

TARANAKI HERALD FAREWELL EDITION

There until the end . . .

The Taranaki Herald editorial staff at the end . . . from left: Lance Girling-Butcher (editor) Wayne Butler (associate editor) Susan Welsh (photographer) Colleen Brice (photographer) Carol Drake (sub-editor) Glen Ferguson (chief photographer) Shane Humdell (sports reporter) Geoffrey Darling (reporter) Julie Gifford (reporter) Georgina Giles (reporter) Peter Wat (sub-editor) Lisah Higny (reporter) Janet Hoover (reporter) Rob Maetzig (chief reporter) Ruth Wattis (Hawera reporter) Carol Boyle (sub-editor) Jill Deasman (sub-editor) Phil Tumataroa (reporter) Kelley Loveridge (photographer) Jason Ede (reporter) Paul Peters (news editor) Nigel Carter (sub-editor) Steve Anker (sub-editor). Inset: Kevin Calvert (chief sub-editor).



Shaky start heralded 137-year era

No one would have predicted, back in 1852, that the first issue of the Taranaki Herald would be the forerunner of a tradition that was to last 137 years.

The Herald was founded by the partnership of William Collins and Garland William Woon, who comprised the entire literary, advertising, printing and delivery staff.

Those early days were not to be easy. The first editor, William Morgan Crompton, resigned after the 10th issue, and Woon withdrew from the partnership after the 38th, leaving Collins and a new editor, Richard Phenehy, to carry on for 15 months.

Phenehy left in 1856, but by then Woon had come back to take full control - while still only in his early 30s.

New partner

Woon was joined by a new partner, Arthur Atkinson, in 1864, but that lasted only two years.

In May 1867 Woon sold the newspaper to his father-in-law William George, a former politician.

Later that year the Taranaki Herald was bought by Henry Weston, who was sole proprietor until 1908, when his nephew Walter C. Weston took over for a decade.

The Westons' association with the newspaper lasted 111 years.

Walter Weston registered the business as a private company in 1939. His wife Lilian Weston was a director until her death in 1978.

There have been a number of editors since the Weston family acquired the Herald.

William Seffern was editor from 1888 to 1896. He was a prolific writer and published five books.

Walter J. Penn was editor from 1896 to 1932, and G. H. Dalry ran the paper from 1932 to 1957.

Bryan Scanlan, a noted historian, was editor from 1957 to 1941, then managing editor until the Herald and the Taranaki Daily News amalgamated in 1962.

when he went back to the title of editor until his resignation in 1965.

The amalgamation, prompted by increasing costs, saw the two newspapers produced by two separate editorial teams, but printed on the same equipment.

This situation was, until today, unique in New Zealand, although other papers have had similar but short-lived joint ventures.

Bob Avery was editor from 1965 to 1973, when he swapped over to become editor of the higher circulation Daily News.

George Koea was at that time associate editor of the News, and he became editor of the Herald a position he held until his sudden death in January 1967.

After Mr Koea's untimely death chief reporter Lance Girling-Butcher became editor, a position he reluctantly leaves today.

First reporter

The Herald's first reporter was John McKenzie, who left in 1863 to start the Taranaki News as a daily newspaper.

He was replaced, and the Herald had a full-time reporter from that day on. Sub-editing in those early days was the editor's job.

Over the years the Herald has seen steady growth which would be the envy of any business.

Among the staff members who built up formidable reputations were Hercules (Herkie) Moon, who joined as a boy of about 14, and left his 85 after a 70-year working life.

Long-serving editorial staffers included June Latman, the first female news editor in New Zealand, who spent 45 years with the Herald.

Now, nearly 137 years after it began, the Herald story comes to a close.

In that time the paper has built a reputation as one of the country's leading provincial newspapers, and as a recognised training ground for some of New Zealand's finest journalists.

An 1853 letter to the editor:

Sir - I am a constant attendee at church, and have moreover a partiality for dogs and other four-footed animals; but I nevertheless entertain a whimsical dislike to things out of their places.

For instance, I don't like pigs in my parlour, or cows in my kitchen, but I more especially object to curs in a church.

Scarcely, however, a Sunday passes without this annoyance, and yesterday, I assure you, when witnessing the rabid manner in which a tall, lean, little brute worried a lady's umbrella and a gen-

tleman's hat, placed under the seat, I had serious apprehensions that some of the congregation might become victims to hydrophobia.

Now, if the owner of this disreputable little quadruped had had a proper estimation of the sacred character of the edifice in which he had come to worship, he would not have profaned it by the introduction of his beastly satellite; or for the gratification of having the creature with him, have subjected the devotees of the congregation to repeated interruptions.

-A CHURCH GOER (17/1/1853).

Advice on Love and Idleness

DON'T imagine that every man who is ordinarily polite is in love with you; and when you get a lover don't expect too much of him.

Many an engagement is broken off because the girl fancied she had secured an angel, and when she found that her lover was a mere man, after all, she had been cheated.

All women who have not home duties to keep them occupied out to have some outside interest. Idleness breeds feminine jealousy and tempers even more often than love.

The women who have sweet tempers and are charming and kindly disposed towards humanity are the busy women - those who work for their living or for charity, or are occupied with the best duties of life - motherhood.

An energetic, enthusiastic, ambitious business woman with a calling, no matter how humble, and as such was certainly a milestone in the progress of the entire colony.

What is rather strange, however, is that it took a decade for this to happen.

Other European settlements, Nelson, Wellington and Wanganui - all had papers within a year or two of establishment. The early Taranaki journalists had been looking wistfully to the future by adopting a policy of 'making haste slowly'.

In pride of place in the Taranaki Museum in New Plymouth stands the press on which Messrs William Collins and Garland Woon produced, under very great difficulty, the first Taranaki Herald.

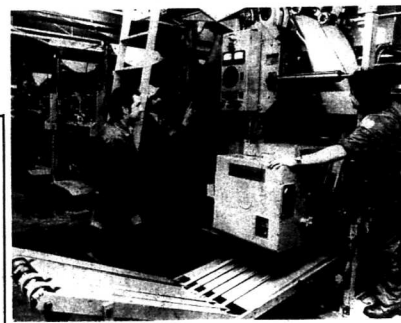
After a meeting of local settlers early in 1852, Collins was sent to Auckland to procure a press.

Following much pleading with the Editor of The New Zealander, he was eventually successful in obtaining a second-hand demi-halftone Albion with an assortment of type.

Publishing record dies with today's issue



Taranaki Herald readers and librarians from front left: Jill Tucker (librarian) Maureen Joyce (reader) Judith Knuckey (reader) Back, from left: Judy Powell (librarian) Jill Todd (librarian) Jan Macneil (reader) Marie McKenzie (reader) and Carol Robinson (reader). Absent readers were Catherine Sampson and Denis Kennard. In the background is the modern typesetting department, a far cry from the technology used 137 years ago.



