

# Little supermarket that could thrives thanks to family



Meghan Harris | 22nd Aug 2016 3:34 PM



FAMILY OWNED: Shelly McCaul has owned and operated the Spar Express convenience store in Middle Ridge for 14 years.

Meghan Harris

SHELLY McCaul has been serving the grocery needs of Middle Ridge residents for 14 years.

Mrs McCaul and her husband Mick own and operate The Spar Express convenience store in Middle Ridge.

Mrs McCaul said with the help of their children it was a thriving small business.

"Before we owned Spar Express, we lived beside a convenience store and we liked the idea of owning our own business. We haven't looked back since," she said.

"It takes a lot of work to run your own corner store. We spend most of our time in store and our children have practically been raised here."

As owner Mrs McCaul spends her days unpacking orders, doing the paper work, cooking hot box food, organising the staff and store as well as chatting to customers.

"My favourite part about my job is talking to customers and really getting to know them personally," she said.

"We have a lot of loyal customers which is great.

"Some people we served day one are still coming in today."

As well as offering everyday grocery needs, hot chickens, fresh flowers, and gourmet sweets, the store also offers a large range of South African products.

"We have grown our business by developing a niche," she said,

"We are well-known for our South African products.

"We sell biltong, droewors, koeksisters and gem squash.

"The range is growing all the time.

"The products are really popular around Toowoomba with people specifically coming to us for them."

The McCaul family is Toowoomba born and bred and Mrs McCaul said it was a wonderful place to bring up children.

"The community has such a nice feel and it is a family friendly town," she said.

"We couldn't imagine living anywhere else.

"In our rare spare time we like driving around the region, checking out different places."

**The Chronicle**