



Murray 'Hogget' Maslin

– Switzers Valley Transport

The name for Switzers Valley Transport came about over a few drinks with friends when Murray Maslin and his partner were renovating their house. Everyone wrote their suggestion for a name on the bare walls, and Switzers Valley Transport was the winner.

Murray has been in the trucking game most of his life, starting out as a driver for Andrews Transport at age 18. He eventually became a shareholder in Andrews Transport before selling in 2010 and going out on his own.

Favourite truck?

Freightliner. I just love the power and have always found them nice to drive. Of the trucks I've owned the Freightliner would be the favourite by a long shot.

Favourite place to get a pie?

Definitely McGregor's Pies in Palmerston, east Otago, renown around the world.

Favourite MyTrucking feature?

Being able to input jobs and send them off to the trucks, no trying to explain myself over the phone to a driver. I admit to being the worst writer in the world and the guys used to have trouble. Now I send the work to the guys the night before and they have it clear as anything on their phone.

Favourite trucking route?

Definitely not Arthur's Pass! I enjoy the road from Gore to Christchurch. I like a challenge to go a bit further, so definitely up the main road, State Highway 1.

Favourite gearbox?

18-Speed Roadranger. I don't like automatics, it's just force of habit, I've got to have a gearstick in the truck.

Favourite way to acknowledge a truckie?

I like to see people toot when they pass because you've indicated you're pulling off, and not holding them up. Otherwise, just a nice wave.

Favourite saying or catchphrase?

One thing I have on my wall and look at every day: 'Some people want it to happen, some people wish it would happen, others make it happen'. I reckon that's pretty sharp.

Starting out with one truck, Switzers Valley Transport has grown to a fleet of 13 trucks with livestock carting, bulk carting and spreading arms of the business.

"We're a rural trucking firm, sow fert, cart fert and cart stock and general goods. I'm the major shareholder and run the bulk and sowing division," Murray explains.

"We're pretty down the road rural carriers but we try to be a bit different in some of the things we do. We're owner-operator, which I think is important, we're not a corporate and the buck stops at myself and my stock manager.

"I feel you always work harder if it's your bum that's on the line. We try to be up with the play, we've got modern gear and try to be revolutionary with everything we do to make the best buck for ourselves, and give clients very good service."

Switzers Valley is based in Southland, 53km inland from Gore, but carts all around New Zealand, with stock trucks going through to the North Island.

Murray jumped on board with MyTrucking after a few gentle nudges, and admits to being a bit nervous about the technology at first, but he needn't have worried.

"I'm not super computer savvy and was worried it might be beyond me, but the team at MyTrucking come to my aid with cheeky little emails and it's been a real pleasure to work with them.

"It's been a lot easier than I thought it would be, and definitely much better – I've thrown away my diary!

"I wish MyTrucking all the best, I think they have something really good going. It's fantastic service and great people. If you're having a bad day and the MyTrucking team walks in, you don't have a bad day for much longer. It's been a pleasure to get involved, credit to them, and long may it continue."