

# Russian Removalist

## Yuri Melnikov – Russian Removalist



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### Links International Removals, Vladivostok

If you have ever wondered about how removalists operate in other parts of the world, I am going to tell you a story that might make you realize how much the same you all are.

We sent our four wheel drive in a 40' container with another vehicle to Vladivostok in Far East Russia. Grace Removals had the duty to organize this and they did a grand job. However, as the best laid plans of mice and men and Murphy's law always apply to you, the vehicles did not arrive as promised, (not Grace's fault I must impress.) In fact, our container was left off the ship altogether and didn't arrive until 4 days after due time.

Yuri Melnikov, of Links International became our importing agent. We got to know Yuri quite well and really appreciated his efforts on our behalf. In Sydney, those of you who have to deal with the port authority know how difficult and slow they can be.

Russia can be as difficult. It takes a minimum of three days to clear a container and customs officers do not work on the weekends. However, in this case the Russian authorities were quite efficient and delivered on their time frame. At least we knew what to expect. In fact, Yuri, who knew the process, had everything ready for them, what to declare, what to leave off, how much to expect to pay and all that. He was there when the customs agents opened the container (and resealed it) to show them through the vehicles if it was necessary. In the event, they opened the container door, looked inside, said ah ha and then closed them again. So much for customs.

Just as in Australia, unauthorised persons are not permitted on the docks, so it was up to Yuri to get our vehicles off the port environs. Now a word to the wise. Whenever you have clients who are shipping vehicles, insist they disconnect their batteries. It was suggested to us we do this and we thought as it was only 4 weeks there shouldn't be a problem and the issue we had with the way our batteries were set up, disconnecting them was a real pain. So, when Yuri came to take the cars out of the container, both batteries were stone cold dead.

He had worked tirelessly to clear our cars. He knew we were on a visa deadline and needed the cars urgently. Our visa requirements meant we had to be out of Russia on the 7th September and it was now the 3rd and we had 4,000 k's to travel. He personally opened the con-

tainer, towed the cars out, got the first, a 1990 Troupie push started and then towed our 2003 Landcruiser off the wharf and parked it up in a back street so we could have access to it. I was then able to work on it and had her started within 10 minutes.

But back to Yuri. We had time to talk to him about removals and how it was going. He said they didn't do local moves at all because people doing local moves refuse to agree to the proper payment amounts or terms. He said, if they won't pay what the job is worth, we won't do it. How many of you stick to your guns and do this.

He was keen to provide a good service and to satisfy his client with a job well done.

He was adamant on having his staff trained and knowing how to deal with his clients properly.

Everything he was saying to us was like one of you talking. Nothing is different anywhere in the world.

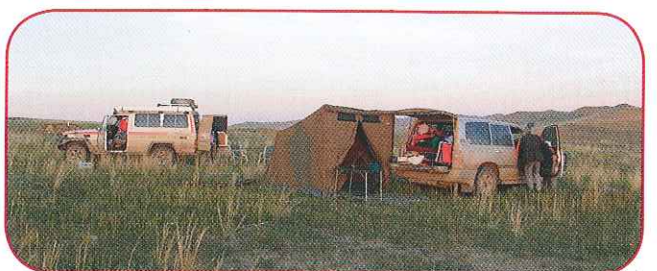
Not many people move to Vladivostok, but many move out. When we were there we were able to send several people, all Australians, to him to ship back their motor bikes that they had been riding around the world.

So if any of you need a contact in Vladivostok, we have one for you who will do the job you want done.

Our thanks to Yuri and Links International.



Aussies in Mongolia



Camping in Mongolia