

D.N. 8/10/94

Club decides on new HQ

Clubs/Sec: other;

By LINDSAY DAVIS

THE former Taranaki Club property on Young St is to be extensively refurbished as the new Combined Taranaki Club headquarters.

"It's a prime piece of real estate that has been mothballed for the past year but now it has a definite future," said Combined Taranaki Club president Graham Harris.

The Taranaki Club and the CT Club merged last September, said Mr Harris, because they believed there was an economic advantage to be gained from a larger membership. The merger left the club with two properties and a decision on which one to keep.

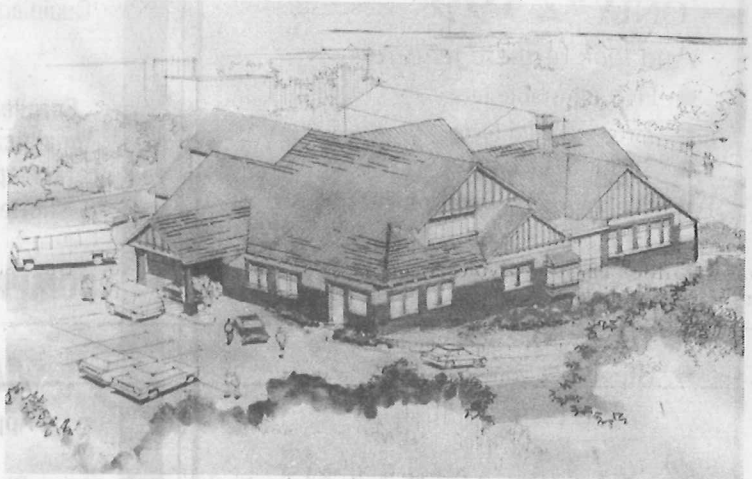
The club called for tenders on both the Young St and King St properties in July to gauge interest. Tenders closed on August 19.

Mr Harris said the Young St property attracted three tenders but, at the last minute, the best tender was withdrawn.

"They had a change of direction. They tendered \$540,000 and we considered that a fair tender. The next one was \$410,000, so we didn't really consider this."

While the King St property was not sold, Mr Harris said negotiations were continuing.

Mr Harris said the club was disappointed at the few tenders received. "We expected there would be greater interest. The site is one of the last few sites that has a commanding view of the sea and coastline. It is a



FACE LIFT: Plans of the new Combined Taranaki Club headquarters, drawn by TSE Taranaki & Associates.

great location, handy to everything and it's a majestic building that has carparking for 50-60 cars, so its got a lot going or it.

"We had a special general meeting on Monday night and the overwhelming majority voted to refurbish the Young St property and vacate King St.

"They saw Young St as the most desirable place to have a club."

The renovations, which would bring the building into line with modern club requirements, would hopefully be completed by early in the New Year, said Mr Harris.

"But the renovations we intend will maintain the club's present character," he said.

Originally designed by well-known Taranaki architect Tom

Bates in 1921, the clubrooms were opened in 1922.

Mr Harris said they were looking at rebuilding about one-third of the club, including a new Young St entrance, remodelling the kitchen, a new bar and the possibility of building a second storey within the existing roof structure that the club could hire out part of the premises for small conferences and weddings.

"The adjacent cottage, which is the old manager's home, we would like to see relocated."

Mr Harris said the new development would allow for more family-orientated usage. "With the changes in club styles over the years we have been considering more family use because the family plays an important part of daily life."