How it is today . . . from left, Barry Whitmore, Les Tanner, Wayne Whitmore and Kieron Evans at work at Taranaki Newspapers Ltd's modern offset press.

Today's last issue of the Taranaki Herald brings to close the longest continuous publication in New Zealand.

It began on Wednesday, August 4, 1852, in an old shed which stood behind a stationer's shop what is now the Devon Mall.

Preparing that first issue was a printer's nightmare.

After numerous attempts William Collins had managed to buy in Auckland a few cases of second-hand type, some of it well-worn.

The journey by bullock-drawn muddy roads to the schooner Eclair at Manukau resulted in the type falling from its neat compartments, and arriving in an alarming jumble.

Several parts of the original Albion press were also missing but a local blacksmith met the demand.

There was also no ink-roller and one had to be improvised from tins and an axle.

The Taranaki Herald has been no stranger to minor setbacks since then, including a number of fires and a variety of printers.

In 1859 it moved to new premises in Devon St, where it was produced until fire destroyed much of the building and materials in 1900. It then moved to its present site in Currie St.

Nine years later fire gutted part of the Currie St building.

With the amalgamation of the Taranaki Herald and The Daily News into Taranaki Newspapers Ltd in 1962, a new building was erected to house the editorial department of the News while the adjoining Herald premises were refurbished.

In 1963 the old Herald building in Currie St was finally demolished and new building built on the same site to house the Herald editorial staff and other TNL departments.

Until a journalists' strike in 1976 the Herald was able to boast that it had never not published on a publication day. That included publishing during fires and floods.

On June 14, 1955, the Herald was published on green paper because of a shortage of the white stuff.

The paper began as a hand-set four page, selling for sixpence. From August 1862 until May 1, 1868, it published once a week, then twice a week (at 3d a copy) until May 14, 1877, when it became a daily.

Other newspapers to be published by the Herald have included the Budget and the Taranaki Weekly Herald, from May 14, 1877, to December 31, 1902, and the Sports Herald, 1926-1930 and 1946-1972. During World War II a special Overseas News Sheet was printed weekly for servicemen.

Late last year Taranaki Newspapers Ltd was bought from NZ News Ltd by Independent Newspapers Ltd, publishers of The Dominion, The Evening Post, The Auckland Star, Waikato Times, Truth and Sunday News, The Evening Standard, Christchurch Press, Timaru Herald, the Southland Times and a range of community newspapers.

A breakaway group of journalists created The Sunday Express in 1983 and this was subsequently bought out by Hamilton Newspapers in the Mid-90s.

The Hawera Star opened The Northern Star in a bid to move into the North Taranaki market, but this was later bought by TNL and late last year merged with the Sunday Express to form the North Taranaki Weekender.

The way things were in 1852

In 1852, the year the Herald started, the New Plymouth was the main town in Taranaki. Other centres of population were Bell Block, Omata and Tataraimaka.

The immigrant ship Amelia Thompson, of 477 tons, had arrived in New Plymouth on board the schooner Eclair, to be set to work on its illustrious career.

The Albion press employed by the Herald is number 329 and is dated 1830. It was manufactured in London by the Barrett Brothers under license to the inventor, Richard Cope.

There were three main types of the inventor, George Clymer of Philadelphia, who seemed to go utterly berserk in his use of cast iron to ornament the machines.

However, his invention of the compound lever system was a significant one in the evolution of hand printing as it formed the link between the Stanhope screw press in 1833, the Stanhope and Columbian presses reigned supreme.

For many years after 1830 the Albion and Columbian presses enjoyed equal popularity among British printers, with the Albion being cheaper, lighter and simpler, but the other being favoured for the lesser amount of exertion required to work it.

The date of 1830 on the one Taranaki Herald press makes it one of the oldest - if not the oldest - surviving press in New Zealand, and is such an important piece of national, as well as regional, history.

The Herald's strength has always been its commitment to the reporting and investigating of events in and around the city of New Plymouth and the Taranaki province.

As such its files are a veritable mine of information on the history of our province. It is not without reason that readers who have served our community well and true.

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-Ron Lambert, Director, Taranaki Museum, New Plymouth.

The Government of New Zealand Bill passed by the House of Commons in 1852 had just given representative government to the colony.

The people of New Plymouth did not alter 'low airs', according to an 1852 observer. The town was famous throughout the colony for its troops of happy, rosy-cheeked children, pretty women, honey, fine mutton, and dairies of Devonshire cream.

In New Plymouth were a church, four chapels, three flour mills, breweries, several hotels and a number of stores.

The Government of New Zealand Bill passed by the House of Commons in 1852 had just given representative government to the colony.

Wholesale prices were: Wheat, from 5s to 6s; a bushel, four flms, 117s a ton; seconds 115s a ton; bread (250 loaf) 41s; hay 12s 4s a ton; maize, 24s a bushel; butter, 14s per lb; cheese, 10s per lb; eggs, 2d a dozen; potatoes, 3s a ton; fowls, 2s a pair; ducks, 3/6 per turkey, 5/6 per.

Sir George Grey was Governor of the Colony of New Zealand.



The demi (half-size) Albion press on which the Taranaki Herald was first printed was manufactured in London in 1830. Its home now is in the Taranaki Museum in New Plymouth.

First press began journey south by bullock wagon

August 4, 1852, was a red letter (or should it be black letter) event for the people of Taranaki, for on that cool winter day the Taranaki Herald made its first appearance on the streets of the fledgling town of New Plymouth.

The Herald was the first paper in the province, and as such was certainly a milestone in the progress of the entire colony.

What is rather strange, however, is that it took a decade for this to happen.

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The precious prize was taken by bullock wagon to Manukau and shipped to Taranaki on board the schooner Eclair, to be set to work on its illustrious career.

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1830 Albion secured after much pleading

press in use in the early 1800s - the Columbian, the Albion and the Stanhope. The Stanhope was the first successful all-iron printing press, employing a screw mechanism to give the printed impression.

Early models of these, while cheaper and faster than the Columbian, did have a tendency to break at the point of maximum strain.

The Columbian presses, generally speaking, included some of the most bizarre designs ever seen on such machines.

They were introduced in 1813 by

used a straightening knuckle or toggle joint for printing power.

Richard Cope invented the first Albion in 1820, but until his improved model appeared on the market in 1833, the Stanhope and Columbian presses reigned supreme.

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The way it used to be . . . retired Taranaki Newspapers Ltd's Linotype engineer, Frank Drew at the keyboard of one of the old machines at the Taranaki Taranaki, Aviation and Technology Museum premises in Kent Rd.

