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BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS FOR ICONIC DUO

2009 marks the birthday celebrations for two of Napier's finest buildings. The distinguished County Hotel celebrates her 100th birthday whilst her Art Deco counterpart, the AMP Building, turns 75.

The owners of the 'Iconic duo', Angela and Chris Barons are extremely proud and honoured that their two businesses play such an integral role in the history of Napier.

Angela Barons says, "It is such a huge milestone for the County Hotel, not many of our Napier buildings will have reached one hundred yet and to own the AMP building who turns 75 this year, just makes the occasion even more special and even more important."

One of the only survivors of the devastating earthquake in 1931, the County Hotel now proudly stands, one hundred years on, as a five star hotel, the finest in Napier and a credit to her unknown architect.

Unlike her counterpart across the road, the AMP building was built to replace a previous building that was destroyed in the earthquake. She is one of Louis Hay's finest works, with her impressive features on both the outside and in. Now home to the New Zealand Wine Centre Hawke's Bay, she encapsulates the combination of old and new.

Margot Minétt, Chief Executive of the Art Deco Trust says, " In a world where 'coming of age' is not always welcomed, it is wonderful that Angela and Chris Barons are embracing the very significant milestones of the County Hotel building reaching 100 years and the AMP building 75 years in 2009. The City of Napier is fortunate to have guardians whose respect and passion for the preservation of our iconic buildings ensures the longevity of these historical treasures to the delight of the local community and tourist market. In particular the County Hotel is a symbol of strength through adversity and I applaud the Barons commitment and celebrations which provide the opportunity to remember all that these buildings represent."

Celebrations will continue throughout the year for the 'iconic duo' culminating in a joint birthday party towards the end of 2009.

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