

PLATFORM REFITS

UPGRADE OLDER ROTARY PLATFORMS



BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO YOUR DAIRY

IMPROVE YOUR MILKING PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTIVITY
and grow the value of your dairy

IMPROVE YOUR MILKING PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTIVITY WITH A PLATFORM REFIT

If your older-style milking parlour has become worn over time, or if your herd size has increased putting more pressure on your system, it may be time for a platform refit.

Persisting with an under-performing dairy can lead to expensive maintenance costs as ongoing repairs become more frequent, leading to unscheduled downtime. This disruption can lead to unnecessary pressure on your staff and their milking routine, resulting in lower production outputs.

A Waikato Milking Systems platform refit will breathe new life into your dairy operation - to increase your milking system's reliability, efficiency, and productivity.

Unlike many older rotary platforms, a Waikato Milking Systems platform refit is constructed to provide good ergonomics for both your staff and your animals. While retaining the bulk of your milking parlour's existing infrastructure, our well-designed platforms and pipework position cows to reduce the danger to staff, while maximising cow flow.

The ergonomics provide a safe, comfortable and practical work environment for milkers, with easy access to water and management control systems, while reducing the incidence of cow injuries and related health costs.

Tailored to your unique situation, a platform refit is a cost-effective alternative to constructing an entirely new milking parlour. Our platforms are fully compatible and upgradeable to all of Waikato Milking Systems' world-leading dairy automation technologies - to elevate your dairy's overall efficiency and productivity, and to ensure many more years of trouble-free operation.

A Waikato Milking Systems Platform Refit ensures your rotary milking system remains a high-performing asset, every time a cow steps onto the platform - and are designed to be easily upgraded over time - as your herd expands, or when budget allows.



THE PLATFORM REFIT PROCESS

Refitting your milking parlour is a simple five-stage process, tailored to your unique situation and requirements now and into the future. Waikato Milking Systems partner with our extensive network of dealers and installers to ensure your platform refit is installed to fit in with your farm's management plan, and completed on-spec, and on-time.

A simple 5 stage process...



Evaluate

The first stage begins with **evaluating** and **understanding** your current infrastructure to work out how much of it can be retained and what needs to be upgraded and refitted.



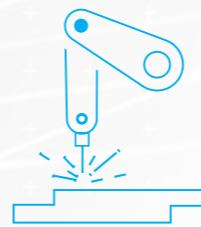
Measure

The second stage, involves **measuring up your milking parlour** to determine how we can make the most of your existing infrastructure. It may also be possible to refit a larger platform to process your herd faster, and improve efficiency.



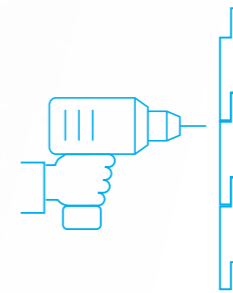
Propose

The third stage is determining the **best milking and automation technology** to suit your needs. Then we propose a project design and work together with you to plan a timeline for the installation - to fit in with your farm's management plan. We'll also discuss who will be involved in the project, and the other services that may be required to achieve the refit.



Manufacture

The fourth stage is the **manufacture** of your platform and automation technology at our state-of-the-art global headquarters, where we've become one of the largest producers of rotary milking systems in the world.



Install

The fifth, and final stage, is the **installation** of your platform refit by a specialist Waikato Milking Systems team in conjunction with one of our Authorised Dealers. They will oversee the unloading, set-up and commissioning of your new system, through to your first milking - to ensure the project is completed on-spec, and on time.

*Once your project is completed one of our **Authorised Dealers** will **continue to provide service and support to ensure your platform refit performs up to expectations.***

Future proofing a 94 year old farm, while retaining the existing infrastructure

Originally converted from sheep and beef in the late 80s, the Glenn family originally started with a Herringbone milking system for their 400 cows. As they added more land over time, and their herd size grew - they replaced their Herringbone with a 50 bail concrete rotary parlour in the early 2000s.

