

D.N. 27-6-95

# Local loo lady flushed with pride

LOCATION - N P BUILDING

TOURISM MINISTER John Banks might have to don a tutu when he's next in town.

Marion Gundeson, attendant of the Gill St Women's Rest Rooms for about seven years, received a letter from the minister last week commending her on the cleanliness of the toilets.

She had invited him to inspect them after he condemned the state of the nation's loos earlier this month, saying they were dirty and vandalised and frightened off tourists.

In Mr Banks' letter to Mrs Gundeson, he said: "Thank you for the invitation to visit and I will keep that in mind when I'm next in town."

Mrs Gundeson, however, said Mr Banks might have to wear a tutu before she'd let him enter the women's domain. She was surprised to get the letter, but said it was awfully nice to think her efforts were appreciated.

Biddy Shaw (86) has been visiting the rest rooms for more than 30 years, dropping in for a weekly yarn with Mrs Gundeson. She said of Mr Banks' letter: "It's nice of him to think of New Plymouth."

Mother-and-daughter patrons Judy Adlam and Violet Gordon often pop into the rooms' lounge for lunch. "It's great - as good as going to a tea room. It's cheaper too," Mrs Adlam said.



**TOILET TALK:** Biddy Shaw (86) was simply tickled pink to read a letter from Tourism Minister John Banks praising the state of New Plymouth's Gill St Women's Rest Rooms, after he had earlier condemned the state of the nation's loos.

Photo: DWAYNE SENIOR