

City council seeks demolition of first mayor's home

Demolition of a New Plymouth house built last century by the town's first mayor is being called for by the New Plymouth City Council.

The two-storeyed Wallace Place house, built for Mr A. Standish in 1878, is in a bad structural condition and its remaining there is not justified, said Mr D. V. Sutherland, chairman of the council's works and traffic committee today. Mr Standish was mayor in 1878 and 1879.

According to neighbouring residents the house has deteriorated badly over the past 20 years and recent tenants have virtually wrecked its once-lively interior.

Mr Sutherland confirmed that the matter has been handed to the city solicitors for action.

Mr E. Laurence, representing city solicitors Govett Quilliam and Co, told the Herald that instructions had been received to prepare a demolition order on the house.

Papers had been prepared along with supporting evidence and would be filed in the New Plymouth court and served on the owner of the house in the next few days, he said.

This action apparently follows years of protracted argument between the house's owner and the council, but they had not been complied with.

Mr Sutherland said a number of requests for the upgrading of the house had been served by the council, but they had not been complied with.

Tolerant
"The council has been extremely tolerant regarding the structure," he added.

The house's owner, Mr L. Adam, New Plymouth, said today he was being "pushed" by the council to pull the building down.

He said he had been told to regenerate the building to meet more stringent fire regulations, but this would have involved spending a large amount of money, which he did not have.

Because these regulations could not be met the building could not be let out as apartments.

"Towards the end though, there were police cars up this way all the time. When the last people left, they spent some time outside and smashed window after window with lemons from a tree on the property," the neighbour said.

"Other people have been in the house since Christmas and wrecked it too - but they haven't been tenants."

Someone appeared to have been stripping all the worthwhile fixtures from the building.

At one stage they had seen a truck backed up to the main door.

The balustrade off the main staircase, one of the features of the house, was missing as were several fire surrounds.

"The day that house is wrecked, properly, I'll get down on my knees to thank the Lord for it," the neighbour added.

A Herald reporter received permission from Mr Adam to enter the house to see what damage had been done to its interior.

Broken glass
Broken beer bottles and window glass littered most rooms. Some rooms had their wallpaper ripped off, holes had been punched in some walls, fittings had been ripped out and food had been left scattered around a kitchen area.

The structure will consist of a main stored building 96ft 12m by 17ft 6in 5.2m overall and a sleigh 56ft 12m by 18ft 6in 5.2m over all. The height of all rooms in the main building will be 11ft 3.5m and those in the sleigh about 10ft 3.5m - it reports.

The frame work was to be of rimu with kauri floors and internal and external wall linings.

Beautiful
The newspaper stated the site for the house commanded a beautiful and extensive view of Mt Egmont and the ranges and being opposite a street running to the north-west Morley St commands also a permanent view of the ocean.

The site has the advantage of presenting a fine point of elevated table land for the building and a well sheltered valley for garden and orchard.

The architect was a Mr Younger and the builder Mr Birch.

The incident occurred during the annual meeting of the Auckland Branch when 41 delegates were being chosen to represent the branch at the electorate annual meeting later this month.

In a highly unusual move, branch and electorate chairman, Rear Admiral Laurence Carr, of Mr Ken Morgan, Mrs Kay Cooke and her husband, Mr Tim Dutton and his daughter, Mrs Gilligan, to publicly pledge their support for Mr Hunt before the 70 or more people present.

Admiral Carr made the request under a rule requiring branch delegates to work for the election of official candidates.

"This was unprecedented and in very bad taste," said Mrs Rose this morning. "I said the fact that we came to the meeting, paid a subscription and put our names forward showed our intent, and I said I felt our stand was self explanatory."

Mr Morgan says he refused to answer because two of the five - Mr Rose and Mrs Gilligan - had already left the meeting.

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The matter was discussed for some time by those in the hall, then the chairman decided to drop it.

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The 99 year old-former home of New Plymouth's first mayor, Mr A. Standish, as it appears today looking from Wallace Pl.

White backers with bold pledge Probe for oil may pause

AUCKLAND, Today (NZPA). — Five Pakuranga National Party members last night refused to give a public pledge of loyalty to Mr Pat Hunt, the candidate selected in place of sitting MP Mr Gavin Downie.

