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Evolving through innovation

OVER THE LAST 15 YEARS, THE TUFF TRAILERS NAME HAS BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH RELIABILITY AND STRENGTH. THE QUEENSLAND BASED MANUFACTURER CONTINUES TO BREAK BOUNDARIES WITH UNIQUE CUSTOM BUILT TRAILERS DESIGNED TO TACKLE THEIR TASK HEAD ON.

Australian family owned company, Tuff Trailers, has been in operation since 1994. Since then the company has supplied customers all over Australia and overseas with trailers that have been specifically built to suit the task at hand. In fact, its founder, Denis Di Pasquale and his wife Nicole started the company in response to market demand for quality custom built trailers.

State of the art facility

In 2000, increasing demand for the Tuff Trailers product had forced the company to move to larger premises. The company built a new factory with 1500 square metres of enclosed work space, offices and a reception, a seven bay workshop, 10 tonne overhead crane, a sand blasting room and a paint shop. This paved the way for the company to further increase its manufacturing capacity – so much so that the need arose to further expand the

factory in 2002. Two additional workshop bays were added which brought the workshop capacity up to 1800 square metres and an additional overhead crane was implemented. However by 2005, this space was no longer sufficient and the business was relocated to its current 12,200 square metre site which features 8000 square metres of enclosed workspace, individual electrical and air supply lines to each workshop bay, a hi-definition plasma cutter, 160 tonne hydraulic brake press, a painting booth and baking room, large capacity offices, a 12 bay workshop, three 10 tonne overhead cranes and a sandblasting room.

Groundbreaking designs

Tuff Trailers builds everything from low loaders, drop decks and truck transporters, to dollies, dog trailers and flat tops.

The 'can-do' attitude of Tuff Trailers has seen it build trailers with design features stretching far beyond conventional boundaries.

In early 2009, the Load 'N' Lift was developed. The first of these trailers was built for a customer that wanted to allow for overhang over the rear of an extendable trailer without a ramp getting in the way. The rear end of the trailer was placed behind the axle tilt, reducing the length of the ramp. A decision was made to make the ramp hydraulically telescopic so that it could slide away under the floor of the trailer's deck.

Expanding on this design is the Load 'N' Lift Widener which contains all of same features as the original version but also hydraulically widens to 3.5 metres. As the ramp can be used at that width, it can also be used as a platform. The Tuff Low Rider is another model that was developed for a customer wanting the

trailer's ramps kept out of the way. This trailer hydraulically widens, and regardless of whether the trailer is widened or closed, the 4.5 metre bi-fold ramps can remain horizontal. Eliminating drag caused by the ramps in each of these designs provides improved aerodynamics, in turn helping to reduce

Another recent design is the Tuff Tilt 'N' Slide extendable which is the first super tilt trailer of its kind. When the trailer is fully tilted and the deck is slid back, it has an angle of only 7.9 degrees, although this can be adjusted right up to 22 degrees for easy unloading of buildings or containers.

In addition to these designs, some of the most recent innovations from Tuff Trailers include the Low Loader Drop Deck Widener and Low Loader Drop Deck Widener Extendable. One of the most recent products to come off the line at Tuff Trailers is the Low Loader Extendable Deck Widener with a double gooseneck allowing it to be used with a dolly The gooseneck has the capability to accept removable top deck wings with slide out ramps. It also has the facility for a 20,000lb winch. Fully closed the unit measures 14 metres long. It has a 9.9 metre bottom deck that extends to 14.6 metres, and can widen to 3.5 metres. The ramps can be locked down into the back bar, enabling loads to overhang the rear, subsequently creating an 18 metre bottom deck. Utilising TMC airbag suspension and 17.5" drum brakes, this new trailer will be used by a New South Wales customer to cart 15 metre field bins.

As well as developing a wide range of innovative trailer designs, Tuff Trailers has developed the Tuff Ezy Lift Tyre Carrier. Designed to eliminate injuries associated with retrieving tyres manually, the Tuff Ezy Lift Tyre Carrier lifts the tyres so that they can be moved to the side and lowered to easily remove the tyres – all with a simple push of a button. Tuff Trailers prides itself on using only the best



Tuff Low Riders





equipment and products to manufacture its trailers. State-of-the-art 3D design software is used to design all of its trailers which also enables customers to visualise what the trailer will look like before production begins. Tuff Trailers recognises the varied needs of transport operators and prides itself on being a true custom builder. This has resulted in the continued evolution of many of its designs and the constant addition of entirely new concepts. Denis asserts that Tuff Trailers plans to keep on developing innovative new trailers to cater to the growing needs of his customers. "At Tuff Trailers we always look to the future and hope to continue developing strong and ethical



Tuff Ezi Lift Tyre Carrier

relationships with our customers that help give them a competitive edge in their field of work," says Denis. "We have always backed our product 100 percent and we always will. We are proud to offer a quality Australian designed and built product and will continue to manage and treat our customers to the highest standard to ensure we always deliver the highest level of service."

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