

# New outlet for top quality New Zealand home for new venture at Oakura

The closure of the Post Office at Oakura was viewed by local businessman and resident Ashley Heydon as a problem for the small seaside community.

A project that he and his late wife Nona had often given thought to, the establishment of a craft outlet in the village, was again bought

to the surface and examined as a feasible possibility to help revitalise the business area and attract more visitors.

Mr Heydon enlisted the services of long time neighbour and friend Denise Hutchings to help with the project, and so the idea of the Crafty Fox, an outlet selling top quality New Zealand art and craft, was born.

The name the Crafty Fox was selected from a competition held in conjunction with the local school. It perfectly depicts the usage of the building as well as the name Fox, the late Mrs Heydon's maiden name.

The building was originally St Mark's Anglican Church at Warea, built there on land donated by Mr and Mrs Charles Wells as a memorial to their sons, Ken and Harry, who were killed in World War 1.

Lack of finance and a decreasing rural congregation forced the closure of the church in 1978.

The Warea Scout Group then bought and used the church for several years, before going into recess.

The building remained a home for the birds until Mr Heydon decided it would make an ideal building to house the

craft shop in.

The old church moved to Oakura on August 18 and deposited on its new site in South Road in two halves.

Both Ashley and I looked at the building sitting in two halves and wondered what on earth we let ourselves in for," says Denise. "Several people told us we were nuts undertaking such a task, but we also believed that people who never attempt what would appear to be an impossible task, never achieve anything."

That gave us the courage to carry on with the restoration of the building," she says.

Ashley believed the town needed something that would make people stop and look, instead of just passing through.

This seemed to be ideal for both a community project and also as a people attraction to Oakura.

"Although Denise, her husband Bruce and I have done a large proportion of the work, many other people have given us a hand with either painting, cleaning, or good old fashioned elbow grease," says Ashley.

Continued p5

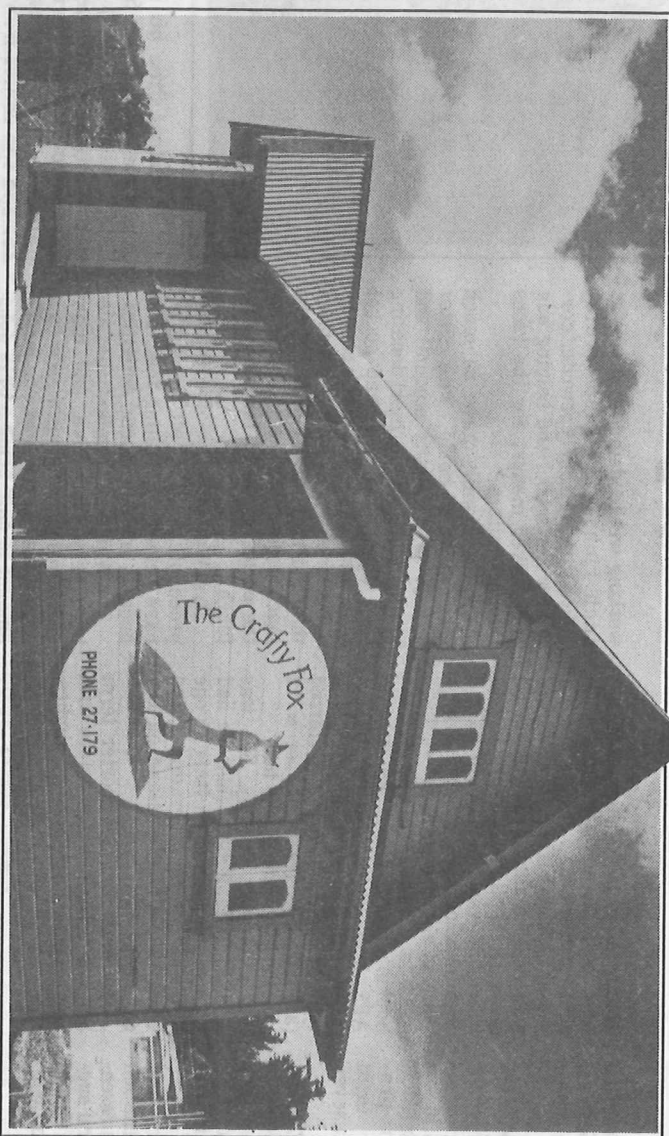
**Congratulations on the opening of The Crafty Fox**

All interior wiring and lighting supplied by Ray Polglase.

