

WINTER 2024

Free Business Continuity Planning resources

Meet the force behind Happy Air Heat Pumps

Welcoming UES to Wiri



The importance of upskilling your staff





Winter may be upon us, but the Wiri Business Association is buzzing with activity as we continue to champion and support our vibrant business community. Here's a quick look into the latest updates and initiatives that are shaping a cleaner, more resilient, and connected Wiri.

Keeping Wiri Tidy:

We're steadfast in our commitment to a clean and welcoming environment. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Manukau Beautification, regular rubbish collection is keeping our streets tidy. Your vigilance is crucial! Please report any instances of illegal dumping to info@wiribiz.org.nz, ensuring a swift response.

Business Resilience:

Empowering businesses to weather and unforeseen challenges is a top priority. Our partnership with Simplexity has yielded a comprehensive toolkit, including an invaluable Business Continuity Planning Guide. Available on our website wiribiz.org.nz/emergency-preparedness/ or request a printed copy to safeguard your operations.

Business Boost:

We're thrilled to celebrate the five businesses awarded funding in the last round of our Business Boost program! The next deadline is July 31st – take this opportunity to secure support for your growth initiatives in areas like marketing, technology, and more.

Transport Management:

Efficient and sustainable transport is vital for a thriving Wiri. We've launched a survey to understand your commuting patterns and preferences. Your feedback will shape targeted solutions that address your transportation needs. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey by scanning the QR code below.

Truck Parking:

We hear your concerns about inconsiderate truck parking. Your reports, including photos, have been instrumental in identifying frequent offenders. We're engaging with industry organizations and Auckland Transport, exploring enforcement options to ensure safe and accessible streets for all.

Upcoming Events:

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Networking Drinks on the first Thursday of each month at Woodside Bar & Restaurant. It's a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow business owners, share ideas, and build valuable relationships in a relaxed setting. We also have our Business Breakfast with Nigel Latta coming up in August. Register early so you don't miss out.

We're Here for You:

Your success is our success. The WBA team is always available to answer questions, provide resources, and connect

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you with valuable networks. Reach out to us at info@wiribiz.org.nz or 09 262 0804. Let's continue working together to make Wiri a thriving hub of innovation and collaboration.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Wiri Business Association family. We're excited about the future and the positive impact we'll create together.

Scan here to complete our transport management survey



Goodbye moth plants!

Across Auckland communities, getting rid of pesky moth plants has become a top priority. Originally brought in for their looks, these plants have gone rogue, threatening native habitats with their fast growth. Moth plants might seem harmless, but they're sneaky – even one left standing can

spawn numerous new seeds.

To stop their spread, Wiri Business engaged the services of NZ Biosecurity Services Limited (NZBSL) to remove them from the backyards of Wiri businesses. From March to May, NZBSL collected a massive 6913 pods!

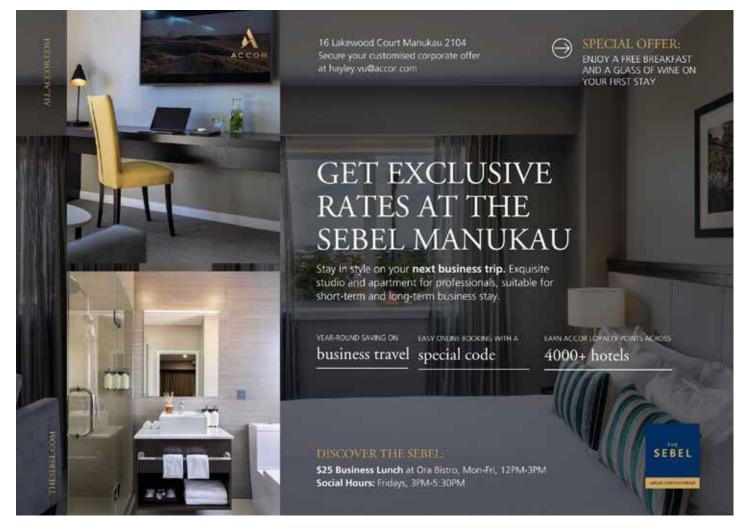
Thanks again to the NZBSL team and the Wiri Businesses that got in contact to get their moth plants removed.

