

Simple Software Solutions

... scheduling and tracking production orders in the joinery, furniture industries

A NEW range of software is taking the guesswork out of management task.

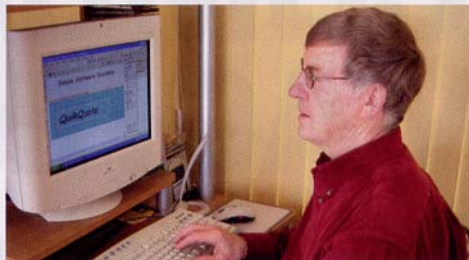
- QuikQuote, a quoting and price-listing system, produces accurate client-ready quotes from components and materials with minimal data entry. It can add quoted items into a fully customised price list that can easily be updated as costs rise. It also stores cutting lists and bill of materials.

Since its introduction in 1998, QuikQuote has earned outstanding feedback from clients and is now in its seventh version.

- SuperSchedule provides complete scheduling and tracking of progress for all production orders through each stage of the manufacturing process. Workload reports show time and dollar value for each stage and allow jobs to be rearranged to suit altered conditions.
- PowerPurchase creates orders to suppliers, linking each item to its factory job number and tracking the status and value of all orders placed.

Companies can buy each system separately or can integrate them to share information and minimise data entry.

These programs are the result of a team



Brendan Hanna: Developing software to simplify tedious managerial tasks confronting manufacturers.

effort by two industry professionals - Brendan Hanna, with 35 years in the furniture industry, and his sister Gerri, a software developer with 20 years' experience writing and implementing small business systems.

Brendan was a commercial furniture manufacturer and a member of various South Australian industry committees. Now, as a consultant, he is developing software to simplify tedious managerial tasks confronting manufacturers.

"Many managers are quick to solve production problems by purchasing expensive machinery but too often neglect spending modest amounts on ways to resolve 'bottleneck's in administration," says

Brendan.

"The time you spend putting systems into practise is rewarded many times over by releasing you to concentrate on the business you are there for."

In developing QuikQuote, Brendan and Gerri collaborated with Chris Whelan, a director of Hayes Knight, business advisors and chartered accountants. Chris is a specialist in costing and pricing products for the manufacturing sector and a business consultant to the Furniture Industry Association of Australia. His input has ensured that QuikQuote provides best practice in costing and pricing.

"Our software is inexpensive, tailored to this industry and flexible enough to adapt to different work practices. People with only very basic computer skills find it simple to use," says Gerri. "Keeping it user-friendly is our guiding principle."

Companies can see a demonstration of the software on their office PC anywhere using the internet and telephone or QuikQuoten will give one-on demonstrations in Sydney and Adelaide.

"We install, train and support our customers to get them up and running as quickly as possible," says Brendan.