

Harley Logging chooses Kato

Neil and Debbie Clapperton of Taupo have two loves in life – logging equipment and Harley Davidson motorcycles.

So it was no surprise that when they bought Clapperton Logging from Neil's father seven years ago, they renamed the company Harley Logging.

Since then they have been good customers of Titan Plant Services Limited in Taupo, and their latest pride and joy is a Kato HD 1880 excavator equipped with a Waratah unit. The Kato's 600mm track shoes provide agile manoeuvrability as well as adequate flotation in the forest.

An advanced new computer system developed by Kato controls pump output in line with work conditions and site demands.

Engine and pump output are matched at optimum level in a state-of-the-art system which exploits 100 per cent of engine power.

The excavator comes with an "auto slow" system which saves fuel consumption. Just after the engine is put into neutral, the system automatically drops the engine speed down to an idle. This reduces power loss while waiting, thus cutting fuel waste and noise levels, and improving overall economy.

There are six modes to allow the operator to automatically control the load ratio on the engine.

A two-speed travel motor gives the Kato the highest speed and traction force in its class. The operator can select the right travel speed to suit the requirements of the job.

Other benefits of the Kato range include smooth control by means of a cushioning mechanism which absorbs shocks in the bucket cylinder, arm cylinder and boom cylinder, a roomy wide cab



Neil Clapperton of Taupo with his Harley Davidson motorcycle and his Kato excavator.

with controls and instruments ergonomically designed for optimum comfort, a rubber-mounted cab structure, sound

proofing to benefit the operator and the environment, and a safety monitor so the operator can check the condition of the machine from the cab before work begins.

The operator is well guarded by frontal impact bars and cab protection, while the whole engine envelope at the rear raises hydraulically for easy access during servicing.

Neil said one of the main reasons he chose the Kato was its hydraulic system develops 720 litres per minute of oil flow. "It holds its pressure better than most other excavators of its size, and has a superb cooling system."

The unit has a standard boom, weighs 54 tonnes including the Waratah, and has an all-up cost of about \$650,000.

Neil and Debbie's next project? Building a Harley Davidson 1340 Soft Tail bike.

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