

LEISURE

Of Passing Interest

Historic features in our landscape observed by the director of Puke Ariki Kelvin Day.

Inglewood Band Rotunda

A reminder of the importance brass bands once had can be seen in a number of Taranaki towns in the form of band rotundas.

Manaia has one strategically placed in the middle of the town, New Plymouth's Pukekura Park has one overlooking the Main Lake, while Hawera's has been transformed into an observatory.

Inglewood is also the home to a fine band rotunda. Located in a prime position on the corner of Rata and Moa streets, it has recently been freshened up with a new coat of paint.

The town originally planned to have a band rotunda built in 1902 to celebrate the coronation of King Edward VII. But it was not until 1911 that one was constructed, this time for the coronation of George V, King Edward's son, who was crowned on June 22.

The Inglewood Band contributed £50 and Inglewood Borough £25 and this was topped up with a pound-for-pound subsidy



from the government.

The band rotunda was officially opened on June 3, 1911 with a parade by the Territorials

followed by the Royal Salute.

Just before noon the Mayoress, Mrs G W Bennett, formally declared it open after which the

band played the national anthem.

Now over 100 years old the band rotunda is an important reminder of a bygone era.