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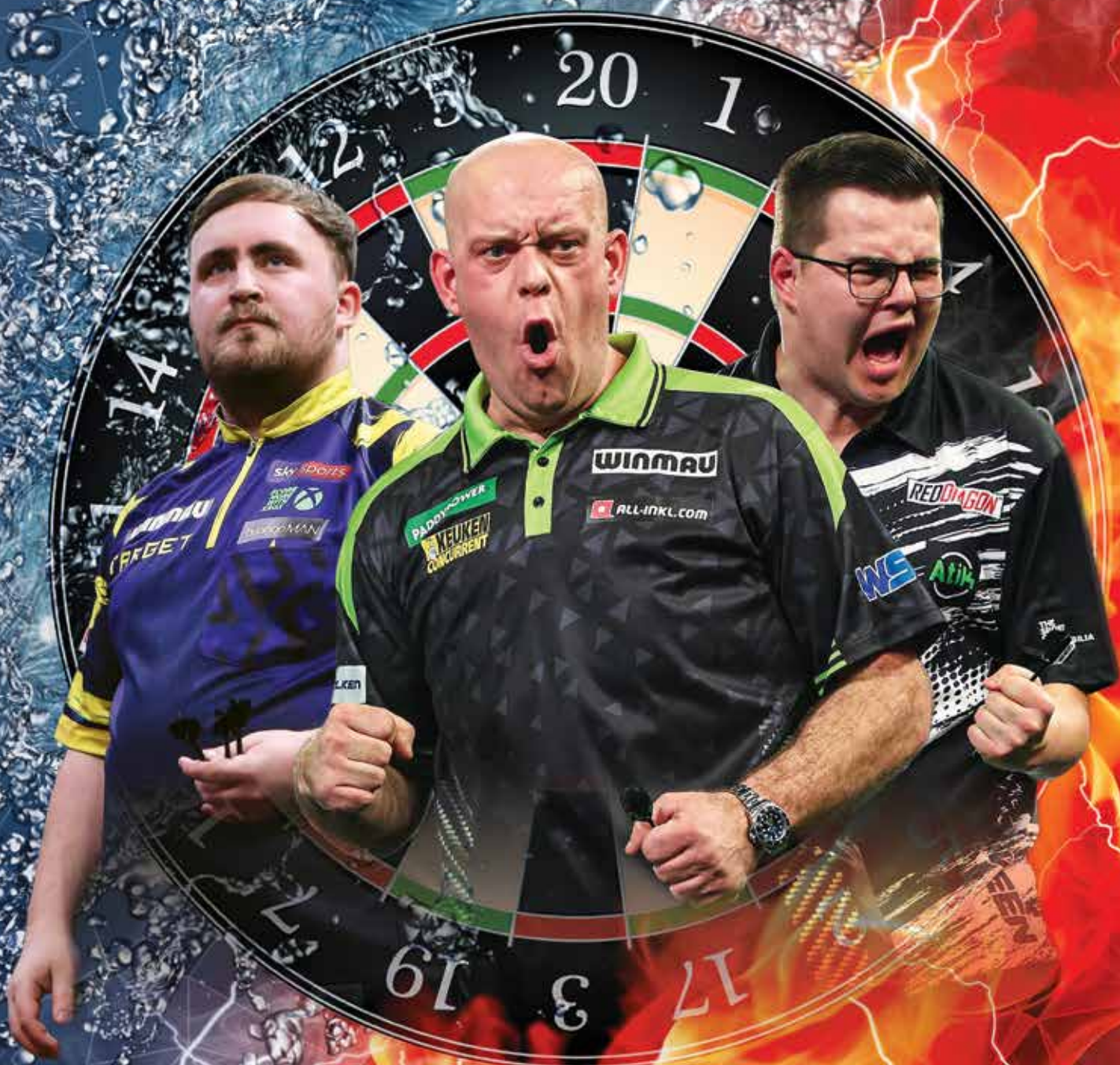
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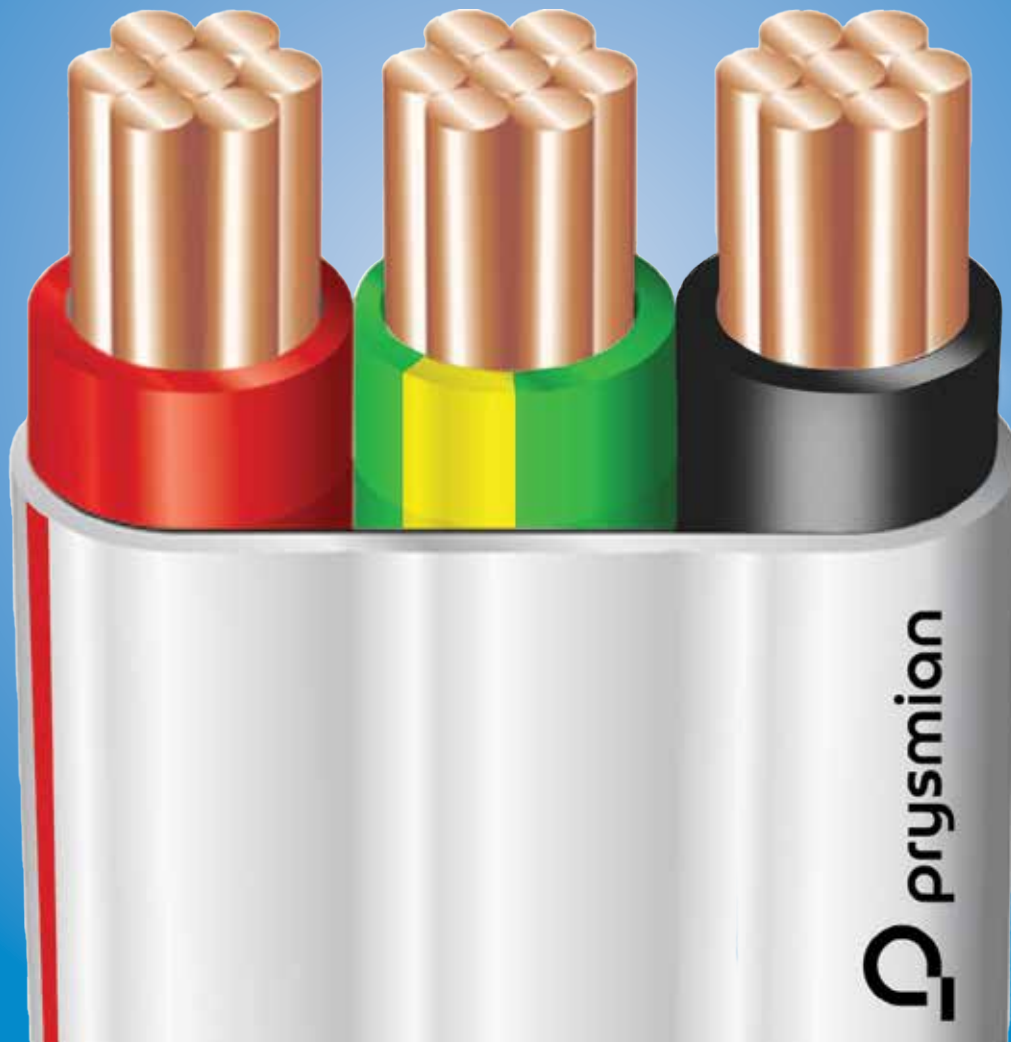
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BUILDING HOT, MOULDY, GOLDFISH BOWLS



Our modern homes have a lot in common with goldfish bowls. Like the glass walls of a fishbowl, many modern homes trap moisture and heat, creating ideal conditions for mould growth.



