

SUPERCARS

Marketplace

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2026

POWERBASE 

WHERE LEGENDS COLLIDE IN 2026

WIN the Ultimate Rugby
League Experience

OVER **18**
PAGES OF
ARTICLES



**VALENTINES
GIFT GUIDE**

Men's & Women's
Gift Ideas

**BBQ
BEEF JERKEY**

Kezza's Burning
Ring of Fire

10-12 April 2026

2026 TAUPŌ SUPERCARS

3 OF THE
BEST
BITTER IPA'S
for the Summer

WHERE LEGENDS RETURN: **TAUPO**



ITM TAUPO SUPER 440
10 - 12 APR » TAUPŌ INTERNATIONAL MOTORSPORT PARK

The promotion runs from 1 Jan to 28 Feb 2026. Entry to this promotion is open to customers of participating Powerbase Members. Terms and conditions available at participating branches.

MARLEY® HALCYON

by aliaxis



im
TAUPO
SUPER 440
10-12 APRIL 2026

**PURCHASE \$250 + GST OF MARLEY OR
HALCYON PRODUCT ON ONE INVOICE & BE
IN TO WIN 1 OF 10 PLACES AT SUPERCARS.**



WHERE LEGENDS COLLIDE

Purchase \$500 + GST worth of GLight products on one invoice for the chance to **WIN** the Ultimate Rugby League experience in Melbourne on 17 June 2026

GLight

POWERBASE™

The promotion runs from 1 Jan to 28 Feb 2026. Entry to this promotion is open to customers of participating Powerbase Members. Terms and conditions available at participating branches.

Marketplace Magazine is published by Powerbase Limited. Powerbase is made up of six independent NZ owned and operated electrical wholesalers.

With branches nationwide, Powerbase is one of New Zealand's strongest electrical networks.

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MATES IN CONSTRUCTION

Returning to work after a well-earned break can be a challenging adjustment. The shift back into routine, deadlines, and responsibilities often feels abrupt, especially after a period of rest and recharge.

The pressure is on to deliver returns as soon as we trade the beach days and backyard barbecues for early alarms, boots and high-vis. Mentally, you might still be in holiday mode, where time felt slower and priorities shifted. Physically, the early starts and long days can take a moment to adjust to again.

We caught up with our MATES in Construction Field Officers, who offered some tips on overcoming the post-holiday blues and to help you get back into the swing of things.

Start with a check-in.

Not all of our holidays are the same, filled with good times and memories. For some of our friends, this time of year can be lonely and evoke painful emotions. Others might not have had a break at all, working through the holidays.

Take time to catch up. Find out how they spent their break. If they've been working, ask them about their time away from work.

Focus on What You Can Control

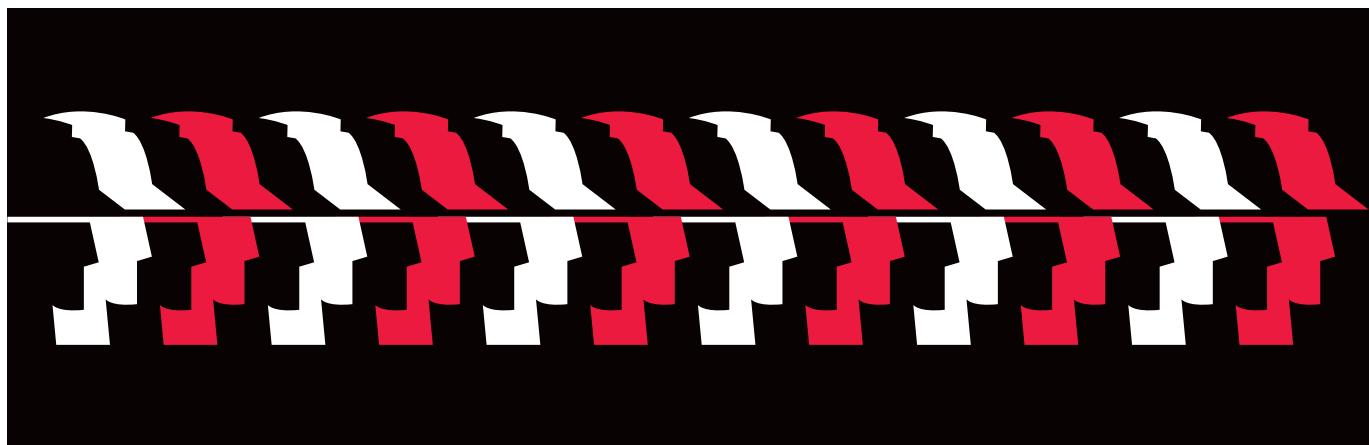
While we often want to pick up where we left off, it's not always possible. Our routines can be disrupted; it takes time to reset our priorities. Give yourself time to rebuild your routine gradually, removing the expectation of racing through your tasks.

This is your reminder to stack the small wins. It might be as simple as beginning with lighter tasks, practicing healthy eating and remaining hydrated as we get back into physical work.

Take a moment to ensure you're Ready and Safe

Things may have changed since you were last on site. Start your day by reviewing any recent communications, safety updates, or notices posted while you were away.

Take time to check your equipment, tools, and work areas. This is a great time to check in with yourself too. Ask yourself questions about your processes, communication and interactions.





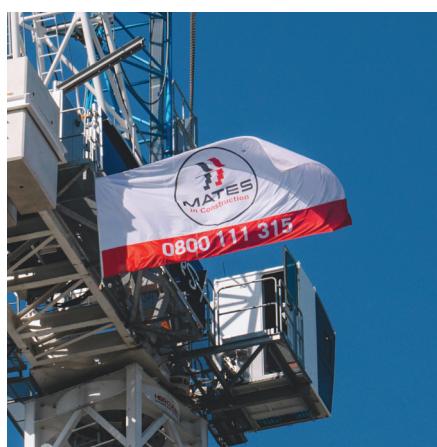
What We Heard from the MATES Well-Being Survey, Supported by ASB

In July 2025, MATES worked alongside the wider construction, manufacturing, and infrastructure industries, hearing from over 3,300 workers about their well-being at work and at home.

The 2025 survey revealed a workforce proud of what they do and deeply connected to the meaning in their work. While job satisfaction remains strong, the results also highlighted ongoing challenges to worker well-being — including exhaustion, workload, financial stress, and physical health issues.

At the same time, workers were clear on what works: mateship, meaningful work, respect, and connection. The challenge now is for us all to contribute to positive environments that ignite hope for ourselves and others.

Hope doesn't have to be a grand gesture. It can be ignited in the smallest of acts — a smile, a word of encouragement, a kind gesture, a call from a mate, a moment of learning, or the courage to ask someone how they're really doing.



what is MATES in Construction

MATES VISION

A suicide-free New Zealand Construction Industry in which workers and their families enjoy good mental health.

MATES MISION

MATES in construction, in partnership with the New Zealand Construction Industry, prevents suicide and achieves improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes of workers and their families through quality programs and education, professional support, capacity building and research.

MATES IN CONSTRUCTION NZ

MATES is a charity established in 2019 to reduce the high level of suicide among New Zealand construction workers.

The MATES in Construction (MATES) model is an evidence-based suicide awareness and prevention programme for the Construction industry. MATES leverages industry participation and support to further embed suicide prevention and mental health awareness into our industry culture. The model delivers an integrated programme of community development and support, utilising training as a tool to raise awareness, reduce stigma and encourage help-seeking, help-offering and help-accepting behaviours.

Support is provided through clear pathways including education, training and workforce capacity strengthening to build communities of mates who help mates. Our industry has its own unique culture, and MATES adopts a cross-industry approach with a standardised and consistent programme, delivered face-to-face by Field Officers to the construction industry across Aotearoa.



POWERBASE EVENTS '25



In the final months of 2025, Powerbase had the pleasure of hosting several standout events.

We began with our signature Highlands Event, proudly sponsored by Nexans. While the weather was less than ideal, Highlands delivered an exceptional experience. Guests enjoyed a superb dinner at the Stoaker Room before a full day of activities, including Go Karts, Subaru WRXs, the Radical SR3, and the undeniable highlight — fast laps in the Lamborghini Huracán with Greg Murphy at the wheel.

