

Fountain going back to original site

DN 9/1/97

By MARK BIRCH

THE FOUNTAIN in New Plymouth's Devon Mall will return to its original home atop Marsland Hill when the mall returns to the status of a two-way street.

Yesterday, New Plymouth District Council works and services committee chairperson Beth Strombom said the RSA had asked that the fountain — which is actually a piece of war memorial statuary, converted into a fountain when it was moved to the mall — be returned to its original site.

That request had been respected.

Mrs Strombom was commenting on a letter to The Daily News in which New Plymouth RSA executive officer Trevor Wylde said the RSA had written to the mayor and councillors on September 5, asking that the fountain be returned to its

original site on Marsland Hill, which was on the Heritage Trail.

"It is our feeling that it should not, I repeat not, have been moved to the mall in the first instance," said Mr Wylde's letter.

Mr Wylde rebutted the assumption of Mrs P. B. Beard, in her earlier letter to The Daily News, that the RSA and its members did not care what happened to New Plymouth's monuments to the fallen.

Mr Wylde said the RSA was fully aware of the beautiful memorial mural on the ground-floor entrance to the Taranaki Museum. On Anzac Day, after the Dawn Service at the Cenotaph, a party representing the city, armed services and the RSA laid wreaths with due ceremony at the foot of the mural. If there were any alterations to be done to the mural, the council would inform the RSA, he said.



GOING HOME: The fountain will soon be gone from Devon Mall — back to its original home on Marsland Hill.

Photo: MARK DWYER