That's why we've been hearing more stories in the news and the industry about mouldy new-builds, overheating homes, and moisture in odd places like ceiling cavities.

But why are we seeing these problems now? What's changed in the way we construct modern homes?

Structural changes:

The first challenge is increased airtightness. This keeps homes warmer in winter but significantly reduces the natural air that flows into our homes. And less air movement means more overheating and internal moisture.

The second culprit is other design constraints. Modern homes are often built with minimal eaves, poor window placements/ openings, and limited air pathways. These limit the effectiveness of natural airflow and ventilation when airing out a home.

This lack of natural air movement means that moist, hot air builds up within a new home, leading to the overheating and mould that we're seeing today.

The solution here isn't to walk back recent building innovations. Instead, we need deliberate mechanical ventilation in every

home to expel the moist, overheated air to keep those spaces healthy and comfortable to live in.

Lifestyle changes:

The second half of the problem is lifestyle changes. Recent BRANZ research indicates that natural and intermittent ventilation are incompatible with modern lifestyles. To properly ventilate a home, occupants must be very diligent about opening windows and using extraction fans. This includes leaving them open/ running for long enough, something that many occupants are unwilling to do due to security, privacy, or energy efficiency reasons.

The solution to this is either a system that runs automatically, or constantly, so it doesn't rely on occupant actions to effectively ventilate.

The solution: Continuous mechanical ventilation

When taken together, recent changes in housing and lifestyles mean modern homes need continuous mechanical ventilation to reliably manage moisture and overheating in modern homes. As homes become more airtight, natural and intermittent ventilation will continue

to fall short. Continuous extraction is no longer an upgrade, but a practical response to how homes are now built and used.

What's in it for your business?

1. Continuous is becoming the new standard in home extraction ventilation

As more research is published, Kiwis will demand continuous ventilation solutions. Going continuous now enables you to get ahead of legislation and your competitors to future proof your business.

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IT'S A SHAME

Image:
Photosport
Hoskins Sotutu
can do most
things on a
rugby field.



Former Manu Samoa No 10 and freelance rugby scribe Campbell Burnes farewells two brilliant outgoing Super Rugby players who should have played more Test rugby.

Enjoy them while you can.

As things stand, Hoskins Sotutu and Sevu Reece are leaving New Zealand Rugby in July, after final Super Rugby campaigns for the Blues and Crusaders respectively.

Sotutu is off to the Newcastle Bulls and, most probably, into an England jersey before the year is out. He was discarded, prematurely, by the Scott Robertson regime.

Reece, who signed with Perpignan, was marginalised, ostensibly due to perceived, but in my view overplayed, weaknesses under the high ball.

Just how watertight those deals are will be interesting after January's sensational news of Scott Robertson's sacking as head coach of the All Blacks. At the time of writing, we don't know who the new man in the hot seat will be and just how sympathetic he is to the unique skillsets of men like Sotutu and Reece.

We have been sold the story, and one that should have long been discredited that, yes, Sotutu had all the skills, but that his work-rate and all-round game did not translate to the All Blacks, for whom he made 14 appearances from 2020-22.

In over 80 outings for the Blues, Sotutu has shown all his wares, never more tellingly than in the 2024 season, when he was the

Super Rugby player of the year as the Blues roared to the title. Last season he was good, though not imperious, his highlight being an outrageous reverse pass against the Crusaders to set up a try for AJ Lam.

Sotutu has the kind of skillset most international coaches would love to work with, while imbuing that hard edge that a top No 8 needs. Robertson and Jason Ryan decided they could not work with Sotutu, which is one of the great shames of New Zealand rugby in the last two seasons. It was therefore strange that NZR did not grant Sotutu an early release to head to Newcastle if he was not going to be in the All Blacks' frame.

Reece thrived under Robertson at the Crusaders. He is probably the finest No 14 in the franchise's storied history and started the season on 66 tries in Super Rugby, the all-time record, from 88 games. That is some going.

Reece runs like a whippet, his work-rate and energy high. He was a standout in the Crusaders' annus horribilis of 2024. His All Blacks' record of 22 tries in 37 Tests is not to be sniffed at, and despite the fact the aerial game is not his forté, I cannot recall any Tests that have been lost directly because of this 'weakness.'

The All Blacks have not been able to nail down their wings with Will Jordan seen as mainly a fullback. Caleb Clarke and Emoni Narawa have been hampered by injury, and we have seen the rise of Leroy Carter and the return of Leicester Fainga'anuku in the last 12 months. Still, Reece was given five Tests and went okay. But the thinking now is that you have to be an aerial exponent if you are to be secure on the wing in Test rugby these days. Maybe, maybe not.

What is true is that high balls do not constantly rain down during Super Rugby. The competition is, and has been over the last 30 years, about entertainment. This is where men like Sotutu and Reece thrive. The shame of it is that they were not given more of a go in black. Go well in the north, fellas.

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BACK FROM THE BRINK



Few businesses made it through covid phenomena unscarred, but none were cut quite so deeply as those in hospitality. But behind every bar, there's beer, and the brewers producing it are next in the firing line when premises close down.



Like most other low-margin production, brewing is only financially feasible at scale, and when a drop in demand forces a brewery under the scale which it was built to operate then it's on borrowed time. Sadly, that time has long run out for many, more than one in ten over the last five years. However, a small handful were plucked from the fire right as it seemed the end was nigh, and while their stories are definitively an exception to the rule, the fact that they lived to tell them remains a promising sign.

EPIC: The news of Epic Brewing going into liquidation in 2023 was the mother of all



wakeup calls for the beer industry. The fact that one of the nation's oldest and most storied and successful brands could go bust with such little warning was startling proof that nobody was immune. Only a month later a partnership between the Russell Construction Group and Hancocks (the beverage distribution leviathan) bought the brand. Crucially, despite its prominence, Epic was still a contract brewer, meaning they had no brewery of their own. As much as this fact might have been instrumental in their downfall, it now meant that they were less beholden to that critical issue of scale, making them a much safer purchase. While production

was reduced, Epic beer never left shelves, and the brand is now steadily rising back to relevance.

HOP FEDERATION: The demise of Riwaka brewing icon Hop Federation was a more arbitrary one. They were under the same pressure from inflation, rising costs and lower demand as everyone else, but still holding on. But owners Kono (the Nelson based food and beverage Māori mega-corp) made the decision to shut down Hop Federation as part of corporate restructuring. Initially no opportunity for potential buyers was presented, the tax write-off presumably looking more palatable than finding a buyer amongst the troubled industry. Eventually, and significantly out of the blue, DNA brewing announced that they had secured the Hop Federation brand and will move production to their Marlborough brewery.

FORTUNE FAVOURS: Brewing beer and selling it directly to customers in the same premises is usually considered the dream scenario for a producer, but for central Wellington mainstay Fortune Favours, this inverted into a curse post covid. With business down 45% over the last two years alone, their established means of throughput (the bar) was operating at a scale smaller than the brewery could sustainably cope with. Anguished plans were already underway to remove the brewing equipment from the building when neighbouring brewing superstars Garage Project offered a lifeline. It's unclear how much of the Fortune Favours brand will remain distinct under the Garage Project flag, but most employees have been re-hired by the new owners.

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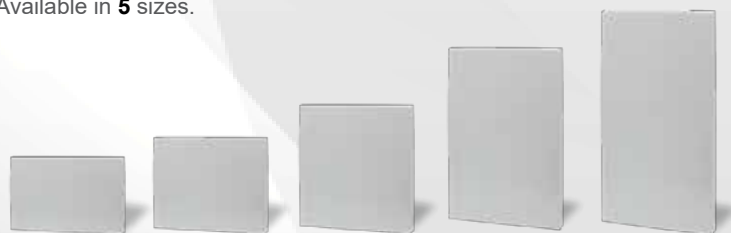
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A FATIGUED WORKER IS LIKE A DRUNK WORKER:

the importance of monitoring fatigue in the workplace



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Fatigue goes beyond the feeling of just being tired and can be described as extreme mental and/or physical exhaustion.

