



Rapid ■
Labels ●

Looking back on 2018

2018 – Rapid's 50th year in business and it has been a BIG year for Rapid Labels. January saw the first of two massive strategic projects get underway as we launched into our new ERP System (CERM) on the first day back. Needless to say, it was a rocky start.

February was spent working through the bottleneck the upgrade caused, but by March we started to make good progress.

During this time wedding bells rang as Laura Connor became Mrs Laura Sarten. The digital area was turned into a Digital Department creating a more controlled environment to keep the digital presses in optimal working conditions, and we started to prepare for the second of our big strategic moves – the acquisition of Panprint Labels.

April 1st saw the beginning of a new era for Rapid as we acquired the trading assets of Panprint. By combining the two businesses together it has given us the ability to offer a suite of product offerings not seen before in the NZ label market. Rapid Labels is the only label house to offer Offset, Flexo and Digital print presses, all under one roof.

The merger, combined with ironing out CERM affected our service delivery, but with a massive team effort we worked through this.

In May we attended the 25th Pride in Print Awards and walked away with 7 gold medals for Rapid. Panprint also picked up a gold medal and they were acknowledged as the 3rd most awarded print company in Pride in Print history. A great achievement for their team and we're proud to have them as part of our Rapid family.

Throughout this year we've celebrated a record number of milestone service anniversaries: 25 years for Dale, 15 years for Nga, Mileta, Alex and Feleti. 10 years for Bill, Vao, Romeo and Corazon. 5 years for Andrew, Edna, Richard, Bryan M, Sergey, Sylvius and Chris L.

We've also welcomed to our growing Rapid family – Mary-Beth, Tristan, Kane, Jeff, Heather N, Ali, Dale, Gavin, Warren, Heather B, David Moon, Joe, Tony, Steve, Cherryll, Tina, Hugo, Angela R, Felipe, Vanessa, Soc, Tevita, Romeo, Gilbert, Brian G, Gareth M, Victoria with Johnny, Jonty, Zamira, Leigh and Iati coming back for round two at Rapid.

Jeremy, from Prepress stepped into a new role as Pre-Production Manager, Ryan (one of our Flexo printers) became our new Nightshift Supervisor, Jeff from the Hub joined our Digital Department, and Rob (also one of our Flexo printers) became our new Production Supervisor. The label business is a specialised field in the print industry and it's a testament to our talented team that we can offer role changes and promote from within the business – keeping the knowledge, skills and individuals growing year by year.

June marked the beginning of our 'Wine Season' with a record number of jobs in Prepress, client rebranding, and at one stage we had 7 press passes in one week!

July, the start of FY19, and our print lanes were overflowing. With everything a bit more settled between the upgrade and merger, we spent the rest of the year reshaping the business to get back to the Rapid way and our normal service delivery.

We released a new uncoated stock in September – Moeraki. A white, textured stock with the same master process for moisture protection within the stock as Rapid's Kakahu and Mt Somers. If you'd like to see a sample, get in touch with us.

September also saw Paul and Alex head up to Label Expo in Chicago. There, they attended the World Label Awards, and took away the top 'Gong' – the Best of the Best Award for the Floating Foil Snapper from our Box of Fish series. Floating Foil is a printing technique exclusive to Rapid Labels and a first in the NZ label market. The Best of the Best Award is a superb win for our Rapid team and to be able to achieve these sorts of recognitions, in comparison with the rest of the world, is a very proud moment.

Whilst at Label Expo they also made three significant purchases:

Eye-C Offline Inspection – a computerised system that enhances our quality control procedures.

ABG Omega – a finishing machine that allows for quicker make ready adding to our throughput and efficiencies and it has full inspection, enhancing our quality control procedures further.

Pantec Rhino – a flatbed foiling and embossing unit that will enhance our embossing and foiling capabilities. This machine will give us the ability to heavily emboss labels and lay multiple foils in one pass, at high speeds. We expect to have this unit up and running mid-Jan.

2018 marks tremendous growth for Rapid – not only as a company, but also as a team; rallying together to work through the challenges and celebrate the wins.

We would like to thank you for your patience, understanding and support. This year has been a tough one for you too; as we've worked through our growing pains.

Thank you for staying with us as we climb this mountain to a bigger, more efficient Rapid Labels. We look forward to a settled and smooth running 2019.

Please do read the back of this card and have yourselves a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We'll be back from Monday 7th January 2019.



David
 Sheila
 Bentley
 Kimbarley
 Jen
 Tobi
 Jeremy
 Angela
 Ali



All of the team at Rapid Labels wish you a
**Merry Christmas and
 a Happy New Year!**

EA.
 Brent
 Claire
 Janine
 Ali
 Michelle
 Andrew
 Martin
 Ali
 Jon
 Ali
 Ali



We'll be flat out until midday **Friday 21 December**, then into our BBQ and break-up.
 There will be a skeleton crew on board for the working days around Christmas and New Year.
 Full production is back underway from **Monday 7 January 2019**.



For the past twelve years, instead of producing client gifts for Christmas, we have channelled those resources to Hospice North Shore.

We fund the special annual Christmas lunch at the Hospice, for patients, nurses and their combined families.

This year, on behalf of our clients and the team at Rapid Labels, we are donating \$2500 for the Hospice Christmas lunch.

Hospice North Shore is a humbling place to visit. They generously help 500 local people every year, at the hospice and in patients' homes.

It is an honour for Rapid Labels to be a part of this amazing organisation.



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