



GEAR WHISPERS

Ronson Gears wishes you a Merry Christmas

Christmas Whispers

As the year draws to a close, we say thank you to our customers and business partners for your support during 2007.

We can't wait to work with you again in 2008!

We also take this opportunity to thank our employees for their commitment to Ronson Gears and to achieving excellence on behalf of our customers.

We wish everyone happy holidays – a chance to enjoy some well earned R&R with family and friends!



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Christmas closure dates

Ronson Gears will close from **midday Friday December 21, 2007.**

The sales team returns on **Thursday January 3, 2008,** and production resumes on **Monday January 14, 2008.**



Supplier profile: THORNHILL MACHINE TOOLS

Ronson Gears' success is built not only on its relationships with customers, but also its suppliers.



Ronson is proud to partner with the best Melbourne and Australia has to offer in the fields of steel supply, cylindrical grinding, heat treatment processes and machine tool supply – all integral to the production of Ronson's gears!

One such supplier is Thornhill Machine Tools, which specialises in providing engineering solutions that meet the specific requirements of customers across all areas of manufacturing and high precision technology. Ronson particularly values Thornhill's faultless after-sales support.

As the Australian agent for Koepfer, Thornhill Machine Tools has provided Ronson with two CNC auto-loading gear hobbing machines, and countless gear cutting tools and associated equipment. Its product range also incorporates CNC turning, milling and grinding machines.

Thornhill Machine Tools sources only high-end products, primarily from industry-leading companies throughout Europe, USA, Korea and Japan. These include Kellenberger (high precision grinding), Tecno Wasino (CNC lathes), Kapp-Niles (CNC gear grinding), Gehring (precision honing as supplied to General Motors Holden Engine Works) and as mentioned earlier, Koepfer (CNC gear hobbing machines).

Thornhill Machine Tools was established in 1992, following the closure of Hahn+Kolb Australia by its German head office. Owner/operator Mr Tony Thornhill has 50 years experience in the machine tool industry, having undertaken his training in the late 1950s at the well-known company McPherson's Machine Tools. (Interestingly, one of Ronson's Directors, Terry New, also began his engineering training at McPherson's.)

Ronson needs the commitment of its suppliers to invest in the latest technologies – such as Thornhill Machine Tools' products – in order to stay competitive on the world stage!

For more information on Thornhill Machine Tools' products, please call Tony Thornhill on +61 3 9532 1452, or email Tony at thornhillae@thornhill.com.au

Ronson Gears cements its core values

Take a peek 'behind the scenes' at Ronson Gears at what forms the backbone to success...

Ronson Gears employees recently determined the core values to guide their work behaviour.

At a company-wide workshop, all 'on the ground' team members – the essence of Ronson Gears – nominated the values they believed the company should live by, coming up with a list of over 50.

A vote was taken to cement the top three, and the result was the 3 Cs – commitment, co-operation and communication.

These are the principles that will underpin Ronson's pursuit of excellence and customer satisfaction.

The 3 Cs give an insight into how important team work is to Ronson employees. The group identified being committed to the job and to one

another, and co-operating and communicating with each other, as the keys to efficient production, meeting customer requirements and lead times, and achieving Ronson's standards of quality.

Finally, the Ronson Gears team was called upon to come up with a mantra incorporating the 3 Cs.

The submissions were again put to a vote, and the winner by overwhelming majority was Brett Buntman (from Ronson's turning section) for the following mantra:

Ronson Gears – creating excellence through commitment, co-operation and communication.

This mantra reinforces the level of accountability that employees are dedicated to, and has pride of place on the Ronson floor.

DIRECTOR'S CUT

Ronson Gears has enjoyed a successful year of continued growth. Thanks to all of our valued customers, suppliers and loyal staff for your support throughout 2007.

During the year we have stayed connected to international trends with Terry and myself recently visiting EMO in Germany and Steve Bell, our production manager, and myself visiting Gear Expo in Detroit. Visitors from Brazil and Switzerland have also helped to keep us informed of developments in those countries.

It is evident that manufacturing around the world continues its unprecedented growth with all regions showing high activity. But this is creating challenges that affect us all.

The lack of availability of alloy steels globally and spiralling energy costs are putting pressure on pricing, not to mention the high value of the Australian dollar raising our export prices.

We, at Ronson Gears, continue to meet these challenges by staying focused on production efficiencies and quality and by introducing innovative systems and technologies observed during our international travels.

We look forward to supporting our customers into 2008 and wish all a happy and safe festive season.

Gordon New, Managing Director



Gordon with Ronson's guest from Switzerland, Pamela Schoen of ASS AG, which designs and assembles revolutionary gear systems.

Upsize me! Gears on a larger scale



A typically large rail gear.

In the previous issue of 'Gear Whispers', Ronson told of a project which required production of a gear set with parts smaller than Australian 20 cent and 5 cent coins.

Whilst working on such tiny gears was at the small end of Ronson's range, Ronson is just as capable of gear cutting and gear grinding gears at the larger end of the scale.

Industries such as mining, rail and agriculture require Ronson to provide gears upwards of 900mm in diameter.

And Ronson delivers, largely due to its visionary approach towards investing in world-leading manufacturing technology.

Ronson's German-made CNC gear hobber, and two CNC gear grinders, are renowned for their performance.