This is the second year that Wiri Business has joined the war on moth plants, and we look forward to supporting the environment in other ways for the rest of 2024.









Boosting up our local businesses



The April 30 deadline has been and gone and we're proud to announce five businesses were awarded funds through Wiri Business Boost! Congratulations to Colourworx, Sockmakers, Bin Buddy, Stockwells International (NZ) and Counties Kitchens.

Wiri Business Boost is a subsidy scheme which offers eligible members financial assistance of up to \$1,000 + GST towards a variety of projects essential for business growth. Your business could receive funding for advertising and marketing, business advice and training, health and safety measures, looking after the environment or sorting your security.

Here is some of the feedback from our businesses:

Stockwells International (NZ):

'The Wiri Business Boost is such a great initiative. Our application was for the area of 'Advertising and Marketing'; these funds will go towards having a photoshoot of team and individual photos. These will become great tools for us to use in our social media platforms for growing awareness of our NZ team at Stockwells International'

Colourworx:

'We are so excited to be the recipient of the Wiri Business Boost Programme. Funds will be used to upgrade and enhance our social media presence. This will enable us to engage with our audience and drive business growth to achieve tangible results'.

Bin Buddy:

The Wiri business boost is a wonderful initiative which has not only provided additional support and capacity building for our business but also helps highlight the inspirational businesses working away diligently in Wiri. We are proud to be involved in the Wiri Business Association and with the Wiri Business Boost programme'.

Counties Kitchen:

Thank you for considering Counties Kitchens for the Wiri Business Boost. The Boost will go towards signage, which will be a great opportunity for us to increase our visibility in the area. Having contracted the local printing company ColourWorx, we are keeping the spend within the Wiri business community.'

So what are you waiting for? Give your business a boost today! Check out wiribiz.org.nz/wiribusinessboost/ for more information and the application form.

Partnering with CrimeWatch to make Wiri safer

Wiri Business and CrimeWatch have joined forces to bolster security in the Wiri industrial precinct, offering local businesses a powerful tool to combat crime. This partnership leverages our established security infrastructure with CrimeWatch's cutting-edge Al-powered CCTV monitoring.

Wiri Business, led by its elected board and managed by a dedicated team, has long prioritised security for its members. Their existing suspicious activity, CrimeWatch operators will:

- Alert security patrols, who can quickly reach the scene to deter or apprehend any criminal activity.
- Notify the police when necessary, expediting their response time.
- Document the incident by compiling detailed reports.
- Secure and distribute video footage, providing valuable evidence for investigations.

This partnership empowers Wiri businesses to significantly enhance their security posture. By leveraging CrimeWatch's Al technology, businesses can benefit from:

Proactive Deterrence: The system's real-time detection discourages criminal activity before it even begins.

Faster Response Times: Rapid notification of security and police ensures a swift response to incidents.

Enhanced Evidence Collection: Documented reports and readily available video footage assist investigations.

Wiri Business Association
Manager, Gary Holmes,
expressed his enthusiasm for
the partnership: "We are thrilled
to collaborate with CrimeWatch.
Their Al technology significantly
bolsters our existing security
measures, providing our members
with a robust and proactive
security solution."

Alan Young, from CrimeWatch, echoed this sentiment: "We're proud to partner with Wiri Business to make Wiri a safer place for businesses. Our Al technology is a powerful tool, and we're confident it will significantly deter crime in the precinct."

Wiri businesses interested in accessing CrimeWatch's advanced monitoring technology can contact Alan Young at alanyoung@crimewatch.co.nz. This partnership signifies a significant step forward for Wiri's business community, fostering a safer and more secure environment for all.



initiatives include security patrols and a network of CCTV cameras strategically placed throughout the business district. This partnership elevates these efforts by introducing advanced Al monitoring technology.

