



LIFE AT LUCERNE TRANSPORT



Over the last few months, Lucerne Transport has experienced some exciting changes. We will of course share these with you in more detail below but, in summary, we have been busy with the relocation of our Durban operation to new premises as well as the development of our very own Driver Academy. As you can imagine, these two mammoth projects have certainly kept us on our toes of late!

Another exciting development in the pipeline for the coming months is an upgrade to our current IT systems – we will be introducing the latest planning and document management software in conjunction with our tracking tool. What will this mean? Speedier turnaround times on documents and more accurate vehicle and driver allocations... just some of the benefits we can look forward to.

In other news, the current challenges we experience on the roads seem to continue unabated unfortunately. Protest action on major routes and in local municipalities, degrading infrastructure, accidents and natural weather incidents all significantly impact a day in the life of our drivers. To add to this, they are under constant pressure to ensure the safe and efficient delivery of loads to their ultimate destination. Yes, trucks do occasionally cause frustration to other drivers on the road, however we need to remind ourselves of the challenges they face and spare a thought for the man in the driving seat – he is ultimately responsible for over 50 tons of moving mass in driving conditions that are anything but easy. The next time you pass one of our trucks on the road, give the driver a “toot toot”... it may just be one of your loads he is transporting, and he will love the acknowledgment!



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MOVING ON UP!

We have seen the demand through Durban steadily increase over the last few years and this has resulted in the need for more time efficient facilities to ensure that we can effectively meet this demand with a view to the future. In March, we relocated our Durban operation to new premises in Clairwood. This relocation has enabled us to benefit from increased parking space for our trucks and, most importantly, establish our own washbay and workshops.

Here is a sneak peak into our new office:



Meet Hennie!

In this edition, we are chatting to Hennie Buys, one of Lucerne Transport's Operations Planners. Hennie has been with the company for over a year now and is a charismatic, entrenched and pivotal member of the Operations Team. Here he shares some insights into his life with us...



Where were you born and raised? I was born in Odendaalsrus in the Free State and raised in Carletonville, where I finished Primary School and moved on to Hoërskool Dinamika in Alberton.

Tell us a bit about your family... I am married to Marie-Zanne, an accountant, and my parents own a truck maintenance business in Bethal, servicing the Secunda area. I have three brothers – the youngest two are farming in America and the oldest one is a teacher in Machadodorp. A trucker, two farmers and a teacher... what a family!

What are your interests outside of work? We regularly go hiking with our dogs, Mack and Shadow. I also enjoy playing paintball from time to time and the odd game of golf. And I am a very keen Forex trader!

Where do you like to go when it comes time for leave? We enjoy travelling and recently visited Thailand... Our sights are set on our next trip which will be to Bali.

What are your key responsibilities at work? Being one of the Planners, Rikus and I work together to ensure orders received are booked and scheduled onto the most suitable vehicles. A critical part of the job is getting to loading and offloading sites, ensuring we engage at both the loading and receiving ends. The majority of my time is spent liaising with customers on their orders and providing progress reports for loading and delivery. I always need to shuffle things around to ensure happy customers and a busy fleet!

What has your role over the years in transport entailed? I started out in the family business as a Junior Technician, which developed into a General Management role some years later. I then decided to venture on my own and was recruited by Unitrans in Secunda as a Senior Operations Supervisor. I left this role to start my wife's Accounting Firm, but accounting just isn't my scene... we made the move to JHB where I was recruited as a Fleet Controller at another transport company, and I have subsequently found my family at Lucerne Transport.

Is there anything else we may not know about Hennie? I am always the star of the show when it comes to fancy dress parties!!!

THE LUCERNE TRANSPORT DRIVING ACADEMY

We are proud to announce the recent establishment of the Lucerne Transport Driving Academy, in collaboration with Liderazgo. The Academy is situated at our Johannesburg operation in Wynberg and can accommodate 12 students simultaneously. To date, we have already had 20 students attend training and successfully pass their courses. We have a qualified and accredited facilitator who is based with us permanently at our Academy to ensure that all of our students get only the best training.

The Academy offers the following courses:

- Defensive Driving
- Working at Heights
- First Aid
- Spill management
- Firefighting
- Dangerous Goods Training
- PATROM

We would like to congratulate and offer our thanks to Alfred Henery, Angee Whiting and Freddy Meyer – without you all, this would not have been possible.