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Maxi-CUBE Provides a Fresh Approach to Produce Transportation!

With so much focus on Australians having a balanced lifestyle that includes more fresh vegetables as part of their diet, farmers and growers continue to incorporate the latest refrigerated transport equipment into their fleets to ensure consumers receive the freshest produce from the fields to our plates.

Favero Gardens in Cranbourne Victoria has been delivering produce including lettuce, celery, parsnip, broccoli and our favourite brussel sprouts to tables across Australia for over 60 years and they have just recently added a versatile Maxi-CUBE Slide-A-Side to their fleet, their first such unit.

Their story resembles that of many European immigrants who arrived in Australia in the early 1900's. Two young men who had grown up together in Northern Italy came to Australia seeking opportunity and were keen to find work that would start them on a journey to a prosperous life.

It was in 1931 that Domenic Favero acquired 16 acres of land in Narre Warren, and whilst not totally familiar with market gardening, he along with sons John and Silvio, started Favero Gardens. From humble beginnings, the family gradually grew the business into a successful operation based on loyalty and personal commitment to every customer.

Today, the next generation of family members, David, Glenn and Allan Favero run the business and, through expansion that includes ownership of substantially more acres of land across Narre Warren, Favero Gardens now supplies a large proportion of the vegetable requirements of grocery chains across Australia.

Consequently, they have always been conscious of ensuring their logistics equipment exceeds customer requirements and is built to handle the rugged environment of Australia's transport landscape.

They also pride themselves on being affiliated with an appropriate program that encourages transport operators to continually improve their business to meet changing

consumer needs and demands and have recently attained the Woolworths Quality Assurance (WQA) Accreditation that is based on the Codex HACCP principles.

The Slide-A-Side model was chosen to help the company achieve further optimisation of their operational efficiency and reliability, ensuring the freshest delivery of their chilled and temperature sensitive produce.

The major advantage of the Slide-A-Side is that it will provide Favero Gardens and its customers with the convenience of access from either the side or rear of the trailer, making it easier and quicker for Favero to load up in the field or cold storage facilities.

Not only does this efficiency and ease of accessibility provide an advantage over other models of temperature control trailers, the Slide-A-Side design also reduces turnaround times and so offers higher utilisation levels that are especially suited to multiple drop environments, thus delivering reduced operating costs.

David Favero recalls with enthusiasm how trailers and load restraints have evolved and improved through the decades for his family business. From the time consuming wooden boxes that were manually loaded by his grandfather in the 50's and the use of tarps, ropes and curtains from the 70's to the 90's by his father, David is amazed that today, all he pretty much requires is the simple press of a button on his Slide-A-Side to restrain his load.

He explains that the flexibility of the Slide-A-Side, combined with its superior temperature maintenance and its simple operation was a major factor behind the company purchasing this model rather than a "rear access only" refrigerated trailer.

"We love its versatility to not only be used for long haul trips but also the ability to use it for multi-drop situations in metropolitan areas. Importantly, its operation is safe, reliable and efficient and these competitive advantages give our customers the confidence that they will always receive their produce in the freshest conditions and in a timely manner."

From an operational perspective, opening the side doors is simple and effortless. A button control activates the air operated 'lift and lock' mechanisms and when in the unlocked position, the side doors are lowered slightly and slide easily along the van thanks to ball bearing rollers gliding along a smooth extruded track at roof level.

And further ensuring that the produce reaches its destination in peak crisp condition, the hard back door seals utilise a co-extruded design that provides the flexibility and strength of a rigid plastic spine whilst the sealing lips ensure excellent water and dust proofing.

Maxi-CUBE Victoria Area Sales Manager, Gerry Casse, believes customers such as Favero Gardens and all operators like them, benefit greatly in the long term when they're utilising versatile equipment stating that, *"The beauty of the Slide-A-Side is that it combines load restraint characteristics of a rigid wall van with the flexibility of a curtain-sided trailer, so it is a ripper when you want to use it for carrying palletised produce. You know the trailer will contain the load, will be easy and quick to load/unload and importantly, maintain the critical temperature requirements."*

The Slide-A-Side is available as a standard trailer or lead and tag configuration for B-Double use. The roof, front wall, side walls and doors are insulated with high quality polyurethane foam, made in-house by Maxi-CUBE. Because the foam is made to the required gauge and not cut to size, it has superior insulation properties and optimizes the thermal performance of the van. The floor is also insulated.

Favero Gardens also benefits from twin electrical connectors that suit both popular types of wiring connectors, allowing them further flexibility to choose a different truck to match up to the trailer.

The Slide-A-Side also comes with a two year warranty and has Australia's best national dealer network to keep operators and their customers on the road making money. Further information on the Maxi-CUBE transport equipment range can be downloaded at www.maxicube.com.au.





ABOVE: With its operation safe, reliable and efficient, the Maxi-CUBE Slide-A-Side is giving the customers of Favero Gardens, the confidence that they will always receive their produce in the freshest conditions."

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