

# Carterton app keeps truckies safe

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A Carterton business is helping transporters go contactless.

MyTrucking was first started by Sam and Sara Orsborn, of Sharpes Stockfeed, who wanted to help a friend run their new transport business more efficiently.

Six years on, the new general manager Gabor Szikszai said there's now a range of things that transport operators can do with the service to stay contactless during the covid-19 pandemic.

"The entire job creation and delivery system can be done without person-to-person contact just by using the MyTrucking web application, and a mobile phone.

"With the MyTrucking job management system, businesses could run a delivery-based service and have complete visibility and control of what's going where, and when."

Driven by the call from the transport industry, Szikszai said MyTrucking had recently shifted its focus to help existing clients move to contactless job dispatch and delivery.

This included measures



MyTrucking's general manager Gabor Szikszai. PHOTO/SUPPLIED

such as replacing paperwork that was handed to drivers with digital copies that were shared via its mobile app, through to the ability to use SMS or email so delivery sites at businesses could be set up in advance of a truck arriving.

Throughout Alert Level 4, interest in their services had increased, he said.

"[During the lockdown] for our first week ever, we had no new triallers sign up – and that was concerning.

"But the contrast since then – things have really been picking up."

Though the business initially focused on livestock and rural transport providers,

this had expanded to a host of new types of customers.

Recent examples include a honey business, metal recyclers, civil engineering, and furniture movers.

"It has changed and moved to lots of different types of transport since then," Szikszai said.

"We're rural. We're urban. There are also new opportunities now, as retail businesses adapt to providing their services with less face-to-face and more contactless delivery."

It's not just domestic businesses either – MyTrucking has more than 3500 users across New Zealand, Australia, Samoa, and the UK.

The Wairarapa-based team usually works out of a farmhouse turned office in rural Carterton but has been working fully remotely since March 23.

"One of the things that impressed me about the business from day one is that we always put our customers first.

"We've got a small and super committed team here, and our customers often tell us that they love us for it."

# Local locavore proves it's possible

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With Alert Level 3 coming into effect today, supporting local will be the new normal, with a range of Wairarapa businesses and producers back up and running post-Level 4 lockdown.

It won't be anything new for Martinborough resident Miggs McTaylor who has been focused on buying local for at least 10 years since first learning about the '100-mile diet' – a locally sourced diet which started in Canada.

She is known as a locavore – someone who makes an effort to eat food that is grown, raised, or produced locally.

"There are groups all over the world doing it," she said.

"It's made us more conscious of what's available locally.

She said people used to eat like this during WWI and WWII, and the pandemic had made people think about how to be more self-sufficient.

Up until 18 months ago, the professional plant-based chef had been living in Scotland and said moving to Wairarapa had been an adjustment.

"We got used to getting everything. We are global consumers."

McTaylor said despite the change, there was plenty of locally available products, including goats and sheep cheeses, sheep and beef, fish, and dairy.



Two of Miggs McTaylor's favourite recipes using locally sourced foods. PHOTOS/SUPPLIED



"You could easily survive within the 100-miles alone."

She also cited local butchery services such as Eketahuna Country Meats, which also provided locally sourced milk, the Greytown Butchery, and Homegrown, Butchery Deli and Pantry in Masterton as helpful sources.

People could also grow their own food, she said.

"It's just making people aware of the little changes that do have a global impact.

"If you make one small change this week, next month try something else. Small changes do count."

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