The Palms Shopping Centre in Christchurch is undergoing a metamorphosis and will emerge from its construction cocoon in June 2003 as a striking example of the new style of shopping centre – light, spacious and designed with people in mind.

Occupying over 28,000m², the Palms Shopping Centre will house over 100 shops and provide 1300 car parks. At an overall cost of $45 million dollars, the redevelopment is no small undertaking and the construction materials used have to be able to withstand the rigours of constant use.

Hurricane Wire Products Ltd. (one of the members of WWRMDA) bid for the job when it came to supplying the Welded Wire Reinforcing (WWR) used on this project, supplying it to the project’s main contractor, Naylor Love through Sheet & Tube Reinforcing, Christchurch.

1800 sheets of 665 WWR, covering an area of over 25,000 sq. m., were used for supermarket flooring and car parks in the Palms Shopping Centre. 665 WWR with 5.3mm dia. wire using 300mm construction lap gives adequate efficiency while retaining the desired 150mm (6”) spacing.

WWR is used as primary or secondary reinforcement or simply for crack control for slabs, double tee beams etc. One of the major contributions WWR makes to concrete construction is the control of random cracking in concrete components.

WWR is available in standard sheet sizes with varying steel area ranging from 84mm²/m through to 295 mm²/m in regular steps. It is also available up to a steel area of 1000 mm²/m in specific designs by agreement with individual producers.

All WWR produced by Alliance members complies to the relevant standards applicable in New Zealand, thus ensuring quality and acceptability.

The objective of the Alliance are:
• Grow use of welded wire reinforcing in concrete
• Provide design engineers with design data
• Join advertising campaigns
• Feed relevant information to members
• Commission research and development projects of common interest
• Liaise with Standards New Zealand

The members of the Alliance are:
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Main Contractor: Naylor Love
Structural Engineer: Butler George
Project Management: Wilkinson Consulting