

'Time machine will tick away for a century

Pulsing light and sound effects coupled to a "time machine" will be a feature at the main entrance of the Napier City Council's administration building for the next century.

The time machine, designed and built by city councillor Mr A. D. Prebenson, is linked to the council's "space capsule," and was set in motion this afternoon by the Mayor, Mr Peter Tait.

The capsule, about six feet high, has yet to be filled with maps, photographs, family trees, city records and other articles typical of 1974.

The "David Prebenson time machine" features a swinging pendulum driving sprockets on the face of the seven foot high burnished copper case.

Mr Prebenson, who estimates he has put about 500 hours of work into the machine, yet to be finished and linked with the space capsule, said he used copper because he considered it would be almost a precious metal in 100 years time.

BATTERY

The machine is operated by a solenoid powered by a six-volt battery, kept permanently charged by an automatic re-charging system.

This system was designed to keep the machine operating even in times of power cuts or blackouts.

The battery and charger will be separate from the sealed room in which the time machine and capsule are to be kept, so that maintenance and checking will be simplified.

The pendulum, kept swinging by the solenoid, will drive the first ratchet through pawls, and this will turn $2\frac{1}{2}$ revolutions each minute.

The next ratchet wheel on the face of the machine will turn at the rate of one notch a day.

It has 31 notches, but the time machine has been built to carry the ratchet two notches for 30-day months. It also has been programmed to provide for 28-day and 29-day Februaries.

ONCE IN CENTURY

The next exposed ratchet turns one notch a month, each notch marked with the month of the year in a similar way to the date markings on the 31-tooth ratchet.

The final exposed ratchet wheel will turn only one complete revolution in the 100 years the time machine is to operate. It carries 100 notches marked from 1974 to 2074.

A built-in switch will turn the machine off at the completion of its century of running.

The lighting and sound pulses, yet to be installed, will be linked to the swinging of the pendulum, said Mr Prebenson.

The Admiralty gunmetal ratchets were cast at Greenmeadows from the historical bronze-type alloy, and the pawls are black-painted aluminium.

REVOLVE

The capsule, when filled, will be suspended from the ceiling and will revolve three times an hour, just fast enough to be seen to be moving.

The time machine and capsule are built into a glassed-in area, which will be kept sealed, beside the main entrance to the city council building.

Mr Prebenson became involved in the time capsule when a local firm which had undertaken to make it advised the city council late last year that it could not do the work.

Mr Prebenson, already well known for his Robot Andy, built at his Greenmeadows plastics factory, took over the whole project.

Estimating the cost of the time machine and capsule at about \$5000, Mr Prebenson said his labour was supplied free, and the whole

scheme was intended to be self-supporting by selling space to commercial firms.

'NO COST'

"In cash, it's costing the ratepayers nothing," he said.

Mr Prebenson said that he intended to look after maintenance of the machine as long as he was able to, and then he hopes one of his two sons, at present aged 15 and 11, will take over the job.

However maintenance is likely to be low. The pendulum and other relatively fast-moving parts are built with lubricated and sealed ballraces, and other parts will move so little that there will be no wear in the century to come.

A competition is to be run in the next few months to find suitable items to place in the time capsule.

SEALED

This will have several sealed compartments, each filled with nitrogen, and the complete capsule will also be filled with nitrogen before being sealed and suspended, linked to the time machine.

A plaque on the time machine carries a quotation which is symbolic of the project.

It reads: "The moving finger writes, and having writ, moves on; nor all your piety nor wit shall lure it back to cancel half a line. Nor all your tears wash out half a word of it."

ITEMS INTENDED FOR INCLUSION IN THE TIME CAPSULE

NB: This is the list of items which were intended to be put in the Time Capsule, but there were a considerable number of other items put in other than these, and some of the items on this list might not necessarily be in the Time Capsule

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Large Packet of Assorted Sweets
Coke Bottle
Janola Bottle
Milk Bottle
Jam Jars
Pen Knife
Knife and Fork
Bottle Opener
Can Opener
Sharpening Stone
Chilly Bin
Fly Swot
Plastic Bucket
Plastic Foam
Plastic Pipe and Moulding
Litter Bags - Paper and Plastic
Paper Towels
Children's Toys (Ball, Mower, Match Toy Cars, Top)
Medallions
Centennial Pottery Urn
Broken Traffic Meter
Chief Traffic Officer's Hat
Mayor's Hat
Rugby Boots
Welding Electrodes
Welding Gloves
Welding Goggles
Welding Mask
Welding Rods
Football
Tennis Ball
Playing Cards
Toothbrush
Crumb Tray and Brush
Eyeshadow Brush
Mascara Brush
Paint Brush
Scrubbing Brush
Toilet Brush
Toilet Roll
Toilet Seat
Biro
Candles
Cellotape
Coloured Pencils
Pencil
Pencil Sharpener
Rubber
Ruler
Scissors
Greeting Card

