

Taranaki Herald, 11 December 1964;

Fish were "dopey"

"Three fish found in a "dopey" state in the sea at Paritutu Centennial Park, New Plymouth, last night were sent to the Marine Department's fisheries branch in Wellington today for examination. The collector of Customs, M. D. J. Earl, New Plymouth said today the fish, two herrings and a kahawai were kicked from the sea by surfcasters last night. He said he understood there were a lot of fish there at the time but did not know how many had been taken. The fish were deep frozen before being sent to Wellington. The examination would be made to find out what caused the fish to get into the "dopey" state, he said."

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Taranaki Herald, 16 March 1965;

"Immediate improvement of sewerage system urged"

"Messrs Steven and Fitzmaurice, of Christchurch and Auckland, reported to last night's meeting of the New Plymouth City Council".

"The firm submitted a report on their findings in a preliminary survey of the long-term sewerage requirements of the city and its environs". "Chemicals"

A particular difficulty had arisen in the city area in the provision of sewerage for the agricultural chemical company situated within the city boundary. Violent chemical attack on the reinforced concrete sewer serving the works of the company had occurred, forcing replacement of the line".

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Taranaki Herald, 4 April 1966;

"DISPOSAL OF TRADE WASTES A PROBLEM."

"NEW PLYMOUTH'S present sewerage reticulation is reaching capacity. The position will become more acute as more industries come to the city, bringing the problem of disposing of trade wastes. The Mayor, Mr A.G. Honnor, told the Rotary Club of Fitzroy this in New Plymouth last night."

"Eventually the whole area would have one outlet to the sea. Wastes from New Plymouth, Bell Block and Waitara would all be discharged at one point."

"You can appreciate the advantages as far as our beaches are concerned," he said. The beaches were very important to New Plymouth."

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Taranaki Herald, 19 July 1966;

"Full width sealing of the roadway inside and outside the cattle stop at the entrance to Paritutu Centennial Park will be completed as soon as possible."

Taranaki Herald, 19 July 1966;

"Work could not proceed on piping effluent through Paritutu Centennial Park until Marine Department consent to the effluent discharging on the beach was obtained. the council will tell the park committee. The council is waiting for the departments reply."

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Taranaki Herald, 16 November 1966;

"BIRD DEATHS PUZZLE EXPERTS"

"Five more dead seagulls have been found on the beach, half a mile west of the port, the SPCA's Taranaki inspector, Mr T.G. Outwin, said today."

"The dead birds have mainly been seagulls, but also include one molly hawk and a penguin. A thrush, blackbird and a sparrow have also been found in a garden not far from the port."

"He said there could be various reasons for the deaths. A large amount of ground was being disturbed at the port for harbour work and the gulls could have eaten something turned up in these operations. Also they could have died after eating poisoned fish, he suggested."

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Taranaki Herald, November 1966;

"SICK SEAGULLS: SAMPLES GO FOR ANALYSIS"

"A new move in in New Plymouth's sick seagulls mystery came today when the SPCA announced a Marine Department inspector had taken samples of the water in a small unnamed creek which empties into the sea behind Paritutu."

"This move came as more dead seagulls were handed into the SPCA yesterday. Mr Outwin said two birds were handed to him after being found dead on the beach behind Paritutu."

"Other gulls are being analysed by the wildlife division of the Marine Department in Wellington."

"Mr Outwin said the Marine Department's fisheries inspector who took the water samples was Mr D.C. McAlister, Wellington. The creek from which the samples were taken empties on to the beach behind Paritutu after draining through Paritutu Centennial Park."

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Taranaki Herald, 8 December 1966;

"Work starts on pipeline"

"Two workmen,...begin the excavations today for a pipeline to enclose a small creek which flows near the base of Paritutu, New Plymouth"

"More than 700ft of pipe is being laid from where the creek empties from a pipeline under Paritutu Crescent, to the sea. The contract is being undertaken for the New Plymouth City Council and was expected to be completed in a fortnight. In the past the stream has created erosion problems when in flood."

