

# Upturn doubted in Tararua

By JAMES NORGATE

IF AN economic upturn is happening in New Zealand, then it has yet to reach the Tararua district, according to Mayor Bob Trotter.

He said there was not much development in provincial New Zealand and the trickle-down effect was "only a theory".

Mr Trotter, commenting on a report to the council on the state of the economy in the Tararua region, said the district was not benefiting from the gains being made in other areas.

Council quality assurance officer Utiam Chandra said in the report that Government policies had a "severe effect" on people in rural areas, especially beneficiaries, superannuitants, and those on fixed incomes.

"The benefits of the trickle-down effect have yet to be felt by the provincial-rural communities," Mr Chandra said.

"In the final analysis more than 1.1 million New Zealanders still depend on welfare assistance for their sustenance, almost as many as still have a fulltime job.

"These figures compare with 291,000 in 1970 and raise the question of how territorial authorities of our size and resources can be proactive in their own districts in terms of their own goals."

Mr Chandra said some positive signs were more subdivisions and building consents but the "flipside" was no reduction

in unemployment and the number of vacant shop premises.

□ Tararua District Council is objecting to the Waitarapa name given to a new electorate composed of the previous Waitarapa and much of Pahiatua electorate.

The council is writing to the Boundaries Commission to urge it to adopt Tararua as the new name.

Council members are happy with the new boundaries but feel that because the Tararua Ranges are a dominant feature of the electorate, the name ought to be changed.

The new electorate stretches from Cape Palliser in the south to the council's northern boundary and includes the whole of the council's region.

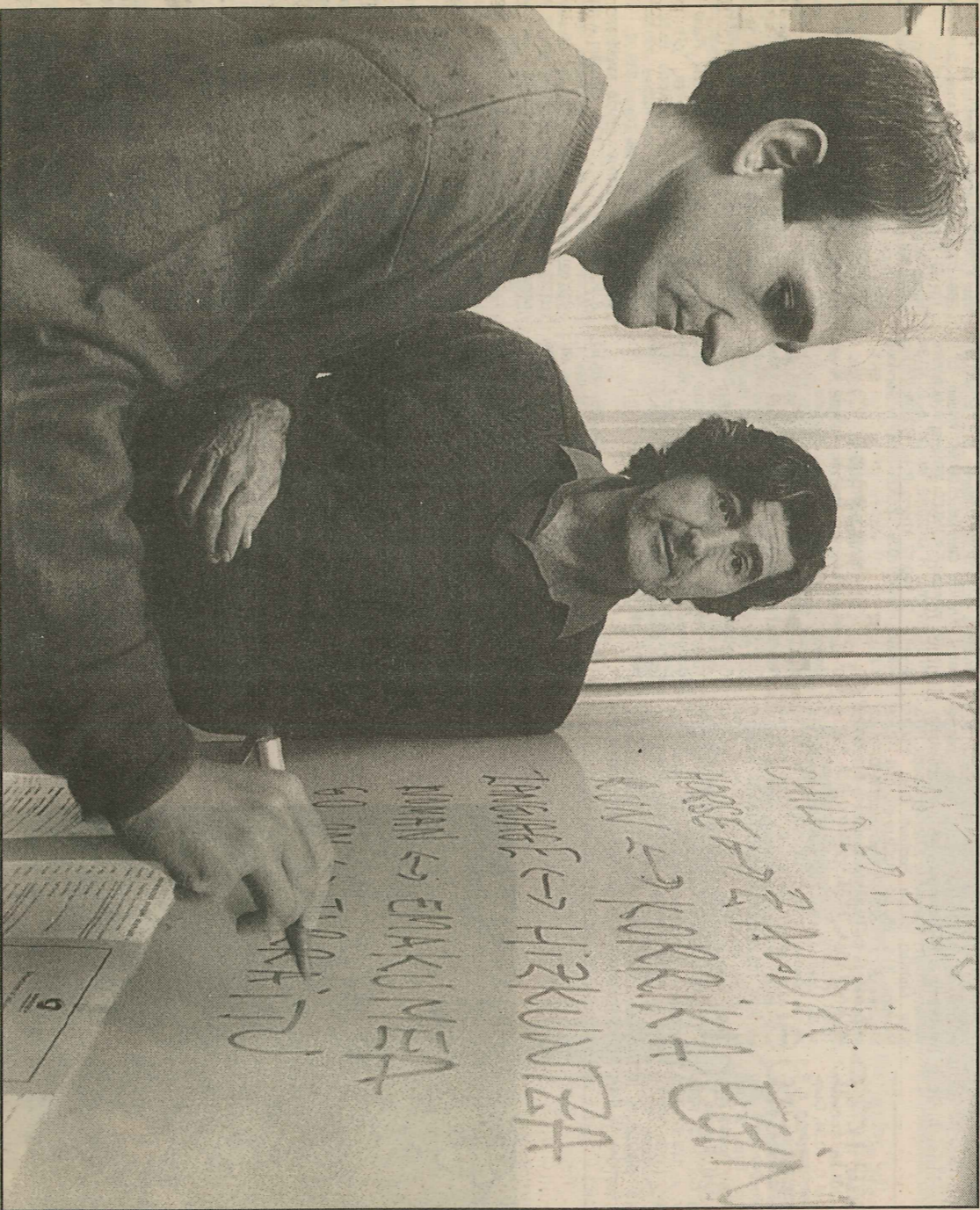


Photo: BILL KEARNS

# Massey studies logic of Basque

By JAMES NORGATE

BASQUE, one of the world's oldest languages, is being used at Massey University to understand contemporary language communications.