It is well established that fatigue reduces the capacity of a person to work safely. Research shows that it can impair a person's abilities to the same degree as excessive alcohol consumption. Fatigue influences a worker's balance, judgment, large and fine motor skills, focus, and even their memory. As such, it can severely impair someone's ability to carry out even simple tasks, may pose a significant health and safety hazard in a workplace, and carry large costs to individuals and businesses.

How do workers become fatigued?

There are a range of factors that may contribute to fatigue. This includes work schedules that disrupt the body's circadian rhythm, such as occur in workers who work long or irregular hours or night shifts.

Prolonged exposure to certain environmental factors can also cause fatigue, including noise, extreme heat or cold, suboptimal lighting, and vibrations.

Additionally, high workloads, extended periods of mental or physical activity, monotonous work, and insufficient break times may impact on worker fatigue, as may a lack of sleep.

Warning signs to watch out for

Some signs of fatigue to watch out for in your workplace include:

- Increase in absenteeism
- Mood swings
- Inability to concentrate

- Issues with short-term memory
- Drowsiness, yawning, or falling asleep
- Difficulty engaging with others
- Repeated tardiness
- Poor hand-eye coordination or sedate reflexes
- Increased mistakes, poor judgment or increase in risk-taking behaviour

The cost of fatigue

Worker fatigue increases the risk of injuries and incidents within the workplace carrying a large societal cost.

Moreover, they carry significant cost to businesses in terms of sick leave, lost time, damage to equipment or raw materials, incident or accident investigations, fines, delays to work schedules, training new staff, accident compensation, and even damage to the reputation of a business.

Furthermore, fatigue causes cognitive decline and reduces worker focus. This means that its effects extend to increased absenteeism and reduced productivity.

Additionally, the impacts of fatigue may be felt by workers resulting in long-term health issues, such as:

- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety
- Reduced fertility
- High blood pressure
- Digestive issues

Monitoring fatigue in your business

The costs associated with fatigue alone makes a compelling case that businesses should invest some time into monitoring for fatigue risks. Not only can this help your business mitigate the risks of fatigue related injuries or fatalities, but it can also help you achieve greater productivity levels into the future and bolster your business reputation.

If you are not currently monitoring fatigue risks in your business, you might want to consider implementing a fatigue-monitoring regime.





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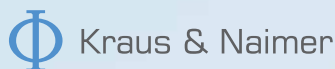


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THREE NZ MOTORSPORT LEGENDS HONOURED

For those
that missed it
(or it's worth
repeating),

New Zealand motorsport roared into
the new year with a burst of national pride as three
remarkable figures were recognised in the 2025 New Year Honours.



From global racing dominance to grassroots development and the unsung heroes behind the scenes, these awards highlight the extraordinary depth of talent powering Kiwi motorsport excellence.

Leading the charge is Sir Scott Dixon, newly appointed Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit. For motorsport fans, this honour feels not just appropriate, but inevitable. Dixon's legendary IndyCar career (defined by 59 race wins and six championship titles - so far), has cemented him among the greatest drivers the series has ever seen. But Dixon's influence extends far beyond the cockpit. His philanthropic work, including fundraising for children's charities such as CanTeen and St Jude Children's Research Hospital, underscores a commitment to using his platform for good, making him not just a racing icon but a true ambassador for New Zealand.

While Dixon conquered international circuits, Tony Quinn has reshaped motorsport from the ground up here at home. Awarded a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit, Quinn has built a motorsport empire spanning three+ racing circuits and the transformative NextGen NZ Championship, now a vital stepping

stone for emerging Kiwi drivers. His dedication to nurturing talent is rivalled only by his commitment to safety, exemplified through the StreetSmart programme, which equips young drivers with life-saving road safety education. Quinn's vision has created a sustainable ecosystem where future champions can thrive.

Rounding out the trio is Brian Rex Davies, honoured as an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for more than half a century of service to motorsport officiating. As a Clerk of the Course, Davies has overseen countless events with calm authority, deep rule knowledge, and an unwavering commitment to safety. His contributions span iconic events like the Wellington Street Races and extend internationally, including serving as FIA representative for a World Land Speed Record attempt. He embodies the dedication of the officials who form the sport's backbone.

Together, these three honourees reflect the full spectrum of motorsport excellence, on the world stage, in national development, and behind the scenes. Their recognition is not only deserved, it's a celebration of the passion and resilience that keep New Zealand motorsport thriving. Not sure what 2026 has in store, but what a way to round out last year!



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- Standard Switching
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- 40-47dB(A)

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See Page 6 for more details



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5ft
52W 6000 lumens
26W 3000 lumens

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4ft
35W 4100 lumens
17W 2000 lumens



CoreLine Waterproof Batten

Slim body 80mm, 4000K, IP65, IK08, large terminal block for easy installation, 5 year warranty.

WT196084P15

5ft 4000K
43 W 6000 lumens

WT194084P12

4ft 4000K
29W 4000 lumens



CoreLine Slim Batten

65mm slim profile with joinable feature for continuous lighting, removable LED module, 5 year warranty.

BN12660L8405FT

5ft 4000K
46W 6000 lumens

BN12660L8655FT

5ft 6500K
46W 6000 lumens

BN12641L8404FT

4ft 4000K
31W 4100 lumens

BN12641L8654FT

4ft 6500K
31W 4100 lumen



CorePro T8 LED Tubes Five-colour Shatterproof

Five-colour temperatures in one tube 2700K/3000K/4000K/5000K/6500K, Shatterproof design for food industry compliance.

LEDT85CCT5FT

5ft
24W 2640 lumens

LEDT85CCT4FT

4ft
18W 1980 lumens



CorePro T5 LED Tubes

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TLEDT51500840

5ft 4000K
22W 3000 lumens

TLEDT51200840

4ft 4000K
18W 2500 lumens

POWERING PROSPERITY: Electrification as New Zealand's Economic Strategy



Electrification is not a buzzword. It is a fundamental shift.

These are a series of opinion pieces which examine how New Zealand's push to electrify everything will reshape how we live, work, and learn. Each article stands on its own. Together, they outline a future that is cleaner, smarter, more resilient — and rich with opportunity.

New Zealand is on the edge of an economic shift that's easy to miss because it sounds like an "energy" story.

It's not.

Electrification is the next productivity upgrade for the whole country — the kind that changes how we build, move, manufacture, farm, heat our homes, and run our businesses. And for the first time in generations, the big forces are aligned: technology has matured, the economics are improving fast, and our national resilience now depends on how quickly we modernise what sits behind the switch.

Here's the simplest way to put it: we're moving from a fuel economy to an electricity economy — and the winners will be the households, businesses, and regions that move early and move well.

Why now is different.

We've talked about "going electric" for years. What's changed is that electrification is increasingly the sensible default, not just the worthy one.

New Zealand is already seeing the economics flip at the household level. Rewiring Aotearoa's work makes the case that we're reaching an "electrification tipping point," where households can lower emissions and save money by switching appliances and vehicles as they naturally come up for replacement.

We also start from a position many countries would envy: a very high renewable share of electricity generation (MBIE reports 85.5% renewable electricity generation in 2024).

That matters because electrification only delivers its full promise when the electricity itself is increasingly clean, secure, and affordable.

