



## Welcome

As usual, life is moving at a frantic pace here at Amstar. We've just started the demolition phase of a \$4 million fitout for Navman, a company providing fleet management technology using GPS. Navman have a staff of 400 and a 4800m<sup>2</sup> site - this is a huge job for us and we're looking forward to getting stuck into it.



As we're so busy, we're taking on extra staff. New this quarter is Paul Barnes. Fresh from Southampton in the UK, Paul has more than 10 years experience as a joiner and carpenter.

We've also started a maintenance division, headed by Les Stephens. Les, along with Harry Gray and Barry Davies, are responsible for post-contract and additional work. Since they started their time has been fully occupied at Unitec and they have done around 100 extra jobs there.

Keith Brockbank and Steve Lobb

*Directors*



*Work is just beginning on the Navman project*

## City slickers

The communications and marketing division of the Auckland City Council occupy level one in the Bledisloe, a 1950s, heritage noted building.

Its recent fitout, managed by Amstar's Ross Paterson, started with stripping the entire interior back to a bare shell.

Architect and Project Manager, Kevin Russ of Compass Dolphin, recommended the new offices were constructed using Versiwall, a demountable partitioning system.

This will give the Council flexibility long term, and saves time now, as it comes ready to go up – no stopping or plastering required, only painting, says Kevin.



The Council has recently rebranded and the new quilt pattern of their logo has been sandblasted onto the internal glazing.

To create texture, Rippleboard was used to create an abstract tuku tuku panel effect.

The fitout has offices around the exterior and interior meeting rooms, all with a fresh, contemporary look.

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## Growing pains

IT firm, Right Hemisphere, is a rapidly developing company. They have recently relocated from very cramped premises and have plans for further growth.

Under the guidance of Roy Baddiley, the fitout of the new offices in a multi storey building in Newmarket began by completely gutting the floor they were to occupy.

Architect Ian Corbett of Walker Architects says the new layout has half the floor in partitioned offices and the other half open plan.

Ian is very happy with Amstar's efforts on this job.

"Amstar performed admirably given the shortened construction period," he says.

Brian Lomas of Right Hemisphere agrees: "They were right on schedule, handled the contractors very well and were very good at keeping us up to date with progress."

## Back to school

Project manager Chris Davenport has been working with Mark Smith of Architects NZ to upgrade the administration block of Mt Carmel School in Remuera.



Mark describes the project as fairly straightforward; reconfiguring an old classroom into a modern space for admin use.

"Amstar have been very good to work with," says Mark. "They're on top of it – on time and on budget."

## Patent pending

Patent attorney firm, AJ Park occupies two floors in the Quay House tower in Auckland city. The fitout of the premises was unusual in that it comprised of 45 offices for a staff of 90.

Architect Kevin Russ of Compass Dolphin says there was a little confusion at first. We thought they said four to five offices – the project changed a little when it was clarified as 45 offices!

Kevin says that it was important to create a good feeling for the admin staff in their working area.

"We used glass partitions to allow as much light as possible into the floor," says Kevin. "And no corner offices were created. These areas, and the primary area on level 14 with views over the viaduct, are accessible to all staff."

An unusual selection of materials was used in the fitout. Wooden blinds were used as wall coverings and as a feature face on the reception counter.



Reeded glass, popular in the '60s, was used as hush glass to create sound proof meeting rooms. Woven bamboo wall coverings, last seen in the '50s, have also made a reappearance.

Compass Dolphin have been working quite a bit with Amstar recently. Kevin says it's nice to have a friendly contracting company to work with and having Amstar involved in the early stages of the project really helps.

"It's a real team effort," he says.

Prime Minister Helen Clark opened the new premises of AJ Park on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July.