

# FOCUSING ON SUSTAINABILITY

“Sustainability” is the current buzz word as people become increasingly concerned about the demands placed on finite resources. While some developers pay lip service, Arrowstone’s McNulty Central complex in Cromwell reflects the commitment of the companies involved, to creating a landmark sustainable development as Jo Blick discovered.

Grant Black Business Development Manager Apollo Projects, the construction company selected to design and build the McNulty Central development in the Cromwell Industrial area, says the key points about sustainability and green are “fact versus fantasy and doing rather than talking.”



Vacume Tube Solar panels on Apollo’s Yealands Project

“Ask any company in the construction industry about this topic and they’ll say ‘yes, we’re right into this’ but if you ask them what they’ve done, it’s generally along the lines of attending seminars or belonging to the NZ Green Building Council.

With our approach to project delivery, we are able to influence and drive a true contribution to whatever the end goal may be – carbon neutrality, a Green Star rating or just following sustainability principles.”

Grant says Apollo Projects has built a solid reputation in the industry by concentrating on its core markets and remaining focused on three key areas - controlled environment installations (e.g. wineries and cool stores) industrial and bulk retail buildings and sustainable buildings incorporating green building, sustainable design and carbon footprint reduction.

He says Apollo’s commitment to the sustainable viewpoint has been fuelled by its association with Kingspan Insulated Panels and from there it’s grown into a very important part of their business.

The McNulty Central brief called for superior energy efficiency combined with modern architectural styling. With this in mind Apollo Projects selected Kingspan wall and roofing cladding for both its thermal characteristics and visual appeal.

Kingspan’s cladding products have excellent insulation properties which allow buildings to stay warm in winter and cool in summer, he says, and this characteristic means they are particularly suited to Central Otago’s extreme conditions.

A large double glazed window frontage at McNulty Central provides natural heat from the available winter sunlight while in summer, the windows are shaded by a large canopy, which together with the insulated Kingspan cladding, keeps the showroom areas cool.

The use of Kingspan products is no accident. Eight years ago Apollo realised there was a need for an



alternative to polystyrene panelling and set out to find the best new product in the world. They found it in Kingspan, says Grant.

The Kingspan name is a byword for innovation and is recognised worldwide for being at the cutting edge of insulated panel technology.

Paul Metcalfe General Manager/Director of Kingspan Insulated Panels NZ says all their panels have extremely high insulation levels, close to twice that of traditional polystyrene panels.

They are also fire safe and insurer approved which is an important consideration in minimising insurance risk in industrial buildings. Another bonus of the Kingspan Panel system is that there is less air leakage from the building, ensuring consistent building temperatures and lower energy costs.

Paul says the company realised many years ago that sustainability was going to be the way forward, and Kingspan is now a leading source of research and development and practical applications, for a variety of well known sustainable construction products.

## REDPATHS RECOGNISES RESULTS

Redpaths Cromwell Manager Derek Lines had never given much thought to sustainable buildings -that was until his company moved into new premises at McNulty Central in Cromwell’s industrial area and experienced the benefits firsthand.

“Once you’ve been exposed to this type of building and the working environment it provides, you’d never go back! Our energy costs are half what they used to be and it’s a much more comfortable place to work.”

Redpaths previous premises were reasonably comfortable, but heating was an issue. It was the need for more space that prompted a move to McNulty Central, but it has been the unforeseen benefits of the building, that have really got staff and customers talking, he says.

“It is a comfortable and pleasant environment. People who walk in off the street comment on how warm it is.”



McNulty Centre, Cromwell

There is also no need for high cost electrical heating appliances at McNulty Central.

Although he has yet to experience a summer there, Derek anticipates the building design will ensure the premises stay cool during the hottest months of the year.

He says if Redpaths needs to expand again the McNulty Central building has provided the benchmark.

“This complex has really given us an appreciation of how buildings should be.”



“Kingspan products are perfectly suited to the humid, acidic environment typically generated by the winemaking process,” *Grant Black Apollo Projects*

## WORLD LEADING WINERIES

Apollo Projects' expertise in the sustainable design and construction of winery buildings is well recognised in New Zealand's wine producing regions including Central Otago. But Apollo's reputation in this area has also caught the attention of overseas wine makers looking for new and innovative solutions.

When Canadian winemakers from Tantalus Vineyards wanted the “best the world had to offer” they selected Apollo to deliver its new winery in British Columbia. The success of that project has led to Apollo being engaged on another Canadian winery project which is to be commissioned for the 2011 vintage.

Amisfield Wine Company's Lowburn production facility built by Apollo in 2006 is an excellent local example of how Apollo has used high-tech building products to enhance the wine making operation.

The building has three tiered levels, taking advantage of gravity to distribute grapes and wine through the various stages of the winemaking process.

Kingspan insulated panel products on the roof and walls help maintain a constant temperature in the winery. The hygienic, easy clean properties of Kingspan also makes it an ideal choice for the internal surfaces in the winery.



*Yealands Winery*

Grant Black, Business Development Manager at Apollo Projects, believes hygiene and temperature stability, two key environmental factors for wine makers, is where Apollo's design expertise together with a thorough knowledge of the industry's unique requirements, come into play.

“Kingspan products are perfectly suited to the humid, acidic environment typically generated by the winemaking process,” says Grant.

As one of New Zealand's most experienced temperature controlled construction businesses

Apollo has contributed to the developing winery industry for more than ten years. “We believe that our innovative approach has helped shape the evolution of winery design and construction in New Zealand to a level that is absolutely world leading” says Grant.

It is this specialist focus and willingness to challenge the status quo that drives Apollo Projects reputation in the industry.

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