We were there . . .

Great moments captured by the Herald

DISASTERS



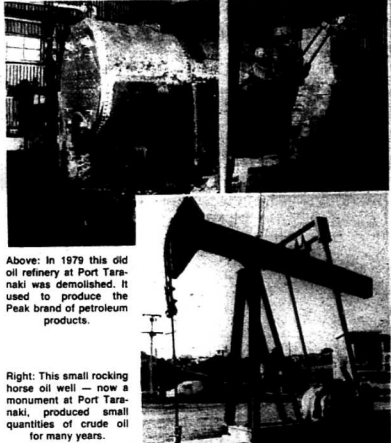
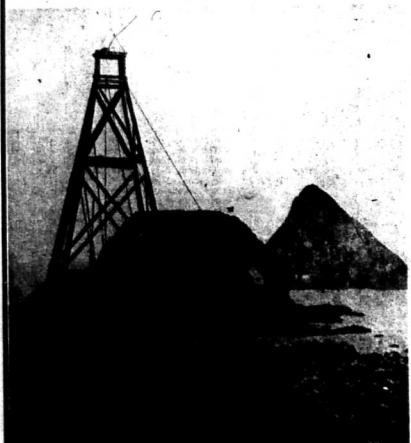
Above: Floodwaters rage through Devon Street in June, 1980.
Right: Cyclone Bola, in March 1988, caused tremendous damage throughout Taranaki.



Fire destroyed the Stratford courthouse, in June 1988, an event which started a long and so far unsuccessful campaign to have it replaced.

A major central New Plymouth fire in November 1980. The commercial building on the corner of Devon St and Egmont St goes up in flames.

ENERGY



Above: In 1979 this old oil refinery at Port Taranaki was demolished. It used to produce the Peak brand of petroleum products.

Right: This small rocking horse oil well — now a monument at Port Taranaki, produced small quantities of crude oil for many years.



Above: Steam rises from the synthetic fuels plant at Motunui.

Far left: The oil search has continued for a long time in Taranaki — ever since crude was spotted seeping out of sand at Ngamotu Beach. Pictured is the Alpha well at the beach.

Left: Port Taranaki with the power station — central to the development of energy resources in Taranaki.

Right: 1976 — offshore gas production begins in earnest with the sinking of the Maui A production platform tower off Oaonui.



We were . . .

Great moments captured by the Herald

EVENTS



Above: The railway comes to Opunake on October 10, 1925, when the Minister of Public Works, Mr J. G. Coates, opened the line.

Right: The "father" of Taranaki's dairy industry, Chinese migrant Chew Chong, who established the Jubilee butter factory in Eltham in 1887.

Left: Fireworks over New Plymouth's Bowl of Brooklands. The Herald and in particular editor Brian Scanlan played an important role in the establishment of this internationally famous entertainment venue.



Above: The Queen and Prince Philip on their first visit to New Plymouth in 1953. Below: The Queen returns in 1977 (pictured with Mayor D. V. Switzerland).

LANDMARKS



Left: Dominating Hwera's skyline, the town's water tower. South Taranaki information officer Mary Bourke shows pieces that have crumbled from the trusty old construction.

Below: Near its completion in 1983, the New Plymouth sewerage treatment plant was the subject of a Taranaki Herald reader poll.



Above: Snow-covered Mt Egmont stands over a herd of yearlings near Stratford.

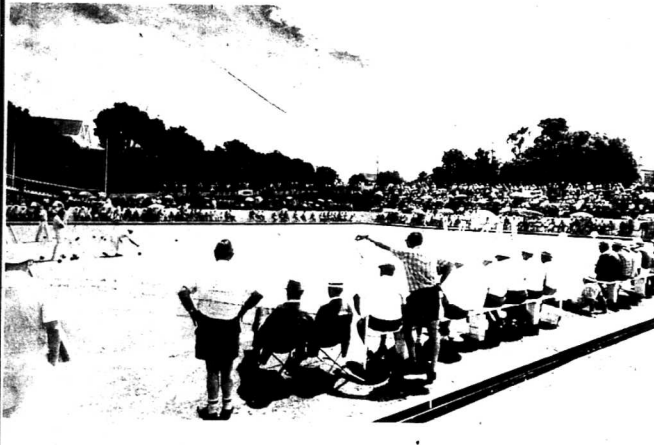
Left: Opened in 1880, the Criterion Hotel catered to the throngs of New Plymouth for more than a century.

Right: An impressive feature of downtown New Plymouth, the Centre City complex.

Below: Part of Lake Rotorangi, which supplies the Patea hydrodam, is the largest man-made lake in New Zealand.



We were there . . .

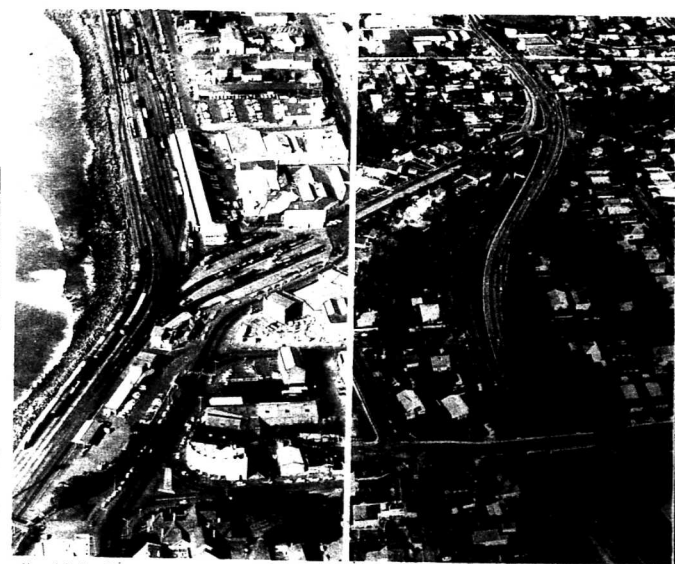


ABOVE: Taranaki is bowls country. A steady string of national representatives is produced by the province and thousands play in major tournaments such as the Taranaki Open Fours each year. This is the 1989 final at the Paritutu greens.

