

Sale means new life for RSA base



THE New Plymouth RSA is shifting from the building that has been its home since the end of World War II.

President Ross Okey (left) and secretary manager Trevor Wylde yesterday announced that their Egmont St base had been sold to the New Life Christian Centre for its base.

From January the Returned Services' Association's New Zealand flag will fly from the Devon St building (bought in 1987 for \$220,000) currently housing the Barracks Family Restaurant.

"There'll be a few tears shed leaving here and there'll be people that will be disappointed," said Mr Wylde.

Mr Okey said: "There's a lot of nostalgia that goes with this place."

Both men said the decision

to make the move was supported by about 78% of the members and prompted by a lack of parking space which affected patronage.

It was hoped that the shift to the Devon St building, bought by the association three years ago, would see more of its 1400 members attend social functions.

Currently only about 250 people were active members.

Mr Wylde said the new base would have to be extended and to date \$120,000 had been raised towards building costs.

Once extensions were completed there might be room for the Barracks to continue business if it wished.

The Egmont St building had been on the market for 18 months and sold for \$175,000.

Photo: DWAYNE SENIOR