



SIGN OF THE TIMES: Consultant Gavin Robins, of Eltham, props up a prototype of the new Shakespearean street signs which will be erected along Broadway in Stratford.

The district council recently approved the replacement of all Stratford's street signs which did not meet current Land Transport Safety Authority guidelines.

As well, many signs were missing, leading to complaints from visitors who found it confusing to get around town.

In total, 246 new signs will be erected — 116 more than at present. The project is estimated to cost about \$50,000 and the council hopes to use a \$30,000 surplus in Transit New Zealand funding to get part of the project started this financial year.

Operations manager Wally Bullen said the Shakespearean signs would be funded from the streetscape budget. They will be erected at intersections leading off Broadway, while a more standard sign design will be used for other streets.

The Shakespearean signs will be about 3m high and will be hand finished by John Bates, of Patea, with a creosote finish to give them an Elizabethan effect. The wrought iron work has been crafted by Les Gilchrist, who teaches at Hawera Intermediate School and operates the Tawhiti Museum forge.

Photo: ADRIAN MALLOCH