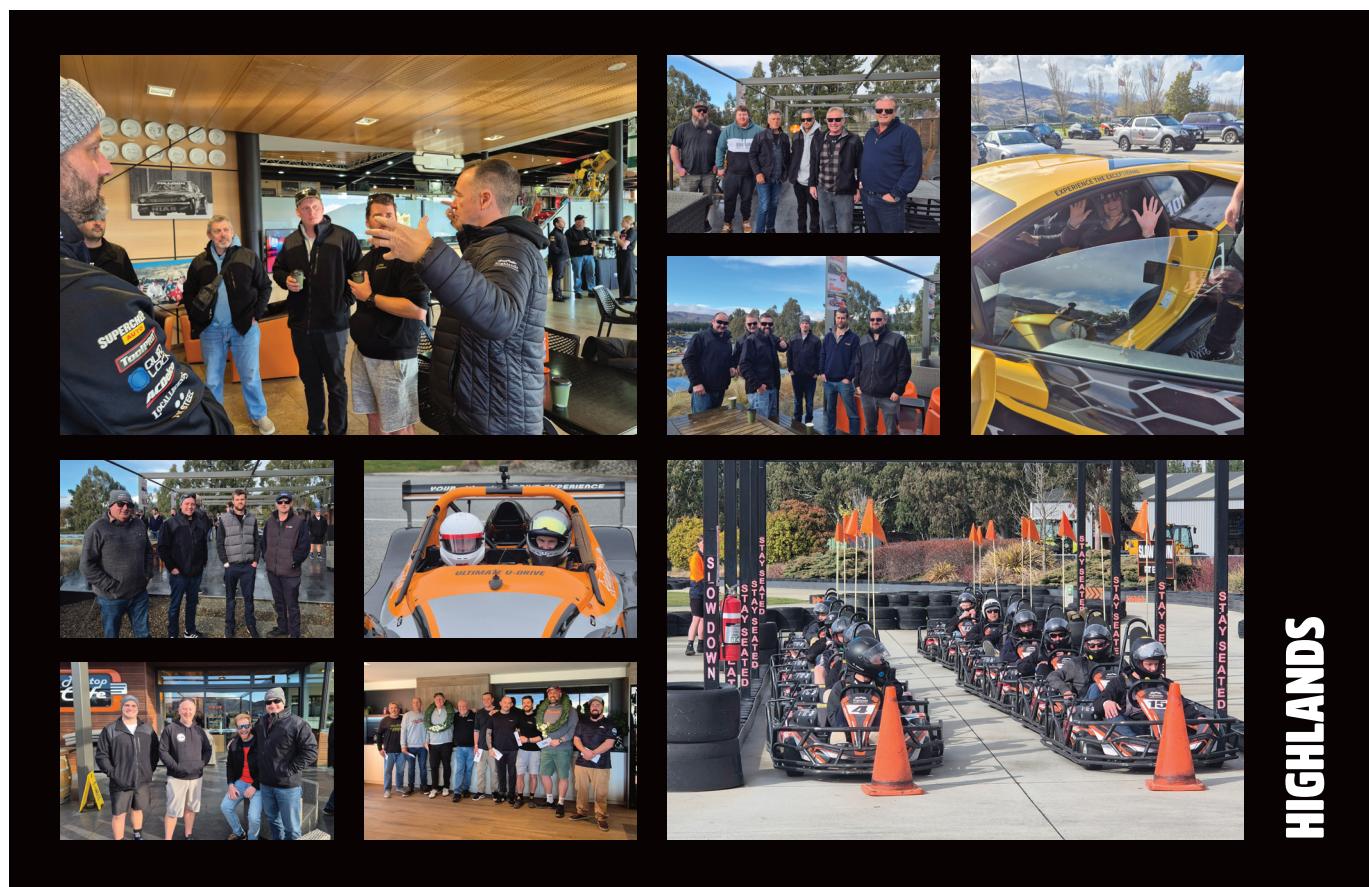
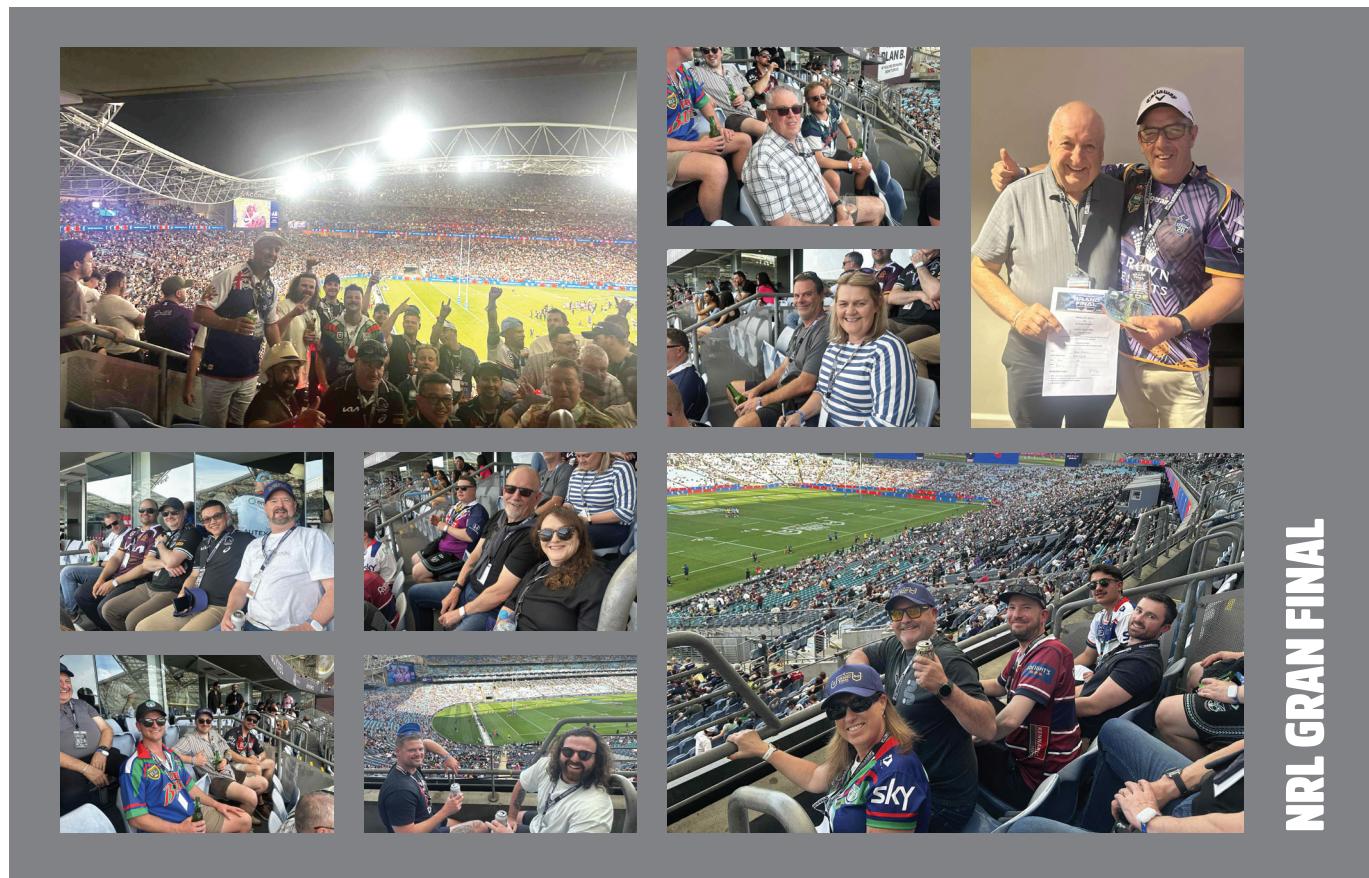
Next was the NRL Grand Final in Sydney, sponsored by Legrand and Trical. Customers enjoyed return flights and two nights at the Hilton. Powerbase hosted drinks and platters on Saturday, followed by free time on Sunday before heading to Accor Stadium to watch the big game.

We wrapped up the year with the Hayden Paddon Experience, sponsored by NHP — a first-time event for Powerbase. Hayden Paddon, New Zealand's most accomplished rally driver, took guests out in his Unimog before severe weather prevented access to planned activities at Ben Nevis Station. Despite this, guests enjoyed a tour of Hayden's personal garage and an impromptu visit to Highlands for the MX-5 Challenge and the GWD Skid Pan.

Thank you to our sponsors and everyone involved in bringing these events to life. We hope you enjoyed a relaxing Christmas break and look forward to even more exciting opportunities in 2026.



HAYDEN PADDON



DISCOVER RESI9™ CIRCUIT PROTECTION

A comprehensive residential circuit protection system engineered for reliability, speed and flawless finish.

Resi9: The Complete Solution

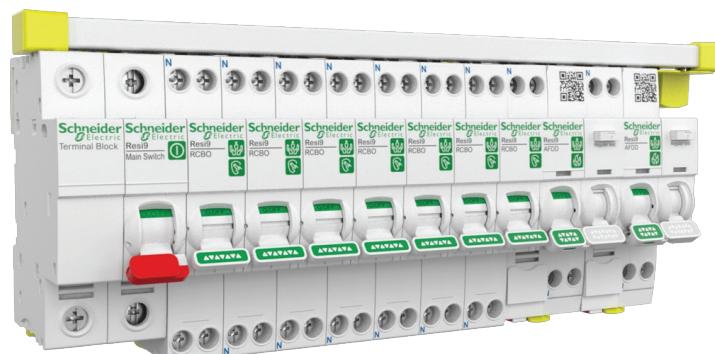
When it comes to circuit protection, Kiwi sparkies and homes deserve nothing but the best. The Resi9 range, brought to New Zealand by PDL, offers a full residential circuit protection system that give electricians the opportunity to raise the bar in installation performance, professionalism and speed.

With PDL's new meter and data board, the Resi9 range meets the present safety needs of homeowners and the fast growth of home electrification. Join the Resi9 generation of sparkies and make every residential switchboard installation your best.

MAXBAR™ One bar delivers it all

The Resi9 range brings in unparalleled installation speed with MAXBAR — the next generation of busbar.

MAXBAR helps to achieve installation speed of up to 2 times faster than using the traditional RCCB+MCB method, and using RCBOs can help to save critical space in the switchboard, and make fault finding simpler.



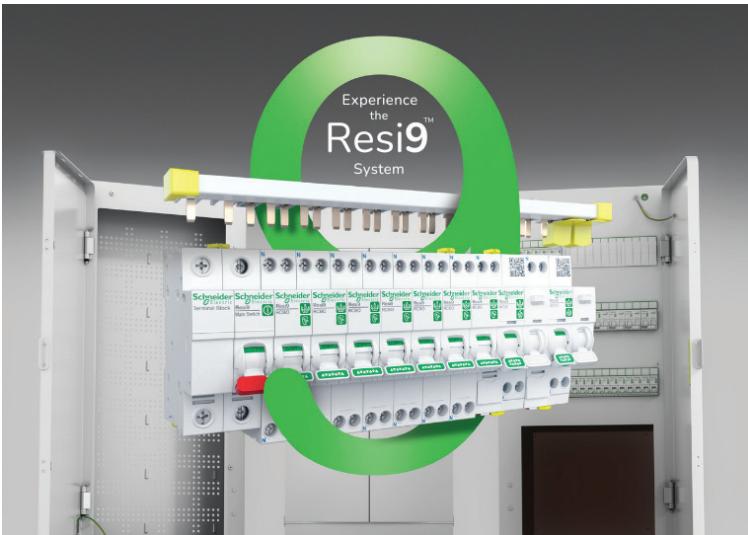
It also helps provide installation flexibility as the MAXBAR can connect the main switch directly to any type of Resi9 RCB – SLIM, 2 module and even AFDD.

Experience the art and speed of an RCBO + MAXBAR installation

MAXBAR helps achieve a perfectly clean installation inside an electrical switchboard for single phase residential installations, as no cables are needed for feeding RCBOs — giving you the ultimate finish you can be proud of every time.