And security is now front-and-centre. Demand is rising, aging networks are under pressure, and we need more generation.

Government has explicitly positioned “Electrifying New Zealand” as a reform agenda to make it easier to consent, build and maintain renewable generation and the networks that move electricity around the country.

This is why electrification has moved beyond a climate conversation. It’s now a cost-of-living, cost-of-doing-business, and national competitiveness conversation.

The productivity play hiding in plain sight.

Every business owner understands this: when a core input becomes cheaper, cleaner, and more predictable, you get breathing room. You invest. You innovate. You hire.

Electrification does exactly that by shifting us away from globally volatile fuels and toward energy we can increasingly generate here at home. It’s an economic resilience move as much as it is an emissions move.

It also unlocks efficiency in ways fossil fuels can’t. Electric motors are inherently efficient. Heat pumps multiply the value of electricity. Smart controls reduce waste by shifting demand away from peaks. And when those gains show up across households, fleets, farms, and industry, the productivity uplift becomes real.

Electrification isn’t just “doing the same thing with different fuel.” It’s rebuilding systems: how we heat, how we transport, how we automate, how we monitor and maintain assets. That’s where the compounding economic benefits live.

Convergence: sparkies are now system builders

Here’s what New Zealand needs to understand.

The electrical industry is no longer “just electrical”. We’re watching convergence happen at speed — the electrical sector becoming the backbone of adjacent industries:

- Transport: EV charging at homes, depots, highways — plus smart load management so chargers don’t overload local networks.
- Construction and building performance: smart homes, electrified heating, ventilation, controls, and efficiency retrofits.
- Renewables and storage: solar PV, batteries, inverters, microgrids, resilience design.
- Industrial productivity: automation, sensors, controls, power quality, predictive maintenance.
- Digital and cyber: as devices connect, we need cyber-resilient operational technology and trusted installation practice.

This is why I keep saying: we’ve moved from spark to system. The modern electrician is increasingly an energy technologist — working across physical infrastructure and digital intelligence.

That convergence is not a threat. It’s a massive opportunity. But it does raise the bar: the work is getting more complex, more connected, and more safety-critical.

Energy as a platform: the rise of participation

In the old model, energy was something you bought. In the new model, energy becomes something you manage — and in some cases, something you can trade.

New Zealand has already trialled peer-to-peer energy trading concepts — including Vector’s planned trial with Power Ledger across up to 500 sites in Auckland, involving households, schools, and community groups.

That’s a glimpse of a future where energy isn’t just consumed — it’s coordinated, stored, shared, and increasingly optimised.

If we do this well, the payoff is a more resilient and efficient system: local solar plus batteries reducing peaks, EVs charging at off-peak times, smart devices responding automatically to price signals, and households gaining more control over bills.

But participation only works if we get the fundamentals right: safe installations, quality assurance, grid planning, and regulatory settings that encourage innovation while protecting the public.

Three practical moves to unlock the upside.

If electrification is going to lift New Zealand’s prosperity — not just shift our emissions profile — we need coordination and pace.

1. Make investment easier and faster.

Consenting and grid connection pathways must keep up with demand. We can’t talk “future-ready” and then build at yesterday’s speed.

2. Treat skills like infrastructure.

A shortage of electrical and technical capability becomes a handbrake on the whole economy. Skills planning deserves the same seriousness as substations and transmission lines.

3. Lift trust through quality and standards.

As electrification scales, public trust will be built or broken at the installation level: workmanship, testing, compliance, and safe integration of new tech.

The bottom line: electrification is not a niche transition for early adopters. It’s the next operating system for New Zealand’s economy — and it’s arriving faster than most people realise.

Next in the series: “Electric Communities: how electrification will change the way we live.”

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MASTER THE HYBRID CHIP:

Your Secret Weapon Around the Greens



Every golfer has been there: you stroll up to the green in perfect position for an up-and-down, only to find the ball perched awkwardly on a tight, crispy hardpan lie or nestled on top of the fluffy collar grass.

These are the positions that expose weaknesses in your wedge game — the lies where too much dig leads to a duff, and too much leading-edge bounce sends the ball rocketing across the green.

The Hybrid chip

This simple, controlled shot with your hybrid (or even a 7-wood) is one of the most reliable tools you can add to your short-game arsenal. With just a slight tweak to your setup and a motion far more rotational than vertical, you can turn those nerve-racking greenside positions into routine par-savers.

Why the Hybrid Works

The hybrid is built to help you. Its wider sole, rounded leading edge, and lower centre of gravity naturally resist digging — the enemy of consistency around the greens.

- On tight lies, wedges can “bounce” or catch the turf too sharply, causing thin, skidding shots. The hybrid’s sole glides instead of snags, allowing the club to stay level through impact.
- In scruffy collar grass, the same wide sole prevents the head from dropping too deep into the grass. Instead of getting stuck, the club skims. This keeps the strike predictable and ensures the ball gets the momentum needed to reach the hole.

The beauty of this shot is that you don’t have to be perfect. The club’s design gives you margin for error — and golfers love margin for error.

Setup: The Foundation of the Hybrid Chip

To unlock the hybrid’s potential, the setup must be precise. This isn’t a mini-wedge swing, and it’s not a full putt either. It’s a blend — and every element matters.

1. Choke Down the Grip (pic 1)

Grip down the club substantially, shortening the effective length. This gives you total control over the clubhead and keeps the shot compact and tidy. A full-length hybrid is too long for fine touch around the green; choking down brings the club into the right scale for precision.

2. Ball Position Forward of Centre (pic 2)

This is the keystone of the entire technique.

The ball must be forward in your stance, opposite your lead instep. Too many golfers instinctively shove the ball back, thinking it will help them “hit down.” That’s the exact opposite of what you want here.

A forward ball position shallows the strike and encourages the hybrid to skim the grass, not dig into it. It also keeps the leading edge from getting too involved — the whole point of this shot.

3. Hands Neutral, Posture Tall

Set the club so the sole sits flat on the ground, not leaning forward. Your hands should be even with the ball or very slightly behind it. This maintains the club’s natural loft and glide. Stand a little taller than with a wedge. A more upright posture delivers a straighter, more putting-like path — perfect for this stroke.

The Motion: Rotational, Smooth, and Shallow

The hybrid chip is not about wrist hinge, shaft lean, or descending blows. The movement emphasises rotation, not lift.

Backswing

Turn your chest and shoulders away from the target in one piece, letting the club move with your torso. Keep the wrists quiet. No need to pick the club up — the hybrid’s loft will handle the launch.

Impact

Your goal is simply to brush the ground. Think of the club skimming the grass like a skipping stone on water.

Maintain rotation through impact. You’re returning the club to the ball with body turn, not with a hand slap or wrist flick. A shallow, rotational action is the magic here.

Follow-Through

Let the rotation carry the clubhead down the target line. A small, balanced finish — chest facing the hole — tells you the motion was correct.

Final Thoughts

Add this shot to your short game, and you’ll suddenly find yourself saving strokes in places that used to feel like trouble zones. The hybrid chip removes the fear of digging, reduces the risk of thinning, and brings a repeatable, dependable option to your greenside toolbox. With just a little practice — especially focusing on ball position forward, a choked-down grip, and a smooth rotational motion — you’ll be turning tough lies into tap-ins.



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THE LISTER BELL STR is the Ultimate Lancia Stratos Tribute



For Paul Duncan, the Stratos was always THE car. Growing up, he was captivated by the Bertone wedge shaped body, the noise of the Ferrari Dino V6, and the fact that in the hands of Sandro Munari and Bjorn Waldergaard, it's rally legend.

