

Linde reliability keeps Rockcote on the move

Client:	Rockcote
Location:	Yandina, Queensland
Application:	Warehousing
Equipment:	Linde Reach Trucks and 1.8 & 2.5 t Gas forklifts



The reliability of a fleet of Linde forklifts is making a major contribution to the ongoing success of a truly innovative Australian building products supplier.

Rockcote was founded more than 20 years ago in a quest for discovery...to unlock the secrets of the great fresco and plaster artists of the Renaissance and combine that knowledge with the most advanced technology of the modern world.

Today Rockcote, a multi-award winning company with a rapidly growing export market, is the recognised leader in the development, manufacture and distribution of "people-friendly" renders, textured coatings, paints and building systems.

Above Left: From its manufacturing processes, through to its logistics equipment, Rockcote is all about quality.



Far right: The fleet of Lindes are used in all aspects of the business including manufacturing, warehousing and loading trucks.



Just as significantly, the company's commitment to sustainable and regenerative business practices has also brought it national and international attention.

In 2003 the company's new Gold Coast Design Centre was announced Champion Project in the world's first Sustainable Urban Development Program, an initiative of the Urban Development Institute of Australia and the Environmental Protection Agency.

In its specialist field of manufacture, Rockcote is unrivalled and has become a pioneer of hazard-free, safe and sustainable products including the groundbreaking EcoStyle range. These paints and coatings

Above and right: The reliability of the Lindes in this tough and dusty environment is invaluable to Rockcote's manufacturing efficiencies.



“We don’t have any downtime with the Linde forklifts – simple as that.”

Lyall Apelt – Rockcote Site Services Manager

Linde



Below: Linde Reach Trucks provide Rockcote’s operators with outstanding visibility and excellent comfort.

are formulated to be free of harmful solvents and chemicals, promising no smell and no release of toxic fumes either during application or throughout their life. EcoStyle is the first Australian-made, full range of commercially viable environmentally-friendly paints and coatings.

Rockcote products are widely used throughout the domestic, commercial and industrial construction industry, with the products designed to assist applicators improve their efficiency and provide the building occupier with a long lasting, pleasing, decorative finish to their premises.

Rockcote currently employs over 70 people and the company prides itself on the commitment and passion for excellence shared by its people. The main manufacturing operations and Australian corporate office are located at Yandina on Queensland’s Sunshine Coast. Warehousing, trade sales and public showroom facilities are located within the Rockcote Sunshine Coast Display Centre in Maroochydore, Qld, with a second Design Centre currently being built on the Gold Coast. Further sales offices are located on the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Melbourne, and Newcastle (NSW), and via representative offices in North Queensland, Sydney, regional NSW, Adelaide and Tasmania.

The backbone of the logistics for all these Rockcote facilities is a fleet of Linde reach trucks and 1.8 and 2.5 tonne gas forklifts.

The switch to Linde has had a significant impact on the company as Rockcote’s Site Services Manager, Lyall Apelt explains. “We don’t have any downtime with the Linde forklifts – simple as that.”

“We paid more for the Lindes upfront, but how do you put a value on never having a forklift out of action. Because we only run one or two



“We keep trialing other brands each time we need a new forklift, but the operators continue to prefer the Lindes.”

Lyall Apelt – Rockcote Site Services Manager

forklifts at each site, the impact when a forklift breaks down is huge.

“The other aspect that makes the premium paid insignificant is the running costs savings with the Lindes. They use a lot less fuel than previous brands we’ve owned and the hydrostatic transmission on the gas forklifts means we don’t have to worry about the expensive and maintenance-dependent parts such as, the mechanical clutch, gearbox and conventional brake,” explains Lyall Apelt.

Rockcote’s value on forklift uptime is understandable when you consider the gas forklifts are used for loading sands into the mixers in addition to general materials handling and the loading/unloading of trucks, while the reach trucks handle all the warehousing retrieval and put-away of pallets.

“We commenced changing our fleet to Linde three years ago. Our MD is a fan of German engineering and so am I now, as are our operators. We keep trialing other brands each time we need a new forklift, but the operators continue to prefer the Lindes,” said Lyall Apelt.

“The operators have a major say in our forklift purchases because safety is our number one priority. If they are comfortable and feel they have better stability and control we are giving ourselves every opportunity to minimize accidents. The theory has worked because we have never had a forklift incident.

To achieve this superior control, Linde reach trucks are fitted with the advanced, high frequency Linde Digital Control system (LDC) for traction and load handling. This system reacts progressively to operator demand and provides extremely smooth movements. It also incorporates regenerative electric braking on release of the accelerator, while steering is controlled by ‘fly by wire’ technology. Parameter adjustments allow the truck to be tailored to suit a particular requirement or operator skill level, while integrated diagnostics, via a CAN bus connection, enable rapid servicing and maximum uptime.



Above: Rockcote’s Lyall Apelt (left) with Linde’s Fred O’Sheridan.

For further information contact

Linde Materials Handling
 5 Distillers Place,
 Huntingwood NSW 2148
 Phone: 1300 135 463
 Email: contact@lindemh.com.au