

ChanceryGreen turns 1 on luckiest day of the century

By Darise Ogden

IT'S NOT often you get invited to a party by way of a fortune cookie. But then it's not often someone gets to celebrate their one-year anniversary on the luckiest day of the century. On 8 August 2008, ChanceryGreen threw a party to celebrate its first year as a boutique and to open the firm officially – the original opening celebration was put on hold due to the sheer volume of work that came through the firm's doors when it first opened.

Joining the celebration were clients, consultants, suppliers, colleagues, members of the judiciary, friends, family, and the Prime Minister. Speaking on behalf of ChanceryGreen, Karen Price acknowledged the contribution made by Helen Clark to the area of climate change: "You said right from the outset that New Zealand must be the world leader, with a clear and timely and strategic response to climate change." This unwavering conviction, said Price, had helped to create a market for the very clients ChanceryGreen sought, and seeks, to serve. Taking the opportunity to discuss her conviction, Clark said New Zealand should lead with climate change as opposed to being a fast follower. By "front footing" climate change, she said, New Zealand will be able to lock in its prosperity for the future.

Tasked with the role of officially opening the firm, Clark recognised the recent trend towards niche and targeted law firms. The complexities of today's world and of the issues lawyers and the rest of New Zealand have to deal with have opened a lot of opportunities for niche practices, she said. These niche practices "compete favourably with larger practices on difficult and complex instructions throughout New Zealand".

ChanceryGreen has "hit the ground running", said Price. Along with its many corporate and public clients in the resource management field, the firm focuses on major energy project work and now acts for all but one of New Zealand's major electricity generators. However, not content with servicing New Zealand and multinational clients on New Zealand resource management issues, ChanceryGreen has now extended its reach across the Tasman, with the firm recently instructed to advise the Australian Government on climate change issues.

As mojitos flowed from the ice bar, music played, and hundreds of fairy lights transformed the upper level of Auckland's Chancery, the Prime Minister sliced into an apple-green ribbon and declared the firm officially open.

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