

New Plymouth

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City Library

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PAGE 12, 13: The Summer Scene holiday programme continues with lots more activities planned.



PAGE 2: The New Zealand Endeavour Roadshow comes to town much to the delight of the crowds.



PAGE 3: It's separation for the long-established breakfast team of Heemi Hill and Phil Quinney.

Working wonders with old buildings

By Leigh O'Connor

Out with the new and in with the old — that's the philosophy behind the complete renovation of New Plymouth's Roebuck House building on the corner of Powderham and Currie Sts.

Building investor and developer Brian Barron is still working on inside renovations of the 55-year-old brick construction, but has already leased out two of the five premises created by his endeavours.

Photographer Fay Looney is resident on the ground floor of the smartly painted pink, white and red building. She was attracted by the decor and location of the premises, which helped in her decision to move her business.

A sun bed clinic and electrolysis studio will move in downstairs once Mr Barron has completed his work.

Both of these business will have the two largest premises of 200-plus sq metres, while the other three leases will cover areas of 140 sq metres.

Mr Barron also plans to run a pipe verandah around the Powderham and Currie St sides of the building at first floor level.

He has recently purchased the building on the corner of Liardet and Devon Sts, which houses Beckett's Cameraland, and plans to repaint the construction in the same colours as Roebuck House.

Mr Barron owns the complex on Molesworth St that houses Yesterday Car Rentals and Custom Auto Services premises on Courtenay St.

"All of my buildings have the colours red and white on them somewhere. That's kind of my trademark," he explains.

So why does a builder renovate old constructions instead of following the city trend to build bigger new buildings?

"The old buildings are in the best locations. While some of them have a lot of wasted space, such as high ceilings and entranceways, they can be made to look great."

Mr Barron bought Roebuck House after it was devastated by fire more than a year ago.

From an old brick shell that had been devastated by fire, New Plymouth builder and developer Brian Barron has turned Roebuck House into desirable rental premises.

