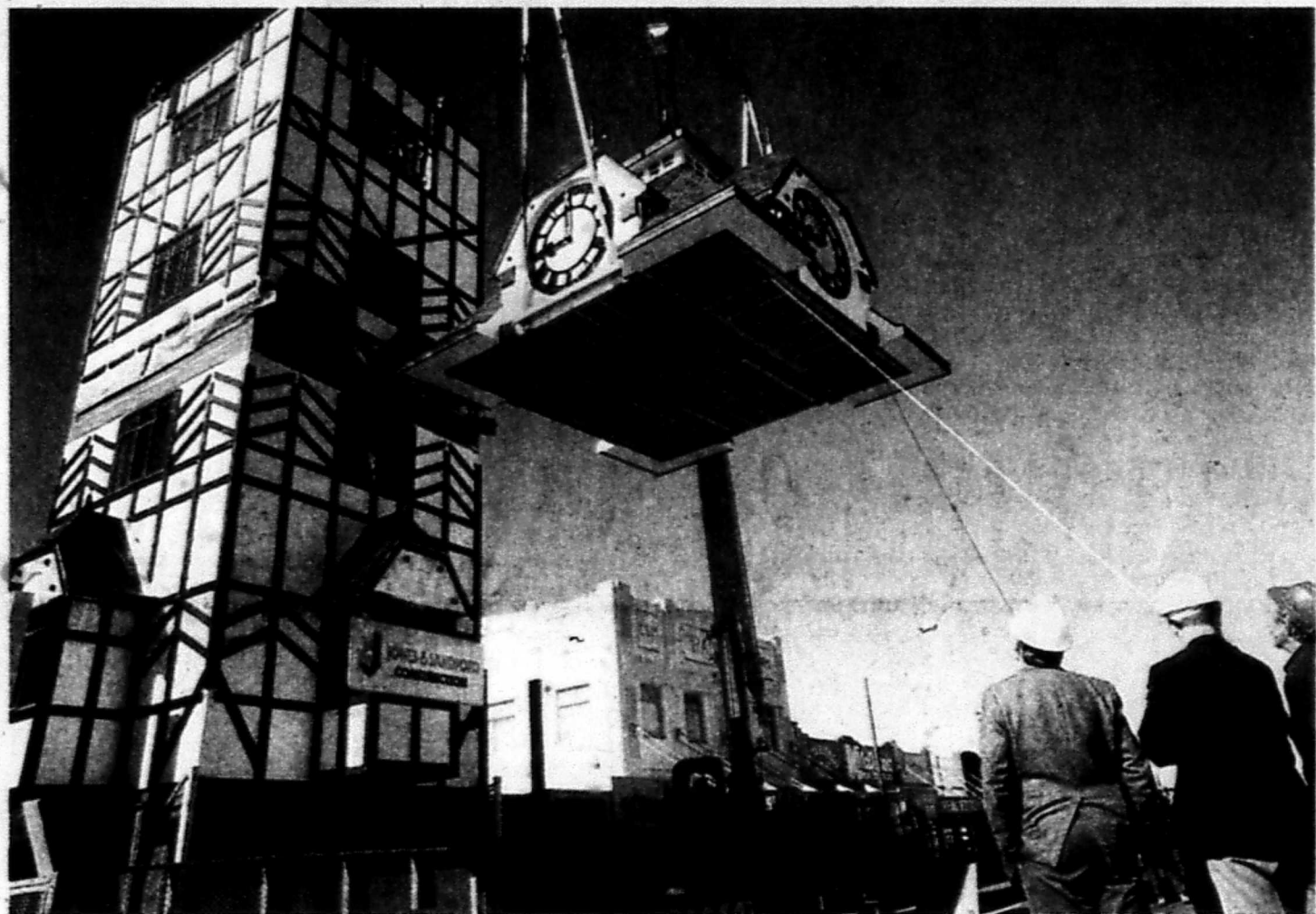


Just like clockwork



TIME FLIES: Project organisers look on as Stratford's new \$190,000 Elizabethan-style clock is lifted into place yesterday.

Several hundred people lined the main street as two cranes worked to raise the three-piece tower, which is the third stage of Stratford's Streetscape development.

Construction of the tower began in New Plymouth in June, and when complete, visitors will be able to climb about 21m to its top level. Seating and gardens will surround the tower's base.

The four clock faces are from the old Stratford Post Office, which was demolished in 1967. The original clock mechanism,

dedicated to soldiers killed during the Boer War and World War I, will be displayed on the tower's first floor.

An Elizabethan lychgate, to be sited opposite the tower, should be completed by November. Another feature of the tower will be figurines that rotate to music.

Stratford District Council promotions manager Stuart Perry hoped the new clock tower would encourage local businesses to adopt the town's Elizabethan theme.

"It's going to be absolutely magic. I think it's going to be a tourist attraction — back to the future," he said.

Stratford Mayor David Walter

said the tower would be funded from development levies from the district's energy projects.

"The reality is that there are few small towns that survive without some significant aspect or theme to attract visitors," said Mr Walter.

Jones and Sandford project manager Alan Haywood said construction would be completed by the end of the month.

"Even the weather has been just a miracle. Everything went like clockwork — pardon the pun," said Mr Haywood.

The clock tower will be opened on September 14.

Photo: TREVOR READ
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