



New Plymouth yesterday became the first city in the land to formally accept a peace pole from the Japanese Society of Prayer for World Peace. Here Elaine Atkinson, of the North Taranaki Peace Group, talks about the pole while city mayor Mr David Lean looks on outside the Robe St courthouse.

First to accept

New Plymouth became the first city in New Zealand to formally accept a peace pole from the Japanese Society of Prayer for World Peace, when Mayor Mr David Lean accepted one yesterday.

Nearly 600 people gathered on the clocktower lawn, on the corner of Devon and Leach streets, to watch the occasion.

The pole was given by the North Taranaki Peace Group on behalf of the society. Mr Lean accepted the pole on behalf of the city and people of New Plymouth while a group of children said "may peace prevail on earth" in Maori.

That is the prayer inscribed on the pole in Japanese, English, French and Maori, and some people said it in those languages.

Numbers were swelled by about 400 Methodists attending their annual conference in the city.

Peace group president Elaine Atkinson opened the dedication ceremony at 12.30pm and the Rev Merv Dickinson, of New Plymouth's Dayspring Centre, talked about the pole.

Ms Jan Davison, of the city council, then spoke about a peaceful future for New Plymouth, New Zealand and the world.

Methodist Church president, the Rev Dr Phyllis Guthardt of Christchurch, addressed the gathering and Miss Tessa Temata, of New Plymouth Girls' High

School, then spoke on the true inner peace Jesus Christ can give.

Another peace group member Margaret Hales then closed the ceremony.

Suspension sequel

PA Christchurch Mrs Margaret Quin, the Methven woman suspended from the National Party last month, has decided to take the matter to the High Court.

She said that after consultation with solicitors in Wellington it was decided court proceedings should be prepared "to protect my interests".

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Energy Reporter

The New Plymouth City Council is considering hiring planning experts from the USA or Australia to help with future energy developments in North Taranaki.

The city's planning committee yesterday considered a report, by councillor Mr Kingsley Fletcher, on the possible engagement of suitable consultants to advise on petrochemical development matters.

It was clear, Mr Fletcher said, that future proposals for gas and petrochemical developments would be announced soon.

"It is equally clear the port and its environs will be very much in focus for the offering of strategic sites and facilities.

"It is important, therefore, that the council is mindful of the need to plan carefully to ensure developments take place only as is appropriate and that our community-use areas and residential neighbourhoods are protected."

Mr Fletcher admitted the council's planning work associated with energy developments had not always been good.

CENSUS TIME CLOSER

Stand up and be counted! That's what the New Zealand Government will be expecting of every man, woman and child on March 4 next year.

The country's five-yearly population census will be taken at midnight on that day and planning has already begun for the event.

One of New Plymouth's two census supervisors, Mr Ron Riley, said the information taken on March 4 was "vital to the future planning and handling of our resources" in the years ahead.

While the census date was still four months away, the Department of Statistics was already working hard, to make sure it went

off smoothly and provided an accurate and reliable picture of New Zealand society in 1986.

Mr Riley said simplicity was very much the name of the game with next year's census.

"There are no more questions on hooks or TVs, but greater emphasis on confidentiality. Although the information supplied will naturally be computerised, neither names nor addresses will go beyond the processing stage."

The census would be shorter - with fewer questions on personal matters and dwellings - it would have an improved layout and would use simple, everyday language.

Mr Riley said the Department of Statistics had appointed an area manager, Mr David Bennett, who had responsibility for the Taranaki, Wanganui and King Country areas.

In turn, Mr Bennett had appointed seven district supervisors - two from New Plymouth and one each from Hawera, Patea, Waitara, Opunake and Stratford.

Those seven would attend training sessions between now and March. From next month they would also begin the hunt for 200 "enumerators" - people needed to make personal contact with local households, delivering and picking up census forms.