While the concrete rotary had "milked a lot of cows" during its time in service, it was obvious an upgrade was needed to future-proof their third-generation 94 year-old dairy farm, and to avoid a failure.

After researching the options their biggest decision was whether to put in a lighter platform, or a heavier concrete platform again. And because their existing shed and infrastructure was still sound, they didn't want to pull it all down and start from scratch.

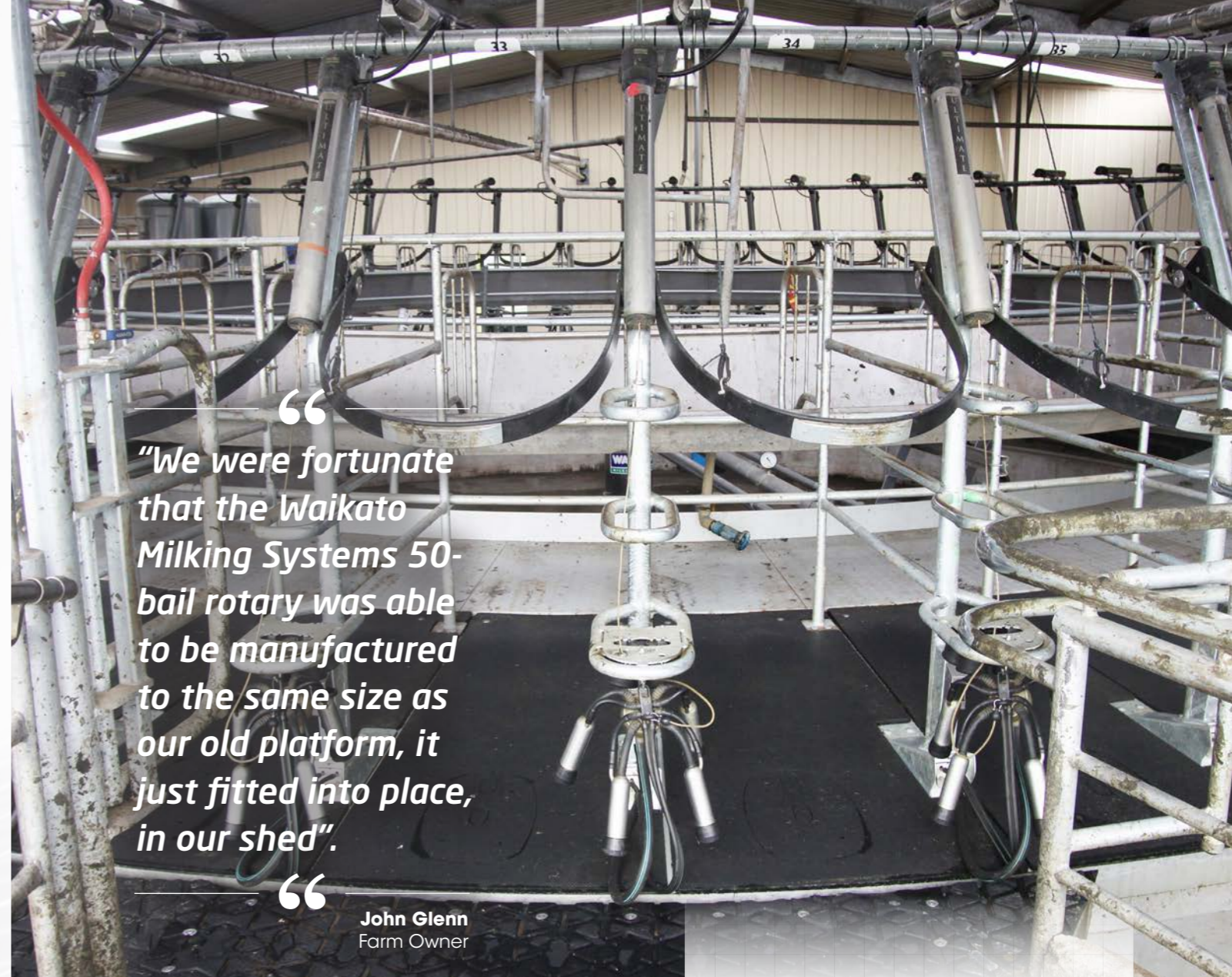
The decision was made to engage Waikato Milking Systems, and their dealer Moa Rotary Platforms.