Experience MAX Benefits with Resi9

- **MAX Professional:** Modern Contemporary look, RCBOs without neutral flying lead delivers a clean and professional finish
- **MAX Speed:** Up to 2X faster installation speed with RCBOs and MAXBAR
- **MAX Flexibility:** A scalable offer, easily integrate with EV chargers, solar, and smart home automation technology



- **MAX Ease:** One comprehensive range including RCBO, AFDD, SPD, MAXBAR, RCCB, MCB, main switches (1-3P), meter/data boards, enclosures, and accessories
- **MAX Performance:** Tested for harsh NZ conditions and delivering high performance with a 100A rated, 6kA system

Explore Resi9 Switchboard

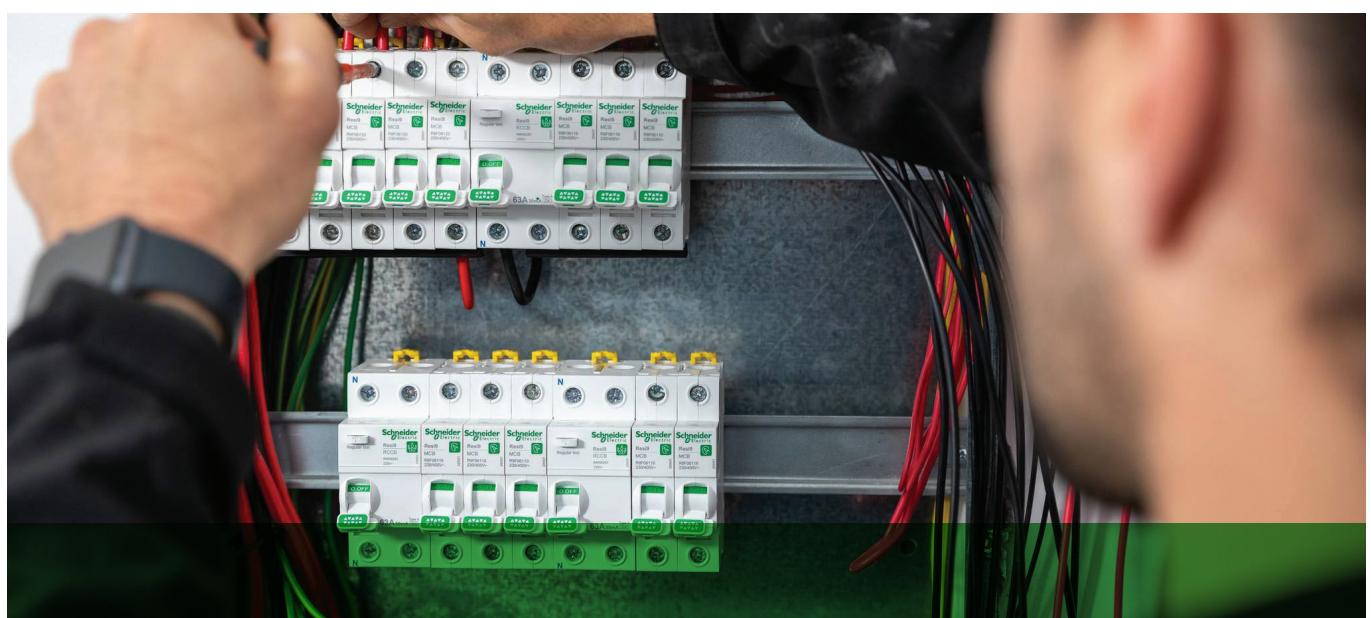
Make every electrical switchboard installation your best with Resi9's new range of meter board and data board enclosures.

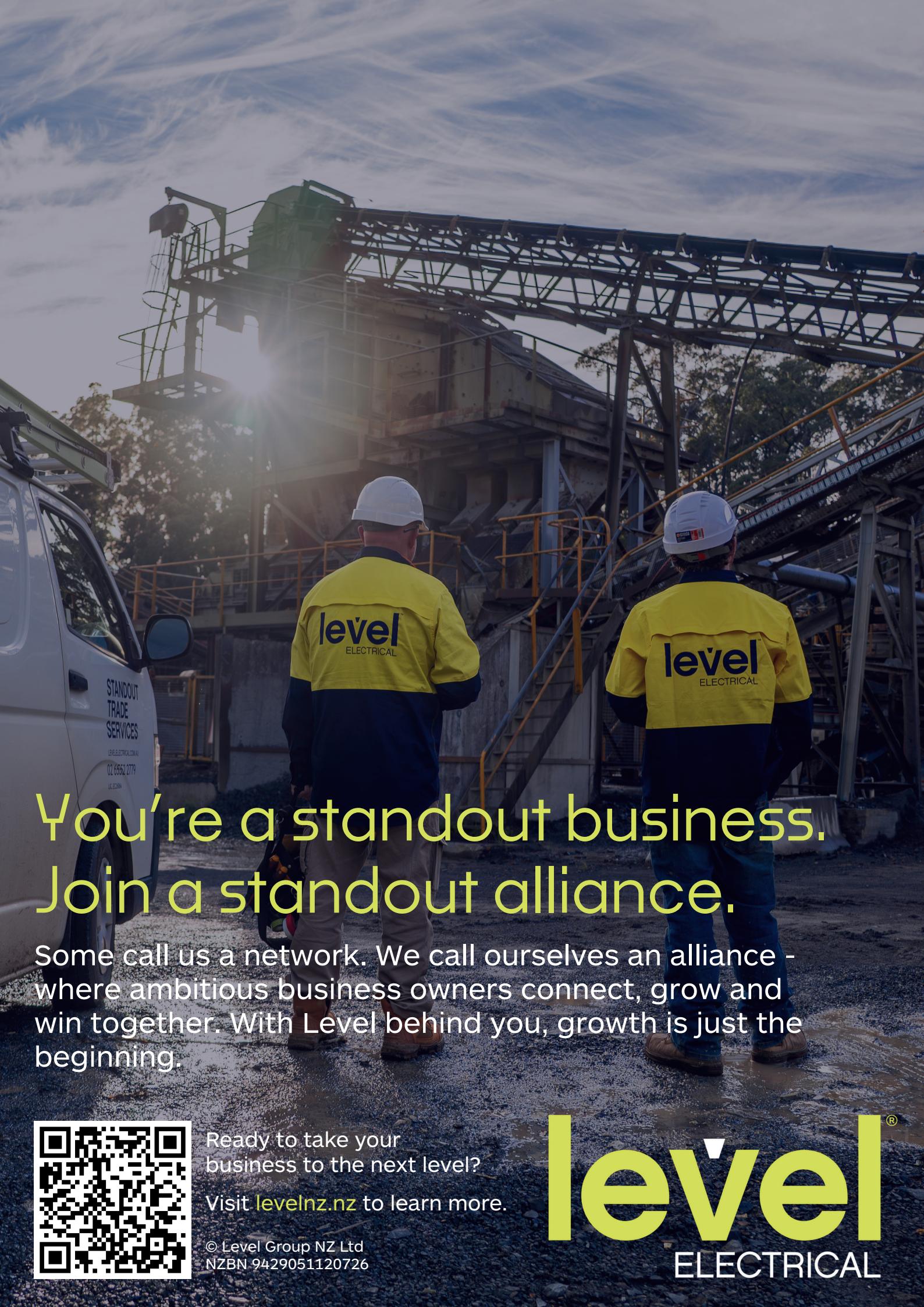
Embrace MAX Benefits

- Sleek and consistent design
- 150mm between rows, extra space for cable routing
- Reversible door, board orientation
- Adjustable neutral stud position
- 100A-Rated, 6kA system, compliant with AS/NZS 61439.3.

Resi9 Plastic Switchboards

Bring residential installations together with Resi9's range of spacious and durable Resi9 Plastic Switchboards.





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ELECTRICAL

FORD'S MUSTANG CUP

Set to Stampede Australia

Few brands can match the racing heritage of Ford Motor Company. Whether competing in single-seaters or stockcars, the famous blue oval emblem carries a rich history of innovation and success

In fact, nowadays, 'Ford Performance' the brand's high-performance arm, oversees the development of Ford racing engines and vehicles competing in series such as NASCAR, IMSA, SRO British GT, FIA World Rally Championship, Supercars Championship, Formula Drift and even F1. And then, perhaps the most famous name in Ford's racing armoury is the Mustang, a model that has enjoyed huge success in racing over the decades. That fine tradition continues in the modern era with the new Mustang Dark Horse R, offering the most demanding track enthusiasts a turn-key race car ready to compete in the all-new, single-make Mustang Cup series, sanctioned by the United States Auto Club (USAC).

The MUSTANG CUP is a groundbreaking entry-level racing platform which bridges the gap between Ford Performance Driving Experiences and the Mustang Challenge. The Mustang Cup offers a professionally organized, club-level racing environment for novice and hobby racers to develop the fundamentals of organised racing on

private USAC operated race weekends, alongside other USAC series and events.

Now Ford Performance has officially pulled the covers off its plans to bring the Mustang Cup to Australia, with the one-make series set to join the SRO SpeedSeries calendar in 2026. Forget about Bathurst, this means that a grid of identical, angry-sounding pony cars will soon be battling it out on Aussie tracks.

As stated, the star of the show is the Mustang Dark Horse R, a purpose-built weapon designed for the track, a turnkey racer engineered by Ford Performance for competition straight out of the box. Australian fans

have already had a taste of what the Dark Horse R can do, after young Aussie driver Cameron McLeod piloted one to an impressive double victory in the Mustang Challenge support races at the 24 Hours of Le Mans. It was a performance that undoubtedly showed the world the car's potential and likely sealed the deal for this Australian expansion.



The series promises a level playing field, a hallmark of one-make racing where driver skill, not budget, is the ultimate differentiator. Officially sanctioned by Motorsport Australia, the championship will run over six rounds, enjoying the strong promotional platform and free-to-air television coverage that comes with being part of the SRO SpeedSeries.

Behind the scenes, Ford has enlisted the experienced team at Driving Solutions to manage and promote the category, with respected motorsport administrator Liam Curkpatrick appointed as the Category Manager. James Stewart, Director of Driving Solutions, said the goal is to build a professional, competitive, and accessible series for everyone from young guns honing their skills to experienced drivers wanting to race a high-performance, relevant machine.

For Ford Australia's President, Andrew Birkic, "it's a natural and incredibly exciting fit for our market," adding another chapter to the Mustang's storied racing history down under. While technical regulations and entry details are still to be finalised, the message is clear, a new proving ground for Australian racing talent is on its way, and it's going to be loud.



BOXY

BATTEN

50W (BOXY1500-50-8456)

40W (BOXY1200-40-8456)

EVOLVE
LIGHTING



5 YEAR
WARRANTY



140LM/W



CCT
Selectable
4000K/5000K/6000K



Up to
7,000LM
OUTPUT



EASY LOCK
SYSTEM



50,000 hrs
LIFETIME



FLICKER
FREE

SELECT

PANEL

50W (SELECT1260-50-8345)

30W (SELECT1230-30-8345)

30W (SELECT6060-30-8345)



120LM/W



>72,000 hrs
LIFETIME



IC-F RATED



WATTAGE
SELECTABLE



UGR <19



CCT
Selectable
3000K/4000K/5000K



5 YEAR
WARRANTY



NO 8 WIRED

Former Manu Samoa No 10 and freelance rugby scribe Campbell Burnes argues that the depth at No 8 in New Zealand rugby is now greater than ever.

Not so long ago, upon the retirement of Kieran Read it may have been, there was little depth at No 8 in New Zealand rugby.

That was part of the reason why Ardie Savea slotted in there. He did an impressive job, but there was always this nagging feeling that openside flanker was his best position, where he operates now for the All Blacks.

But now we have enviable depth at No 8, and we are not talking about just All Blacks quality depth. Take the No 8s on show during the 2025 NPC, for example. Just about every team seemed to have a powerful, ball-carrying, ball-winning dynamo at the back of the scrum.