Having been a Lancia fanatic for nearly all his life, he has owned a Delta Integrale and a Fulvia. When Paul found out about the Lister Bell STR, he knew he could finally make his Stratos dream come true.

"The Stratos has always been the car I have wanted ever since I can remember, however, it was hard to find a genuine one, so when I found out about the STR, I knew that dream was within reach," says Paul.

It took Paul a year or so from placing the order to the kit itself arriving on his door step. Paul would work on the Stratos most weekends throughout the four-year build process, but due to an accident, it took a while longer than he first thought.

"When I was working shift work at Air New Zealand, I was able to work on it for eight hours straight for one day during the week. However due to a back injury some time ago, I was off from work and any physical activity, which meant the build process took a bit longer than expected."

Now, one of the biggest challenges all car buffs face is when they announce to their family they intend to build a car of their own, but Paul's family were just as

excited as he was. "My wife has been very supportive during the build process, even though she had openly admitted to our friends and family, she is a Stratos widow," Paul laughed.

When you see Paul's STR for the first time, it really is difficult to distinguish it from the real deal. Paul's skills as an aircraft engineer were thoroughly tested during the build process, but boy does the finished product blow you away.

"The biggest challenge of the build was the body itself," says Paul. "It took a lot longer than expected as I had to sand the whole body and then polish it with four different coats of polish."

Paul's STR is as close as you will get to having the real thing in your garage. Little details like genuine Lancia badging, gauges and Bertone insignia are just too cool. Flip up the bonnet as per the real car, and we find the STR's beating heart, a 2.5-litre Alfa Romeo V6 mated to an Alfa six-speed manual gearbox out of the 156 Saloon.

Now, the standard V6 is fine enough, but Paul's addition of GTA inlet runners bring power to 200hp, roughly the same as the original Ferrari Dino V6.

This STR also features steel steering arms made by Paul's work colleague, because the aluminium ones supplied by Lister Bell are not legal in New Zealand, oddly. Paul has also fitted power steering and air conditioning, but when you see the switchgear, it looks just like it should always have been there.

The real Stratos came with a snug cockpit to begin with, and the STR is no exception. A dead giveaway this Stratos was home built boils down to the fact it is right-hand drive, as all genuine Stratos's were left-hand drive only. A technique is required to get in without straining any muscles, and it goes like this. First, bum on the sill, swivel your body around legs first into the drivers footwell, then proceed to slide into the seat, not unlike that other Italian pin-up, the Lamborghini Countach.

Of course, once this happens you then realise you need to hunt around for every belt of the STR's four-point race harness, which is when this writer realised, he was sitting on the buckle as he got in. Once you are all buckled up and looking ahead, you realise just how cocooned you are in the STR. You basically wear that wrap around windscreen like a pair of dirty dog shades, and everything is within easy reach. However, one of the biggest Stratos calling cards is the driving position itself. The pedals are slightly offset to the steering wheel, leaving your legs slightly splayed off to the left.

All that is now required on your part is turn key and let that 2.5-litre Alfa V6 erupt into life, and boy does it do just that. Blip the throttle, and it's really not hard to



go into full Sandro Munari mode. First gear is selected, clutch depressed, and we are moving.

At cruising speed, the STR is amazingly docile and doesn't feel intimidating to drive by any stretch of the imagination. Obviously, this is no day-to-day hot hatch, but the STR can thrill you on the morning commute like almost nothing else. Also, if you own one of these, you will become very knowledgeable of all shop windows in your area. However, Paul seldom takes his home built Stratos into built up areas, unless for a car show.

The road to and from Rangiora to Ashley Gorge in North Canterbury is one of the most exciting drive roads in the greater Christchurch area, combining fast straights and long sweeping bends, with huge drops and rises with tight switchback corners cascading through trees and over gorges. Welcome to Stratos country.

Open the taps, and the lack of weight make itself known very quickly. Instant throttle response allows you to open it up to full chat with ease, allowing the STR to shoot forward like Usain Bolt on Red Bull. That Alfa V6 is nothing short of sublime.

The power delivery is very linear, and with it working hard basically right behind your spine, you feel an organic part of a machine.

Oh, and that glorious V6 howl right up to the redline at 7,000rpm is one of the automotive world's best operatic masterpieces. Sure, the Dino V6 from a real Stratos sounds terrific, but the STR sounds very similar indeed, not bad for what some would dismiss as being a 'mere replica.'

However, when you are carrying that amount of speed in the STR, you need to be awake. On the straights, even the slightest movement of the wheel means you change direction, so you are constantly gripping the wheel, almost fighting the change in direction, in a straight. The STR Stratos commands respect at speed, therefore, one does need to be fully aware of one's surroundings and factor in how much sleep you had last night.

However, when you are focusing on the job in hand, you find yourself eating up bendy bitumen with the biggest grin imaginable. Paul sat quietly next to me while he let me push his baby a bit harder, but in my mind,

he could have been reading out pace notes as we barrelled along this tarmac special stage.

The gearbox is a short sharp throw from gear to gear and in the bends, well let's put it this way, you can corner like a housefly. Set it up for the bend, and the slightest flick left or right, and you are round it, almost instinctively. You do need to stand on the brake, and the ride is quite firm in places, but then again, isn't that part of the definitive rally experience?

When one hears the term 'replica' all manner of petrolheads will either turn their noses up or look on in amazement. In my opinion, some replica cars can leave a great deal to be desired, but on the flipside, there are a number of home-built cars out there which are just as good, if not better, than the car it is meant to replicate. Such is the case with Paul's Lancia Stratos by Lister Bell. After four years of toil, tears and sweat, this one of a kind Stratos recreation is nothing short of spectacular. "The best thing I like about it, other than it being my dream car, is the fact I built it. I know every part of it inside and out, and I would never get rid of it." One can't really argue with that.



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SMOKED BACON-WRAPPED JALAPEÑO POPPERS

There is no single “right” way to craft a jalapeño popper - whether you barbecue them whole, slice them into boats, or keep the stems for a rustic look is entirely up to you.

However, my favourite technique is to slice them in half and load them with a blend of cream cheese & cheddar. I then wrap each half in streaky bacon. In my thinking, by halving the peppers, you effectively double your serving size while achieving the bangin’ ratio of spicy jalapeño to smoky, crispy bacon.