A plan was developed to suit their farm - incorporating the Centrus Composite rotary platform, a structurally superior alternative to concrete that is lighter, more durable and easy to clean.

The old concrete platform was cut into ten segments, each weighing 2.5 tonnes, and removed for demolition by crane through a section of the roof that was later replaced. The old rollers were then removed, and the new fixed rollers and I-Beam to run the new platform on were installed - then the new subframes and deck were installed and the new bail work fitted.

Milking automation technology options were added to modernise the parlour, with SmartECRs to control the automatic cup removers, while the BailGate Control operates the bail straps to retain the cow on the platform.

The entire upgrade was completed in five weeks during winter, and in time for the start of 2019 - 2020 season.



“We were fortunate that the Waikato Milking Systems 50-bail rotary was able to be manufactured to the same size as our old platform, it just fitted into place, in our shed”.

John Glenn
Farm Owner

The rubber mats on the Centrus platform have resulted in a quieter milking environment, and improved comfort for the cows. A decision was also made to increase the height of the new platform, which enhanced the milking ergonomics considerably - and provided a much-improved working environment that their four full-time staff enjoy working in.

“Complete in five weeks during winter and in time for the start of the new season.”

While the parlour only has cup removers on the platform at present, all Waikato Milking Systems milking parlour's use the unique "Plug 'n' Play" feature which allows the operator to add milking automation and dairy management technology to suit their operation when required.

Upgraded from:
50 bail Centrus Composite Rotary platform - into an existing shed

Herd size: 800 cows

Key technologies:

- Fixed Rollers
- Ultimate ECRs*
- Cow Restraints
- Bail Marshal
- Universal Ladder

* Product no longer available



Delivering milking reliability and efficiency today, with the ability to upgrade technology

Recurring problems with cup removers and pulsators on their 200 hectare dairy, meant it was time for Totman Dairies to modernise their rotary dairy parlour. By bringing it into the 21st century, they would prevent continuing problems and improve milking efficiency - while future-proofing their operation.

Because their dairy had good yards and feed pad, they explored their options to refit their existing facilities, rather than a complete rebuild.

With both the farm owner and farm manager having had previous experience with Waikato Milking Systems - they were familiar with the high quality equipment and technology, robust and reliable products, and the ability to provide ongoing support.