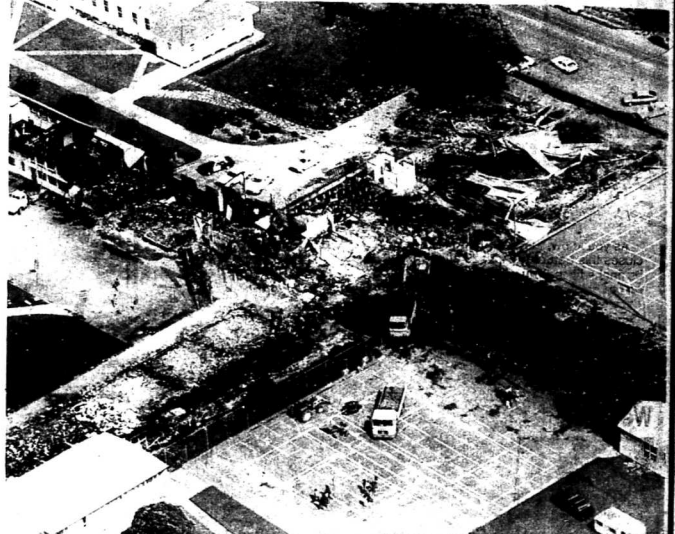
RIGHT: In 1981 the big news was the Springbok tour of New Zealand — one that split the sports fraternity right down the middle. This group of protesters marched outside Rugby Park, New Plymouth, during the game between the touring side and Taranaki.



During the 1950s, rugby was king — and huge crowds such as this (right) turned up to watch street parades before Hanfury Shield matches in New Plymouth. ABOVE: The start of Taranaki's last shield tenure. Opposing skipper Ross Brown (right) and Mick Williamson after Taranaki took the trophy off Wellington in September 1962.



Above left: New Plymouth railway yards in 1970. Above right: The city's northern outlet, Northgate, in 1983. Below: Fire damage to Opunake High School in October 1982.



Our readers say their last farewells . . .

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP OF NEW ZEALAND LEADER BOARD

RED DENOTES UNDER BLACK . . . OVER GREEN . . . EVEN

PAR 72

AFTER	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
D'ARCY	7	7	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
CLARK	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
SHAW	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
BENDA	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
ALLIN	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
LONG	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
MALICOAT	2	3	3	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
KRANTZ	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
CHARLES R.J.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
STANLEY	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
VIVIAN	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
OWEN	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

The scoreboard changes during the 1980 New Zealand Golf Open, held at New Plymouth's Ngatutu course — the last time the open was played outside the main centres.



Taranaki Central Districts and New Zealand representative Gary Robertson in action for CD against Auckland in a January cricket match on New Plymouth's renowned Pukekura Park.

Sir, — With sadness we learn of the demise of a vital piece of the heritage of this city, and indeed of New Zealand. The Taranaki Herald was born just a few years after New Plymouth's first European arrivals disembarked to settle what has become a very special community. From 1852 the Herald has performed a significant role in the development of this community. It has more than just recorded the events of the past 136 years. With integrity and enthusiasm it has provided a catalytic function which

has assisted in making the progress that New Plymouth and Taranaki have achieved over many years.

To those who have reported the news and worked the presses over these many years you have reason to be proud of your contribution to the growth of our community.

To those of you whose future is uncertain we extend our best wishes for every success in your future careers.

REX MOORE
Public Relations Officer
New Plymouth

Sir, — I was so sorry to read the news about the Taranaki Herald being laid to rest this coming Saturday. As a loyal reader ever since coming to live here in 1974, also working in the newspaper reference library for 10 years on the Taranaki Herald, I considered it to be "my paper" all these years. I feel as though part of New Plymouth is being lost for ever.

There are so many things I would like the morning

paper to carry on printing from the Taranaki Herald. One in particular which means a lot to me and a great many more people in this town, is the daily reading "From the Bible". It says such simple truths for all to understand, and I hope you can use your influence to have the small gem of wisdom reprinted each day in The Daily News.

With great sadness,
KATH TOLLADAY
ex-Itiranian
New Plymouth

We greatly appreciate your support for this institution over the past years and your ready availability to run releases on our behalf.

We wish all of you the very best for whatever the future holds.

THE STAFF
Taranaki Museum
New Plymouth

Sir, — The retirement of the Taranaki Herald is a moment of sadness for the thousands of journalists, photographers, printers and others who worked with her for almost as long as New Zealand has been New Zealand.

Like most newspapers, the Herald had its great characters over the years, and in recent times many of us drew much ex-

perience and knowledge from such personalities as Brian Scanlon, June Litman, Rashi Avery and the late Clem Cave.

New Plymouth district will surely miss the part of its daily life I'm proud to have once been part of it.

PETER HAMILTON
Hamilton & Marlow Public Relations Limited
Auckland

Sir, — Thanks to you all for a super paper — it's not progress to lose you. I hope your crossword will go to the "News" and "From the Bible" for which we have to look hard sometimes. My messages were excellent at times.

The editorials are always good. I would like them in the centre page of a paper many more would read and appreciate words of advice etc.

I wish you all good luck in the future and hope the News will have the warmth the Herald seemed to have. To be able to ring and ask to speak to the editor or chief reporter and do so, is a sign I think of a paper in touch with the public, something a large corporation should remember — people first. Thank you.

KATY CAWTHRAY
New Plymouth

Sir, — For many years the police have had a very cordial and effective working relationship with the reporters and staff of the Taranaki Herald.

Many a criminal has been caught and many people have had their property recovered through this effective and efficient relationship.

Of late the Herald, through the efforts of reporter Georgina Giles, has published many feature articles on the police in their day to day duties and also the frustrations faced by our District Administrators in relation to staffing and other administration problems.

These articles, by an unbiased reporter who spends many hours working on patrol with police members to gain first hand information, have no doubt given the public a better insight into police procedures, our very real desire to have an even better police/citizen relationship in the fight against crime and in general the joys and frustrations faced by members in the execution of their duties.

To the staff of the Herald I on behalf of all the members of this District thank you one and all for your assistance over the years. We hope that if not all, many of you will find employment locally. It is very sad indeed to see such a good newspaper because yet another casualty of the country's economic restructuring.

TERRY MCGREGORY
Senior Sergeant
New Plymouth

We were there
pictorial
section inside

Taranaki Herald



Herald history
where it began
— back page

New Zealand's Oldest Newspaper

NEW PLYMOUTH, SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1989

Classified Advertising... (07) 75094 Prices: 45c (incl GST)
Other Departments... (07) 75050 40c (incl GST)



For 137 years the Taranaki Herald has reported events, acted as a voice for the people and campaigned for community causes.
Nowhere is this better illustrated than in this 1969 photograph of the demolition of New Plymouth's clock tower.

The Herald, along with many caring local citizens, lost the battle to save the old tower, but in 1983 was a key organiser and promoter of a public campaign which raised funds for a replacement.
Now — as with the old clock tower — the Herald is to disappear.

Like the tower, Taranaki's afternoon daily newspaper is a public institution whose passing will be mourned by many.
This last edition chronicles a proud record of public service by New Zealand's oldest newspaper, which was first published on August 4, 1852.

