

# Open day at Club Taranaki in NP

A Daily News Advertising Feature

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on the refurbishment of this historic building

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**IN STYLE:** Club Taranaki president Darcy Mace (left) and past president Graham Harris relax at the bar with manager Hilary Frewin.

**BETTER:** Club redevelopment included replacing an aluminium conservatory with a terrace extension in keeping with the design.

## Four years' work finished

Feature by MIKE SHAW  
Photos by PIP GUTHRIE

AN OPEN day tomorrow at the imposing rough-cast Club Taranaki on the corner of Young St and Queen St in New Plymouth is a chance for the public to check out the unique nature of this private club.

A visit may even tempt them to consider membership and the advantages of its facilities.

The open day between 3pm and 6pm will follow the official re-opening at 2pm.

"The opening is important to the club. We've never really had an official opening since we shifted from King St," said club president Darcy Mace.

That formality will recognise the four-years-long effort of planning, demolition, rebuilding and redecoration of Club Taranaki.

New Plymouth MP Harry Duynhoven will formally declare the 75-year-old building open in front of an audience of official guests, club members and contractors involved in the project.

The open day afterwards was also important for the future of the refurbished club, Mr Mace said.

"We are seen by some people as an executive establishment. But membership is open to anyone of good standing and of all ages, young and old."

Mr Mace is confident visitors to the club will appreciate what they find. "This club is a magnificent facility, and we are over the moon about how the place looks."

"Most of that can be put down to the efforts of members in the help and time they have given."

Immediate past president Graham Harris emphasised that membership involvement.

"Without it, this development wouldn't have happened. Or it would have, but with a huge financial cost to the club."

"The members have been behind the project from day one. The committees of the day might have led the way but the support from the members themselves made it happen."

"I believe the type of person we have as a member is a great resource. A lot of members are keen to be involved in hands-on tasks and you don't see that in a lot of other organisations."

The uniqueness of the 75-year-old building and the site on which it stood were the incentive for the development, he said.

Noted New Plymouth architect Thomas Bates designed the building for the then Taranaki Club. Originally opened in 1922, it underwent a number of changes in the ensuing years. The major changes, however, have been those of the past four years.

They were triggered by the merger between the Taranaki Club and the former CT Club in nearby King St.

A vigorous debate eventually decided in favour of the Young St premises as the long-term location for the combined club. The sea-view location of the former Taranaki Club and the potential in its redevelopment won the day and the club moved the short distance to its new home.

An important part of the redevelopment project lay in retaining the character of the club building that made it unique, Mr Harris said. "It looks the same, yet we've completely changed the way the



**BETTOR:** Gaming machines are important to the club. Manager Hilary Frewin checks the latest additions to a new 'casino' room.

building works for us.

"We have re-organised the interior, particularly the kitchen and conference facilities, to suit the needs of a modern club."

The new kitchen serves a smart restaurant area offering either a la carte or bistro options to its diners. These improvements had been well-received, Mr Harris said. "The restaurant is a very important part of our club operation."

The main lounge with its expansive views and the classic design of the snooker room were basically unchanged, he said. But a new colour scheme and carpet throughout the building had dramatically improved the atmosphere.

The nature of Club Taranaki's refurbished premises reflected changes in society in recent years. Mr Harris said. Big hotel bars and a focus on drinking were out of favour with more intimate and comfortable surroundings in demand.

"Club Taranaki has a relaxing, comfortable environment which is not stressful to be in. It's not a hustle and bustle club but one in which our members really enjoy themselves."

With the club development completed for the foreseeable future, that enjoyment and an anticipated increase in participation promised good years ahead, he said. The extra interest in membership expected by club management could even prompt a limit on membership numbers and the setting up of a waiting list, he said.

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**We're Celebrating!**

It's taken a while but we have finally finished our current redecoration programme, so be our guests this Saturday!

**OPEN DAY**  
SATURDAY JULY 19, 3PM-6PM

Join us at the open day following our 2pm official reopening and see why our members appreciate this prime coastal location.

*A modern club with a touch of tradition*

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- Sports facilities - snooker, pool, darts, petanque
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- Restaurant with mouth-watering a-la-carte and bistro options
- Off street parking • Conference facilities for hire

**ON CLUE:** Indoor sports of pool and snooker are important activities at Club Taranaki. Above is the distinctive snooker room set up for the United CT Association's national pool tournament in 1995. The snooker tables were moved out for the event. Club members also gather outdoors for golf, bowls and fishing competitions.

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**Congratulations on the new look and good luck on your Open Day**