

MITRE 10 MEGA OPENING

nuts 'n' bolts



Warehouse prepares for gala opening

One of the largest retail outlets in the Mahurangi area will open its doors for the first time on March 11.

The Mitre 10 MEGA warehouse, at Stockyard Falls in Woodcocks Road, covers just over 7200 sqm offering a range of hardware, building supplies, and kitchen and bathroom ware, as well as a fully stocked garden centre.

Retail manager Paul Lee says the weeks leading up to the opening have been "frantic".

"Staff had to be appointed, product knowledge training undertaken, stock labelled and shelves stacked," he says. "It's been a challenge but we're really happy with the way it's come together."

Owner Cam Caithness purchased the Mitre 10 Solutions store in Warkworth in September 2009 with the intention of overseeing the conversion to the MEGA warehouse. Originally from Dunedin, Cam comes from an IT and

hospitality background.

"The Stockyard Falls development is going to have a massive impact on the local economy," Cam says. "It's not just going to mean individual savings for shoppers and tradesmen who don't have to pay petrol and toll charges to go to Albany, but it will also mean more money circulating in north Rodney."

Stocking of the store started when the first containers arrived in early January.

Paul says a key focus of the new store will be trade products, including paint and flooring, which will be managed by Neil Race.

"There's an undercover area for the convenience of loading and a much wider range of stock than we were ever

able to carry at the previous store," he says.

"We'll also be a one-stop-shop for household items, and of course carry everything for the DIY market."

DIY classes and demonstration nights are planned on an ongoing basis, targeting different sectors of the community. A 'ladies only' night will provide an opportunity for participants to "play with the power tools" and get advice and information on a range of home handyman tasks. Father and son nights have also proved popular in other MEGA stores.

"We're also keen to support schools, community events, sports groups and fundraisers, and as we have plenty of space, a section of the building could also be used for gala events."



Managing director Cam Caithness.



Retail manager Paul Lee.

Mega tradesmen's breakfast

The Mitre 10 MEGA will open its doors to the public for the first time on March 11. However, retail manager Paul Lee says tradesmen will be given a sneak preview at a breakfast on the previous day. "A focus of the Warkworth warehouse is the trade division so we want to give this sector a chance to browse the store first and take advantage of some of the opening specials," he says. "It's an open invitation to anyone in any trades field from large contractors to sole operators, from builders and plumbers to landscapers and electricians." The new trades area provides the convenience of undercover parking for loading out of the rain. As well as a number of experienced staff, Mitre 10 has provided new staff with specific training in the trades area. For catering purposes, anyone interested in attending the breakfast on March 10 is asked to contact trade manager Neil Race on 425 8119 or 021 034 7282.

MITRE 10 MEGA Warkworth

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An artist's impression of the Stockyard Falls development. Stage 2 leasing is progressing on schedule.

Retail centre rollout underway

The opening of the Mitre 10 MEGA store will kick start a wave of commercial and retail development at Stockyard Falls, in Warkworth.

Developer Neil Barr says as well as the companies who have already committed to the development – Ceratelle Marketing, Siteworks Lighting and Kindercare Learning – a further 10 clients have either signed agreements to lease or are in the process of finalising their contracts.

Neil says all going to plan, construction of the bulk retail centre, comprising 30 retail outlets, will start in October and take about 12 months to complete.

Although confidentiality agreements prevent Stockyard Falls from naming the businesses coming to town, Neil says there is an emphasis on the fresh food sector, and sporting, office, electrical and fashion goods.

“It feels like Warkworth is coming of age,” he says. “Finally, businesses and residents will have the convenience of shopping locally for basic services and products.”

The final challenge for Stockyard Falls will be securing a major anchor, who is likely to be a general merchandise store.

Neil congratulated the Caithness family on the opening of the Mitre 10 MEGA.

“They have been awesome to deal with, with good old-fashioned NZ business ethics and enthusiasm. We are also really pleased that Mitre 10 has underpinned our faith in the site. We wish them well and hope their turnover exceeds their expectations.”



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Strongman beefs up opening

New Zealand's strongest man Levi Vaoga will muscle in on the action during the grand opening of the Mitre 10 MEGA in Warkworth this month.

As the hardware chain's ambassador, Levi is well-known to television audiences. His visit to Warkworth will be an opportunity to meet the man first-hand. As well as appearances at the store on March 12 and 13, he will visit a number of locals schools to talk about his fitness, strength and endurance training.

Levi has been competing in Strongman events since 1998 and his aim is to become the World's Strongest Man. Here are a few of his vital statistics: Weight 173 kg; height 193 cm; his biceps are 57 cm, his calves 28 cm, his quads 89 cm and his chest measures 154 cms.