TARANAKI HERALD FAREWELL EDITION

NZ's first woman news editor



Former news editor June Litman on the day of her retirement in June 1986 after 44 years with the Taranaki Herald.

The frock was brown. The hands clutching the gossamer bag were shaking. The 16-year-old face had a smidgen of make-up. The lovely old starts leading to the editor's office were as daunting as a winter ascent of Mount Egmont.

That was the scene on September 21, 1942, when I joined the Taranaki Herald as a cadet reporter.

The naive school-leaver had no idea of the challenges, the changes and, above all, the happiness that would follow for the next 44 years.

To this now ancient scribble the Herald will always mean the warmth of friendship, the courage of tilting at bureaucratic windmills, the caring for people, the championing of not always popular causes.

It has been part of Taranaki for so long that it cannot be forgotten.

Sometimes out there someone will remember the rubicund Herk; Moon, who introduced me to the irresistible ink smell of the composing room and to broken biscuits you could buy them at bargain rates for morning tea.

Do the schoolchildren of the 1940s remember having their names tapped out by the skilled fingers of linotype wizards like Willie Warr and Hughie Philpott?

Do those who read the editorials remember the incisive writing of Brian Scanlan, whose pen has never lost its kick?

And do the rugby addicts remember the Taranaki Sports that brought them all they wanted to know every Saturday night?

June Litman of New Plymouth joined the Taranaki Herald as a 16-year-old cadet reporter, later becoming New Zealand's first woman news editor before retiring after 44 years of service. Here she looks back with nostalgia at the grand old lady newspaper which for 137 years has served her province so well.

Maybe someone still has the first wire picture from overseas. It brought to Herald readers all the poignant tragedy of President Kennedy's assassination.

Does anyone remember courtly Walter Weston, who wrote the first article in the years when corporate raiders never existed? Or his delightful wife Lil, one of New Zealand's first

woman company directors?

The roll call of those who worked for and loved the Herald is a distinguished one. Keith Downes, who taught me to love a dictionary as if it were my beloved husband. Clem Cave, who adored his old school, the New Plymouth Boys' High, almost as much as he did the English language.

Bash Avery, whose insistence on accuracy made me aware of how careless we are about people and their lives.

George Kooa, immaculate editor and Herald loyalist until his untimely death.

Derryn Hinche, now an Australian television star, who longed Paul Holmes look like an Englishman.

Richard Long, who keeps politicians in their place for the Dominion. Rick Neville,

editor of the Evening Post.

Garth Gilmore, a notable sports author and at the age of 63 still showing youngsters what journalism is all about.

Jim Tucker, a festive cheer reporter, who is now head of the Auckland Technical Institute's journalism course.

Ray Pigney, his bright red hair dimmed to grey, who captured Taranaki rugby so superbly on our pages.

And most recently Lance Girling-Butcher, chief reporter, then editor of the Herald. A man beloved by his staff, who walked tall in the pursuit of excellence for his paper.

The Herald will not die. Her gracious ghost remains to inspire those who will report the events of Taranaki, which the grand old lady served so well.

Real blow

The closure of our evening paper is a real blow for the province of Taranaki.

It is a blow to the province's morale and mana as much as it is an economic loss.

Many reasons may be given for the closure but critical to the decision was undoubtedly the level of economic activity occurring in the area.

One of the tragedies of a recession is that communities lose services which are never replaced.

In the current case the tragedy is compounded by the fact that New Zealand has gone through a period of self-imposed recession when other parts of the world have boomed.

Clearly, the board of the company had decided that despite some indication that the recession may have bottomed out, the lift in local activity will not be sufficient to sustain the evening publication.

The impact of the electronic media has created fierce competition for newspapers. However, in an environment where people rely heavily on immediate information the written media has an important role to play.

Unfortunately in this case there is not sufficient advertising to sustain all media outlets.

The Taranaki Herald team should be commended for the way they endeavoured to dig out local stories and reflect the concerns of Taranaki regarding political issues.

Last to the province will be early publication of stories relating to local affairs and an alternative editorial view.

There is a certain irony in the fact that the new competitive environment has seen the demise of competition between local newspapers.

Politicians are often sensitive to newspaper stories which are critical of their statements. I am bound to say that I have found the Herald staff maintained the high standard of journalistic integrity which has sustained the paper for a century.

One of the cruellest aspects of the closure is that the staff involved in the writing and printing of stories relating to the closure of businesses and the associated redundancies around the country have had to record their own misfortune.

At a time when few feel confident about their own job security there is a great deal of sympathy extended to the Herald staff affected by this unfortunate closure.

It is my hope that they all find suitable alternative employment. It would be very desirable if members of the staff who have home and family commitments locally are not required to leave Taranaki.

Roger Maxwell MP for Taranaki

Sly-grog in 1860s

The Police Department, maintained in an efficient state by the General Government, has been reduced by the superintendent to a sergeant and two privates, forcibly reminding one of the small but brave army of Bonaparte's Fusiliers.

It is notorious that a great portion of the decrease in the Customs' revenue is attributable to private distribution, extensively carried on in New Plymouth, the kegs of spirits are daily sold to and retailed by the natives, and that the present reduced Police force is totally inadequate to check this evil, or to perform the duties required of it.

(Taranaki Herald, December 27, 1860.)

The Grandgouvillian Particler

Hark, the Herald angels sing...

Woe and alas, what a marvellous day!
We're scripping, but it's our first day!
Multiple plotters' hard questions and queries
Why after so long they're discarding the Herald!

The very first Grandgouvillian daily!
No wonder the staff are all weedy and wan,
They may have been less arduous penmen
If they'd had some intuse of its mounting collapse!

It's easy to say it's a sign of the times
(But hard to solve) a weird sort of times!
For over a hundred and thirty years
The paper has progued, lugged and veered!

I've always envied a humorous friend
Remember Stu Tullogh's 'Just Round the Bend'
With doom and disaster, one tries to make light of it
Even though we can't avert entirely the sight of it!

I grant not to bury the paper, but please!
To the Staff and the Editor, remember the days
Gave Grandgouvillian folk so much pleasure
These are the things we'll all fondly treasure!

There were a friend and incentive apace
Rest in peace, Herald!

The Marquis Malcom

Gave the best

How do we say thank you appropriately to someone who has served our community so well for nearly 137 years?

■ We can't!!!

How do you say into words our real appreciation of the Herald's commitment, skill, leadership, service and editorial independence to the people of Taranaki?

■ Again we can't!!!

How can we tell an old friend exactly what we feel, when the bond of time, location and presence is about to disappear?

■ We can't!!!

