

PROPERTIES WANTED

Urgently wanted for company clients, 3 or 4 bedroom homes. Sought after localities.

DEVON

FIRST NATIONAL LTD.

M.R.E.I.N.Z.

146 Devon Street East

Phone 85206 A/H 84613 and 86 731

Taranaki The



New Zealand's Oldest Newspaper

NEW PLYMOUTH, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1989



Former New Plymouth City Councillor Audrey Gale enjoys the water at New Plymouth's Old Water Works Reserve, which is to be renamed after her.

Photo: SUSAN WELSH

Favourite swimming spot will bear her name

When Audrey Gale was a girl she would scramble down a bank of blackberries to her favourite swimming spot on the Waiwakaiho River.

The area known as the Old Water Works Reserve has changed face between then and now but the former New Plymouth City Councillor's attachment has remained.

And Mrs Gale classes it a great honour that the Merrilands park is to be renamed after her.

The council has decided to commemorate Mrs Gale's long service to

By GEORGINA GILES

the city by renaming the park the Audrey Gale Park and establishing a lookout and seating area at the top of the reserve.

Mrs Gale was a city councillor for 21 years — 12 of these years as parks and recreation committee chairman. She did not stand for election again in 1977.

Through this involvement she came to take an avid interest in parks — particularly the development of her special swimming spot.

"The area is a great credit to the parks and recreation department," she says.

She says the ideal setting for picnics and barbecues is largely due to the expertise of former parks director John Goodwin who initiated the development and civil engineer Alex Brodie who designed the river control work.

This good work has been continued by the present director Alan Jellyman, she says.

"They were all an inspiration to me — they indoctrinated me."

Royalties from metal taken from the river were used to build the original road from the bathing spot to Mangorei Rd, she says.

Shark scares at New Plymouth beaches and the lack of a swimming spot sheltered from westerly winds prompted the council to look for an alternative.

"It has proved its value as an alternative by the number of people who use it," Mrs Gale says.

She says the area was very rough when she was a child.

"We would scramble through the blackberry and amongst the water retention equipment to get down to the river," she says.

The work began in a small way when New Plymouth was still a borough.

Mr Jellyman says work on the lookout will begin early this month and be complete for the commemoration ceremony on March 25.

He says Mrs Gale was a wonderful advocate.

"She was a great fighter for the parks system."