He typically eats up to 12 weetbix, a dozen egg whites, three steaks, tuna, a pasta meal, casserole and vegetables in a single day. The heaviest weight he has ever lifted was pushing a 750kg wheelbarrow 25 metres in 11 seconds.



Levi Vaoga will be in Warkworth this month.



MS Engineering was on a tight timeline to fabricate and erect the structural steel work for the Mitre 10 Mega store, with just seven weeks from start to finish.

Contractors' investment keeps funds circulating in community

About 100 tonnes of steel went into the building the framework for the Mitre 10 MEGA, a job undertaken by MS Engineering Ltd of Warkworth.

Company owner Hugh Harvey said it was great to see Stockyard Holdings, who built the MEGA Centre, giving work to local firms.

"It's so frustrating to see jobs like the medical centre, surgical centre and Mahurangi College hall go to

contractors outside the area when I know that local firms have the talent and ability to do the work," he says. "Not only that, they can do it cost-effectively, on budget and on time.

"Some of the large projects that have been built in the area recently have given very little work to local contractors, but these are the firms that local sports clubs, schools and charities turn to when they want support."

First quake appeal funds handed over

Just days before Christchurch was hit by its second major earthquake, Mitre 10 handed over \$150,000 to The Salvation Army to assist relief efforts for the first quake. The hardware chain ran a campaign to get the dollars rolling in from customers, owner operators, staff and suppliers. Chief executive John Hartmann said they chose to work with The Salvation Army as they already had a close relationship with many of our stores and would ensure the funds were distributed to best support the people of Canterbury. Mr Hartmann said there had been an incredible response to the appeal, with Warkworth being among the top five Mitre 10 fundraisers.

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Pam Double and Gary Etheridge both of Wellsford, labelling the shelves.



Fourteen containers of steel shelving were installed before stacking could begin.

Store expands local work opportunities

Nearly 30 Work and Income clients have secured full-time, temporary work preparing the new Mitre 10 MEGA store in Warkworth.

The Work and Income Warkworth office has worked closely with store management to help recruit for a variety of contract roles including labouring, forklift driving and shelf-stacking.

Seminars were held to explain the work opportunities offered at the new store. WINZ area manager Peter Anderson said this enabled WINZ to match clients with Mitre 10 roles to ensure they had the skills the employer required.

Warkworth Mitre 10 MEGA

managing director Cam Caithness said the seminars enabled the company to view a large number of people in a short space of time.

“I was initially unsure whether WINZ could provide the calibre of people we needed, but I was delighted to find the people put forward were terrific,” he said. “They have all been motivated and hard working, which has enabled us to get the store ready to open a week earlier than we expected.”

Mitre 10 MEGA would continue to work with Work and Income as it recruited permanent positions, such as salespeople. Mr Caithness said the store would employ about 50 full and part-time staff when it opened and this number would eventually increase to about 70.

“This is a new era for retailing in Rodney and it is really important that we employ people locally, so they can be part of the economic prosperity of the region.”



Finding a place for all the new brooms is Andrea Adam, of Pakiri.

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It was a tight squeeze, but Davco electricians completed the fit-out on time. Pictured is Ian Smart putting in one of the many lighting displays.

Electricians light up store

The installation of more than 200 display light fittings in the new store has been handled by Warkworth-based company Davco Electrical.

The installations can be illuminated so customers can see them working, and kitchen and bathroom displays have also been made interactive.

Davco owner David Morrison says his company has provided electrical installations and maintenance to the Mitre 10 Solutions store in Warkworth for several years, so was pleased to be involved with the Mega building project.

"After the initial building infrastructure works were let by the developer to an Auckland contractor, we were approached by Cam Caithness and the Warkworth Mega team to provide their electrical fit-out," David says.

"The timeframe was the biggest challenge, fitting a large workload into a short space.

"We were commissioned to provide shop and display lighting, service and office power outlets, and circuits controlled by a building management

system (to maximise efficiency and minimise operating costs)."

Davco specialises in providing commercial and industrial electrical solutions from Silverdale to Mangawhai, and has wired the majority of commercial buildings in Morrison Drive, Glenmore Drive and Hudson Road industrial estates.

"This experience placed us in a strong position to confidently complete the Mitre 10 Mega fit-out on time."

Davco has recently completed a three-storey office block in Orewa, major water and wastewater infrastructure upgrades in the Warkworth area, and a major crusher upgrade for Wharehine Quarries at Matakana. Other projects nearing completion include three-kilometres of cycleway lighting in Orewa, two quality homes in the greater Warkworth area and a commercial truck wash operation in Ruakaka.

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Scarbro Construction is proud to have been involved in the Mitre10 Mega Warkworth project as the main contractor, and congratulates Mitre10 Mega on the successful opening.