CrimeWatch takes the reins on monitoring 15 critical camera locations within the Wiri precinct. Their advanced AI system goes beyond just recording footage. It actively analyses the video feed, intelligently detecting the presence of people or vehicles where they shouldn't be. This real-time analysis allows CrimeWatch operators to swiftly respond to potential threats.

The escalation protocols implemented ensure a rapid and effective response. Upon detecting

This multifaceted approach effectively tackles a range of criminal activities that plague businesses:

Trespass: The AI system can detect unauthorized individuals entering restricted areas, deterring vandalism and potential theft.

Burglary: Early detection of break-in attempts allows for swift intervention, minimizing damage and loss.

Theft of Vehicles: The AI can identify suspicious activity around parked vehicles, allowing security to intervene before a theft occurs.

Tagging and Rubbish Dumping: The ability to monitor activity discourages illegal dumping and vandalism, keeping the business district clean and professional.

Upcoming events









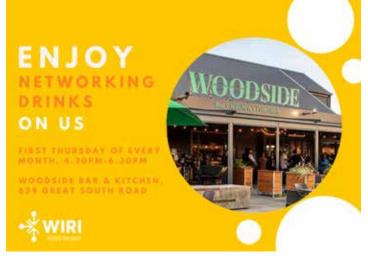
Accredited course in local venue which includes morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea for \$120!

2024 Dates: 23 July, 19 September



Contact info@wiribiz.org.nz for more information







Hiringa opens green hydrogen station in Wiri

In our Autumn 2024 edition of Wirilink, we introduced you to the Hiringa and the benefits of green hydrogen. On 23 April, Wiri Business joined Hiringa along with investors and partners to launch Australasia's first zero-emission green hydrogen refuelling network.

The hydrogen refuel station is located at Waitomo on Roscommon Road, and was officially opened by the Minister of Energy and Transport, Hon. Simeon Brown. It makes up one of three stations that Hiringa has recently opened in the North Island and will service the "Golden triangle" of freight movement between Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga.

These refuelling stations will enable hydrogen-powered heavy vehicles, including buses, to refuel in 10 to 20 minutes. With heavy vehicles making up 25 percent of New Zealand's transport carbon emissions, green hydrogen offers the transport sector an opportunity to radically reduce emissions.

Wiri Business sponsored the coffee van for the opening; below are some of the pictures from the event.







Past events

Coffee van visits Febuary – May









Hayden Paddon Breakfast









Past events

International Women's Day









Networking drinks February - May











New resources available to sort your BCP

Business continuity planning (BCP) is more than just a buzzword; it's essential for the survival and success of any organisation, especially in today's volatile business environment.

It means you'll always have a plan B when things aren't smooth sailing. It's not just about covering your business during a natural disaster. Your BCP covers any risks and threats that can disrupt your business activities.

Wiri Business have teamed up with Simplexity and Maelstrom Consulting to produce a set of BCP and Emergency Preparedness planning tools, that are available to all Wiri businesses.

There's a mix of resources that we think will help businesses plan for the worst including a Business Continuity Workbook, Business Resilience Toolkit and Case Studies from three local businesses.

We encourage all business owners to have a look at the materials and make the time to review your plans.

Let's begin our journey towards greater preparedness and resilience for the Wiri Business District.

A big thank you to Mark Prujean from Jayen Food Concepts, Ron Salter from Salters Cartage and Teena Rhind from Adstaff for contributing their time and experiences in our local case studies.

You can find digital copies of these resources on our website https://wiribiz.org.nz/emergency-preparedness/

If you would like a printed copy, please contact us at info@wiribiz.org.nz

Contact Maelstrom / Simplexity on hello@simplexity.co.nz if you want further assistance with developing a Business Continuity Plan for your business.





