



## ARMSTRONG DOWNES COMMERCIAL



Jason Mann Photography.

# ARMSTRONG DOWNES COMMERCIAL NEW HQ SHOWCASE FOR REGION'S COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION FUTURE

**Aglionby House, the new headquarters for local construction firm Armstrong Downes Commercial is already a landmark on the Hutt Valley commercial stage; a showcase for the future of commercial building in this region and indeed the entire country.**

**Established in 1992, Armstrong Downes Commercial is a multi-award winning commercial construction company, owned by Lower Hutt construction professionals Tony Doile and Simon Taylor.**

The pair has been responsible for many high profile construction projects throughout the Region over the past two decades. These include the recently opened Woburn Apartments for the Masonic Village Trust and all three Mitre 10 Mega stores at Petone, Upper Hutt and Porirua. Armstrong Downes Commercial also built the Harvey Norman Centre (which included one of the largest ever concrete pours), Upper Hutt's new Harbour City Funeral Home, Hutt Park Indoor Sports Centre, the new Churton Park Village, Pak 'n Save Lower Hutt, the Brendan Foot Supersite and the Kapiti Coast District Council's new offices in Paraparaumu.

In fact, they have delivered hundreds of projects all across the Wellington Region,

from Island Bay and Lambton Quay to the Hutt Valley and across the hills to Porirua and the Kapiti Coast.

"By engaging Armstrong Downes Commercial we have helped our clients reach their own goals. Going forward we want to see more of these Wellington businesses be successful, grow, be profitable, employ more people and contribute to our region, just as we intend to.

"Pride in our heritage, displaying commitment to and optimism for the future, delivering the best commercial construction projects across the region. This is what we are all about," say Tony and Simon.

### **STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS**

Aglionby House sets new standards for commercial offices in the Hutt Valley.

Aglionby House is built to 100 percent of the earthquake standards. Its strong environmental emphasis includes rainwater recovery for toilets and watering the gardens, 20 solar panels to supply the building's electricity needs, sensor controlled low-energy LED lighting throughout, large double glazing windows for natural light and solar



Jason Mann Photography.



Jason Mann Photography.



Jason Mann Photography.

*“It is all about strong market leadership built on strong foundations”.*

gain; it is fully insulated, even between floors and even the wheel stops are made from re-used rubber.

It is appropriately industrial – showcasing the wide variety of design and architectural possibilities for steel, concrete and wood. The building includes many unique design touches, internal open plan office facilities and a large first floor deck for entertaining staff and guests.

The owners are proud to state 90 percent of the materials for its construction came from local companies.

“This building is all about our future,” Simon told those attending the recent official opening.

“It is our commitment and personal investment into what we will achieve in the next 25 years. It is of huge personal significance to both myself and Tony - it is about growth and being more productive, being a leader in commercial construction, attracting the best people and delivering the very best commercial construction projects across our region and beyond.”

Aglionby House is part of Armstrong Downes Commercial overall strategic plan to grow the business to be the leader in the Wellington construction market – not necessarily the biggest, but certainly the one that sets the standard, the one people say is their first choice to have their next project.

“It is all about strong market leadership built on strong foundations”.

The clean positive lines of the building and the use of vibrant colour throughout, “reflects our excitement and enthusiasm for what we do and the people we do it for. Its angles and texture talk about innovation and style”, says Tony.

Although all their buildings include the usual building elements of concrete, glass, nails and wood, the most important aspect of Armstrong Downes Commercial success “is the relationships and the teams we work with,” says Simon.

“These are local people without whom Tony and I could not have created a great business. It is these same teams who will be part of our ongoing success.”

“We knew the key to our success so far is about the team and we wanted to provide our team with a building that is a pleasure to work in; one that honoured the skill, loyalty and commitment that they bring to our company”, says Tony.

The way they feel about their team is demonstrated by the care with which the totally quiet, open plan offices they work in, along with their lunch room, has been designed. Chosen colours reflect the use of each area; inspirational images of completed projects decorate the lightshades and versatility in the use of space is a byword.

There is no clutter. At the end of each day, desks are cleared so everything remains clean and crisp, setting the scene for another tomorrow of clear thinking and industriousness – providing a workplace without distractions.

**Pride in their heritage is well illustrated by the large mural along the back wall featuring Hutt Valley icons.**





Minister Hekia Parata joins the award winning Armstrong Downes Commercial team in giving a “thumbs up” to new their HQ.



From left to right: Simon Taylor, Education Minister Hekia Parata and Tony Doile.



Hekia Parata and National Party Hutt South List MP Chris Bishop admire the stunning lampshades featuring the company's award winning projects during their Aglionby House tour.



Owners Simon Taylor and Tony Doile help Education Minister Hekia Parata unveil the Hutt River rock and plaque.



Both the Mayors of Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt Wayne Guppy and Ray Wallace attended the opening.

# Memorable opening

Among the 170 guests at the opening was the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr Anne-Marie Schleich, whose own Ambassadorial residence has received a sensitive and elegant makeover at the hands of Armstrong Downes Commercial.

Tribute was paid by the owners to the Architects and Consultants team of Designgroup Stapleton Elliott (DGSE), especially Nigel Dong and Chris Gilby and Spencer Holmes Ltd (Philip McConchie and Jon Devine.) Project Manager was Graham Hickling, who holds the rare honour of having former Prime Ministers Helen Clark, Sir Robert Muldoon and Sir Keith Holyoake opening projects he has managed.

Before local dignitaries and a veritable ‘who’s who’ of the Wellington Region’s commercial construction and business community in attendance, Aglionby House was officially opened by Education Minister Hekia Parata, who unveiled a large Hutt River rock as part of the opening ceremony.

She was reminded Armstrong Downes Commercial had been involved in various rebuilds at Hutt Valley schools including ongoing development at Chilton St James.

Hekia Parata was standing in for the Prime Minister John Key who was all set to do the honours – until the threat to the milk powder was made public about the same time and he was called to address the nation.

# New HQ link to very beginning of the Hutt Valley

**Aglionby House was chosen as the name of the new headquarters for Armstrong Downes Commercial by owners and directors Simon Taylor and Tony Doile to pay homage to the area's history.**

H A (Henry) Aglionby was a Director of the New Zealand Company, a Member of Parliament in Britain and a man of substance who played a leading part in the prosperity and growth of Wellington and the Hutt from its very beginnings. He mixed in society of the time which included all the names of our founding fathers and was

a man of action when it came to creating better conditions for the new colony.

Explains Simon Taylor: "The Hamlet of Aglionby was the first name for the fledgling Lower Hutt.

"In 1840 Wakefield records the Village of Aglionby contains an excellent tavern, a small building used as a church and school, blacksmith's forge, several shops, two good farm houses and numerous labourers cottages'.

Now 175 years later this area contains a very stylish, modern office building that sets a completely new standard for office premises in the Hutt Valley.

"Aglionby House has been built by and showcases many of the construction and trade skills of people from across the region".

"We pride ourselves on delivering outstanding buildings across the whole Wellington region. After more than 23 years of building great premises for other people, it is a thrill to finally have such a stylish modern building of our own.

"Aglionby House not only demonstrates our pride in our heritage – it shows our commitment to and optimism for the future-continuing to deliver the best commercial construction projects across the region."



Locally Owned Funeral Directors  
Caring in our Community

## Harbour City Funeral Home

665 High Street, Lower Hutt  
(Opposite Hutt Hospital)

Phone: 570 0111

674 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt

Phone: 528 8924