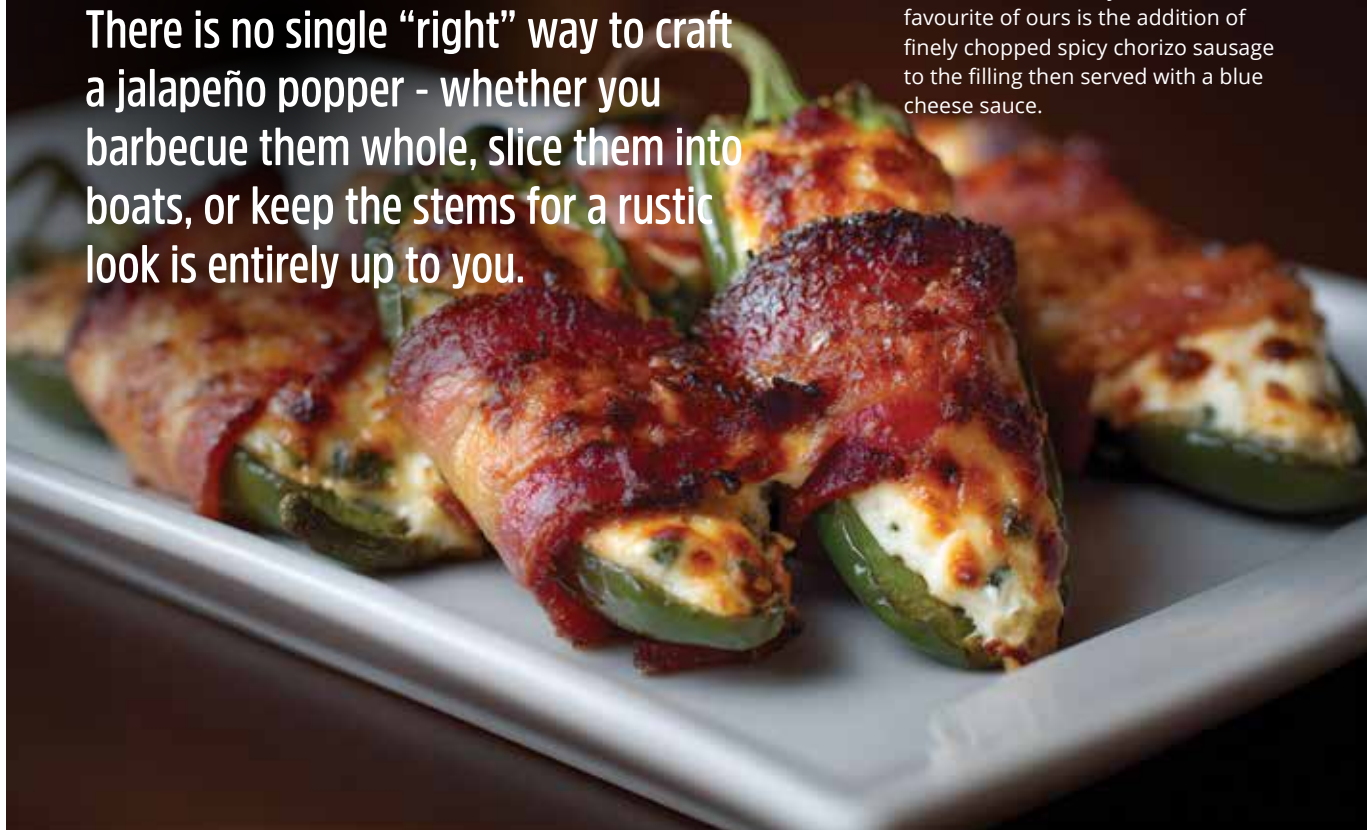
Jalapeño poppers can also be chicken fried-not-fried or served breaded, but I will save those options for another day.

Let’s turn up the heat...

Please note: wearing nitrile gloves during the prep stage is a really good idea!

1. Heat the Barbecue: Bring your grill, whether it’s gas, charcoal, or a pellet smoker to a steady temperature in the 190°C (375°F) range. Whatever you have on your deck will do the job perfectly!

2. Mix the Filling: In a medium bowl, blend your cream cheese and cheddar cheese until well combined. Set this mixture aside for a moment. This is the classic filling, but you can get creative with flavours to suit your theme - a favourite of ours is the addition of finely chopped spicy chorizo sausage to the filling then served with a blue cheese sauce.



3. Prepare the Peppers: Slice each jalapeño lengthwise. Use a spoon to scoop out the seeds and white ribs to control the heat. You can leave the stems on for a better look or trim them off; it's your choice.

4. Stuff the Peppers: Fill each jalapeño boat with roughly one tablespoon of the cheese mixture. Aim for a flush surface, try not to overfill them, or the cheese will spill out during cooking.

5. Bacon Wrap: Wrap a half-slice of bacon snugly around each stuffed pepper. If the bacon feels loose, secure it with a toothpick (just remember to pull them out before eating!).

6. Add Seasoning: Dust the poppers with a simple salt, pepper, garlic rub,



or my go-to is a light sprinkle of Rum & Que Rib Rocker - perfect paring in my opinion!

7. Grill to Perfection: Arrange the poppers indirect on the grill and close the lid. Cook for 20–25 minutes. Once the bacon is rendered and cooked through, move them over direct heat for a few minutes to get that bacon extra crispy.

8. Serve Hot: Take the poppers off the grill and pull out any toothpicks. Serve them while they're fresh but be careful - the cheese filling will be incredibly hot, spicy, savoury, and very very moreish! A cold refreshing beverage is highly encouraged as a side to this crowd-pleasing appetiser!

Until next time, keep the coals burning!

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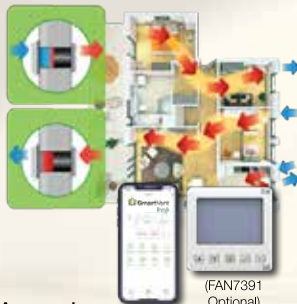
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- Manual override capable

LHT0119 Black
LHT0120 White

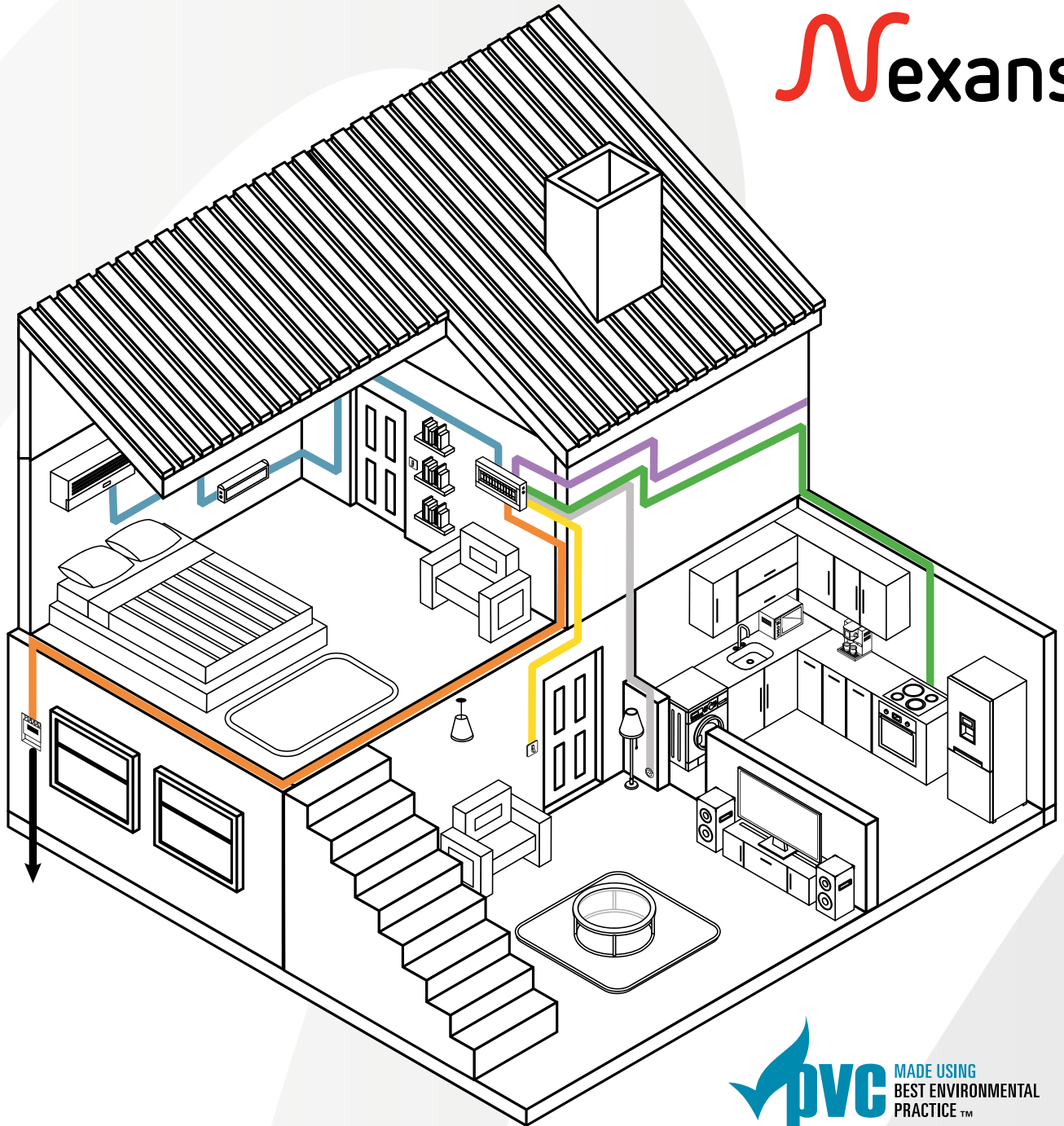


CUBIC

2 x 5W Up Down Light

- 3CCT colour switchable 2700k - 6500k
- Adjustable barndoors to alter beam angle
- IP65 aluminium body

LHT1230 Black
LHT1231 White



Wiring Homes, Electrifying the Future.

