Local mum's new business flourishes despite pandemic

Keilor East mum Marlene Di Rico started her business, Graze 4 You, in the middle of a global health crisis. With services including boutique grazing boxes and platters in a variety of sizes, Marlene's small business is flourishing with rave reviews from customers.

Officially beginning business in September, 2020, Graze 4 You came about as a result of Marlene's dream to run her own business and combat the effects of the pandemic on everyday life.

"I've always been one of those people that enjoy entertaining and making tables and settings really nicely presented," Marlene says.

"I was just sitting down going through Instagram one weekend, looking through grazing and platter accounts and thought, I can do this!"

As a busy mum, Marlene is able to juggle receiving and fulfilling her business orders from home while balancing the demands of parenting.

"I've always wanted to work for myself, I've got three young kids so it was good to have something that enabled me to be flexible," Marlene explains.

"It's allowed me to be a mother and have a business as well."

Graze 4 You offers small, medium and large boxes comprised of various customisable ingredients – fruits, homemade scones, deli items, sweets and more. Also on offer is large volume corporate box for work events.

Marlene builds her grazing boxes daily with only the freshest local products sourced the same day.

"I've been really lucky to have my local deli open early so I can source my items fresh in the mornings," she says.

Providing contactless delivery, Marlene's business has been a hit with the community, selling over 550 boxes since the business opened in September last year.

"I haven't received one negative comment, everyone's been really happy with the service and the products," Marlene says.

"I'm a perfectionist, I take pride in my work and everything needs to look a certain way."

With strong support from her husband and her three children, aged 13, 12 and 10, Marlene has built her business from the ground up in unprecedented times. Using only social media and word-of-mouth recommendations, Marlene has amassed a strong following and customer base for her quality grazing boxes.

For more information about Marlene's business and its goodie boxes, look up Graze 4 You on Facebook or email graze4you@gmail.com.

Keilor East mum Marlene Di Rico has found great success with her grazing platter business throughout the pandemic. **Right:** Graze 4 You's delicious goodie boxes are customisable, made fresh daily and delivered to your door. (Pictures: Supplied)

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