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Taranaki Herald, 21 March 1967;

"The New Plymouth City Council has agreed to rezone as industrial D a block of Taranaki Harbour Board land in the vicinity of Paritutu Road,"

"Dr Allen said the gist of the objections had been that the extension of industrial D usage south as applied for would be to the detriment of the residential portion to the eastern side of the land."

No Hazards

"He said the committee felt there was no hazard with the present operations of the firm. There was a smell in relation to the use of phenol which was being investigated for control but this was not obnoxious."

page 6.

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Taranaki Herald 20 November 1970;

## Pollution at Paritutu

"Water with a distinctive smell gushes from a New Plymouth City Council water outfall at the base of Paritutu today. Several complaints have been made about pollution at the beach."

"Discharges of effluent and trade wastes are polluting the seashore at the base of Paritutu, New Plymouth. Complaints about the state of the beach have been received and when the Taranaki Herald visited the area today water was gushing from a New Plymouth City Council outfall onto the rocks below and from there into the sea, which is near one of the city's most popular beaches. The water appeared clear but had an acid taste. Liquid was trapped among the rocks and the area had a distinctive smell similar to sulphur. Lumps of cream-coloured scum lay in the pools of liquid and dark brown spots where the liquid had splashed, daubed rocks and stones. There were no birds in the vicinity and no marine life was visible in the area."

"Mr A.L. Herdman, chairman of the council's works committee, yesterday explained that the council's sewerage system at the western end of New Plymouth had been overloaded but action had been taken to remedy this. Unfortunately, one remedy meant the diversion of some sanitary sewerage from the western area to the outfall at Paritutu. The outfall normally carried only stormwater and the situation would be relieved when extensions to the sewerage system were completed in about three weeks. He could not say how much of the discharge was sewerage and how much was trade waste, or how often it occurred. This afternoon Mr Herdman confirmed his explanation and said he had visited the area at midday and the discharge had stopped."

"The question of extending the pipe to the low water mark was under consideration. It was a matter of finance."

"The medical officer of health, for Taranaki, Dr R.J. Flight, said he would inspect the area today."

"The matter is primarily the responsibility of the city council but we are concerned with anything which could affect the health of the people of Taranaki," he said."

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Taranaki Herald 3 December 1971;

### Survey of rivers and beaches shows HIGH COUNTS OF BACTERIA

"Two biology masters at the New Plymouth Boy's High School, Messrs L.R. Bublitz and D.J. Mossop, carried out the survey with sixth form pupils from the school."

"Along the foreshore samples were taken at Paritutu Back Beach, between the wharves at the port, at Kaweroa, near the city sewerage outfall off Elliot St and just east of the mouth of Te Henui Stream."

At Back Beach and Kaweroa the readings were 50, while the others all registered 1800 or more."

"Counts of insect and marine life were made in the rivers and off the coast. These indicated that the Henui was satisfactory, the Waiwakaiho in bad shape below the abattoirs, and the Huatoki at a level somewhere between these two."

The life count taken at Back Beach showed that nothing lived in the vicinity of the New Plymouth City Council's stormwater outfall there."

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Taranaki Herald 18 October 1972;

"Discharge at the park to stop soon."

"The discharge into Paritutu Centennial Park by the chemical company of Ivon Watkins-Dow Ltd is expected to stop by the end of the year. This is indicated in a six monthly review by New Plymouth's chief city health inspector, Mr W. J. McNicholas."

He said the discharge of cooling water, stormwater and occasional chemical spills would cease when the company's new cooling water recirculation system was completed. This was anticipated to be before the end of this year, Mr McNicholas said.

Earlier this year the city council's health and by-laws committee visited Ivon Watkins-Dow Ltd and the company's proposals regarding the Paritutu outfall were outlined.

Since then the company had diverted further yard drainage from the outfall so that about 90 per cent of all yard areas was now diverted to the main sewer by controlled outlet or the new stormwater system discharging to the Herekawe Stream. Mr McNicholas said it was not known exactly what percentage was going to the outlet and the percentage going to the stream. "However, the controlled outlet is virtually a treatment outlet which should control any detergent or chemicals getting into the Herekawe area", he said."