However, we do find it EASY to say from the heart that:

- The void created is painful both personally and professionally.
- Your departure creates an enormous loss to the close-knit identity and fabric that is Taranaki.
- Thank you for giving us your best shot.
- Thank you for having the courage to say it when it needed to be said - as it needed to be said and in a manner so easily understood.
- Thank you for giving us all a chance to express our views, whether they made sense to you or not!
- Thank you for every imaginable individual and group who continue to serve and thrive - because you look out for their effort.
- Thank you MOST of all for just being there - extending our horizons and entering our homes, businesses and spaces - in a most consistent way.

To Lance Girling-Butcher, Wayne Butler, Rob Macrae and every staff member we all say thank you for continuing the unique tradition and history that is the Taranaki Herald.

During the years we've loved you, hated you, judged you, chastised you - and never once 'hate' you given anything less than your best.

Special thanks Taranaki Herald.

From today, Taranaki will never be quite the same.
David Lean
Mayor of New Plymouth

P.S. Neither will fish and chips!!!

Will the real enemy stand up

Just round the Bend...

(To the Editor)

The world, I have to inform you, Sir, is really going to pot. A dying Press, redundancy and no-one to stop the rot. Nothing to rouse the blood these days; no honour and no law. No call to arms, by Jingo, and never a full-scale War.

The Empire stands in attention, Sir, and left to rot on the dole. Mysterious faceless, colonels secure in their concrete towers. With a stroke of a pen administer their evil collateral powers. And thousands fall by the wayside, Sir, and left to rot on the dole. Deprived of news, advertisements by rulers without soul. We have been there in the double, Sir, bring the ghosts to heel. Instilling a bit of democracy with a touch of ice-cold steel.

The whole world lies in ruins since Britannia ceased to rule. Instead these rich financiers and others are trying to fool it. By Meaningful Talk and Conferences and Diplomatic Discussion. When all that's really needed, Sir, is government by percussion.

Our leaders, way up there in the clouds, are too scared of rocking the boat. But someone should tell them it's rocking so much that we're lucky to stay afloat. So, who is the Enemy? What does he want and how does he go about it? If he has an order to give, does he stand on parade and shout it? No. He orders someone to order someone to pay someone else to slaughter. An Editor, some husbands and wives and somebody's son and daughter. So take your pick, The IMF or ILP or both!

Let's use our steel as we've done in the past on many a cancerous growth. Let's winkle the Enemy out somehow and confront him face to face. Bring out your lances and Gatling Guns, press on without disgrace. Let's settle the question once and for all. Is it better to fight or not? Would any world be a better one than the miserable one we've got?

I'll close now, Sir. I've had my say and I'm getting a wee bit tired.

Your Humble, Obedient Servant, Sir,
Dudley Davis, Field Marshal (Retired).
S.T.

(Reprinted verbatim (more or less) from the Taranaki Herald of March 3, 1976)

The old Taranaki Herald building in Currie St, New Plymouth, the day before it was demolished in August 1964. Herald and Taranaki Newspapers Ltd staff lined up for this historic photograph.

Very sorry

It is regrettable that today sees the last-ever edition of the Taranaki Herald.

Much will have been said already of the Herald's history and the reasons for its sad demise. We are all aware that the market for evening papers has been dwindling over the last few decades, eroded by the broadcast media - television in particular - new technology, economic forces and changing lifestyles.

The calls received by the Herald staff from readers throughout the week prove the high regard in which the newspaper has been held by its readership and within the media world. It has also produced some of New Zealand's finest journalists over the years.

From a personal viewpoint, I have always enjoyed the Herald and have had the utmost respect for its unbiased and accurate reporting and its fair and thoughtful editorials.

No New Zealand city of the size of New Plymouth can nowadays sustain both a morning and an evening newspaper and indeed we often hear rumours about newspapers in larger centres being closed.

A two-paper city is a lucky one to have the opportunity to be fully covered by a morning and evening paper, not to mention the diversity of opinion afforded its readership.

I am very sorry to say goodbye to the Herald - it has served the city so well for 137 years. It is also of course, sad for its loyal and talented staff, whom I would like to wish well in their future endeavours, were they here in Taranaki or elsewhere.

Many Days
Marilyn Day

Proud history

The last chapter in the very proud history of the Taranaki Herald is written today.

The passing of the Taranaki Herald will leave a void in the days of many thousands of Taranaki people, these people who have overwhelmed us this week with their expressions of sadness at the loss of their favourite newspaper.

Sad as it is though, on reflection we should count ourselves fortunate that the Herald has been able to survive so long against worldwide trends that have seen evening papers steadily declining.

That we have been able to keep two local daily papers in the market for this long is to the credit of the public and to all who have worked for the Herald over many years.

Certainly there is no parallel in New Zealand since the demise of near neighbour Wanganui's evening daily a year or two ago.

The Herald is purely and simply a victim of the economy and changing lifestyles. As there will be a void in the days of readers so also will our company be changed, never to be quite the same again.

While the night operation will continue with The Daily News as usual, gone from the day will be the excitement and the incessant activity as each day's printing deadline approached.

Because for many years now the Herald has been in a minority position everyone has had to try that little bit harder to make ends meet and this has meant a very strong team spirit has developed and all of us at TNH have had a special feeling for the paper which accentuates the sadness we feel today.

However, in economic reality we must live and from the traumatic events of this week will emerge a far stronger company well equipped to provide the newspaper products that meet your needs and also ensure we meet our competitors head-on.

To all our Herald customers thank you for your loyal support over so many years.

I also want to acknowledge publicly the efforts of everyone who has been involved with the Herald both past and present, and above all editor Lance Girling-Butcher and his editorial team who have put together the last issue of the Herald, trying to create circumstances in true Herald fashion.

Goodbye Taranaki Herald.

Kevin Hilsdon
general manager,
Taranaki Newspapers Ltd



Production department staff relax after compiling yesterday's Taranaki Herald. From front left: Teena Terrill, Scott Webster, John Waters, Graeme Smith, Leanne Hunt, Kathryn Thomas (left compositional middle), from left: Phil Wilson (systems manager), Helen Ewbank, Vanessa Richardson, David Hoyle, Alf Moffat, Dennis Harvey, (all compositors), Rear, from left, lithography department staff, Gary Osborne, Paul Williams and Steven Munro.



Journalists at work in the old Herald building in Currie St, New Plymouth, during the 1940s. Conditions have changed vastly since.

THE TARANAKI HERALD AND BUDGET
Newspaper Boys join in wishing you
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
December, 1921.

Chamrionoman causes

Community campaigns and public opinion polls are part of the Taranaki Herald tradition — and one of the newspaper's greatest strengths.

During its 137 years the Taranaki Herald has spearheaded many campaigns to advance the welfare and wellbeing of Taranaki people.