Heading back to school

As part of our Youth Employment Initiative, we turned back time and headed back to school! Manurewa High School's Principal, Pete Jones and some of his support staff were kind enough to welcome Wiri Business and some of our local businesses along for an open day during the school holidays.

As we found out, school has changed quite a bit since any of us had last been! Here's our top three observations:

- Learning can be flexible and schools like
 Manurewa High want to work with employers to
 make sure their students have the best possible
 chance to succeed in the workplace.
- School is not a rigid timetable of classes that many of us were used to at school. If a student has a workplace experience to attend, teachers will find a way for them to still do schoolwork and classes at a different time.

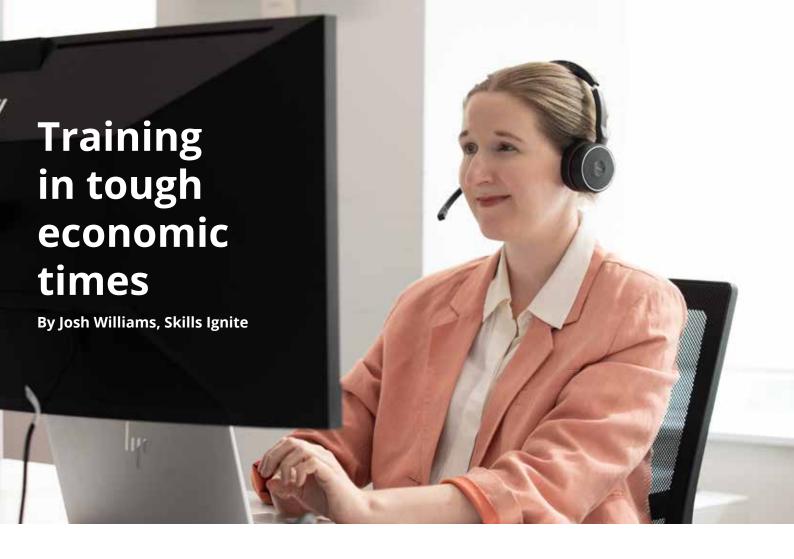
 Technology has changed everything and changed the way that students learn.

Wiri Business would like to reach out to all businesses – including small businesses that don't feel they have the time and capacity to offer long term places, businesses that may have school holiday opportunities, or ones that have unpaid or paid opportunities. Let's find local opportunities for our youth to grow!

Please get in contact with us on info@wiribiz.org.nz if you think Youth Employment is something you'd like to explore for your business.







The current economic climate is undoubtedly challenging for households and businesses alike, requiring difficult decisions to be made.

Skills Group, a company that has been developing skilled and qualified graduates for various industries through apprenticeship training and specialist providers like Ignite, ICE, and ETCO for over 30 years. Skills Group is deeply committed to securing the future of the industries it serves and the communities where it operates, including Wiri, where its Ignite Colleges campus trains for a wide range of industries, including healthcare, hospitality, business, and more.

For Skills, its success is intrinsically tied to the industries it supports, as it is an integral part of those industries. For instance, ETCO, the Electrical Training Group, also part of the Skills Group, trains 60 percent of all the electricians in New Zealand but is itself the country's largest employer of apprentices through its Group Employment scheme.

Having weathered several economic cycles, Skills Group understands the cyclical nature of booms and busts. Many of the employers it works with share that understanding that circumstances will eventually improve, and preparedness is crucial. Continuing to invest in people and capabilities is essential, as the simple truth is that training must continue. Failing to

supply the skilled workers that businesses rely on will hinder progress when the economic situation turns around.

There is no shortage of work, and quite the opposite, there is an urgent need for action. A group of Construction Industry Associations has recently written to the government seeking to expedite consents and approvals to address a significant infrastructure deficit, which the Infrastructure Commission has estimated to be \$210 Billion and growing. Unlocking such economic activity will not only benefit those industries but also have spillover effects into other industries and contribute to the vibrant communities desired by all.