Dom Gardiner of Canterbury is a big slab of a man, perhaps best suited to lock or No 8, but he subbed in for the injured Cullen Grace and did the job for his team in an ideal fit.

Christian Lio-Willie, prematurely jettisoned by the All Blacks after July, was consistency personified for a gutsy, committed Otago team.

Nikora Broughton of Bay of Plenty was a strong carrier and ball-winner who should again be good for the Highlanders this season.

Devan Flanders does his best work in Super Rugby at No 6, but he was superb for Hawke's Bay, probably the pick of all the No 8s in the NPC with his X-factor and hard-nosed rugby.

Fletcher Anderson of Tasman has flown the coop to Scarlets, but he was tremendous value for the Tasman Mako, probably their most consistent forward with his relentless work-rate and hard carries.

Hoskins Sotutu of Counties Manukau may be down the All Blacks pecking order now, but he still turns it on for the Steelers with his unique skills and lineout prowess. Dalton Papali'i subbed in to good effect later in the NPC when Sotutu underwent surgery.

Taranaki's industrious Kaylum Boshier was the Bulls' player of the year and is always a standout at this level.

Northland's Terrell Peita is best known as a blindside/lock, but he had a marvellous season for the Taniwha at No 8 after Simon Parker had been promoted to the All Blacks.

Backing up his Super Rugby heroics with Moana Pasifika, Semisi Tupou Ta'eiloa was again hard to contain for the Southland Stags.

Brayden Iose was a part of a strong loose trio at the Manawatu Turbos, and was always dangerous with his ability on the break and his sheer speed.

Jed Melvin was player of the year and scooped several of his North Harbour union's awards, operating between No 8 and No 7, for the cellar dweller of the NPC.

Dominic Ropeti played in several positions for the yoyo Wellington Lions, but always added value and impact, especially at the back of the scrum.

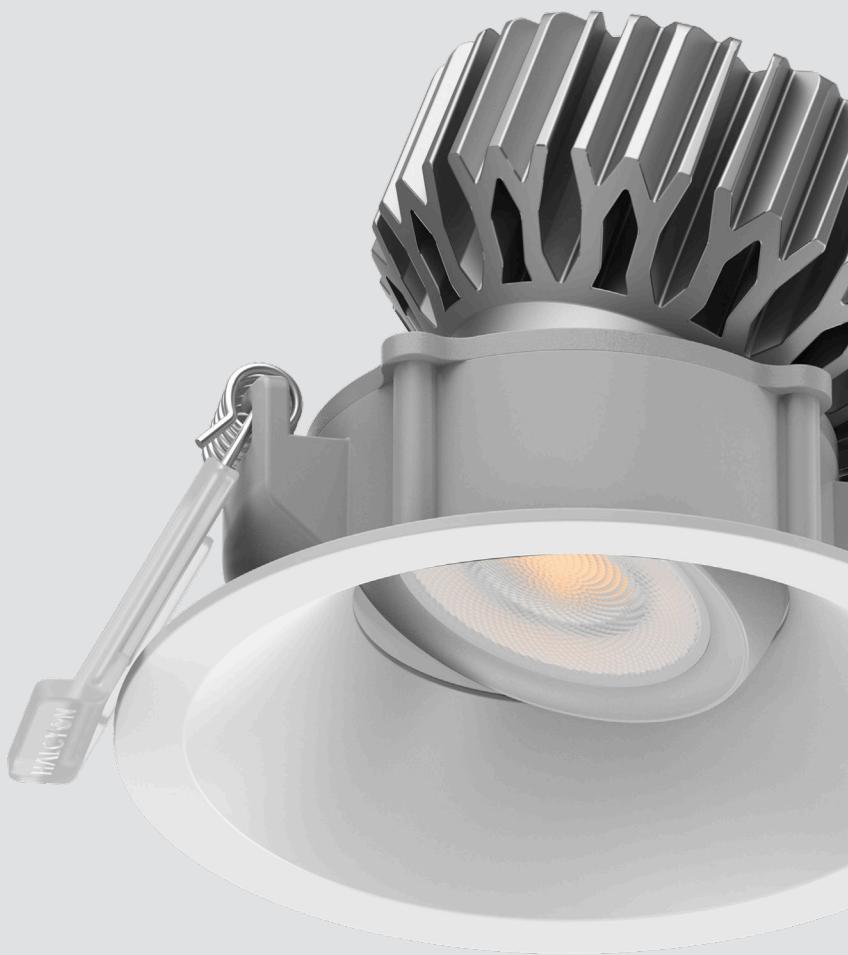
Combine that lot of prime performers at No 8 with All Blacks like Savea, Parker, Wallace Sitihi and Peter Lakai, and you can see that there are now options galore. Some of them will stand out in Super Rugby, but the cupboard is no longer bare, and that will warm the cockles of Jason Ryan's heart, let alone that of Scott Robertson.

Ocular

Designed for detail obsessed architectural homes, the Ocular Series brings refined control and flawless performance to elevate any space.

Understated in design and exceptional in performance. Ocular series is configured with 3 selectable outputs ranging from 7.2W/660lm to 11W/1100lm, featuring dual colour temperature and smooth flicker-free dimming.

Choose the R100 Standard for general illumination with 20° of tilt and 360° of gimbal function. Or opt for the R102 Offset, engineered with an additional 25° asymmetrical offset for artwork, wall washing and deep pitched ceilings up to 45°.



Ø92MM CUT OUT

SELECTABLE 7.2W, 9.2W OR 11W

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SELECTABLE 3000K / 4000K

CRI90 (R9<72)

60° OR 36° BEAM

20° TILT

360° ROTATE

60,000HRS (L80 B30) LIFESPAN

SDCM 3

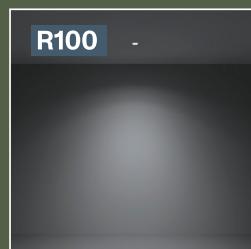
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Deep and wide reflectors with bespoke lens design makes for a smooth and forgiving light distribution to suit many different applications.



R100

D108 X H86MM
STANDARD

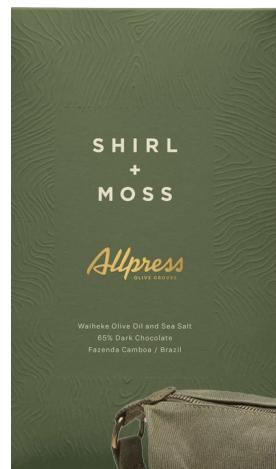


R102

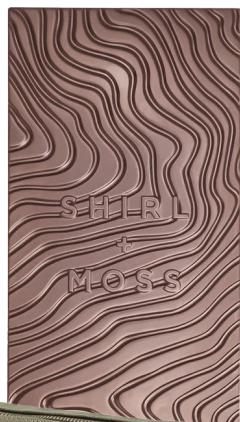
D106 X H99MM
OFFSET 25°



1



2



3



4



5

Men's VALENTINE'S GIFTS



7



8



6



9



10



11

1. Archies Arch Support Jandals 2. Shirl and Moss Allpress Olive Oil Waiheke 3. UNISON Hamish Wash Bag 4. Treinery Racing Green Golf Crew Sock 5. Rodd & Gunn Turua Belt 6. Ralph Lauren Polo Herringbone Ball Cap 7. Assembly Label Seth Swim Shorts Hollow 8. Calvin Klein Eternity For Men Cologne 9. Armani Exchange Chronograph Watch 10. Sennheiser MOMENTUM Sport True In-Ear Headphones 11. Oakley Instagator Matte Olive Ink

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We cut through the complications, we save you time and stress. With expert planning, seamless logistics, and years of experience, we ensure your holiday is filled with great memories — and a safe journey home.

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- Bask Eyewear Sol Polarised
- Ecoya Citronella & Lemongrass Candle
- Glow Recipe Cloudberry Bright Moisturiser
- Whistle & Pop Heritage 12 Gauge Necklace
- Whittakers Chocolate Gisborne Orange & Hazelnut
- Bellroy Classic Sling Bag
- Chanel N°5 by Chanel
- Onitsuka Tiger Mexico 66
- Sol De Janeiro Body Essentials



TITIAN



Choose a colour to fit in your design



White



Black



Brushed Varnish



Gold



Light Bronze



Dark Bronze



Dark Gun Metal



Copper

A172/A182



A172



A182

FITTING COLOUR:

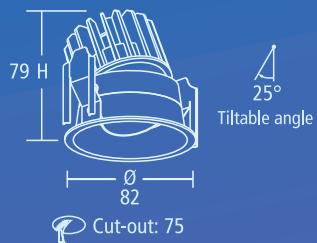


- Die-cast aluminium housing
- Powder coated finish
- Ultra modern deep recessed aluminium reflector
- Sophisticated anti-glare design
- AcTEC triac dim LED driver (not coverable)
- Citizen 1202 LED chips
- Colour matching 2 MacAdam steps
- LED lifespan: 50000 hours @ L80 B20, Ta 25°C
- Ta: -20°C to +50°C

DIMENSIONS



A172



A182

Unit: mm

A171/A181



A171



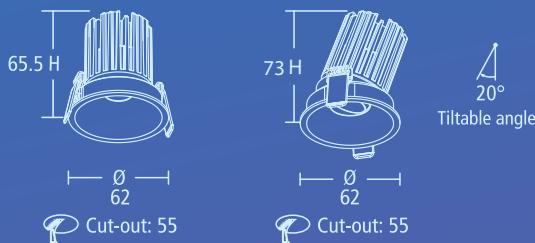
A181

FITTING COLOUR:



- Die-cast aluminium housing
- Powder coated finish
- Ultra modern deep recessed aluminium reflector
- Sophisticated anti-glare design
- AcTEC triac dim LED driver (not coverable)
- Citizen 1002 LED chips
- Colour matching 2 MacAdam steps
- LED lifespan: 50000 hours @ L80 B20, Ta 25°C
- Ta: -20°C to +50°C

DIMENSIONS



A171



A181

Unit: mm

Available at your local Powerbase Branch

Aqua Life

SLEEK & ROBUST

IP53 Weatherproof Single Power Point with USB A + C

WL787USBLG



WL787USBCG



USB A+C with a weatherproof flap



Legrand **Aqua Life** Power Points are purpose-built for the Kiwi outdoors.

They feature a robust, hardwearing exterior and provide generous internal wiring space, along with 25mm **conduit entries**.

This makes **Aqua Life** the most versatile and reliable solution for outdoor power access across residential and commercial applications.

#LegrandImprovingLives



IP54 Double Power Point

10A, IP54, surface mounted with conduit entries



WL777/54CG

IP53 Double Power Point

10A, IP53, surface mounted with conduit entries



WL777CG



WLC787LG

IP53 Single Compact Power Point

10A, IP53, compact surface mounted with conduit entries

WLC787CG

legrand

BERNZOMATIC.



