



welfare, along with optimum levels of durability and safety. Frasers' fleet is highly versatile with the ability to accommodate any combination of cattle, sheep, goats or pigs. The company's capacity entails 250 decks located at strategic depots in the eastern states, comprising single trailer, A-double, B-double, B-triple, Type 1 and Type 2 road trains. The Frasers fleet includes a large proportion of 4.5 deck B-triples which are said to be regarded by the CSIRO and MLA (Meat & Livestock Australia) as industry-best following exhaustive research carried out by Meat Standards Australia (MSA) focussed on animal welfare and journey comfort/ shrink. Specialised features of Frasers' trailers that enable them to meet these high standards include airbag suspension, specialist effluent management systems and a range of side-, rear- and cross-loading options to meet the diverse requirements of on-farm, saleyard, port, abattoir and feedlot loading and deliveries. BPW Transpec products play a big part in the operation with the trailers featuring BPW landing legs and BPW ECO Plus 3 axles and air suspension which provide the best possible standard of ride for the animals, while also being suitably robust to stand up well to the typically harsh road conditions often encountered when hauling livestock. Furthermore, when it comes to trailer coupling, the ubiquitous Ringfeder (popularly known as Ring-Feeder) brand sold by BPW Transpec has also firmly cemented itself in the Frasers psyche.



The new Ringfeder generation provides unparalleled reliability according to BPW Transpec

In safe hands

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1944, **FRASERS LIVESTOCK TRANSPORT** HAS A LENGTHY HISTORY OF RELIABLE, SAFE AND EFFICIENT ANIMAL HUSBANDRY. FOR THE LAST TWO DECADES OR MORE THE COMPANY HAS RELIED ON RINGFEDER COUPLINGS SUPPLIED BY **BPW TRANSPEC** TO MAINTAIN THE VITAL LINK BETWEEN THE TRAILERS IN VARIOUS CONFIGURATIONS OF MULTI COMBINATIONS.

Said to be Australia's oldest family owned and operated livestock haulage business, Frasers has been transporting cattle, sheep, pigs and goats across Queensland, New South Wales and the Northern Territory for nigh on 80 years.

With a goal of maintaining a best-in-class fleet, Frasers has for many years standardised on Australian made Kenworth trucks and Byrne trailers – both products built to exacting specifications in order to provide the highest levels of animal and human



While Ringfeder is by far the most popular trailer coupling on the market in this country, BPW Transpec has never been an organisation to rest on its laurels; on the contrary, the company continues to develop and improve its products in synch with the ever-changing market demands. Hence the company has just introduced the New Generation Ringfeder RF50 to replace the existing 303AUS and 303AUS AM/RL models. The new Ringfeder RF50 coupling is the product of years of development and rigorous field testing right here in this country; and has also benefited from extensive customer feedback on product ameliorations, many of which have been adopted in the final product. This has resulted in an overall improvement on the existing robust coupling design and means customers can continue to rely on superior product performance from Ringfeder, backed up by BPW Transpec's comprehensive Australia-wide product support network. BPW Transpec cites a number of advantages of the new RF50, starting with the important fact that it retains the same mounting bolt hole pattern as earlier Ringfeder models, meaning retrofitting it to older vehicles is a simple exercise. It also includes a quick-change coupling body which has been redesigned to make it more resistant to impacts, as well as faster and easier to replace. The more compact design lowers coupling

height by 7.0mm. Stronger return springs ensure the funnel – which features flush mounted screw heads on the bottom to avoid damage – always returns to centre; and a new ergonomically designed release handle makes for easier manual uncoupling. Daemon Cross, Workshop Manager at Frasers, has been with the company for 19 years and he says that over this period the company has relied solely on Ringfeder couplings for its road train trailer and dolly connections. "The Ringfeder is simply a solid and reliable product that does what it's meant to do without giving us any dramas – which is what we expect from every piece of equipment we use," Daemon says. "Apart from regular maintenance and the occasional overhaul to replace the parts that eventually wear out through normal use, we just don't touch them." He attributes this longevity and product integrity to the uncomplicated, tried and proven design. "And when it does come time for an overhaul the parts such as rebuild kits are readily available through the comprehensive nationwide BPW Transpec network and don't cost an arm and a leg, making it a worthwhile exercise to give them a second or third life." Daemon says the most important maintenance items that need to be replaced when worn are the bush in the drawbar eye and the triangle shaped nylon wear pad that



Ringfeder automatic coupling oiler released. Hot off the press is the latest innovation by Ringfeder designed to automatically supply much-needed lubrication to the coupling on a regular basis. Proper lubrication ensures the pin moves easier which means less effort is required to lift the handle when releasing the coupling – a significant OH&S benefit. It also makes the coupling less prone to wear and corrosion which increases longevity and life-to-overhaul times. The automatic oiler unit weighs just 0.6kg and has a reservoir capacity of 120ml. It's filled with special Ringfeder coupling oil which has a high viscosity for superior adhesion and corrosion protection for the critical components.

is located on the lower boss and which prevents metal-to-metal contact between the drawbar eye and the boss. "If these are replaced religiously, the Ringfeder unit should be good for at least five years before needing an overhaul," Daemon explains. In the final wrap-up, Daemon says the bullet-proof nature of the Ringfeder and other BPW Transpec products such as landing legs and axles gives Frasers peace of mind that its trailers will go the distance under the demanding operating conditions prevalent in the livestock transport realm.

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