

THE FACTS

The major restoration work was completed in 2004 at a cost of \$1.1 million. A long term maintenance plan is also being developed. The major funder for the project was the South Taranaki District Council and substantial grants were received from TSB Community Trust, New Zealand Lotteries Board, Telecom and Vodafone.

- 215 steps to top gallery
- Tanks when full held 681913 litres (150,000 gallons)
- Weight of tower empty 1548 tonnes; filled 2264 tonnes
- Thickness of tower wall varies from 300mm to 180mm at higher levels
- **Foundations**
 - Spread of footings - 17.6 metres (58 feet)
 - Depth in ground - 3.04 metres (10 feet)
- The cost of the tower when built was £4510 which included £520 unauthorized expenditure which was the cost of 'deleaning' the tower.
- The foundation stone was laid December 11, 1912 and official testing took place March 24, 1914.
- **Heights:**
 - Full height of tower 54.21 metres (168 Feet)
 - Height of top gallery above ground 45.72 metres (150ft)
 - Height of top gallery above sea level 146.92 metres (483 ft)
 - Height of lower gallery 37.48 metres (123 feet)
 - Height of other levels:
 - 4th - 49.27 metres (161 feet)
 - 3rd - 20.2 metres (66 feet)
 - 2nd - 11.26 metres (37 feet)
 - 1st - 2.43 metres (8 feet)
- Total exterior area: 1800m²
- Principal Renovation Contractor: Contech (Construction Techniques Limited)

DID YOU KNOW?

1 WHEN THE NEON LIGHTS WERE FITTED TO THE TOWER IN 1932, IT WAS BILLED AS THE TALLEST LIGHTHOUSE IN NEW ZEALAND

2 THE TOWER HAS TO HAVE A NAVIGATIONAL LIGHT ON THE TOP TO ALERT PLANES

3 THE TOWER LEANS BY 3 INCHES

**The tower is open to climb daily from 10am – 2 pm (except Christmas Day)
Collect the key from the Information Centre
Adults \$2, Children \$1, Family \$5**

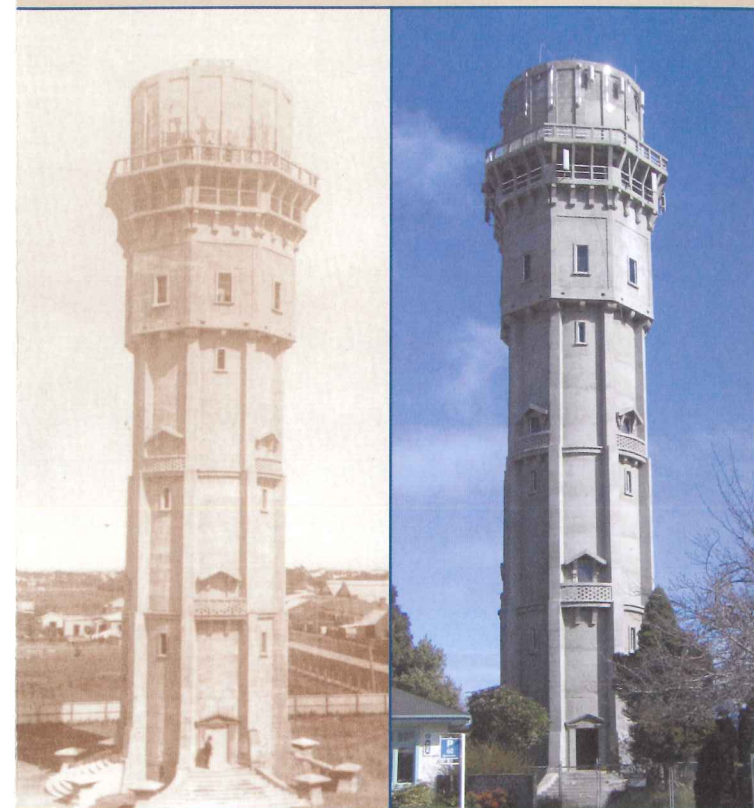
For further information contact:

South Taranaki Visitor Centre
55 High Street, PO Box 5, Hawera
Ph: 06 278 8599 Fax: 06 278 6599
E-mail: visitorinfo@stdc.govt.nz



