



FORKLIFT SPECIALTY SERVICES

Anyone who has worked in a warehouse and distribution setting will know the importance of having a decent forklift available to load and unload freight, move heavy objects and generally be the handiest machine in a warehouse, freight yard, or workshop. By Richard Hobo



However, the humble, but heroic forklift is also probably the least-loved machine in any company's fleet. Often abused, neglected and thrashed, no single machine does so much hard work and receives so little love in return.

Firmly on the side of the forklift is local company Forklift Specialty Services. Started by Tony and Judy Geurts in September 1998, the Company continues to be a family-run affair with their son David coming on board in 2002 & now wife Kirsty has joined the team.

Forklift Specialty Services moved into its current, purpose-built premises in 2007, incorporating an office and parts department, which have recently expanded as the company has grown, as well as comprehensive servicing facilities.

The company also has a rental fleet, which over the years has grown to well over sixty units, ranging in size from 1.8 to 16 tonne lifting capacities.

"These days a lot of companies are choosing to rent gear like forklifts, as from a business point of view it makes a lot of sense, as there is the same cost each month with no surprises," explains Judy "and if anyone is curious as to how much forklift rental costs, either for short or long-term leases, on new or second-hand machines, we can provide a free quote."

Recent changes to health and safety laws has increased the need for regular forklift inspections.

Worksafe NZ have expressed to them that their service reports and check sheets exceed the requirements.

Also in the vein of health and safety is forklift operator training, which Forklift Specialty Services offers either at their Bell Block premises or onsite at the client's premises. Not only is this training compliant with all Worksafe, NZQA, Mito and Competenz regulations, but the training staff can share their years of experience in, on and under forklifts with the trainees.

"Health and safety laws have meant a vast amount of training for our staff so that our clients have confidence in the services that we offer," explains Tony.

Although they will service and repair any brand of forklift, for the sake of reliability, Forklift Specialty Services only deals in proven, well-known brands, such as TCM, Komatsu, Jungheinrich and Unicarriers, (formerly Nissan Forklifts).

"From the start, we decided that we would only deal in the best forklift brands and that we wouldn't waste our time with anything that wasn't proven," explains Judy, "because a lot of the machines that we hire out go into some pretty harsh conditions, so reliability was key."

This approach has served the company well, as in the entire eighteen years of operation, they have only had two warranty claims across all the brands they deal with.

Despite the name of the company, Forklift Specialty Services not only deal with just forklifts, as they also service both electric and petrol golf carts, floor cleaning equipment, petrol and diesel

generators and compressors, wheeled loaders, trailers, scissor lifts and light commercial vehicles.

Another aspect the company can offer is one not normally associated with forklifts – speed.

"As we are a small company and a family-run one at that, we can make decisions very quickly," says Judy, "there are no tiers of management to consult with before we can make a decision on something and recently we've found that a lot of companies, even the large ones, need quick decisions more and more."

Proudly Taranaki owned and operated, the Geurts family also believe in giving back and regularly sponsor the following

- Special Children's Extravaganza (since 2005)
- New Plymouth Operatic Society
- And of course The Taranaki Rugby Football Union

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SUPPLIERS:

JUNGHEINRICH

TCM

by **UNICARRIERS**