The issues have been tackled with vigour but always with fairness and the community's preference at heart. To test public opinion the Herald conducted many polls for readers to air their views.

Some of its more notable campaigns include a 60-year bid to protect and enhance New Plymouth's foreshore, flood protection and water supply schemes, and successful efforts to rebuild the city's clocktower and save the Opera House.

It has also maintained a deep interest in issues affecting Taranaki's mountain and in 1891 the Herald opened a subscription list which raised money to reconstruct the Taburanga (now North Egmont) Campouse and military barracks on Marsland Hill.

And when this building had served its day, the Herald campaigned hard for a new building — the North Egmont Hotel — which was opened in 1912 and demolished in 1978.

The most recent effort was to launch a fund raising campaign last year to provide mountain safety signs on Mt Egmont and in tourist outlets throughout the province.

For many years the Taranaki Herald has keenly pursued issues affecting Port Taranaki — fighting in the early 1960s for better preservation of the main breakwater and restructuring of the port authority.

Preservation of historic buildings and a concern for the environment have also been Herald trademarks. In 1973 the Herald was a key player in a campaign to save the huge cabbage tree threatened by the building of Shell

BP Todd offices on Devon Street. In 1966 the Herald was instrumental in saving Paritutu Rock which was set to be demolished for material to build breakwater extensions.

During the early 1980s it also led New Zealand in starting a children's safety first campaign.

Civic issues have always received prominence in the Taranaki Herald.

The most recent and topical include polls on development of the Devon Mall, New Plymouth's sewage treatment options, proposed covering of the Kawerao Swimming Pool and the new New Plymouth City Council building.

Springbok

But its biggest poll was the 1981 Springbok tour of New Zealand when 2343 readers aired their views on the controversial issue.

The newspaper's desire to foster community pride prompted the introduction of the Taranaki Herald Street of the Year contest in July 1976. This annual event has proved to be one of its most popular community efforts.

For many years the Herald has recognised Taranaki's sporting achievements with its annual Sportsman of the Year awards and has traditionally sponsored the annual Taranaki athletic championships.

The Taranaki Herald co-sponsors the TNL Port to Park fun run, the Devon Mile and assists the Taranaki Sports Foundation.

During its final year the newspaper polled readers' views on names for New Plymouth's proposed foreshore parks, extended shopping hours and the need for an indoor sports stadium in New Plymouth.

The Taranaki Herald has satisfaction in knowing the newspaper fulfilled its original promise — to promote Taranaki people's prosperity and to develop the resources of the district.

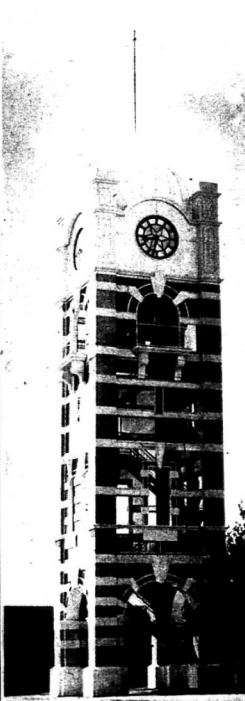


ABOVE: The Herald has been a keen sponsor of the Port to Park run.

LEFT: The Street of the Year competition has always been popular.

RIGHT: Saving the cabbage tree was a successful campaign in 1975.

BELOW: John Walker wins this year's Devon Mile.



A proud achievement... rebuilding of the New Plymouth clock tower.



For 60 years the Herald has been a strong voice in concern over sand erosion on the New Plymouth foreshore.

Our readers say their last farewells...

Sir — I would like to express my deepest sympathy and sorrow to you and staff of the Taranaki Herald at the closure and departure of one of the most valued and oldest papers in New Zealand.

The paper in my opinion was never given full recognition and is going to be a severe loss to our community of Taranaki.

To lose a reporter of Shane's outstanding capabilities must be a severe blow to the sporting community of Taranaki and I for one would only hope that the newspaper office's here in Taranaki do something and something usable to be matched by the sister paper The Daily News.

In fact covered rugby league for both The Daily News and Taranaki Herald some years ago and throughout my 3 years covering this sport for both papers met with great success in covering this sport. I would like to thank a reporter who has done so much for the image of sports reporting in Taranaki. Shane Hurdell.

His tireless, dedicated and astute reporting would cover him easily the best sports reporter in the province and his tireless work for the sport in Taranaki was only recognised out of sight. Taranaki last year when he was given the job of sports reporter to cover the New Zealand Maori Rugby League tour of Western Samoa.

Shane on that occasion won great admiration and

outstanding praise by all rugby league unions and other sporting codes in New Zealand.

His reports were as they always are in Taranaki, constructive, concise and most interesting and he proved what a great ambassador he was for the Taranaki Newspapers and for our sports-minded province.

To lose a reporter of Shane's outstanding capabilities must be a severe blow to the sporting community of Taranaki and I for one would only hope that the newspaper office's here in Taranaki do something and something usable to be matched by the sister paper The Daily News.

Surely he would be more valuable and beneficial to the Daily News where his all round sporting skills and reporting can only serve the Taranaki and New Zealand public to some polished and constructive sports reports.

So in finishing, I hope the newspaper office sees fit to keep such a valued sports reporter in our great sporting province especially if we want continued outstanding sports reports. All the staff a most sincere farewell and wish you all the best.

As in the words of members of rugby league and sporting clubs: "A choice paper and reporter".

HELLY
New Plymouth

Sir — It was with considerable shock, followed by a sense of great grief, that I learned of INL's decision to close the Taranaki Herald. Even after five years away, I still feel an affinity with the newspaper, that gave me considerable challenge for more than 11 years and which I worked with during that time. While not affected by the decision, I nonetheless share a feeling of loss.

The Taranaki community, whether it realises it or not, is losing a valuable and unique asset and it is a pity the Herald did not enjoy the support it deserves. The Herald has served its

wellington

He and they spoke of it there. "Have you heard the news?" It doesn't seem After all these long years and reporting on what the Herald is to cease.

"The latest news first" that was the shout. "What's happening right here? Let us find out!" No item too small and the news will run. Air your own views and write us a letter."

And restructuring came, front page, pictorial, colour, new features, and editorial. And much more to be better than what would not match in quality.

The pen in a tough local battle.

ANNA SCANLAN
New Plymouth

me to bed with as Herald is being abandoned.

BILL JAMIESON
New Plymouth

Sir — The production and editorial staff of the Daily News would like to express our deepest regret at the decision to close the Taranaki Herald.

We will miss you as our colleagues and our friends. Over the last 132 years the spirit of healthy competition between our two newspapers has ensured that the people of Taranaki have experienced a very high standard of news coverage. We will miss the spur and stimulus of that competition.