Gift Voucher
Record
Mouth Organ
Sunglasses
Nail File
Nail Clipper
Hair Curlers
Hair Clip
Knitting Pattern
Thimble
Darning Needles
Toothpicks
Pegs
Scales
Picture Hooks
Door Stop
Rain Gauge
Spirit Level
Combination Lock
Nuts and Bolts
Painter's Roller
Shower Rose
Hammer
Screwdriver
Crescent Spanner
Insulation Tape
Crimping Pliers
Crimping Seals
Crimping Wire
Silica Gel
Trowel
Mouse Trap
Torch
Metal Polish (Silvo)
Pledge Polish
Aerosol Can
Wallpaper
Wallpaper Paste
Expandable Loaf Tin
Lemon Squeezer
Salt Container
Plastic Jug
Vegetable Peeler
Ice Cube Maker
Soap Shaker
Dish Mop
Magnetic Soap Holder
Wiping Pad
Cup and Saucer - Earthquake
Egg Cup
Soap
Soap Powder
Poly Scouring Pads
Pot Scraper
Egg Beater
Hot Water Bottle
Electric Blanket
Safety Razor
Blade Razor

Razor Blades
 Hearing Aid
 The Pill
 Deodorant
 Band Aids
 Small Bandage
 Aluminium Foil
 Glad Plastic Wrap
 Oiled Wrapping Paper
 Tea Towel
 Lace Table Mat
 Handkerchief
 Two Men's Ties
 Caps - Colenso and Boys' High

ITEMS FROM COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES WHO PAID TO PUT ITEMS IN THE TIME CAPSULE

Phillips Shaver
 Arthur Yates Seed
 Dunlop Golf Ball
 Bryant & May - Matches
 Parker - Fountain Pen
 Gordons - Gin
 Johnson & Johnson - Male Contraceptives
 Service Club Badges
 Plunket Membership
 Surveyors' Membership
 Karilac - History
 Rothmans - History
 Williams & Kettle - History
 Christian Businessmen's - History
 University Women's Association - History

VALUABLE ITEMS

Set of Coins
 Set of Stamps
 HB Manufacturers' Trust Deed
 Surveyor's Chain (Steel Tape on Brass Drum)

ITEMS IN CLOTHING CANISTER

Town Clerk's Suit
 Mrs Glengarry's Suit (Mayor's and Town Clerk's Secretary)
 Mrs Tait's Evening Gown (Mayoress)
 Mixed Men's, Women's and Children's Clothing

LARGER SEPARATE ITEMS

Electric Jug
 Electric Drill
 Telephone
 Medical Supplies
 Building Items
 Electrical Items
 Breathalyser Kit (Alcohol Test)

FILMS

Old Earthquake
 Centennial Film
 Film taken by Ron Sang on 3 October

PHOTOGRAPHS

Album
 Group of Mayor, Councillors and Town Clerk - 1974
 Mayor
 About 100 up-to-date photos of City and people going about daily affairs

TAPE RECORDINGS

Cassettes - Modern Music
 Speeches by His Worship the Mayor and Councillor Prebensen

DOCUMENTS, BOOKS/BOOKLETS, AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS/BROCHURES ETC

September 1974 Minutes
 1974 Estimates
 Annual Accounts
 Copy of Crest and details
 Small Map of City
 History of Local Maori Groups
 Statement by Town Clerk
 Family Trees
 Entrants for Centennial Foot Race
 First Gallery Pull Off
 Centennial Publication
 Publicity Brochures
 Before and After
 Drivers Licence with Coupons
 Traffic Licence Information Booklet
 Highway Code Book
 Metric Conversion Table
 Garden Catalogues and Seeds
 Electoral Roll
 Telephone Directory

Newspapers	- Daily Telegraph) Issues for 10 days prior to
	- Dominion) closing of capsule
Newspaper Cuttings showing	- Current Clothing Styles
	- Food Prices
Brochures of	- Household Appliances
	- Motorcars
	- Motorcycles
	- Radios
	- Televisions

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Gambling

- Racing Book
- Racing Guide
- Tote Tickets
- TAB Tickets
- Lottery Ticket
- Raffle Ticket