



**UPMARKET:** The addition of an escalator was an early improvement Ros and Murray Holyoake made to C.C.Ward's. Photo GLEN FERGUSON



It was a squeeze, but this 10-tonne escalator just made it through the front entrance of C. C. Ward's in New Plymouth on Saturday. The only sacrifice — and that temporary — was the loss of a few boards from the underside of the shop's verandah.

The escalator was brought down from Auckland from the former Hugh Wrights' store in Queen St and is part of a \$95,000 refit to open up Ward's second storey. Shop proprietor, Mrs Roslyn Holyoake, said alterations to the shop (including excavation of a 1.2m hole in the ground floor) had been going on for some weeks to accommodate the escalator, though trading had continued through it all.

C. C. Ward's becomes only the fourth New Plymouth building to have an escalator. But one thing that won't be disappearing with its introduction is the 60-year-old lift, which Mrs Holyoake says is now very much a part of the shop. Meanwhile, the escalator should be ready to roll in about a month and plans are afoot for a special opening.

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