While inflation may tempt businesses to reduce training budgets as a "nice to have," research both in New Zealand and globally consistently finds that investing in employees' skills is second only to pay in retaining talent. If a company has good people it wants to retain, investing in their skills is crucial.

New Zealand, like many other countries, has many small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). These

businesses often lack the time and infrastructure to develop and offer high-quality training and upskilling for their employees, which is another area where Skills Group are specialists, providing high-quality training programs, linked to industry and national qualifications.

Skills has also observed over the years, like Business New Zealand's annual 'Mood of the Boardroom' surveys find year after year, that finding the right number skilled and talented staff is businesses' number one issue. International research bears this out too, in a megatrend towards skills-based organisations, many businesses will admit they are not confident in their own ability to train people effectively.

This is where Skills Group really shines, as a learning partner to businesses. It offers programmes tailored to customers' needs, that fit in with the day-to-day of the business, not insisting on a one-size-fits-all approach. A significant focus for Skills is on benchmarking and diagnostics, helping businesses identify their actual skills and capability needs and then develop plans to address gaps and grow capability and productivity, with measurable differences addressing real business needs.

It supports on-job, online, and work-based models, ranging from foundation skills and literacy and numeracy training, through to C-Suite, project management and leadership consulting. In tough times, the training budget can be one of the first things to go. In fact, the opposite needs to apply. Tough times is when businesses need to double down on training, to secure the future for their firm, and their industry.

To talk about how your business can navigate these times and up-skill your people get in touch with Skills Ignite on 98 Kerrs Road or email info@ignitecolleges.ac.nz.







We're a fan – introducing Happy Air Heat Pumps

Keeping things cool in the summer and warm in the winter is the Happy Air Heat Pumps team. In business for six years, Happy Air are relative newcomers to Wiri, having moved to a building on Ash Road in September 2022. Wiri Business sat down with joint founders and husband-and-wife team, Darren and Yvonne Vernon and found out more about Happy Air.

What they do

Happy Air specializes in heating, cooling, ventilation, and service work for both residential and commercial spaces. Darren has been working in the heat pump sector for 12 years but decided to branch out by himself.

"I wanted a better my life for me and my family and have that ability to pick and choose hours. At the start, it was just me working - sourcing materials, doing the job, the invoicing – everything. Then it slowly grew to having a casual guy helping and then another. Now we have five full-time staff".

Yvonne, who helps with office administration and human resources, came from the travel industry where she worked as a corporate travel agent.

"I decided to join the business after I had my first child - balance of life is so important. It's been great to watching the company grow into its own little entity. It's about having the right people in your business using their strengths to grow it".

Home sweet office?

Yvonne and Darren are happy to have been based in Wiri for the last 18 months after they had finally outgrown their double garage and needed a bigger space for the office.

"Wiri was a perfect location for us. We live in Papatoetoe and didn't want to be travelling too far. At the time it was extremely competitive to get a space close to home, so when the Ash Road site came up, we snapped it up!" says Darren.

Working together every day

Working alongside with your spouse could be considered a minefield, but Darren and Yvonne make a strong team.

"Being together daily and creating that partnership can be difficult at times. You've got to say the good

with the bad and the bad with the good. And at the end of the day, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger!" jokes Darren.

"Jokes aside, there's a trust and obviously we know each other's strengths and weaknesses, so we can just use that to our advantage with the business" adds Yvonne.

"Darren's strength is that he is a people person, he gets along with everyone and is great at creating a friendly atmosphere" says Yvonne.

"And where I'm less structured, Yvonne is super woman – she tells it how it is and keeps the boys in check. She doesn't realise how much she is needed in this business" remarks Darren.

Strength is in numbers

Happy Air understand the importance of a strong team and are always working to make sure their people are happy.

"When you've got people under you, you're not just thinking about yourself anymore. Most of the staff that we've have been with us from the beginning. We don't think of them as staff anymore, but as family. As we grow as a business, we want them to grow with us. We want to celebrate them because they're a huge part of the business. It's just all about looking after each other" says Yvonne.