GAST-TS4000TK

BernzOmatic TS4000TK Gas Torch and MAP Cylinder Kit



GASC-MG9

BernzOmatic MG9 Gas Cylinder MAP-Pro 400g



GAST-TS8000TK

BernzOmatic TS8000TK Gas Torch and MAP Cylinder Kit



GASC-TX9

BernzOmatic TX9 Gas Cylinder Propane 400g

felo



SCR-S413S5ES

Felo 413 Series Ergonic E-slim Screwdriver Set 5pc Insulated Hardened Tip



SCR-S413S6HD

Felo 413 Series Ergonic Screwdriver Set 6pc Insulated

HOBEC

Available at your local Powerbase branch



Cucina Duo Kitchen Wall Fan

- Low speed, long term trickle ventilation option
- Alternative laundry fascia and fine filter also available (ordered separately)

Kitchen Fan: 60W, 236 PA, 73 l/s, 263 m³/hr, 0.82 W/l/s, 52 dB(A)
 Laundry Fan: 41W, 140 PA, 39 l/s, 140 m³/hr, 1.05 W/l/s, 38 dB(A)

FAN7201
 White

EC CONTOUR



Continuous Extraction with Remote Boost

- One of our most powerful centrifugal ceiling fans. Ideal for efficient moisture removal
- Quiet continuous operation
- RF wireless wall controller and mounting bracket included for 3 speed control
- Compatible with interchangeable fascias

FAN7037 24W, 116 Pa, 55 l/s, 200 m³/hr, 0.12 W/l/s, 37 dB(A)

FAN7038 80W, 323 Pa, 121 l/s, 434 m³/hr, 0.08 W/l/s, 44 dB(A)

FAN7037
 125mm
 Bathroom Fan

FAN7038
 150mm
 High Steam Fan

150mm Inline EC Axial Hyper150 with Variable Speed Controller



Three switching / wiring options available including continuous slow extraction with manual boost.

18W, 91 Pa, 105 l/s, 380 m³/hr, 0.17 W/l/s, 38 dB(A)

FAN7000

Thin Dry Hand Dryer

This 100mm shallow model designed for behind mirror applications, or in areas where space is at a premium. An internal UV-C chamber sterilizes the air before contact is made with hands.

- 600W fan input
- 400W heater input switchable
- 10-15 sec fast dry time

FAN7418
 White

FAN7419
 Black

FAN7420
 Brushed



Tempesta Hand Dryer

Delivering optimum hygiene with a UV-C sterilisation chamber, HEPA filter, plus particulate filter. Intelligent auto heat cut off when air ambient exceeds 25 °C.

1250W fan input, 400W heater input, 10-15 sec dry time,
 Adjustable 50 dB(A) min - 65 dB(A) max

FAN7423
 White

ventairtm

Edge DC PREMIUM WALL FAN



EDGEDC150

150mm DC Through-Wall
 Continuous Extraction Fan with
 Manually Switched Boost

2W, 25 l/s, 24 dB(A) Continuous
 14W, 64 l/s, 40 dB(A) Standard



EDGEDC100

100mm DC Through-Wall
 Continuous Extraction Fan with
 Manually Switched Boost

2W, 14 l/s, 30 dB(A) Continuous
 7W, 24 l/s, 38 dB(A) Standard

- Energy efficient DC motor for quiet operation
- Maintains fresh and healthy air circulation

Selectable modes:

1. 24/7 continuous trickle ventilation
2. 10 minute run on timer
3. Standard on/off operation

Heatforce DC Boost Heat Fan Light



HEA4W-B

150mm Heatforce DC Boost Heat-Fan-Light System (4 Lamps)

2.5W, 32 l/s, 28 dB(A) Continuous
 50W, 121 l/s, 47 dB(A) Standard
 4 x 275 Watt Heat Globes



HEA2W-B

150mm Heatforce DC Boost Heat-Fan-Light System (2 Lamps)

2.5W, 32 l/s, 28 dB(A) Continuous
 50W, 121 l/s, 47 dB(A) Standard
 2 x 275 Watt Heat Globes



- Energy-efficient brushless DC motor
- Thermal safety switch
- Modern low-profile fascia with recessed heat lamps and Tri-colour LED

Selectable modes:

1. 24/7 continuous trickle ventilation
2. 10 minute run on timer
3. Standard on/off operation



Ruapehu Up/Down Light

2 x 6W

- LED colour: 3000K - 950 lm
- 38° Beam spread
- Powder-coated cast alloy - tempered glass
- IP65

LHT1131 Anthracite
LHT1177 Black



Tutoko Up/Down Light

2 x 6W

- LED colour: 3000K - 950 lm
- 38° Beam spread
- Powder-coated cast alloy - tempered glass
- IP65

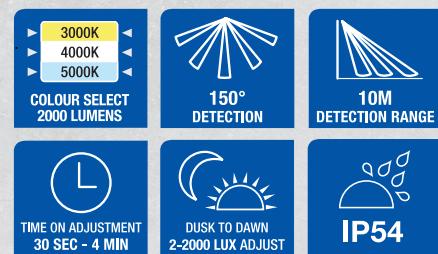
LHT1146 Anthracite
LHT1180 Black



LHT1054 Black
LHT1055 White

Ecospot Select Security Spotlight

- Select your LED colour temperature to suit
- Innovative reflector restricts backlight spill
- Mount to wall or ceiling
- Built for coastal conditions



LHT0179 White

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Ford Sierra RS500 Cosworth Review: BEHOLD THE MIGHTY COSSIE!



When Ford replaced the much-loved Cortina with the jellybean-esque looking Sierra in 1982, fans of the blue oval weren't exactly taken in by the replacement for the much-loved Cortina. So, Ford being Ford, knew they had to do to the Sierra, just what the likes of Lotus had done to the Cortina. Make the Sierra hot.

Rather than go to Lotus, Stuart Turner, Head of Ford Motorsport Europe, went knocking on the door of legendary engineering firm Cosworth. The company, founded by engineers Mike Costin and Keith Duckworth, had originally shot to fame with Ford, designing probably the greatest Formula One engine of all time, the Ford Cosworth DFV V8.

Cosworth took the Sierra's standard four cylinder, added a hot twin cam cylinder head, a gargantuan Garrett turbocharger, a bigger front intake, new intercooler, a limited slip diff, and a Borg Warner T5 five speed gearbox. They also spruced up the three door Sierra bodywork by giving it new alloys and the spoiler to end all spoilers.

The latter of these upgrades came as a result of the standard Sierra being quite aerodynamically unstable at high speed.

Body designer Lothar Pinske campaigned for the addition of a large rear wing which eventually got the go from Ford management after significant high-speed testing at the Nardo oval test track in Italy.

In 1985, the Ford Sierra RS Cosworth was launched at the Geneva Motorshow, with production starting the following year. With 206hp on tap, the Sierra RS Cosworth, more affectionately known as the "Cossie," made the Sierra very cool.

Here was a car which had the power and go of some of the most aristocratic brands in the car world, but with a price within reach of the man in the street. Pretty soon Barrington in his Porsche was playing second fiddle on the motorway to Bazza in his Cossie.

Overtaking was something the Sierra RS Cosworth was dead handy at, especially when you showed it a bit of track. Stuart

Turner had intended the Cosworth to lead Ford's charge in Group A Touring Car Racing. So, they added a bigger turbo, which in race spec boosted the power to 500hp, and tweaked the bodywork to make it as slippery as possible.

The Cosworth then preceded to sweep all before it, winning countless World Touring Car and Rally events. Closer to home, the Cossie also won back-to-back Australian Touring Car titles and winning Bathurst twice outright in 1988 and 1989. Drivers like Tony Longhurst, John Bowe and Dick Johnson just carved everyone else up.

While providing motorists with an inexpensive way of going flat out on a Sunday afternoon, the Sierra Cosworth also gained a reputation of a different sort. It was the Holy Grail for UK car thieves during the late eighties and early nineties. Thefts of Cossies got so bad that Ford themselves were even offering considerable discounts off the sticker price to attract buyers, as everyone became terrified their car would be nicked.

Ford built a snip over 5000 Cosworths from 1986 until 1992, but 500 of them were sent to Aston Martin Tickford for some extra go-faster goodness. The car you see here is one of those 500.

Called the Sierra RS500 Cosworth, it was an evolution of the regular car aimed at customers who wanted to get the closest possible experience of going racing while still remaining road legal. Tickford fitted



a bigger Garrett T31 turbo, upgraded the fuel pump and cooling system, fitted a larger intercooler and tweaked the spoiler and front mounted intake.

All this resulted in a boost in grunt to 226hp and 277Nm of torque. The car only weighed a snip over 1200kg, so a well driven RS500 could see the far side of 250km/h flat out and reach the national New Zealand open road speed limit from a standstill in six seconds. That is pretty brisk in anyone's language.

Today even seeing an RS500 is special enough, but when you are given the chance to drive one, you don't pass it up. This example, number 244 of 500, is quite possibly one of the best, if not the best, Sierra RS500 in New Zealand. Sold new in the UK, it has all the original sales brochures and ownership history. It has also only done 29,000 miles from new, and boy does it show.

Hop inside, and prepare yourself for an overload of the eighties. White on black analogue instruments are recessed behind a traditional sport three spoke steering wheel. Said wheel also feels so good in your mitts, a tell-tale sign of the RS500's sporting intentions. The lever for the five-speed box is within easy reach. Yet another sign the 'Cossie' is about giving you the means to cover as much ground as humanly possible.

The Recaro bucket seats are also some of the most hip-hugging I have ever

experienced in a car of this era. It took me a while to find the optimum driving position, but once there, the RS500 wrapped itself around me. A quick gaze around the cabin reveals a showroom cockpit, even down to the cassette player. My only regret at the time was I didn't bring my copy of *Face Value* by Phil Collins on tape as it would have been more than ideal.

Though maybe it was better I hadn't, because the best soundtrack comes after turning the ignition key. Once you do this, your immediate surroundings are engulfed by that epic turbocharged 2.0L Cosworth four pot. That gargantuan Garrett turbo accompanies every blip of the throttle with the sweet sound of induction and turbine whoosh. Honestly, I was giggling at length and I hadn't even driven forward yet.

First gear selected, clutch out, and we are away. First impressions, once I stopped chortling, was how analogue everything felt. Sure, there are fripperies like air con and electric windows, but apart from that, you get a real back to basics vibe in here. That is probably just as well, as the moment you get on the open road, the unbridled desire to light up that huge turbo and give it hell becomes all too real.

