

Teapot's shop has tales to tell

Owners Mr and Mrs Ted Whittaker pictured outside the legendary Teapot Roberts grocery shop on the corner of Lemon and Elliot Sts, New Plymouth, possibly the oldest grocery shop in Taranaki.

Mr Whittaker said the shop was built in 1865 and first run by a Mr Roberts. Mr Roberts earned his nickname from passing farmers who tied up at the hitching rail outside and were given cups of tea through a special servery. A huge teapot used to stand above the old veranda.

Mr and Mrs Whittaker have had the lease for 27 years — right up until midnight last night Mr Whittaker said he started thinking about the historic value of the building, and wants to know anything he can find out about the early days at Teapot Roberts'.

Before his lease expired, Mr Whittaker rented the shop on a month-to-month basis to the current shopkeeper, Mr J. Copeman. Mr Copeman said he enjoys the shades from the past that go with the store.

Old people who drop in cannot resist telling stories about the old days when they used to drop into Teapot Roberts' on the way to school, Mr Copeman said.



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