



Grant Kearney (second from right) and the team, beside the Cube.

the cube is a great machine

Grant Kearney Joinery began 36 years ago making furniture – particularly chairs – based in a garage in Rangiora. Today Grant and his team still make chairs, but most of their work is traditional timber joinery, including windows, kitchens and stairs.

The team of six - all qualified joiners - are spread across several large sheds at the rear of Grant's lifestyle block, about 35 minutes north of Christchurch – a quiet rural setting at odds with the ever-increasing traffic of nearby SH1 to the east, and sprawling Rangiora to the south-west. As well as the joinery shop on site, Grant's also a keen horse-breeder, so the country-side setting means work and play are nicely balanced.

As with many other regional Canterbury towns, Rangiora has exploded with growth in the past five years, including many quake refugees from Christchurch. "After the quakes I had the opportunity to grow," explains Grant. "But we decided to not to, and remain

focused on quality." Grant's happy with the level of work that comes from the many local builders he works with, and word-of-mouth in the local community. "I enjoy dealing direct with the customer" says Grant. "That one-to-one relationship with the client is far more rewarding than dealing via a 3rd party who I may never meet."

Although he's made a conscious decision not to increase the size of the business, Grant's well aware of the need to keep the workshop up to date. "If you don't invest in technology, in being efficient, then the guys working here can get dull too" he explains. "Investment in the business sends a positive message – that we're serious about doing this job well."

It was with this attitude that Grant made the decision to purchase a Cube. From German solid-timber specialists Weinig, the Cube is a four side planer with simple push-button operation, laser guidance, replaceable knives and capable of producing precise 90° right-angled, dimensionally accurate, straight workpieces in a single pass.

Given the amount of solid timber work they do, Grant was interested in the time-savings the Cube claims when compared to using a buzzer then thicknesser. "To be honest I was a bit sceptical at first. Promises of ten times faster sounded like high-flying sales talk to me. But being German-made, and from Weinig, whose reputation I've always been aware of, led us to buy. And it's certainly lived up to its expectation. The Cube's a great machine. We love it. It's fast, simple, efficient. And all the promises about time-savings are true."

Grant makes some other observations about his Weinig too. "Safety is a big factor in any workshop, and the Cube certainly helps here. Buzzers are dangerous, and working on them for long periods can be mundane, and you can get complacent – and that's how accidents happen. We used to make sure no one spent more than a few hours on a buzzer, or bandsaw, doing repetitive work. But with the Cube the guys get a kick out of using it. They're enthusiastic. Partly because they're not looking at a

pile of timber knowing how much time it will take to dress it. They know the Cube will save hours of monotony." Grant makes another point – the fact that four-siding used to be a specialist job for just one member of staff. "With the Cube anyone can dress timber – it offers a lot of flexibility in the workshop."

Grant Kearney Joinery represents a traditional joinery style – that of strong customer service backed up by experienced craftsmanship. But Grant and his team aren't living in the past. So while they may have an ancient 40hp Wadkin rip saw for ripping up telegraph poles, it's right beside their Cube, and not far from their CNC. With machines for almost any job, and a staff with the experience to use all of them, Grant has created a successful and sustainable business, and is living the lifestyle to match.



Weinig is sold and serviced in
New Zealand by W&R Jacks
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