The incident occurred during the annual meeting of the Auckland Branch when 41 delegates were being chosen to represent the branch at the electorate annual meeting later this month.

In a highly unusual move, branch and electorate chairman, Rear Admiral Laurence Carr, of Mr Ken Morgan, Mrs Kay Cooke and her husband, Mr Tim Dutton and his daughter, Mrs Gilligan, to publicly pledge their support for Mr Hunt before the 70 or more people present.

Admiral Carr made the request under a rule requiring branch delegates to work for the election of official candidates.

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Meanwhile the chairman of the National Party Rules Committee, Mr J. J. Watts, said today that he and the party president, Mr G. A. Chapman, had instructed their solicitors to proceed with the preparation of a writ of defamation.

The writ is to be served on Mr Ken Morgan and possibly elements of the media, Mr Watts said.

The complaint is directed at words allegedly used to describe the way in which the Rules Committee inquired into the nominations for the Pakuranga electorate.

Last year Mr Downie failed to win nomination for the seat and the Rules Committee inquired into nomination procedures. It found no evidence of irregularity.

Mr Watts, who is a Wellington lawyer, would not comment on reports that Mr Morgan and his supporters visited Wellington late last week to examine Rules Committee material.

That was pure speculation, he said, and he would comment no further.

CHRISTCHURCH, Today (NZPA). — With economic basement possible any hour at the Kowai 1 wildcat exploration well near Rangiora, the Government's onshore oil search may soon pause for the first time since November.

The office of Energy Resources Minister Mr Gair confirmed today that the well in the Ashley Forest is still drilling ahead at around 1300m. Progress has been slower than expected, but the well is 100m beyond original target depth.

The well which the Emoco rig drills next depends on what lies at the bottom of Kowai 1. It is a stratigraphic hole designed to determine whether a Canterbury seismic survey is warranted.

Sources say the well will cost \$500,000 - \$600,000. A seismic survey would run to \$2-3 million.

The Government has been accused of not following technical advice on well locations and the Officials Committee is known to be taking a very careful look at future work.

There may be a pause to let West Coast studies catch up and these will be sent to Holland for analysis. It is likely to be the end of this month before drilling of the first well is completed.

Target zone hit
Drilling of the first production well at the Maui A lower off the Taranaki coast reached the production zone over the weekend.

Core samples are being taken and these will be sent to Holland for analysis. It is likely to be the end of this month before drilling of the first well is completed.

More comment, Page 2.

Officials rubbish litter dumping

Two recent serious litter dumping in the Egmont National Park are concerning park officials.

A long serving park board member and ex-officio honorary ranger, Mr D. H. Rawson, has reported finding several dozen blue plastic bags containing partially eaten lunches and soft drink cans near the summit and near one of the mountain's streams.

The park board chairman, Mr E. M. Fitzgibbon, said these were the first incidents of their kind drawn to his attention and he was concerned.

Every Tom, Dick and Harry is using the swimming pool recently completed for hospital staff at Taranaki Base - Hospital, New Plymouth, the works committee of the Taranaki Hospital Board says today.

"I think it is only a few untidy people who are making things unpleasant for others," he said.

Once this incident is brought to the public's attention," he said, "I'm sure they will realise that this is not the way to treat such a place."

Mr Fitzgibbon believes the public is usually fairly good in cleaning up rubbish on the mountain.

"Take the open climbs for instance," he said. "They are always very well organised, therefore there is never any rubbish left behind."

"From what I understand the littering incident resulted from a school party visiting the summit - at that time if anyone is at fault it will be the teacher."

Drums were provided at all huts for rubbish and these were removed regularly by helicopter at a cost of \$320 an hour. It had not been thought of leaving litter in the park.

Arrangements had been made for alpine club members to remove the summit litter and he had taken away the lower lot of bags.

In a letter to the editor of the Herald he warns that people can be prosecuted for offences such as this and states that there is no excuse for leaving litter in the park.

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Trade intake drops

WELLINGTON, Today (NZPA). — The intake of exports in this financial year is 20% down on

Want death

AURANGA, Today (NZPA). — Unanimous support for the reintroduction of the death penalty for hard drug quishers was given at the annual

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