie Stackers for us by fitting extra-long fork slippers, which makes it easier to lift such a long load," said Rick.

"The introduction of the Walkie-Stackers has made a big difference to our operation and have helped to improve productivity and throughput, while greatly reducing any occupational health and safety concerns associated with manual handling," he said.

Bambra-Higgins manufactures around 60 different types of coffins and caskets from a variety of materials including particleboard, MDF and a variety of solid timbers.



In addition to stacking and retrieving coffins from specially set up pallet racking, the Walkie Stackers are also used for a wide range of general handling tasks, such as loading sheets of material on to production machines.

The need to turn orders around quickly means Bambra-Higgins generally manufactures to stock, rather than to order.

"Being able to store and retrieve materials and products quickly with the Crown Walkie Stackers certainly helps to speed the whole production process," he said.

"And, because we're only lifting relatively lightweight loads of say 50 to 60 kg at a time, they virtually never run out of power and we only need to recharge the battery about every two to three weeks.

"Likewise with maintenance, because this is a fairly light-duty application, we don't need to have the equipment serviced all that often, which makes the actual running costs of the units virtually negligible," said Rick.

"The Walkie Stackers are now an integral part of our production and distribution process and we couldn't do without them," he said.

"The introduction of the Walkie Stackers has made a big difference to our operation and have helped to improve productivity and throughput, while greatly reducing product damage and any OH&S concerns."



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