



FINAL STAGES: The new bus centre in New Plymouth should be open by Saturday.

Photo: MARK DWYER

Visitors to city in for an artistic encounter

By KIM SCHWIETERS

ARTISTIC flair is everywhere, from the glass front doors to the bathrooms, at New Plymouth's new bus centre.

The station's final fit-out was under way and the New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) was hoping to have the \$600,000 Ariki St station ready for its first arrival this Saturday, council property assets manager Gavin Thorley said.

The centre, built behind Puke Ariki's library wing, had room for five buses and included 24-hour security cameras, toilets, telephones and a public waiting area.

Intercity had three kiosks inside the centre, while Dalroy Tours & Coachlines had two kiosks, one of which would be a coffee-to-go outlet and the other a travel office, he said.

The centre, which had been under construction since July, had a pile of arty touches such as a curved wall of wooden slats in front of the building complete with designs cut from metal.

Mr Thorley said the building had been designed to fit into the city's arts culture.

"You will see other arty touches right through, even down to the toilet seats.

"There's a design (kowhai flowers) on the front doors and that's been repeated on the clear toilet seats."

Inside the building was a display detailing the history of transport in Taranaki, he said.

"It's a story that's put together between the architects and the staff at Puke Ariki."

The centre, which replaced the city's old bus station on Queen St, would be officially opened by Mayor Peter Tennent next Wednesday.