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Taranaki Herald 28 October 1972;

"FOAM ON BEACH."

"Foam spreads across Paritutu Beach New Plymouth, after discharging from a pipe late yesterday afternoon. The pipe, a city council stormwater drain, is used as an outlet for cooling water from Ivon Watkins-Dow Ltd."

"The pipe empties at the base of Paritutu Rock at the north-eastern end of the beach. According to the chief city health inspector, Mr W.J. McNicholas, there have been four or five similar discharges this year. reports of other discharges go back several years. OUTLET Officially the pipe is a stormwater drain owned by the New Plymouth City Council. However, the chemical company, Ivon Watkins-Dow Ltd, stated earlier this year that it uses the pipe as a discharge outlet for it's cooling water and stormwater from its yards."

"Asked to comment on a company statement earlier this year that it had proposals to eliminate the Paritutu outfall by September this year, he said: "We are certainly working towards that end."

"Recycling"

"In April the company properties manager, Mr T.N. Gerrard, said the company had plans to recycle its cooling water, thus obviating the need for the discharge. He estimated the cost then at \$30,000."

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Taranaki Herald 31 October 1972;

"FOAM TRAIL COLD."

"Officials of the New Plymouth chemical firm, Ivon Watkins-Dow Ltd, are baffled by the origin of the foam spillage on nearby Paritutu Beach last Friday afternoon. An exhaustive investigation within the company has failed to trace the source of the foaming. But the officials are reasonably sure it was caused by detergent which is relatively harmless. The foam discharged from a stormwater drain which takes cooling water and some stormwater from the company's premises to the beach about 100 yards away. A company spokesman said today the foam looked worse than it really was and he gave an assurance that the spillage, whatever its cause, was an isolated incident."

"There were only about half a dozen small points of entry through which anything could go into the system and none of these showed any traces of spillage."

"At this stage the company officials prefer not to comment on the firms earlier announced intention to eliminate the cooling water discharge through the pipe. However, one spokesman did say it could be done by the end of this year, as was previously hoped. "You could say we are pretty certain we can go ahead next year," he said."

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Taranaki Herald 31 October 1972;

## "VANISHING ECOLOGY"

"Certain marine species were vanishing from the coasts near Port Taranaki, MR D. G. Capon, science advisor to the Taranaki Education Board said at Eltham last night. At the final meeting for the year of the Taranaki Federation of Home and School Associations, he outlined changes in Taranaki ecology in recent years. Mr Capon said that previously he could show pupils the marine specimens just below Kaweroa Park, New Plymouth, but now had to take them as far as Oakura beach to see the species."

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Taranaki Herald, 13 March 1974;

"In New Plymouth, the city council continues to discharge the city sewerage illegally into the sea (it also holds no permit). At present the council is awaiting a review of it's sewerage treatment plan, the estimated cost of a scheme is \$6 million to \$8 million.

The chemicals company, Ivon Watkins-Dow Ltd, is well advanced with a scheme to recirculate cooling water instead of discharging into the Herekawe Stream and Paritutu Centennial Park. The first part of the new recirculation scheme is due for commissioning on April 20."

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Taranaki Herald, 19 March 1974;

## IMPACT ON COASTLINE

"A proposal to build a causeway between Snapper Island and the Centennial Park cliffs at Paritutu Beach could have serious effects on the New Plymouth coastline, according to a technical report."

"There was now a sand bridge from the base of Paritutu Rock to the innermost of the other islands. This would be likely to erode quickly if the littoral drift was interrupted.

"On the other hand froth from Ivon Watkins-Dow Ltd's outfall, which is said to have been a nuisance on Centennial Park Beach, would be less likely to reach the improved beach west of such a causeway."

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Taranaki Herald, 19 March 1974;

## Air pollution checks

"Nine New Plymouth industries and the Taranaki Harbours Board are under city council scrutiny prior to the introduction of the new Clean Air Act on April 1.

The industries include the New Plymouth power project, Ivon Watkins-Dow chemical works, the Taranaki oil and gas refinery and the Robert Stone Ltd foundry under part A of the Act,..."