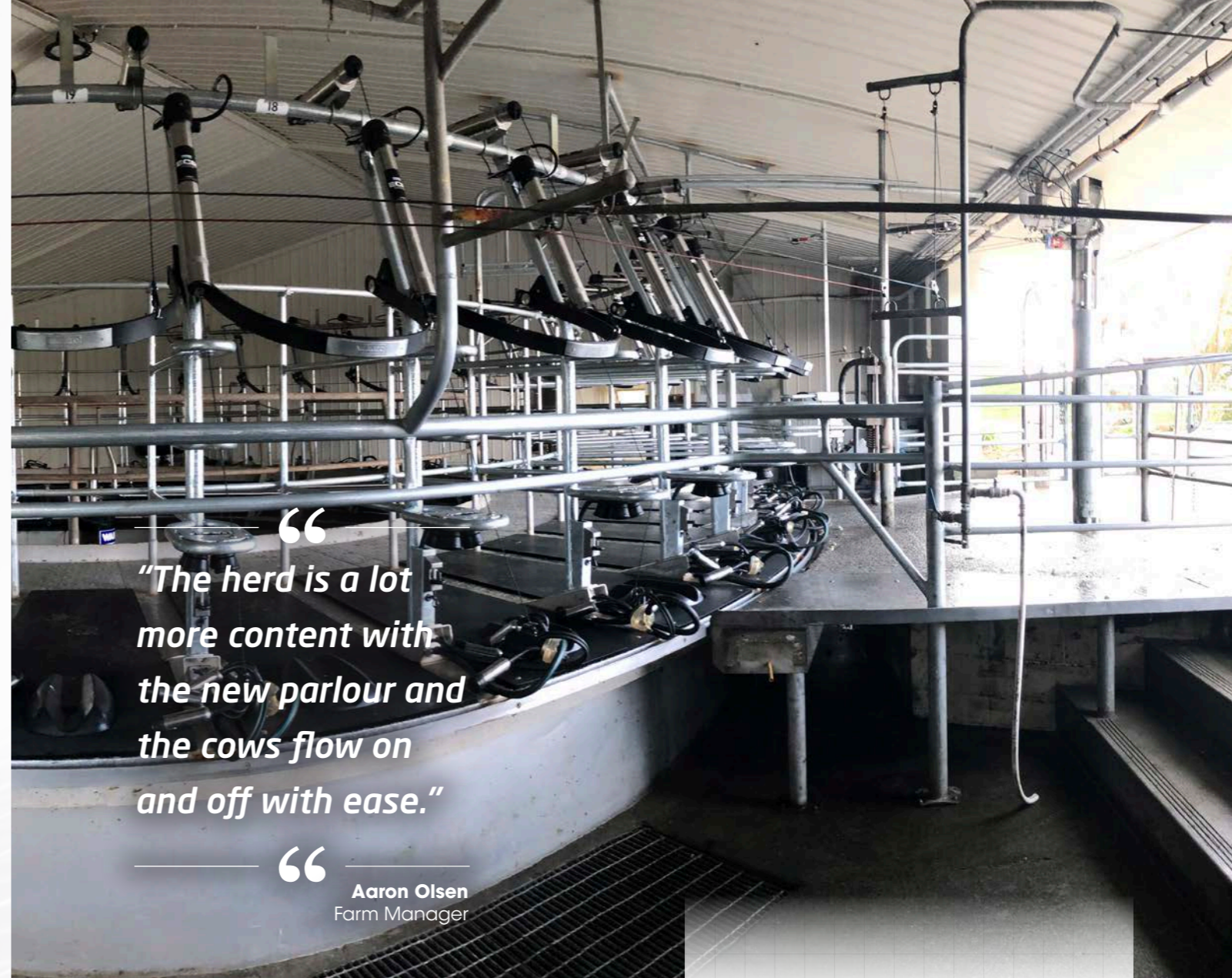
Working alongside Waikato Milking Systems, and their dealer Qubik, a plan was made to significantly upgrade their tired 40 bail steel-platform rotary.

The goal was to add modern equipment and technology to breathe new life into their old dairy shed - to deliver reliability and efficiency for their farm's current milking conditions, while also providing the ability to upgrade to higher levels of technology in the future.

It was determined that the deck and running gear under the platform were in good condition - so they were retained as-is to reduce the overall cost of the refit.

New automation-ready Waikato Milking Systems Standard stall work and deck ports were fitted, and a new Waikato Milking Systems milking plant was custom-fitted to the existing platform sub-structure, underneath the deck.

“
Modernising and therefore improving milking efficiencies, alleviated a whole lot of on-going issues



“
The herd is a lot more content with the new parlour and the cows flow on and off with ease.”

”
Aaron Olsen
Farm Manager

Rubber mats were also fitted on the existing stainless steel platform to improve cow comfort, and with the reduced noise they settled more quickly.

Work on refitting the parlour began in June 2019, and was completed the following month.

The SmartSPRAY in-bail teat spray system ensures correct timing and placement every milking. Somatic cell count and teat condition has never been better.

Prior to the upgrade it was taking 20 minutes to wash the milk vat manually, but now it's as simple as pushing a button.

The new parlour is truly a pleasure to work in.

Upgraded from:
Existing 40 bail platform - bail and plant conversion

Herd size: 700 cows

- Key technologies:**
- ECR Plus
 - SmartSPRAY
 - Cow Restraints
 - Waikato Milking Systems Standard galvanised stallwork
 - Rubber Mats added to existing deck



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Growing the value of dairy