



# BUSINESS BEAT

Moves, news and views from our business community

WITH DAVE CAIRNS

## High-end joinery making its mark

# The finishing touch

### DAVE CAIRNS

A GEELONG high-end commercial joinery contractor that has quietly built a stunning portfolio of bespoke projects is outgrowing its North Shore base.

Jacaranda Industries has been involved in landmark developments such as the \$300 million expansion of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Victoria Racing Club's \$128 million The Club Stand at Flemington Racecourse and the \$105 million Conservatorium of Music at Southbank.

Director John Giles said Jacaranda chased commercial finishing work for the country's biggest construction companies, such as Lendlease, Multiplex and Probuild. "Our scope incorporates anything from joinery, to bespoke items and really unusual but large works that reflect the architect's and client's vision," Mr Giles said.

He said the complexity and individuality of its \$7 million work on the VRC's world-class The Club Stand, which involved the finishing work on an array of bars and dining facilities, exemplified the company's capacity.

"Every item was unique and with vast array of finishes," Mr Giles said.

This year Jacaranda followed up that job by completing the new Colours Stairway at Flemington.

In addition to its 3500sq m joinery factory at North Shore, the company has satellite offices in Melbourne, where 90 per cent of its business is based.

It has also started manufacturing Solid Surfaces, a product widely used as a substitute for stone and granite that has the major benefit of being seamless and can be formed to remove corners and joins. It is commonly used in areas that require high cleaning standards, such as hospitals, parents' rooms or airports.

Its main focus is on Corian, a product from US company CASF, for which it has an agreement to manufacture.

About 18 months ago it also became the only national distributor of the Novawall System. Novawall is a US company that has a special track system that allows architects to select fabrics as a finish but behind the fabric is insulation, providing an acoustic solution for use on walls and ceilings.

Mr Giles said the complementary arms of the company allowed it to provide a suite of services and a turnkey solution for clients in relation to high-end finishes.

Founded in Grovedale in 2003, it moved to North Shore about 12 years ago.

Up to 50 of its workforce of more



TOP FINISH: Jacaranda Industries director John Giles on the floor of the high-end commercial joinery at North Shore.

Picture: ALAN BARBER

than 120 are employed in Geelong with the company making a decision to commit to the city and its local workers about seven years ago despite most of its work coming out of Melbourne.

Finance director Andrew Southwood said the company, which turned over \$35 million last financial year and is planning to grow to \$45 million in the next two to four years, needed to ensure its facilities were capable of reflecting its growth opportunity.

"I believe with increase growth over the next two to three years, we have a great opportunity to employ for more local staff," Mr Southwood said.

Mr Giles said Jacaranda Industries was "100 per cent" committed to a future in Geelong and its local workers.

"The uniqueness of the skill base and their buy-in to our business... that is the biggest reason why we have kept our business here," he said.

Those skills have also been on show in the Somewhere Other exhibit, which recently won a Timber Design Award in the stand-alone structure category.

Jacaranda Industries is keen to do more work in Geelong with the Epworth Hospital in Waurin Ponds its last major job in the city.



### MELBOURNE CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE

Completed: 2018

Client: Probuild

Architect: Woods Bagot

Key Features:

Jacaranda worked on major joinery elements such as the timber ceilings and walls for the expansion of the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre. Wall finishes throughout the building are a combination of timber veneer, painted panels, laminate panels and fabric panels. Some of the ceiling finishes are a custom profile slatted timber that envelope the central hub space and link the existing convention centre, new exhibition space and other areas. Perforated coffered panels and veneer panels envelope other areas of the space.



### VICTORIA RACING CLUB - CLUB STAND

Completed: 2018

Client: Multiplex

Architect: Bates Smart

Key Features:

Jacaranda supplied and installed joinery pieces and panelling to almost every space in the VRC Club Stand. Commencing works in the Ground Floor and Lobby Lounge, Paddock Bar, The Bakery, The Harbour, through to The Members Bar, Champagne Bar, Furlong Bar, The Dining Room, Bluegrass, The Byerley, Straight Six and The Roof Garden and Rooftop, this project was challenging in that every piece was different.