



The new part-owner of New Plymouth's Devonport Apartments, Mr Bruce Burmester, surveys their soon-to-be-developed rear courtyard.

NP businessman buys back the Devonport flats

New Plymouth's Devonport Apartments have been bought by city businessman Mr Bruce Burmester and two unnamed partners.

Mr Burmester revealed the purchase of the three-block property on the corner of St Aubyn and Dawson Streets when scheme plans for renovations were released yesterday.

The purchase included 45 flats (five had already been sold) and a corner shop. It was made at a mortgagee's auction in October, last year and the deal was finalised in December.

It followed a series of difficulties faced by the previous owner, Mrs Julia Robinson, of Christchurch, which left the building only partly painted for more than a year.

Mr Burmester refused to reveal the purchase price, but it is estimated to be close to the \$650,000 paid by Mrs Robinson when she bought the apartments off Mr C. R. Foote, of Hawera, early in 1982.

Mr Burmester said it was intended \$250,000 would be spent on upgrading the building's exterior and surrounds. This included the purchase just completed of land adjacent and opposite in Dawson and Young Streets to provide car parks; the construction of a laundromat and the installation of a lift to service the upper floors of the four storey building. Planning consent is to be applied for the construction of six penthouse flats on the building's roof.

Painting of the rear of the building has now been completed and Mr Burmester said the one, two and three-bedroom flats were informally for sale for between \$25,000 and \$52,000. They could be purchased with or without the interiors renovated and money would be withheld by the purchaser against the construction of the lift.

All flats are available on strata-unit titles and will be administered under a body-corporate by a committee of flat owners.

In May, 1982, Devonport "Flats" as they were then referred to came to the attention of the local and national news media when all the tenants received a registered letter en-masse containing a notice to quit.

Last year the second mortgagee, Mr Jack Murray, of Auckland, was forced to accept 16 of the flats as part payment of his account.

The balance of Mrs Robinson's flats later appeared on the market at low prices but agents reported legal difficulties in their sale and although interest was shown no contracts were completed.

Agents said that the development of the flats was extremely good financially, but needed a pool of \$230,000 to complete.

Mr Burmester refused to comment yesterday on the problems that led to the mortgagee sale, but admitted that he and another businessman had unsuccessfully bid against Mrs Robinson in 1982.

He said he was now employed full time supervising the development and renovations of the property which would not be formally put on the market until later in the year.

He said the flats would appeal to those wishing to live close to town and the lift would make them appeal to retired people.

He said the key to the project's success would be the acceptance by his partners of a much lower margin of profit to produce a complex the tenants and city could be proud of.

RAFFLES

EGMONT VILLAGE

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MEAT RAFFLE

1st prize: Prime beef

Ticket no 3001

M.G.M. SYND NP

2nd prize: Dressed porker

Ticket no 2627

B. BAKER

Egmont Village

3rd prize: Dressed Hogget

Ticket no 1886

Alan May

F1/23A Hamblin St, NP

4th prize:

Ticket no 2629

J. Atkien, Inglewood

5th prize

Ticket no 1847

G. Foley, Inglewood

6th prize

Ticket no 3076

A. Holdt, NP

7th prize

Ticket no 3151

A. Cross, Stratford

8th prize

Ticket no 2235

O. Hastie, Tariki

9th prize

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Hurlstone family

Egmont Village

10th prize

Ticket no 2953

P.A. Chapowara, NP

SPORTS DRAWS

GOLF DRAW

MANAIA GOLF DRAW

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

WAIMATE PLAINS CHAMPIONSHIP

1ST TEE: 8am, B. Julian 4.

8.06, G. Cambie, R.

Quinton, G. Libeau, J. Mart.

8.12, Eltham No 1, 8.18, D.

Baker, M. Robinson, M.

May, R. Thompson, 8.24

Eltham No 2, 8.30, J. Kelly

4, 8.36, W. Arlidge, M.

Coombe, J. Baker, T.

Newman, 8.42, B. Wan 4,

8.48, Eltham No 3, 8.54, J.

Upson 4, 9.00, R. Hogwood

4, 9.06, R. Brewer, I.

Coombe.

10TH TEE: 8am, R. Nickel

4, 8.06, R. Smith 4, 8.12,

Eltham No 4, 8.18, D.

Bowers, M. Hammond, J.

Grant, L. Hughes, 8.24, B.

Ropiha 4, 8.30, M. Quintus,

B. Rowlands, P. Elliott, P.

Grantham, 8.36, N. Symes

4, 8.42, S. Lutterall 4, 8.48,

P. Aarts 4, 8.54, P. Lay 4,

9.00, L. Praese 4, 9.06, W.

Pollard, R. Bartley, B. Mart,

N. Scown.

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SPORTS DRAWS

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LEFT HANDERS

CHAMPIONSHIPS

AT

MANUKORIHI GOLF CLUB

7.18am J. Howearth 4;

7.24 R. White, W. Mahura,

C. Longman, D. Fitzgerald;

7.30 T. Climo 4; 7.36 C.

Robertson 4; 7.42 S.

Armstrong 4; 7.48 M. Neil

4; 7.54 B. Herbert 4; 8.00

A. Matheson 4; 8.06 B.

Simpson 4; 8.12 H. Bowers,

M. Hill, B. Penington, G.

Brider; 8.18 A. Roebuck 4;

8.24 M. Crow, R. Chapman,

R. Zeier, B. Old; 8.30 N.

Rowlands, V. Robson, C.

Saunders, T. Lobb; 8.36 K.

Rowe 4; 8.42 D. Andrews,

P. Lopy, H. McGee, T.

Armstrong; 8.48 J. Smith;

8.54 R. Binti 4; 9.00 B. Crow

4; 9.06 S. Smith, J. Bell, B.

McPhail, M. Wanoj 9.12 C.

Foster, J. Gurnick, P.

Marshall, N. Messenger;

9.18 R. Foreman, P.

Parthenter, G. Marshall;

9.24 R. Urbhan 4; 9.30 J.

Coffey 4; 9.36 P. Whale, I.

Louff, D. Buchanan; 9.42 P.

Grey 4; 9.48 F. Toki 4; 9.54

A. Toki, B. Barnett, L.

Callaghan, J. Jones.

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