

Long-serving former Hawera mayor dies

By **NIKKI NEWLAND**

HAWERA'S longest serving mayor has died.

Fred Finer, who died on Friday, was Hawera's mayor for 18 years from 1952 to 1970.

His involvement in local body politics began in the late 1940s as a Patea Borough Councillor. He shifted to Hawera in 1948 and was quickly elected on to the Hawera Borough Council.

Then in November 1952 he stood for the mayoralty, winning a three-way contest against Fred Horner and Laurie Clapham.

One of Mr Finer's first official duties as mayor was to receive the Queen during a royal tour in January 1953. He met the Queen twice more during his time as mayor — the most memorable being during the 1970 royal tour when he



FRED FINER

became one of the few New Zealanders to be personally invested with the MBE by Her Majesty.

Prior to his political life, Mr Finer worked as an auctioneer. He had also spent time as a farmer at Maxwell and Tuhua, running a Wanganui dairy, selling for the T and G Life Society, shearing, and doing a Wairoa milk run.

He joined the National Military Reserve during World War II and spent time with the Hawke's Bay and Wellington West Coast/Taranaki regiments before returning to Patea, where he opened his auctioneering business and started his political career.

Mr Finer, who was 97, is survived by his second wife Loeta, who he married on his 67th birthday.