

Patea & Waverley Pāress Te Kāwhiri o Patea me Te Wairōaiti

OCTOBER 2019

Circulating in Patea, Waverley, Waitotara and surrounding districts

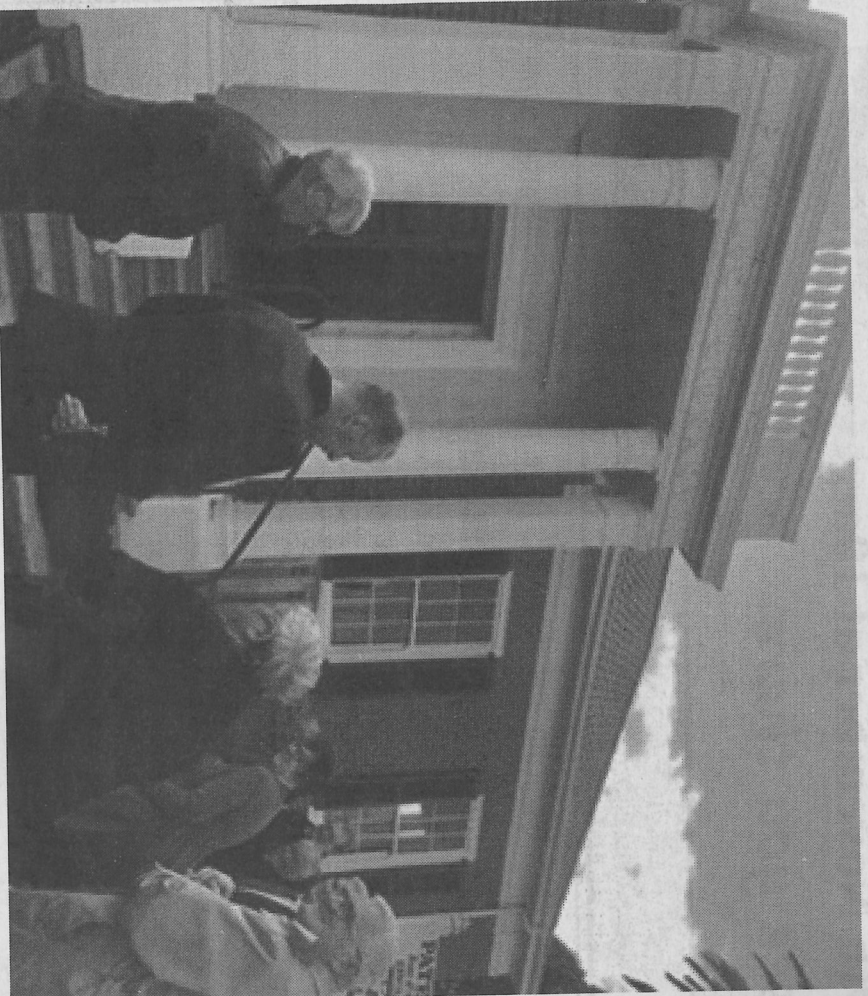
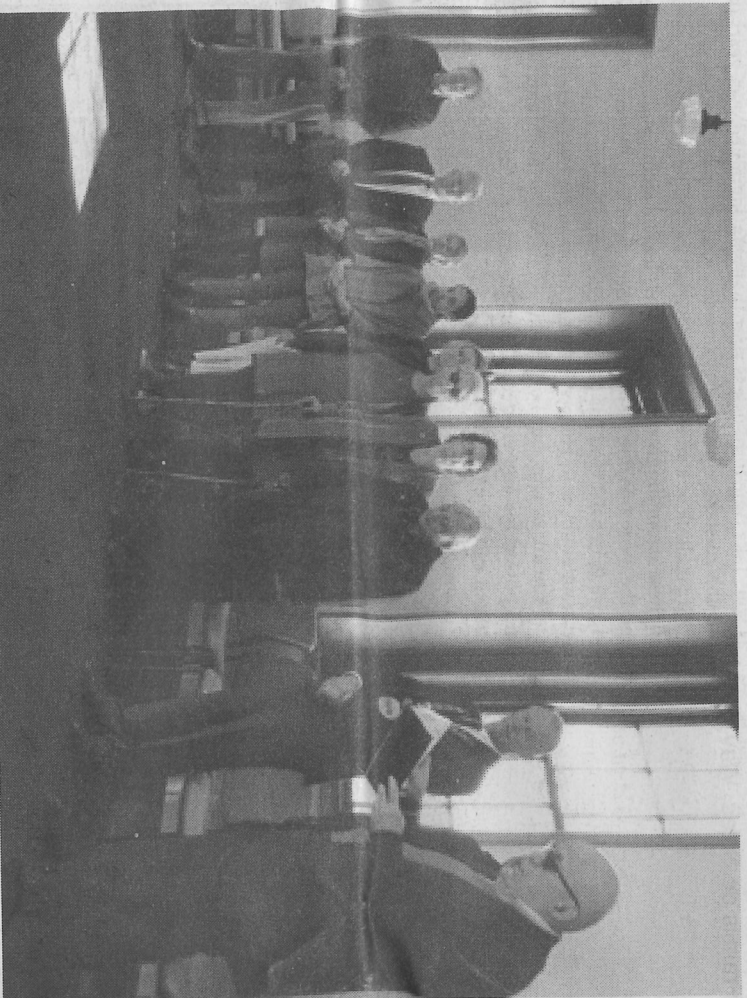
Patea's iconic Hunter Shaw building reopens after earthquake strengthening

Patea's iconic Hunter Shaw building was reopened in late September following \$650,000 worth of earthquake strengthening and some internal refurbishments. The earthquake strengthening work brings the building up to 67 per cent of the New Building Standard.

South Taranaki District Mayor Ross Dunlop says he was very pleased to see the work completed as the Hunter Shaw building is part of the unique streetscape of Patea and of South Taranaki's heritage.

"The building is listed as a category 2 heritage item by Heritage New Zealand (previously known as the New Zealand Historic Places Trust). The aim was to keep the heritage features of the building, while bringing it up to the appropriate safety standard," says Mr Dunlop.

The strengthening work involved removing the floor, installing ground and structural beams, relining the internal walls and replacing the flooring. It also saw the replacement of a



wind vane which hasn't been on the building since the 1950's.
Mayor Dunlop says the Council is very grateful to the Lotteries Community Facilities Fund who granted \$450,000 towards the project with the Council funding the rest.



This Georgian style building on the main street of Patea was built in 1930. Funding for the combined Library and Plunket Rooms was courtesy of a bequest from the estate of Mr Hunter Shaw.

Mr Shaw was a Whenuakura farmer who died in 1927 leaving a sizeable legacy (£8,500) for various charitable institutions. Shaw had bought and developed a 500 acre block of land known as "Crescent Falls". Born in Ireland, he was one of nine children - all unmarried.

Of particular interest is that the architects were the notable Auckland firm, Gummer and Ford. The plan was very similar to the award-winning Remuera Library built in 1928. Gummer and Ford have been described as the most prominent architectural practice in New Zealand in the 1920s, responsible for such buildings as the Auckland Railway Station and Wellington's National Art Gallery and Museum. The firm also designed the "Kings Building" in New Plymouth on the corner of Brougham and Devon Streets.

The construction of the library was supervised by well-known Hawera architect, John Duffin. From ketenewplymouth.peoplesnetworknz.info

DEADLINE: all copy to be handed in by 25 October for November 2019 issue. All deadlines on inside back cover.