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## Sydney challenge for the investigated by the

There are five Glauber group companies listed in Sydney, four of them locally based and the other the Hong Kong-based parent company, the Glauber Company Ltd.

The group's business has been futures trading, particularly gold and silver, on the Sydney Futures Exchange, where it was an associate member.

Mr. Fackler told New Zealand journalists at the time of the America's Cup challenge launch that he had made his money in Hong Kong during the diamond boom of the late 1970s.

"Seven months before the prices crashed, as I knew they would, I sold my whole business," he said.

He had left his native Antwerp in 1964 for Australia where he set up a gem dealership, became a naturalised Australian, then moved to Hong Kong before setting up his Glauber group here in 1980.



New Plymouth historian Gail Lambert with the 116-year-old house she would dearly love to give away.

# Free home available — but there's a catch

You've heard of houses at giveaway prices? Well, there's one in New Plymouth right now that beats all others.

It's yours for nothing. There is even an offer of help with removal costs. All you have to do is make it liveable and promise to retain its exterior character.

The house in question is Flight House, one of the city's oldest and now threatened with demolition. It has spent the past 16 years on the corner of Eliot and Courtenay Sts, not far from the city centre.

But it is being shifted (half today and the rest on Monday) to make way for the multi-storeyed headquarters of Perry Dines Corporation.

### Fell through

Until yesterday it looked as though the former residence of New Plymouth's first JP would spend the rest of its days as a sports pavilion at Sacred Heart College. But that plan fell through at the last minute and the house is now without a home.

Gail Lambert, a local historian and member of the NZ Historic Places Trust board, is desperate to find someone and somewhere for it.

"It's going to be a tremendous loss to the character of the town if it is demolished," New Plymouth is losing a lot of its character. Two buildings in Brougham St are going soon. It's very sad. Anyone can do it, is hope someone will come forward."

While Flight House is not on the Trust's register of historic buildings, it is regarded as a building of "extreme regional importance", according to Gail Lambert.

It was built by Josiah Flight in 1868 with a vertical board and batten cladding. There are some similar houses in Pendarves St, but she says the particular style cannot be found elsewhere in Taranaki.

She said the house was structurally sound and upgrading would be financially feasible. A new roof was needed as well as

some exterior cladding, where an addition had been removed.

Mrs Lambert said the Trust would consider helping with removal costs if the house could be moved to a suitable site.

It wanted to see the house resited in the city "but that would be negotiable. We don't want to make any hard and fast rules at the moment."

The Trust wanted the house to go to someone interested in historic buildings and who was prepared to retain its exterior character. A covenant would probably be entered into, allowing the person private ownership of the house, but with some assistance from the Trust.

### Paddock

She said the house was being shifted onto a paddock at Bell Block during its "temporary reprieve" and hoped its future would be resolved in the immediate future.

Mr Ron Lambert, director of the Taranaki Museum and chairman of the Taranaki Regional Committee of the Historic Places Trust, said he could see the house becoming "another clock tower" if it was demolished.

In 15 or 20 years' time, people would be running around beating their heads against brick walls and saying "why didn't we preserve that house?"

"It's one of a number of such situations that have arisen in the past and are likely to arise again in the near future. It's often the less spectacular, but still important, historical buildings that come under the most immediate pressure."

Mr Lambert said Flight House was a really good example of early colonial architecture in New Plymouth and was one of the more aesthetically pleasing board and batten cottages built in the city. "Because of that, it becomes more important to try and preserve it."

# Auckland dies after UK attack

A young Auckland man has died in England after an attack by four youths in a Bristol street, it was learned yesterday.

Peter Charles Grabow (25), of Murray's Bay, died on July 31 after spending two days on a life-support machine. He and his 16-year-old brother Andrew had been walking home from a cinema in the Bristol suburb of Filton when they were attacked, Bristol police have reported.

Andrew fled to get help, but when he returned his brother was unconscious. The story of Mr Grabow's death came to light yesterday in the North Shore District Court, where he had been due to appear on a number of driving charges.

The police offered no evidence on the charges, saying Mr Grabow was believed to have been attacked and murdered. Bristol police have charged a 20-year-old man, Glen Pulsford, with wounding after the fight about midnight on July 29.

A Bristol police spokesman said last night that the case had been referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions in London, and further charges were likely to be laid.

Mr Grabow had been on holiday in England with his parents and brother. His sister, said last night that he had been trying to get a job in England so he could return with his New Zealand fiancée, Miss Angelique Perry.

The principal of Sacred Heart College, Sister Elizabeth, said the school had been very interested in using the house as a sports pavilion.

A committee had looked at its "usefulness" the cost of restoration and in the end decided against taking it. That decision had been made finally just yesterday.

She said the committee did a lot of research and the decision was not made lightly. "I do hope it finds a good home," she said.

# Post Office inaction attacked

The Post Office was "dragging the chain" over the establishment of a regional civil defence communications network, it was claimed yesterday during a meeting of the joint civil defence committee of the New Plymouth City and Taranaki County Councils.

However, another speaker stressed that the Post Office was under pressure with other work.

The "dragging the chain" comment came from the civil defence officer for the city and the county, Mr Vic Rhodes. "I don't know what I can do — they are the ones who organise it," said Mr Rhodes. "They are months behind now. I have been to see them, and I ring them every week. They say they are overloaded. It's going to take time."

But the committee chairman, Mr John Honnor, said that "in fairness to the Post Office, I know the Post Office have had a fair bit on their plates in the last few months. They are under a fair bit of pressure at the moment."

# Socred founder dies at 87

Christchurch PA A founder member of the Social Credit Political League, Mr Wilfred Owen, died at Princess Margaret Hospital, Christchurch, on Thursday. He was 87.

# LUKEWARM AMNESTY RESPONSE

The response to the latest firearms amnesty has not been good, says New Plymouth Police chief inspector Mr Steve Anderson.

Only 32 firearms, 12 rounds of ammunition, four detonators and a hand grenade had been handed in since the amnesty began on June 1, he said. "It's not very good. I think the majority are being sold to dealers. But we would like to remind people that they can dispose of unwanted weapons laying about."

Mr Anderson said the amnesty would last until January 31 when new regulations would come into force requiring people who wished to own a firearm to hold a licence.

Mr Anderson said all people who currently own a firearm should have received a letter requesting them to become registered at a cost of \$11. More than \$275,000 letters had been sent out.

After January 31 all people owning or wishing to buy a rifle or a gun would first have to get a personal licence, which would then cost \$27.

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