**ELECTRICIAN**

We are proud to be involved in another Oakura development.

110B WAIRAU RD  
OAKURA ● Ph 273225



The exterior of the refurbished St Mark's Church from Warea

# CONGRATULATIONS TO ASH on the start of a fine project

The Crafty Fox was lovingly handled by the team Taranaki Housemovers and Ian Roebuck Crane Hire from Warea to Oakura

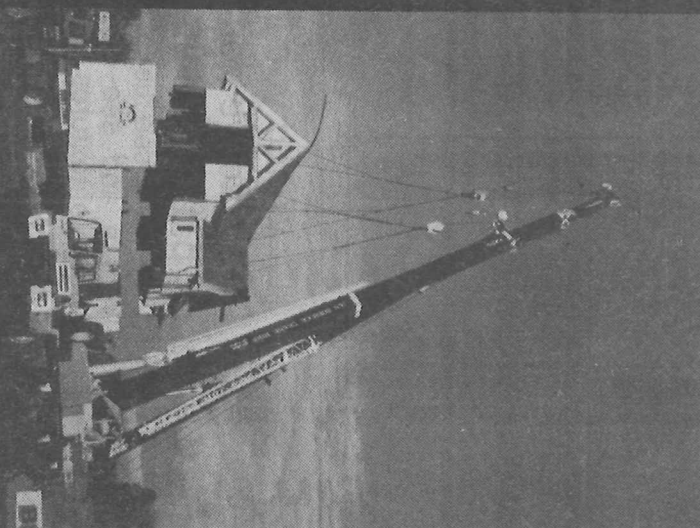


*Buildings!*

Bought ● Sold  
Moved ● Lifted ● Repiled

**TARANAKI BUILDING REMOVERS LTD**

PO BOX 7120 BELL BLOCK  
PHONE 71555 FAX (067) 72539



**IAN ROEBUCK CRANE HIRE**

**DEVON RD ● WAIWAKAIHO**  
(Bottom of the Hill)  
**PHONE 87259**  
**FAX (067) 81827**

**AFTER HOURS**  
(067) 86815 ● NEW PLYMOUTH  
OR 47853 WAITARA



# land arts and crafts

□ From p4

Peg Howick, who recently won the Oakura best garden competition, has done all the landscaping and lawn and garden planting surrounding the building.

"Peg rang us up and asked if she could do the gardening. Naturally we said yes," says Mr Heydon. "Many of the larger trees in the landscaping were donated by people that were revamping their garden, and that is the way things have gone."

"People have just rung up or called in with either offers of help or offers of things we may be able to use."

The biggest problem with the restoration of the heart rimu interior of the old church was trying to remove the guano, left by years of habitation by the birds.

It didn't seem to matter what they tried to clean the interior with, the shellac finish turned white and the guano remained.

They eventually got onto an old furniture restorer's trick for cleaning shellac surfaces and the job was complete within a week.

The hardest part of the restoration process has been learning the old methods and tricks of the trade that were used years ago.

