

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 1991

LOCATION: PARKS/RESERVES: FOUNDERS PLANTATION

NORTH TARANAKI WEEKENDER

# Tree plaque arrives in New Plymouth

What better time could there be than 8.30 on a fine, calm and slightly misty May morning to appreciate the asset that New Plymouth is going to have in its 1991 Founders Plantation?

On Thursday morning the convenor of the project, incoming Merrilands Lions Club president Dan Horsley, met with Taranaki Founders' Society president Wilf Faulk at the plantation site off Pembroke Street to check out the spot where the main commemorative plaque is to be mounted.

The plaque, which has just arrived from Waikato Brass Founders, reads:

"150 year anniversary of the City of New Plymouth.

"This year the citizens and merchants of New Plymouth planted 1991 trees to commemorate the founding of this city. We leave these trees to our children and all future citizens of this beautiful city. May they be enjoyed as fully as we have enjoyed the many fine trees planted by those who came before us."

The plaque is to be set into a large stone and will be unveiled on June 5 by Mr Horsley, District Mayor David Lean, Coun-

cillor Brian Bellringer and a representative of the Salomon Simpson family who donated the land to the city some 30 years ago, Valerie Cunninghame.

The planting of sponsored trees will begin on Saturday June 8, with plantings continuing the following day.

The plantation, which is a joint project between the New Plymouth District Council's Parks Division and the Egmont and Merrilands Lions Clubs, will comprise 1991 trees — kauri, totara and kahikatea — chosen for their long lasting qualities and for the three different types of topography that the site offers.

Individuals, families, clubs and businesses have taken up the opportunity to sponsor a tree at a cost of \$40 each, and to have their names recorded on a number of plaques throughout the plantation. Sponsors so far have come not just from Taranaki, but from all parts of New Zealand, and even overseas.

Mr Horsley says there are still some trees needing sponsors. Sponsorship forms are available by writing to Lions Trees, P O Box 4101, New Plymouth.



1991 Plantation project convenor Dan Horsley (left) and Taranaki Founders' Society president Wilf Faulk examine the future location of the main commemorative plaque. PHOTO: Dwayne Senior.