

Exciting announcement for Wauchope CBD

Hastings Co-op has announced that the much-loved Circle of Friends franchise has signed a three-year lease on The Department Store premises, injecting hope and excitement into Wauchope's CBD, with a promise to maintain the long-held Christmas window tradition.

Hastings Co-op Chief executive officer Nick de Groot said Circle of Friends, which currently has two stores at 33 High Street, will relocate to the Department Store premises after it closes on August 31.

"This is fantastic news for our town and a great outcome for everyone involved, especially members, as Circle of Friends would like to continue offering a Co-op member discount," Mr de Groot said.

"We understand the community's disappointment when the difficult decision was made to close The Department Store, but we are excited to work with Circle of Friends to help ensure the CBD continues to thrive.

"Circle of Friends is already a drawcard for shoppers to the Hastings, and in the medium-term, we have plans to re-develop the site so its rich legacy can live on."

Circle of Friends owner Ken Logan said the store's range would be expanded in the upcoming move and he intends to open in mid-September.

"We're thrilled to be part of the Hastings community and intend to expand on Hastings Co-op's commitment to community engagement, including things like window displays for community groups such as Wauchope Patchwork and Quilters and Wauchope Show Society," Mr Logan said.

There are currently 12 Circle of Friends stores across the Mid North Coast, offering an extensive range of clothing, homewares, furniture, jewellery, handbags and gifts.

When the Wauchope store relocates to The Department Store site they will offer a 5% discount for Co-op members.

Circle of Friends' stores are located at Wauchope, Port Macquarie, Taree, Nahiab, Forster, Tuncurry, Wingham, Gloucester, Tea Gardens, Raymond Terrace and Maitland. For further updates follow the Circle of Friends Wauchope Facebook page.

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