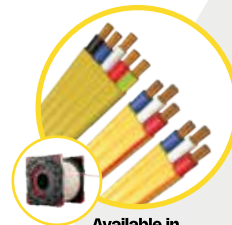
High-performance, compliant cables for homes, apartments, and commercial projects. Built for speed, reliability, and lasting safety - efficient on-site, safe for life.

CURRENT TPS



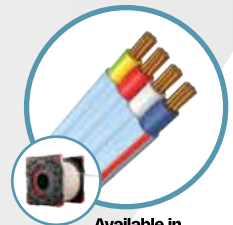
Available in **MOBIWAY BOOST** with DISTINGO™

SWITCH TPS



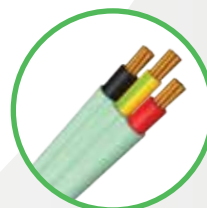
Available in **MOBIWAY BOOST** with DISTINGO™

CLIMATE TPS



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ENVIROLEX TPS



MODULAR WIRING





FIRE SAFETY

WHEN FIRE STRIKES, PERFORMANCE MATTERS.

NEXANS LOW FIRE HAZARD CABLES

Nexans Low Fire Hazard cables are designed to provide a high level of flame retardance and halogen-free plastic insulation and sheath. Designed for sustainable buildings, they produce minimal smoke and hazardous fumes, enhancing visibility, improving air quality during fire evacuation, and reducing damage to nearby equipment.

NEXANS FIRE RESISTANT CABLES

Fire-resistant cables are critical components of any fire protection system that ensure critical infrastructure such as emergency lighting, sprinkler systems and air extraction systems remain functional. Nexans Fire Resistant cables are designed to reduce smoke and harmful emissions in a fire while ensuring critical systems remain operational under extreme heat and fire during evacuation.

CHOOSE WISELY.



Partner with ATT

Find out how we can work for you.



Group Apprenticeship Scheme

We employ the apprentice. You get the benefits.

- ✓ Zero cost for all apprentice leave and block course training time
- ✓ No employment liability
- ✓ Simplified admin and compliance
- ✓ High-quality apprentice support
- ✓ Flexibility to return apprentices if needed

Managed Apprenticeship Programme

You employ. We support.

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

Labour Hire

Skilled workers, when you need them.

- ✓ Flexible labour solutions (minimum 3-week term)
- ✓ Competitive hourly rates
- ✓ No long-term commitment
- ✓ Fully managed payroll and compliance

Contact us
today.



FROM LABOUR HIRE TO LOYAL APPRENTICES:

how Up N Atom grew its team with ATT



When Up N Atom needed extra hands on a major project at Auckland Airport, they turned to ATT's labour hire.

Three keen pre-trade graduates joined the crew. Within weeks, the business offered each of them full electrical apprenticeships through ATT. It is a straight-up success story that shows how a flexible, low risk start can lead to long-term talent for busy contractors.

Nga Moetaua first connected with ATT through a visit to his training provider. He handed over his CV and had paperwork sorted the next day. Neleta Lanyon came in via the ATT website after knocking on doors without much luck, and Taz Nawrozi spotted an ATT listing on Trade Me, applied at lunchtime, and got a call back half an hour later. All three had completed Level 3 pre-trade training and were hungry for site experience.

Coverage when you need it, Commitment when you are ready

Their first impressions at Up N Atom were simple, a welcoming team with solid leadership. They had plenty to learn, and working in a high compliance, zero tolerance environment at the airport, sharpened their habits fast. The crew size meant they rotated under different supervisors, which gave Up N Atom a clear read on their attitude, teamwork, and potential. That day-to-day visibility soon turned into offers of apprenticeships.

For owners and ops managers, that path matters. Labour hire gave Up N Atom coverage on critical work while also revealing who would thrive long-term. In Nga's words, it got his foot in the door, and it will be about maintaining progress over the next four years. Neleta noticed the shift from temp to team, and he's enjoying getting the same coaching as other apprentices. Taz called labour hire an initial test that they passed before stepping up to the apprenticeship. Subtle, practical, and effective.

ATT support that takes admin off your plate

ATT's wraparound support helped make the transition smooth with regular check-ins from the field team, clear guidance on start times and expectations, help with forms and onboarding, finance updates done on time, and a few first day essentials to set them up on site. That combination of pastoral care and paperwork muscle is exactly what busy contractors value when they are flat-out on tools and deadlines.

What keeps these apprentices motivated is the same thing that helps employers, progress you can measure. They are focused on marrying theory with hands-on by logging on job tasks properly and hitting their capstone and regs exams. Give people like this a structured pathway and a supportive crew, and you get reliable output today with qualified sparkies tomorrow.

If your workload is spiking or you want to grow without taking on all the risk at once, ATT can help you start with labour hire candidates, progressing into a hosted apprenticeship when the time is right. It worked for Up N Atom, and it can work for your business too.

= Basis

The new era of electrical excellence

The future is here, and it's redefining the very essence of the electrical trade. Don't get left behind. Become a Basis Certified Electrician and claim your position as a leader in the industry.

We're committed to being part of the solution.



Want to be certified to install Basis Smart Panels?

Contact your local branch to organise training. Exclusive to Powerbase members.



Linear Bar

Use to enhance linear features or draw the eye with bold lines of light.

Product Codes:
L420 L421 L422
L440 L441

Tube Spots

High-performance spotlights. Bringing spaces and features to life.

Product Codes:
S450 S460

Sphere

Designed for purposeful lighting compositions with a unique visual presence.

Product Code:
S470

Pendants

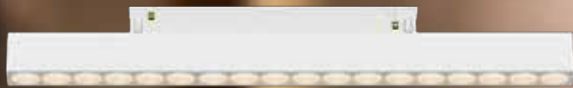
Ideal for kitchen islands, dining spaces, reception areas, retail counters and lounges.

Product Codes:
S475 S480

Linear Dot

Delivers crisp, ultra-low glare lighting, ideal for features or ambient lighting.

Product Codes:
L410 L411 L412
L430 L431



Cevon T8 Series

Designed for modern architectural spaces, the 48V Track Series delivers high-performance illumination with minimalist elegance.

Engineered for seamless integration into residential, retail, and hospitality environments, this low-voltage system enhances every scene with exceptional colour accuracy and a warm, inviting ambience.