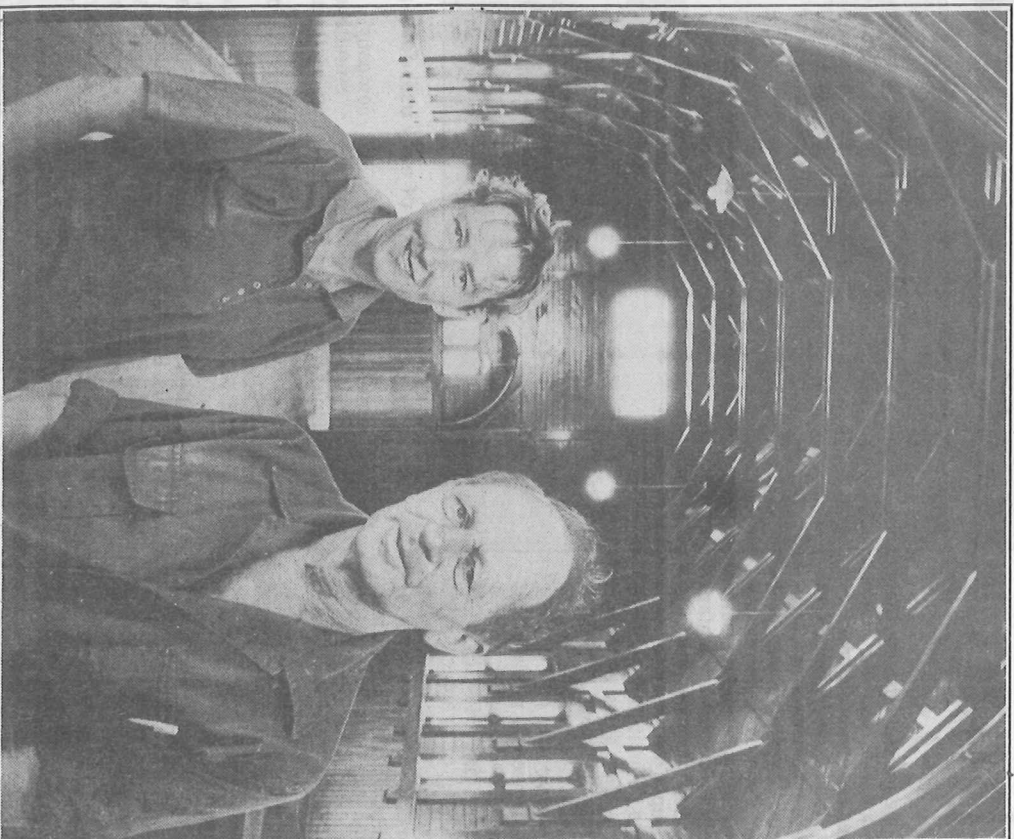
A chance remark or comment would often give the solution to a problem that had previously seemed insoluble.

The Crafty Fox has been painted in contemporary colours to detract from the idea that the building was once a church, as well as make a definite statement.

The Crafty Fox will be open for trading from Friday, November 24 from 10 am to 4pm daily and is to be managed by Denise Hutchings.

The crafts on display will all be high quality works from artists and craftsmen throughout New Zealand.

"We were tempted to draw in some overseas crafts but decided that sticking with New Zealand made, top quality arts and crafts was the best way to not only promote New Zealand made but also Oakura," says Denise.



Denise Hutchings and Ashley Heydon inside the restored building which has been renamed The Crafty Fox.

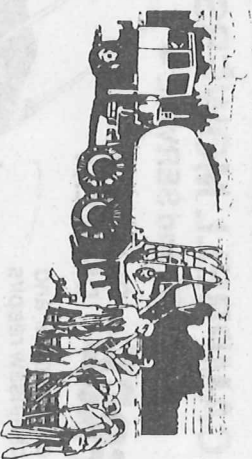
## CONGRATULATIONS

on the opening of the Crafty Fox  
we wish you all the best for the future

The concrete was  
supplied by Okato  
Quarries. Suppliers

of:

- \* readmix concrete
- \* builder's mix
- \* cement
- \* builder's aggregate



From the south of Opunake to New Plymouth.

# OKATO QUARRIES

BUSINESS PHONE 24172 OKATO  
AFTER HOURS PHONE 24162 OKATO

OKATO

## WANTED TO BUY

CASH FOR INTERESTING  
ITEMS OVER 40 YEARS OLD

Gold and silver jewellery, rings, brooches, bracelets, chains, wrist and pocket watches and broken gold items.

Oak rimu and kauri furniture, Scotch chests, kitchen dressers, duchesses, bedside cabinets, wardrobes, sideboards, table and chairs, china cabinets, hall stands, roll top desks, etc. etc. anything restorable.

Tin and cast iron toys, tobacco tins, stone jars, paintings, prints and old picture frames.

All types of china, full and part dinner and tea sets, jugs, bowls, plates, vases, etc, etc.

**FOR A TOP PRICE CALL**

Village Antiques — Fitzroy Arcade  
PHONE 82814 NP



**OPENING  
NOVEMBER 24**

**HOURS: 10AM - 4PM  
7 DAYS A WEEK**

The finest in art and  
artistic craft

CRAFTY