"Preliminary work on licensing the industries began in late November, the city's chief health inspector, Mr W. J. McNicholas, said in his annual report to the council last night."

"The problem of discharge from Ivon Watkins-Dow on to Paritutu Beach would be resolved this month with the expected completion of cooling water towers,...."

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Daily News 2001;

"Trevor Humphrey's former Auckland-based company, Bulk Liquid Services, was contracted in 1979 to unblock the sewerage system from Centennial Drive to Belt Road.

"The New Plymouth District Council had a major foul-up with their underground drainage network and it virtually collapsed."

"We were assured at the time that there was no chemical infiltration. That proved to be wrong."

Mr Humphrey says he remembers a chemical smell wafting from the pipes.

"I asked the council again, but they again denied there was any chemical infiltration. But you could smell it. The smell was exactly the same as roundup."

"On trying to flush the glazed pipes out, Mr Humphrey discovered they were not only blocked, but corroding and collapsing along the line.

Mr Humphrey, who at the time had about ten years' experience in the drainage industry, says it is very unusual for a glazed pipe to corrode as these pipe had.

"Mr Humphrey, who now lives in Wanganui, says following the New Plymouth job his company was contracted to do work in Wanganui and then in Gisbourne.

"Everywhere our hoses touched, everything died - grass, flower gardens, public reserves."

He believes Dow Agrosciences, formerly Ivon Watkins-Dow, as well as having a secure hold for chemical waste to be washed into, must have also opened up a sewerage pipe, flushing contaminated washing down into the city sewerage system."

But Dow Agrosciences general manager Peter Dryden says Mr Humphrey's comments would appear to be based on a misunderstanding.

"Of course our plant is connected to the sewer, just like every other industrial plant and household in New Plymouth. Our discharge is, of course, monitored by the regulatory authority," Mr Dryden says.

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WAIREKA IWD DUMPSITE;

Taranaki Daily News 24.1.1984

"The bulk of the material in the dumps is waste materials from the earlier production of phenoxy herbicides and surfactants," said Mr Laurensen.

"In April 1975, 170 drums of waste were taken to the landfill in a sealed dump truck box. When dumped into the hole the drums were in a very poor condition - ready to leak or, in some cases, leaking. Some of the waste was burned after placement in the landfill."

"In September 1976, 460 drums of waste were buried in a separate landfill (about 48m by 10m by 8m deep). This waste comprised of about 70 tonnes of fire damaged sodium monochloroacetate. This landfill was also covered with at least 1m of clean soil and regrassed. In both cases the drums were broken open and crushed by a backhoe."

"Basically, the material has seeped from the dump into the ground under the dump and to a limited extent laterally from the sides of the dump. It seems that the original liquid in the dump has dispersed, and the waste residues are now being leached by underground water only."

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Taranaki Daily News 27.9.2001;

"It's official - No dioxin scare, by Rochelle Warrander"

"TARANAKI'S environmental watchdog has closed the book on New Plymouth's toxic time bomb scare."

"The decision comes at the end of a four month, \$166,500 TRC investigation into 36 alleged chemical dump sites in New Plymouth. The TRC found there to be no evidence of drum dumps or significant environmental risk at any of the sites analysed."

"A national media frenzy erupted late last year following allegations of mass chemical dumpings in New Plymouth.

The purpose of the TRC investigation was to see if there was truth to allegations that dioxin laced waste from Ivon Watkins-Dow (IWD) was dumped at a number of sites through-out the Paritutu area and New Plymouth from the 1960s to the 1980s."

Taranaki Daily News 14.10.2002;

"There was an emotional welcome when a carving commissioned by the Paritutu Community Group arrived in New Plymouth."

"The carving is intended to lift the spirits of a community that has lived in the shadow of dioxin controversy for three decades."

"The theme was the sea because it was a major resource for the tangata whenua, whalers and settlers Keenan said.

The tekoteko or figurehead is named Kiwa and Neptune. King Neptune was the closest pakeha equivalent to Kiwa who is the spiritual guardian of the sea.

The carving cost about \$8000. The New Plymouth District Council gave \$3000 and the remainder came from industries in the area including Dow Agrosiences."