Second gear, foot flat, and nothing really happens. The revs start to climb, 3,000rpm, then 3,500rpm. By now we are starting to make progress. The revs keep climbing. Up to 4,000rpm, then 4,500rpm, then 5,000rpm. The moment we hit 5,000, the Cossie shot forward like a Greyhound

on caffeine. Wow, where on earth did that come from? I was expecting the RS500 to be quick, but not that fast.

All of sudden we were past 7,000rpm and up to the redline, third gear was selected and the process started all over again. If you keep the revs high and the chronic turbo lag to a minimum, the RS500 truly is a fast car.

You can also keep that power on in the corners, thanks to the Cossies limited slip diff and well sorted chassis. The steering is so direct, almost telepathically so. Just feed in the merest suggestion that you are changing direction, and you are round the bend.

Once you get into a rhythm, it isn't long before you are braking later, turning in harder, and getting on the power sooner. The Cossie really does bring out the boy racer in you.

In its day, the Ford Sierra RS500 Cosworth was just that, completely out of the ordinary. Today, it defines the term "cult following." Prices for this incredible blue-collar giant killing hot Ford have been well into six figures for a number of years and are showing no signs of slowing down.

Prior to my afternoon with the RS500, I always championed other cars of the era like the Audi Quattro and BMW E30 M3. Needless to say, things are now very different. The Ford Sierra Cosworth RS500 is nothing short of incredible.

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THE BITTER END



There was once a time when bitterness was synonymous with beer. So much so that traditional English ale was called just that, 'bitter'. But as lager revolutionised both the mechanics of brewing and the global taste for beer smooth drinking became the byline for beer, and it quickly drifted away from its bitter roots.

That might have been the end of it right there, if not for the advent of the American West Coast craft brewing scene and its readoption (and consequent reinvention) of IPA. Suddenly, bitterness wasn't just back, it was being harnessed at completely unprecedented levels.

Bitterness in beer is measured in International Bitterness Units (IBU). Though they will be intrinsically linked, an IBU isn't a qualitative indicator of perceived bitterness, but a quantitative measure of the concentration of iso-alpha acids (the bitter tasting ones) derived from hops. As a point of comparison, New Zealand brewed Steinlager, regarded as a firmly bitter lager internationally, has an IBU of around twenty. These new West Coast IPAs were rapidly approaching levels exceeding one hundred...

Our early craft brewers and drinkers jumped on the trend, and the IBU chase was on in New Zealand. Examining the output of just a single producer - Epic - their iconic Pale Ale carried an IBU of

thirty when it released in 2005, which was then doubled by Armageddon IPA just three years later. Epic's bitterness wave approached its height in 2014 with a special release named 'Lupulingus' which broke the triple digits at a hundred and one IBUs...

As popular as IPA had become, it was (like all good things) not for everyone, and as the craft beer industry's margins narrowed, brewers needed something to tempt the vast number of drinkers who had remained in lager's shadow rather than stepping into the tumult of IPA. The answer was hazy, a new style that could present all the fashionable new fruity hop flavours, without the palate-checking bitterness as a barrier.

To the dismay of IBU aficionados like myself, the hazy gambit worked all too well. The crown of IPA fell in a mere couple of years as the popularity of hazy beer exploded across the industry. But one can't fault producers from steering towards what sells, and the reality was that hazy

beer was bringing in new drinkers and actively expanding the market. However, for better or worse, once the dust settled truly bitter beers were (and remain) an endangered species.

Even as the popularity of hazy beer now wanes, the new generation of 'Bright' IPAs that are popping up to fill the gap are a shadow of their past glory. The roar of bitter beer has once again fallen quiet.

But if you, like myself, still crave something to test your palate, there are a few core-range offerings that still fly the IBU flag.

PARROT DOG: 'Bitter Bitch' IPA 5.8%abv [70 IBU]

GARAGE PROJECT: 'Pernicious Weed' DIPA 8.5%abv [80 IBU]

LIBERTY: 'Citra' DIPA 9.0%abv [99 IBU]

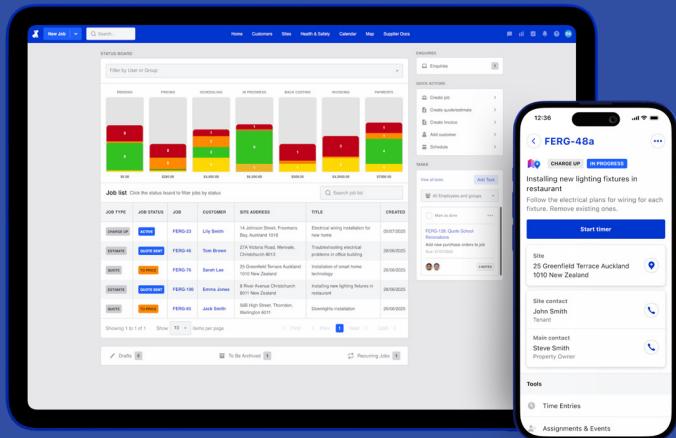
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THE PUTTING GATE DRILL:

Master Your Start Line

How many putts miss because the ball wobbles off-line immediately? The issue is rarely your read—it's a putter face that isn't square at impact.

Even with a perfect setup, subtle strokes can leave the face slightly open or closed, dooming the putt from the start.

The solution is a simple drill that provides instant feedback. You only need a chalk line, four tees, and a completely flat putting surface.

Step 1: Build Your “Truth-Telling” Gate

1. Find a Flat Spot: identify a perfectly flat part of the practice green where you can identify a four-foot dead straight putt.
2. Snap the Line: Create your definitive “True North” by snapping a straight chalk line from the centre of the hole four feet back on that straight line putt.
3. Build the Ball Gate: Approximately 18 inches down the line, place two tees on either side of the chalk line. The precision is critical: the gap must be just wider than a golf ball, allowing only about 3mm of clearance on each side. This tiny margin is what makes the drill so effective. (Photo 1)

Step 2: Add the Putter Gate & Execute

1. Place the Ball: Set a ball on the chalk line, only 18 inches back from the ball gate you just built.
2. Build the Putter Gate: Place two more tees just outside your putter head, creating a gate for your club. This ensures your stroke path is straight back and through. (Photo 2)
3. Execute the Putt: Your only goal is to make a smooth pendulum stroke and send the ball through the gate without a sound. Focus on the feeling of the putter face moving squarely along the line.

Step 3: Learn from the Instant Feedback

- **SUCCESS:** A clean, silent pass through the gate means a perfectly square face at impact. (Photo 3)
- **FAILURE:** The dreaded “click” of the ball hitting a tee is a clear diagnosis:
Click the Left Tee = Closed Putter Face. (Photo 4)
Click the Right Tee = Open Putter Face. (Photo 5)

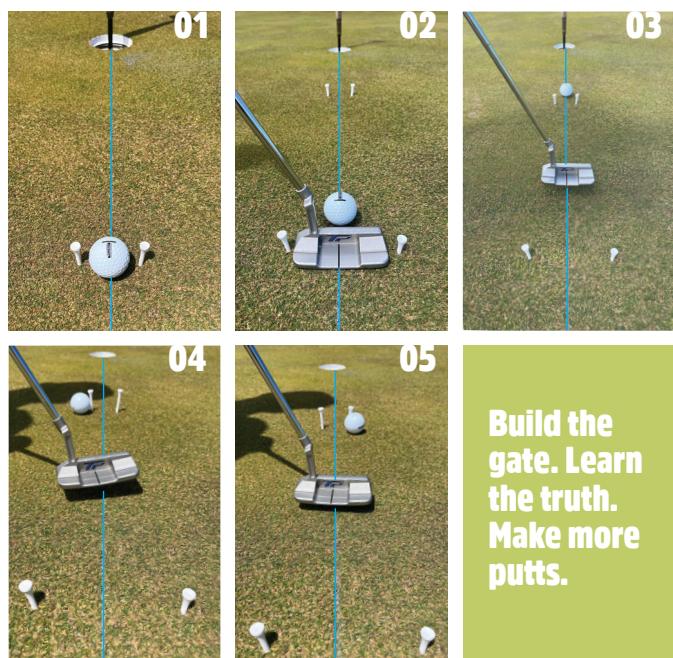
Step 4: Measure Your Progress

Start with ten putts. It's a humbling experience—initially, achieving four or five successful putts is common and reveals hidden inconsistencies.

Your goal is to build consistency. Aim to successfully make 7 or 8 out of 10 putts before you finish your practice.

Conclusion: Calibrate for the Course

This drill is the most direct system for improving your start line. A few minutes of practice before a round calibrates your stroke and builds confidence. You will step onto the first green trusting your ability to start the ball on your chosen line.



BEATING THE BACK TO WORK BLUES: Tips for a Positive Return to Work



Tips provided Working Wise - a Health Safety and Wellbeing [HSW] consultancy that power NZ's most trusted online health, safety and wellbeing system, GOSH.

workingwise

ENGAGING YOU IN HEALTH + SAFETY + WELLBEING



Returning to work after a break can feel overwhelming, with the shift from relaxation to routine often bringing on the “back-to-work blues.” Whether it’s the stress of catching up on emails, adjusting to early mornings, or finding motivation again, it’s a challenge many of us face.

Here are our top tips to help you beat the back-to-work blues and transition smoothly into your work routine:

Ease Back In

A gentle transition can make all the difference.

- If possible, start mid-week to ease into your workload with a shorter week.
- Consider taking a day off during your first week to give yourself time to adjust.

Get Organised

A little preparation can help reduce stress.

- Plan your outfit, meals, and work necessities the night before your return.
- Create a simple to-do list for your first day to keep things manageable.

Manage Your Inbox Gradually

Facing a mountain of emails? Take it step by step.

- Prioritise emails that need urgent attention and tackle the rest in small chunks.
- Set aside specific times during your day to manage emails, rather than addressing them all at once.

Plan Your Next Break

Having something to look forward to can boost your morale.

- Start thinking about your next holiday, even if it’s just a weekend away.
- Planning gives you a positive focus and helps maintain work-life balance.

Make the Most of Longer Evenings

Keep the holiday spirit alive by enjoying the summer evenings.

- Spend time outdoors with family or friends.
- Explore local beaches, parks, or outdoor activities after work.

Incorporate the 5 Ways to Wellbeing

Boost your mental health by practising these five steps:

- **Give:** Offer your time or kindness to others.
- **Connect:** Strengthen relationships with friends, family, or colleagues.
- **Take Notice:** Be present and appreciate the little things in life.
- **Keep Learning:** Try something new to challenge yourself.
- **Be Active:** Exercise regularly to improve mood and energy levels.

Prioritise Your Health

Good health is the foundation for staying motivated.

- Resume balanced eating habits, incorporating fresh fruit and vegetables.

- Stay hydrated and aim for regular physical activity to boost your energy.

