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Crete Sends Symbol To Veterans

The nursery supervisor at New Plymouth's parks and reserves nursery, Pauline Sheerin, tends an olive tree from Crete that is to be planted in Robe St on Saturday.

The Crete Veterans' Association of Taranaki will plant an olive tree in Robe St, New Plymouth on Saturday at 11 a.m.

The secretary of the association, Mr S. Stinson, Waitara, said yesterday the olive tree, which was being cared for by the New Plymouth City Council parks and reserves department, had been released

from quarantine just before Christmas.

Mr Stinson said the olive tree had been brought to New Zealand from Crete by a veteran of that campaign, Mr E. Rogers, Whakatane.

He had decided to offer the tree to the Taranaki association because of the number of Crete veterans in the province.

The tree was given to Mr Rogers by the Mayor of Galatos, an area well known to New Zealand troops in Crete during World War II.

Mr Stinson said the olive tree had a special significance for Crete veterans as it had been a means of sheltering from German paratroopers.

SPONSOR

Formed in 1960, the Crete Veterans' Association has helped many families there. The Taranaki branch has been sponsoring a crippled girl on the island for the past five years.

She has been supplied with a wheelchair, and expenses have been paid for her to have specialist treatment for an eye condition. She is now able to see and it is hoped she will be able to walk within the next two years.

The 150-strong Taranaki branch of the association has also sent a tractor to the area and sponsored many other worthy causes on the island.