



Apprentices ready to test skills at NZCB Apprentice Challenge

New Zealand's impressive batch of apprentices will don their tool belts early on Saturday morning (8 April), to compete in the 2017 New Zealand Certified Builders (NZCB) Apprentice Challenge.

Record levels of interest from apprentices in participating will see 14 events held simultaneously in different regions across New Zealand on the same day.

This year, apprentices will demonstrate their skills by constructing a high-spec outdoor table and bench seating, within a set timeframe. The table has carpentry joints included in its design not typically found on basic outdoor furniture sets from retailers, which will prove to be a considerable challenge for the competitors. The project will test the apprentices' ability to complete the task on time, and with attention to detail.

The NZCB Apprentice Challenge is in Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Taupo, Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch, Central Otago, Dunedin and Invercargill, with a new batch of apprentices vying for the chance to claim victory.

The outdoor furniture must be 1m wide and 1.8m in length, constructed from durable and long-lasting timber and materials, and made for entertaining guests of all ages. Following the annual challenge the tables and bench seating will be donated to local community groups.

From 8:00am, the challenge is open to New Zealanders nationwide to cheer on their apprentices and learn tricks from the professionals. The best time to attend is after 1:00pm, with judging to follow the set finish time of 4:30pm.

The winners of each region will go through to the NZCB Apprentice Challenge Final, held at the NZCB Annual Conference in Auckland, 26-27 May.

The NZCB Apprentice Challenge is run by NZ Certified Builders (NZCB) in association with the Industry Training Association Building (ITAB).