Professor Jon Patrick, new head of Information Systems, has invited Xabier Arriola-Zubillaga to visit the university for two months.

It is intended to develop project potentials for long-term collaborations with the University of the Basque Country, and to initiate the planning and development of a programme on multilingual dictionaries.

The Basque language is much older than its neighbours and at least pre-Indo-European. Professor Patrick said it was a language with a logical structure of verbs and a systematic inflection system. Linguistically it was an "agglutinative" language, meaning it was built up in such a way that the component morphemes (speech elements) underwent little or no change of form or meaning when used in composition.

About 700,000 people speak Basque. Speakers are called "Euskalduna" ("one who has the language"), such is the importance of Basque to those who speak

it. Foreigners, such as Professor Patrick, who have learnt the language are accepted as "new-Basque".

Though the language has survived, the country does not exist on any map because it is partitioned between France in the north and Spain in the south. However, despite these political and governmental divisions, strong feelings of national identity exist. About 25 per cent of the population speak Basque.

After the death of Spanish leader Francisco Franco in 1975, there was a renaissance of the Basque language, which had till then been banned in the Spanish partition. Neighbouring languages had connections with Basque, despite their more recent arrivals. The phonetic system of Spanish can be traced to Basque influence.

Dr Arriola-Zubillaga said the Basque people were peaceful, not extrovert, and "not very chatty". They were less "Mediterranean" than the Spanish, and were strongly attached to their traditions. Their country, homes and family were important.

For the project on multilingual dictionaries, Professor Patrick and Dr Arriola-Zubillaga are developing computer programmes for automatically processing Basque, French, Spanish and English. It has potential for use in any multilingual context. In the Basque country, Dr Arriola-Zubillaga is supervising four linguistics experts and 12 computer scientists on this and other projects on the automatic treatment of Basque.

Tied in with this is the importance of the Basque language.

Professor Patrick said he believed Basque had the potential to be recognised as an important language.

"It has a broad set of rules for both semantic construction and grammar construction. While it is an old language, it hasn't suffered from many outside influences to change its structure and it is destined to reveal to us a great deal about the emergence of language and reasoning."

He said the programmes developed for the multilingual dictionaries project would later have direct relevance to other language contexts, such as Maori and English.

North City Council and Manawatu District Council.

"As a regional organisation, Tourism Manawatu will work within the New Zealand Tourism Industry Association's guidelines, which will bring huge visitor

# Chairman wants area on tourism map

TOURISM MANAWATU will shortly become an incorporated society and is working toward establishing a regional tourism organisation with a fully paid executive and staff.

Tourism Manawatu has appointed

Financial membership would be sought from those involved and interested in the international and domestic visitor industry and Tourism Manawatu would run as a business partnership between the public and private sectors.

# Frontiersmen celebrate 90 years

LEGION of Frontiersmen celebrate their 90th anniversary in Palmerston North this weekend.

Colonel Dave Funnell, of Manawatu's N Squadron, said more than 100 people were expected to celebrate the founding of the organisation in London on Christmas Day, 1904.

The legion brought pioneers from the British frontier colonies together into "brotherhoods of frontiersmen" to protect the borders of the empire. They later served with distinction in both world wars alongside the traditional military services.

Recruitment in New Zealand began in 1911 by Captain John Cook, who is buried in the Soldiers' Plot at Kelvin Grove Cemetery.

Colonel Funnell said visitors attending the weekend's jubilee would include Commandant-General P Fitchett, from England, Australian Deputy Commandant Brigadier RS Thirivell, and New Zealand Deputy Commandant-General Brigadier D J Baker, of Katikati.

Frontiersmen remain active in Palmerston North, most notably in crowd control at public functions and assisting in public emergencies.

# Bad weather on milk

FOUR days of power cessible farms have tested for Tui Milk Products.

Spokesman David Fyfe said plenty of strain on the Island dairy processor, processing operations had Problems began on 1 trial storm cut power sites at Longburn and hours and shut down cheese factory for more.

Mr Graham said there litres of milk that would during that time had to the week to Walkato Northland factories.

Meanwhile, during bridge damage preventing 76 mainly Wairarapa

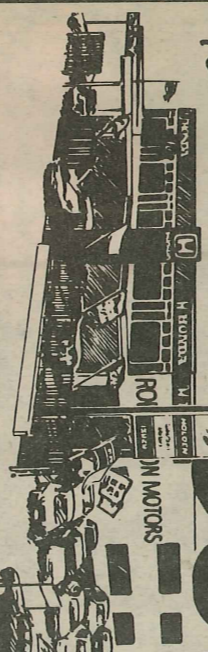
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