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MC4® CONNECTORS - 2 PACK**
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PURCHASE AUGER BITS AT A SHARP PRICE

High quality carbon steel
Perfectly controlled heat-treatment
Great durability & long life
Made in Japan



BITA-20

Topman 2002-020mm
Auger Bit Length 205mm

BITA-22

Topman 2002-022mm
Auger Bit Length 205mm



BITA-I20

Topman 2003-020mm Medium
Auger Bit Length 330mm

BITA-I22

Topman 2003-022mm Medium
Auger Bit Length 330mm

BITA-25

Topman 2002-025mm
Auger Bit Length 205mm

BITA-32

Topman 2002-032mm
Auger Bit Length 210mm

BITA-I25

Topman 2003-025mm Medium
Auger Bit Length 330mm

BITA-I32

Topman 2003-032mm Medium
Auger Bit Length 330mm



BITA-N20

Topman 2040-020mm
Nail Buster Auger Bit
190mm Hex Cuts Mild
Steel Nails

BITA-N22

Topman 2040-022mm
Nail Buster Auger Bit
190mm Hex Cuts Mild
Steel Nails



BITA-NL20

Topman 2041-020mm Nail
Buster Auger Bit 460mm Hex
Cuts Mild Steel Nails

BITA-NL22

Topman 2041-022mm Nail
Buster Auger Bit 460mm Hex
Cuts Mild Steel Nails

BITA-N25

Topman 2040-025mm
Nail Buster Auger Bit
190mm Hex Cuts Mild
Steel Nails

BITA-N32

Topman 2040-032mm
Nail Buster Auger Bit
190mm Hex Cuts Mild
Steel Nails

BITA-NL25

Topman 2041-025mm Nail
Buster Auger Bit 460mm Hex
Cuts Mild Steel Nails



SAWW-1156

Topman 1156-150mm
Drywall Beaver Saw



SAWW-1158




Topman 1158-150mm
Wallboard Saw

HOBACA

Available at your local Powerbase branch

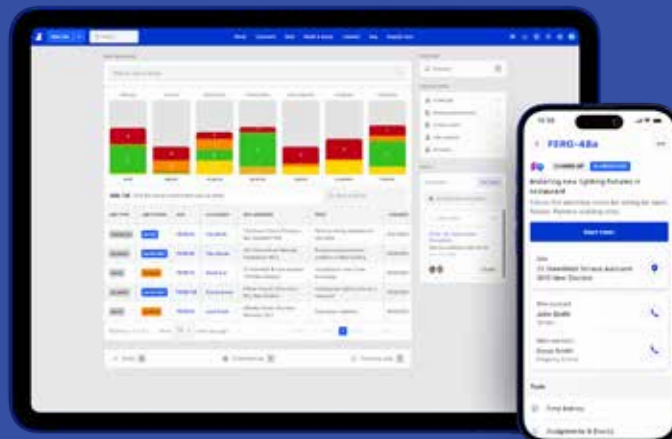
Teaming up to make job management easy for **NZ Electricians**

Powerbase Exclusive Offer:
Get 50% off for 6 months

-  No more late nights buried in admin.
-  Manage jobs seamlessly, from office to on-site.
-  Pinpoint which jobs are most profitable.



Request a call back from a **Fergus expert**





*Instant Reward.
Ultimate Win.*

See Page 6 for more details

LUMEN SELECT

PIERLUX ECO HIGHBAY

Selectable lumen, low glare and flicker free, IP65, IK08, corrosion resistant housing, available with a range of mounting and glare control accessories, 5 year warranty.

ECOHB200LSE5G7

Ø330mm (200W), 5000K
200W 34100lm
170W 29600lm
120W 21700lm
100W 18400lm

ECOHB200LSE4G7

Ø330mm (200W), 4000K
200W 32900lm
170W 29000lm
120W 21300lm
100W 18100lm

ECOHB120LSE5G7

Ø290mm (120W), 5000K
120W 20000lm
100W 17200lm
80W 14100lm
60W 10800lm

ECOHB120LSE4G7

Ø290mm (120W), 4000K
120W 19900lm
100W 17100lm
80W 14000lm
60W 10700lm

LUMEN SELECT
COLOUR SELECT

ECO PANEL

Selectable lumen and colour 4000K/5000K/6500K, UGR19 low glare and flicker free, optional emergency kit, wire suspension kit, surface mounted frames and recessed frames, 5 year warranty.

ECOPL126CSLSEG3

1200 x 600
47W 5500 lumens
37W 4500 lumens

ECOPL066CSLSEG3

600 x 600
34W 3700 lumens
25W 2900 lumens

ECOPL123CSLSEG3

1200 x 300
34W 3700 lumens
25W 2900 lumens

COLOUR SELECT

ORION OYSTER

Selectable colour 3000K/4000K/6000K, removable decorative trim, dimmable, IP54 rated, easy to install with large terminal block, optional sensor version, 5 year warranty.

LUMEN SELECT

ORN23W3/4/6KDG3

Ø350mm
16W 1700 lumens
23W 2400 lumens

ORN16W3/4/6KDG3

Ø300mm
16W 1800 lumens



COLOUR SELECT

LITELUX DOWNLIGHT

Selectable colour 3000K/4000K/6500K, dimmable, IC-F and IP65 rated, easy to install with large terminal block, 5 year warranty.

DLP6FWG3NZ

Ø90mm cut-out
Ø115mm ceiling plate
8W 800 lumens



SMOKO BREAK

MODERATE SUDOKU

Fill in the missing boxes so that the numbers 1-9 appear in every row, column and 3x3 square. This one is MODERATE.

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

TIME FOR A BREAK



MOANA, LAKE BRUNNER

Moana's lakeside location affords panoramic views of the lake, hills and magnificent snow capped mountains beyond. The forests come right down into the water in parts and there is an abundance of birdlife in the extensive, luxuriant wetland and rainforest ecosystems.

It's easy to get out on the lake on a power boat, yacht or a scenic charter. The calm waters are also good for swimming, kayaking, paddle boarding and waterskiing and, an added bonus, the water isn't snow fed so summer temperatures are pleasant.

BEST CUP

Arthur Street Kitchen
8 Arthur St, Timaru Central

The 100-year-old brick building has functioned as a café for two decades.

Renowned for its delicious breakfast and lunch menu, plus house-made baking and hearty salads, Arthur Street Kitchen takes pride in producing as much as possible on the premises.

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

The inventor of Pringles is buried in a Pringles can!

His burial wishes were for his ashes to be buried in a Pringles can. After he passed, his family respectfully brought the original flavored Pringle can on their way to the funeral home for the collection of his ashes.

Ice cream warms the body.

Hot weather and ice cream sound like the perfect combo, but it's actually not. Ice cream warms up our bodies, rather than cooling down due to the high fat content.

The average belly button has over 67 species of bacteria

Research shows that the belly button is full of unknown bacteria, according to the study from 60 belly buttons the team found 2,368 bacterial species overall of which 1,458 may be new to science.

The computer mouse was once known as the turtle

Because of its hard shell and moving part underneath, manufacturers referred to early versions of the computer mouse as the turtle.

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SUPPLIER PRICE NOTIFICATIONS

SUPPLIER	MOVEMENT	CHANGE DATE
Devi	+ 4.1%	February 2026
Gyro Plastics	+ 6.4%	February 2026
Hager	+ 1.9%	February 2026
Prysmian	+ 8.4%	February 2026
Sitemate	+ 7.7%	February 2026
Stiebel Eltron	+ 1.8%	February 2026
Lumax	+ 3.6%	March 2026
Maser	+ 5.3%	March 2026
MM Cables	+ 13.5%	March 2026
SIMX	+ 3.3%	March 2026
Sutton Tools	+ 3.9%	March 2026
Tusk Tools	+ 10.4%	March 2026
Tyree	+ 7.1%	March 2026
Zephyr	+ 10.1%	March 2026

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100% KIWI**