The Herald has always been known as an excellent

Sir — I was very saddened to read last night's paper with the bad news that the Taranaki Herald is to be merged.

Over 70 years ago I was a delivery boy and Kerry Plum was publisher and Walter Weston the editor and owner.

They were good days and I've many good memories of the paper. My parents got the Herald then and I've continued with it since.

The worst thing about this closing is it is not the Herald's new management but the result before and traitorous policies of the present lunatic Govt. And much more to be better than what would not match in quality.

L TUFFERY
New Plymouth

Sir — Like many other New Plymouth citizens I was sorry to learn that the Taranaki Herald is to cease publication. This is indeed a loss to our community.

As a past employee I recall the latter years of the war, the shortage of newspaper, the rumble of the Foster printing press

Sir — As subscribers to the Taranaki Herald for the last twenty-seven years and when we came to New Plymouth we would like to convey to you our regret and sadness at the demise of a paper which has such a fine record of service to the city and the district.

It has certainly maintained a very high standard, as possibly the best.

Sir — To the Editor and staff through to the delivery boys and girls, we extend our sympathy in the loss of your jobs, and the loss of our evening paper.

Fifty six years ago, during the depression, when I was made redundant, I felt the same feeling of dismay and anxiety. What next is going to be the wall?

The evening paper is a way of life to many people — folks living on their own, busy mums who have no time first thing of a day to have a quiet read, before dinner, through to grandpas looking from 4pm onwards for the paper.

No branch post offices to meet up with neighbours for a wee chat, one by

and the chatter of linotype machines.

I salute the memory of staff members of earlier years and wish for those who must now move to other employment every success. Thank you for what the paper has meant over the years. Its closure is a matter of deep regret.

DON BENNETT
New Plymouth

We certainly trust that new jobs will be found for the people who have been employed on the Herald, and we express our good wishes to you all.

GEORGE AND LORRAINE HUTTON
New Plymouth

one the small joys and comforts are being lost to us. The mighty dollar is indeed taking over from the needs of the average person.

Television news is now presented at an unreasonable hour, mothers preparing dinner, getting children ready for bed, dad barely home from work (or the dot queue!). I could go on and I do think life has ceased when the postie relinquished his whistle, and the friendly policeman was nowhere to be seen. But this is the end. No evening paper!

We wish you all a happy ending in the not too distant future and thank you all for the good service enjoyed over the years.

M E G H
New Plymouth

Sir — I was indeed shocked to read of the closure of the Taranaki Herald.

I could not let this difficult time for you pass without conveying my thanks to each and every one of you for the interest you have shown to Francis Douglas College over the years.

Packed scrap books and posters will always be proof of the Herald's staff enthusiasm for the college.

Sir — It was a sad shock to us to hear that we are to lose an old friend.

Our organisation has had many dealings with the Herald and we have always been treated fairly, though often not seeing eye-to-eye.

We are witnessing another victim of a revolution in life style and technology. It is a learning process for the whole community, we are in a world of rapid change, the social

Sir — It is with great regret that I learned that the Herald will no longer be published.

Ever since we moved to New Plymouth from Hamilton, in 1982, the Herald has been a welcome friend in our home. For people like me, there is no time for a morning paper, because work starts at 8 o'clock or earlier, and by evening the morning's news seems stale. It was a good time of the day when coming home after a busy day, I could relax with my paper. It

only since my retirement, relatively recently, that I also have the morning paper. I am getting used to this paper and will continue to enjoy it. I will however miss the Herald and I would like to wish you and the staff of the Herald the very best and thank you for the pleasure you have given to so many of us during the many years in the past. With my very best wishes, also on behalf of my wife.

F J VAN WESTENDORP
New Plymouth

TESS GAFFNEY
College Librarian
Francis Douglas
Memorial College
New Plymouth

and economic consequences are vast. I wonder how many journalists and staff have learnt their craft at the Herald over the years, they must also be feeling the loss keenly.

We wish you and your staff all the best, our thoughts are with you.

SIMON LINDSAY
Co-ordinator
Taranaki Unemployed
Workers Right Centre
New Plymouth.

may I wish you well in whatever life holds for you all.



Above, the Herald's first home in 1852 on Devon Street. Below, larger premises in Devon Street until 1900.



The Herald moved to Currie Street in 1900 after a fire in Devon Street. This surviving part of the building was hauled by a bullock team to another part of town and used as a fire station.



How it all began

Taranaki Herald

The Taranaki Herald has always prided itself in being a newspaper of the people — right from its humble beginning as a four-page tabloid printed from an old shed near what is now Devon Mall in central New Plymouth on August 4, 1852.

Volume 1, No. 1 of the oldest newspaper in New Zealand — and Taranaki's first — clearly stated the intentions of founders Garland William Woon and William Collins.

We reprint in this today's farewell edition of the Taranaki Herald: "The settlers of New Plymouth have so frequently expressed the wish to have a newspaper that argument to prove the utility of a journal to the interests and

well-being of the Colony is superfluous.

"Arrangements have been completed to meet the wishes of the colonists. The principles and the manner in which it is proposed to conduct a newspaper, under the title of the Taranaki Herald, will be briefly explained.

"It is intended that the Taranaki Herald shall be emphatically a paper for the settlers — to promote their prosperity and improvement, moral and physical, agricultural and commercial; to develop the resources of the district, and its advantages

as a colonising field.

"These will be the primary objects ever present to the minds of its conductors.

"Occasions may arise for animadversions in their public capacities; and in such cases there will be no unworthy shrinking from the performance of a journalist's duty; but such opportunities will rather be avoided than welcomed; the Herald will be the advocate of Taranaki, and not the assaiant of any party in the colony.

"If attacks upon public men or bodies are eschewed, more especially will everything bearing the

marks of private or personal hostility be republished.

"To collect and disseminate local information and suggestions; to be the medium of discussing questions more immediately interesting to the inhabitants of this part of New Zealand; to be the organ of their claims upon the attention of the Government here, as well as the public and the Government in England; and on the other hand to present a concise view of the progress of events abroad, will be the constant endeavour of the Herald's conductors.

"How far this scheme can be carried out, and the degree of support it will receive time alone must show; but the experiment will be earnestly and honestly tried."



Above left: The Herald's first home on the present Currie Street site — claimed at the time to be "one of the most complete publishing offices between Auckland and Wellington."

Above: By the 1920s the Herald is installed in impressive premises on Currie Street. Right: The Herald on its centenary in 1952.

Left: The Herald is demolished in 1984 to make way for new premises on Currie Street.

Below: The Herald today ... the end of an era.

