

Clock Tower in the Square



1957



2007

Location: The Square, Palmerston North

From 1906 Palmerston North had a town clock on the Post Office until the 1940's when the tower and clock were removed due to earthquake concerns. The clock and chimes are named Kerei Te Panau after a local Rangitane chieftain. In 1953 Arthur Hopwood offered the city a gift of £10,000 to build a new tower in The Square to hold the clock and chimes. The city accepted the offer and the Clock Tower was completed in 1957.

The Clock Tower has experienced a number of changes including the removal of the original stage and the addition of a cross. The cross on the Clock Tower has generated strong debate in the city over the years as evidenced by frequent letters to the editor and Council debates. During 2007 the Clock Tower was refurbished as part of City Heart. The restored Clock Tower is topped by a lantern style cross which continues to generate debate.

For more information about the Clock Tower and chimes see the following:

New Zealand and Pacific Zone – 2nd Floor:

Books: Local Collection

Bradfield, A. G. S. (1956). *Forgotten days* (pp. 75-76, 97).
Palmerston North, New Zealand: Author.

Photographs: Palmerston North City Library Photo Collection

Square: Sq 215, Sq 224, Sq 373, Sq 374, Sq 381 (the Clock Tower features in many other photos of The Square)
Group Portraits: Pg 117

Newspaper Articles: Newspaper Index

Manawatu Standard computer index keywords:
'clock tower square'

Ian Matheson City Archives – Ground Floor:

CA: Hornblow (John) Papers
PNCC: 1/5/5 file 31/1-6
PNCC: 4/8/2 M572/3 & 10 Clock Tower Plans
Research File: A175/72/3 Clock & Clock Tower

Websites:

<http://citylibrary.pncc.govt.nz/clock-tower.html>

The above website includes a historical timeline and digital copies of selected City Library and IRM Archives Clock Tower resources.

Other references and resources on the Clock Tower may be found in the New Zealand and Pacific and Archives zones of the library.