

TH 15-3-89

Bingham, Tuarua homes may close

New Plymouth's Bingham and Tuarua homes for elderly women are likely to close.

The New Plymouth Council of Social Services wants to close the homes on September 30, wind up the society and dispose of its assets.

President Helen Munley has declined to comment until the council debates the issue at its annual meeting on Friday.

Bingham House opened at its Vivian St site in 1952 and provides 10 self-sufficient flats for elderly women.

Tuarua Home next door has six flats and was bought after a major fund raising campaign in 1968.

By JULIE GIFFORD

John Armstrong, who was then president of New Plymouth Lions who spearheaded the campaign, says it will be a shame to see the homes close.

The supervisor Susan Signal says the closure is causing no undue difficulties and some residents have already started to move out.

Some will be transferring to rest homes while others have made alternative arrangements.

Moves to establish the homes date back to May, 1947, when a small group met to find ways of im-

proving the unhappy circumstances some women had to live in.

Forming an incorporated society, in late 1950, the Supreme Court decided the group was the most suitable body to administer the Bingham Trust.

Mrs Bingham of New Plymouth had bequeathed money to set up a home for elderly women, on the condition that it was not administered by either a hospital or charitable board.

The first occupants moved into Bingham House on June 18, 1952.

Occupants had to be over 65 years and be able to care for themselves and their own flats.



New Plymouth's Bingham House for elderly women may have to shut its doors on September 30.

Photo: COLLEEN BRIDE