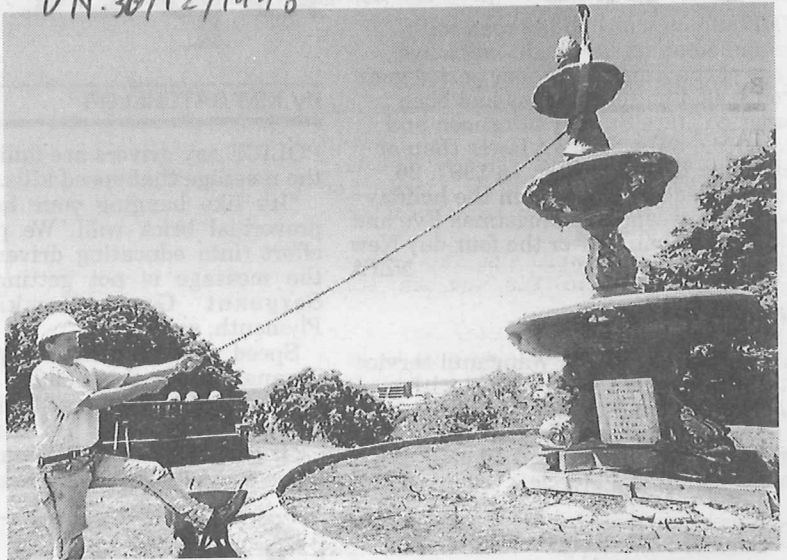


Back on a war footing

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BACK HOME AGAIN: The Boer War monument settles back into its original site on the top of New Plymouth's Marsland Hill yesterday, with a little help from Bruce Butler of Beta Rooding.

The monument had spent 18 years as the centrepiece of the Devon Mall in Devon St, between the Brougham and Currie sts intersections. While there, it had been connected to a water supply and operated as a fountain, but its base remained on the hill and was turned into a circular flower bed.

The monument was removed from the mall last year, to allow mall redevelopment and the return of two-way traffic to Devon St.

Taranaki Museum director

Ron Lambert said the memorial had originally been installed on Marsland Hill in 1911. He said the cost of making it operate again as a fountain had been prohibitive, so it had been decided to install it in the centre of the flower bed, combining the botanical feature with the war memorial.

It would have cost too much to get the water connections up to the top of Marsland Hill, but it was important that the monument was in the public domain as it was part of Taranaki's history, he said.

The memorial is for the Taranaki men who died in South Africa while serving during the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902.

Photo: PIP GUTHRIE
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