

## Keeping Calm and Carrying On

– The Press, 23 July, 2011

- Alan Wood

**Manufacturing remains a cornerstone of the quake-hit Canterbury economy. Deputy business editor Alan Wood looks at the process of recovery for a sector dealing with harsh shakes and economic headwinds...**

Carlton Taylor Industries general manager and part-owner David Hawes says orders for products from his factories surrounding his sheet-metal fabrication, machining and high pressure aluminium die casting businesses are “as good as they’ve ever been”, with strong overseas demand.

The high New Zealand dollar has helped keep raw material costs down, and Carlton is not holding back from a \$1 million expansion plan in the next 12-18 months. However, absenteeism has been higher, as shaken staff adjust.

Staff values have also changed, preferring support from friends and family and other “softer” things in life over possessions and “what’s in it for me”.



Up and running: Carlton Taylor Industries staff Dean Armiger, left, and Jim Bassett are busy filling orders for overseas customers.

Photo: JOSEPH JOHNSON