

Building boost sparks need for process visibility

Horncastle Homes is a respected Canterbury-based construction company. The company has helped lead the response to the post-earthquake residential rebuild in Canterbury, understanding better than many that a person's home is their 'castle'.

By the end of 2014 Horncastle will have built at least 300 houses in Christchurch and around 80 in Auckland.

Horncastle believe that Canterbury is a great place to work and an even better place to live, recently underlined by their decision to invest in the region's major indoor stadium, the Horncastle Arena.

Like most Canterbury based construction companies Horncastle experienced rapid growth as a result of the demand for replacements of earthquake-damaged buildings. Their robust manual project management systems worked effectively when they only had 70 jobs to keep track of at any given time. However, the surge in Canterbury construction soon meant that they were managing up to 150 projects simultaneously.

As Horncastle rely heavily on external resources to complete their numerous building projects it became clear that they needed to shift from a process that relied on spreadsheets to something that offered more visibility for all parties involved.

Being able to track each job and create reports easily also needed to factor in to the new system.

Visibility For All Parts Of The Business

Horncastle Operations Manager, Matthew Horncastle says, "My job is to keep my finger in every single pot of the company and make sure the whole company communicates and works and moves the way it should."

To respond to the growth challenge, Matthew decided to employ iviis™ to help meet Horncastle's management system needs.

Business Issues

Increase in work creates need for better project management usability and visibility.

Solution

A universal location where everyone involved can access project information.

Outcome

Excellent visibility, forecasting and reporting that has increased accuracy and efficiently throughout the entire construction process.



"We have tradies who literally can't save a contact in their phone but they can use iviis™"

iviis™ was engaged by Horncastle because of excellent referrals by fellow Canterbury construction companies. Having a sound understanding of the Christchurch rebuild environment and approachable attitude made iviis™ the easy choice. “Everything was easier with iviis™ than any other company,” says Matthew, “They’re very approachable people. They have good project management and they’re efficient at finishing things.”

The team at iviis™ were also excellent at incorporating Horncastle’s requirements into workable solutions. Matthew says, “I must admit, myself being construction-based I do things far differently to them, but they always did the best they could to translate what I was saying into a working database.”

Matthew was impressed by the flexibility of the iviis™ platform, saying “it made it quite easy to build large databases in a short amount of time. They have very good resources at their disposal.” iviis™ took the previous Horncastle systems and put them into a universal location where all users could access information on the jobs construction process. iviis™ also condensed the 110 procedures it takes to build a house down to 23 stages with specific allocated tasks. Matthew says, “It’s easier on the eye, it’s easier to understand and it’s easier to localise certain parts of the build.”

The system was built quickly to accommodate 180 external users, including many trades people with limited computer knowledge. It was imperative that the system would be easy to use.

Matthew says, “The way I see it is if we can make a database that completely computer-illiterate people can use we must be one of the most successful databases in job management that I’m aware of. We have tradies who literally can’t save a contact in their phone but they can use iviis™.”

Increased Accuracy Across Entire Construction Process

The flexibility iviis™ has provided Horncastle with is ideal for the construction company’s ever changing situation. When process or environment issues come up they need to have the ability to incorporate them into their systems. Matthew explains, “There’s a large health and safety reform coming with the laws so we’ll have to incorporate lots of health and safety law requirements into our job management system. We’re always going to be adjusting our management system so that’s why it’s important to have a degree of malleability.”

iviis™ have taken Horncastle’s good manual systems and transformed them into visible, easy-to-use structures that enable the entire company, including external users, to monitor and update their project status, create reports and forecast.

Matthew says, “Because the iviis™ system relies heavily on external users to update it’s ridiculously accurate.” This results in a more efficient, accurately managed construction project.

Horncastle workers have found that they save a lot of time using the iviis™ system because of the ability to easily adjust information. Matthew says, “If there’s minor changes on site, instead of redoing an excel spreadsheet which can take upwards of an hour it’s literally a 5 minute bump of a date. So it works really well.”

The easy-to-use, robust yet flexible management system that iviis™ has created for Horncastle gives the company the power to adjust the processes to reflect the constantly changing construction environment. It also saves them time by making user updates easy to implement and increases the accuracy of their operations by giving accurate visibility and forecasting tools for everyone involved in the construction process. “I consider it to be a very successful project,” says Matthew.

iviis™ provide software solutions that help organisations know their business, now.

For the building and construction sector, the iviis™ building and construction management solution enables them to collaborate more effectively across their supply chain, helping increase efficiency, reduce costs and improve customer outcomes.

To arrange a consultation with one of our experts in managing building and construction projects, visit www.iviis.com