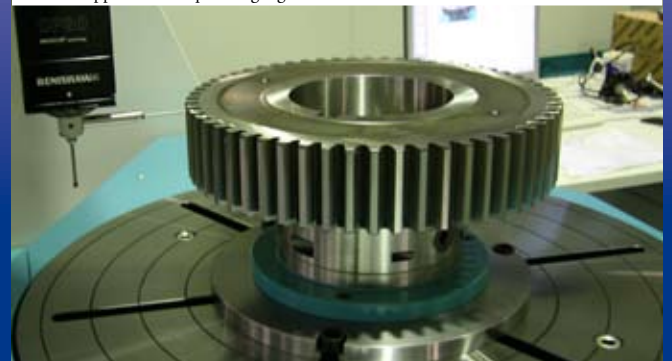
The CNC gear hobbing machine is capable of cutting up to a maximum of 900mm outside diameter, and 16 Module (1.6DP). Meanwhile, Ronson's CNC gear grinders reach a capacity of 700mm outside diameter, 15 Module (1.7DP).

When checking for quality, Ronson utilises its CNC gear measuring machine, the Wenzel GearTec LH1010, which can measure up to 1.4 metres in diameter.

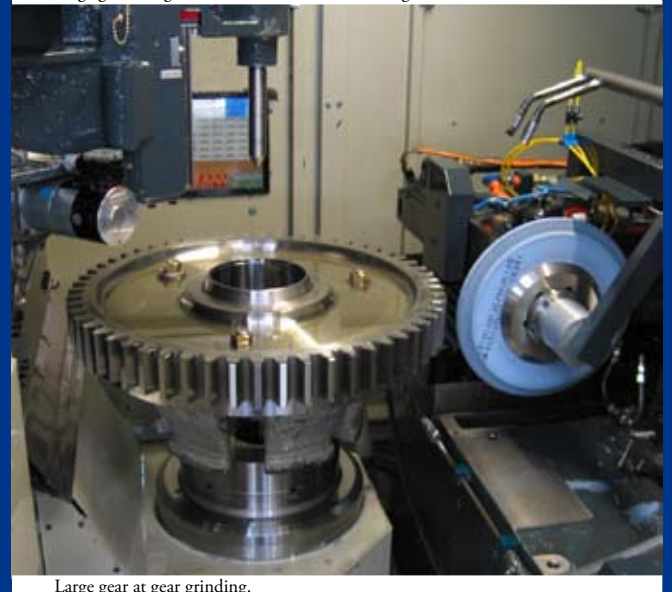
Compare this to the specifications of Ronson's earlier project – a gear with a diameter smaller than a coin and 0.4 module, coupled with a pinion 4.8mm in diameter – and you can see that Ronson has both ends of the spectrum well and truly covered!



Rail applications require larger gears.



Large gear being checked on the CNC measuring machine.



Large gear at gear grinding.



Browse online

You can visit www.ronsongears.com.au

for information on Ronson's range of Spiradrive and stock gears.

And keep an eye on Ronson's website in 2008 – there's a new look coming your way!

Your sales team

With a few changes taking place to the sales team at Ronson, we thought it timely to put faces to the names who'll take you into 2008.



Put a face to the name! L-R Gavin, Terry and Michele.

Michele Kranzbuhler:

You can always count on receiving a warm welcome from Michele, Ronson's 'Director of First Impressions'. Michele has been with Ronson for almost 10 years, so many of you will be familiar with hearing her voice on the other end of the phone. Michele assists with stock enquiries, and manages the administrative processes of Ronson Gears.

A devoted mother of two, Michele is adept at keeping the boys at Ronson on their toes to ensure her customers are happy!

Terry New:

Son of Ronson's founder, Ron New, and brother of co-Director Gordon, Terry is part owner and Director of Sales/Marketing.

Backed by 40 years of experience at Ronson Gears, Terry always has the customers' interests at heart. As a Director, he is striving to bring new technology and systems into the business to keep Ronson at the cutting edge.

Gavin New:

Gavin's energy has been focussed on Ronson's marketing for the last four years, including the production of Ronson's communication piece 'Gear Whispers'. He now steps into a complementary sales role. Gavin's background in marketing and communication will provide great support for Ronson's customers.

Globetrotting for a glimpse into the future

Ronson's thirst for information persists, and the quest to quench it – at least for the time being – takes Ronson staff around the world.

Back in September, Ronson Gears Directors Gordon and Terry New travelled together for the first time in many years. Their destination was Hanover, Germany, attending EMO, the world's largest machine tool exhibition.

They were on the lookout for the latest technology – as always, with a view to enhancing Ronson's capabilities and reputation as Australia's most technologically advanced gear manufacturer. Stay tuned!

Terry also stopped by England, paying a visit to one of Ronson's customers.

In October, Gordon and Stephen Bell (Production Manager) headed for Detroit, Michigan (USA) and the 'Gear Expo 2007'. It was a chance to discover unique products, new trends and ideas, and gain insight by embracing networking opportunities.

Bringing together industry delegates from all corners of the globe, Gear Expo afforded a fresh perspective; a chance to speak openly with industry experts and fellow operators about their experiences and techniques, and identify areas for improvement and growth.



5 years and counting

Ken Owens, Ronson's truck driver, celebrates his five-year anniversary at Ronson.

Always happy and jovial, Ken has a great rapport with co-workers, customers and sub-contractors alike. He's a good man to have on the ground! Congratulations Ken.



L-R Terry, Tony Thornhill (Thornhill Machine Tools) and Gordon at Koepfer's EMO stand.