



Welcome

It's hard to believe we're on the downhill slide to Christmas. With so many projects on, this year is whizzing by for us at Amstar.

Our increasing workload has meant we've taken on quite a few new staff this year and as a consequence we're rapidly outgrowing our premises. So we're on the lookout for something new. If you hear of anything we might like, give us a bell.

A lot of our work seems to come from our existing clients and contacts, and we'd like to thank everyone for their ongoing support. We'd especially like to thank Paul Carew of Carew and Associates as he's brought a number of projects our way, the most recent of which was the fitout of patent attorney firm AJ Park, which we profiled in the last edition of Stardate.

We're also working again with Kevin Russ of Compass Dolphin, this time on levels two and three of the Auckland City Council administration building.

As usual, the projects we're involved in this quarter are very varied, from fish markets to schools to corporate fitouts.

It keeps us on our toes!

Keith Brockbank and Steve Lobb

Directors

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Ensuring quality

Munich Insurance has been located on level 30 of the ANZ Tower in Albert street for many years now.

Their office fitout was about 10 years old and in need of an upgrade, so they called on Australian firm Bligh Voller Neild to design a fitout in keeping with Munich's worldwide corporate look.

The resulting \$1 million refit for the 350m² office was very nice, says project manager Joseph Stradwick of Skyward Construction.

"The cost per square metre was phenomenal. This meant we had top level finishes," says Strandwick.



The refit included new carpet, a Corian kitchen, high quality furniture and a wall of art.

Skyward Construction acted as an Auckland agent for Bovis Lendlease and subcontracted out all parts of the job.

Amstar was called on to do the partitioning and set the ceilings. They also installed some doors and did some gib stopping on the project.

Strandwick says Amstar were a good to deal with on the job.



Fishy business

Ngaitahu Seafood has opened a retail facility called Pacific Catch located in the Auckland fish market down in the Viaduct.

Based on the Sydney fish market, it has an auction at 6am daily for trade.

Open to the public from 7am to 7pm, the facility houses two seafood retailers, the larger being Pacific Catch, there is also a deli and a café.

What was once a seafood processing factory for Sanfords is now a high profile retail outlet says Richard Ellis, manager of Pacific Catch.

“You can buy a huge variety of the freshest fish and well as great fish’n’chips,” he says.

Behind the retail front is a large amount of refrigeration to keep the seafood in optimum condition.



School work

Pakuranga College is undergoing a \$1.3 million upgrade to the tech block. The block was originally used for home economics and fabrics classes.

The refurbishment amalgamates these rooms with the metalwork and woodwork rooms, joining them together with a corridor. This corridor incorporates a staff workroom.

Designer Sarah Telford from Adams de la Mare Architects describes the extension as being timber framed with coloursteel cladding. Black parapets around the roofs will give the whole technology block a fresh and very modern look.

Telford says she is finding the Amstar crew friendly and really enjoys working with them.

Read all about it

The New Zealand Herald office reception area was dated and not particularly user friendly, says Herald project manager Mike Horst.

“The old entrance had a circular ramp for wheelchair access which took up a lot of space and blocked up the reception area,” he says.



With around 300 visitors each day, The Herald wanted to make the entrance more welcoming for clients and people coming in to place ads. So they increased its size, opened it up to allow more natural light and installed a stairlift to replace the ramp. They also built a couple of interior meeting rooms and a waiting area for clients and visitors.

The fitout included a timber floor, carpet tiles and a new counter in a walnut veneer.

The refurbishment also extended to the exterior of the building which has about 10 steps up to sliding glass doors.

A solid canopy was built over the entrance. A glass section in the canopy over the steps allows maximum light inside.

The very tired looking 1950ish marble tile cladding was replaced with a new bluey-white tile and the whole building was repainted.

Horst says the new entrance is spacious and modern, and visitors to The Herald no longer have to walk in circles.