HAWERA WATER TOWER

HISTORY AND RENOVATION



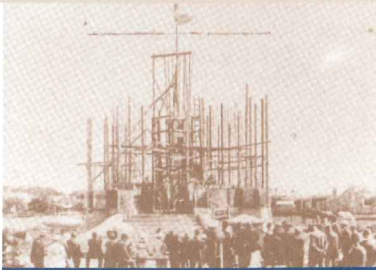
WATER TOWER

HISTORY

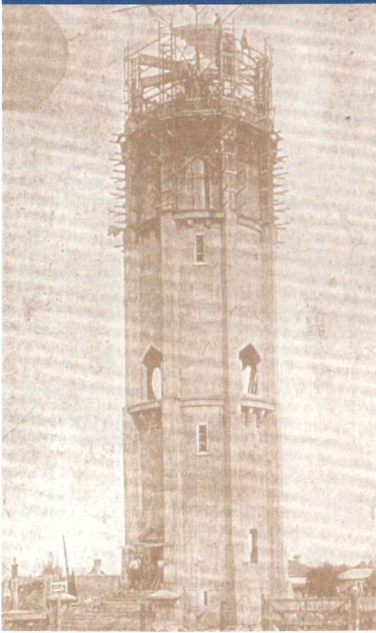
Hawera has always seemed to have had, during the early history of the town, some association with fire.

The name 'Te Hawera' which means 'the burnt place', came about many years ago following an incident between two feuding Maori tribes in the area. One tribe surprised another in the dead of night and burned the village to the ground ensuring that there were no survivors and so the area became known as 'the burnt place'.

With the arrival of the European settlers, the name came into use simply as Hawera and the district continued to live up to its name. In 1884 a hotel was razed ... July 5 1888, saw another large fire when five business premises were destroyed and in 1912 a particularly disastrous fire razed a large proportion of the main street area. This event had the effect of causing insurance companies to demand an improved fire fighting capacity as an alternative to increased premiums. At the time it was deemed not possible to increase the water pressure from the gravity supplied system from the Kapuni Stream and the outcome after many conferences was a decision to build a water tower.



Construction begins 1912...



The then borough engineer, Mr JC Cameron, designed the structure which was completed in January 1914. However, later in the same month, a sudden earthquake caused the tower to list 2'6" toward the south. Apparently this caused considerable apprehension among the townsfolk at the time and legend has it that the 'fault' was corrected secretly in the dead of night by undermining and re-setting the foundations. However a more logical explanation can be found in the engineer's reports where "The lower side of the tower was anchored with a large block of reinforced concrete and as the tanks were slowly filled with water the fault was slowly reduced to about 3 inches. Where the tower was undermined to move it back into position, heavily reinforced concrete was introduced and the men employed were kept working all night and all the next day to get satisfactory stability established in case of rough weather." This suggests that work probably continued on a definite or indeed essential policy rather than the more romantic theory of a clandestine operation. However, after this work was completed, the structure was declared completely safe by examining experts and indeed time has proved them correct. Today Hawera enjoys a first class high pressure water supply and it is many years since the tower has been used or needed.



...and completed in 1914

RENOVATION

In 1932 following Hawera's 50th Jubilee, red neon lights were erected around the top tank of the tower as a memorial to the pioneers of the district, which meant that the tower would be a landmark for the district both by night and day. The tower offers those who climb a magnificent view of the South Taranaki countryside.

On 27th March 2000 large chunks of concrete fell off the tower endangering the public's safety and it was declared unsafe and closed indefinitely. In 2001 the public was consulted on whether or not they wanted the Tower to be restored or demolished. They decided to restore it and keep the historic landmark. During 2002 site investigation work was carried out on the tower.

The renovation work was completed in September 2004 and work included the removal and replacement of unsound/spalled concrete and associated reinforcing steel, installation of cementitious coating and application of Migrating Corrosion Inhibitor (MCI) which will delay the corrosion of the reinforcing steel, installation of windows and doors and the upgrading of the internal staircase, hand rails and existing neon lighting and the exterior feature lighting has also been redesigned.



2004