

# Landmark carving to soon have new outlook

By KELLY LONEY

A CROWD gathered to see a New Plymouth landmark dug up and lifted out by a crane in Fitzroy yesterday.

The Maori carved pole, Pou Tutaki, erected about 150 years ago to indicate the limit of permitted European settlement, was shifted on to the new Harvey Norman site close-by, to undergo a facelift and an extension.

The pole, on the corner of Devon and Smart roads, will eventually be moved sideways by a couple of metres from its original site and landscaped with lights and a plaque.

There was a haka to announce the movement of the pole as about 100 people watched and passing cars beeped their horns.

"It's time to change his suit. He'll face the mountain, to give him something to look at," said Te Atiawa spokesman Grant Knuckey during the ceremony.

He said there were representatives from most of the Taranaki hapu and everyone

was happy with the changes.

The Harvey Norman home furnishings store is almost complete and the pole will be part of the site's landscaped area.

Bruce Gardiner, of Harvey Norman contractors ICL Construction, said the pole would be extended a couple of metres from the bottom so that it would be prominent in height, which was in line with Maori protocol.

"The pole is lying face up, which is protocol, and from there it will be cleaned and restored," he said.

The project would take four to five weeks to complete.

● THE pole was erected in 1940 and is one of three poles erected to mark the outer boundary of the Fitzroy block. The first pole, erected by Te Atiawa on the banks of the Waiwhakaiho, featured naked Maori and pakeha figures but was dismembered in an axe attack and then destroyed by fire in 1885.

□ KELLY LONEY is a journalism student at Taranaki Polytech



**UP AND AWAY:** The historic Maori pole, on the corner of Smart and Devon roads, Waiwhakaiho, is moved for restoration work. Photo: MARK DWYER



**CLOSE-UP:** The Fitzroy pole in detail