"I want to avoid the problem of staff turnover – everything is so much more difficult and inconsistent

when there's staff turnover. We try to recognise their good work as much as possible and make Happy Air a safe and fun place to work" says Darren.

Then, now and the future

In the early days Happy Air concentrated more on residential projects and grew from a steady base of loyal customers.

"We've built our business on reputation and word of mouth. We don't spend fortunes on advertising, we focus on building a strong core of our business. It does mean you don't grow your business fast as possible, but it does mean you grow more safely and consistently" says Darren.

Looking forward, Darren is looking to move into more commercial work and grow the team.

"As a business, you've got to adapt and change things up a little bit and move into other areas. Moving into the commercial space with maintenance contracts offers a more consistent workload for our team. It would be great for Happy Air to grow bigger in the future" says Darren.

Visit <u>happyairheatpumps.co.nz</u> for more info on their winter promo.







Welcome to the block – UES International move to Wiri

Recently UES International moved into the Wiri neighbourhood. We went knocking on their door to find out more about their history, what they do, and why they chose Wiri as the place to do business.

Nestled in the new Chonny Place Biz Industrial Park, UES International have unpacked, settled in and have opened their doors.

The company provide specialised industrial hardware, rubber, seating, furniture and fit out solutions for the truck, bus, rail and marine industries, as well as the recreational and emergency vehicle markets.

If you have a ute, chances are there are a lot of our parts that we would sell on there" says CEO Matt Roughan.

UES International has a long history, after all, they have been in business for 120 years. The UES

International story started in 1904 when Albert Charles Chandler launched his business in Sydney's Goulburn Street, providing coach building and blacksmith services.

In the 1930s the company relocated to Marrickville and began producing motor body components. Over the following decades, the business grew and came into the hands of the Morcos family, changing its name from Universal Engineers Supplies to UES International.

UES International decided to make to the more to Wiri for numerous reasons, including the need for extra space, location to customers and cost effectiveness.

"We were in Onehunga, and it was a small facility which we were in for a long time. It suited us when we first expanded to New Zealand, but over time we outgrew the facility. We provide a range of products through the Bunnings network and needed to bring those in-house. We wanted to direct ship from our overseas supplier and we needed a warehouse. So, a bigger space was needed, and that's why we moved to Wiri."

UES International products and solutions are found across Australia, New Zealand, South-East Asia, Europe, USA and Canada. They have a team of close to 100 people and six people based in Wiri. One of those is Dono Bain, NZ Account Manager, who has been with UES International for six years.

"It's great being part of the UES team. What I love most is the customer stories. There are some very hard case people working in our industry and I'm a win-win type person. I really like going out and selling and trying to win the customer over" says Dono.

UES International point of difference is their focus on quality products and service to match.

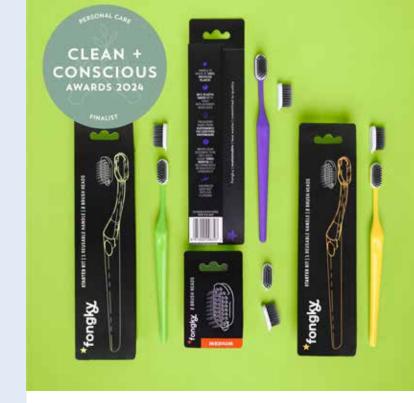
"We provide an engineered solution that's quality, fit for purpose and supported through great service. We get a lot of our gear from some of top end manufacturers out of Europe, Italy in particular, but also Sweden, France and France. If you want a high-end high quality engineered solution, you'd come to UES explains Matt."

They have just launched a brand-new website which offers an expanded range available to customers online, with a better user experience.

"It gives our customers access to the range of products that we have online at their convenience. Not only just the products, but the applications on where they're used in engineering drawings and they're able to compile, quote and send it through".

