



River scene

Victoria on the River, a commercial property development in Hamilton, is looking to lure big city corporates. The \$50 million Perry Developments project will be sited on the south end of the city's main street (Victoria Street) in the heart of the city's trendy café district. Construction is set to begin mid-2007 with completion in early 2009. The development includes 12,000m² of office space with river views and nearly 1,000m² of river front retail space. "We believe the attractive lease rates will drive demand from large companies outside the Waikato," says Perry Developments' general manager, Tony McLauchlan.

A FOR EFFORT

Recent information from the Commerce Commission highlights New Zealand retailers' very good track record in relation to Consumer Information Standards and Product Safety Standards. Over the last 12 years there have been only 23 cases successfully brought against retailers for breaches of the Consumer Information Standards. Similarly, over the last 19 years there have been only 27 cases successfully brought against retailers in breaches of the Product Safety Standards. While one case is one too many (particularly in relation to issues around product safety), these statistics highlight how responsible the retail sector is. Of course there's no room for complacency, but it's nice to reflect occasionally on a good track record. Keep up the good work.



Taking off

UK based Silverjet Airlines is doing its bit to reduce greenhouse emissions. The all-business-class carrier is the first to become 'carbon neutral' on all flights. Included in Silverjet's ticket price is a mandatory carbon offset contribution. This contribution is converted to carbon points that passengers can choose to reinvest in climate-friendly projects around the globe. Interestingly, one such project mentioned by Springwise.com is a 'wind farm in New Zealand'. Source: Springwise.com

Mobile shopping

Digby is an m-commerce site for BlackBerry users selling products from retailers including flowers, chocolates and gift baskets. The Digby catalogue is updated daily to maintain fresh products and to facilitate merchant-specific product promotions. The developers of Digby, 30 Second Software, say more retailers are on the way. "Mobile devices have become an integral part of everyday life, with features such as cameras, calendars, address books, and wireless access to e-mail and the internet. However, users are continuing to look for more mobile services," says 30 Second Software's Dave Sikora. Source: Smartbrief

NEW MINIMUM WAGE RATES 1ST APRIL 2007

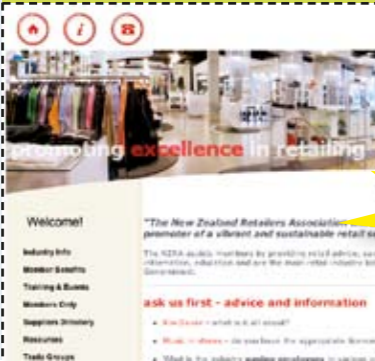
The statutory minimum adult wage rate – applying to employees 18 years of age and over – increases to \$11.25 per hour from 1 April 2007. The new rate for 16 and 17 year olds and adults on registered training agreements is \$9.00 per hour from 1 April. These rates are up from \$10.25 and \$8.20 respectively.

The minimum wage rates are reviewed each year. The government's stated goal is for the adult minimum wage to reach \$12 an hour by the end of 2008, if economic conditions permit.



US Easy video

Wal-Mart plans to sell digital movies and television shows through its website, according to *The New York Times*. The world's biggest retailer has struck partnership deals with Walt Disney, Paramount, Warner Bros., 20th Century Fox, Sony and Universal and will have 3,000 on-line titles of digital movies and TV shows on offer, selling at prices similar to those paid in-store. The move makes Wal-Mart the first traditional retailer to sell digital movies on-line. Source: Newsbrief



CHECK OUT...

The New Zealand Retailers Association's new-look website and e-mail newsletter. In addition to the usual quality info you've come to expect, there's a new on-line membership application facility. See for yourself at: www.retail.org.nz

EVENTS – What: Where: When

Melbourne: 11–12 May
Sydney: 22–23 June



CAREERS & EMPLOYMENT EXPO

A dedicated precinct promoting retail careers is planned for these two mid-year expos. Retailworld Resourcing has developed the retail precinct in response to the worsening candidate shortage within the industry, and to what it describes as 'a desperate cry' from retailers struggling to attract and retain quality staff. The precinct will offer an alternative to the traditional stands at the expos, providing the retail partners with the opportunity to represent the industry as a team. It will also promote the many career opportunities to the 30,000-plus students attending.



2–4 September 2007



Spoga: international range of garden and leisure products

Mingle with the more than 1,500 exhibitors from around the world showcasing products related to garden furniture, garden decorations, barbecuing and equestrian sports. The event is expected to attract almost 30,000 specialists, buyers and managers from the garden and leisure market. For more, go to: www.spoga-cologne.com.



5–7 June 2007

NEC BIRMINGHAM

RETAIL SOLUTIONS 2007

Retail Solutions is the UK's largest event for retail, hospitality and leisure decision makers to source real solutions to real business issues. For more information go to: www.retail.solutions2007.com

Birmingham,
16–19 September 2007

GLEE

A new and improved layout means the three core sectors at GLEE – garden, pet and leisure – are now grouped more closely, so buyers can compare and source more of the latest ranges and new launches for the coming year. For more information go to: www.gleebirmingham.com



14–17 July 2007

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre Reed Gift Fairs Brisbane

Reed Gift Fairs has enjoyed many successful years in Brisbane. This fair attracts leading retailers from throughout Queensland, as well as key interstate buyers. Many new products are unveiled at Brisbane which showcases upcoming designs, trends and colours. Co-located with Reed Gift Fairs Brisbane is SHOPEX, which features the latest in shop fitout and retail technology solutions, thus making these two events an opportunity for buyers to source all their retailing needs in one visit.

3–5 June
Dubai International
Exhibition Centre



Retail City

Now in its second year, this is the leading international retail real estate event in the Middle East. The three-day event will showcase developments in this very buoyant retail sector estimated to generate US\$100 billion per annum. For more information, go to: www.retailcity.ae