Schedule Downtime

You can still enjoy moments of relaxation, even during the workweek.

- Dedicate time to hobbies or activities you love.
- Practise mindfulness or meditation to stay grounded.

Take Your Breaks

Short breaks during your workday can help you recharge.

- Step outside for fresh air, even if it’s just a walk around the block.
- Use lunch breaks to disconnect from work and reset.

Seek Support If Needed

If you’re struggling to adjust or feeling low for more than two weeks, don’t hesitate to seek help.

- Talk to a trusted friend, family member, or colleague.
- Reach out to your GP or a mental health professional for support.



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SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

At Powerbase, supporting the communities we serve is a core part of who we are. We believe in taking meaningful action that makes a real difference in people's lives, especially during times of need.

Our recent collaboration with The Salvation Army is one example of how we're putting this commitment into practice.



Te Ope Whakaora

Powerbase is proud to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to community wellbeing through a recent donation of more than 200 jackets to The Salvation Army. These jackets are being distributed throughout Christchurch, helping to keep individuals and whānau warm as they navigate the colder months. We are delighted to see the positive impact this contribution is already having, with many recipients expressing genuine appreciation for the added comfort and warmth.

Pictured are two grateful gentlemen in their new jackets—just a small glimpse of the difference these initiatives can make.

The Salvation Army remains one of New Zealand's most trusted and effective social service organisations, supporting more than 150,000 families and individuals every year. Across 68 Community Ministries centres, their dedicated teams deliver a comprehensive range of essential services, including foodbanks, social work support, counselling, financial mentoring, youth development, parenting programmes, emergency and social housing, and addiction support. Their work spans both immediate crisis care and long-term development programmes designed to help people overcome hardship, regain stability, and build brighter futures.

Powerbase is honoured to partner with an organisation whose values align so closely with our own, and we look forward to continuing to support initiatives that strengthen our communities across the country.



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24W 2640 lumens

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20W 2400 lumens

BVP158G33CCT30

30W 3600 lumens

BVP158G33CCT50

50W 6000 lumens

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100W 12000 lumens

BVP158G33CCT150
150W 18000 lumens

BVP158G33CCT200
200W 24000 lumens

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This isn't just a snack; it's an addictive blend of sticky sweetness and tongue-tingling fire achieved through simple, very low-and-slow smoking. Use any smoker that maintains 60°C (140°F) for around three hours. I highly recommend a Bradley Smoker for the job with Pecan smoke to add that perfect, rich, nutty depth.

Let's get into it..

Ingredients:

14 pieces of beef schnitzel (to fill a 4 rack Bradley Smoker)

1 cup: Honey-soy marinade

3 tsp: Habanero and mango hot sauce
(any fruity hot sauce will do)

2 tsp: Rum & Que Bull Dust

1 tsp: Cayenne Pepper

1 tsp: Paprika

2 finely chopped long red chillies

Method:

1. Slice the schnitzel across the grain into "jerky sized" portions.
2. Combine marinade ingredients, leaving the chopped chillies till later in the method. Be sure to taste as you go or change out ingredients to your personal taste.

3. Combine the schnitzel into the marinade and mix through well. Place into the fridge for at least 3 hours but up to 24 if you have the time.

4. Preheat your smoker to 60°C (140°F) and get some clean smoke underway.

5. Place your marinated soon-to-be-jerky out onto racks (I am using Bradley Smoker Silicon Magic Mats that have been engineered for the job! Even if you don't have a Bradley these mats are game changers). Sprinkle some chopped chillies on the schnitzel, just to be sure the jerky will live up to its name.

6. Get the racks into the smoker, ensure there are enough briquettes for 3 hours of consistent dry-smoke and close the door. I like to shuffle the racks from top to bottom and round 180 degrees every 30 or so minutes.

Around the 3 hour mark you should start noticing that some pieces of the schnitzel are fully dried, or "jerkified." It's critical to remove pieces as they are dried to prevent overcooking. From this point on, check the jerky every 20 or so minutes, taking out any completed strips as they finish.

The Bend Test:

The easiest way to tell if a piece is ready is by performing the "bend test." To do this, simply bend a strip of jerky lengthwise. A properly dried piece should crack at the crease and show white, fibrous strands inside, but it should not snap completely in half. Conversely, if the strip bends like rubber without cracking, it needs more time in the smoker.

Post-Smoke Steps:

1. Cooling: Lay the finished jerky on a cooling rack or paper towels and let it cool completely to room temperature (at least 30–60 minutes).

2. Conditioning: Transfer the cooled jerky to a bag or container. Leave it slightly open for 3–24 hours, shaking occasionally. This critical step equalizes moisture to prevent spoiling. When completely stable, seal the jerky (We use an Innovations Vac & Seal for best results).

Your Burning Ring of Fire Beef Jerky is ready! Whether you need a protein boost on the job site, out on the boat, on the golf course or a simple snack, this sweet-heat treat is ideal. Consider yourself warned: it's incredibly addictive and an icy cold drink is the perfect counter to the fire!



Be Future Ready: THE 2025 NZ ELECTRICAL CONFERENCE

For one hundred years, Master Electricians has been more than an association – it has been a community bound by shared purpose.



Our strength has always come from unity: contractors standing together, businesses learning from one another, and leaders speaking with one trusted voice. That collective voice has shaped standards, driven advocacy, and kept our industry relevant through every era of change.

The 2025 NZ Electrical Conference in Queenstown was more than a centenary celebration — it was a statement of confidence in the future. It showed that the same unity and purpose that built our foundations will carry us forward into the next century.

Learning, Leadership, and Leaps into the Future

The opening day embodied what it means to *Be Future Ready*. The Trade Master CPD Day offered technical and business-focused learning to keep contractors compliant, capable, and confident amid evolving standards and technologies.

That evening, the focus shifted to celebration. Hosted at the AJ Hackett Bungy Centre, with the iconic Kawarau Bridge as backdrop, the event symbolised taking a leap into the future as we celebrated Apprentice Challenge finalists and winners — the next generation leading the way forward.

A special thank you to **Powerbase**, our Platinum Sponsor, for supporting the Jumping into the Future opening event and *Partners Programme*. Your commitment helped set the tone for an incredible few days.

Hon Chris Penk, Minister for Building and Construction, reaffirmed the Government's recognition of our industry as a key driver of New Zealand's energy and housing future. Joseph Mooney MP for Southland quite literally embraced the theme — leaping from the bridge himself in a moment that captured the optimism of the evening.

Insight, Innovation, and Inspiration

Across three days, speakers and panels challenged delegates to think differently about readiness, resilience, and innovation.

- **Mike Casey's Electric Cherry Farm** showed how electrification and renewable energy can be commercially viable when technology and purpose align.
- **Lance Burdett** explored how mental fitness and leadership sustain performance in high-pressure industries.
- **Sir Ian Taylor** inspired with storytelling and vision, proving creativity and technology can redefine New Zealand's future.



- A panel with **EECA, NECA Australia and MEA Australia** examined how sustainability, workforce development, and policy alignment will shape the decade ahead.

Honouring the Past to Power the Future

In our centenary year, we launched the Master Electricians Presidents Club, uniting fourteen of seventeen Past Presidents — each presented with a custom blazer embroidered with their years of service. Life Members were also recognised with lapel pins for their enduring contribution. Sharing the room with those who built our foundations was a moving and memorable moment.

Connection, Collaboration, and Community

Connection remained central. **The Kingpin Night**, hosted by our Silver Sponsors, gave delegates a chance to unwind and connect through friendly competition — reminding us that shared experiences spark progress.

The **Centenary Dinner** at the Church Winery capped off the celebration in style. Guests stepped back to the 1920s

through vintage décor and live music before the atmosphere evolved toward the future with lighting, screens, and sound reflecting innovation ahead. Local food and wine showcased the best of Central Otago — the perfect close to a remarkable week.

Lighting the Way Ahead

The 2025 NZ Electrical Conference captured the essence of being *Future Ready* — balancing reflection with progress, and legacy with innovation.

It reminded us why we are stronger together. The power of community — of sharing knowledge, building relationships, and uniting under a common cause — keeps our industry resilient. Through connection we find clarity, through collaboration influence, and through unity, change.

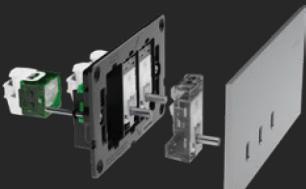
Our centenary theme, *Lighting the way to a brighter future*, continues to guide us — legacy gives us our foundation, but unity gives us our momentum. Together, we'll build a smarter, safer, and more connected industry for generations to come.



CLIPSAL SOLIS™ RANGE

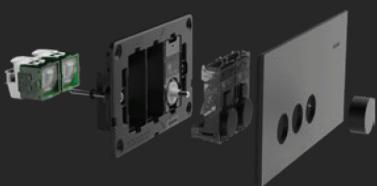


PDL by Schneider Electric is set to revolutionise switches and sockets in New Zealand homes with the new **CLIPSAL SOLIS™ RANGE**. The new optimum range comes in two series **SOLIS™** and **SOLIS™ T SERIES**, both have been designed and tested with electricians for high-end residential projects.



SOLIS™ T SERIES

- Available in four premium finishes: Platinum Aluminium, Ebony Aluminium, Brushed Brass and White Ceramic
- Distinctive and robust toggle
- Ultra slim cover (3.9mm)



SOLIS™

- Available in two premium finishes: Matte White and Matte Black
- Flush push-button
- Ultra slim cover (4.5mm)

The SOLIS™ Range key features:

- Faster installation with connected rotary dimmer (on/off push-in)
- 300 series mech format compatibility
- Robust grid & strong cover clips
- Premium aesthetics with non-intrusive LED indicator
- Smart features compatible with PDL Wiser™

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A-32316-INS	6-PCE INSULATED SCREWDRIVER SET



KLEIN TOOLS AC/DC Digital Clamp Meter, 400 Amp

PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
A-CL390	AC/DC DIGITAL CLAMP METER, AUTO RANGING



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Non-Contact Voltage Tester

PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
A-NCVT-1P	50 to 1000V AC, CAT IV



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Tradesman Pro™ Tool Pouch, 6 Pockets

PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
A-5241	TRADESMAN PRO™ TOOL POUCH



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Torpedo Level - Lighted Billet, 229mm

PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
A-935RBLT	TORPEDO LEVEL - LIGHTED BILLET, 229MM



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Folding Utility Knife with Impact Driver

PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
A-44304	FOLDING UTILITY KNIFE WITH IMPACT DRIVER



Wattmaster

Wattmaster Twin Plier Pack

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WATMATWINPACK-B	WATTMASTER TWIN PLIER PACK



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SKILLS TRADES TRAINING: BUILDING NEW ZEALAND'S NEXT GENERATION OF TRADIES

Three of New Zealand's most recognised trades training brands are uniting under one name – Skills Trades Training.

