Stoneware mural commemorates city's development



District Mayor David Lean studies a section of the city's latest mural as it is unveiled by members of the New Plymouth Potters Club project steering committee, from left, Anne Tomasi (obscured), Ruth Goodwin, Trish Sutton (club president) and Joyce Young, assisted by Brian Bellringer (community services committee chairman).

Photo: KELLEY LOVERIDGE

Artisans make gift of panels

THE New Plymouth Potters Club's contribution to the city's 1991 celebrations was unveiled at Pukeariki Landing last night.

The stoneware mural depicting the history of the site from the early days of New Plymouth to the present day is the culmination of more than 12 months' planning and research.

Inspired by a visit from English potter Kenneth Clark who had made a huge tile wall in Plymouth, England, depicting the history of the city, the New Plymouth potters decided a similar artwork would make an appropriate gift to mark their city's 150 year celebrations.

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And so a steering committee of Graham Mulvay, Joyce Young, Ruth Goodwin and Anne Tomasi was formed. Members then researched the site which had played an important role in the city's development, said Mrs Tomasi.

Drawings were done using old photographs from the Taranaki Museum area to encompass the historical aspects of the area.

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During the last six months about 20 club members had been involved in the construction of the mural, which by its sheer size had created a host of mechanical problems.

The two-dimensional mural features five panels depicting the Maori, pioneers, the rail-ways reclamation of the mouth of the Huatoki Stream, the old railway station and the scene as it is today.