You can visit UES international at Unit I/8 Chonny Crescent or online at https://www.ues-hardware.com/

They are kindly extending their opening specials for Wiri Businesses and their staff – just quote this story and pop into the store to place your order.



In our Summer 2024 edition of WiriLink, we introduced you to our local entrepreneur Gavin Fong.

Gavin is looking to revolutionise the oral care industry with the Fongky toothbrush – a sustainable, affordable toothbrush with a replacement head.

We're pleased to share that the Fongky toothbrush has been selected as a finalist in the Clean and Conscious awards 2024!

The Clean and Conscious Awards celebrate the best clean and conscious products available in Australia and NZ.

Congratulations Gavin, fingers crossed for the big announcement in August.



Follow us on Facebook and Linkedin to get all the latest news and updates!

If you would like to join our mailing list, email info@wiribiz.org.nz





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Bigger and better: NZ Post opens new sorting centre in Wiri

NZ Post has officially cut the ribbon on the brand new, state-of-the-art sorting centre in Wiri.



The new facility is off Roscommon and Wiri Station Roads and will be where domestic parcels are sorted using world class technology. International parcels will follow once Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) move into the site later in 2024.

NZ Post Chief Executive David Walsh says the Auckland Processing Centre (APC) has more capacity than any parcel sorting facility previously seen in New Zealand.

"Our new 30,000sqm hub of international and national processing will bring together NZ Post, Customs and MPI on one site, continuing our long working relationship with both agencies. The APC is bigger than four rugby fields, and capable of



processing more than 30,000 parcels per hour at peak capacity. We've also invested heavily in better technology, which means better accuracy and more visibility of where parcels are in our network, removing manual handling and sorting," says Walsh.

NZ Post General Manager Processing and Automation Marie Watson says the new site will run an automated processing operation for domestic parcels, packets, small packets, international inbound and outbound parcels.

"This site is the third to open under NZ Post's \$200m investment in parcel processing infrastructure, with the Wellington Super Depot and the Southern Operations Centre upgrade both opening in 2022."

"With six sorters on multiple levels, the APC more than doubles our current processing capacity per hour from the previous Auckland Operations Centre – from 13,000 to 30,000 at peak capacity. It's an impressive multi-story site, and the integration with international product under one roof sets it apart from anything seen before. The APC is a key part of our aim to increase our parcel processing capacity to 190 million items per year by 2033."

"At this facility, we employ up to 400 people. Wiri is an ideal location and was chosen as it gave NZ Post good motorway links, particularly to our existing facility in Highbrook, while keeping us in close proximity to Auckland Airport" concludes Watson.

Nestlé nails new signage

By Amanda McDermott

Did you know Nestlé products have been made in Tāmaki Makaurau for over 60 years?



Nestlé NZ is delighted to be a part of the Wiri community, both as an employer and manufacturer, providing good food for a good life to Kiwis around New Zealand.

To unlock the stories of our locally-made fan-favourite products, we've made our progress hard to miss – proudly sharing some of our brands and positive contributions from the Nestlé Aotearoa team on the walls of our Nestlé Wiri factory itself.

Sounds easy right?

Well, we thought so too, however in reality we had to be quite persistent and patient to achieve this outcome!

Initially timed for October 2023, strong rainfall made the site inaccessible for safe installation. The installers had to wait until the ground was dry and firm enough to support the heavy equipment which was required.



Not to be deterred, we rescheduled two or three more times, each time rebooked for dry weather, and each time the skies reopened and beat us once more, proving that inclement weather in Auckland always needs to be factored in as a variable.

Four months after the original date we finally beat the weather and successfully installed the stunning new signage for all to view.

Keep a look out on your travels in the area or next time you go past the Nestlé Wiri factory!





WIRI

means business



Free networking and courses



means community



Keeps you up to date





WIRI

means security



Safer streets



means environment



Keeping Wiri tidy





WIRI

means advocacy



Advocating for your business