



## Remember the Titans

FOR OVER 150 YEARS, ITALIAN COMPANY **V.ORLANDI** HAS BEEN MANUFACTURING TOW COUPLINGS IN FLERO, A MODEST COMMUNE IN THE PROVINCE OF BRESCIA. SINCE BEING INTRODUCED INTO THE AUSTRALIAN MARKET, IT HAS CONTINUED TO DEVELOP A HEAVY-DUTY PRODUCT TO SUIT THE COUNTRY'S HARSH ENVIRONMENT.

For a recent project, Fremantle based trailer manufacturer Howard Porter decided on the V.Orlandi Titano series, which is capable of towing up to 500 tonne.

"At the moment, we are manufacturing a number of side tipping road train combinations for an off-road mining application," says Managing Director Roy Lombardi. "Each road train will consist of two side tippers and a tri dolly, providing a total payload of about 150 tonne. It's a heavy-duty vehicle, so we need a heavy-duty tow coupling."

Incorporating a Kenworth T659 tri drive prime mover with a GCM of 210 tonne, Howard Porter decided on the all-new 250 tonne and 500 tonne Titano drawbar coupling range. Available through Colrain, the Titano was designed to live up to

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the famous name. After all, the Titans were a race of powerful deities that, according to Greek mythology, ruled during the legendary Golden Age. In WA, the modern age Titano is used to endure the strain of off highway iron ore haulage. "The units will work around the clock on unsealed roads, so we rely on design features to increase service life and reduce maintenance," Roy explains. "V.Orlandi designed and developed an off highway coupling that is simple to fit, easy to maintain and strong enough for the toughest job. Specifically designed for

mining and other heavy applications, it's the only product in its class."

In the past four years, Howard Porter and Colrain have developed a strong working relationship. "We can always bank on Colrain's inventive spirit and customer service," says Roy. "We only use purpose built componentry, and Colrain is always able to deliver a product that will prove itself in the field."

Howard Porter was established in Fremantle, WA, in 1936 and started off building timber horse carts. The Porter family managed the business for three



generations before selling it in the early 1990s. Ever since, the business struggled to survive until the current directors, Roy and Giulio Lombardi, purchased the business in 2004 with a vision to reinstate it as an industry leader in the supply of road transport equipment. Focusing on its core strength, custom-built transport equipment, the directors began restructuring the company and established a clearly defined range of fast moving equipment to improve efficiency, reduce

build time and deliver affordable quality. In 2006, the directors purchased rival semi trailer manufacturing business SFM Engineering based in Bellevue, WA. In 2008, a \$12 million expansion and upgrade of the Spearwood manufacturing facility began and in 2010, the company consolidated and centralised operations to the Spearwood facility. "To date, continual improvement in all aspects of the business is the secret to Howard Porter's success," Roy reveals. "Another source of our

standing in the industry is the people who constitute it. We endeavour to build an environment where people enjoy and look forward to coming to work, where each person is given the right opportunities, is nurtured, trained and recognized for their achievements. Our staff are able to actualize their aspirations in a supportive climate that fosters high morale, effective teamwork and pride in the company and its products.

"That's why we try to build an effective employment relationship based on trust and respect. The same values apply to our business relationship with Colrain. Our aim is to maintain a valuable partnership that will help Howard Porter become a preferred supplier of transport equipment that will provide a significant return on investment to our clientele and exceed their expectations." ■■■

### Italo-Australian know-how

The 250 and 500 tonne Titano couplings complement V.Orlandi's Pacific series of tow couplings. "With the 500 tonne Titano weighing in at 100kg and the 250 tonne option weighing 64kg, these units are robust enough to handle any challenge the Australian mining industry may present to them," says Colrain's General Manager Peter Loimaranta. "Due to the fully forged construction, pivoting bell mouth and a full range of replacement parts available, the Titano range is a leading force in this segment." Just as the Titano range, the traditional 50mm and 40mm automatic couplings in the Pacific series were custom designed and developed to meet the challenges often faced by Australian operators and feature an anti-corrosion coating treatment that provides a high quality finish.

Recently, all couplings have undergone a range of improvements. The lower bush on all GE520 couplings now has an increased internal diameter drain hole to assist in the flow through of aggregate that may fall into the coupling body while tipping. In the EH523 series, the brass horizontal bush has been replaced with a steel bush to further increase service life and reliability.

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