The brands Etco, E-tec, and ICE bring together over 30 years of expertise across electrical, plumbing, gasfitting, drainlaying, roofing, and electrotechnology.

The consolidation creates the country's most extensive trades training network, with 11 campuses from Auckland to Dunedin and the capacity to train more than 5,000 apprentices and pre-trade learners annually.

The consolidation preserves what made each brand trusted by industry while building something stronger. Etco's electrical training expertise, E-tec's electrotechnology leadership, and ICE's Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drainlaying strong industry relationships all carry forward under unified delivery.

Head of Learning Delivery Glenn Duncan says merging the three brands creates new opportunities. "Our tutors are industry experts who know their trades inside-out, back-to-front, along with a dedicated Training Advisor team who support apprentices progression via their workplaces. Our facilities supplement and support gaps in real on job learning, and our track record speaks volumes through the thousands of successful tradies employers actively seek out. By bringing these three brands together, we're making proven training accessible across the trades and more locations to meet New Zealand's growing demand for skilled tradespeople."

Skills Trades Training delivers the full training pathway, from pre-trade foundations through apprentice training to industry qualifications, advanced industry courses, and micro-credentials. Employers now work with one trusted provider across

specialist trades. School leavers can find career pathway options under the one brand, while career changers find expert training pathways in one place.

The merger separates training delivery from apprentice employment services. Skills Trades Training focuses purely on training excellence, while Skills Group Employment provides another option through the Group Training Scheme for employers who prefer hosting apprentices without employment obligations.

Skills Group Employment General Manager David Walding explains the distinction.

"Group Employment places work-ready apprentices with you as needed, backed by full pastoral, safety, and performance support, while Skills Trades Training delivers the training. We're offering a flexible, future-ready choice through Group Employment."

This means employers get the right service for their needs, apprentices get quality training, and everyone benefits from clearer, simpler operations.

Skills Trades Training operates with campuses in Auckland (Highbrook and East Tāmaki), Hamilton, Tauranga, Rotorua, Napier, Otaki, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch, and Dunedin. Each delivers hands-on training with modern equipment and industry-standard facilities.

Director of Skills Trades Training Di Lithgow says the consolidation strengthens the organisation for New Zealand's future. "Trades careers offer strong earning potential, genuine progression, and essential work that keeps the country running. Skills Trades Training prepares people properly for those opportunities through expert training that employers trust – this is just the beginning."

All former Etco, E-tec, and ICE campuses will operate as Skills Trades Training. Explore the full range of training opportunities at skillstrades.co.nz.

"The consolidation creates the country's most extensive trades training network, with 11 campuses from Auckland to Dunedin and the capacity to train more than 5,000 apprentices and pre-trade learners annually.



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You employ. We support.

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- ✓ Boost apprentice performance and retention
- ✓ Access ATT's expert support without full outsourcing

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today.



Your apprenticeship experts



WHY YOUR TOOLBELT IS MORE FUTURE-PROOF

than a keyboard

Let's talk about the elephant in the room – or should we say, the robot in the workshop. Everyone's talking about AI taking jobs, and there's been plenty of nervous jokes about ChatGPT learning to wire up a switchboard.

But realistically, it won't.

The reality check nobody's talking about

Sure, AI can whip up a perfect wiring diagram in about 30 seconds. Impressive, right? But try getting it to crawl into a ceiling in 35°C heat to find a dodgy wire. Computers are surprisingly useless when they don't have hands.

While office workers stress about automation, electricians are sitting on skills that simply can't be replaced. And that matters, for your business and the apprentices you're mentoring.

Why robots can't replace a decent sparky

Think about a typical job – 1970s house that's been renovated twice, bodge three times, and now has wiring that's a mystery wrapped in an enigma, hidden behind freshly painted walls.

The job needs:

- Eyes to spot what looks off
- Hands to test connections and feel what's not right

- Experience to know which installations always fail the same way
- Problem-solving that works in the real world, not just on a blueprint
- People skills to explain why their mate's DIY solution is a fire hazard

AI can't do any of that.

The tech world's dirty little secret

The more high-tech our world becomes, the more we need skilled sparkies. Data centres, EV charging stations, heat pumps, smart homes – they all need power and someone who knows their stuff to keep them running.

Even Bill Gates reckons electricians are tough to replace. He's specifically identified electricians as roles that "will be more difficult for AI to replicate" due to hands-on, unpredictable problem-solving in the physical world.

The irony? The companies building AI are completely dependent on skilled electricians to keep their servers cool and their power flowing. The tech revolution isn't replacing trades, it's creating new opportunities.

What your apprentices are really training for

Today's apprentices are building some of the most secure careers in the country:

The one job AI can't steal: fixing a power outage at 2am

- **Impossible to offshore** – you can't rewire a house in Dunedin from Manila
- **Impossible to automate** – robots aren't troubleshooting earthing issues anytime soon
- **Always in demand** – people will always need working power and someone to fix it
- **Increasingly valuable** – with fewer young people entering the trades, skilled sparkies are gold

The bottom line

Next time someone mentions AI taking over the world, think about the last callout for flickering lights or a smoking meter box. Those calls aren't going to a computer anytime soon.

The skills you're passing on to apprentices – that's the stuff that keeps the country running. While the rest of the world figures out how to work with AI, electricians are already doing what AI can't.

And that's worth more than any algorithm ever will be.

If you're keen to find out more about how ATT can help you support the future and pass on your experience and skills by taking on an apprentice in an easy, no hassles, no risk way, get in touch with us.

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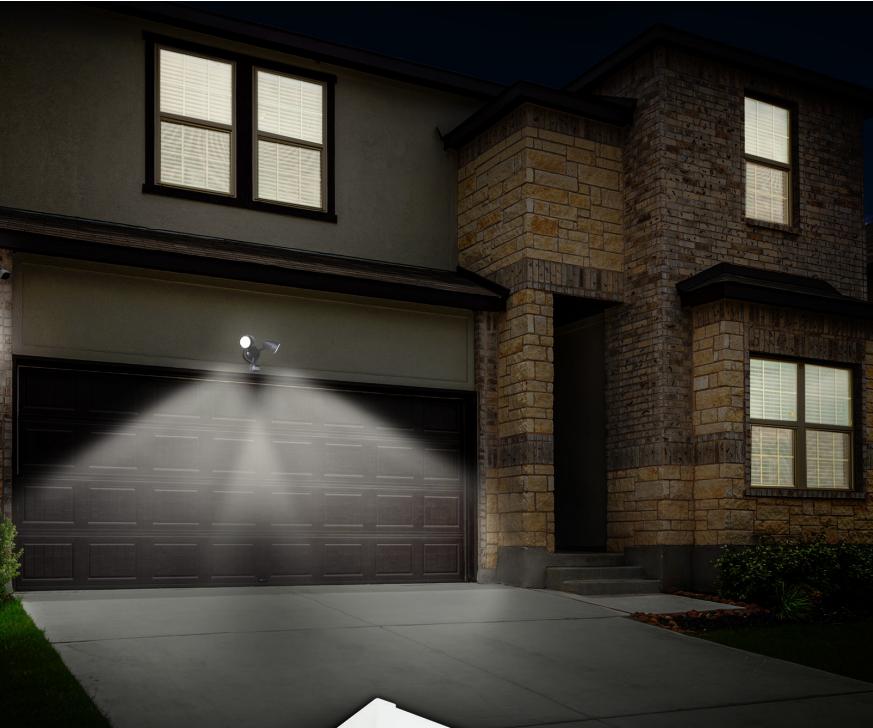
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30W 4500 lumens

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	1	3			5	
7		1			9	4
9	8		4	6		
2	3	5			9	
6			3	1		4
1	5	2		6		
7	5		3			2
		9	2	5	6	
8				1	3	9

TIME FOR A BREAK



ENJOY THE RERE ROCK SLIDE

Just outside the iconic surf town of Gisborne, is the Rere Rock Slide, a 60-metre-long natural water slide on the Wharekopae River. Carved over thousands of years it's become a stunning natural waterpark.

This place is full of fun for people of all ages. Just don't forget a towel and something like a thick boogie board to slide on, minimising bumps and bruises. Be careful and supervise the children!

Also, don't forget to visit charming Rere Falls on the way to/from the rock slide.

BEST CUP

FEOH Espresso and Roastery 86 The Centre, Waipu

A boutique coffee bar and roastery in the heart of Waipu. The coffee menu is a testament to innovation, with creations like cold drip on coconut water topped with a nitro cold drip.

There's also a small but thoughtful range of in-house-made food, prepared with the same passion and intent as the coffee.

Looking for that great morning cup to enjoy while reading Smokobreak. We look around the country and find you the best spot. @neatplaces



USELESS FACTS

American Airlines saved a fortune by removing ONE olive from their salads
In the 1980s, American Airlines realised they could save US\$40,000 a year if they removed just one olive from each of their salads which were served during flights. They realised this when it was noted that some passengers declined the salty grape-like treat.

King Louis XIX ruled France for less than an hour

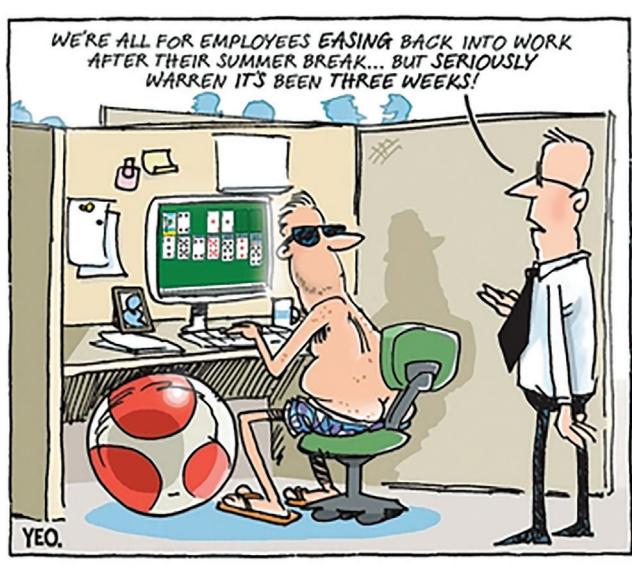
This French king is in the Guinness Book of Records for being the shortest-reigning monarch. King Louis – Louis Antoine, Duke of Angoulême – was on the throne for about 20 minutes during the July Revolution in 1830.

If you open your eyes in a pitch-black room, the colour you'll see is called 'eigengrau'

'Eigengrau' is German for 'intrinsic grey', also known as dark light, or brain grey. It is used to describe the uniform dark grey background that many people see in the absence of light. The term dates back to the nineteenth century.

You can't lick your own elbow

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