



Distribution flows smoothly for filtration specialist

Prominent filtration specialist Donaldson Australasia has consolidated its warehouse materials handling equipment and chosen Crown Equipment as its main supplier.

Donaldson's manufacturing and distribution centre at Wyong, NSW, is responsible for the rapid deployment of large amounts of incoming and outgoing filtration products and materials.

Crown provided the bulk of its current fleet with the installation of new model reach forklifts that can raise to a maximum height of eight metres.



The collaboration is largely due to Crown's strong market reputation and a prominent representation in the Central Coast region of NSW, according to Donaldson's Distribution & warehousing manager, Mr Jason Seymour.

“Crowns fleet of lift trucks are supported by a prompt, local service team, which increase warehouse productivity by minimising forklift down time” said Mr Seymour.

“The majority of our forklift fleet is Crown, which are reliable and easy to use. The operating system from one forklift to the next does not vary from an operator's perspective. This results in greater productivity and less chance of mishap from operator error due to forklift layout variations.”

Donaldson is best known for its quality range of engine filtration products for heavy-duty mobile equipment, which are used extensively throughout the mining, transport and construction markets.

Donaldson is also a market leader in the area of industrial filtration solutions which include the Ultrafilter range of compressed air purification products, Torit DCE dust, fume and mist control products, as well as an extensive range of filters for use in compressors and hydraulic applications.

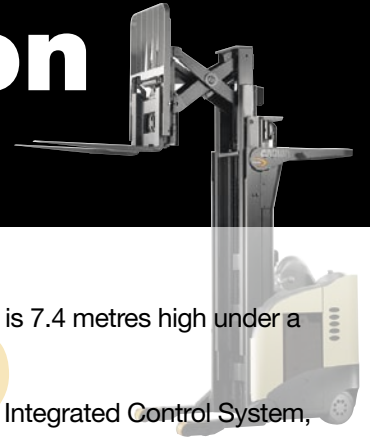
The Wyong premises already occupy 10,000m² of floor space, with a 50% expansion, nearing completion.

Crown has progressively fitted this warehouse with two RR5000 Series and three RR5200 Series reach trucks which give greater versatility to complement the existing fleet of Crown turret trucks.

Currently, on average, the Donaldson Wyong warehouse operation despatches 40,000 cubic metres of freight per annum with a dead weight of approximately 3,500 tonne.

Donaldson required the following modifications to its lift truck equipment to accommodate its distinct requirements.

1. Smaller straddle wheels with a 1220mm inside dimension were fitted strategically on those models that often access ground level loose stock so as to minimise bumping or damage.



2. Sit, stand & lean versions were prepared with large load wheels to increase the comfort for drivers given the task of travelling longer distances across the warehouse floor.

“Each of the Crown reach trucks can carry 2,000kg and raise to 8.1 metres while working in an aisle size of less than three meters. This saved us considerable warehousing costs when we consolidated our premises.



“The speed with which they operate is also vital. Ours is a high volume output two-shift operation (6.30am-10pm) with duties that include production line supply, production line clearing, finished goods picking, product put away, ground level replenishment, weighing pallets and all other operations associated with daily warehouse operation.

“These RR Series lift trucks allow us to handle all our capacity requirements at maximum lift – a bonus at

our premises where racking is 7.4 metres high under a fourteen metre ceiling.”

Each unit in the fleet has an Integrated Control System, called Access 1 2 3 that knows what height the truck is at and whether the unit is loaded or empty. Performance profiling allows speeds to be set at one of three different settings and coded for different operators.

A Capacity Monitor provides the approximate load weight and height of the load for easy pallet placement and retrieval.



Rack Height Select option allows the operator to choose a desired rack level on the display, which will take the forks to the preselected height reducing guess work at high lift heights.

For driver comfort and anti-fatigue, the unit's side stance has padded surfaces, suspended floorboard and thermal management. These features work together to maximise operator control, flexibility and productivity.

Multi-Task control handle gives operators even more stability and supports faster load handling by blending tasks such as travel, lift and reach. The ergonomic design makes the full range of reach truck functions easier for operators to learn and use. Hydraulic functions (lift, reach, tilt and side shift) are infinitely variable to provide precise, smooth control which is essential for working 8m in the air.

“In summary, Donaldson have had a long successful relationship with Crown and have seen many improvements over this time from R&D on products and service support in our area. This has provided the confidence to continue our business relationship.”