

Time capsules may be puzzling when opened in 50 years' time

By LEE-ANNE EDWARDS

In 2062 those unearthing the time capsule buried in the city's new Civic Square may not be able to access some of the information.

At least two groups put their information on flash drives, but as Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce head, David Kiddy joked, "It'll be interesting in 50 years' time to see if they even know what that is".

The time capsule was buried on Thursday at a ceremony to mark the \$2.4 million revamp of the square, between the Dowse and the pavilion on Laings Rd. The upgrade is to a design by Athfield Architects and Wraight + Associates, who designed Wellington's award-winning Waitangi Park.

The large stainless steel time capsule contained items from a wide range of organisations including local iwi, volunteer groups, artists and nearby Ss Peter and Paul School.

Sportsman Billy Graham contributed a pair of boxing gloves, declaring, "... they've tried to ban it for about 500 years, but boxing has been going for two and a half thousand years so I think in 50 years it'll still be here."

Des Darby from GNS Science put in a sample of water from the well at Mahoe St.

"The Hutt Valley's most precious asset is our aquifer that lies beneath the entire valley. We're laying down a challenge to ourselves and to people in the next five decades to care for this water quality. When they compare the sample we've put in with what they have then we'll know if this asset has been appropriately cared for."

Mayor Ray Wallace said he was particularly pleased to have so many youngsters present who would still be here when the capsule was opened



Caught in time: Mayor Ray Wallace and Mayoress Linda Goss lower the time capsule with Ss Peter and Paul School pupils Nicola Brennan, 12, and Jacob Sharkey, 10. The capsule will be opened in 50 years.

in 2062.

"I've got some bad news for the rest of us - it's very unlikely that we will be here."

Several readers have made comments to *Hutt News* they can't see where the \$2.4m has gone, other than in a large field of concrete. Mr Wallace told us there is more to come.

A pond is being developed alongside the i-SITE building, where an extended deck links into the Civic Square. The pond will feature a sculpture entitled *Fallen Robot*, by one of New Zealand's most significant contemporary artists, Ronnie van Hout.

An artesian water bore, similar to the popular Te Puni Wai Ora spring in Buick St, Petone, will also be created. There will be other sculptures.

"The square is a living space with



Shake your bootie: Peter Ellis of Petone and Rachel Horwell of Mount Cook treat the crowd to a display of swing dancing to the Roseneath Centennial Ragtime Band. Against the meteorological office predictions, the sun came out for the first Big Day Dowse on Sunday. The family audience, estimated at 5,000, also enjoyed the music of Glastonbury soul star Bella Kalolo, Newtown Rocksteady and Rhombus. For the children the were sideshows, the WotWots and Fuse Circus and for everyone the art of Michel Tuffery.

23 new trees to be planted and the large scale art work of John Reynolds will comprise 46 large titoki trees and 12 nikau which will take the shape of rooms made of trees," Mr Wallace said.

"The landscaping and living artworks in the square, like Waitangi Park, will take some years to grow and truly make their mark."

There is eight to 10 weeks of work still to do but Mr Wallace said it was important to have the opening and a Maori blessing before the Big Day Dowse celebration on Sunday.

He said the new Civic Square is a

valuable investment for our future and "supports our aspirations to grow the heart of the city".

Liz Melhuish, representing the mana whenua, said she was looking forward to when the water features were up and running.

"We are also working and thinking about an appropriate name for this square because 'the square' is just a tad boring, don't you think folks?"

WelTec students' capsule held a waiters' friend corkscrew (and instructions on how to use it) along with a copy of the WelTec brownie recipe.

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