

DRIVING Miss Daisy UPPER HUTT

WINS EXCELLENCE IN SMALL BUSINESS AWARD

“To have a job where my clients tell me every day they love me and can’t do without me: it’s a wonderful, wonderful job to be doing, “was Lynda Moore’s reaction when *Driving Miss Daisy* (Upper Hutt) was announced the best Small Business at the 2011 Westpac Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence awards.

Well, that was after she had, in true *Miss Daisy* style, first of all praised her drivers Bruce McLachlan and Kay Jackson “without whom we would not be the service we are”.

Lynda not only had the judges on her side – when she attended the awards evening she wore the Cameo brooch left to her by the neighbour who was her inspiration for deciding to become a *Driving Miss Daisy* franchisee.

Based on a successful award-winning Canadian franchise, it was brought to New Zealand by Havelock North couple Melanie and Jack Harper after thorough world-wide research, and provides a “companion driver through the door service” for senior citizens, the less mobile of all ages and for parents wanting to get children safely to sport, ballet or music lessons when they themselves are not available. They have been known



Small Business Award Winner Lynda Moore with Rimukata MP Chris Hipkins.

to send a reassuring text to mums to confirm their child has arrived at their destination safely.

It’s more than simply a taxi service, says Lynda. It is totally people focussed. Its point of difference over other transport providers is the ‘physical accompaniment assistance’ offered.

“We are happy to sit with a person at the dentist – help them into the dentist chair if required – or wait at the chemist while they have a prescription filled. We can pop into a supermarket or the dairy on the way home and help carry heavy bags right onto the kitchen bench.”

Lynda says they get very attached to all their clients and “get lots of cuddles”. It is not uncommon for regulars, particularly the elderly, to ring up just for a chat or to check their drivers are getting plenty of rest and eating properly – “we have lots of mothers”.

There is a teddy bear on the back seat of the cars which helps make the *Driving Miss Daisy* experience small child friendly and also is a comfort to some clients with Alzheimer’s.

They work flexible hours around their clients’ needs, are comprehensively trained for their driving roles, ‘Police vetted’ and with the necessary passenger service licences. They stress they do not act as a “courtesy van from the pub”.

Lynda started with one car less than two years ago as did Lorraine Buttimore who has the Lower Hutt franchise. Both women now have three cars on the road. Maura McKenna, who has three franchise areas – Wellington to Mana, began with three cars and added a fourth in February this year. Kapiti franchise holder Nicolette Veltman currently has two cars on the road.

It is obvious Lynda’s business gives her as much pleasure as it does the clients whose quality of life is enhanced by her services. Her current dashboard ‘Quote of the Day’ says it all ... *Choose a job you love doing and you will never work a day in your life’.*




Driving Miss Daisy®
We're There For You

LYNDA MOORE OF UPPER HUTT DRIVING MISS DAISY

DELIGHTED WINNER OF SMALL BUSINESS AWARD

WESTPAC HUTT VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS AWARDS 2011

For more information or to make a booking call.
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